



Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

From: Cameron Adams, Fire Chief

Subject: Pemberton Fire Rescue 2023 Annual Report

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the activities of Pemberton Fire Rescue for 2023.

BACKGROUND

Pemberton Fire Rescue (PFR) is a volunteer department that provides service to the residents of the Village of Pemberton (Village of Pemberton Bylaw No. 807, 2016) and, under the fire service agreement with the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), provides fire protection services to Pemberton Meadows (SLRD Bylaw No. 1082, 2008), Pemberton Heights (SLRD Bylaw No. 1083, 2008) and the Pemberton fire protection specified area defined within the fire service agreement. PFR provides fire service to Lílwat Nation through a separately negotiated fire service agreement established in 2017.

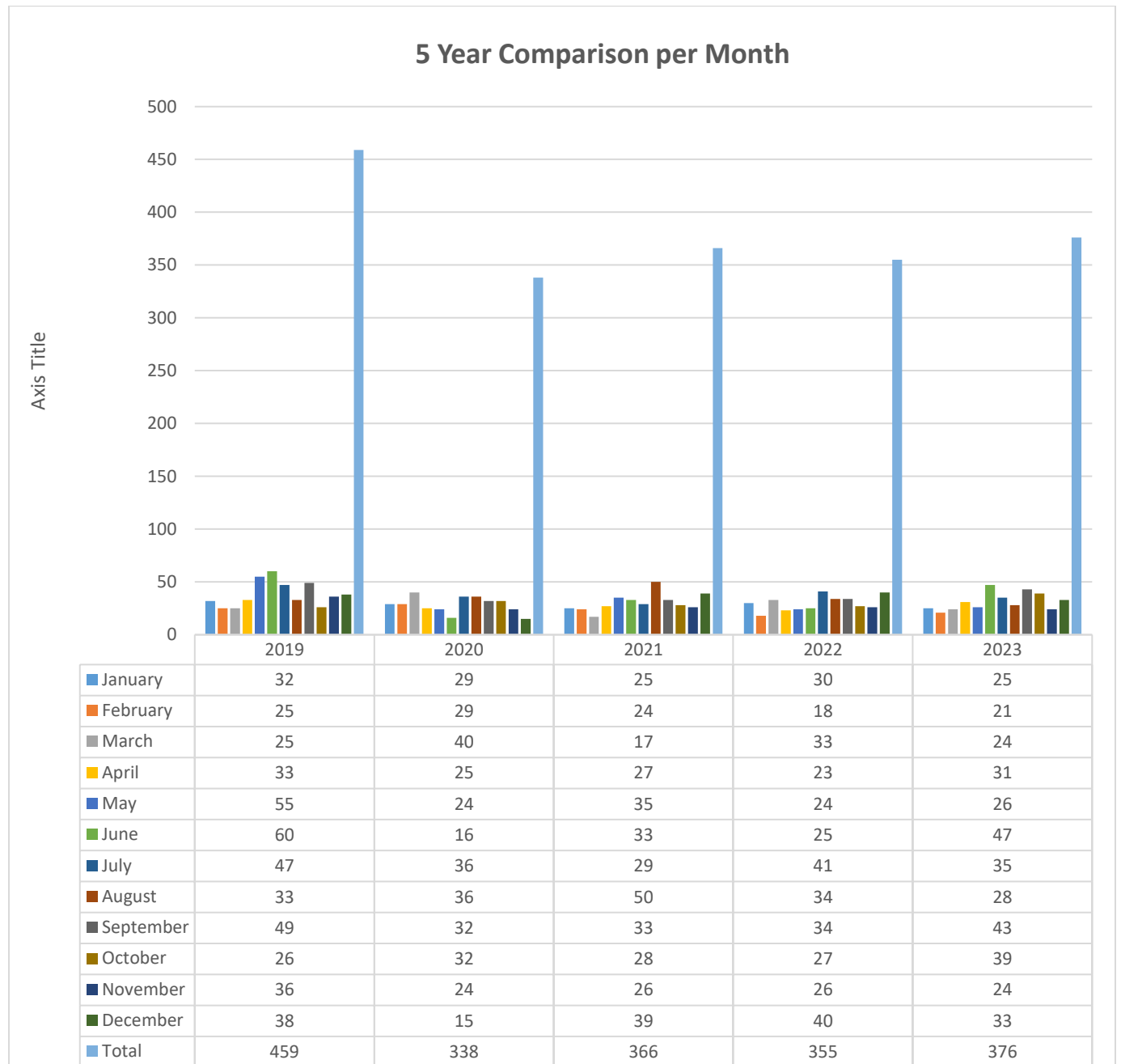
PFR also provides road rescue service to the entire SLRD Electoral Area C, covering 5,570 square kilometers, pursuant to SLRD Pemberton Fire Rescue Contribution Service Conversion and Establishment Bylaw No. 715-2001.

DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Incidents

For the year of 2023, Pemberton Fire Rescue responded to 376 incidents. In comparison to the 2022, call volumes were up 6%. 2023 recorded our third highest call volume next to the second highest recorded in 2018 (389) and highest recorded in 2019 (459) since 2008.

Chart 1. Five-year comparison of incidents by month



In the table below, the highlighted green squares indicate number of incidents greater than number of days in a month.

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	32	29	25	30	25
February	25	29	24	18	21
March	25	40	17	33	24
April	33	25	27	23	31
May	55	24	35	24	26
June	60	16	33	25	47
July	47	36	29	41	35
August	33	36	50	34	28
September	49	32	33	34	43
October	26	32	28	27	39
November	36	24	26	26	24
December	38	25	39	40	33
Totals	459	348	366	355	376

Table 2. Number of Incidents per day for 2023 Year

In 2023, of the 376 calls, 74% took place on evenings and weekends, with the remaining 26% occurring during work weekday work hours.

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	1	1	10
2	0	1	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	3	0	5	19
3	0	0	1	1	0	5	2	0	2	0	0	1	12
4	0	0	1	1	2	5	1	1	0	2	1	1	15
5	2	2	1	4	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	18
6	3	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	9
7	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	12
8	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	0	1	11
9	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	2	1	1	13
10	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	13
11	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	1	5	3	17
12	1	0	1	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	10
13	1	1	1	1	4	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	13
14	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	11
15	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	8
16	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	3	0	1	11
17	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	9
18	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	11
19	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	10
20	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	2	3	15
21	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	3	12
22	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
23	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	11
24	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	13
25	2	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	2	1	0	1	13
26	0	2	1	1	1	0	4	0	2	2	2	1	16
27	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	9
28	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	13
29	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	7	1	0	0	14
30	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	8
31	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	12

Totals	25	21	24	31	26	47	35	28	43	39	24	33	376
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Days Month	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31
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Table 3 provides a breakdown of the average number of firefighters attending incidents and the average number of those attending response types. This information is helpful to highlight the challenges Pemberton Fire Rescue encounters due to being a small department and because many firefighters hold fulltime jobs outside the community which impacts their ability to attend daytime calls. 2023 saw a decrease in the average number of responders to call outs despite having increased membership. This mainly seems to be impacted directly from higher work demands our members are facing.

Table 3. Average number of firefighters attending Incidents since 2019.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total # Incidents	459	348	366	355	376
Average # responders	4.48	6.72	7.01	6.49	6.29
Total Members Per Year	25	31	35	37	34
Percentage of members responded	19%	22%	20%	18%	17%

Table 4 shows the average number of firefighters that attended each response type over a 5-year period compared to the minimum personnel requirements set out in the NFPA Standards. The NFPA Standards set out the number of members required to do each job.

Table 4. Five-year comparison of fire fighter attendance by incident type

	Minimum Personnel Requirements	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Medical Aid	4	4.13	5.64	5.83	6.49	5.45
Motor Vehicle Accident	8	5.59	7.08	7.32	8.51	7.52
Alarms	*16	5.07	5.35	6.63	6.11	6.65
Wires Down	8	5.93	7.33	7.00	4.60	5.80
Burn Complaint	8	2.75	7.67	6.70	8.25	4.87
Chimney Fire	16	7.67	9.00	9.08	10.75	8.08
Smoke Sighting	8	5.87	7.64	10.50	8.40	7.00
Structure Fire	16	7.86	11.58	10.67	15.25	7.89
Vehicle Fire	8	5.70	8.83	13.00	9.25	6.88
Wildland Fire	16	6.00	7.20	8.67	6.50	7.00
Grass Fire	16	6.53	7.90	10.36	12.40	8.50

*Only one truck with crew would be sent; however remaining crew would be on standby at hall until confirmed.

Incidents by Area and Type

As set out in the Fire Department Establishment Bylaw No. 807, 2016, Pemberton Fire Rescue responds to several different types of incidents and locations as identified in the service agreements with the SLRD and Lil'wat Nation.

Chart 2 shows the incidents by area and type YTD.

Chart 2. Incidents by type and area

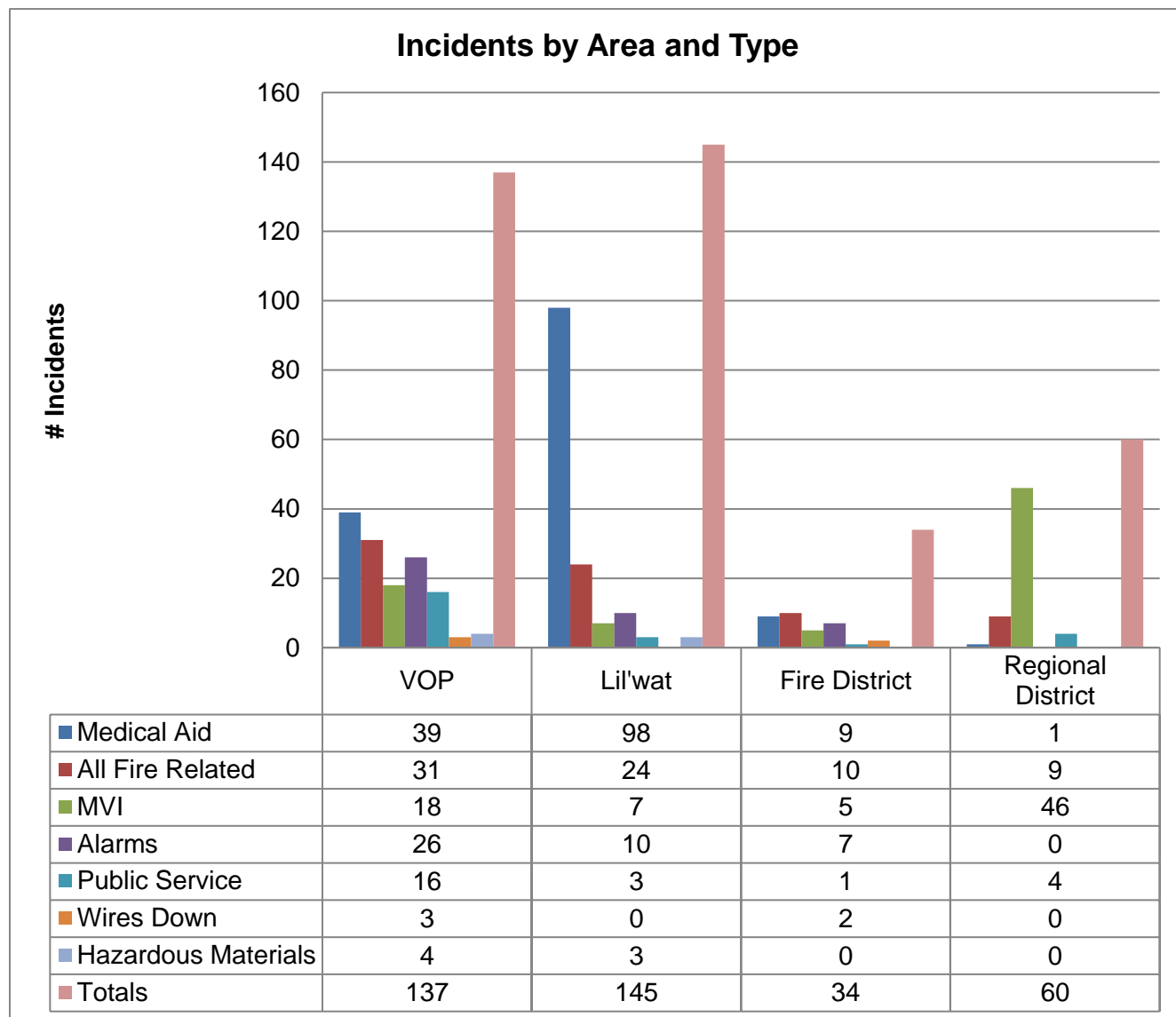
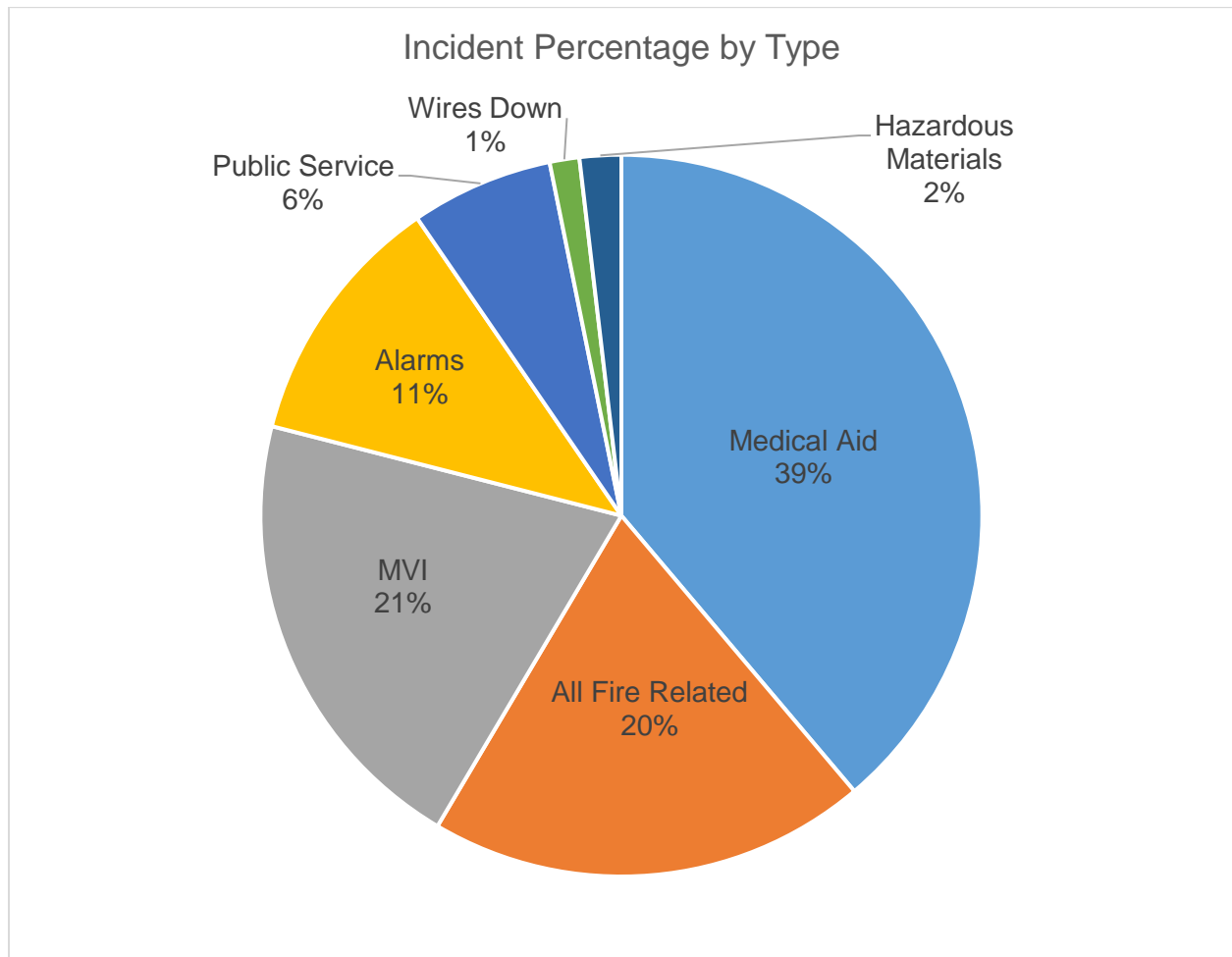


Chart 3 summarizes the number of callouts per type of incident attended year to date (YTD).

Chart 3. Summary of calls by incident type



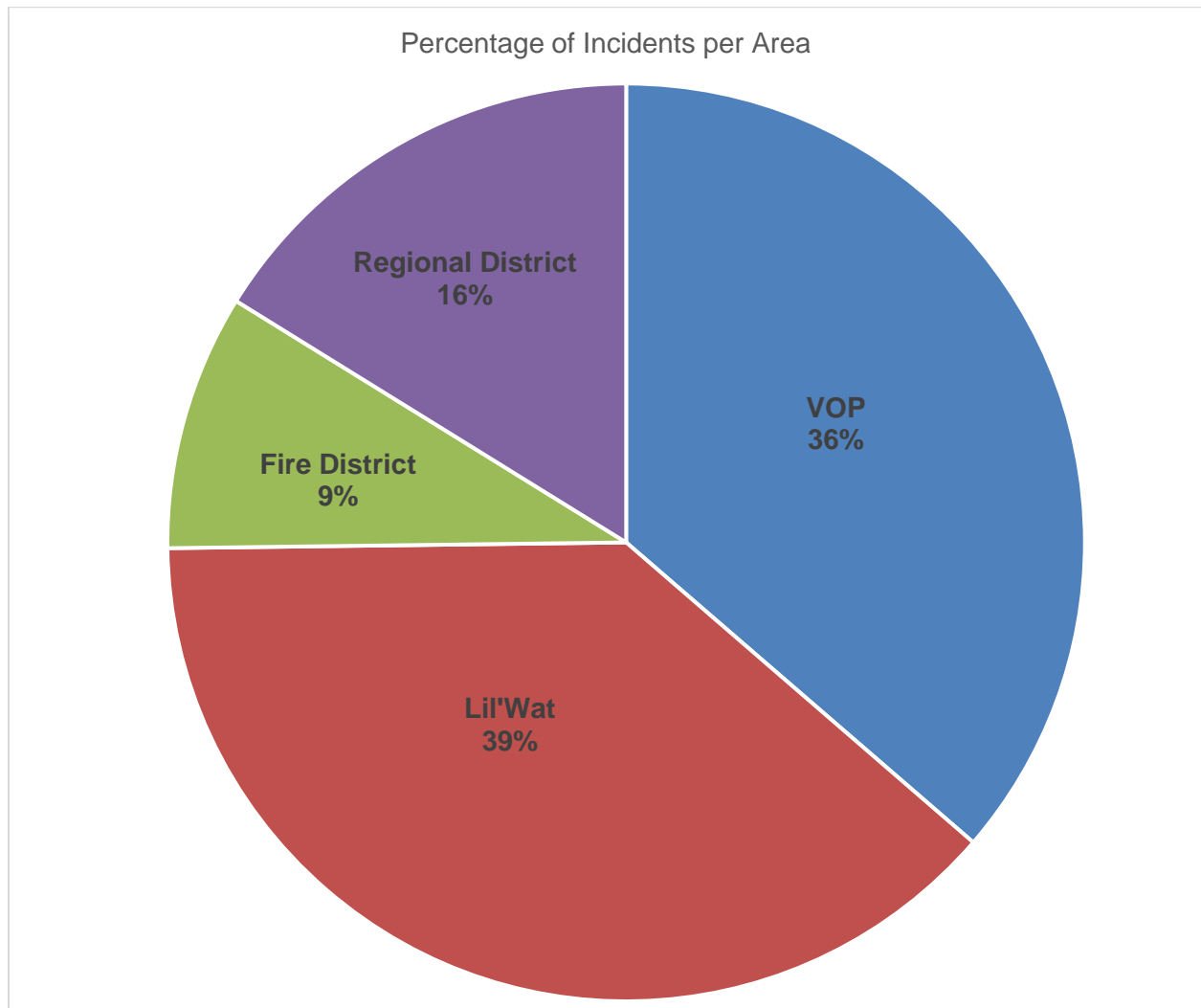
Incidents by Area

The breakdown of the incident reports is categorized into the following regions:

- Village of Pemberton Boundaries
- Lil'wat Nation
- Fire District Service Areas; and
- Regional District (or outside the Fire District zones including north of Mount Currie, north of The Heights and south of the Village Boundaries)

Chart 4 shows the percentage breakdown of Incidents by area year to date.

Chart 4. Breakdown of incidents by area, year to date



Membership

At the end of 2023, membership stands at 39 and is comprised of three (3) full-time members, thirty-one (31) volunteers (paid on-call) members and five (5) 2023 new recruits. The membership is complemented with one (1) full-time administrative assistant and two (2) term FireSmart staff (coordinator and laborer).

Training 2023

Members trained on a weekly basis to ensure compliance with the Office of the Fire Commissioner, WorkSafeBC, and department training requirements.

2023 Commitments

Table 5 shows all events and incidents and the staff hours committed to each in 2023.

Table 5. Events and staff hours

Commitment Type	Total Number	Total Staff Hours
Training	76	4077.00
Public Events	14	297.50
Meetings	11	28.5h
Incidents Total	376	2867h 29m
Regional / Fire District	94	970h 15m
VOP	137	867h 54m
Lil'Wat	145	1029h 20m

Fire Prevention, Inspections & Public Events

During the year 2023

- Ten (10) new business application review and fire inspection were completed.
- Seven (7) Public Education sessions: Seven (7) Public Events were completed or attended.

Capital Projects

First Quarter

Nothing to report.

Second Quarter

Nothing to report.

Third Quarter

Nothing to report.

Fourth Quarter

Training ground surface upgrades

The training ground was cleared and leveled by Pemberton Backhoe. This prepared the lot for future surface upgrades with the goal of paving the used surface areas to cut down on ground maintenance and improve routine training evolutions.

Engine 11 Retrofit and Revitalization Project

This project was founded through the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation and was aimed at improving our Wild land interface equipment. This has extended the life of this apparatus as the original pump was no longer suitably functional. The project included a replacement pump and tank with hose reels, suspension upgrade to allow for more ground clearance and a new bumper that was able to permanently mount a winch.



COMMUNICATIONS

There are no communications elements associated with the Pemberton Fire Rescue 2023 Annual Report.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no legal, legislative, or regulatory considerations.

BUDGET & STAFFING

Preparation of this report falls within the regular duties of the department and has no impact on budget or staffing.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPACT

Preparation of this report has no impact on other departments.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

This report has no impact on the Community Climate Action Plan strategies.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This initiative aligns with the following [strategic priorities](#) by:

- Plan and manage growth; as our community grows we train to meet the current and future demands that we face along with building our equipment and apparatus needs in order to best serve our communities.
- Be prepared; We ensure to provide the highest quality training and equipment to our members to best protect our communities from any emergencies we may face.
- Protect our environment; By implementing best FireSmart practices we help protect our forest and PFR uses best environmental practices available throughout our daily routines.
- Cultivate trust; We work with our neighbors to ensure the implementation of best practices and strengthen relationships.
- Operate with excellence. We strive to excel in our service delivery in each aspect of our service we provide.

IMPACT ON THE REGION

The activities of Pemberton Fire Rescue, including increased fire prevention awareness activities, firefighter recruitment and training support to improve upon the current level of service to the Village and the Fire Service District Service Area, are a benefit to the community, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and Lil'wat Nation.

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