

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

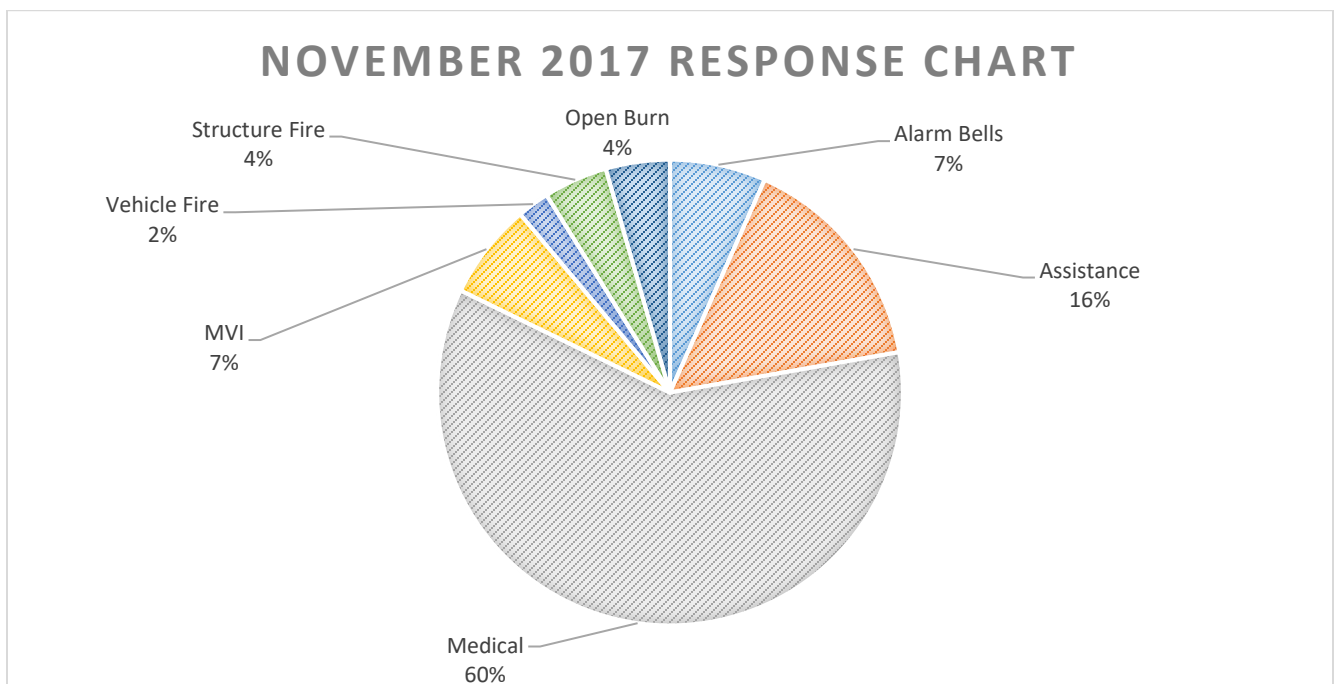
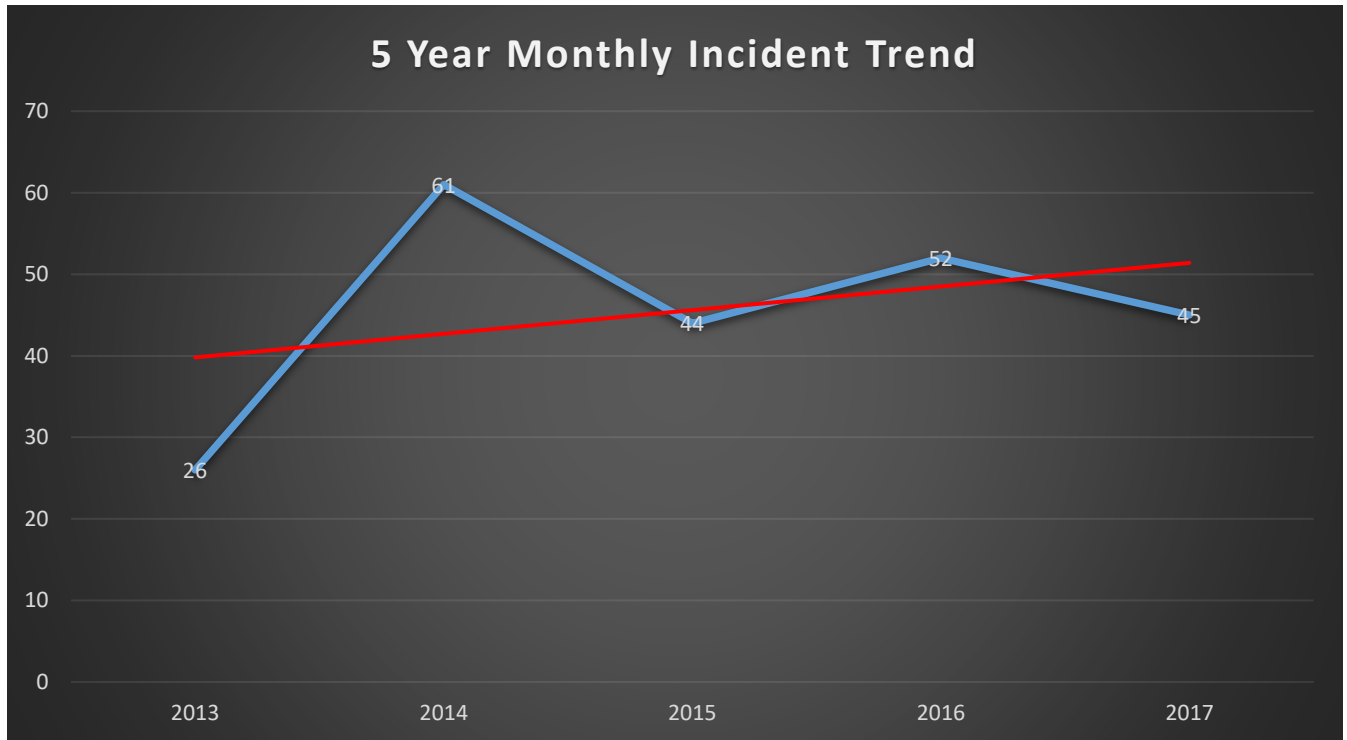
Fire Chief's Report

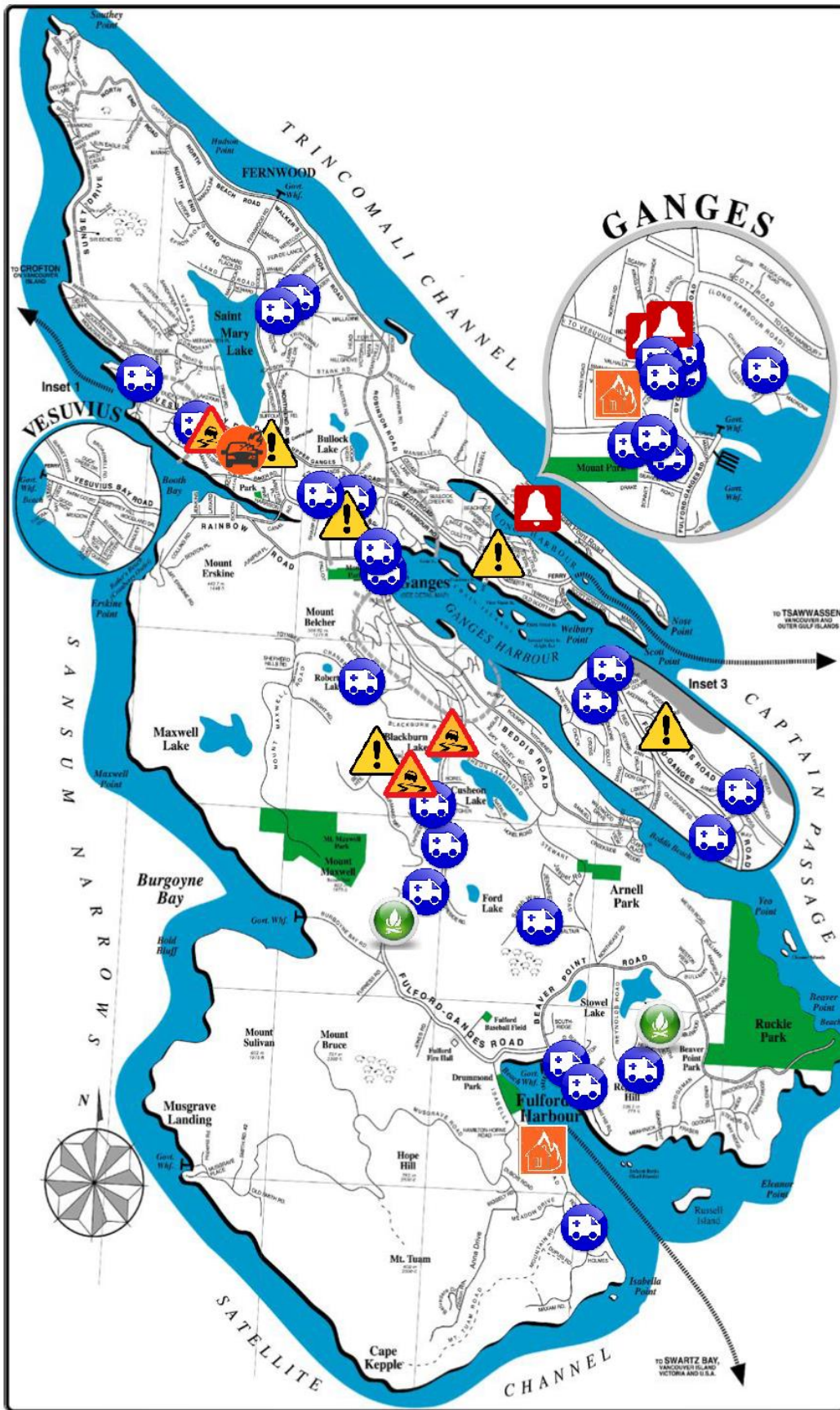
November 2017


















Response Report

SSIFR responded to **45** Incidents in the month of November. SSIFR Firefighters have responded to a total of **642** incidents this year.





Incident Legend

Aircraft	Aircraft - crash		Hydro	Fire	
Alarm Bells 	CO			Lines Down	
	Commercial	2		Medical	Tree on Lines
Assistance 	Intrusion			A/B	
	Residential	1		C	
	BCAS	4		D	25
	Flooding			E	2
	Public	2	MVI	MVI	3
Smoke  smell/sighting	Misc. Complaint	1		Campfire	
	Public Works			General	2
	RCMP		Rescue	Animal	
Brush/Grass/Beach 	Bark Mulch			Elevator	
	Fire			Rope/High/Confined	
				Search	
	Beach			Water/Ice/Drowning	
False Alarm 	Bark Mulch		Structure Fire 	Rubbish/Dumpster	
	Commercial			Commercial	
	Residential			Comm. Smoke/smell in structure	
Fire-Misc. 	Beach			Residential	2
	Misc. Fire			Chimney	
HAZMAT 				Mobile home/trailer	
	Chlorine			Res. smoke/smell in structure	
	Chemical/unknown spill/leak			Vehicle	1
	Petroleum Spill/Fire				
	Propane		Medical – 1 st ON SCENE	9/25	36 %

Operations Update

We have initiated a new local group consisting of Fire, BCAS, and RCMP leadership staff. The newly formed group will be meeting on a regular basis to discuss core emergency response issues. This Tri-Services group will provide a better relationship between the core responders serving our community.

Nov 29th CRD Dispatch hosted a 9-1-1 user group meeting in Langford, discussing dispatch improvements and conversation on the dispatch contract. At the time of the meeting there was no contract signed, but it appears as if there will be a one-year extension agreed on while they undertake a dispatch feasibility study in 2018.

CREST upgrade update: Phase 1 is anticipated to launch March 2018 (Greater Victoria area). Salt Spring Island is assigned to Phase 3. Switch over time frame to be determined but I anticipate 2019.

Following the 9-1-1 meeting the Sothern Gulf Island Chiefs met for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) meeting. This productive meeting covered several initiatives for wildfire prevention within the Gulf Islands. Wildfire Management BC provided us with an extensive overview of the 2017 Fire Season. As of November, we have received the full payment from the Province for the 2017 Wildfire deployment.

SSIFPD Trustees and Facilities and Physical Plant committee members visited three fire halls on Vancouver Island (North Cedar, Nanoose, and Qualicum Beach.) The tour provided great value on new fire hall construction and special needs.



With the help of the District's communications committee we have begun posting a series of articles to the Salt Spring Exchange on our operations, and valuable fire and life safety tips. Combined with our social media presence, the local media outlets and our webpage we are reaching many islanders. We are also very excited to launch a brand new SSIFR webpage in January. Please check www.saltspringfire.com in the new year for a fresh new look.

This month we have begun our annual SSIFR Operational Guideline review. This month, 115 Operational Guidelines have been reviewed, edited, updated as well as new ones created.

The department met with other island responders at the Annual Winter Preparation agency meeting. Members from all agencies, including support groups such as the School District, transit, and recovery tow operators. The intent of the meeting was to prepare a response game plan in conjunction with MainRoads for this winter's expected weather. Initial reports say that we will experience a winter very similar to last years with ice and snow conditions.

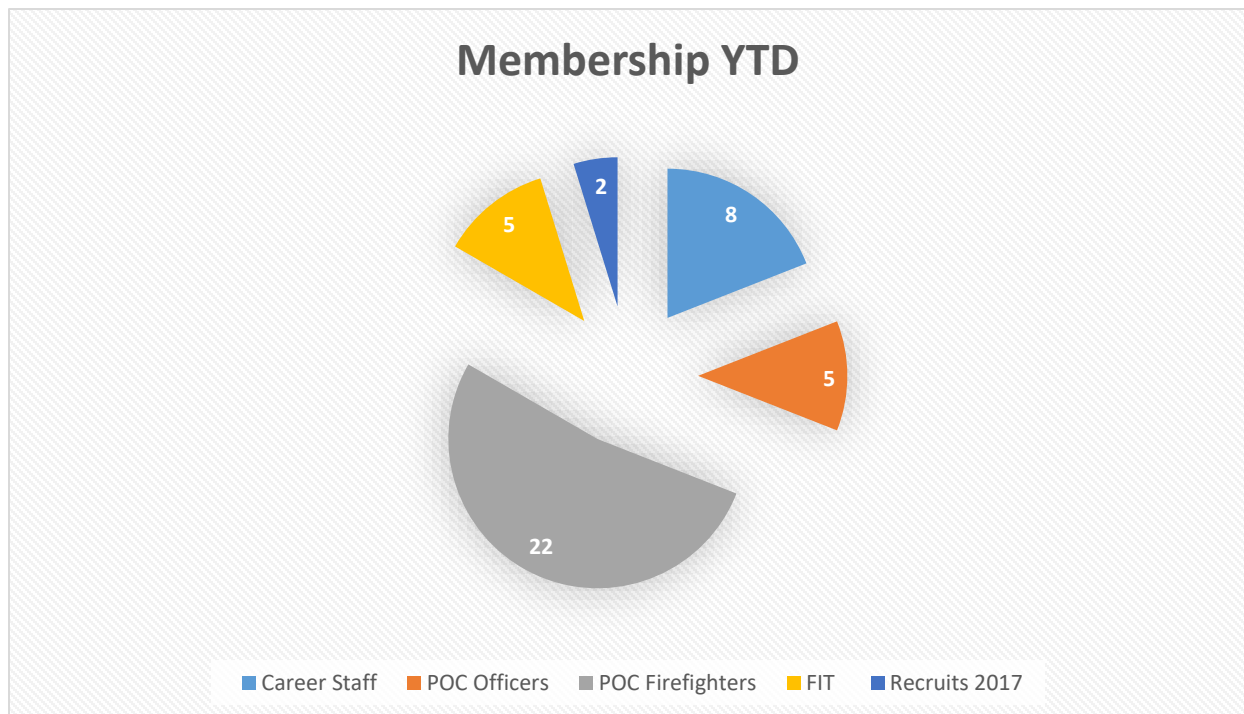
Incident Highlights

November 4th, SSIFR responded to a structure fire on Park Drive in the early morning. The fire resulting from a chimney fire was quickly contained to the interior. With working smoke alarms and alert occupants, the fire was quickly found and 911 activated. Thirteen (13) Firefighters attended the fire for six hours with help from BCAS, ESS and BC Hydro.

November 12th, SSIFR responded to another structure fire on Isabella Point Road. The fire was a result of improperly stored fireplace ash. Ensure that when you clean out your fireplace, remove the contents in a non-combustible container and store away from your home. Improperly discarded ash is a culprit to many house fires. Including November, SSIFR has responded to twenty-one (21) structure fire related incidents.



Membership



Our Recruit Paid-On-Call Firefighter recruitment process is complete, and we have twelve recruits who have formally accepted the position. Their journey will begin Jan 2nd as a recruit firefighter for Salt Spring Island.



We had one of our recruits retire this past month. We wish Recruit Aaron Greene all the best and thank him for his service and hope to have him re-join us in the future.

Training

SSIFR hosted an OHS Supervisor level 1 course presented by the BC Federation. The session provided officers, and health and safety committee members with the insight on their duties and responsibilities as supervisors.

November's regular training topics included First Responder, Rapid Attack, Pumps and Pumping, and Fire Leader training in conjunction with Pender Fire.

Our monthly special operations team training was held for the Rope and Pump teams.

We also had members attend a "train the trainer" course to help firefighters build resilient minds to prevent mental health stress to our membership. We will be hosting a class for all the members in early 2018.

Inspection and Public Education Division

SSIFR conducted twenty-nine (29) Commercial Fire and Life Safety Inspections in November with only one (1) re-inspection required. Our Prevention team also conducted a bylaw review, and two (2) fire safety plan reviews.

We met with over one-hundred eighty (180) community members presenting an array of fire prevention tips during the Annual VIHA Flu Clinic.

We assisted forty residents at Roscommon housing complex with a courtesy smoke alarm check. Of the 40 homes we identified 25 units with outdated smoke alarms. We assisted with new fire alarm installs and replaced some with new batteries. Working smoke alarms save lives.

Our Public Education team taught four (4) Canadian Red Cross certified CPE/AED classes for 48 GISS students as part of the Real 9 Programme.

We also delivered fire extinguisher training to nine (9) School District bus drivers.

Also in November, we assisted one family with a child car seat installation, and first aid skills for choking infants to eight (8) new parents at Family Place.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arjuna George', written in a cursive style.

Arjuna George

Fire Chief