



## **Dundalk Fire Department**

2024 Year End Report

(January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024)

**Fire Chief Derek Malynyk**

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## Staff

Fire Chief	Derek Malynyk
Fire Prevention Officer/Captain	Richard Amyotte
Administration	Stephanie Johnson
Training Officer/Captain	Justin McLeod
Captains	Michael Thompson
	Cheryl Inkster
Lieutenants	Kyle Tipple
	Bradyn Thompson
Firefighters	Keith Fisher
	Amanda Coutts
	Kelsey Trudgeon
	Celine Wilson
	Madison Byers
	Steve Zezelic
	Kate Stepanov
	Zach Hull
	James Johnstone
	Matthew Brewer
	William Conley
	Brian Bernardo
	Adrian Simpson
	Zack Perry
	Justin Pate
	Trevor Hald
	Garret Childs
	Alexandria Reisenweber
	Steve Zezelic
	James Johnstone
	Justin Trudgeon
	Jahmari Bennett
	Gabriel Lewis
Brett Breedon	
Cody Mcgrady	
Robert O'Brien	

## Training

### Recruitment

At the beginning of 2024 the Dundalk Fire Department had seven new recruits start the recruitment program. This program is a blended inhouse training program. Recruits were expected to read a textbook at home, reviewing videos and completing chapter tests using our Vector Solutions learning software. The recruits would attend the fire hall every Monday night from January to April for three hours to complete hands on practical skills training and review any questions from the online chapters. Recruits also attended three Saturday a month for an eight-hour training session. The focus of the full day was to complete required practical skills sign offs for firefighter level I and level II.

In April, recruits completed written and practical testing, supervised by the Academic Standards and Evaluation Department of the Ontario Fire Marshals Office to become fully certified for Level I and Level II firefighting activity.

In May the recruits completed live fire training in Markdale using the Ontario Fire Colleges Mobile Live Fire Training Unit. The recruits were able to demonstrate live firefighting evolutions while being in a controlled environment. This was their second exposure to live fire training as during the recruit training staff had burn cells built for firefighters to be able to experience limited fire conditions prior to testing their testing date.



## Regular Training

In 2024 firefighters completed eighty-one hours of regular training. All members who have been certified to NFPA 1002 Pump Operations completed an additional 12 hours of hands-on pump training to stay refreshed. Regular training sessions are three hours long conducted on Tuesday nights with each member attending twice a month utilizing a rotating platoon system. Each quarter there is an additional theory practice and pump operations training for those certified. On top of the regular training each platoon was scheduled to complete truck checks once per quarter. Truck checks are a time to for firefighters to become familiar with the equipment on each truck and its location. It allows the department to ensure all equipment is in the ready state to respond to any emergency that may arise. If staff attended each assigned truck check, then the firefighter would account for an additional 12 hours of training bringing the total training time for the year up to ninety-three – one hundred and five hours depending on certification.

## Additional Training

In 2024 firefighters completed additional training above the required regular training nights. Staff continued to run our approved in-house Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations training program, that was accredited by Academic Standards and Assessment branch of the Ontario Fire Marshals Office. I am happy to announce that we are in compliance with mandatory certification for Hazmat. When we started the hazmat training program in 2023 the department only had three certified members. Today the department has twenty-seven members certified to hazmat operations level.

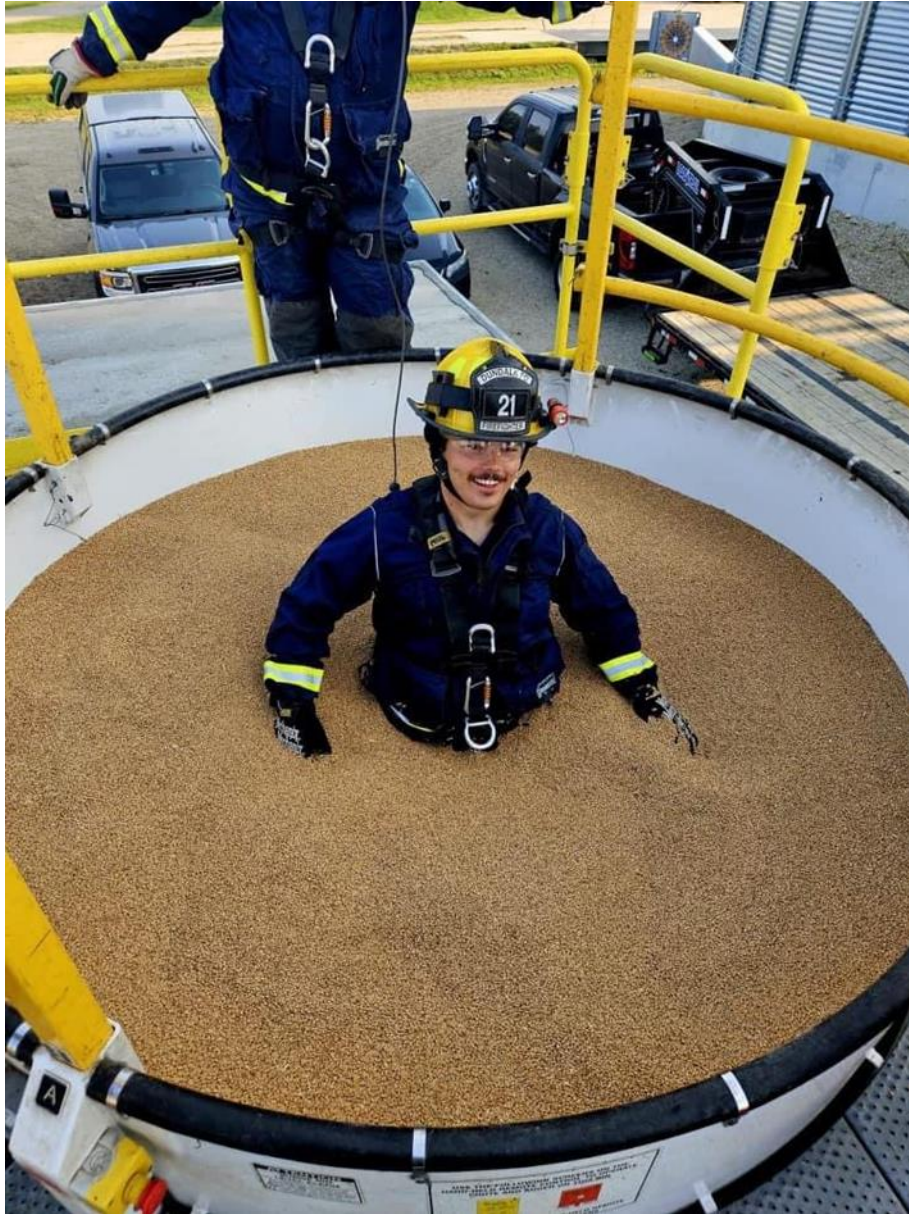
In July the Dundalk Fire Department completed two additional training programs. The first being a learning contract for NFPA 1002 Pump Operations. A total of thirteen members completed the training. By hosting a learning contract the department supplied its own accredited instructors to teach the Ontario Fire Colleges program at our own department. The course consisted of forty hours of online pre class material followed by five days of in class practical skills which was completed over two weekends. By utilizing a learning contract, it allowed for the department to keep all apparatus in service and cut down costs. NFPA 1002 is a mandatory certification requirement by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, for any firefighter who operates a pumper apparatus at a fire scene. The department was able to increase its compliment of certified operators from six members to nineteen members. This ensures there will always be a certified pump operator at scenes.

The second training completed was “be grain safe” training through the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association. The training consisted of eight hours of online theory followed by a day of practical training. This training provided members with knowledge regarding safety around grain incidents from different hazard identification to how to stabilize and rescue someone submerged in grain. The department opened this training up to our neighbours to promote collaboration between departments and had Grey Highlands Emergency Services, Meaford Fire Department and Grand Valley and District Fire Department participate in the training. The training was made possible through sponsors such as Pallister Farms for providing the training location, grain and a generous donation to cover the cost of the coffer damn. The department would also like to thank Corteva who covered the cost of the training for the departments.

Lastly the Dundalk Fire Department was approved as a Red Cross Training Partner. The application process took several months and the Township has some restrictions on required costs that it must charge if offering a course to the public. By becoming a Red Cross Training Partner, the Department is

able to teach all Southgate employees First Aid and CPR for a percentage of the cost it would cost us through a third-party company.





## Public Education and Community Involvement

The department was busy again in 2024 with public education and community involvement. Several events were attended or hosted by the Dundalk Fire Department.

The “adopt a classroom program” continued for the second year. Each month the fire prevention officer attends Highpoint school in Dundalk to present fire safety messages to all grade three students. In addition, the OPP was invited to participate for one month to provide messaging regarding cyber bullying and strangers safety. This program was well received by the students, teachers and parents which allowed the department to continue this program for the second year and to make it a permanent

program moving forward. Each year the same material is taught and follows the following schedule of topics for the school year.

September	Cyber bullying in partnership with Grey County OPP
October	Smoke alarms
November	Home escape planning
December	No fire prevention due to holidays
January	Reporting emergencies
February	Emergency planning
March	Home and cooking safety
April	Open flame fire safety
May	May was skipped due to EQAO Provincial testing
June	Tour of the fire hall

Outside the adopt a classroom program which was completed by our fire prevention officer the following public education was also completed for 2024.

#### March

- The department hosted its annual march break programming. This programming had 30 individuals attend over two days

#### April

- Staff attended Holsteins Maple Fest also for two days providing public education on lithium-ion battery safety.

#### May

- Staff completed our annual emergency preparedness week campaigning by handing out educational material and local locations through-out the Township of Southgate. Egremont Community School attended the Saugeen Valley Children’s Safety Village. Any time a school from Southgate attends the Safety Village staff from the Dundalk Fire Department also attends to help provide the Safety Villages program to the group. By having our own staff there it ensures the same message is being delivered to all Southgate Children but also allows the Children to see a familiar face.

#### September

- The department attended the annual Dundalk Fall Fair for two days providing public education to all attendees. September marked the second Provincial “Check your smoke alarm day”. This day was established last year as an annual event to try and provide awareness around the importance of smoke alarms in residential homes. Each year fire deaths in the Province of Ontario total over 100 people. In most cases there were no working smoke alarms within these homes providing for early detection. Staff went to Holstein, locations in Dundalk and Corbetton this year. A total of one hundred and forty one houses doors were knocked on with seventy three answered. Only twenty three people



allowed staff to inspect their home which resulted in only fifteen out of twenty three homes having working smoke alarms.

#### October

- The fire department promoted free fire extinguisher training for local businesses within Dundalk. Staff were successful in getting one business interested and trained approximately ten employees on the use of fire extinguishers. The department continues to offer this service to any business within Southgate. If any are interested they are encouraged to reach out the Southgate’s Fire Prevention Officer.

#### November

- The department hosted its annual Firefighters Toy Drive. Locations were set up at the Dundalk Foodland and the Esso gas station. The department would like to thank the community for its generous donations. All toy and monetary donations raised are for the Dundalk Christmas Cheer Campaign. All nonperishable food donations are collected for the Dundalk and area food bank.

## Fire Prevention and Enforcement

Inspections in 2024.

Status	Count	Southgate	Melancthon
Assigned	0	0	0
In Progress	1	1	0
Follow Up	5	5	0
Legal Action	0	0	0
Rescinded	1	1	0
Closed	52	49	3
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>3</b>

Majority of the inspections in 2024 in Southgate were for on farm diversified use businesses. A total of seventy-seven address were inspected. Some of these inspections require multiple site visits to bring into compliance or through different staged of a new build. The goal is to get all these businesses initially inspected and then placed on a three-year inspection rotation.

## Emergency Calls

Over the last five years, the Dundalk Fire Department’s call volume has been steadily increasing.

It is anticipated that call volume should slow down around April with Dufferin EMS rolling out their new response protocol which should reduce some of the departments medical responses into Melancthon.

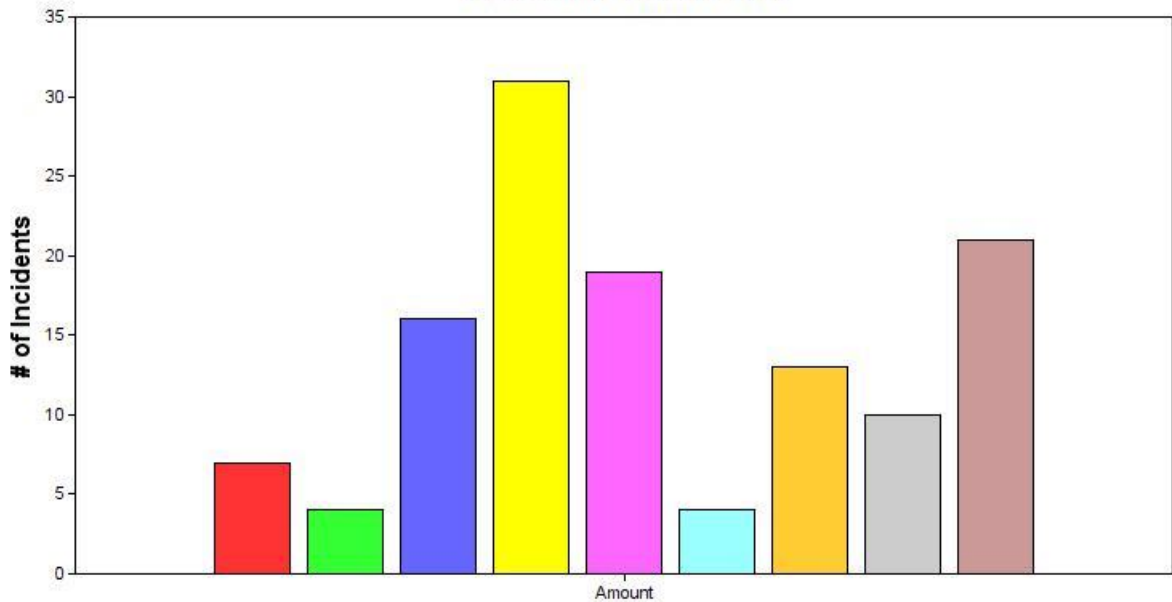
Emergency Calls	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
2024	54	44	47	56	201
2023	51	64	43	37	195
2022	34	54	61	40	189
2021	30	47	33	37	147
2020	38	33	31	34	136

### Totals by Geographic Location

Responses by Municipality	Southgate	Melancthon	Grey Highlands	Other
2024	125	49	23	4
2023	125	53	12	5
2022	123	50	13	3
2021	102	26	18	1
2020	85	28	21	2

### Southgate

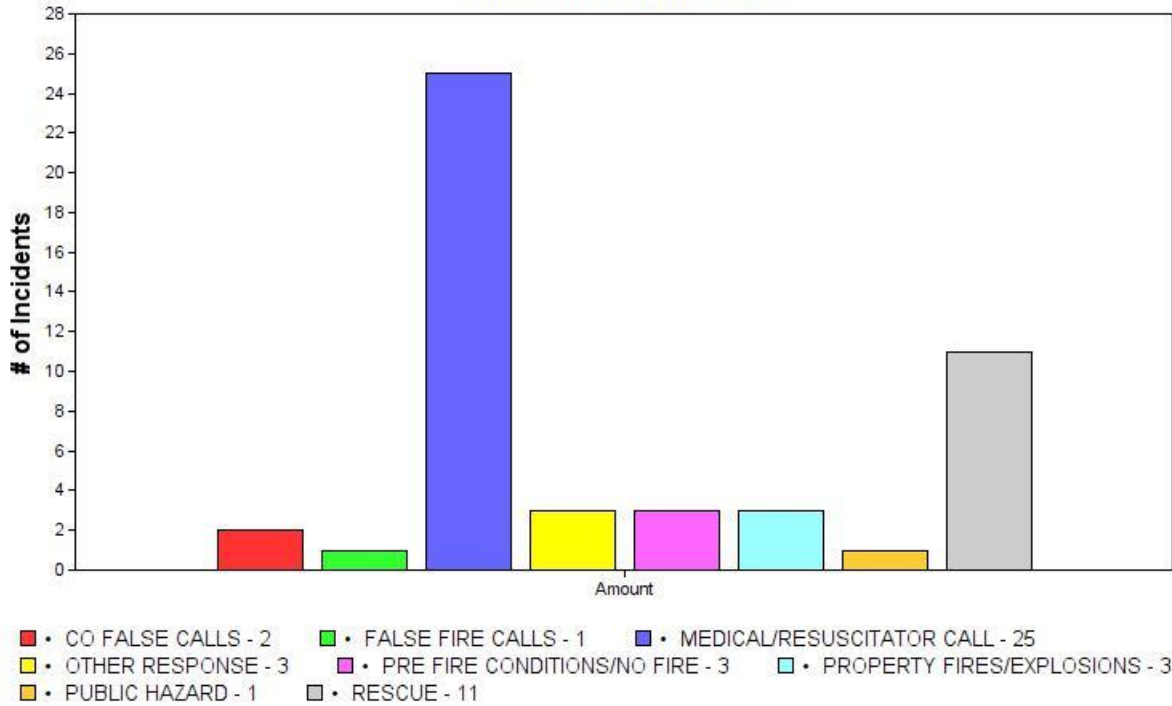
**Totals by Type Southgate**  
From Jan 1 24 to Dec 31 24



- BURNING (CONTROLLED) - 7
- CO FALSE CALLS - 4
- FALSE FIRE CALLS - 16
- MEDICAL/RESUSCITATOR CALL - 31
- OTHER RESPONSE - 19
- PRE FIRE CONDITIONS/NO FIRE - 4
- PROPERTY FIRES/EXPLOSIONS - 13
- PUBLIC HAZARD - 10
- RESCUE - 21

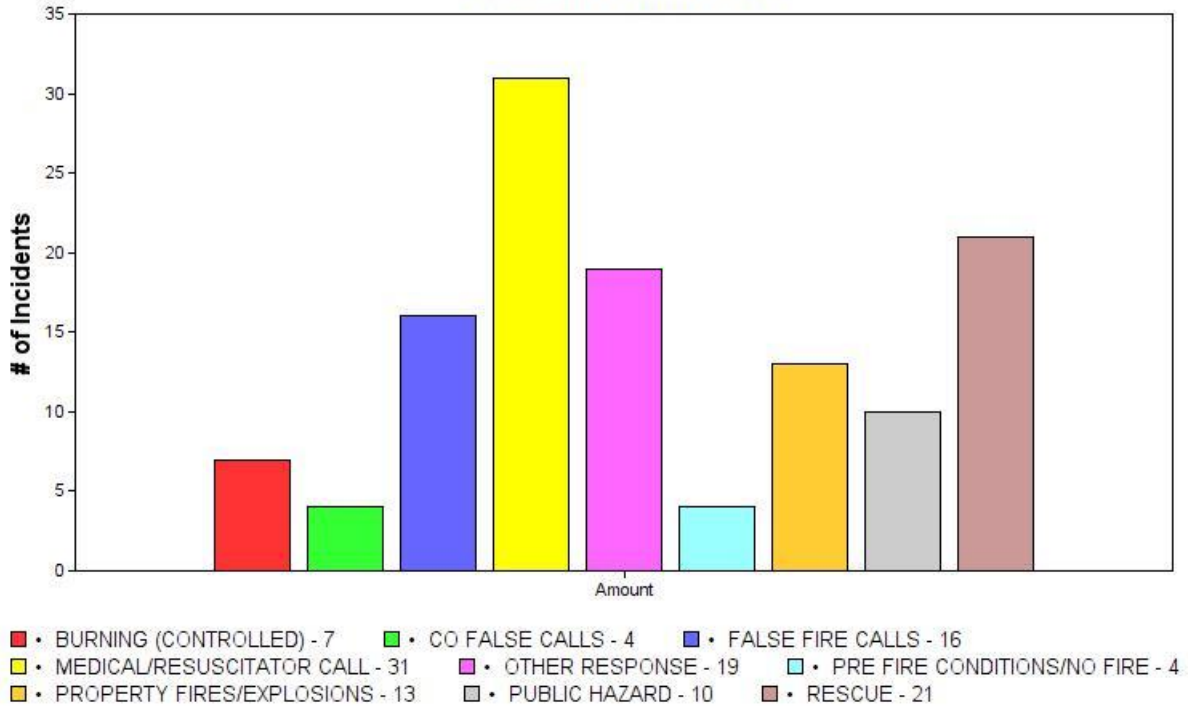
Melancthon

**Totals by Type Melancthon**  
From Jan 1 24 to Dec 31 24



Grey Highlands

**Totals by Type Grey Highlands**  
From Jan 1 24 to Dec 31 24



## Achievements

In this past year the Dundalk Fire Department has had many Achievements.

Our biggest achievement was becoming a training partner for the Red Cross. This creates flexibility for the department to schedule recertifications for its own members but also for Southgate Staff and a percentage of the cost using a third party trainer.

Staff undertook completing the Community Risk Assessment in house which took a large amount of staff time. By completing the Community Risk Assessment in house, it gave staff a better understanding of the community but also saved tax dollars by not having to hire a third-party company to complete. Staff have already started implementing changes to its operation based off the data collected from the risk assessment.

The Dundalk Fire Department took delivery of a new tanker apparatus in December. The apparatus was approved by Council in 2023 for purchase and was awarded to Fort Garry Fire Trucks. This truck replaced the 2004 Rescue unit. The Departments fleet is now updated, and all fire apparatus carry water which is important especially in a rural community. By having three apparatus that have the ability to shuttle water it allows the township to rely less on mutual aid and to be self sufficient. This also allows us to participate in mutual aid more without leaving our community exposed.

Lastly, staff applied for a Provincial fire prevention grant for cancer prevention equipment. Staff are excited to announce the department was successful in receiving \$8,230.45 from the grant which is going towards a new drying cabinet for bunker gear. This new cabinet dries three sets of bunker gear in approximately four hours where the departments current home-made system takes about twelve hours to complete three sets of gear. This will get our department back in service quicker after fires but also encourage members to frequently wash their gear as there will be less down time.

## Message from the Chief

I would like to thank all the Dundalk firefighters and their families for all their hard work, dedication, and perseverance through 2024. Our members spend a great deal of time away from their families to protect our community, and the neighbouring communities.

I would like to thank Southgate Council for the opportunity to lead this amazing team of individuals for yet another year. This is truly a close-knit group that can overcome any challenge that may arise, and continues to look at ways to grow and better service our community.

Finally, I would also like to thank the Township of Melancthon and the Municipality of Grey Highlands for trusting our department with protecting portions of your community. This is a task that we do wholehearted to provide the best level of service possible to these residents.