

TALKING FIRE

COMMUNICATION DIVISION



The Stratford Fire Department Communications Centre is located at Station #1, 388 Erie Street. In order to ensure 24 hour a day, seven day a week coverage, the division is staffed with four full time dispatchers, working shift rotations similar to the Fire Suppression Division. Dispatching services are also provided for five other Perth County municipalities. Notification of emergencies are received via telephone or automatic detection devices connected directly to the fire department.

The first priority of a communicator is to collect all pertinent information concerning fire and other emergency situations and to ensure the appropriate first responders are dispatched to the correct location.

Communicators monitor four UHF radio frequencies and dispatch county departments via a wide-area paging network consisting of several communication towers with a range up to 30 kilometers into the surrounding counties.



Mike Hansford has served as a dispatcher with the Stratford Fire Department for the past 26 years. He and his wife Louise have three children, Jessica, Jennifer and JD. Mike is the President of Stratford Minor Hockey and a volunteer with the Stratford Minor Sports Council. An avid sports fan, he enjoys watching hockey, volleyball and baseball games. Occasionally, Mike and Louise can be seen walking their dog Riley around the river.



Kerry Diane White has served as a dispatcher with the Stratford Fire Department for the past 22 years and loves being part of the family, at the fire department. She is an avid amateur wood worker and antique collector, especially Stratford Memorabilia. Kerry is very fond of animals, especially dogs and has bred both "Boxers" and "Pembroke Welsh Corgis" with great success.

HISTORY

On February 5, 1875 a massive blaze engulfed the Waverly Block which was located on the south side of Ontario Street (between Waterloo and Downie Streets). Twenty businesses were destroyed with damage totaling \$90,000. A steam engine was borrowed from London to help battle the blaze. On February 8, 1875, a bylaw was passed to prevent the erection of wooden buildings.

Contributed by Lieutenant Rick Micks

STATS - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2004

Fire Suppression:		Training Evolution's:		
Emergency Responses	Water/Ice Rescue and Equipment	36 hrs	Preplanning New City Boundaries	54 hrs
November 101	City Boundaries, Streets and Schools	36 hrs	Medical-Airway Management	36 hrs
December 130	Operational Guidelines	72 hrs	Treatment of Burns (update)	4 hrs
Fire Prevention:	Medical-Anatomy and Physiology	36 hrs	Air Ambulance Safety	18 hrs
Inspections 227			Review of Privacy Legislation	4 hrs
Public Education 159				

FIRE SAFETY TIP

Over the past few years, the use of candles in the home has greatly increased- and so has the number of fires caused by their misuse. The Stratford Fire Department offers the following tips for safe use of candles.

Secure your candle in a sturdy holder on a flat surface and, if possible, place a glass chimney or shade over it. Keep lit candles out of the reach of children and pets, and well away from any combustible materials. An unattended candle is an invitation to disaster, so don't forget to extinguish your candles before leaving the room or going to bed.

Remember to keep all matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children.

Anyone with questions in regards to fire and life safety is encouraged to contact the fire prevention bureau at 271-3212. Visit our website at www.city.stratford.on.ca