

Calgary



BEYOND THE CALL

CALGARY FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION AWARDS LUNCHEON

March 6, 2019
Fort Calgary





Schedule of events

11:00 a.m.
Doors open

11:30 a.m.
Opening remarks and lunch

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Awards presentations



Beyond the Call: Celebrating acts of bravery and compassion

Beyond the Call is the Calgary Fire Department's annual ceremony and luncheon that formally recognizes exceptional acts by citizens and emergency service personnel, both on and off-duty. The award recipients have been nominated by Fire Department members and citizens for their bravery and decisive action, recognizing their outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of fellow citizens.

Nominees are considered for one of three levels of recognition: Appreciation, Recognition and Commendation. All nominations are submitted to Beyond the Call and are reviewed by Calgary Fire's Recognition Committee. All incidents and acts of heroism occurred in 2017 and 2018.

Members of the public can nominate citizens and emergency service personnel who have acted in an exceptional way during an incident attended by the Calgary Fire Department. To nominate someone, please contact The City's 311 line and ask to submit your nominee to the Beyond the Call program.

Appreciation

Appreciation recognizes individuals for providing basic first aid or an act of kindness to a victim at a CFD-attended scene.

Keal Prince

Nominated by Firefighter Theon James

While travelling back to Calgary from Invermere, off duty firefighter Theon James came across a serious head on collision. A pick-up truck had lost control, spun around and veered into oncoming traffic, hitting another vehicle with an elderly couple inside.

Theon pulled over to see how he could help. He saw that another off-duty colleague, District Chief Keal Prince was also there. Keal had the scene well in hand, calmly leading the care and treatment of all three patients. Keal clearly communicated to emergency personnel all the actions that had to be taken to ensure scene safety. He continued to assist emergency responders with the stabilization, spine boarding and removal of the patients from the vehicle.

Keal's calm and knowledgeable demeanor brought calm to what would otherwise be a chaotic and traumatic scene. With many years of experience, Keal instilled confidence that he knew what he was doing, and it was evident to everyone on scene.

Alan Speer

Nominated by Captain Rob Zimich

At approximately 6:00 a.m. on June 22, 2018, Calgary Transit driver Alan Speer was on his route with more than a dozen passengers on his bus and two more at the bus stop when he noticed an oncoming bus headed right for him. He remembers thinking, "He's got to pull back over to his side." Unfortunately, the other driver had suffered a medical incident and had lost control of the bus.

The impact shattered the windshield and damaged the door. Alan quickly got all his passengers off the bus and a safe distance from the road where he assessed the passengers for any injuries. Thankfully, there were only a few minor injuries reported. The other bus had no passengers aboard; however, the other bus driver needed to be extricated and transported by ambulance to an area hospital.

Alan's calm and compassionate actions helped reduce stress for his passengers as well as the other bus driver.

Recognition

Recognition acknowledges individuals for significant effort to aid in a CFD attended situation where citizens or property were in danger. Their actions often result in injuries being avoided or property being saved.

Geoff Cushon, Gerald Platero, Amber Asham and Misty Allen

Nominated by Captain Bryan Rose

On August 2, 2018, a member of Goodlife Fitness fell in the change room and hit his head. When Goodlife Fitness staff assessed the member, they quickly discovered that he had stopped breathing. In a coordinated effort, the four Goodlife Fitness staff called 9-1-1, started CPR, retrieved the Automated External Defibrillator and gave several shocks. Their quick and confident actions gave the member his best chance for survival. The patient is now back at Goodlife and working out again.

Liana Appelt, Jillian Wright, Bryan Allen and Thomas Guenther

Nominated by Captain Adam Boss

During school hours on September 6, 2018, an 11-year-old girl collapsed during an outdoor physical education class. When teachers saw the student, they called for help, assessed the student, started CPR and used Automated External Defibrillator to shock the girl. The quick response by these teachers saved this young girl's life.

Tim Dent

Nominated by Firefighter Brad McDonald

On the morning of May 30, 2018, Tim woke up and noticed a balcony fire on a unit at the other end of his building. He called 9-1-1 and ran to the unit. He knocked on the door repeatedly to alert the occupants and when the occupants – who were pregnant at the time – answered the door, the fire broke through their window and filled the unit with thick hot smoke and flames. Tim's quick and unselfish act helped save the occupants within what would become one of the biggest structure fires in recent memory.

Max Pozzo

Nominated by Firefighter Colin Berg

Eight-year-old Max was at home with his father, Mike an off-duty Calgary firefighter. Max noticed that Mike did not look well. Having just learned the signs of a stroke in school, Max called 9-1-1 and told the dispatcher that his father was having a stroke. Max's recognition of stroke symptoms and his call to 9-1-1 allowed Mike to get the medical attention he needed to return to work serving the citizens of Calgary as a firefighter.

Tony Madden

Nominated by Captain Kristin Boisjoli

On March 7, 2018, Calgary Fire was dispatched by 9-1-1 to a house where a child was accidentally locked in the house with the smoke alarm sounding due to food cooking on the stove. A City employee on his route for Waste and Recycling Services, Tony heard screaming nearby and saw a woman run up to his truck. Tony got out of his truck and accompanied her to the house and, with her permission, he kicked in the door to rescue the child from the house that was filling with smoke. Tony's actions saved the child from serious injury and prevented a possible house fire.

Sharon Lei Robino

Nominated by Captain Greg Myslicki

Sharon works as a caregiver for a six-year-old child. One day while caring for the child, she looked out of the window and saw smoke on the balcony. When she opened the balcony, door she saw a growing fire. Sharon asked her neighbor to call 9-1-1, moved the child to safety and extinguished the fire using pails of water. An investigation by Calgary Fire found the fire was due to the careless disposal on smoking material by another resident of the building. Her quick actions prevented the fire from spreading and causing significant damage to the building.

Alex Yee

Nominated by Firefighter Brad McDonald

On May 19, 2018, Alex and his family were leaving their home when he noticed smoke coming from the back of a neighbour's home. He ran to the back of his home and saw that the back deck of an adjacent home was on fire. He called 9-1-1 and went to warn the residents. When a woman answered the door, she refused to listen to Alex. He followed her into the home and lead her to the back so that she could see the danger for herself. She then alerted her friend upstairs and, as they were fleeing the house, the fire broke through the rear windows, forcing them both to the floor. Alex saw the fire was spreading to another home and went to alert those residents and helped save another woman and her son, whose home was destroyed by the fire. Alex's persistence and selfless actions saved three adults and one child.

Vincent Fleck

Nominated by District Chief Innes Fraser

While driving his last bus route in the community of Redstone, Calgary Transit driver Vincent Fleck smelled smoke. As he came around a traffic circle, he noticed flames on the front porch of a house. He immediately pulled over, called 9-1-1 and ran to the house to alert the residents. Thanks to Vincent's quick actions, four adults, two children, a dog and a rabbit were all safely evacuated from the home.

John Zimmerman

Nominated by Lieutenant Damian Duncan

On July 21, 2018, Calgary Transit peace officers received a message to look out for a 14-year-old girl who was walking on the train bridge over the Bow River. The girl was spotted during peak rush hour sitting on the railing, distraught and contemplating suicide. When Peace Officer John Zimmerman arrived on scene, he was able to slowly make his way to where the girl was sitting. During this time, Calgary Fire's aquatics team was deployed for a possible rescue. Momentarily distracted by the aquatics rescue boat coming up stream, John used this opportunity to grab hold of the girl, pulling her off the ledge and onto the train bridge. With the support of another officer, they took the girl to a safe location. His quick and brave actions saved the young girl's life.

Constable Andrew Fuhrman

Nominated by Firefighter Dean Ross

On July 21, 2018, Calgary Fire responded to a fire involving two garages in the community of Skyview Ranch. Calgary Police Service Constable Andrew Fuhrman was on scene first and informed the fire crew that he had personally searched both houses for occupants. The garage fires were dangerously close to the homes and the information Andrew provided allowed the fire crew to focus on their firefighting efforts, which prevented fire from spreading to the adjacent residences, thereby preventing significant property loss and potential injury.

Commendation

Commendation recognizes individuals who have intervened proactively in a live saving situation, or risked personal injury at the expense of saving another individual. This person went above and beyond what would be expected of them in this situation and may not be fire related.

Kaytlynn Wallace and Malcolm Peyachew

Nominated by Firefighter Brad McDonald

On the morning of June 5, 2018, Kaytlynn's friend Malcolm came over for visit. When he arrived, he told Kaytlynn that it looked like a nearby house was on fire. She immediately told her sister to call 9-1-1 and she and Malcolm ran to the house to alert the residents. When no one answered the door, Kaytlynn decided to enter the house, which was filling with smoke. The first room she went into, she found two children who she quickly took outside. She went back in and found three adults in another room. Thinking someone was trying to break in to the house, the adults were confused and unaware of the imminent fire danger. After getting them out, Kaytlynn went in a third time and despite growing smoke, found two more adults in the basement and got them out as well. Kaytlynn's brave actions saved the lives of seven people that morning.

Christian Prado

Nominated by Firefighter Ryan Blackstock

Christian was driving on Crowchild in on the morning of January 29, 2018, when he spotted a vehicle that had rolled down an embankment. When he got out, he saw the car was on fire and there was a woman crying for help. Without hesitation, he ran over and pulled the woman from the burning car, carrying her to safety. Christian's quick actions saved the women from serious injury and possible death.

Jordan Vannier and Monika Chyc

Nominated by Captain Marco Ficaccio

On June 7, 2018, Jordan and Monika were enjoying a late-night walk along the Bow River when they heard a loud splash and a woman calling for help. They quickly realized that there was someone in the water. They followed the woman downstream and when they could reach her, they went out into the fast-moving river to pull her to safety. When CFD arrived, the patient indicated that she had jumped off the Centre Street Bridge to commit suicide. Had Jordan and Monika not been there, the woman may have developed hypothermia and possibly drowned.

Nadim Jessa and Vitor Sousa

Nominated by Firefighter Brad McDonald

During October 2017, Nadim and Vitor were working at a hotel in Calgary when a fire broke out in one of the suites. Vitor and Nadim immediately grabbed a fire extinguisher and went to the suite. Using a master key, they opened the door to find the room was filling with smoke. Vitor expelled the fire extinguisher towards the base of the fire. He then saw a man's hand emerge through the smoke.

Grabbing the man's hand, Vitor pulled him out of the room. Both Vito and Nadim acted quickly and were vital in saving this man's life.

The Calgary Fire Department is dedicated to the safety of Calgarians. Four platoons of firefighters located in 41 fire stations across Calgary provide a range of emergency and non-emergency services. Emergency services include response to fires, critical medical incidents, chemical and hazardous materials releases and motor vehicle collisions. In addition, we provide specialized rescue services in high or collapsed structures, confined spaces, on our waterways or in situations caused by weather events. Our fire prevention and safety education programs reach one-in-nine Calgarians on an annual basis, and we continue to build greater connection with the communities we serve.

Our Mission: to serve the community through excellence in fire prevention, education, protection and safety.

Our Vision: to be an international fire service leader.

Our Values of pride, professionalism, teamwork and respect guide our actions and guide how we work with the communities we serve.

calgary.ca/fire



