



# Uxbridge Fire Department



## 2021 Annual Report



Mayor Barton and Members of Council:

It is my privilege to submit the 2021 Annual Report of the Uxbridge Fire Department. 2021 turned out to be “Groundhog Year” and what was “unprecedented” in 2020 was normalized in 2021. Emergency call volume stabilized with the steady increase in year over year incidents. Operational changes implemented in 2020 to address public health guidance continued to have an impact on our emergency response procedures and training, fire prevention and public education programs. Some major initiatives delayed from 2021 proceeded under the new public health directives. Supply chain delays related to PPE were reduced, however, delays for parts and equipment have been extended from days to weeks or months. Our staff continued to deliver to adapt to these new realities.

After 20 years with our Fire Department, Captain Dave Dawson resigned after accepting the position of Fire Chief with another Department. We wish Dave success in his new position. Commencing in July, Council initiated the process to fill the new position of Assistant Fire Chief. We were pleased to have the position filled by an internal candidate, Mike MacDonald. Mike started his new position in December.

Training, Public Education and Fire Prevention programs all continued in a modified format due to the changing COVID environment. All our staff deserves thanks for their continuing efforts to ensure our safety programs are effective.

We continued to focus on crew centred training according to the group size limits permitted by provincial regulation. Base Hospital recertification, Drive Wise, and rescue, pumper, and tanker apparatus qualifications were some of the major training initiatives completed in addition to the required annual maintenance training. The Fire Department received a generous grant at year end to supply valuable rescue equipment from Firehouse Subs Foundation for our trail emergencies.

Public Education programs continued to be delivered remotely on radio, television, or on-line meeting. We were able to continue our virtual school program throughout the year, in part, with an equipment grant provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal and our staff kept up their regular visits on local radio as well as started a new monthly television spot on local cable.

All fire inspection programs required due to occupancy or licensing have continued throughout the pandemic emergency. The fire department faced challenges with the changes in occupancy limits and requests for service from schools and businesses to comply with the current requirements. In addition, the encouragement to support business reopening and reduce regulatory process has led some to understand this as a relaxation of fire safety standards. That is not the case. The tendency for property owners to manage their property remotely, has

also placed increased demand for emergency and enforcement responses to certain residential properties which do not benefit from more direct property management supervision.

In 2020, The Township like many other municipalities was granted an exemption from conducting the annual emergency preparedness exercise. In August 2021, the Province confirmed no exemptions would be approved in 2021 despite the ongoing declared emergency. As a result, The Township's Municipal Control Group and alternates planned and executed the required exercise in November. The required municipal emergency program review was completed by staff, approved by Council in December, and submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General prior to the December 31 deadline.

2021 proved to be another difficult year for the fire service, like everyone else. We entered 2021 with the hope of vaccine programs controlling the impact of COVID-19. We hope that 2022 will reap the benefits of the local population's embrace of the vaccine program.

On Behalf of the Fire Department, I thank Council for its continued support in 2021.

Stay safe!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil Alexander".

Phil Alexander  
Fire Chief/CEMC

## ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The offices of the Uxbridge Fire Department are located at the Fire Station, 301 Brock Street West. Business hours for administration are 08:30 to 16:30, Monday to Friday. From this location, you can obtain fire permits (including oversized), display fireworks permits and guidance on approvals for Special Occasion Liquor Permits and Fire Code compliance. In 2021, recreational permits were included with any open air permit. This allowed residents to continue to enjoy their fire after sunset, as long as it is reduced in size to comply with the recreational guidelines. The pilot program instituted late in 2020 to process on-line permit applications was fully implemented. Residents can now apply for and pay on-line for recreational and open-air permits. This has proven to be a popular service, although many residents still prefer to purchase their permits in person. While the total number of permits declined in 2021, keep in mind that each open-air permit now also includes a recreational permit. A total of 1207 burning permits were issued; 14 times during the year charges resulted from incidents involving burning outside the guidelines of the permit or burning with no permit at all. Once a permit has been issued, applicants are required to check the automated permission line before burning each day. There were no burning bans in place in the Township during 2021.

## FIRE PERMITS ISSUED

	Oversize	Open Air	Recreational	TOTAL
<b>2021</b>	55	573	579	1207
<b>2020</b>	53	603	927	1583
<b>2019</b>	51	594	640	1285
<b>2018</b>	54	570	659	1283
<b>2017</b>	58	541	577	1176
<b>2016</b>	57	516	515	1088
<b>2015</b>	54	520	451	1025

## NEW INITIATIVES

### Low Angle Rope Rescue



The Fire Department made an application to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for assistance in purchasing equipment for low angle and trail rescue. Low angle rescues are equipment and labour-intensive operations which occur more and more frequently with the increased popularity of Uxbridge's trail

systems. These operations are completed in close cooperation with paramedic services and the addition of this specialized equipment will improve safety for both patients and responders. Attached is the presentation of the Firehouse grant award (\$19,000).

### **AV/IT Equipment for Fire Prevention, Public Education and Training**

The Fire Department made application to the 2021 Fire Marshal Fire Safety Grant program. This was a one-time grant offered to municipal fire departments across the province to offset challenges in providing fire protection services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Uxbridge Fire Department received \$9,800 from the total provincial allocation of \$5 million. The grant allocation was used to purchase digital recording equipment and software for public education and training as well as a tablet, software, and a modem for digital/remote fire inspections.

### **Ontario Fire College Closure**

On January 13, 2021, the Ontario Fire Marshal announced to Ontario Fire Chiefs that the Ontario Fire College would permanently close March 31, 2021. The OFC had been closed to in-person learning from the beginning of the pandemic, but the permanent shuttering of this important facility was unexpected. All fire departments in the province have utilized the College in some form – training, access to course materials and precis, fire technology research by OFC librarians, are some examples. Coupled with the anticipated mandatory firefighter certification regulation, fire departments have been left scrambling to find alternative resources for training. While commitments to have been made by the Fire Marshal and the provincial government to transition the fire service to new learning models, the process has not been smooth. The pursuit of training in “for-profit” facilities is expensive. Uxbridge Fire Department utilizes these facilities when cost effective but we have pursued other options including certifying our own trainers and programs and learning contracts with the “new” fire college model. Two members of staff, Sandra Ridley and Carolyn Clementson, have qualified as exam proctors for the Office of the Fire Marshal so that we can host/administer final written exams for the complete suite of National Fire Protection Association standards. We continue to rely on the flexibility of staff in adjusting to the changing learning environment post COVID shut down.

### **Emergency Management**

#### **COVID-19 (Year 2)**

COVID-19 year two began with the promise of vaccinations, and firefighters were among the first responders eligible immediately after the most vulnerable in hospitals, long term care and healthcare workers. As the availability of vaccines became more secure, the Township hosted mass vaccination clinics on behalf of Durham Region Health in the Uxbridge Arena (April to August) and Sandford Community Centre (starting in November). On December 24, the Township hosted the first of several planned GOVAXX bus vaccination clinics for the Province.

The Township remained in a declared state of Emergency throughout 2021, as did all the municipalities in Durham Region. Township facilities and amenities opened and closed as Provincial Health guidelines dictated. Unfortunately, the year ended with another outbreak and most businesses and facilities were forced to close again. Members of the Municipal Control Group continued to meet regularly throughout the year with additional meetings to coordinate our municipal activities with neighbouring municipalities and the Province. Pandemic protocols with respect to quarantine, protective equipment and facility protocols were updated regularly to meet Provincial Health requirements. In December, The Community Emergency Management Coordinator submitted all the necessary annual emergency planning program compliance documentation to the Province. Confirmation of 2020 program compliance was received in June.

### **Emergency Exercise**

Despite the ongoing declared emergency, municipalities were advised by the Province that they would have to conduct a separate annual emergency exercise to complete compliance requirements. The Municipal Control Group completed the exercise in November and provided the After Action Report to Council in December for review of the annual program.

### **Fire Master Plan**

The Township of Uxbridge last completed a Fire Master Plan in 2011. The Plan was intended to provide strategic direction for the Fire Department for a period of ten years. In the 2021 budget process, Council approved the capital project for an updated Fire Master Plan. In May, the RFP was released with a closing date of June 28, 2021. In September the project was awarded to Emergency Management and Training Inc. Work on the project will continue with internal and external stakeholders throughout the winter and spring with final presentation to Council prior to the 2022 summer recess.

### **Rural Water Supply Project**

In June, Council approved payment for a share of the design and construction costs for a water supply tank for rural firefighting operations. The project was first initiated in 2019 by Georgina Fire Department and completed and tested early in 2021. The underground tank was a joint venture with the Town of Georgina to provide support to fire tanker operations in the southeast area of Georgina and the northeast corner of Uxbridge Township. The installation is a static supply and requires fire apparatus to be positioned on site to fill tankers at the time of the emergency.

## **FIREFIGHTING DIVISION**

In 2021, Uxbridge Fire Department responded to 360 incidents: an increase of 4% from 2020. Included in the total responses were 11 incidents into the Township of Scugog fire protection agreement area or for Mutual Aid. An additional 28 incidents in Uxbridge Township were attended to in the Fire Protection areas serviced by the Whitchurch-Stouffville and East Gwillimbury Fire Departments.

Twenty (20) structure fires resulted in an estimated fire loss of \$1,057,000 for 2021. Further, six (6) vehicle fires contributed to a loss of \$228,001.

During the course of the year there were 81 motor vehicle incidents of which four (4) involved significant patient extrications; the remainder required investigation to contain fluid spills or eliminate fire hazards associated with damaged vehicles. There were ten (10) trail rescue incidents.

In 2021, 306\* Uxbridge incidents recorded the following:

Average personnel on scene:	8 firefighters
Average personnel responding:	17 firefighters
Average turnout time: (includes 9-1-1 call transfer to Oshawa Dispatch then acknowledged by UFD)	3 min 42 sec
Average travel time:	6 min 12 sec
Average response time: (from Dispatch receiving the call to FD arriving on location)	9 min 58 sec

\*Administration and cancelled incidents are not included in the above.

### **Fire Department Responses in Each Electoral Ward**

Ward 1	123**
Ward 2	82**
Ward 3	43
Ward 4	96
Ward 5	33

\*\*includes Whitchurch-Stouffville and East Gwillimbury responses



## RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS



Captain Dave Dawson resigned in December after reaching the 20-year milestone in February. Dave joined the Department on February 1, 2001. Dave was promoted to Acting Captain in January 2008 and Captain on January 1, 2013. During his time on the Department Dave was a member of the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) committee and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Procurement Committee. Dave served for a period as the President of the Uxbridge Firefighters Association. Dave has completed his NFPA Fire Officer III and IV. Dave accepted a new position of Chief of the Alnwick-Haldemand Fire Department in June. We wish Dave every success in his new role.



Firefighter Mike MacDonald was appointed Assistant Fire Chief in December 2021, after competing in the external recruitment process initiated in September. Mike joined the Department In April 2013. He was promoted to First Class Firefighter in 2016. Mike has served for 6 years as President of the Uxbridge Firefighters Association and has been the project lead for the Firefighter Memorial Project. Mike has more than 20 years of experience in senior leadership roles in the health sector. Mike holds a Bachelor's degree from Carlton University and Master's Certificate in Public Sector Management from UOIT. Congratulations Mike.

## TRAINING DIVISION

The Uxbridge Fire Department is committed to providing high-quality services through persistence in acquiring the most up-to-date technical skills and knowledge in the realm of fire protection. The Uxbridge Fire Department accomplishes this by providing training to qualify firefighters to perform specific tasks and functions as well as regular ongoing in-service training to maintain those knowledge, skills, and abilities.

This past year marked a transition from training under lockdown conditions to a return to normal. Training sessions were extensively practical in nature, with officers leading their crews. Training was conducted every weeknight with smaller groups, focusing on individual skills and company-level drills.

## QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

### Recruit Firefighter Program

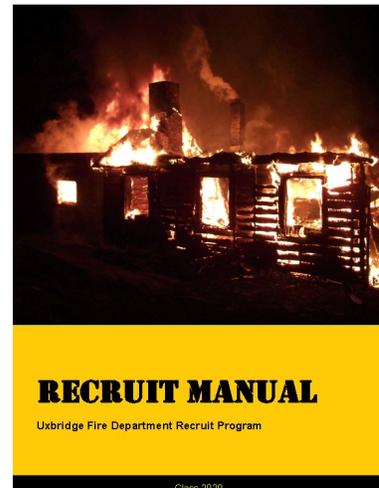
The Recruit Firefighter Program is designed to prepare new firefighters to serve the Township of Uxbridge as a front-line suppression firefighter. The training program is based on NFPA 1001 requirements. Firefighters may enter the program with previous certification or attend the Eastern Ontario Emergency Services Training Academy in Norwood, Ontario to become certified to NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level I and II as well as NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Operations.

In addition to training in fire suppression and search and rescue, recruits are trained in:

- Auto extrication operations
- Firefighter survival and rapid intervention
- Emergency first aid, CPR, defibrillation
- Administration of naloxone (Narcan) and epinephrine
- Ice/water rescue awareness

Following completion on the Recruit Firefighter Program, recruits are classified as Firefighter 4<sup>th</sup> class and participate in annual testing and evaluation, comprised of a written exam, practical exam, and interview. In 2021 the following activities were conducted under the Recruit Program:

- 5 firefighters from the 2020 Recruit Class graduated
- 4 firefighters from the 2018 Recruit Class promoted to Firefighter 2<sup>nd</sup> Class



*The Uxbridge Fire Department Recruit Manual provides Uxbridge-specific information that Uxbridge firefighters require to operate a peak safety and effectiveness. It supplements international fire service training manuals.*

### Ice/Water Rescue Program

The Ice/Water Rescue Program is designed to train firefighters to respond to emergencies involving bodies of open water and ice. The program is based on NFPA 1006 requirements and teaches standardized tactics using Uxbridge Fire Department equipment and resources.

Following graduation from the Ice/Water Rescue Course, firefighters are qualified to respond as “GO” rescuers and enter open bodies of water or onto ice for the purposes of conducting a rescue.



*Two Uxbridge Firefighters familiarize with Ice/Water Rescue Immersion Suits in confined water while other firefighters standby to assist them if needed*

Unfortunately, Ice/Water Rescue training was delayed during the initial lockdown and was not able to be safely completed due to the narrow weather conditions that permit realistic ice/water rescue training. Additional training was conducted in 2021 to account for this.

### Emergency Vehicle Operator Program

The Emergency Vehicle Operator Program qualifies firefighters to drive Uxbridge Fire Department fire apparatus and operate all fixed onboard equipment, including generators, scene lighting equipment, and fire pumps. The program follows NFPA 1002 Driver/Operator recommendations, as well recommendations made by the Ontario Fire Service Health and Safety Advisory Committee under Section 21 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The program is now divided into four qualification levels:

- EVO I – Rescue apparatus. This level qualifies firefighters to drive department apparatus and vehicles under emergency conditions, as well as begin building emergency driving experience on the smallest and lightest emergency vehicles in the fleet.
- EVO II – Pumpers. This level qualifies firefighters to drive the single-rear axle pumpers. It also qualifies firefighters to operate the fire pumps and supply the proper amount and pressure of water to firefighters attacking the fire or defending exposed structures.



*Firefighters receive extensive training on the apparatus before they are qualified to drive an apparatus or operate its fixed systems.*

- EVO III – Tankers. This level qualifies firefighters to drive mobile water supply apparatus, also known as “tankers.” Tankers are used to provide a reliable source of water at fires in non-hydrant, rural areas of the township. Because of their large on-board water tanks, they are much larger and heavier apparatus, and often operate remotely from the incident under indirect supervision, requiring more experienced drivers with additional training.
- EVO IV – Aerial Ladder. This training program is currently under development, in anticipation of the arrival of Aerial 77.

## ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE

Ontario has begun the process of expanding the availability of training and certification in the province by opening Regional Training Centres (RTCs) and expanding the number of people authorized to deliver training and testing. Several personnel from Uxbridge were approved as Associate Instructors to deliver training on behalf of the Ontario Fire College, and Administrative Assistant Sandra Ridley and Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator Carolyn Clementson were both approved to proctor provincial exams on behalf of the Academic Standards & Evaluation Unit.



*Firefighters participating in a NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Operations training session at EOETA.*

Several members were also successful in completing new certifications in 2021. Through the new training model, training was delivered by the EOETA in Norwood, the Scugog Fire Department through the Whitby RTC, and through the Ontario Fire College Online Platform. Congratulations to the following firefighters for their new certifications!

- **Assistant Fire Chief Mike MacDonald** – Instructor I, Inspector I
- **Captain Matt Alexander** – Inspector I
- **Acting Captain Matt Morrison** – Incident Safety Officer
- **Firefighter Jason Gregor** – Instructor I
- **Firefighter Justin Amyotte** – Inspector I
- **Firefighter Mitch Ferraro** – Firefighter I & II, Hazardous Materials Operations
- **Firefighter Clinton Harper** – Firefighter I & II, Hazardous Materials Operations, Inspector I
- **Firefighter Luke Hurlburt** – Firefighter I & II, Hazardous Materials Operations
- **Firefighter Mikaela MacDonald** – Firefighter I & II, Hazardous Materials Operations

Also worth noting is that our firefighters that completed their Firefighter I & II certifications were part of the provincial pilot project for computer-based testing which will play an important role in ensuring that firefighters receive timely testing results under the new certification model.

## **IN-SERVICE TRAINING SESSIONS**

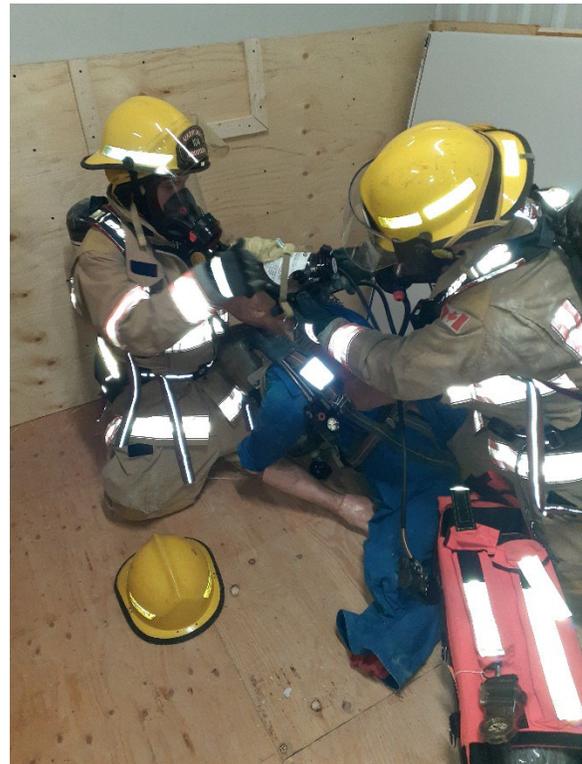
Emergency First Responder (EFR) Medical Training  
Administered by the Central East Prehospital Care Program (CEPCP), the EFR Program consists of Continuing Medical Education (CME), annual certification in CPR and Semi Automated External Defibrillation, and Quality Assurance. Training in 2021 continued using a hybrid model, with online modules being completed in conjunction with in-person practical training sessions.

### Scott X5 SCBA

In 2021, the department received delivery of the new Scott X5 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This project marked a significant update in the department's respiratory protection program by transitioning to high-pressure 4500psi breathing apparatus.

To ensure that firefighters were familiar with the new SCBA, extensive training was completed in the inspection and maintenance of the new SCBA, as well as conducting all firefighter survival and rapid intervention skills with the new SCBA. Although the department is already familiar with Scott products, firefighters did observe several critical differences and were able to adapt their existing knowledge, skills, and abilities to the new equipment in training instead of during an emergency event.

In addition to the new SCBA, we also trained on the RIT-Pak III, designed to supply air to a lost or trapped firefighter who is low on air or has a malfunctioning SCBA, as well as the Scott Pak-Tracker system, which uses a handheld receiver to track the location of firefighters who activate their Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) emergency beacon.



*Uxbridge Firefighters Brett Jacobsen and Michael Goodyear practicing providing a downed firefighter with air from the new Scott RIT-Pak III.*

## Forcible Entry

Forcible entry is a critical skill for firefighters because many of the properties that we encounter are secured with locked doors when we arrive. Because fire grows every second, it is very important that firefighters be able to get through locked doors to apply water to the fire in a timely manner. While it is very important, it can also be challenging to source doors because it does damage the doors being opened. To address this challenge, the Uxbridge Fire Department received a training prop specifically for these skills through grant funding.

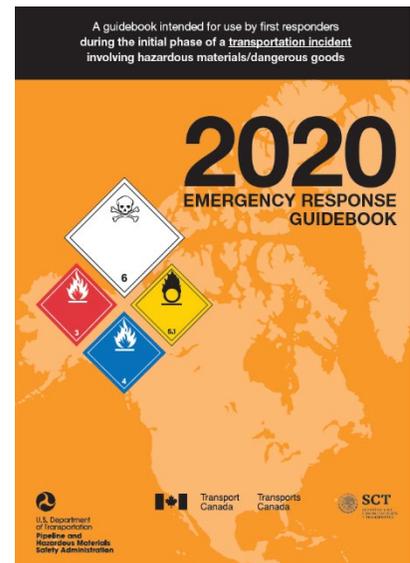
The new training prop is heavy duty and reusable, allowing firefighters to practice many different skills related to forcible entry.



## Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

In December 2020, the 2020 version of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) was released. This guidebook is a joint project between the United States Department of Transportation, Transport Canada, and Mexico's Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes. It provides first responders with time-sensitive information about hazardous materials they may encounter in the performance of their duties, including tools to recognize and identify hazardous materials, as well as the immediate measures they can take to protect life and property.

Every four years an update is released, and additional training is provided to ensure that all personnel are familiar with the changes and can quickly access the information.



## Fireground Skills

In conjunction with the new SCBA, many fireground skills were practiced becoming more familiar with the balance and feel of the new SCBA while performing tasks on the fireground. These including throwing ground ladders, rescuing victims from ladders, and running hoselines up ladders. In addition, firefighters practiced operating portable pumps to secure water in the rural areas of the township that are not equipped with fire hydrants, using the rotary saws to cut various materials, such as steel and concrete, and pulling hoselines quickly for fire control.



*Uxbridge Firefighters Sean Edwards and Doug Noble practice setting up the high-volume portable pump used to refill tankers from static water sources in the rural area.*

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Uxbridge Fire Department was faced with challenges delivering Public Fire & Life Safety Education in 2021 during the second year of the pandemic. These challenges were overcome through the use of web and social media, virtual meetings, radio, public access TV, and print media.

## **RADIO CAMPAIGNS AND INTERVIEWS**

The Uxbridge Fire Department participated in a regional fire safety campaign on KX96 and 94.9 The Rock radio stations. The campaign was funded by a grant from Enbridge Gas awarded to the Durham Public Educators. The campaign was focused on Holiday fire safety messaging surrounding Christmas. Radio interviews were conducted on 105.5 Hits FM throughout the year covering topics such as cooking safety, outdoor burning, home hazard inspections, smoke and CO alarms, and home fire escape planning. The “Twelve Days of Christmas” campaign was continued for a fourth year. The Uxbridge Fire Department partnered with the Scugog Fire Department. Listeners were given a fire safety tip each day which they had to call in and repeat to win a prize. Prizes were supplied by Fire Marshal’s Public Fire Safety Council.

## **ROGERS TV – UXBRIDGE SCUGOG LIFE**

In 2021, the Uxbridge Fire Department conducted interviews on Uxbridge Scugog Life episodes discussing fire safety topics. Episodes aired every month on Rogers TV. Home Hazard Inspections, Open Air Burning, Smoke and CO Alarm Compliance, and Home Fire Escape Planning were some of the topics discussed. The interviews were also made available online.



## **LEARN NOT TO BURN**

In 2021, the “Learn Not to Burn” Fire and Life Safety school program was delivered to students from JK to grade 8 using Google Classroom. Virtual fire truck tours engaged students. Virtual lessons included Home Hazards, Flammable Liquids, Smoke and CO Alarms, and No Time to Spare with a question-and-answer portion. A contest was run for classes to hand in Home Fire Escape Plans. Several teachers commented on how enthusiastic the students were during the virtual lessons.

## **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK – LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY**



This year’s topic for Fire Prevention week was “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”. An added effort was put forward during the week to influence residents of Uxbridge to make sure they have working smoke and CO alarms. The Uxbridge Fire

Department participated in an initiative from the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs. The OAFIC provided promotional items for children and smoke alarms to hand out from First Alert.

## **MEDIA CAMPAIGNS**

Newspaper articles were published to support initiatives and messages throughout the year. The Public Fire and Life Safety content on the Township webpage was updated to include documents residents can access to assist in developing home fire escape plans. The importance of working smoke alarms and a home fire escape planning remain key messages we deliver to all demographics.

## **REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS**

The Uxbridge Fire Department once again partnered with MARC Advertising and local businesses to provide reusable shopping bags with fire safety messaging on it. The bags were handed out at the local grocery and department stores. Over 800 bags were distributed and can be seen being used around town displaying the important message that “Smoke Alarms Save Lives”



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URL : [www.uxbridge.ca/fire](http://www.uxbridge.ca/fire)

**Public Education Statistical Report**  
**From Jan 1 21 to Dec 31 21**

List Item	Number	Percent
<b>Put on By</b>		
Uxbridge	23	100.00
<b>Type</b>		
Presentation	21	91.30
Store Displays	1	4.35
Smoke Alarm Campaign	1	4.35
<b>Age Group</b>		
JK and SK	4	11.43
Grade 1	4	11.43
Grade 2	3	8.57
Grade 4	3	8.57
Grade 3	3	8.57
Grade 5	1	2.86
Grade 6	1	2.86
Grade 7	2	5.71
Grade 8	2	5.71
Seniors	2	5.71
General	10	28.57
<b>Audience</b>		
School	11	47.83
Community Groups	3	13.04
Residents	9	39.13
<b>Presentation</b>		
Learn Not To Burn	11	47.83
Public Education	11	47.83
Fire Truck	1	4.35
<b>Subjects</b>		
Home Escape Plans	4	17.39
Flammable Liquids and Outdoor Fire Safety	1	4.35
Home Hazard Inspections	2	8.70
Fire Safety for Babysitters	1	4.35
It Could Happen To You	1	4.35

## Uxbridge Fire Department

### Public Education Statistical Report Continued

From Jan 1 21 to Dec 31 21

List Item	Number	Percent
The Fire Department as a Partner in Community Services	1	4.35
My Friend the Firefighter	1	4.35
Seniors' Presentation	2	8.70
Public Education	10	43.48

#### Handouts

##### Number of Participants by Age Group

JK and SK	191	6.34
Grade 1	125	4.15
Grade 2	76	2.52
Grade 3	143	4.75
Grade 4	136	4.51
Grade 5	53	1.76
Grade 6	27	0.90
Grade 7	81	2.69
Grade 8	87	2.89
Seniors	22	0.73
General	2072	68.77

## **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

The fire prevention division was impacted for a second year by the pandemic. As multiple waves of the Covid-19 pandemic spread across our community, prevention staff had to continually change its focus and priorities to meet the community needs. In the first quarter of 2021, fire prevention staff found it very difficult to plan and conduct annual inspections of occupancies due to limited or no access into buildings. In the second quarter, local businesses began to re-open and fire prevention staff began to inspect premises as per our formal inspection schedule. As the daily workload of the fire prevention office had increased, general annual inspections were assigned to the part-time inspector, working on average one day per week this task was difficult to complete with a limited number of occupancies inspected throughout the rest of the year.

The following is a brief overview of fire prevention staff activities for the year 2021:

### General Inspections

During 2021, the fire prevention staff resumed annual fire safety inspections of business and personal services and industrial occupancies. With minimal annual inspections being completed the previous year, the inspections conducted in 2021 found many fire safety violations and buildings not compliant with the Ontario Fire Code. This also increased the workload of our full and part-time inspectors by requiring re-inspections of non-compliant occupancies and buildings. We are pleased to advise that fire prevention staff were able to achieve voluntary compliance from all building and occupancy owners during our inspections throughout the year.

### Multi-Unit Residential Occupancies

In 2021, fire prevention staff continued a modified inspection of multi-unit residential buildings. These inspections were limited to review of all fire safety equipment testing and servicing documentation, review of building fire safety plans, and the inspection of building common areas for fire hazards. No inspections of individual apartment units were conducted.

### Online Open-Air Fire Permits

In 2021, the Township introduced the online fire permit system, this allowed residents of the township to apply for an open air or recreation fire permit online. This proved to be a very popular means for residents to obtain their required fire permits, but also increased the daily workload of fire prevention staff. As each permit was submitted online, fire prevention staff would have to review the application to confirm that the property requesting the permit met the requirements of the township open air burning by-law. In 2021, 944 online fire permits were approved by prevention staff. This number does not include the total number of permits reviewed as some residential properties did not meet the requirements of the by-law and were denied approval.

## Schools

In late August of 2021 it was confirmed that schools would re-open for in-class learning in September. As schools had not been fully inspected since March of 2019 it was decided that all schools in the township were to be inspected before the beginning of the school year. With limited time available, fire prevention staff scheduled and inspected all schools within a one-week period. As in 2020, prevention staff also worked closely with school staff to review changes to fire safety plans and attended schools to observe fire drills to confirm evacuations of schools could be completed in a safe and efficient manner.

## Restaurants and Patios

As restaurants began to welcome customers back indoors for dining and re-open their extended outdoor patios, fire prevention staff began regular annual inspections of these occupancies which included the re-inspection of their extended outdoor patio areas.

## Occupant Load of Business

In early February of 2021, the Government of Ontario introduced requirements for businesses to limit the number of persons inside a business or personal service occupancy. This number was set at a percentage of the total occupant load of the floor area. Fire prevention staff received 26 requests from business owners to assist them in determining the occupant load of their business floor area. This proved to be very time consuming for staff as each of these requests required a site visit to the building to measure the available space then calculate the total occupant load of the building.

## Vulnerable Occupancies

During the pandemic these occupancies were still required to conduct an evacuation drill and have their buildings inspected as required by the Fire Marshals directive. As some of these occupancies were

The Fire Department is pleased to say that all the vulnerable occupancies completed and passed their mandatory evacuation drills, and no Ontario Fire Code violations were found during the inspection of these buildings.

## Other Duties

- Building Plan Reviews, Site Plan inspections and final building inspections
- Committee of Adjustment Reviews
- Burning complaints
- Administration Call (Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarm Checks)
- Fire Investigations

The Fire Prevention staff will continue to focus on the community needs and circumstances to provide assistance to all of our residents and visitors to make our township a fire safe community.

## FIRE PREVENTION

Inspection By Occupancy Type	Number
Assembly	30
Institutional (Including Schools)	34
Residential (Including Multi-unit)	14
Mercantile, Business & Professional Services	88
Industrial	55
Re-Inspections / Follow-up	87
Business License (Including Chip Trucks)	10
Incident Follow-up	13
Requests / Complaints	17
Occupant Load	26
Customer Service / Consultations	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>

New Construction & C.O.A	Number
Plan Reviews	23
Committee Of Adjustments	32
New Building Construction Inspections	26
New Building Construction Final Inspections	5
Pre-Construction Meetings	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

Other Duties	Number
Oversized Fire Permits / Fireworks Permits (Inspections)	42
Online Fire Permit Reviews	944
Fire Safety Plan Reviews	68
Fire Drills	22
Burning Complaints	14
Administration Calls (Carbon Monoxide and Alarms Ringing)	19
Lawyers Request for File Search	17
Fire Investigations	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1137</b>

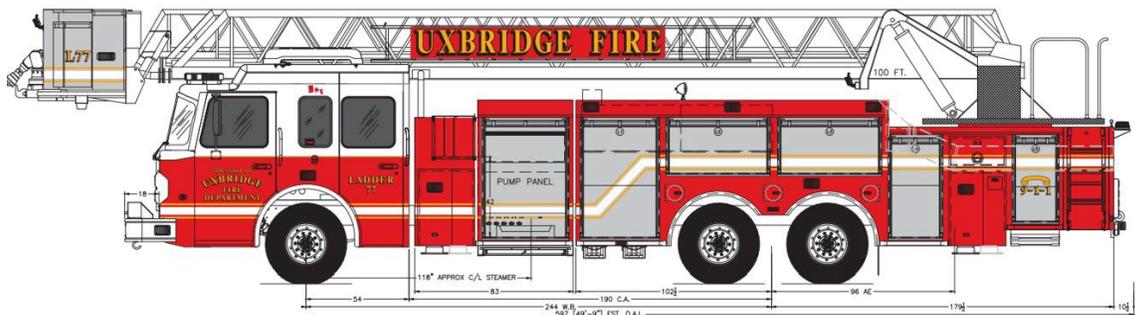
Enforcement	Number
Part One Tickets Issued	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

## MECHANICAL DIVISION

Our Mechanical Officer is responsible for maintaining our equipment in operational condition. In addition to the individual trip-checks that each vehicle movement requires, our staff complete weekly inspections and operational checks on all our apparatus and the individual pieces of equipment that each carry – everything from the main fire pumps to defibrillators. Repairs are completed in-house, in the Township mechanical facility or by external service providers as the situation warrants. All our fire hose is pressure tested annually in-house. In 2021, all our apparatus equipped with fire pumps completed bi-annual performance testing and ground ladders completed annual third-party verification. Our heavy hydraulic extrication equipment, “The Jaws of Life”, also received bi-annual service and inspection.

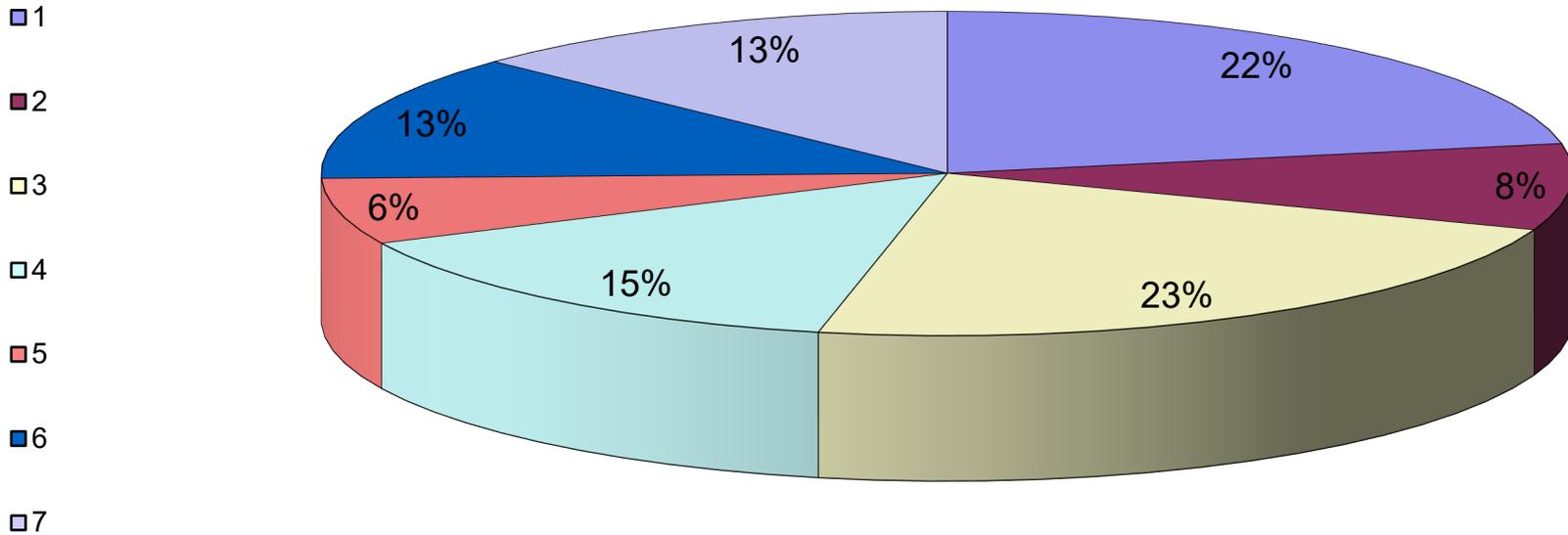
The apparatus also completed their regular service and maintenance checks, annual commercial vehicle safety inspections, and rust proofing treatments. Unfortunately, and unexpectedly in September, our 2009 pumper suffered a cylinder sleeve failure which required a complete engine replacement. As engines in fire apparatus are built individually and specifically for their application, we were very fortunate to obtain a new engine in a very short period, especially during a time of COVID-19 supply chain issues.

COVID-19 also impacted the progress on the procurement of the aerial platform apparatus approved in the 2020 capital budget. As restrictions eased, our committee was able to travel to other fire departments with similar apparatus in service, or host demonstrations from prospective suppliers. The RFP closed in March and the project was awarded to Safetek Emergency Vehicles in May. Pre-construction meetings were held online over two days in July to finalize the specification. Delivery of the apparatus is expected in the summer of 2022.



In March, we received the 34 new Scott 4.5 self-contained breathing apparatus which were approved in the 2020 capital budget and awarded in a competitive procurement process.

# 2021 UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN BY TYPE

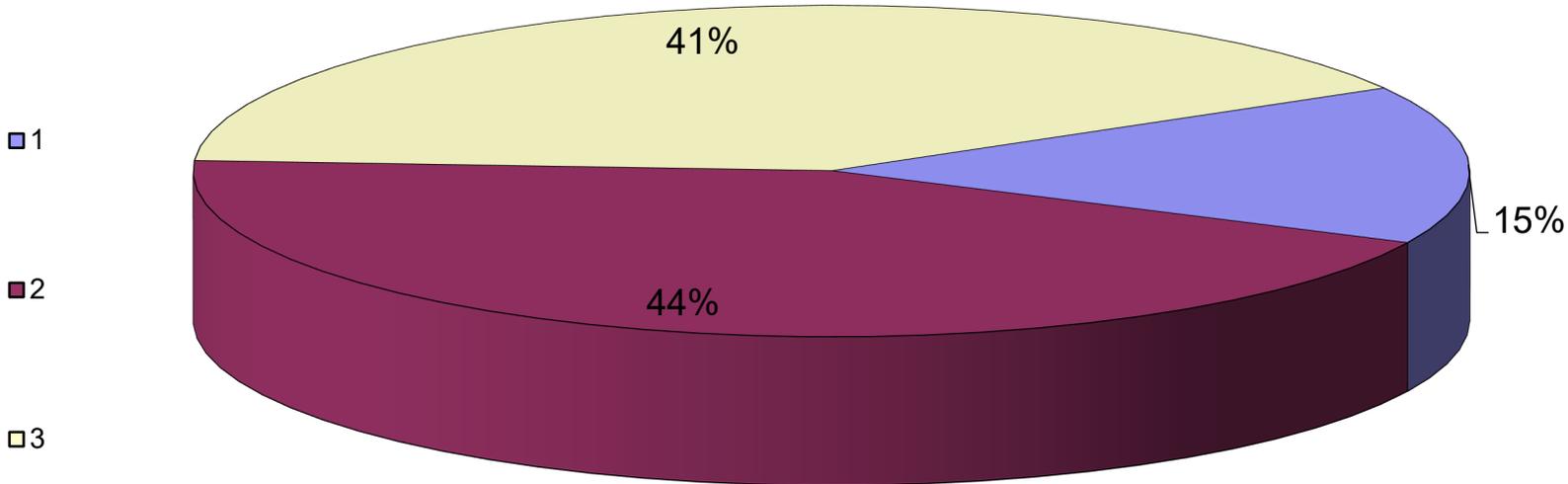


Legend #	RESPONSE TYPE	TOTAL
1	MVC	77
2	FIRE	30
3	ALARMS	79
4	MEDICAL	51
5	PRE-FIRE	23
6	PUBLIC HAZARD	44
7	OTHER*	45

**UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 349 CALLS  
IN UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP IN 2021**

\*OTHER includes: Burning Complaint, Lift Assist  
Public Service, Trail Rescue

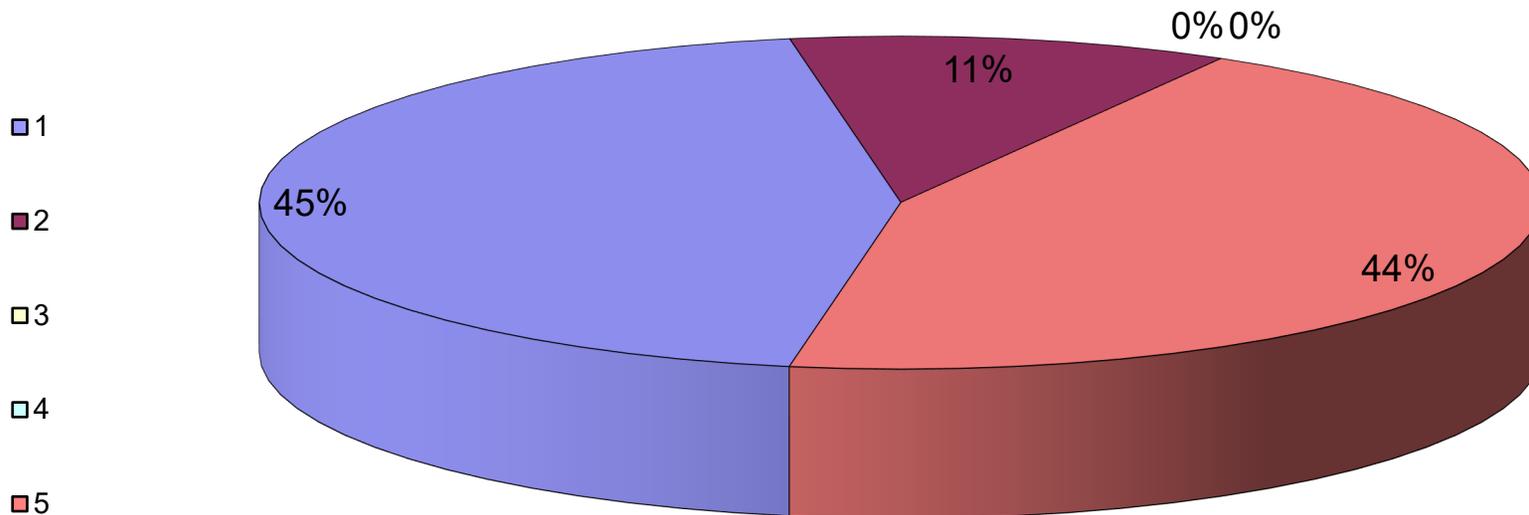
**2021  
UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN BY TIME**



<u>Legend #</u>	<u>TIME PERIODS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	#1 00:01 hrs to 08:00 hrs	54
2	#2 08:01 hrs to 16:00 hrs	153
3	#3 16:01hrs to 00:00 hrs	142

**UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 349 CALLS  
IN UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP IN 2021**

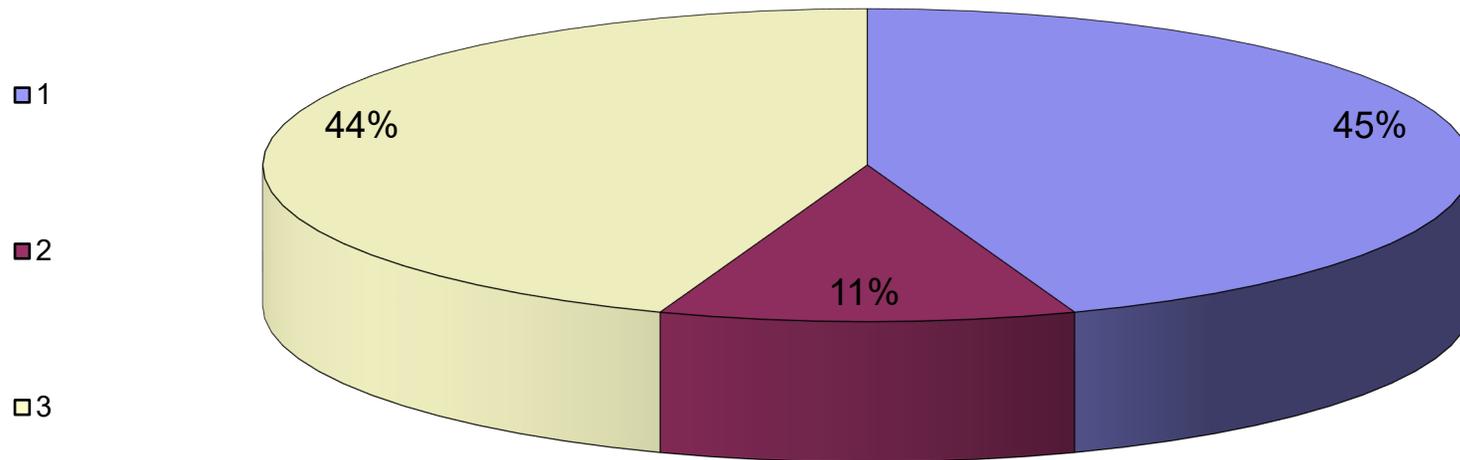
**2021**  
**UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**CALLS WITHIN RESPONSE AGREEMENT - UXBRIDGE AND SCUGOG**  
**ANNUAL OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSES BY TYPE**



<u>Legend #</u>	<u>RESPONSE TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	MVC	4
2	FIRE	1
3	ALARMS	0
4	MEDICAL	0
5	OTHER (Mutual Aid)	4

**UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 9 CALLS  
 IN SCUGOG TOWNSHIP IN 2021**

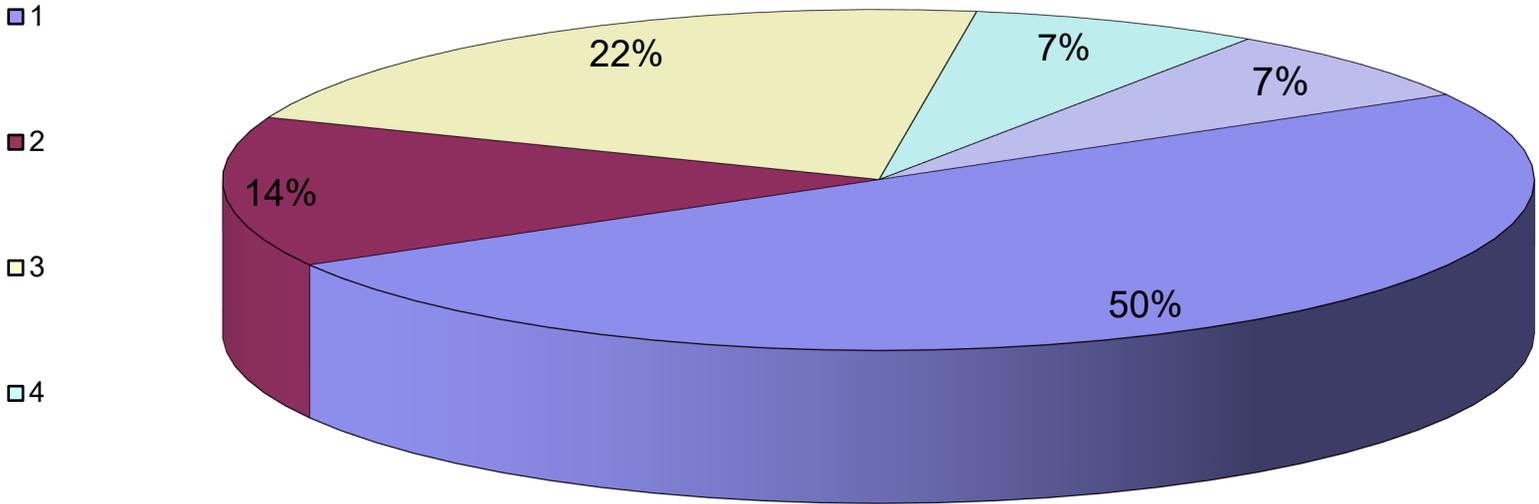
**2021**  
**UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**CALLS WITHIN RESPONSE AGREEMENT - UXBRIDGE AND SCUGOG**  
**ANNUAL OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSE BY TIME**



<u>Legend #</u>	<u>TIME PERIODS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	#1 00:01 hrs to 08:00 hrs	4
2	#2 08:01 hrs to 16:00 hrs	1
3	#3 16:01 hrs to 00:00 hrs	4

**UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 9 CALLS  
 IN SCUGOG TOWNSHIP IN 2021**

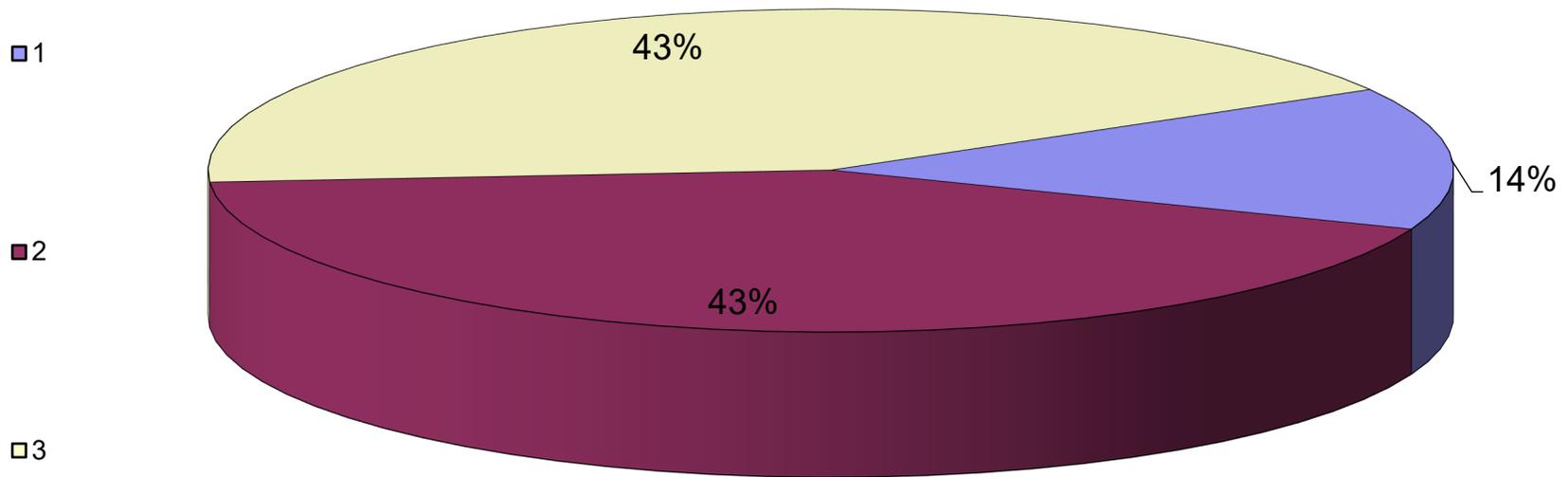
**2021**  
**EAST GWILLIMBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN BY TYPE**



<u>Legend #</u>	<u>RESPONSE TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	MVC	7
2	FIRE	2
3	ALARMS	3
4	MEDICAL	1
5	OTHER	1

**EAST GWILLIMBURY EMERGENCY SERVICES  
 RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 14 CALLS  
 IN UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP IN 2021**

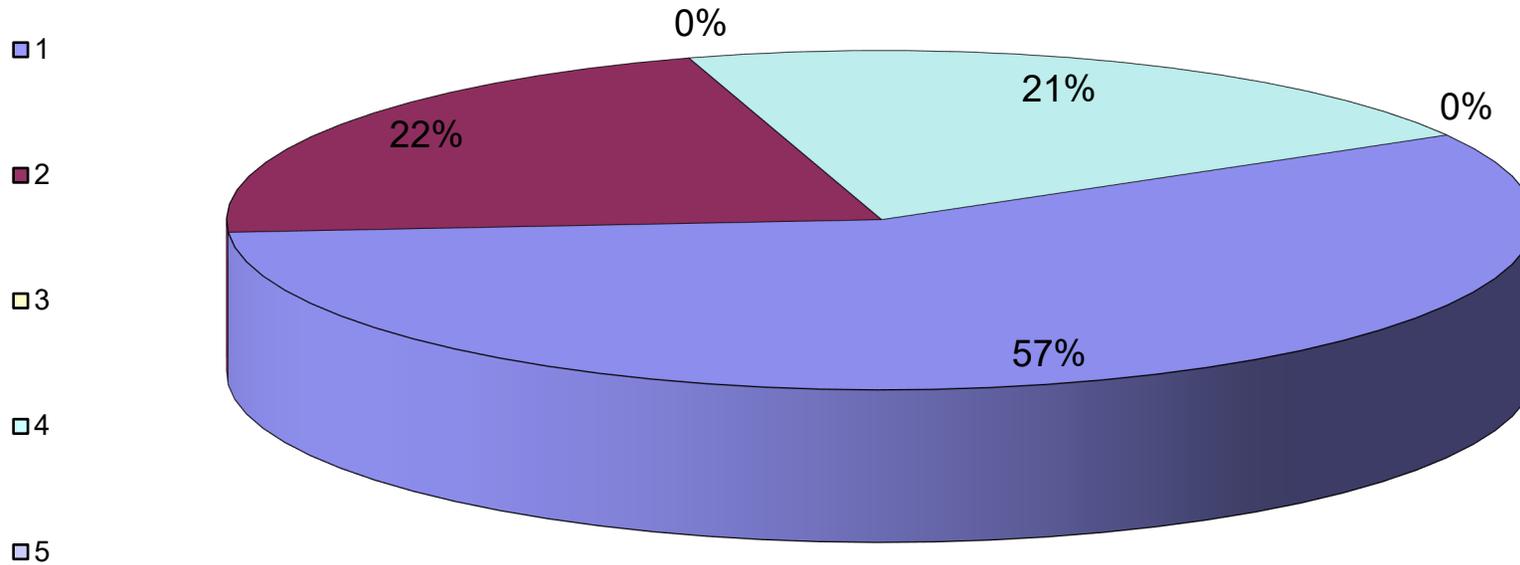
**2021**  
**EAST GWILLIMBURY EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN BY TIME**



<u>Legend #</u>	<u>TIME PERIODS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	#1 00:01 hrs to 08:00 hrs	2
2	#2 08:01 hrs to 16:00 hrs	6
3	#3 16:01 hrs to 00:00 hrs	6

**EAST GWILLIMBURY EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 14 CALLS IN UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP IN 2021**

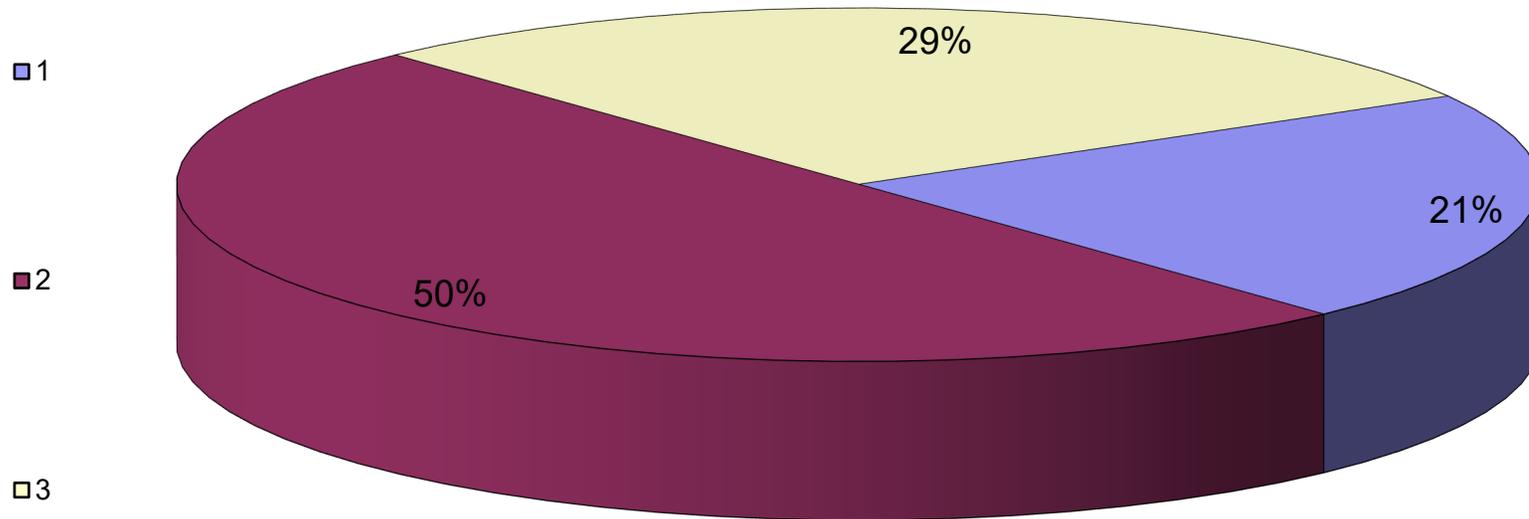
**2021**  
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN BY TYPE**



<u>Legend #</u>	<u>RESPONSE TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	MVC	8
2	FIRE	3
3	ALARMS	0
4	MEDICAL	3
5	OTHER	0

**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE FIRE AND EMG. SERVICES  
 RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 14 CALLS  
 IN UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP IN 2021**

**2021**  
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**OCCURRENCE BREAKDOWN BY TIME**



<u>Legend #</u>	<u>TIME PERIODS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1	#1 00:01 hrs to 08:00 hrs	3
2	#2 08:01 hrs to 16:00 hrs	7
3	#3 16:01 hrs to 00:00 hrs	4

**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE FIRE AND EMG SERVICES RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 14 CALLS IN UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP IN 2021**