

Lytton Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Service Review

B.C. Fire Services in a Time of Change

Agenda

- Methodology
- Fire Service Context
- Major Fire Service Issues
 - Regulatory Framework
 - Training
 - Fire Safety Act
 - Emergency Program Act
 - Impact of Fires and Flooding, Heat Dome, Opioid Crisis
- Summary of Major Issues for the Department
- Response Data
- Summary & Next Steps

Our Company: DMA

- Independent Fire Service Consultants since 2000
- Fire Service Projects/Clients
 - Worked with some 150 Fire Departments in BC
 - Alberni Clayoquot, Fraser Valley, Thompson Nicola, Okanagan Similkameen, North Okanagan, Fraser Fort George, Comox Valley, Metro Vancouver, Squamish Lillooet, Sunshine Coast, Columbia Shuswap, Peace River, Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary Regional Districts
- 2003 Firestorm Report
- Office of the Fire Commissioner
- E.M.B.C.

Project Methodology

- Met several times on site with the Chief, Chief Officers and firefighters
- Toured the Village and reviewed the Fire's impact
- Had Zoom calls with the Acting CAO and the current CAO to review issues and progress
- Participated in the public discussion of the Village's new Bylaw No. 711
- Reviewed wildfire issues with Blackwell & Associates
- Reviewed what documentation was available
- Prepared a report which outlines and prioritizes issues facing the Department
 - Have provided a wide array of template & guidance material – OH&S, bylaw, service agreements – to help the Village & Department address regulatory issues

B.C. Fire Service Context

- OFC - Mandatory Training Standards
- *Fire Safety Act*, replacing the *Fire Services Act*
- *New Emergency Program Act* in 2023
 - Sendai Model, U.N.D.R.I.P.
- WorkSafe BC, including Part 31
 - Firefighter Health and Safety
 - Occupational Cancer, PTSD, Heart Disease
- Fire Underwriters

Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021

2021 Heat Dome

- June 25 to July 1
- Temperatures over 40 Celsius
- 619 heat related deaths
- 911 calls doubled during the peak of the heat dome
- In 17 instances, 911 callers were placed on hold for an extended period of time
- In 6 instances, callers were told that there was no ambulance available

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Office of the Fire Commissioner

**Annual Report
2021**

OFC Annual Report

- Between 2019 and 2021, fire-related deaths in British Columbia rose from 27 to 56—a 107 percent increase.
- Over the last two reporting years, there has been a **119 PERCENT INCREASE IN FIRE-RELATED DEATHS**

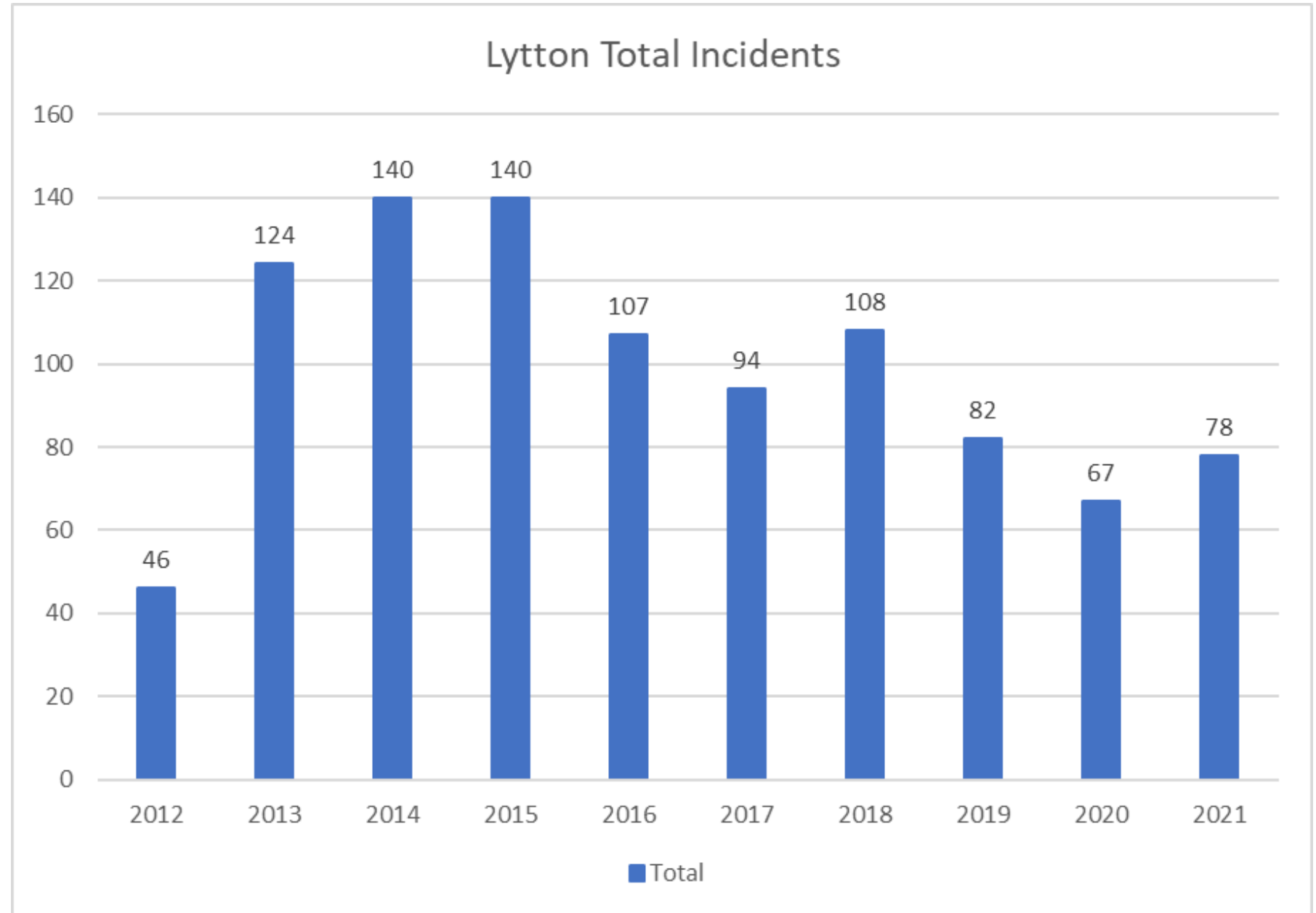
Exterior Level of Service, Mandatory Job Performance Requirements

- Emergency Scene Traffic
- Safety & Communications
- Personal Protective Equipment & Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Ropes and Knots
- Fire Streams, Hose and Appliances
- Ventilation
- Water Supply
- Ladders
- Rehabilitation
- Fire Behavior
- Building Construction
- Dangerous Goods Awareness
- Gas & Electrical Safety
- Incident Command System 100

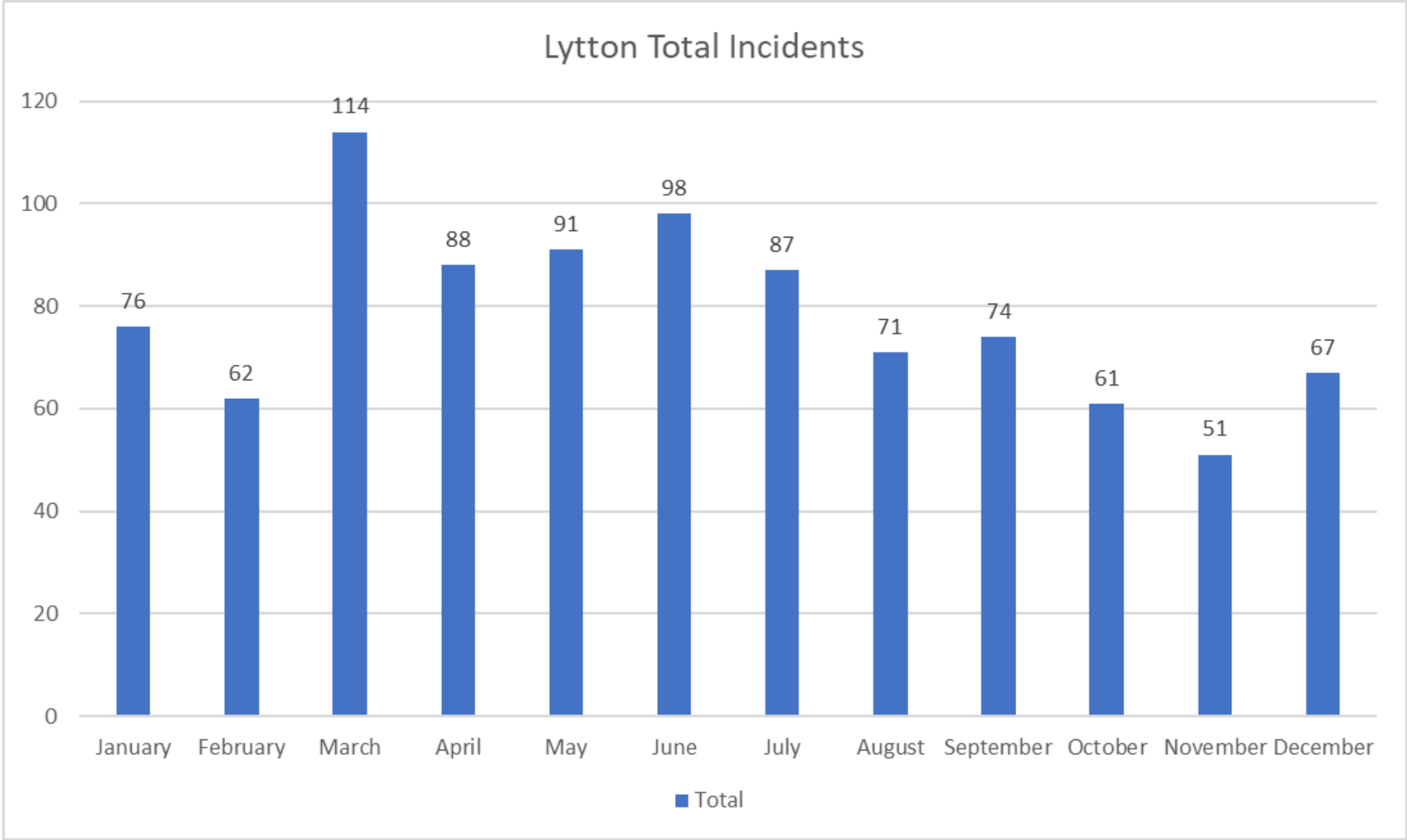
Summary of Major Issues

- Department and Village lost most of the records
- This creates a regulatory challenge
 - Need to pass replacement fire department operational/establishment bylaw
 - Need to re-create required OH&S program & related materials
 - Need to develop replacement service agreements with area First Nations
- Biggest immediate challenge is that training & qualification levels of members cannot be confirmed
 - Although most are very experienced, training records no longer exist
- Need to confirm members' qualifications and bridge any gaps that may be identified

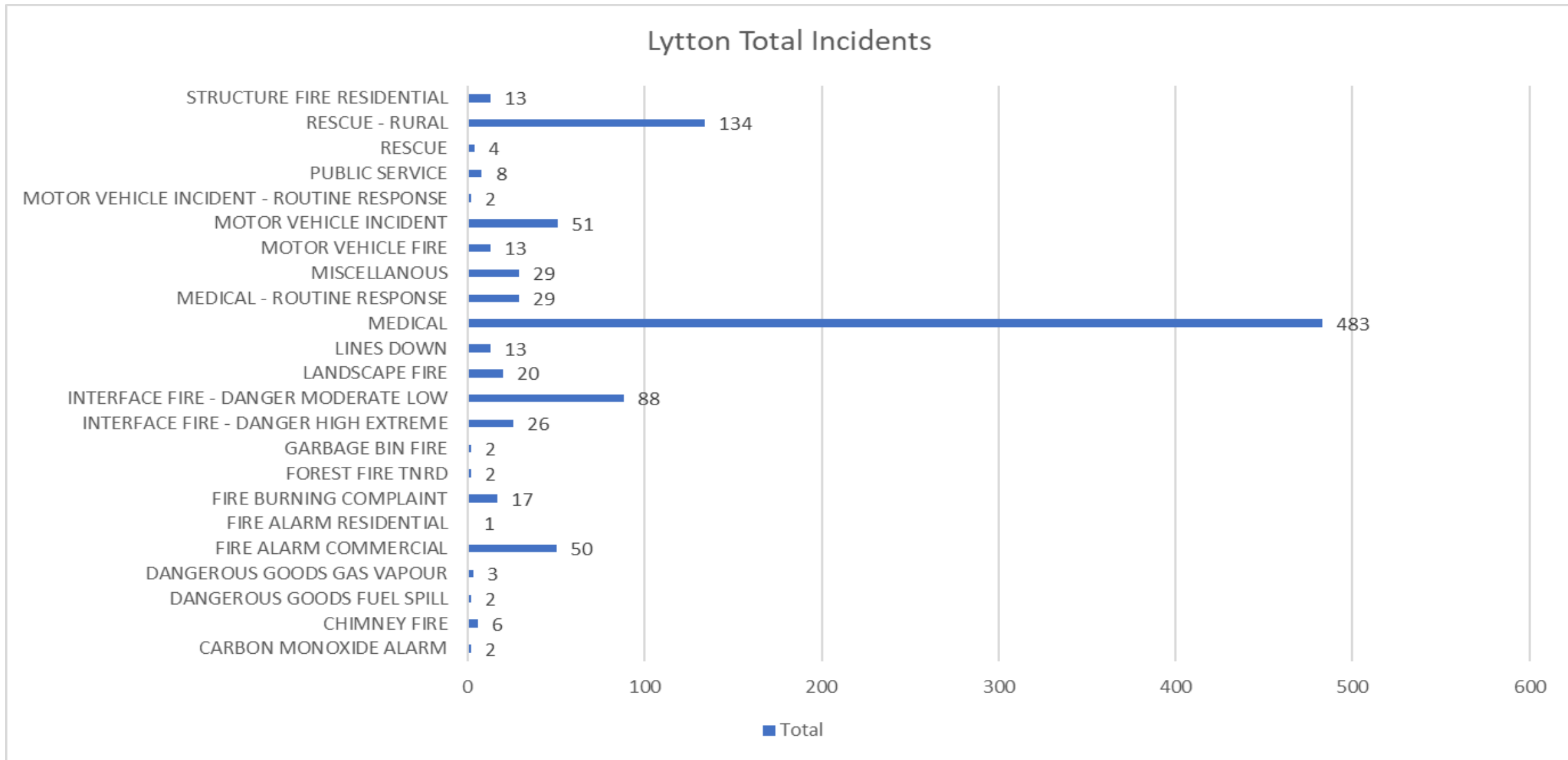
Responses by Year



By
Month



By Type



Summary & Next Steps

- The Lytton Fire Department, like all others in BC face significant challenges
- This Department also faces the challenges of having lost fire apparatus, other small equipment, training records, inspection records, standard operational guidelines and other documentation
- Key priorities for the Village and Department include:
 - Establishment & Operational Bylaws; Occupational Health & Safety Program
 - Service Agreements with First Nations and Mutual Aid Departments
 - Assessing training and confirming Exterior Operations
 - Replacing the Fire Hall and Apparatus