

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Annual Report

2016



Report prepared by Arjuna George
Fire Chief
Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report



As Fire Chief of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue it gives me great pride to be able to present the 2016 Annual report.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Board of Trustees who dedicated so many hours in 2016 to the community and the department.

As our island's 8th Fire Chief I am honoured to work along so many amazing community minded individuals on the board, committees, and within the station serving our great island.

2016 was a very busy year, with very dry hot summer conditions and a record breaking icy cold winter. Our dedicated fire service members spent many days and nights responding to island wide emergencies.



I would like to also thank the families of our membership who support their spouses/partners and who are an intricate part of our fire service family.

My goal moving forward in 2017 is to provide a high level of customer service to our public while concentrating on being open, transparent and building our community service relationships.

Arjuna George
Fire Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arjuna".

Employees

Administration

Fire Chief Arjuna George

Chief Administrative Officer Andrew Peat

Administrative Assistant Jocelyne Monette

Career Staff

Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Holmes

Captain Dale Lundy

Lieutenant Mitchell Sherrin

Lieutenant Ken Akerman

Lieutenant Cody Hunsberger

Firefighter Warren Nuyens

Firefighter Clayton Akerman

Paid-On-Call Officers

Captain Kurt Irwin

Captain Doug Ponsford

Captain Dominique Gaudet

Lieutenant Peter Andress

Lieutenant Eric Taylor

Lieutenant Colby Sawchuk

Paid-On-Call Firefighters

FIT Steve Leichter	Firefighter Jim Pohl
Firefighter Nancy Pursell	Firefighter Michael Surman
Firefighter Jason Gaffney	Firefighter Shane Hubenig
Firefighter Thomas Pursell	Firefighter Abe Hohn
Firefighter Colin McDougal	Firefighter Christine Vopel
Firefighter Chantelle Pohl	Firefighter Simon Wells
FIT Howard Holzapfel	Firefighter Geoff Gowans
Firefighter Chris Finn	Firefighter Ben Westlake
Firefighter Campbell Jackson	Firefighter Alex Reid
Firefighter Tom McCormick	FIT Neil Martin
Firefighter Cameron Proudfoot	Firefighter Nic Adams
Firefighter Dustin Bean	Firefighter Jared Oakes
Firefighter Addison Voyce	Recruit David Manz
Recruit Patrick Byrne	Recruit Shawn Stevens
Recruit Gord Fraser	

Thank You to those that volunteered to join the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue department and that retired in 2016. ***We thank you for your service.***

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue welcomed four new recruits to the department in 2016: David Manz, Patrick Byrne, Shawn Stevens, and Gord Fraser. The 2017 recruit campaign launched in September resulted in three successful firefighter applicants and three new Field Incident Technicians (FIT). We also welcomed in our new Administrative assistant Jocelyne Monette who brings years of administration experience to our management team.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue is proud to recognize our members' years of service milestones in 2016.

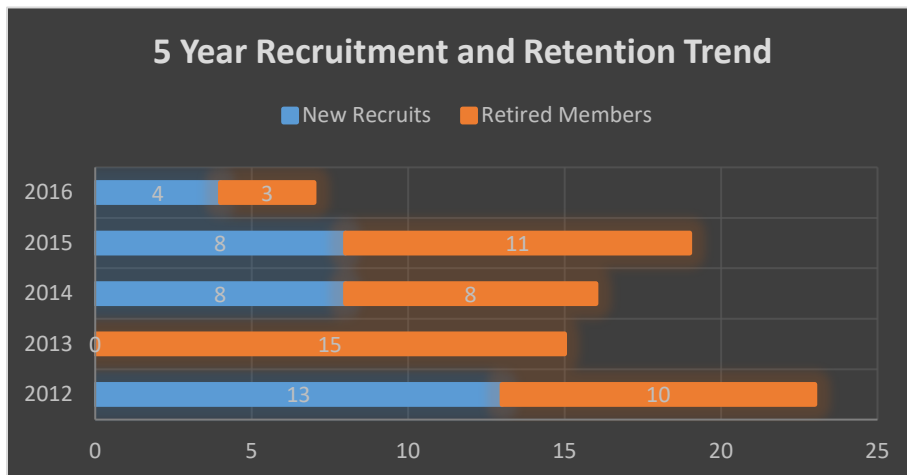
- ❖ Five Years of Fire Service: Warren Nuyens
- ❖ Twenty Years of Fire Service: Jamie Holmes
- ❖ Twenty Years of Fire Service: Kurt Irwin

At our annual Firefighters appreciation dinner and awards banquet management had the opportunity to recognize some top performers in the department.

We would like to recognize the following recipients of the 2016 awards:

- ❖ **Firefighter Tom McCormick** for being the Most Dedicated to Incidents with 235 incident response hours.
- ❖ **Firefighter Colin McDougall** for the being Most Dedicated to Training with attending 446 hours of training.
- ❖ **Firefighter Nancy Pursell** for the Most Dedicated to Public Education and Prevention by delivering 81 hours of education within our community.
- ❖ **Captain Dominique Gaudet** for the Fire Officer of the Year
- ❖ **Recruit Firefighter Nic Adams** for Rookie of the Year.

Salt Spring Island Firefighter Demographics



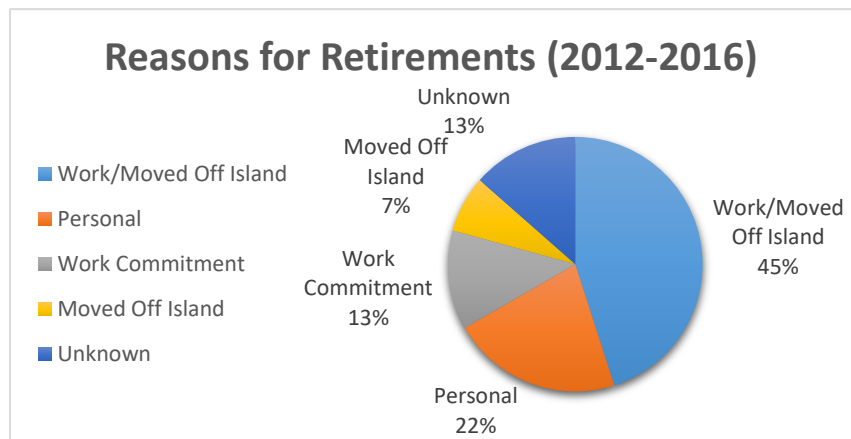
Over the past five years (2012-2016) we have brought on thirty-three (33) recruits and unfortunately had forty-seven (47) current members retire. Although we experienced a low turnover rate in 2016, recruit and retention is still a major challenge and concern.

In 2016 the Board of Trustees, the Fire Chief and representatives of the Firefighters worked on a Recruitment and Retention plan for Paid-On- Call (POC) member benefits. This new package available to all POC's will help support the efforts of recruitment and retaining members.

One of our longest serving members Captain Kurt Irwin retired after serving for 26 years. His leadership and fire ground knowledge will be missed. On behalf of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue and the community, thank you Captain Irwin for your service.



Our membership's experience level spreads from less than one (1) year of service to twenty-six (26) years of fire service. The average SSIFR fighter's years of service is **6.9 years**. The average age of a SSIFR Firefighter is **42 years** young.

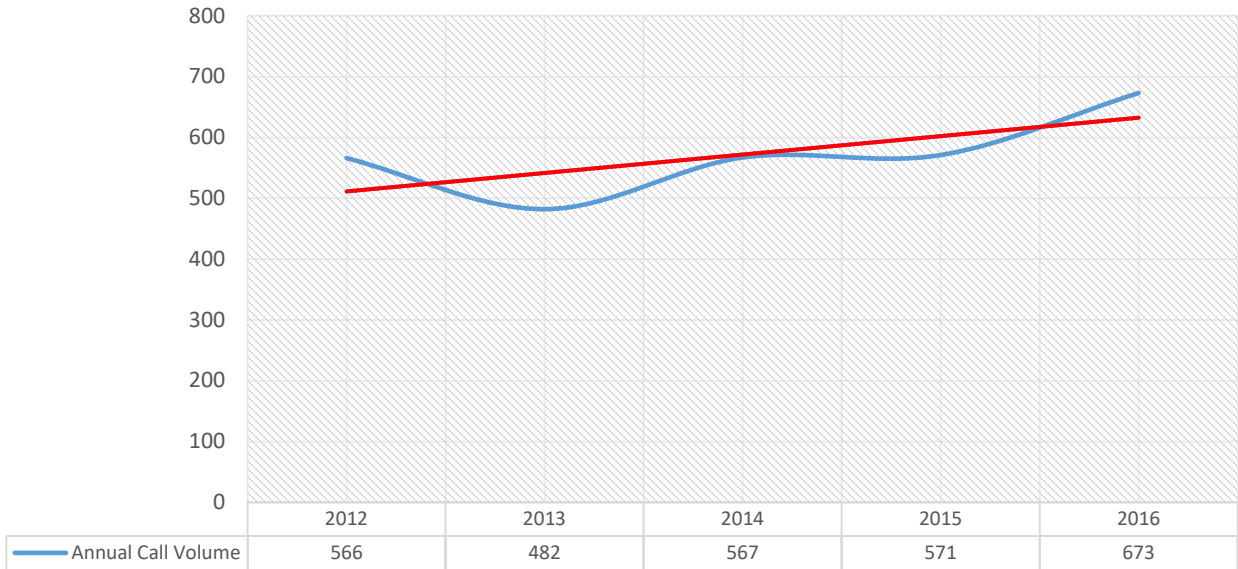


Through a supportive government program, we were able to offer a summer student position at the fire hall for the summer months. We had Catelyn Creswick join our team this summer, assisting in day to day operations and special projects. She demonstrated a real passion to serve and was a perfect fit for what the Fire Service represents. We wish Catelyn all the best in her future plans after graduating GISS in 2017.



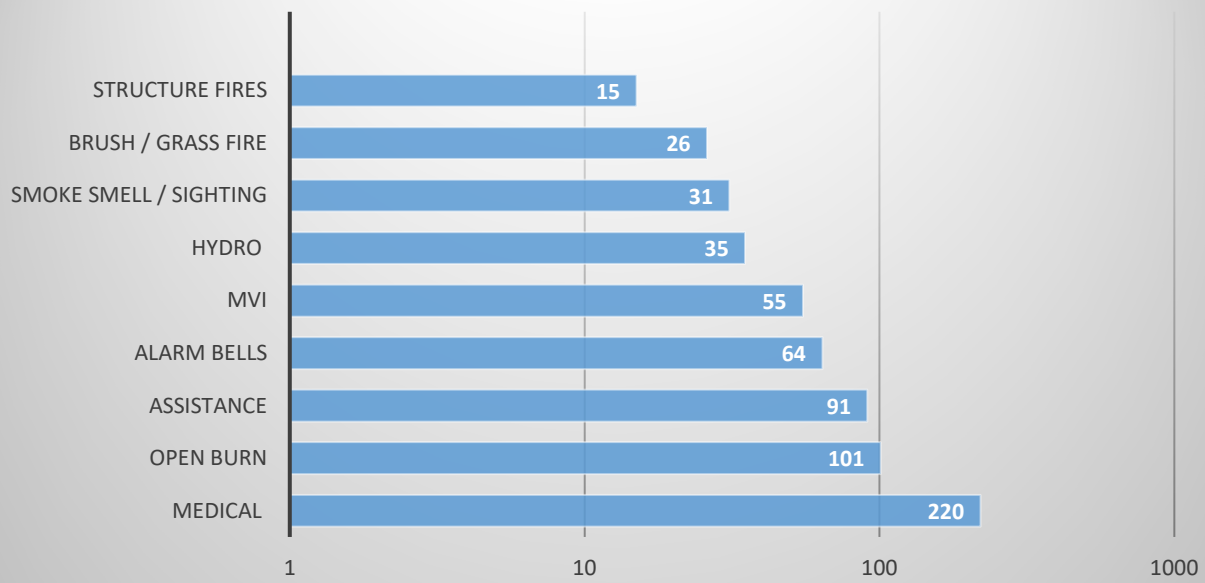
Operations

Yearly Incident Trends

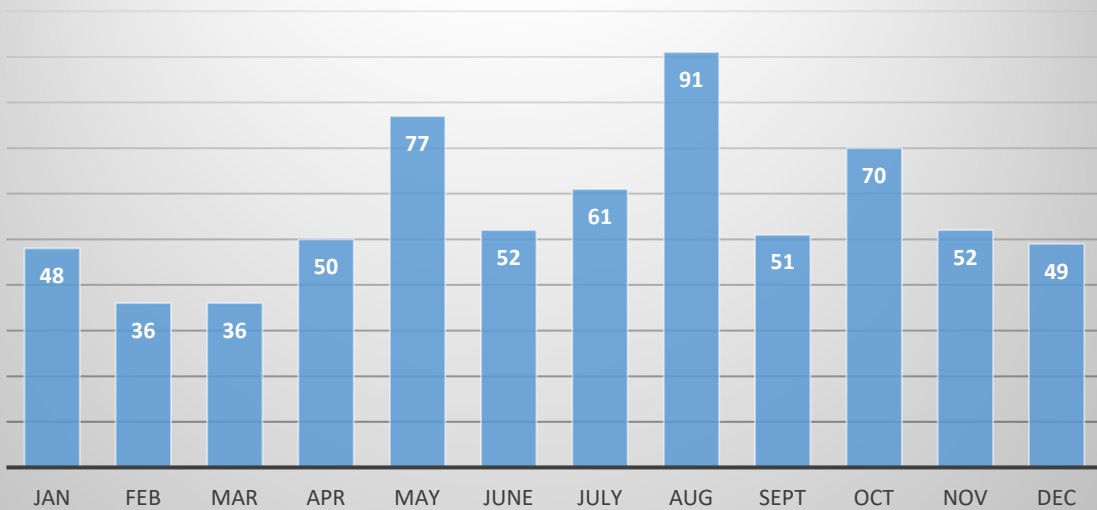


Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue responds on average to 571 calls a year (2012-2016 Trend)

Top 10 Incidents (2016)



Busiest Months. (2016)



Response Times



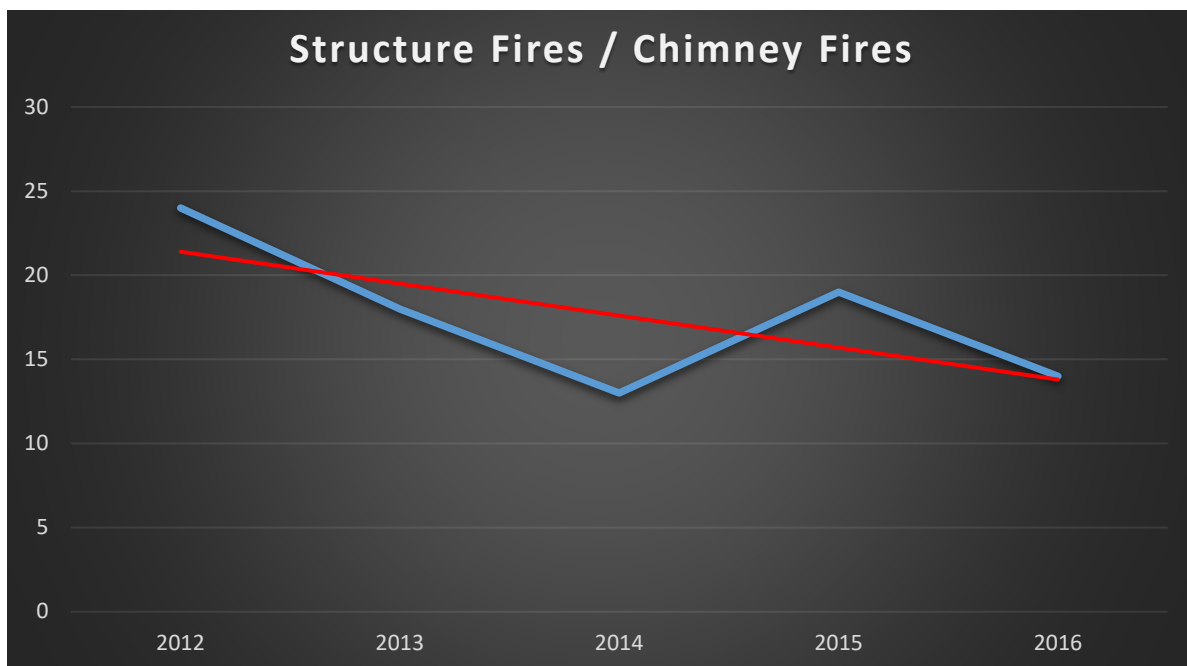
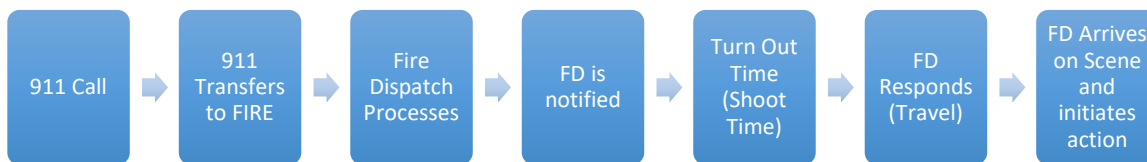
Average Engine Apparatus Turnout Time: **6 minutes 29 seconds**

As per NFPA 1710/1720 Response Time is defined as:

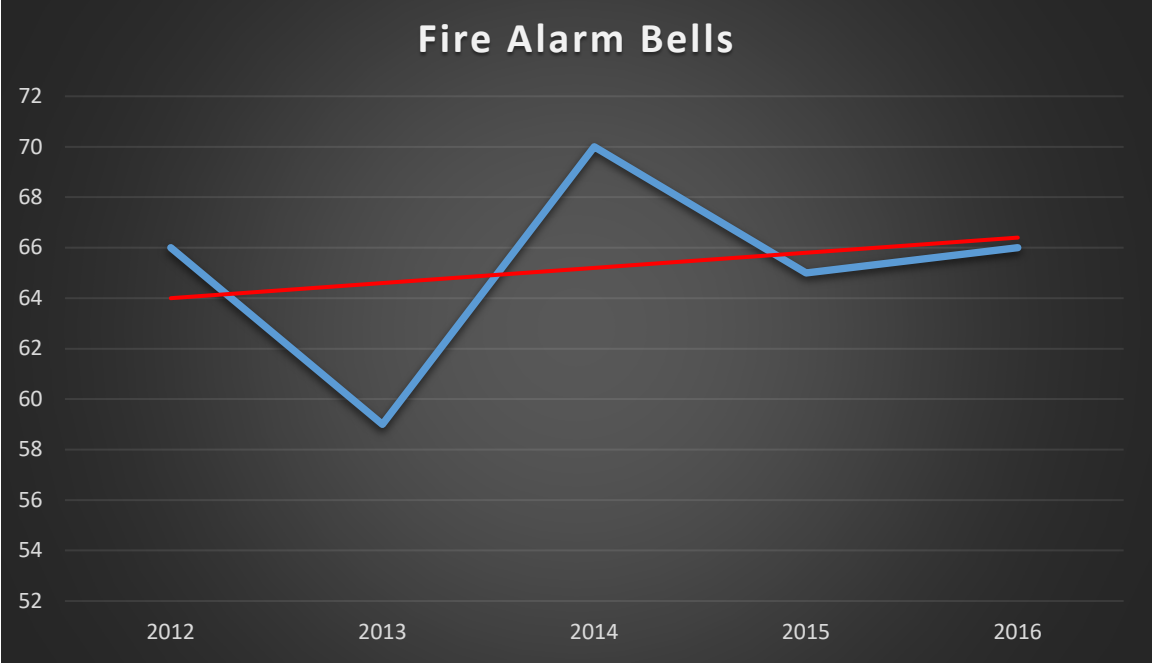
- **Alarm Transfer time (Dispatch)** The alarm transfer time is "the time interval from the receipt of an emergency alarm at the 9-1-1 answering point until the alarm is first received at the fire department communication center."
- **Alarm Answering and Processing time (Dispatch)** The alarm answering time is "the time interval that begins when the alarm is received at the fire communication center and ends when the alarm is acknowledged at the fire communication center."
- **Turnout Time** The time interval that begins when the Fire Department and emergency response units notification process begins by either an audible alarm or visual annunciation or both and ends at the beginning point of travel time. *Turnout time is under the control of the fire department. An Engine with a minimum of four (4) is required*

- **Travel Time.** This is defined as “the time interval that begins when a unit is en-route to the emergency incident and ends when the unit arrives at the scene. *Travel time is the responsibility of the fire department, but often dependent on factors not in their control, like distance to the scene.*
- **Initiating Action Time** This is the interval of time from when a unit arrives on the scene to the initiation of emergency mitigation. *Initiating Action/Intervention time is under the control of the fire department.*

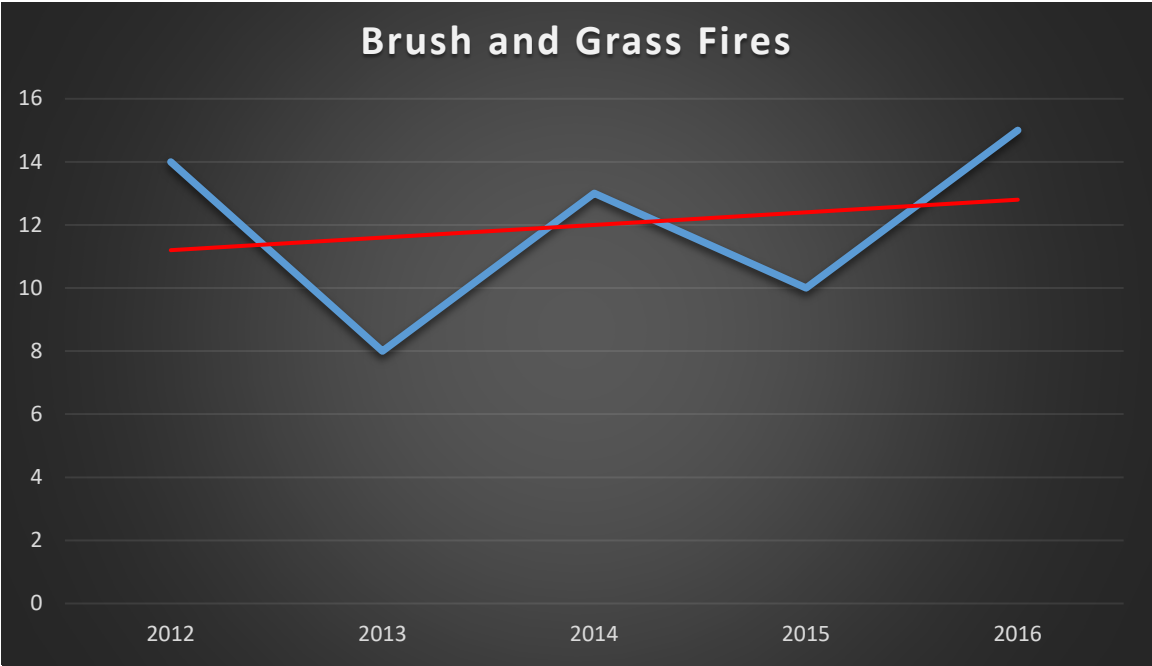
Ninety-Five (95) Incidents this year required the response of an Engine Apparatus. The average turnout time was 00:06:29 (with 4 Firefighters min).



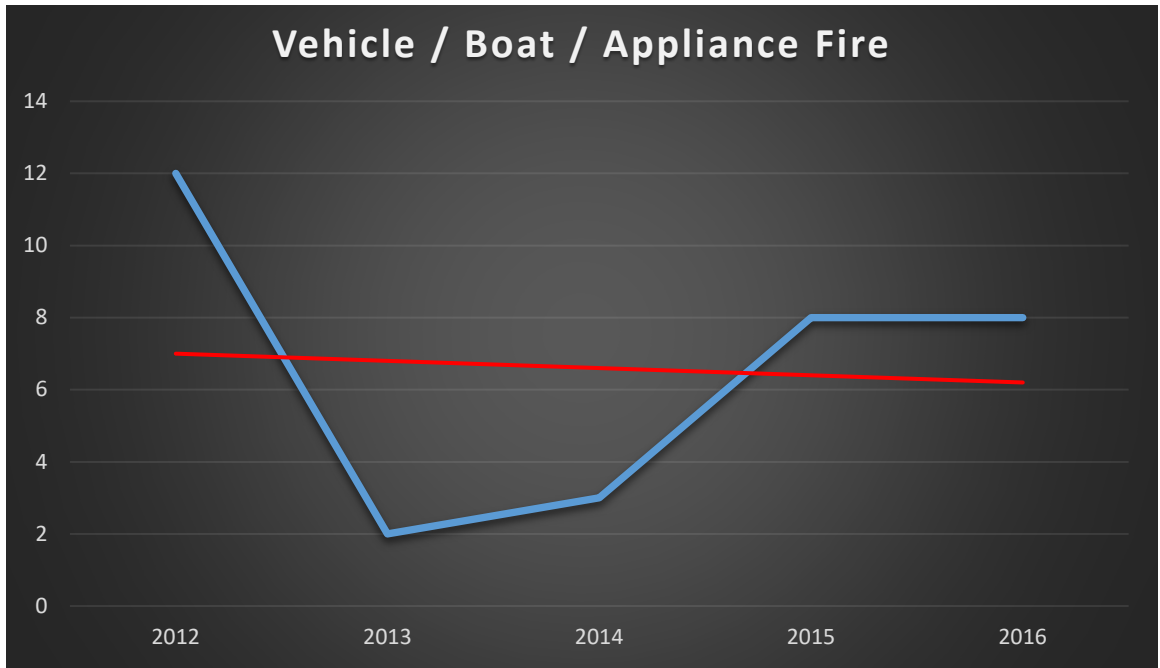
Structure Fires include: Commercial, Residential, Chimney, Mobile/trailer, and smoke in structures. (As Dispatched by CRD Fire Dispatch)



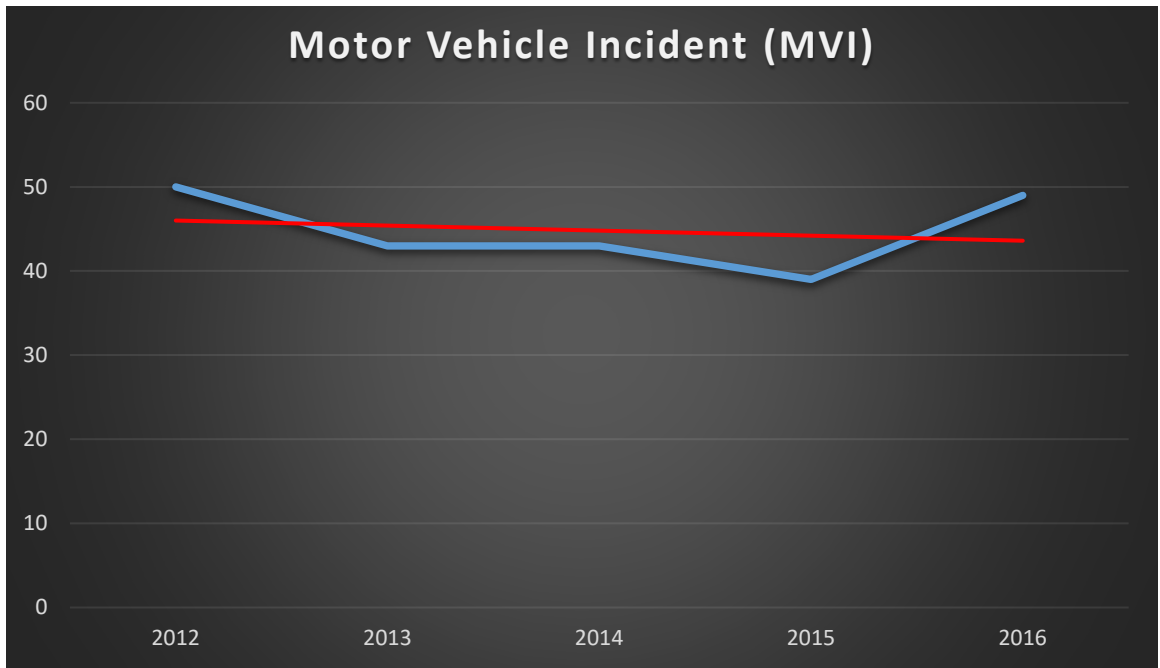
*Fire Alarm Bells include: Residential, commercial and False Alarm incidents.
(As Dispatched by CRD Fire Dispatch)*



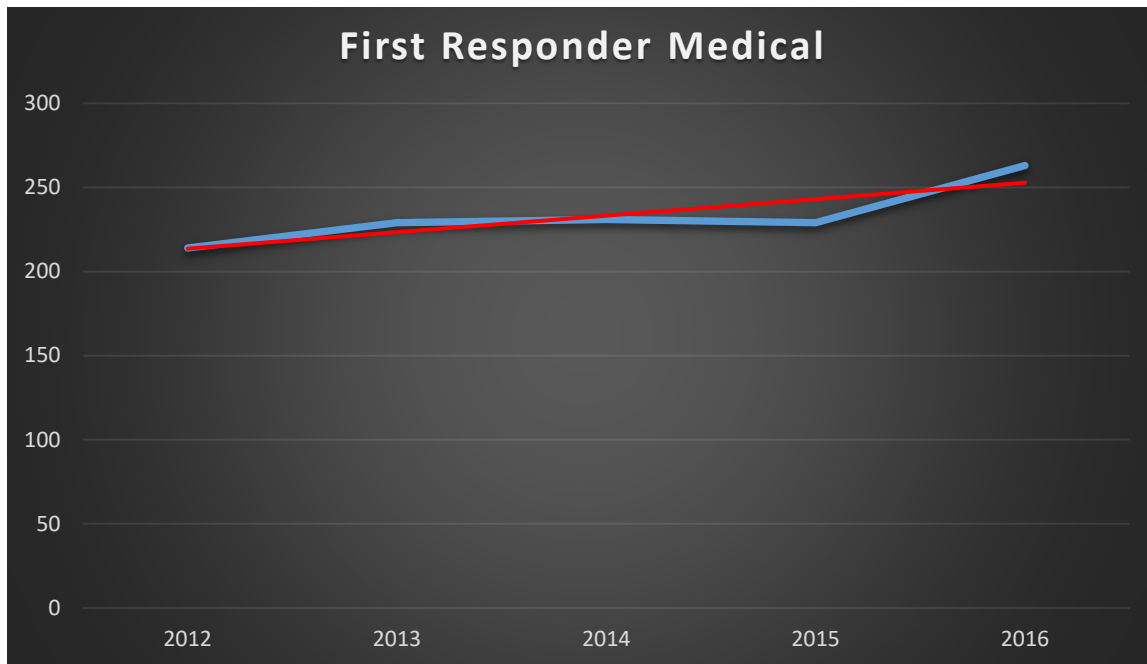
*Brush and Grass Fires include: Brush fires, grass fires, and beach fires.
(As Dispatched by CRD Fire Dispatch)*



*Vehicle / Boat Fires include: Vehicle Fires and boat fires, and appliance fires.
(As Dispatched by CRD Fire Dispatch)*



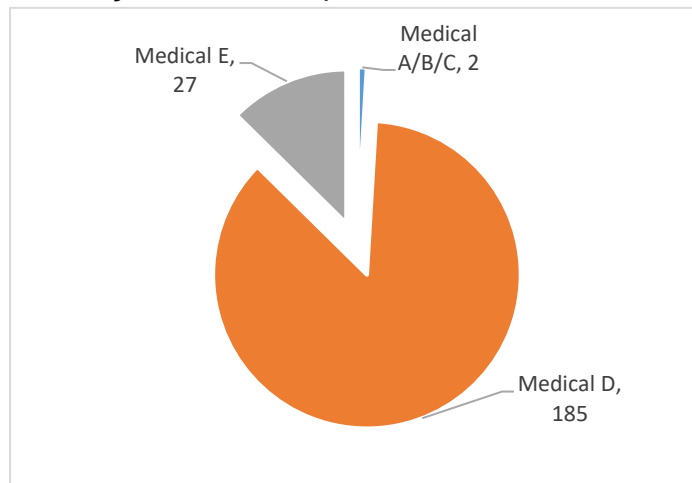
*Motor Vehicle Incidents (M.V.I.) include: All vehicle crashes
(As Dispatched by CRD Fire Dispatch)*



*First Responder Medical incidents include: Delayed A/B/C medical emergencies, Medical "D", and Medical "E"
(As Dispatched by CRD Fire Dispatch)*

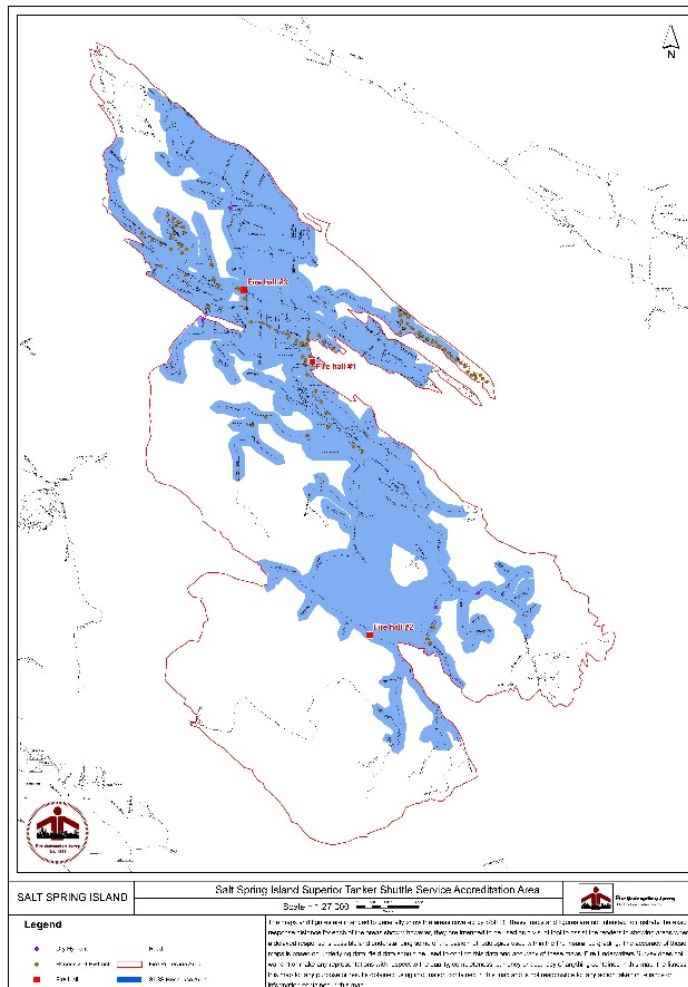
First Responders responded to Two-Hundred-Twenty (220) First Responder incidents in 2016.

2016's summer season started early with burning restrictions coming into effect in May, with a total campfire ban in August that lasted until September.



Fire Underwriters reviewed our operations and extensive training for our Superior Tender Shuttle accreditation and in 2016 FUS extended our accreditation for a further five years. This initiative has greatly improved our water supply operations as well as providing substantial insurance savings for our community.

In 2016, we began the process of a request for proposal for a replacement Tender at Hall #2, which was awarded to Midwest Fire for \$363,850.35 (\$277,765.32 USD). This new apparatus to be delivered in 2017 will improve our water capabilities even further by carrying an additional 1500 gallons of water (3000-gal tank).



Superior Tender Shuttle Accreditation Map

Available online at <http://www.saltspringfire.com/fus.php>

Incidents Highlights

In February SSIFR made an aggressive interior attack on a 5th Wheel Trailer containing the fire quickly.

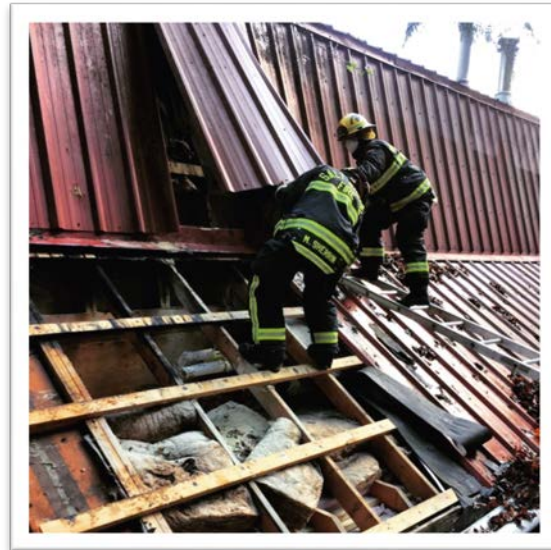
May 7th 2016, SSIFR Firefighters responded to a structure fire that quickly spread to the dry forest area. A rapid response kept the fire from spreading to two structures on the property. One person was taken to hospital for 2nd degree burns to both arms.



Fire Crews responded to a south end commercial structure fire in November. With the assistance from employees the fire was held to only the roof area resulting in minimal damage.

Responders responded to a tragic double drowning on Weston Lake in the summer. The traumatic incident was a hit to the whole island and our responders. Our rescue boat played an integral part in rescuing the second patient from the water. Since then, with the great work of the our PARC team, our Lions Club and the Lifesaving Society of BC, four of our popular lakes will see Public Access Life-rings installed, hopefully preventing similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Firefighters responded to a late afternoon Structure fire on December 26th on Beaver Point Road. Crews made a quick interior attack keeping the fire to the room of origin and preventing it from spreading to other areas.



On Dec 27th Crews responded to a vehicle fire at Drummond Park. A quick attack was made and no injuries reported.



During December, the island faced some very cold and icy road conditions that resulted in a number of weather related emergencies including downed wires and electrical fires, as well as a number of motor vehicle incidents (MVI).



Training

Salt Spring Island Firefighters dedicate hundreds of hours every year towards building and maintaining firefighting and rescue skills. SSIFR firefighters meet every Tuesday night from 7pm-10pm for training as well as optional days on Sunday's, Special Ops nights, and occasional weekend courses. In 2016 firefighters put in a total of **9,471 Hours** for Tuesday night drill hours, special operations and weekend training. Initial training and maintenance training are key to a successful operation and keeping our members safe. In 2016, each member dedicated on average **201.14 Hours** of training.



Like past years we continue to review all aspects of Firefighting from basic Personal Protective Equipment right through to Fire Officer certification. Four of our members obtained their NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II certificates bringing our total of NFPA 1001 level II certified firefighters to 29. One of our officers completed NFPA 1021 Fire Officer II and another completed NFPA Fire Officer level III.



Our Special Ops teams were busy as well giving an extra night each month for each discipline including Auto Extrication, Rope Rescue, Pump Operator, and Water Rescue. Each team worked on proficiencies and job performance requirements as laid out in the NFPA Standards. A Special thank you to Capt. Ponsford, Lt. Sherrin, FF Nuyens and Lt. Sawchuk for spearheading the training in each discipline.



The training ground facility at the Fulford Fire Hall continued to see heavy use over the past year. Without this space, keeping our firefighter's skills to acceptable standards would be very difficult. With firefighter feedback we strived to make improvements on the training props. This past year we added some firefighter rescue props for training on self-rescue as well as team rescue. While the building simulator is great for ongoing skills maintenance, nothing replaces a real live fire. We were fortunate enough to have a live fire training burn in an acquired structure this past year. This training session allowed the bulk of the department to train together with multiple realistic scenarios throughout the day, without having to leave the island. We are thankful we could work together with the owners of the property and contractor to create safe training, with minimal environmental impact.



The other big training event for SSIFR every year is our Annual Training Weekend. 2016 was another huge success seeing almost 100 firefighters from departments all over BC, with many bringing their family members with them to spend the weekend enjoying all that Salt Spring has to offer. Hosting this training not only provides certified training at a reduced cost, saving time and travel expenses, it also provides invaluable networking within the fire service and reinforces our family first commitment within SSIFR by offering a number of spousal and family events during the weekend. SSIFR would like to thank all the people and businesses of Salt Spring Island who help make this weekend a success year after year.



Due to the serious opioid epidemic, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue First Responders began training and administering Naloxone for opioid overdoses. In 2016 SSIFR First Responders successfully used the tool to revive two patients from serious life threatening overdoses.



On behalf of the training branch, I'd like to thank all the members who assisted with instructing over the past year. Your dedication to the fire service, the department and the community is greatly appreciated.



Fire Prevention and Public Education

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue inspects commercial properties to ensure our community fire risk is minimized as much as possible. Fire inspections and public education are key to reducing fires, and injuries to the public.

Fire and Life Safety Inspections 2016

Commercial Fire Inspections **309**

Commercial Re-Inspections **3**

Residential Inspections **0**

Office of the Fire Commissioner Fire Reports **48**

Subdivision / Rezoning Review **10**

Fire Safety Plan Reviews **5**

Pre-Fire Plan **8**

Water Supply Inspection **2**

Driveway Inspections **29**

Total of **414** Inspections/ reviews / reports conducted in 2016.



During Fire Permit season it's a great opportunity to help educate on the safest methods of backyard burning. In 2016 our office issued **2181** fire permits compared to **1764** in 2015.

The SSIFPD received approval from the Ministry for our new Open Burning bylaw 125 which officially came into effect Spring 2016. For more information on the revised bylaw 125, please visit www.saltspringfire.com.

An important component to preventing fires is public education. Our fantastic team of public educators were busy in 2016 with a variety of initiatives. There were more than 107 public education events that involved more than 2240 people who were directly engaged with firefighters sharing important public safety messages.

Some highlights from our Public Education Initiatives:

- FireSmart Program (450)
- Fire Extinguisher Training (100+)
- Smoke Alarm program (30 Alarms)
- Fire and Life Safety for Young Families program (85)
- Fall and Fire Prevention for Seniors (125)
- CPR/AED and First Aid training (238 Students)
- Child and Infant Car-Seat Safety program (50+)
- Kitchen safety training (61)
- Prevention Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) Program (81)
- School and Preschool programs (850)
- Bike Rodeo (Collaborative with RCMP) (90)
- Fire Prevention Week Open House (80+)



Our Public Education team worked very closely with the Gulf Islands Secondary School for fire and first aid training as well as the SSI Emergency Program for a variety of workshops and media messaging.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue once again joined forces with the Outer Gulf Islands for the annual Southern Gulf Islands Fire Prevention Program at the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal. The focus of our interaction and education was on the wildfire threat to our islands. This program has been going strong since 2007 and allows our prevention team to connect with a very targeted audience.



SSIFR uses social media along with traditional media to help educate the community and forward important safety messages. Please follow SSIFR on a variety of social media platforms for important information and news about our people and operations.



Fire Hall & Maintenance

Fire Hall #1. Built in 1960



105 Lower Ganges Rd

Fire Hall #2 Built in 1981



2470 Fulford Ganges Rd

Fire Hall #3 Built in 1993



110 Vesuvius Bay Rd.

Fire Hall #1 had a new floor covering installed to reduce tripping potential and to encapsulate asbestos tile.

Apparatus

Engine 201 , Engine 202, Engine 204

Mini Pumper 102, Mini Pumper 103

Tender 301, Tender 302, Tender 303

Command Vehicle 509

Rescue Boat

Forestry Trailer

HAZMAT Trailer

Support Vehicles (4)

Our complete inventory of Fire Hose was tested this year in accordance to NFPA standards. A total of Two-Hundred-Ninety-Seven (**297**) hoses were tested, with only seven (**7**) failing to meet the safety requirements.

An estimated 2700+ Airbrake Pre-Trips were conducted in 2016 on our nine air brake equipped apparatus.

Each month our Firefighter's perform truck equipment checks on all our vehicles and trailers.

Engine 204, Engine 201, Engine 202 along with Tender 301, 302, 303 and Mini pumpers 102 and 103 all receive monthly equipment checks. Support units 509, and 510, receive weekly checks. Our Wildfire and HAZMAT trailer units along with our rescue boat are also completed monthly. A simple truck check can take one hour compared to the complex engines which can be half a day.





MISSION STATEMENT

OUR DEPARTMENT **PRIDES** ITSELF AS A STRONG **DIVERSE** TEAM THAT HONOURS OUR **TRADITIONS** AND PROVIDES TOP QUALITY **MODERN SERVICES**.

THROUGH **LEADERSHIP** AND **TEAMWORK**.....



WE PREVENT HARM



WE PROTECT PROPERTY



WE SERVE

VISION STATEMENT

WE WILL STRIVE TO PROTECT OUR **COMMUNITY, FAMILIES, AND OUR VISITORS**.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD A STRONG **DIVERSE** TEAM THAT MAINTAINS **PRIDE, TRUST, RESPECT** AND **LOYALTY** TO ALL WE **SERVE**.

WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO FIND **INNOVATIVE** METHODS TO DELIVER A **PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OF SERVICE** AND TO **RESPECT** THE **ENVIRONMENT** OF

SALT SPRING ISLAND.