

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

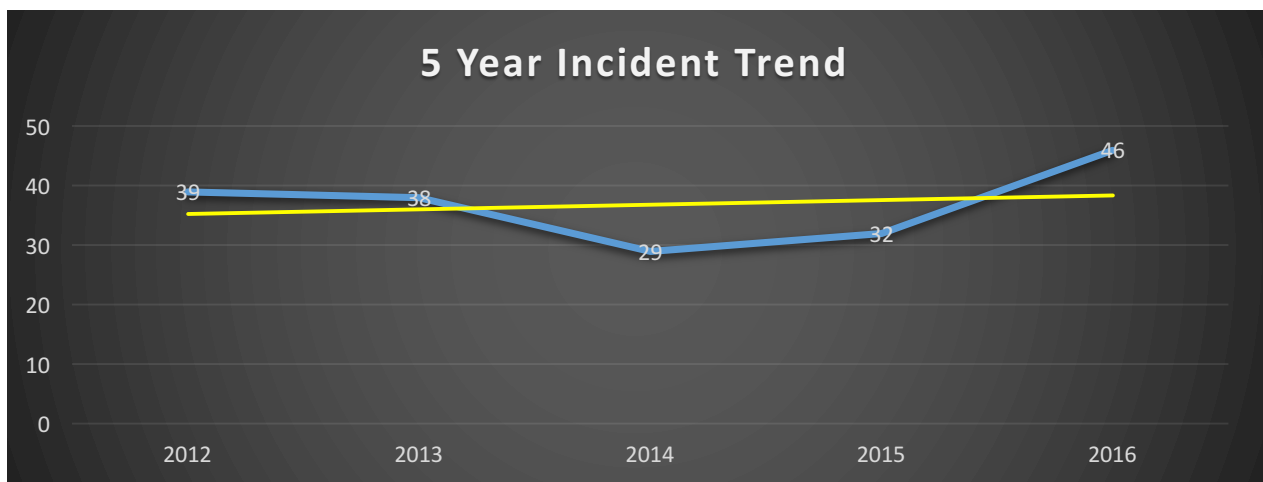
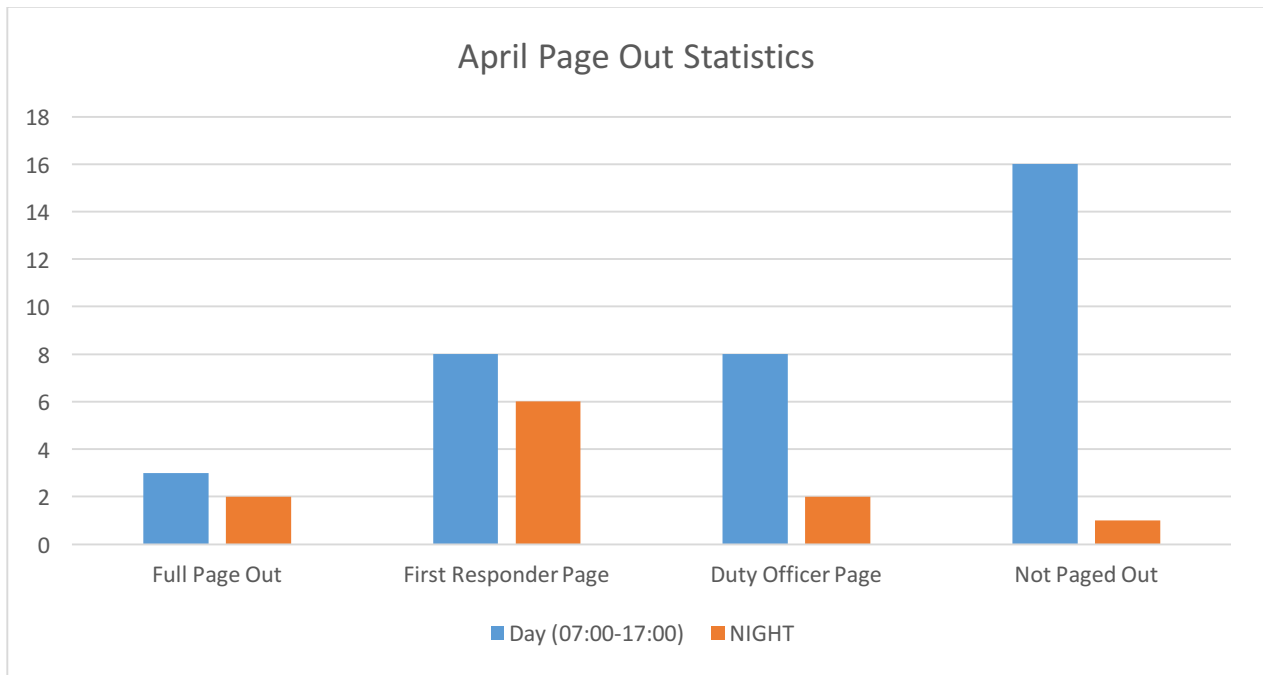
Fire Chief's Report

April 2016

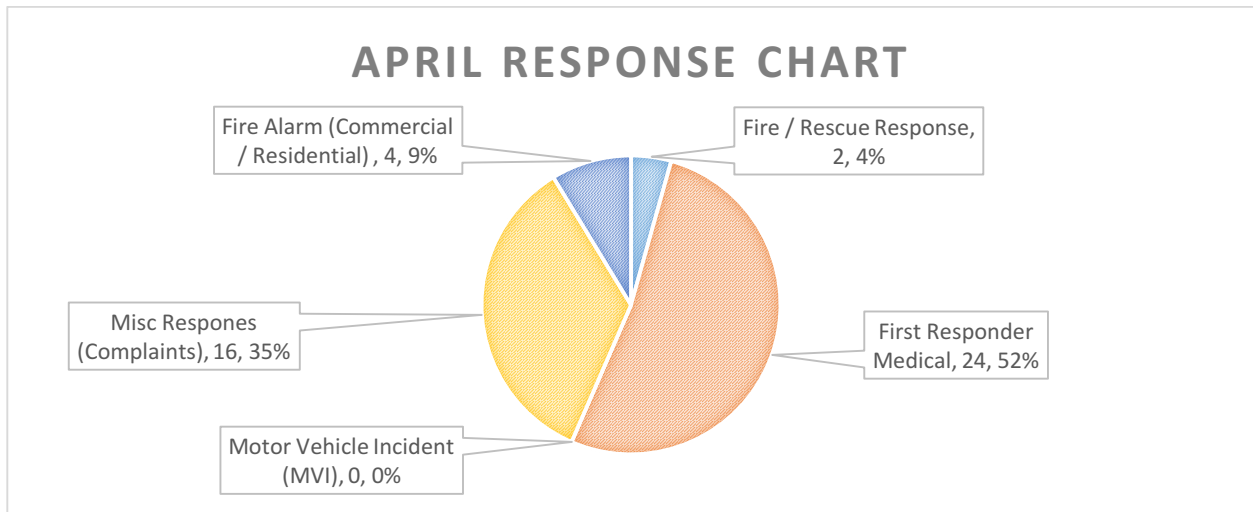


Response Report

SSIFR firefighters responded to **46 incidents in April**. At month end (April 2016) SSIFR had responded to **170** incidents. By April 30th of 2015 our total year to date incidents were recorded at only 148. An increase of **14%** from last April (2015). A large portion of the call volume was due to burning complaints and smoke sightings.



APRIL RESPONSE CHART



Fire Calls in detail

BURN INQUIRY	BURN COMPLAINT		MACHINE PILE COMPLAINT		CHIMNEY	SMOKE/CO ALARM	COMMERCIAL ALARM BELLS	
	LEGAL	ILLEGAL	LEGAL	ILLEGAL			WITH CAUSE	FALSE ALARM
1	2	4	3	6	1	2	1	2

First Responder Calls in detail

MEDICAL	TRAUMA		RESPIRATORY	CARDIAC		ASSIST BCAS
	MAJOR	MINOR		WITH CPR	NO CPR	
7	3	1	4	4	4	1

Salt Spring Island First Responders responded to eight (8) Cardiac Arrests in April alone. This is a staggering number for one month (averaging two a week). SSIFR First Responders were able to successfully resuscitate a young male on April 23rd 2016. These calls take a toll on First Responders and I would like to recognize and thank each of our members for their extreme dedication to public safety. To date SSIFR has responded to eleven (11) Cardiac Arrests. This volume of cardiac incidents is unprecedented.

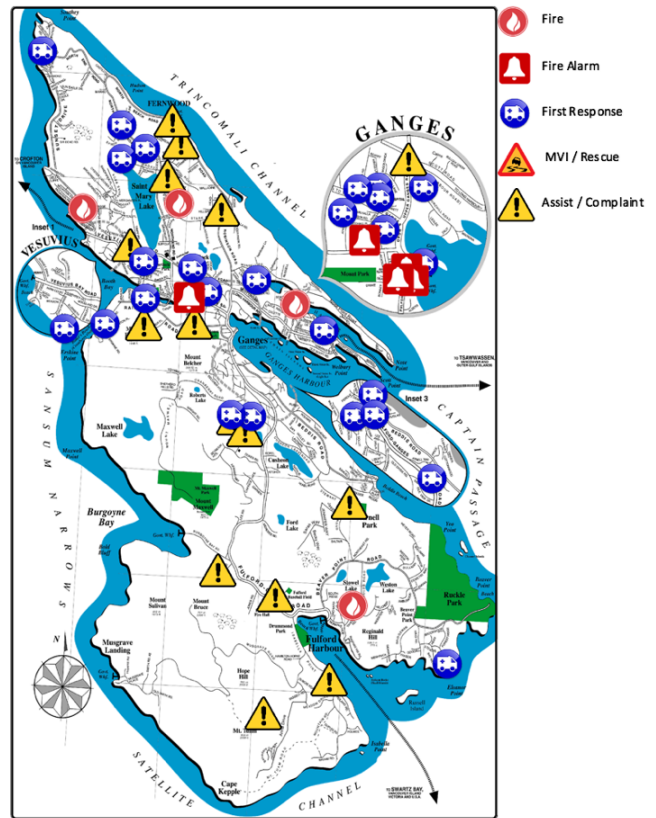
Operations Update

The new updated call map includes a new icon for Fire Alarms.



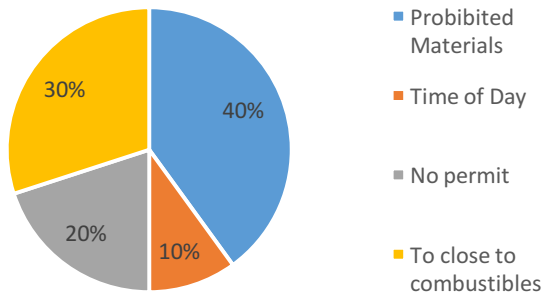
This icon will represent a commercial or a residential fire alarm / carbon monoxide activation. Fire Alarms can be activated intentionally or accidentally. SSIFR responds to all alarms as a “fire” until it can be confirmed a false alarm.

Salt Spring Island is experiencing above average temperatures and drought-like conditions very early. As of May 1st 2016 our Region had hit a high fire hazard level. In April, Salt Spring Island only received 13mm of rainfall.

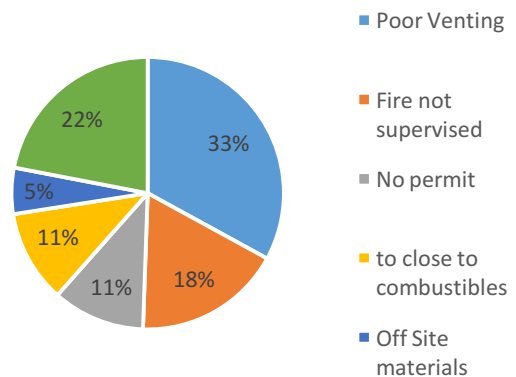


Burning complaint statistics (Info collected YTD 2016) Twenty-Nine Burning Complaints were recorded since January.

Backyard Burning



Machine Piles

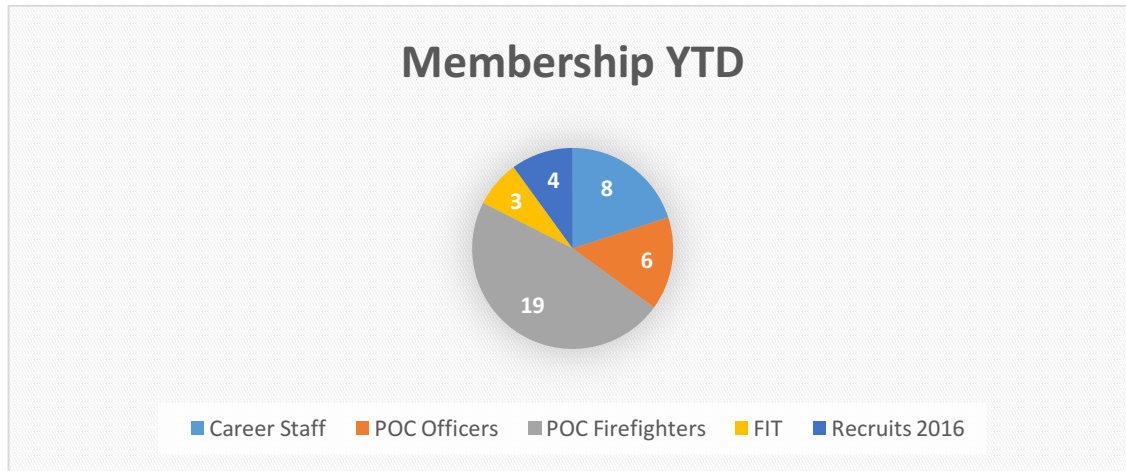


Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) reporting update

It was identified at the 2016 AGM that the Fire Departments OFC Fire Report's were not available. I have investigated the reasoning and found that there was a technical glitch in the uploading of the Fire Reports since 2012. I have a plan in place to complete 2016 OFC Fire Reports, then process back year by year to 2012. The OFC commented that they are again changing the system this year which could bring further requirements and changes to reporting.

Fire Hall #1 Furnace oil tank had to be replaced due to a leak in the storage tank. It was immediately replaced with a double wall oil tank. This tank is used to heat Fire Hall #1.

Membership



Our current membership as of March 2016 is 40 members. We have two members on a leave of absence (LOA). Both LOA's are for personal leaves, one three months, and one for six months. We hope to see both of them back soon. Firefighter Michael Surman retired from SSIFR after serving our community since 2012. Michael served a total of nine years between Ground Search and Rescue, Marine Search and Rescue and Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue. On behalf of SSIFR I would like to thank FF Michael Surman for his service and we wish him all the best.



We have also been approved for a Summer Student supported by the BC government once again. A posting for this position will be available in May.

In April the new Fill in shift program was revised. We had eight (8) Paid on Call Firefighters work the shifts, allowing them great hands on experience.

Training Division

Our annual Fire Training weekend "Training in Paradise" (TIP) is now open for registration. This year we have altered the structure of the weekend allowing other training providers to instruct at the weekend. This new change should provide for more diverse training opportunities. The following courses are being offered this year at TIP: *HAZMAT Operations Level, Basic Rescuer, Technical Confined Space Rescue Level 1 Operations, Marina Firefighting, Critical Incident Stress Management, Fire Service*

Instructor I, Incident Safety Officer, Situational Awareness, Canadian Red Cross First Responder Instructor Transfer, Digital Command and Control, and Emergency Services Drone Pilot Course.

Three more POC Firefighters finished their last training requirement for Code 3 (Lights and Sirens) qualifications in Victoria.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue belongs to the CRD Hazardous Materials Team based out of Victoria. In April we had one member complete the required re-certification for HAZMAT Technician level. By being on the CRD HAZMAT team we receive certified training from CRD and are capable of managing small events locally on the island.

Inspection and Public Education Division

With the heightened threat of wildfires across Canada, Salt Spring Island Fire has been very active in providing education on FireSmart and wildfire preparation. Our focus has been on fuel mitigation and reduction for homeowners. Right now one of the most hazardous invasive plants; Broom are in full bloom. This high fire risk plant is best to eradicate while it is in bloom by cutting it just beneath the soil.



In April SSIFR firefighters spent two days working with our partners BC Ambulance, RCMP, and Lady Minto Hospital staff at the annual Prevent Alcohol and Risk related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y) program. This crucial education targeted our High School students on the risks of dangerous driving.



In April twenty-seven (27) Fire Inspections were conducted and seven (7) driveway inspections. No re-inspections were required for April.

Upcoming Events

- May Long Weekend Fundraiser. This year we are raising money and awareness for Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) for Emergency Responders. Firefighters will be out fundraising all day Saturday May 21st

Respectfully Submitted



Arjuna George, Acting Fire Chief

www.saltspringfire.com