

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

## Fire Chiefs Report

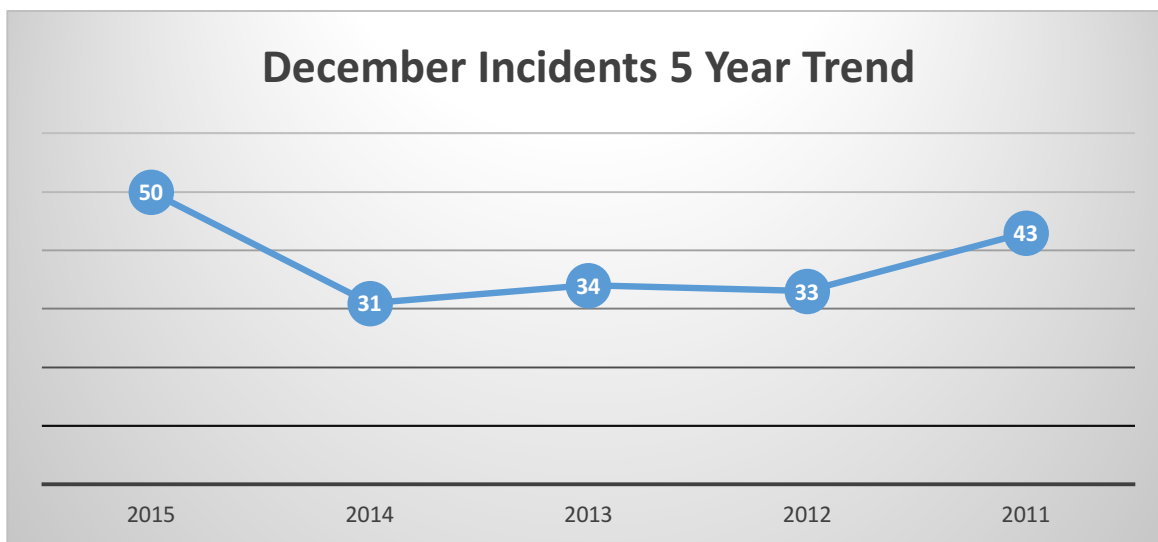
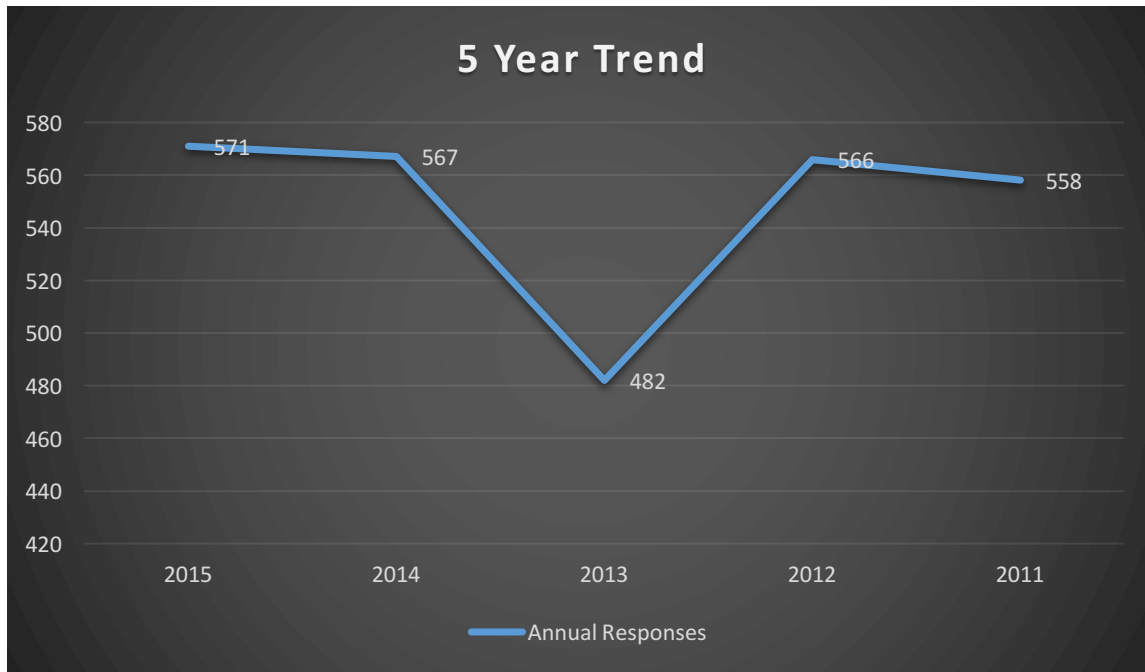
### December 2015

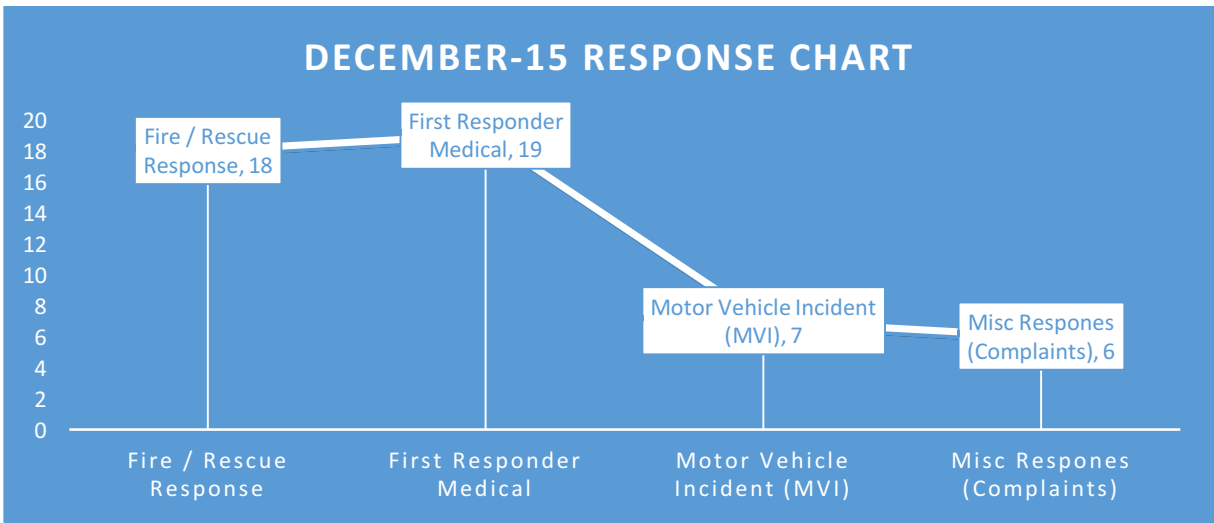


#### Response Report

December was our 4<sup>th</sup> busiest month of 2015 with 50 calls. Salt Spring Island Fire Fighters responded to a total of **571** calls for assistance in 2015. This past year was the busiest year SSIFR has had in the past five years.

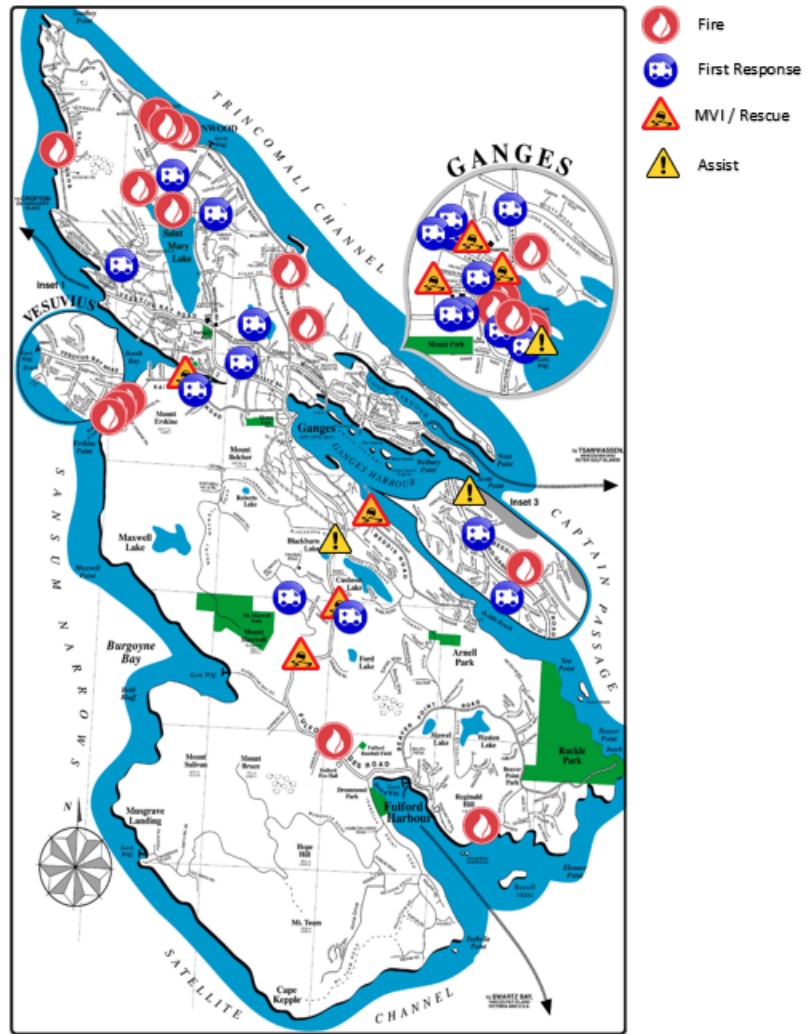
#### Year End Stats (2015)





Miscellaneous (6 Calls for assistance). 2 burning complaints, 1 Public Assist for Smoke Alarm, 1 RCMP assist, and 2 Public assists for flooding

### December 2015 Response Map



## December Incident Highlights

December was a very busy month for the Firefighters with above average motor vehicle incidents (MVI's). MVI's accounted for 14% of our month's responses.

Over Christmas Day and Boxing Day our dedicated responders attended 3 incidents and our last call of the year came in at 21:00 New Year's eve. As acting Fire Chief I would like to thank our dedicated team of firefighters who respond 24/7 day or night.



On Dec 1<sup>st</sup> SSIFR crews responded to Sunset Drive for a Structure fire at 14:00. Two occupants were in the house but escaped unharmed. Ten Firefighters responded and extinguished a room and contents fire extremely quick with minimal damage. As part of the customer service Emergency Social Services (ESS) was called to respond and care for the two occupants. Early detection and activating the 911 system by the owners proved to save the structure from excessive damage.

## Operations Update

December Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue played a key role in the community event Chilli Cook Off and Ganges Christmas Light up. The extreme weather forced the great community event to find an alternative location and SSIFR opened up our doors to host the event. It was very well attended and was a great success.

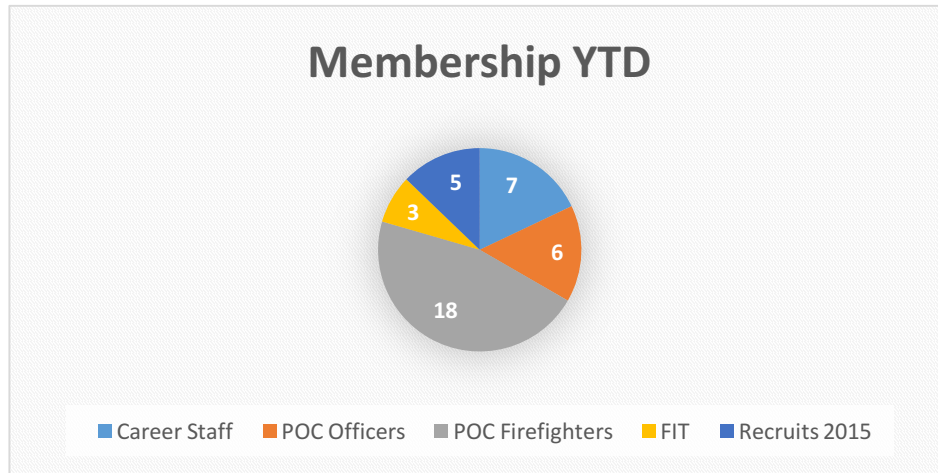


SSIFR Hosted an all emergency agency Christmas meet up to encourage and foster good emergency services communications and to strengthen our partnerships for community safety.

Our annual Food Bank Drive was another great success thanks to the many community members who generously donated a fire truck full of food.



### Membership.



In December our Recruit Class of 2016 was confirmed and the process was finalized. We welcome recruit Firefighters Patrick Byrne, Shawn Stevens, David Manz, and Gord Fraser to the Class of 2016.

### Training Division

December was a quiet month with only two drills. Our December focus was on reviewing our current training program and brainstorming on topics for 2016.

On Dec 11-12-13 we hosted a Pumps and Pumping course instructed by the Justice Institute of BC in conjunction with Asst Fire Chief Jamie Holmes. Ten junior Firefighters partook in the 3 day class and are now one step closer to becoming Code 3 Driver operators. Currently we only have five paid on call Firefighters qualified for Code 3 response. (*Code 3 = Lights and Sirens Emergency driving*).



### **Public Education and Fire Inspections**

In December our Fire Prevention team conducted 23 Fire and Life Safety Inspections. We also on request inspected 21 Private residents. Only one re inspection was required for code compliance.

We were approached by a neighbourhood group who is interested in installing a dry hydrant for their area (large pond). We have inspected the property once and it may be a good location operationally.

In December we taught life saving CPR and AED use to 23 Gulf Island Secondary School students as part of their Real 9 career preparation class.

Also within our schools we taught kitchen safety, first aid, CPR/AED, and fire extinguisher use to 19 Gulf Island School students enrolled in the Cafeteria programme.

Our Public Education team also met with a group of new parents to teach them life safety skills and first aid for their babies. Such topics as chocking, poisoning, burns, and proper car seat installation was discussed.

### **Upcoming Events**

Preparation is underway for our Fire Departments first re-certification for the Fire Underwriters Superior Tender Shuttle Service accreditation (STSS). This massive undertaking has proven to be a substantial costs savings to our island in unprotected hydrant areas. If you are unfamiliar with the STSS accreditation, please contact the office or ask your insurance agent.

On behalf of the SSIFR firefighters I welcome the new Fire Trustees Andy Hildebrand, Michael Craig and Howard Baker to the District and we look forward working with each of you in 2016.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arjuna George', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Arjuna George

Acting Fire Chief



-  Fire
-  First Response
-  MVI / Rescue
-  Assist