

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Annual Report

# 2015



# Fire Chief's Report



It gives me great pride and honour to be able to present the 2015 Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Annual Report.

There are many highlights to share with you from our year of operations, training and community involvement.

I would like to thank the community of Salt Spring Island for their support while in the position of Acting Fire Chief. We live in a special place that has been a privilege to serve for close to twenty years. Looking into 2016 I look forward to building relationships, and providing our community with a safe place to live and visit.

On behalf of SSIFR I would also like to recognize the hard work the Board of Trustees and the volunteer board committees have done throughout the year. I would personally like to thank each board member for their support provided to me over the past few months.

I feel passionate about our membership and I must recognize the dedication both the Paid-On-Calls and our careers staff have towards protecting our island 24/7. The countless hours training, along with the hours spent responding to incidents at all hours of the day, is just incredible. Thank You to each member for your dedication, and passion to serve. I would also like to thank former Fire Chief Tom Bremner for his service to Salt Spring Island over the past six years.



# Employees

## Administration

Fire Chief Tom Bremner

Acting Fire Chief Arjuna George (Effective October)

Chief Administrative Officer Andrew Peat

Administrative Assistant Iris Beck

Administrative Assistant Sonia Shaw

### **Career Staff**

Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Holmes

Captain Dale Lundy

Lieutenant Mitchell Sherrin

Lieutenant Ken Akerman

Lieutenant Cody Hunsberger

Firefighter Warren Nuyens

### **Paid On Call Firefighters**

Captain Kurt Irwin

Captain Doug Ponsford

Captain Dominique Gaudet

Lieutenant Peter Andress

Lieutenant Eric Taylor

Lieutenant Colby Sawchuk

FIT Steve Leichter

Firefighter Jim Pohl

Firefighter Nancy Pursell

Firefighter Clayton Akerman

FIT Rolf Dammel

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

Recruit Cameron Proudfoot

Recruit Nic Adams

Recruit Dustin Bean

Recruit Jared Oakes

Recruit Addison Voyce

Thank You to those that volunteered to join the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue department and that retired in 2015. ***We thank you for your service.***

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue welcomed six new recruits to the department in 2015: Cameron Proudfoot, Nic Adams, Dustin Bean, Jared Oakes, Addison Voyce, and Steven Bevan. The recruit class of 2015 ended with five recruits.



Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue is proud to recognize our member's years of service milestones in 2015.

- ❖ Five Years of Fire Service **Nancy Pursell, Clayton Akerman**
- ❖ Ten Years of Fire Service: **Captain Dominique Gaudet**
- ❖ Twenty Years of Fire Service: **Captain Brian Hartley**
- ❖ Twenty Years of Fire Service: **Lieutenant Ken Akerman**

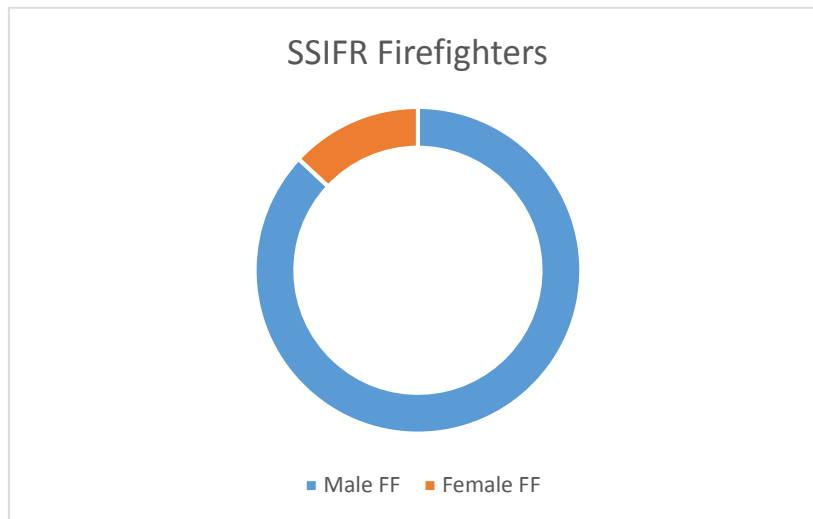
Also at our annual Firefighters appreciation dinner and awards banquet management had the opportunity to recognize some top performers in the department.

We would like to recognized the following recipients of the 2015 awards

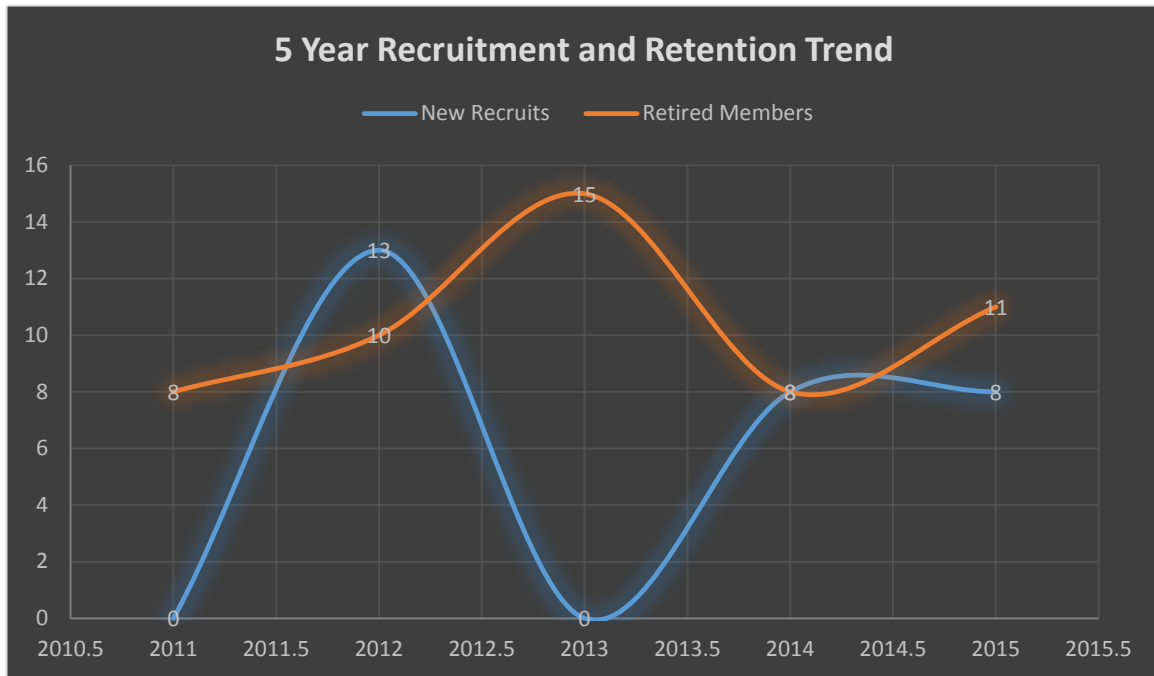
- ❖ **Jim Pohl** for the Most Dedicated to Incidents
- ❖ **Simon Wells** for the Most Dedicated to Training
- ❖ **Chantelle Pohl** for the Most Dedicated to Public Education and Prevention

### Salt Spring Island Firefighter Demographics

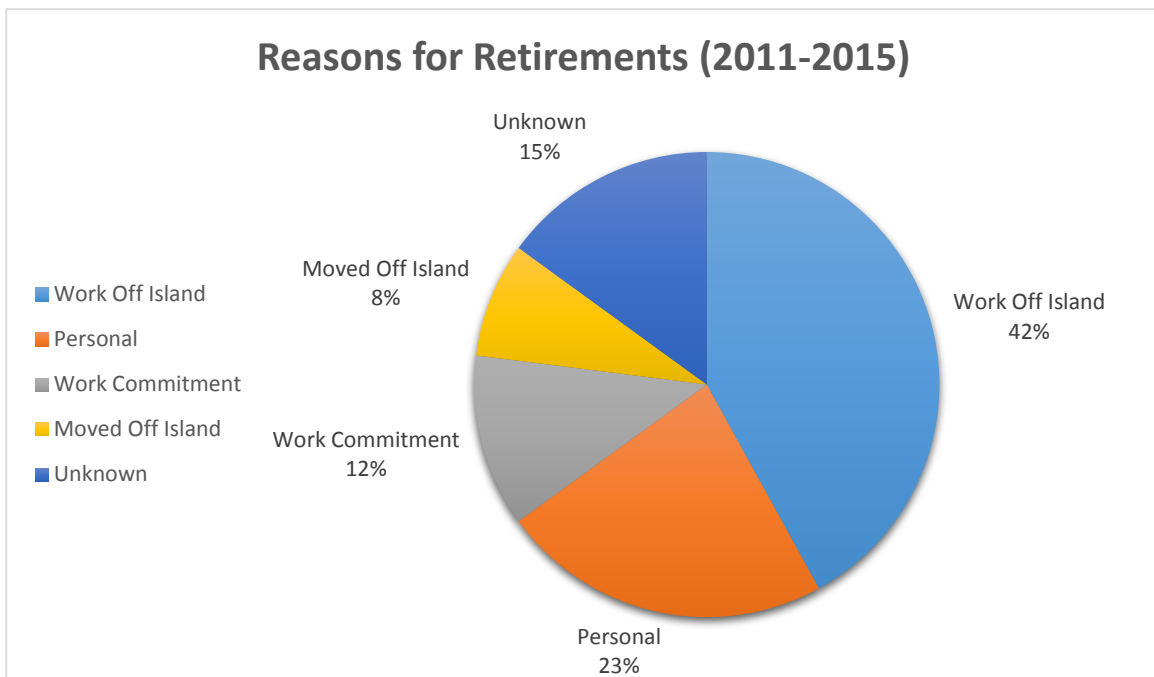
Average age of a SSIFR Firefighter is **41** years young.



*SSIFR has 8.8% more Female Firefighters then the BC average, and 9.6% of the Canadian Firefighter average. SSIFR is very proud to have a diverse workforce and a supportive environment for all.*

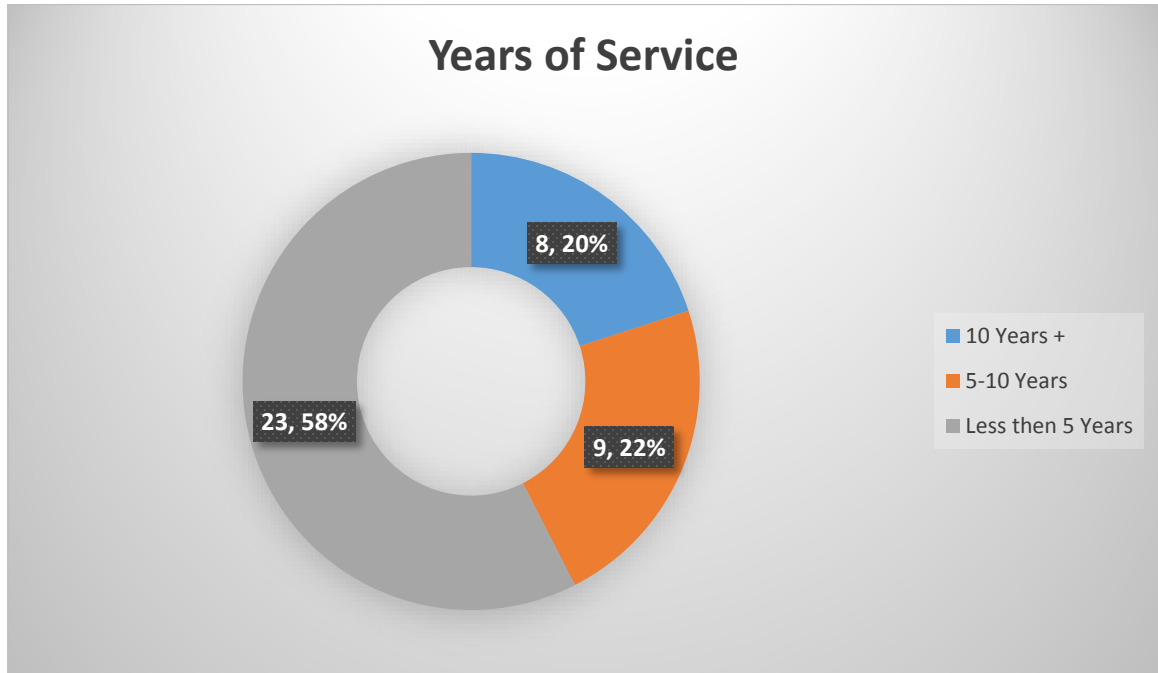


Over the past five years we have brought on thirty-seven (37) recruits and unfortunately had fifty-two (52) current members retire. Since 2011 we have experienced a decline in retention of fifteen (15) paid on call (POC) members.



## 2015 Years of Service Graphic

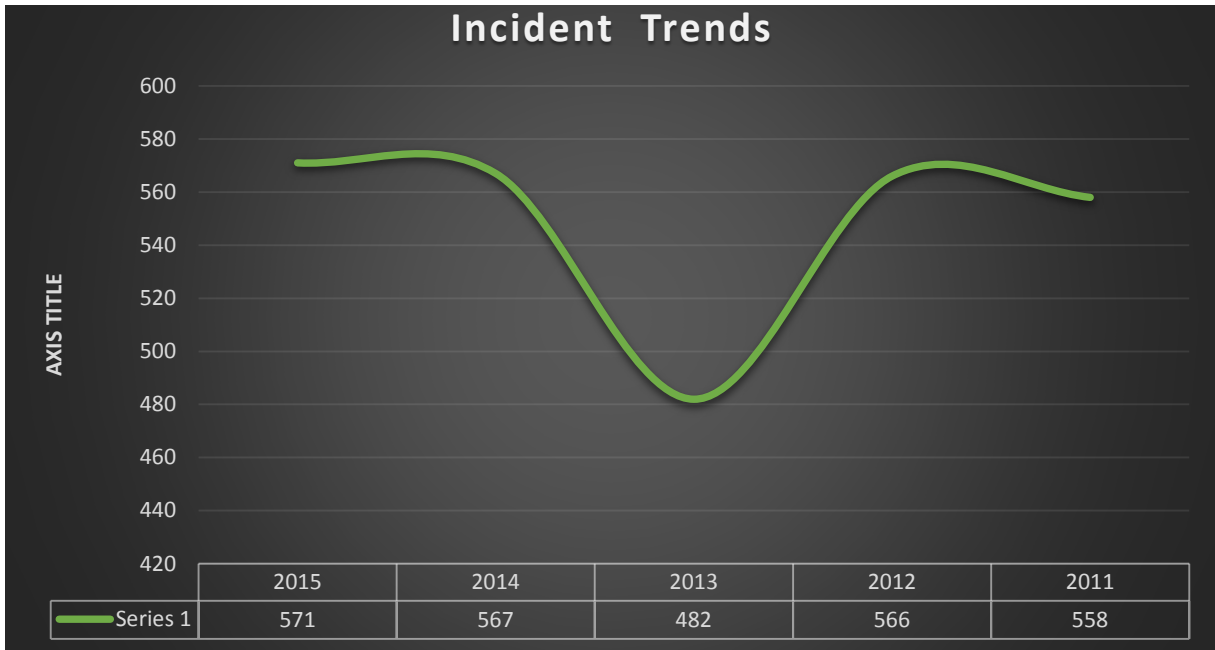
Our membership spreads from less than one (1) year of service to twenty-four (24) years of fire service. The average SSIFR fighter's years of service is 5.9 years.



Through a supportive government program, we were able to offer a summer student position at the fire hall for the summer months. We had the pleasure to have a very hard working, bright, and driven young man Jordan Lee join us and gain some work experience and to see first hand the daily operations of a fire station.

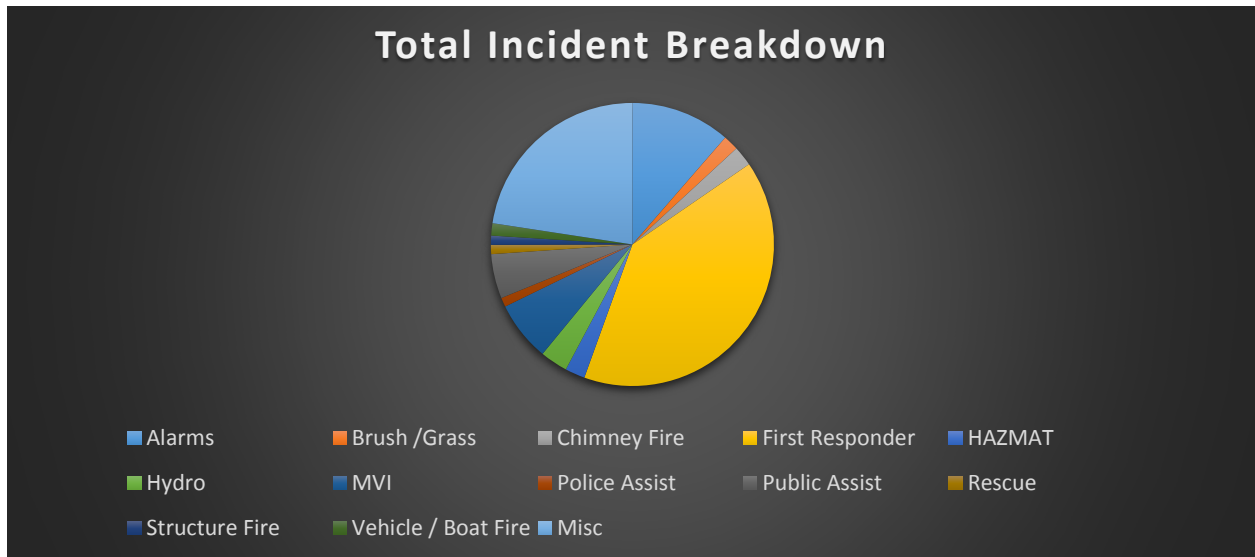


# Operations



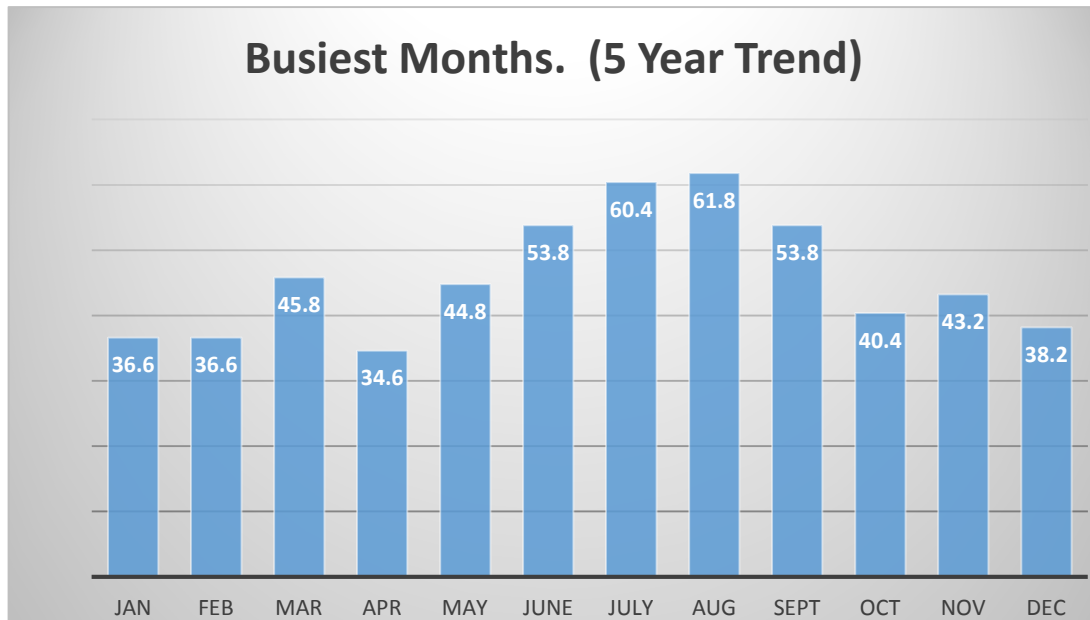
Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue responds on average to 548.8 calls a year (2011-2015 Trend)

2015 incident response was a slightly busier year at 4.2% over the five-year average. A total of **4413.50** firefighter hours were logged responding to incidents.



July, August and September 2015 were the busiest months for our Firefighters.

- July **70** Responses
- August **63** Responses
- September **59** Responses



Monthly Averages

## Response Times

Response time collection is new to SSIFR. Response times provide us valuable information for our operations and department planning.

Fire Dispatch provided some data on our 2015 response times. The statistics are based on 405 incidents.

Average **ALL CALLS** Response Times



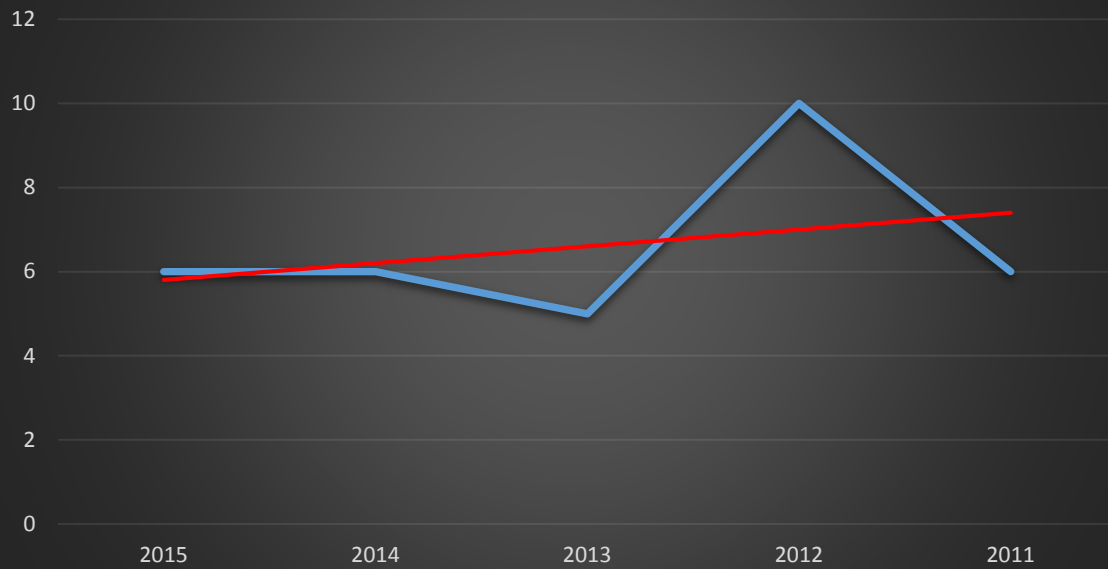
**6 minutes 45 seconds**

Average **FIRE** Response Times

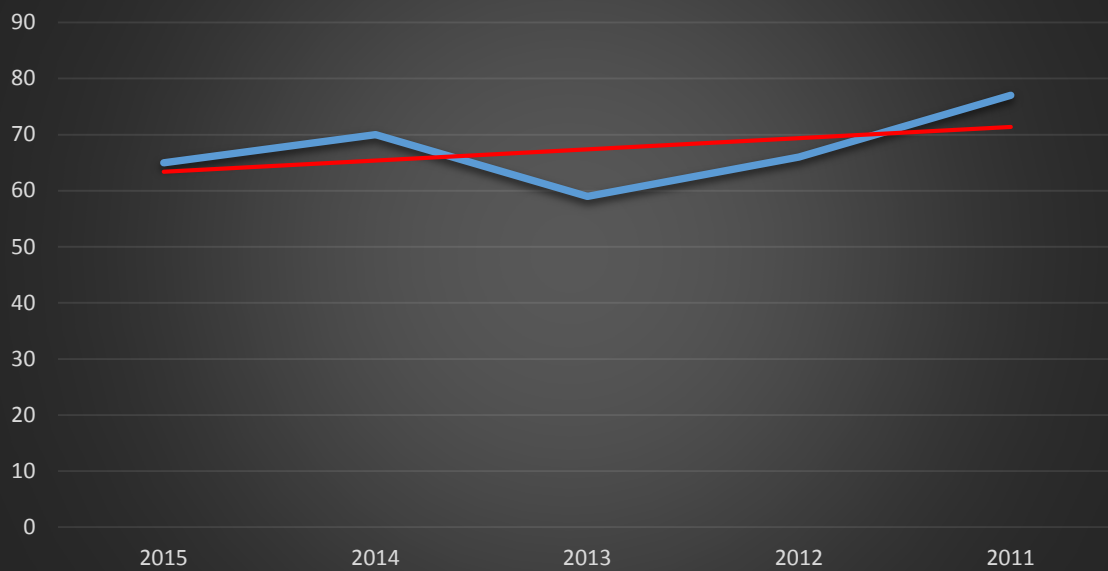


**12 minutes 32 seconds**

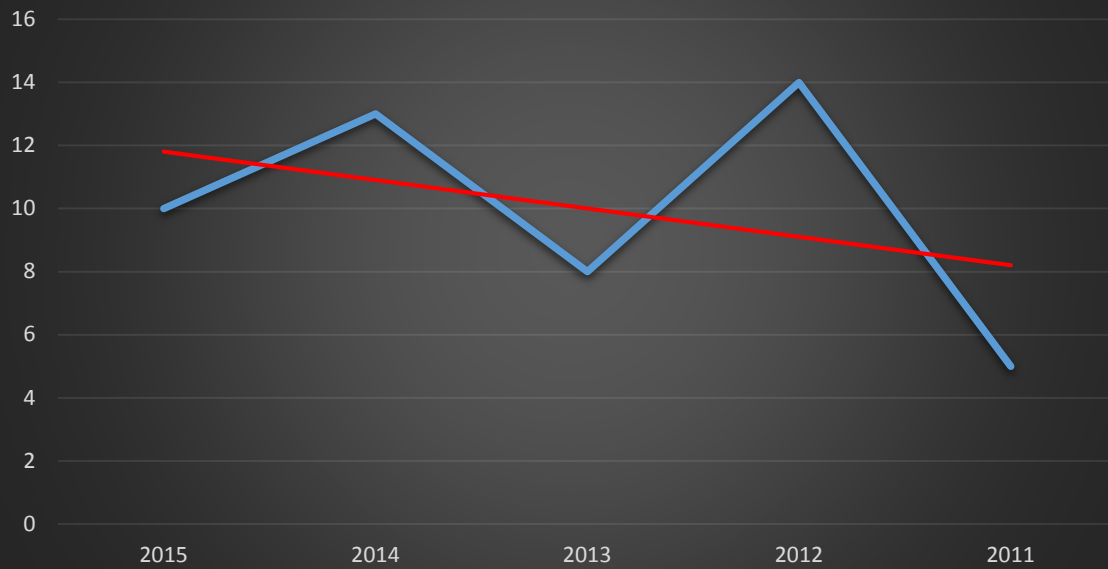
### Structure Fires



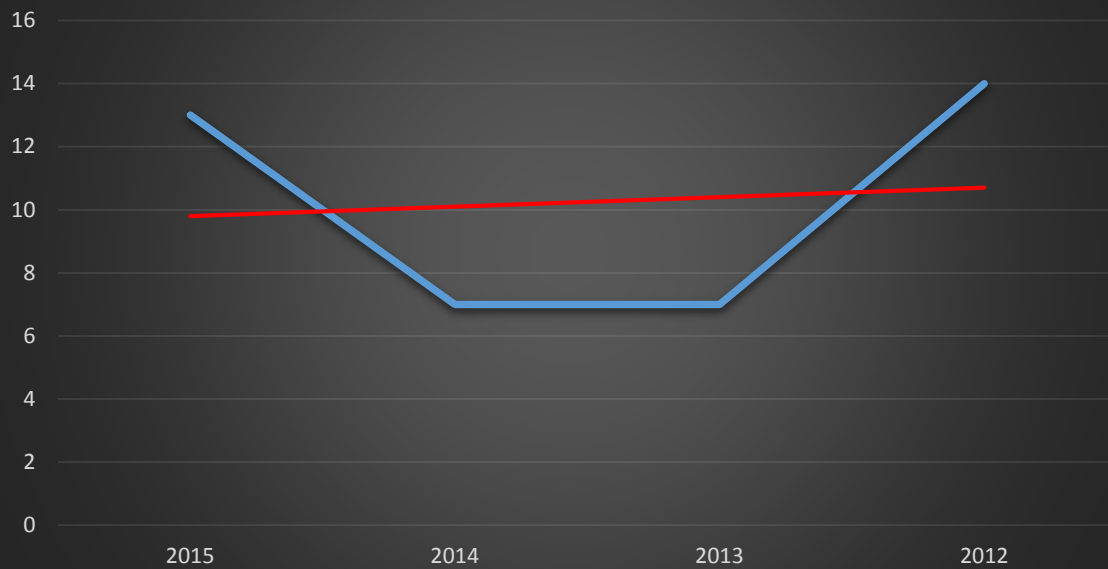
### Fire Alarm Bells



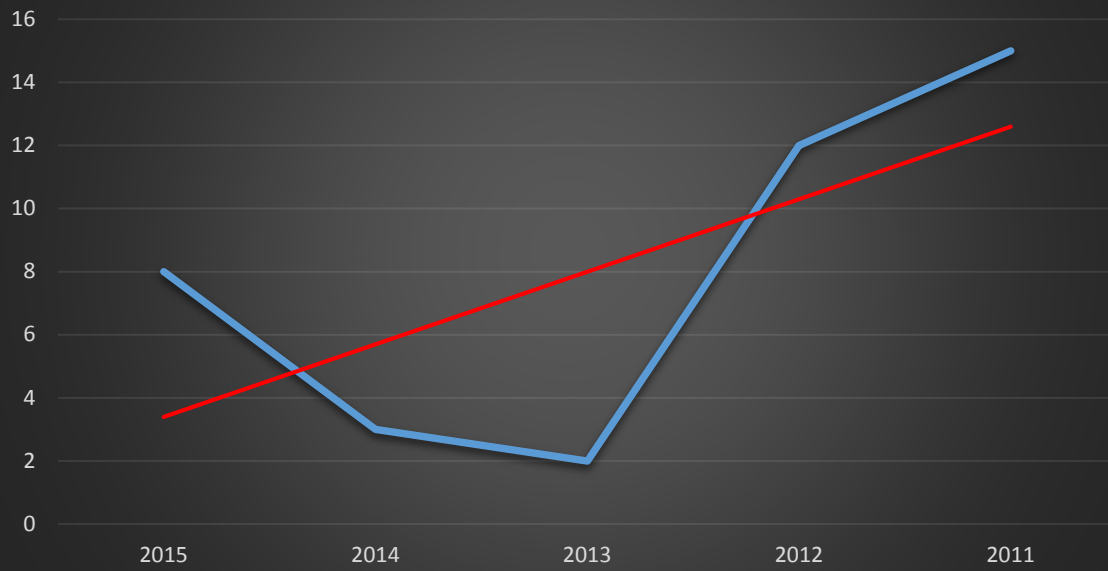
### Brush and Grass Fires



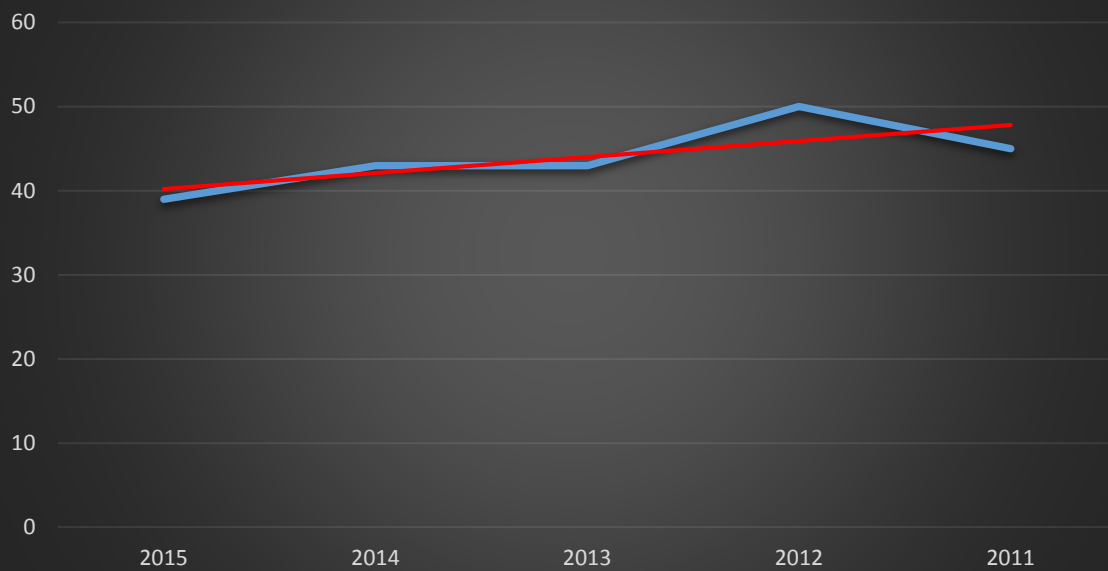
### Chimney Fires



### Vehicle / Boat / Appliance Fire



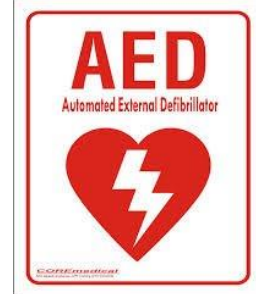
### Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI)



## Significant Incidents

In January 2015 SSIFR First Responders successfully revived a young male patient who was in cardiac arrest. With the help of bystanders, Rainbow Road pool staff, paramedics and First Responders the gentleman is living life today.

Also in June 2015 SSIFR First responders who were first on scene successfully resuscitated a female patient by providing CPR and defibrillation. Once again the successful outcome was thanks to a trained bystander, and early first responder medical care.



Successful CPR calls are rare, but SSIFR First Responders had two (2) this year. Training, quick response, public education, and AED's are crucial for good patient outcome. SSIFR firefighters responded to 229 first responder calls in 2015 providing pre hospital care to hundreds.

March 2015 SSIFR crews were called to a large Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) incident at the Harbour House Hotel. The building was evacuated, and the situation contained. The hazmat incident was a result of mixing non compatible household cleaners creating a chemical reaction that was a health concern.

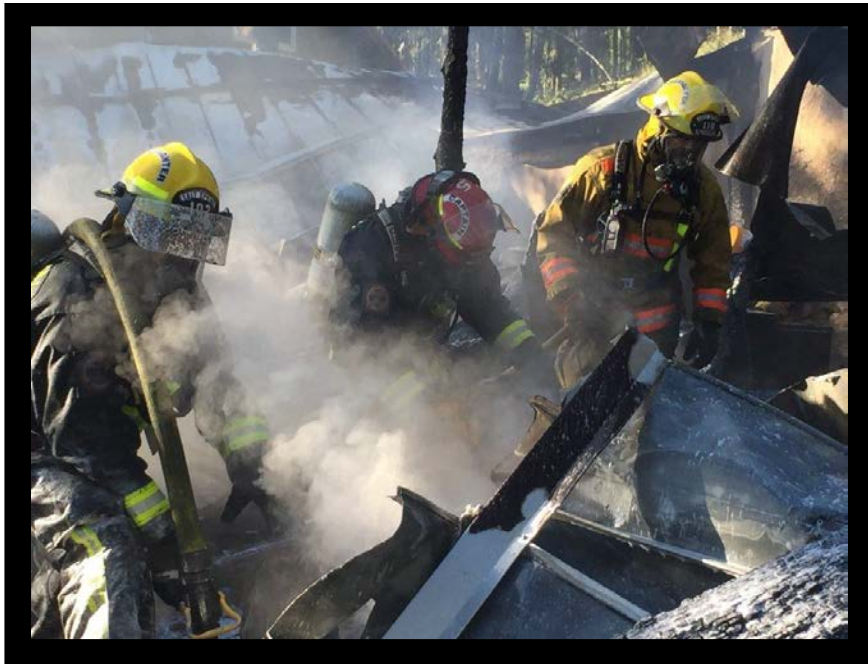
### Downtown Commercial Kitchen Fire (2015)



June 8 SSIFR crews responded to a Structure Fire. An aggressive transitional attack of both exterior and interior was performed. The fast attack resulted in minimal damage.



June 12 SSIFR Firefighters responded to a late night structure fire. The Firefighters battled a large building fire and brush fire in a rural area. A Tender shuttle operation was set up for the event.



Also in June SSIFR Firefighters battled an afternoon brush / grass fire on Suffolk Road. The fire was quickly extinguished but due to the extreme weather spread very rapidly.



Salt Spring Island was faced with an unusually dry hot summer. We had a few close calls, but SSIFR crews were able to suppress them quickly. The island wide drought conditions and the extreme fire hazard was a recipe for a local disaster. Our island and visitors were very vigilant in monitoring the woods and respecting the fire bans.

### **Walker Group and Firewise Consulting Report's 2015**






























In January 2015 the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District received two fire service reviews. The Walker Resource Group (WRG) provided a 42-page document reviewing the Fire Service and governance of the district. The Walker Report noted twenty (20) recommendations in their report. The complete fire service review can be viewed at [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)

The second report was from Firewise Consulting whose review was more operational.



In the Firewise report they documented thirty-six (36) recommendations for improvement with governance and operations. Below is a progress matrix of the recommendations Firewise noted for

Fire Department Operations.

	50	Recommendation 6.0.1 mapping
	100	Recommendation 9.3.1 LAFC training
	100	Recommendation 9.3.2 OG revision for LAFC
	100	Recommendation 9.5.2.1 OG revision for Inspections
	100	Recommendation 11.0.1 OG revision for pre incident planning
	50	Recommendation 11.0.2 pre plans in standard format
	100	Recommendation 14.0.1 for STSS priority for 2016 (Operational Strategic Goal)
	75	Recommendation 14.0.2 dry hydrant and water source strategic planning
	100	Recommendation 18.0.1 Social Media Policy and OG
	50	Recommendation A8 policy statement for training levels
	90	Recommendation A9 district boundary defined and marked
	25	Recommendation A53 OG for offshore response withing SSIFPD
	25	Recommendation A59 OG for 10 minute timer
	75	Recommendation A63 OG for Offensive/Defensive Fire attack
	100	Recommendation A65 OG for contact with biohazards
	90	Recommendation A68 OG revision for 2.27.02 and 2.27.00 for decon procedures
	100	Recommendation A80 OG for confined space rescue
	100	Recommendation A104 OG for out of district response
	50	Recommendation A107 OG for high angle rescue
	100	Recommendation B4 OG revision for OG 2.44.5
	100	Recommendation B7 Minutes for OH&S to be submitted to Board
	100	Recommendation B15 BCERMS be adopted in OG for Incident Command
	100	Recommendation B24 Accident reporting process to Board
	100	Recommendation B26 Accident Reporting process OG development
	100	Recommendation B30 Operational Guidelines posted on web page for member access
	100	Recommendation B39 Fall Protection OG
	100	Recommendation B41 OG Revision for OH&S minutes
	100	Recommendation B47 Verify the cascade system is DOT certified
	100	Recommendation B59 OG for Vehciles extraction system



# 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 2015 firefighters put in a total of 5,298 Tuesday night drill hours

In 2015 SSIFR firefighters dedicated another 3,532 hours of weekend training and courses. On average our members commit to over 200 Hours per year training.

NFPA 1001 FF2 Certified (26)

The recruit class of 2015 (5) is only a few modules away from completing the NFPA 1001 FF 2 certification.

NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Level 1 Certified (12)

Our Fire Hall #2 Training ground has proven to be one of the most critical components to our training program. We utilize the training centre on a regular basis for all our members. The simulation building has expanded our training capabilities and allowed us to train in realistic scenarios.



Overview of the Training Plan for SSIFR Firefighters.

<b>Year Zero to Year Two - Probation / NFPA 1001 Certification</b>		
<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Prerequisites</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Target Solutions		6
JIBC Modules 1-7		16
ICS 100		8
Module 10 - First Responder III Certification		40
Emergency Scene Traffic Control		8
Module 9a – Haz-Mat Awareness		8
Mod 8a Live Fire Level 1	Mods 1-6	16
Pleasure Craft Operators Certificate		4
Module 9b – Haz-Mat Operations	Haz-Mat Awareness	32
Module 8b - Live Fire 2	Live Fire I	16
Air Brakes	Class 5 DL	20

<b>YEAR THREE to YEAR FOUR – Fire Fighter / Driver</b>		
<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Prerequisites</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Target Solutions		6
Confined Space Awareness		8
Hazard Avoidance Training (Code 1 Driving)	Air Brakes	16
Pumps & Pumping		20
Safe Operation of Fire Apparatus (SOFA) or EVD	Hazard Avoidance	8
Code 3 Driver	Code 1, Pumps, EVD	1
Class 3 (Tandem Axles)	Code 3 Driver	1
Marine Firefighting		16
S-100/215 Wildland Fire Suppression & Safety		32
NFPA 1001 Evaluator	NFPA 1001	16
FR III Re-certification	FR III	16

**YEAR FIVE to YEAR SIX – Acting Officer / Special Ops**

<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Prerequisites</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Target Solutions		6
Commercial Vehicle Rescue		16
Fire Service Instructor I		24
NFPA 1002 EVO	Code 3 Driver	40
ICS 200	ICS 100	16
Rapid Intervention Team		16

**YEAR SEVEN to YEAR NINE – NFPA 1021 Certification Fire Officer I**

<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Prerequisites</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Target Solutions		9
EVD Instructor	NFPA 1002	16
Incident Safety Officer		16
ICS 300	ICS 200	16
Fire Officer I	NFPA 1001	96
FR III Re-certification	FR III	16

**YEAR TEN to RETIREMENT – Officer Maintenance / Leadership**

<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Prerequisites</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Target Solutions		9
Leadership Training		8
Train the Trainer (SLICERS, ESTC, S100, etc.)	FSI I	8
Live Fire III	Live Fire II	16
Emergency Scene Management Level II	ICS 300	48

## Training in Paradise (TIP2016)

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue hosted Training in Paradise which was our 12<sup>th</sup> year hosting the regional training weekend. We offered nine courses over 7 days with ninety-six firefighters from twenty-five fire departments from all over BC. By providing local training our firefighters got to remain on the island, and train at a reduced cost. We offered the following training:

- Emergency Scene Management 1
- HAZMAT Operations
- Rescuer Basic Skills
- Company Inspections
- Beyond Hoses and Helmets Leadership Training
- Firefighter Survival Course (START)
- Critical Incident Stress Management (100, 101, 102)



# 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 2015

Commercial Fire Inspections **227**

Commercial Re-Inspections **19**

Residential Inspections **23**

Subdivision / Rezoning Review **7**

Fire Safety Plan Reviews **5**

Water Supply Inspection **4**

Driveway Inspections **16**

Total of **301** Inspections conducted in 2015.



During Fire Permit season its a great opportunity to help educate on the safest methods of backyard burning. In 2015 our office issued **1764** fire permits compared to **1950** in 2014.

The SSIFPD Open Burning bylaw began its review process in late 2015 and expected to be official in 2016.

An important component to preventing fires is public education. Our fantastic team of public educators were busy in 2015 with a variety of initiatives. There were more than 65 public education events that involved more than 2,600 people who were directly engaged with firefighters sharing important public safety messages.



Some highlights from our Public Education Initiatives:

- FireSmart Program
- Emergency Evacuation training
- Fire Extinguisher Training (100+)
- Smoke Alarm program (52 Alarms)
- Fire and Life Safety for Young Families program
- Fall and Fire Prevention for Seniors (125)
- CPR/AED and First Aid training (236 Students)
- Child and Infant Car-Seat Safety program (50)
- Kitchen safety training (61)
- Prevention Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) Program (120)
- School and Preschool programs (850)
- Halloween Fireworks safety workshop (228)
- Fire Prevention Week Open House (100+)



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.

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 Halls

Fire Halls One, Two and Three had vehicle exhaust systems installed in the truck bays this year. The systems will help reduce harmful diesel exhaust exposure for our firefighters. The systems installed were used units from the View Royal Fire Department and have been a great addition to our fire halls and to our firefighter's safety.

## Apparatus

An estimated 2700+ Airbrake Pre Trips were conducted in 2015 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.