



Municipalité de Clare

Report
May 1, 2024

March 27, 2024

To Municipalité de Clare Council,

Municipality of Clare Fire Department Calls 2023

Fire Departments	Saint Bernard Fire Dept.	Little Brook Fire Dept.	Meteghan Fire Dept.	Hectanooga Fire Dept.	Havelock Fire Dept.	Southville Fire Dept.	Salmon River Fire Dept.
Type of Call							
MFR*	77	N/A	117	2	27	1	16
Mutual aid	27	10	14	5	18	56	N/A
MVC**	9	13	21	N/A	5	2	7
Alarms	7	21	8	1	4	N/A	2
Stand down from call	N/A	N/A	34	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chimney	9	6	10	3	1	N/A	N/A
Power lines	2	6	15	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Structure fire	3	2	3	N/A	4	2	5
Brush / grass	3	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	7
Other	4	5	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	4
Flooded basement	N/A	6	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forest fire	1	1	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A
Electrical	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	6
Vehicle fire	N/A	1	4	1	NA	N/A	N/A
Smoke no fire	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Total calls per FD:	142	74	239	15	78	61	48
Grand total all FD:	657 calls						

* MFR: medical first responders

** MVC: motor vehicle collision

November - February Call Totals (193)

Havelock 32
Fire 26
Medical 6

Hectanooga 6
Fire 6
Medical 0

Little Brook 29

Meteghan 81
Fire 41
Medical 40

Saint Bernard 62
Fire 29
Medical 33

Salmon River 22
Fire 15
Medical 7

Southville 24
Fire 18
Medical 6

There was discussion at our last report to Council about departments purchasing equipment together to save money. We inquired with some of our providers regarding this. In order for this to happen, department accounts would have to be merged into one account (ie Municipalité de Clare). It would require staff from the municipality to care for the financial logistics. Obviously we would need to make larger orders. Currently for example, the minimum number of bunker suits required for a discount based on the number ordered is 20. The municipality would have to purchase \$70,000 worth of bunker gear and would get a 15% savings. We will leave this in your hands how you would like us to proceed.

December was a very busy month for departments in Clare due to storms causing widespread damage of trees down on roads and power lines down. We are grateful that we are able to respond in an acceptable time frame to these incidents. We continue to have issues with Nova Scotia Public Works responding to road and traffic issues when needed. It is not our responsibility to keep roads blocked or provide traffic control for several hours when there are issues such as trees and powerlines across roads. We have spoken with Sergeant Jeff LeBlanc and when we have issues with NS Public Works responding, their members do not mind responding to advise us of next steps and remove the liability from the Fire Service.

Wildfire season began March 15 and continues to October 15. The province updates their information every day at 2 PM indicating when or if burning is allowed that day for recreational burning. Our fire departments have all received their wildfire gear from DNRR in preparation for the season ahead. If people wish to burn beyond what the DNRR Burn Safe regulations allow, they must contact DNRR.

Operational funding is front and centre on each department's agenda right now. There continues to be a shortfall between the operational support from the municipality and what it actually costs to pay for the operational costs for the department. We appreciate the work you are doing to remove the shortfall.

Our training committee is back to work since COVID. We held 2 training sessions. One with Nova Scotia Power and the other with the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia Critical Incident Stress Management team. There are more in the plans for the months ahead. There has been good uptake in the number of members from Clare who will attend the upcoming training at the Fire Department Information Conference in Wolfville this June. We are using the \$7500 training budget to send members. Saint Bernard Fire Department is hosting a live burning train the trainer event at their new live burn training facility in April. They are also hosting a Medical First Responder course in April. Thank you Council for your investment in these opportunities. It will allow us to serve our community more effectively.

We look forward to working through the fire service review to help us provide an efficient fire service for our community. Havelock's new Tanker truck is well underway. Delivery should be in the Summer of 2024. Saint Bernard is beginning the process to order their Tanker truck for a delivery in 2026 and Meteghan will replace their Engine truck 2027.

As always if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Doucette
Clare Firefighter Association President

Shawn Craven
Clare Firefighters Association Vice-President