



Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue 2012 Fire Chief's Year End Report



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April 15th, 2013

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

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) Trustees support the SSIFR in a consistent manner, for which the SSIFR is very appreciative. The focus for firefighters is based on the SSIFR Mission, Vision, and Value Statements, which includes reflections using the “Pyramid of Success” and other motivational and modern cultural improvement concepts that deal with internal and external challenges we face.

The vision and discussion to better utilize all three stations continued to enhance during 2012. Hall #1 experienced a refit in one area to create an office space for the Trustees, while also creating more storage space. Hall #2 had a number of cleanups, repairs and utilization components upgraded including the additions to the Training Ground. Hall #3 had no changes in 2012. All locations received interior energy saving light upgrades as well as exterior grounds improvements. As for staff deployment, Hall #1 is being utilized daily as our main headquarters, while Hall #2 is open on Tuesdays (April to October) with one staff member positioned there when available, and Hall #3 is hosting staff member(s) five days a week from our Inspection & Prevention Division.

The SSIFR in 2012 continued to process a number of enhancements and advancements, lead by Chief Tom Bremner and Deputy Chief Arjuna George who have the responsibility of operational management and day to day administration.

Calls for Assistance in 2012 reached 566 compared to 558 in 2011. The reasons for comparable numbers can be attributed to enhanced Public Education, Fire Prevention, Media Relations and Public Awareness towards safety. Out of 566 calls 342 were responded to by duty staff.

The SSIFR aimed outcome to internally strengthening is by means of the membership itself in the ways of teamwork, leadership, consistency and support. This is based on witnessing enhanced positive benefits within the short, mid and long term timeframes as noted early in this report using proven and modern methods to support our requirements and changes. The “Pyramid of Success” is currently being utilized as a reflection tool.

It was another busy year on the Training front for SSIFR. Our members put in a combined 6205 hours of drills and practises on Tuesday nights over the year, with an additional 4150 hours of weekend courses. Topics covered ranged from basic Personal Protective Equipment right through to Fire Officer Certification. With the addition of Mini Pumper #103 to the fleet, Compressed Air Foam System training was once again an important technology for our members keep abreast on. This training was used very successfully in a number of structure fires this past year. Three of our members obtained their NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II certificate, an accomplishment which is no small feat, taking multiple years to complete. This brings the total NFPA 1001 certified member in the department up to 16

The other big training event for SSIFR every year is our Annual Training Weekend. 2012 was another huge success seeing 125 firefighters from 29 departments attending with many bringing their family members with them to spend the weekend 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. SSIFR would like to thank all the people and business of Salt Spring who help make this weekend such a success year after year.

In terms of financial accountability, the management continually works to maintain within the annual budgeted total. Training opportunities as well as advancements for members produced a strong move forward in the areas of Officers Management, Front Line Live Training Suppression, Incident Command, Communications, and Teamwork that enhanced within physical and psychological values.

Several purchases contributed towards supporting the Firefighters in addressing emergencies and Firefighter safety. Such items as Hall #2 Training Facility, training props, upgraded equipment, equipment repairs, pagers, portable radios, protective clothing, and on-going upgrades to our communication systems as well as an enhanced Paid On-call (Volunteer) Firefighter's benefit package.

The Hall #2 Training Ground facility is a huge asset to our firefighters and our community in means of real simulation training and being located locally. In years to come this facility will prove to be even more valuable and a positive addition to our service. Safety and Human Resources is, and always will be the number one priorities for management and our members. Continual educational sessions and discussions were conducted to promote, inform and instil the need to address safety, no matter what the situation.

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 risks and understanding risks is critical to prevention. Our 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 progress very well in 2012. A total of 280 Commercial inspections were conducted in 2012 with another 13 Re-Inspections. As well, numerous community projects and training / prevention programs were provided to residents in a number of different methods. With assistances coming from our partnerships, Paid On-call members and the community participation, this Division has made huge advancements within 2012. We regularly enhanced our electronic technology within this Division to better address "in the field" capabilities relating to Inspections.

Staff members endlessly process inquiries and concerns on a daily basis from both residents and visitors. In response to the variety of community safety inquiries, our members take great pride in working with the public on conducting educational awareness and providing public safety.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Prevention Division 2012 Yearly Totals

280- Commercial Inspections

13 - Re- Inspections

75 - Category 3 Burn Pile Inspections

21 - Sub Division/Plan Reviews

23 - Smoke Alarm Installations

5 -Fire Safety Plan Reviews

41 - Fire Alarm Systems Checked

7 -Car Seat Installations

12 -Fire Drills Conducted

8 -Driveway Inspections

3 -Water Storage Tank Inspections

3- Lock Box Installations

1 -Special Events Permits

2 -Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention

NOTE: Over 1600 persons were positively affected by direct contact through Public Education and Fire Prevention sessions in 2012.

Iris Beck continues to be our refreshing personality for all the visitors and inquiries. 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 interior daily needs. Social networking for our organization has progressed continually in 2012 in modernizing our communications internally and externally. Our team of communications experts have created multiple ways and systems to keep people & members informed, educated and a chance to voice their thoughts and create dialogue. We encourage you to visit or follow us on our website: www.saltspringfire.com, Facebook, & Twitter.

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 progress within our service and Island there must be open, respectful communications with a mutual understanding of the necessity to partner and resolve challenges together.

The vision and reality must be a new Emergency Centre or Fire Hall for Ganges, which would be a positive step in addressing long standing challenges. This means for any future new Building, the vision must be 50 years of future growth, ample parking, storage and operational space. 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. For more info go to www.firehallinfo.com or www.ournewfirehall.com We must be realistic to the Island's needs, firefighter safety, changes and future by providing a Sustainable, Affordable, Functional and Effective main head quarters, and the required working items within. This in turn, will provide safety to the public and for the members responding to calls for assistance.

In 2013 the SSIFR will continue to advance by managing and addressing the operational requirements in support of firefighter safety, the SSIFPD 10 Year Strategic Plan, community needs, policies and mandates, while remaining responsible, accountable and effective within the elements that make up the SSIFR operations via the Fire Trustees governances. 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 community folks that do not want to be front line firefighters. In 2012 we took on 14 new recruits and we maintained 13 of those recruits to this day, which is an enormous accomplishment. Recruitment has continued to enhance over the past number of years and we look forward to that tern continuing by means of positive community participation and word of mouth.

A tremendous “Thank you” goes out to the members of the SSIFR who provide an incredible level of service in protecting this Island and its residents. The many hours of training, responses and community participation is not generally understood or entirely comprehensible 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.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Chief Tom Bremner
 Deputy Chief Arjuna George

2012 CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Type of Call													
Alarm	3	2	4	5	6	4	3	9	11	11	7	1	66
Appliance	1			2	1					2			6
Bush/Grass Fire		1			2	1	1	4	2	3			14
Chimney Fire	4	4	3		1					1		1	14
Complaints	4	2	5	3	5	12	14	18	31	3	2	5	104
First Responder	18	13	11	19	30	16	22	17	16	21	16	15	214
Hazmat	2		2		2	4	2	3	1			1	17
Hydro	1	1	9			1				1	6	1	20
Interface													0
Miscellaneous	3					2					2		7
MVA	5	2	3	5	5	7	4	3	3	6	4	3	50
Person													0
Police Assist		1		3		1			1		2		8
Public Assist	3	1	1	1	1	4	3	4	1	1	1	4	25
Rescue		1		1					2	1			5
Structure Fire		1	3			1	1		1	1	2		10
Vehicle / Boat					1				1		2	2	6
Total	44	29	41	39	54	53	50	58	70	51	44	33	566