

Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation

October 4, 2016 – by hand

Salt Spring Fire Protection District

Attention: Linda Lee, Chair

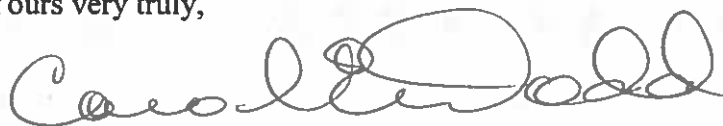
Madame Chair

The Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation has received two requests for funding of safety and training equipment from Acting Fire Chief, Arjuna George. He has asked for two decontamination chambers which will allow FireFighters to help eliminate chemicals and toxins from the body, improve blood circulation and recover from fatigue. As well, an additional digital fire screen at the training ground will allow FireFighters to enhance their training of simulated live fires as well as maintaining their crucial firefighting skills. Please see the attached.

The Foundation has reviewed the requests and heartily endorses both projects. Both fit into our mandate of supporting the health, safety and training of our FireFighters.

We are prepared to fully fund both projects if the SSFPD is willing to accept these enhancements on behalf of the FireFighters and the community.

Yours very truly,



Carol Dodd, chair

Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation

cc. Facilities and Physical Plant Committee

Andrew Peat, Corporate Administrator



Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation

To President Carol Dodd

As acting fire chief of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue I would like the SSFR Foundation to consider a project that will greatly enhance Salt Spring Island Fire Rescues firefighter health and safety.

We have been working hard at SSIFR to promote cancer awareness and finding ways to keep our firefighters safe and to reduce our chances of getting occupational cancers.

Cancer is the most dangerous and insidious threat to the health and safety of our firefighters.

Firefighters have been proven to develop cancers at a much higher rate than the general population. Recent studies from LeMasters Meta-Anaysis (University of Cincinnati 2006) and National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) have identified ten (10) cancers that firefighters have a greater chance of developing than that of the general population including:

- **Testicular cancer (2.2 times greater risk)**
- **Multiple myeloma (1.52 times great risk)**
- **Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (1.51 times great risk)**
- **Skin cancer (1.39 times greater risk)**
- **Prostate cancer (1.28 times greater risk)**
- **Malignant melanoma (1.31 times greater risk)**
- **Brain cancer (1.31 times greater risk)**
- **Colon cancer (1.21 times greater risk)**
- **Leukemia (1.14 times greater risk)**

We have identified a number of ways to reduce the exposures and to help reduce the likelihood of our members getting cancer. One new and innovative way of decontaminating our firefighters is the use of infrared saunas. These saunas as being used to sweat out the toxins fast and very effectively.

We have planned some space at Fire Hall #3 to install two (2) infrared 2-person saunas to provide 24/7 access to these tools that will help us further to reduce the chances of being exposed to cancer causing by-products and carcinogens.

Decontamination Chambers

The introduction of decontamination saunas will greatly complement our fire departments Health and Wellness program.



Example form Comox Fire Department

Proposed Costs:

Electrical upgrade and installation \$1200.00

2 Infrared Decontaminations Saunas (\$2,200.00 each) \$4,400 Plus taxes

Total \$5,600.00 plus taxes shipping.

Saunas are proven to induce an intense sweat to help detoxify firefighters after a fire incident.

For general health; saunas eliminate chemicals and toxins, while improving blood circulation and recovery from fatigue. Infrared saunas receive all the health benefits but avoid the harmful and extremely hot air of traditional steam saunas.

Video Resources:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weY_Rq4w7Kk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Fxyq80EL4E&nohtml5=False>

If the Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation could assist in this worthy project that would be a great benefit to our Firefighters health and safety.

Thank You for your consideration

Arjuna George

Acting Fire Chief SSIFR

Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation

To President Carol Dodd

Training within Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue is one of the most important aspects of our business. We have a fantastic training facility at Fire Hall #2 and use it weekly. One component that the training ground doesn't provide us, is that we cannot do live fire training other than propane.

As an advocate of real-life training we have purchased a digital fire simulator that provides us the best possible real life feel of a live fire in our training building. A few years ago we purchased two smoke generators, and one digital fire screen. The fire screen allows firefighters to train and act as if there was a real live fire within the simulation building.

We are looking into an additional screen to enhance the training experience and improve our maintenance of crucial firefighting skills.

SSIFR is requesting assistance from the Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation to purchase a second screen purchased from Bullex in the USA. The Bullex unit has been quoted at \$USD 5000.00

We appreciate the support from the SSFR Foundation in our firefighter's safety and continued training to protect Salt Spring Island.

Thank You
Arjuna George
Acting Fire Chief