

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

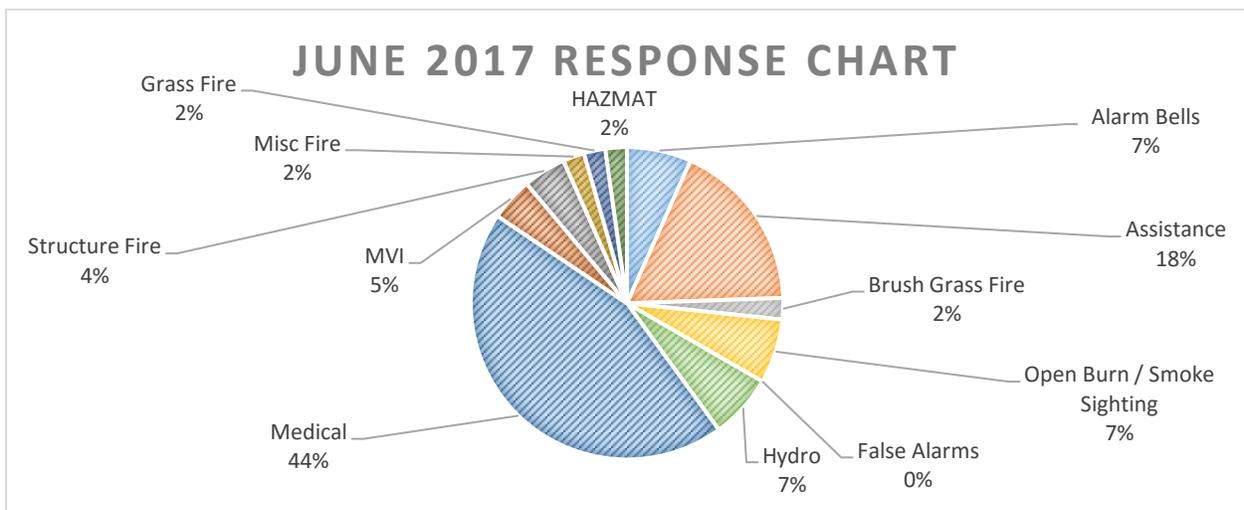
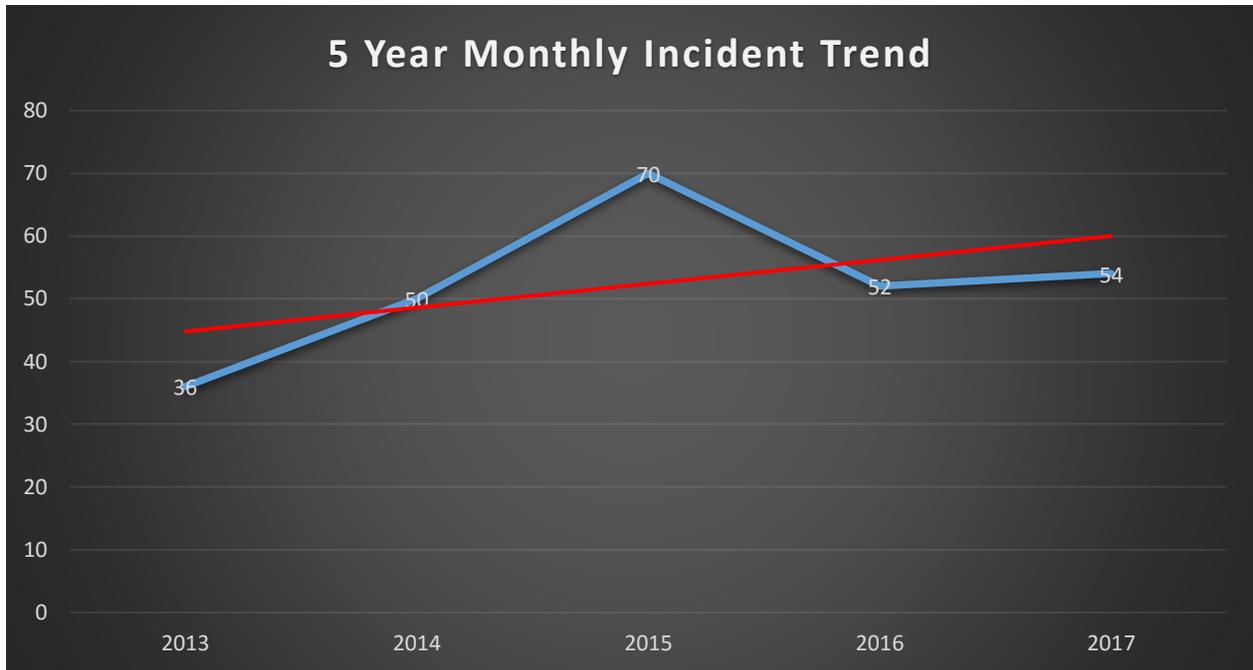
## Fire Chief's Report

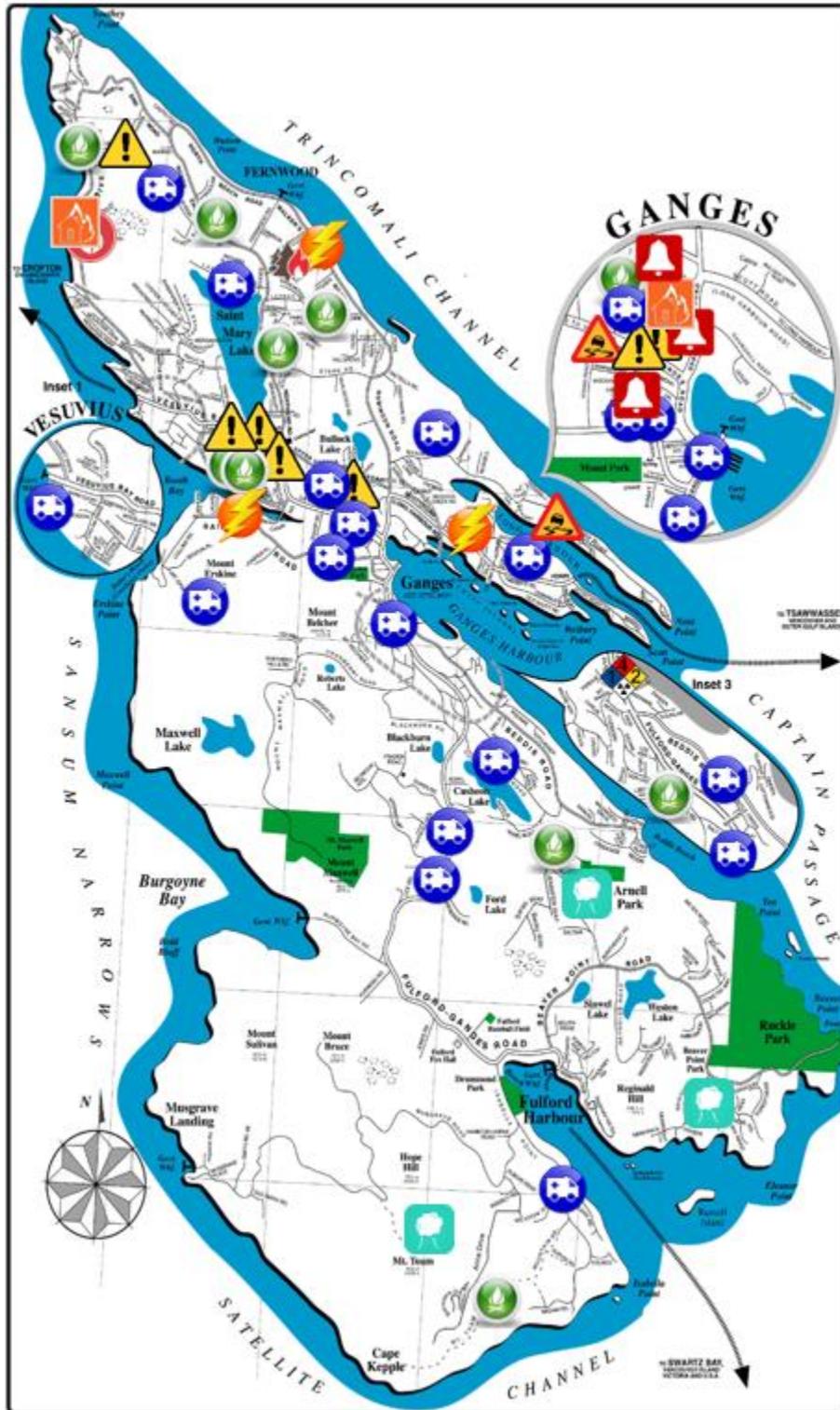
June 2017



### Response Report

SSIFR responded to 54 Incidents in the month of June. On average SSIFR responds to 52.4 Calls every June. As of June 2017 SSIFR has responded to 338 incidents already this year.





Incident Legend

<b>Aircraft</b>	Aircraft - crash		<b>Hydro</b>	Fire	
<b>Alarm Bells</b> 	CO			Lines Down	1
	Commercial	3		Tree on Lines	2
	Intrusion			<b>Medical</b> 	A/B
Residential		C	1		
BCAS	4	D	19		
<b>Assistance</b> 	Flooding		<b>MVI</b> 	E	
	Public	3		MVI	2
	Misc. Complaint	1	<b>Open Burn</b> 	Campfire	1
	Public Works			General	9
	RCMP			<b>Rescue</b> 	Animal
<b>Smoke smell/sighting</b> 		3	Elevator		
			Rope/High/Confined		
<b>Brush/Grass/Beach</b> 	Bark Mulch		<b>Rubbish</b> 	Search	
	Fire	1		Water/Ice/Drowning	
	Beach			Rubbish/Dumpster	
<b>False Alarm</b> 	CO		<b>Structure Fire</b> 	Commercial	
	Commercial			Comm. Smoke/smell in structure	
	Residential			Residential	1
<b>Fire-Misc.</b> 	Misc. Fire	1		Chimney	
				Mobile home/trailer	
<b>HAZMAT</b> 	Chlorine		<b>Vehicle Fire/Boat</b> 	Res. smoke/smell in structure	1
	Chemical/unknown spill/leak	1		Vehicle	
	Petroleum				
	Spill/Fire				
	Propane				
			<b>Medical – 1<sup>st</sup> ON SCENE</b>	10/20 FR Calls	50%

### Operations Update

June 14<sup>th</sup> Assistant Fire Chief Holmes met with Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) at the Fire Service committee meeting in Victoria. The rollout of the new P25 Radio and pager system appears to be behind schedule and may now be a 2018-19 switch-over. As new information is produced it will be shared with the board.

On behalf of the firefighters and myself I would like to thank retired Trustee Mitch Forest for his work over the past year on the board and working with our membership on a number of items. Thank you.

This month our fleet of commercial vehicles were all inspected as required annually for insurance. All the apparatus successfully passed the commercial vehicle inspection (CVI) Class B Inspection.

## **Incident Highlights**

Salt Spring Island Fire Firefighters responded to a Structure Fire on Sunset Drive June 5<sup>th</sup> 2017. Twenty-Three Firefighters fought the fully involved fire that took over 25,000 gallons of water to extinguish. Special thanks from our partners at BC Ambulance, North Salt Spring Water Works, and BC Hydro for their help through the night. I applaud the effort and long hours put in by our crews that night.



We assisted BC Air Ambulance, and Lady Minto Hospital this past month while they renovated their hospital helipad. SSIFR assisted Air Ambulance with two (2) night landing zone operations at Portlock Park while the hospital pad was out of service.

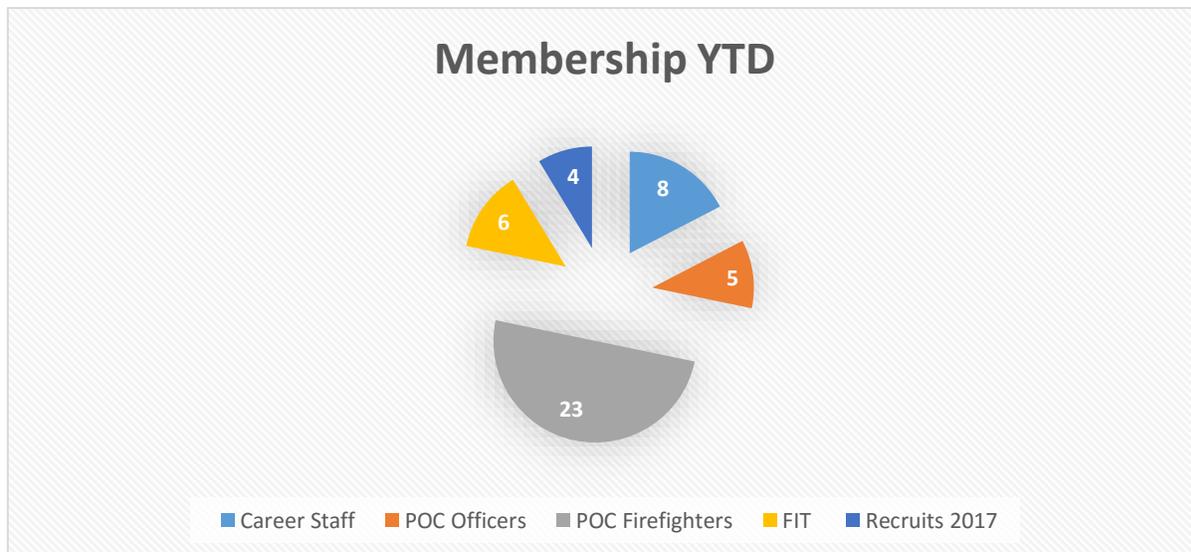
SSIFR crews responded to our first grass/brush fire of the season on Maliview Drive. The fire was quickly contained to a small area of grass and brush. No structural damage or injuries occurred.



On June 12<sup>th</sup> SSIFR firefighters responded to a smoke in structure call on Howell Lane. Upon arrival it was confirmed as an electrical issue but no fire or structural damage.

## **Membership**

In June, we lost one of recruit Firefighters from the Class of 2016, who for medical reasons had to retire. June 24<sup>th</sup> summer student Catelyn Creswick joined us as part of the Federal student work program.



## **Training**

Our recruits are now six months into their recruit training and becoming NFPA 1001 certified firefighters. We also had our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Platoon Challenge in June with all the Platoons competing in fun fire based skill stations. We also included the families to be a part of it and watch their partners in action. Thanks to Trustees Holzapfel, Baker, and Svendsen for also attending and showing support to the membership.

As best practise, we met as a group in June and conducted a post incident analysis on the June 5<sup>th</sup> structure fire. This very valuable exercise allowed all members to see and hear what occurred that evening. The review provides management with direction for training requirements and operations.

I attended the Fire Chiefs of BC Education Summit in Vernon BC. The summit and trade show brought in Two-Hundred Forty-Two (242) Chief Officers from all over BC. As conference education chair, I was responsible for the management of the entire education component of the Summit. (See Staff Report on the FCABC Education Summit 2017)

## **Inspection and Public Education Division**

SSIFR was busy with a number of prevention activities this past month. We met with the CRD Building department on a number of code compliance and occupancy issues. We also worked with the GISS Safe Grad committee to ensure their Safe After Grad met all the safety requirements. As part of addressing the opioid crisis a group of emergency workers, and local health care workers met to discuss ways to address the issues we face on the island.

An initial meeting was held on the installation of a fire sprinkler system at Fulford Elementary School. Once this project is complete, Fernwood, Salt Spring Elementary, Middle School, Secondary School, and Fulford will all be fully sprinkler protected. These upgrades greatly enhance our students and faculty's safety in the event of a school fire. Because fire sprinklers react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire. Properly installed and maintained fire sprinklers help save lives.



Part of our job preventing fires is also investigating fires for cause. Our inhouse Fire Investigator Captain Dale Lundy investigated the structure house fire on Sunset Drive, to determine cause and origin. The fire scene was later turned over to the Insurance company and their investigators. We declared after an extensive investigation the fire was accidental and undetermined.

Three (3) Subdivision plan reviews were conducted in June along with one driveway inspection.

Our summer co-op student Pre Incident Planning program is progressing very well with several high risk, high occupancy buildings already completed. The pre-plans are developed for firefighters to use at an emergency to identify critical components, construction, and layout. Working with the Fire Prevention team our summer student conducted several on site visits to complete the pre-incident plans.

We have launched a new initiative to investigate new potential static water sources on the island for fire suppression. We have identified a few possible locations to consider. Currently SSIFR has already installed three (3) dry hydrants at Stowell, Weston and St Mary Lake's.

We met with a large group of POD members (Part of the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program) this past month discussing how to Fire Smart your property, and how to prepare for wildfire season.

As our island dries out and we sustain High to Extreme fire danger we must stay vigilant this summer. As this report comes out (*July 17 2017*) Salt Spring island is facing a High Fire Danger risk, and a total fire ban. This includes machine piles, backyard burning, and campfires. \*\*\* Propane campfires are allowed as long as they are CSA approved and a maximum flame height of 15cm.\*\*\*



The BC Wildfire Service is fully prepared to respond to any wildfire activity in the Coastal Fire Centre. Although some resources are being deployed to the interior to help fight the large fires there, sufficient firefighters and equipment will remain in the region to maintain a first response capability locally.

Respectfully Submitted

Arjuna George

Fire Chief