



2014 FIRE CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE RESCUE (SSIFR) April 20th, 2015



*D.R.B.
D. R. Barthe
Photography*

2015 SSIFPD Appreciation Dinner

Firefighters Serving our Community

Formed in 1960 to save lives, reduce injuries & protect property



GANGES FIRE HALL

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue proudly serves the community within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District by safely protecting; life, property and the environment through; prevention, public education and comprehensive emergency response by dedicated, highly trained personnel, with up-to-date, well-maintained equipment.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue is alerted to Calls for Assistance via 911 by means of our dispatch agency, which is Langford Fire. We value and appreciate the professional dispatching and support we receive from the Langford service and individual dispatchers 24/7, 365 days a year. Firefighter safety and the client calls for assistance rely primarily on the high level service capability that our dispatchers and first responders / firefighters provide. Thank you to them all.

Mandate:

The mandate of the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue established and operated under the authority of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection Improvement District Letters Patten & By- Laws is to provide:

Fire Suppression

Search & Rescue

Assistance response to classes of circumstances where there is risk of immediate harm to persons or property

Medical emergencies

Hazardous materials incidents

Traffic accidents

Mutual Aid covered by By -Law agreements (Primarily Manpower)

Accountability:

The Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue conducts internal operations under the direction and support of our Operating Guidelines (OG's). The Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue OG's are reviewed periodically and updated as required to keep pace with current and changing regulations. Additional input is derived from but not limited to the following;

Improvement District: -Bylaws

SSIFPD Policies

Mutual Aid Agreement By laws -

International Association of FireFighters & Salt Spring Island Firefighters Association

SSIFPD Letters Patten

Work Safe BC -Part 31 - Firefighting

Fire Services Act -(RSBC 1996)

Wildfire Act -(SBC 2004)

Office of the Fire Commissioner of British Columbia

Motor Vehicle Act -Section 122 - Operation of Emergency Vehicles

Federal Bill C-45

NFPA -(National Fire Protection Association)

PHSA – (Provincial Health Services Authority)

BCAS -(British Columbia Ambulance Service)

BCEHS -(British Columbia Emergency Health Service)

BCERMS -(British Columbia Emergency Response Management System)

Work Safe BC- OH&S -(Occupational Health & Safety)

Island Trust – (Governing Land Usage Terms & Conditions)

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) continues to monitor and process operational configuration, financial management, training, equipment purchases and safety requirements, within its numerous mandates. Accomplishments are the result of internal and external partnering and participants working responsibly in creating a positive atmosphere and strong teamwork. A working relationship on a daily basis is key functioning with the SSIFPD Trustees, Paid On – Call SSI Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 4467 Career Firefighters, and resource staff, provides the ability and the equipment to supply public safety day in and day out.

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) governs SSIFR by setting policies. The focus for Firefighters is based on the SSIFR OG's, Mission, Vision, and Value Statements, which include reflections using other motivational and modern cultural improvement concepts that deal with internal and external challenges we face on an ongoing basis.

The vision & discussions relating to the SSIFPD to improve the utilization of the three stations continued in 2014. The non- successful referendum outcome for replacing Hall #1 meant a renovation project. To create additional office space for staff, while creating more storage space continues to be a challenge. Hall #2 had a number of cleanups, repairs and utilization components upgraded, including additional training props added to the Training Ground. Hall #3 had minor adjustments in 2014. All locations continue to receive ground maintenance improvements.

As for staff deployment, Hall #1 is utilized daily as our main headquarters, while Hall #2 is staffed on Wednesdays and Hall #3 on Mondays, with one staff member positioned there when available.

It was another busy year on the training front for SSIFR. Our members put in a combined 4,470 hours of drills and practices on Tuesday nights and Wednesday mornings over the year, with an additional 3089 hours of weekend courses. Similar to past years we continue to review all aspects of Firefighting from basic Personal Protective Equipment right through to Fire Officer / Firefighter Certification.

The other big training event for SSIFR every year is our Annual SSIFR "Training in Paradise" -Training Weekend. 2014 was another huge success with upwards of 100 Firefighters from departments all over BC and beyond, with many bringing their family members to spend the training timeframe 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. A larger community benefit of the training weekend is the infusion of money into the local retail economy by off island participants and their families. SSIFR would like to thank all the people and businesses of Salt Spring Island who help make this opportunity a success year after year.



FULFORD FIRE HALL TRAINING GROUND

The training ground facility at the Fulford Fire Hall is used on a weekly basis and has allowed us to create scenarios and drills which translate into firefighter Safety and property savings for our community on the emergency front. The Hall #2 Training Ground facility is a huge asset to our Firefighters and our community because of its on Island location. In years to come this facility will prove to be even more valuable and a positive addition to our service.

It also gives us a safe and secure place to practice recruit skills such as laddering and hose handling without fear of damaging private buildings or property, as well as highly technical skills like Rapid Intervention and Rope Rescue. Thank you to all the members who assisted with instructing over the past year. Your dedication to the fire service and the community is greatly appreciated.

Training opportunities as well as advancements for members produce forward movement in the areas of Firefighters Safety, Officers Management, Front Line Live Fire Training Suppression, Incident Command, Communications, and Teamwork, that enhanced physical and psychological capabilities.

Safety, Human Resources and Accountability is and always will be a first priority for management and our members. Continual Occupational Health & Safety educational sessions, meetings and discussions were conducted to promote, inform and instill safety no matter what the situation.

In terms of financial accountability, management continually works to refine and maintain within the annual budgeted total. Purchases support firefighting as well as Firefighters in addressing calls for assistance including Firefighter safety, in ways of our Hall #2 Training Facility training props, enhanced modern equipment, pagers, portable radios, protective clothing, as well as ongoing upgrades to our communication systems.

Calls for Assistance in 2014 were 567. Risk management and the awareness of the components that make up risk management around the Island are key elements in safety, preplanning, fire prevention, training and constructive preparedness for the community. Limiting and understanding risks is critical to prevention and responses. SSIFR Inspection / Prevention Division continue to enhance with the commitment of the two members within it. The Inspection mandate and the overall program goals continued to evolve in 2014. A total of 227 Commercial Inspections were conducted in 2014, with 15 Re-Inspections. As well, numerous community projects and Training /Prevention programs were provided to residents in a number of different methods. With assistance coming from our partnerships, Paid On-call members and the community participation, this Division has made huge advancements within 2014.

Staff members continually process inquiries and drop-ins on a daily basis from both residents and visitors. In response to the variety of community safety items, our members take great pride in working with the public to conduct educational awareness and public safety. Our Inspection / Prevention Division conducted numerous public-education sessions as well as taught our recruit class and regular members in a variety of training topics.

Over 4600 persons (Adults & Children) were positively affected by direct contact through Public Education and Fire Prevention sessions in 2014

Public Education ranges from Hall tours, school tours, smoke alarms / CO detectors, fire extinguisher training, car seat installations, open houses, Fire Prevention Week events, neighbour groups, seniors groups, Junior Fire Chief for a Day, CPR Training. P.A.R.T.Y, (Prevent Alcohol & Risk Related Trauma in Youths) Program, and Lock Box Program.

School, Youth Group and Preschool visits for fire and life safety tours, fire-prevention week events and special classes – at Fernwood, Fulford, GISS, SS Centre School, SS Elementary, SIMS, SSI Brownies, SSI Boy Scouts, Little Red Schoolhouse, Little Blue Preschool and SSI Co-op Preschool

Fire-Extinguisher Training – with Braehaven employees and staff, SSI Library staff and volunteers plus training at the Fire Prevention Week Open House for the general public as well as the GISS cafeteria students & staff

Smoke-Alarm Program - visits and installations included a door-to-door campaign for Fire Prevention Week targeting the densely populated Maliview Drive neighborhood (110 homes visited). In addition, another 30 detectors were given to community members through the generous donation of SSI Rotary Club Smoke Alarm Program. Several homes were visited on an individual basis

Fall & Fire Prevention for Seniors – workshops at the SSI Library, Braehaven, Heritage Place & the VIHA Flu-Shot Clinic

CPR/AED & First Aid Training – for VIHA nurses, GISS Cafeteria students, parents at SSI Babies, & parents at Family Place

Child and Infant Car-Seat Safety – car-seat inspections and car-seat clinics at SSI Babies & SSI Library

Prevent Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) Programme – in partnership with VIHA staff, RCMP and BCAS - SSIFR staff provided injury prevention information to Island teens

Fireworks Safety Workshops - at SIMS, Fulford Elementary School and the Core Inn

Fire Prevention Week Open House - included Fire Extinguisher Training, and Auto-Extrication Demonstration, Hose-and-Water prop for kids, and a Static Display with public-education information



In addition, SSIFR was well represented at the SSI Fall Fair, Halloween, Canada Day events, Pride Parade and two fireworks displays where hundreds of islanders were in attendance. SSIFR assisted in drafting proposals for the Open-Burning Bylaw, wrote numerous articles for the Gulf Islands Driftwood and the SSI Emergency Program Newsletter. SSIFR is well represented on social media with daily Fire-and-Life-Safety posts on Facebook, Twitter and other venues. SSIFR issued 1999 fire permits and visited several burn sites upon request or complaint. We also hosted numerous informal fire-truck and fire-hall tours where we shared fire and life safety messages.

The Inspection Program continues to be successful in the sense of education and awareness for all public buildings. Other inspections include propane and other utility services in subsidized housing, hoarding, appliance safety and general building construction safety. We were able to train 8 of our members as certified car seat technicians. This was a free course offered by BCAA, and the course was offered here on the island. Three other members took a Fire & Life Safety Educator course at our annual Training Weekend as well.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Inspection / Prevention Division 2014 Yearly Totals

- Commercial Inspections	227
- Re- Inspections	15
- Category 3 Burn Pile Inspections	13
- Sub Division/Plan Reviews	8
- Smoke Alarm Installations	47
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms	6
- Fire Safety Plan Reviews	8
- Fire Alarm Systems Checked	68
- Car Seat Installations	9
- Fire Drills Conducted	14
- Driveway Inspections	11
- Water Storage Tank Inspections	4
- Lock Box Installations	3
- Special Events Permits	16
- Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention	1

Iris Beck continues to be our welcoming personality for the visitors and inquiries to SSSIFR. With the inclusion of our administrator, this position continues to grow and includes a wide variety of enhanced media tools for the public to access as well as our office daily needs. During 2014 we continued to temporarily fill in for the times when Iris is away with Sonia Shaw, who is a very positive addition to our team.



Social networking for our organization has progressed continually in 2014 in modernizing our communications internally and externally. Our team of communications experts have created multiple ways and systems to keep people & members informed and educated, while providing an opportunity to voice their thoughts and create dialogue. We encourage you to visit or follow us on our website:

www.saltspringfire.com or



During the past year we continue to grow in partnerships to help enhance public safety, communications, community support, improved understandings and general positive relationships. We have worked with multiple agencies within BC and beyond. In the commitment of positive progression within our service and Island, there continually must be open, respectful communications with a mutual understanding of the necessity to partner and resolve challenges by working together.

The reality for a new Fire Hall for Ganges would be a positive step in addressing long standing challenges. Equally important to the new building is training of our First Responders, both the present ones and our future ones, while also ensuring that the apparatus is modern and replaced on scheduled timeframes. We must be realistic to the Island's needs, Firefighter safety, changes and future by providing a Sustainable, Affordable, Functional and Effective main headquarters and level of service required. This in turn, will provide safety to Firefighters who respond to the public's calls for assistance when in need.

One of several public interest items during 2014 was the approval for the ventilation upgrades for all three stations. Another key importance is the need to replace two of our current Firefighting apparatus that were scheduled to take place in 2014 but did not. Our 1994 water tender / pumper unit as well as our 1994 Mini Pumper; both running out of the Fulford Station (Hall #2) need to be replaced due to age and high operational hours on the mechanical, drive gear & pump components. Specifications & pricing have been drafted for both and, are awaiting a review by Trustees for approval to purchase.

In 2015 the SSIFR will continue to advance by managing and addressing the operational requirements in support of Firefighter safety, partnering in the revision of a SSIFPD Strategic Plan, community needs, public concerns, policies and mandates, while remaining responsible, accountable and effective within the elements that make up the SSIFR operations via the SSIFPD Fire Trustees Policies & By - Laws.

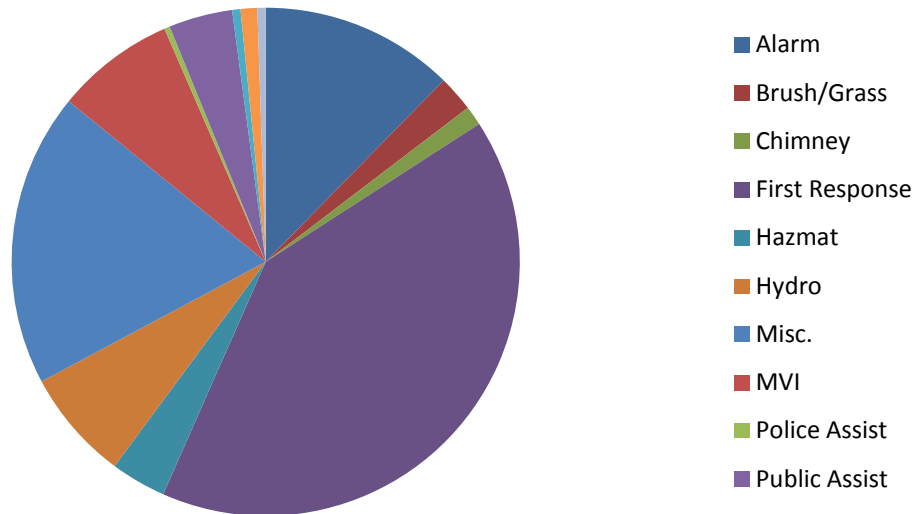
Recruiting new members to join the SSIFR is critical in enabling this organization to meet its mandates. Diversity and looking at the options within, provides a wider horizon for those members that do not want to be Front Line Firefighters. In 2014 we continue to remodel our recruitment process to become more manageable and realistic, which is a positive accomplishment. Recruitment has continued to enhance over the past number of years and we look forward to that trend continuing by means of positive community participation and positive word of mouth.

A tremendous “Thank you” goes out to the members of the SSIFR who provide an incredible level of full service in protecting this Island and its residents / visitors. The hours of training, responses and community participation is not generally understood by most Island residents or visitors unless they have received assistance by the SSIFR for an emergency or have a direct relationship or interest within the organization. The commitment by the membership is reassuring. Each year these individuals respond to “Calls for Assistance” and unite to assure an extremely high level of public safety.

SSIFR membership: Overall Active Service members: 46

NFPA 1001 Certified Firefighters:	21	
NFPA 1002 Certified Members:	12	
Certified First Responders:	40	
Certified Fire Officer Level 1:	3	
Certified Fire Officer Level 2:	5	
Certified HAZMAT Technicians NFPA 704:	7	
Paid On- Call Frontline Firefighters:	20	
Paid On Call Officers:	5	
Paid On Call Support Members:	6	
Career Chiefs: 3		1- Chief / 2- Operational Chief’s (1-Deputy Chief & 1- Assistant Chief)
Career Officers: 3		1- Captain / 2- Lieutenants.
Career Firefighters:	2	
Support Staff - Office Administrator	1	
Fire Stations:	3	Ganges (Hall #1) - Fulford (Hall #2) & Vesuvius (Hall #3)
Fire Apparatus:	8	3 Pumpers / 3- Water Tenders / 2- Mini Pumpers
Support Units:	5	2- Prevention Units / 1- Chief’s Unit / 1- Utility / 1- Command / Duty
Mobile trailer Units:	2	1- Forestry / 1- Haz- Mat
Flat Bed Trailers:	1	

2014 CALL TOTALS



Type of Call	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Alarm	10	3	3	3	5	5	4	7	11	9	7	3	70
Bush/Grass Fire				1	4	2	2	2	1			1	13
Chimney Fire		3	2							1	1		7
First Responder	17	22	30	17	10	10	30	27	18	13	21	16	231
Hazmat		1	2	1	1		3	4	1		2	5	20
Hydro	2	16	2			3		1			15	1	40
Miscellaneous	1	4	4	5	13	19	21	17	11	2	5	4	106
Motor Vehicle Incident	3	6	4	2	5	8	5	3	2	3	2		43
Police Assist										1	1		2
Public Assist	1		2		4	2	3	4	1	2	4		23
Rescue						1	1		1				3
Structure Fire	1		1		1				1		2		6
Vehicle/Boat Fire									1		1	1	3
Total	35	55	50	29	43	50	69	65	48	31	61	31	567

Types of requests made to the SSIFR' as "Calls for Assistance – Emergency

- Motor Vehicle Incidents – MVI's
- Vehicle Extrication- Auto X
- Automatic Alarms – Fire
- Hazardous Materials – HAZ- MAT
- Medical First Responder – F/R
- Assistance requested via; BCAS, RCMP, BC Hydro or General public
- Fire Suppression – Structural, Vehicle or Boat, Grass, Brush
- Wildland / Urbane Interface Firefighting.
- Low Slope Rope Rescue
- Hydro / Electrical Incidents
- Traffic Control / Scene Safety
- Inland Water Rescue
- Smoke Sightings – Potential Wildland Fire or Unattended Fire
- Burning Complaints - Investigation
- Coastal Fire Suppression** 1000 feet from High Tide Mark

Other – Non Emergency services provided are:

- Fire Hall Tours
- Apparatus displays
- Public Information Sessions
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Child Restraint Safety Technician – Children Car Seat Installs – Safety
- Public Fire & Life Safety Educational Sessions
- Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention Programs
- Prevention Training Programs – Varying Topic's
- CPR / First Aid Training
- Assistance requested via; BCAS, RCMP, BC Hydro or General public
- General Inquiries relating to Fire Codes, Buildings, Safety and others components
- Commercial Fire Inspections / Follow up Fire Investigations
- Working with CRD Building Department in respect to codes & driveways
- General Daily Operations – Maintenance, Prep work, Planning, etc
- Smoke Alarm / CO detector Programs
- Fire Prevention week.
- Social media updates / Postings
- Island Trust Building and Subdivision reviews and
- much more as part of a modern day full service Fire & Rescue organization



2014 Junior Fire Chiefs for the day