

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

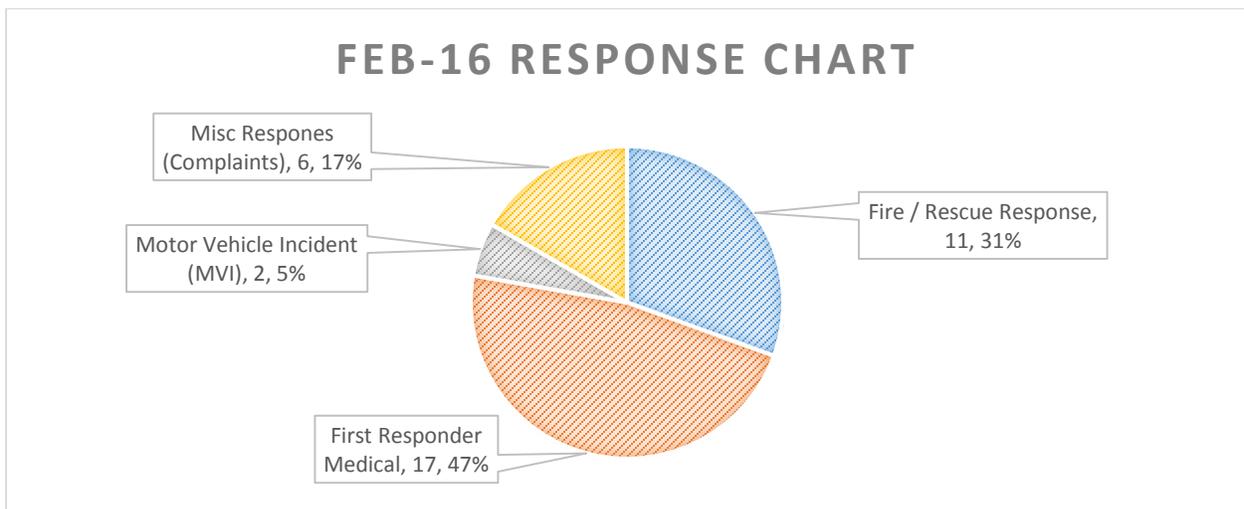
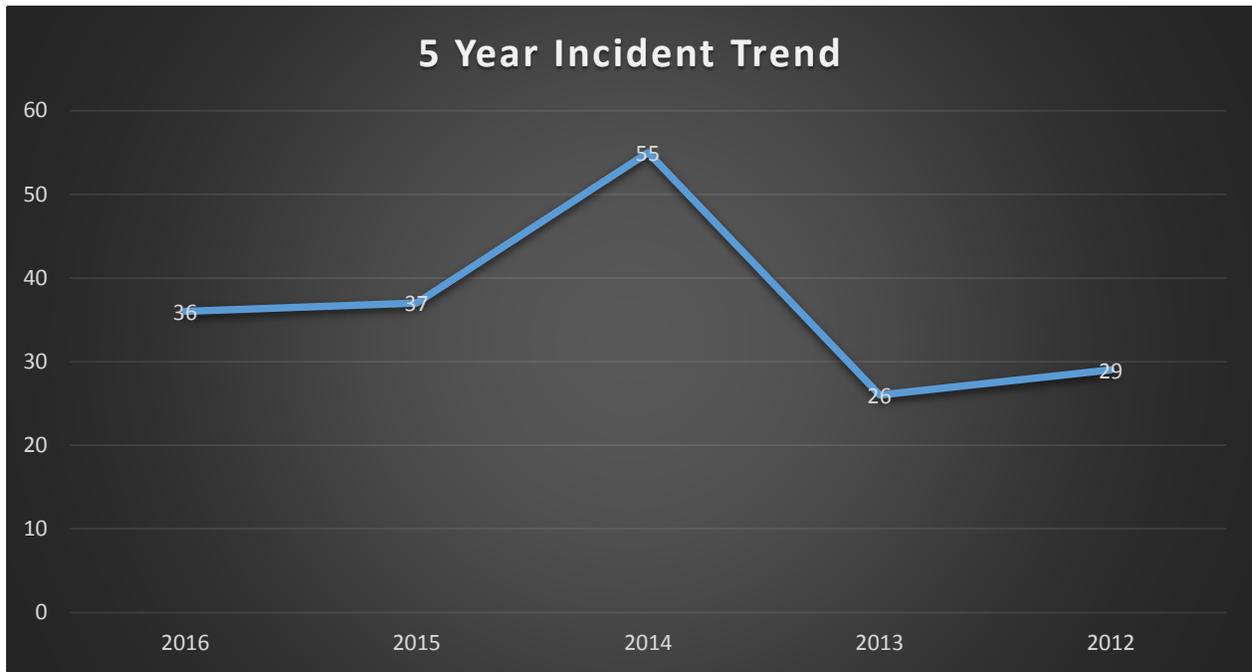
February 2016

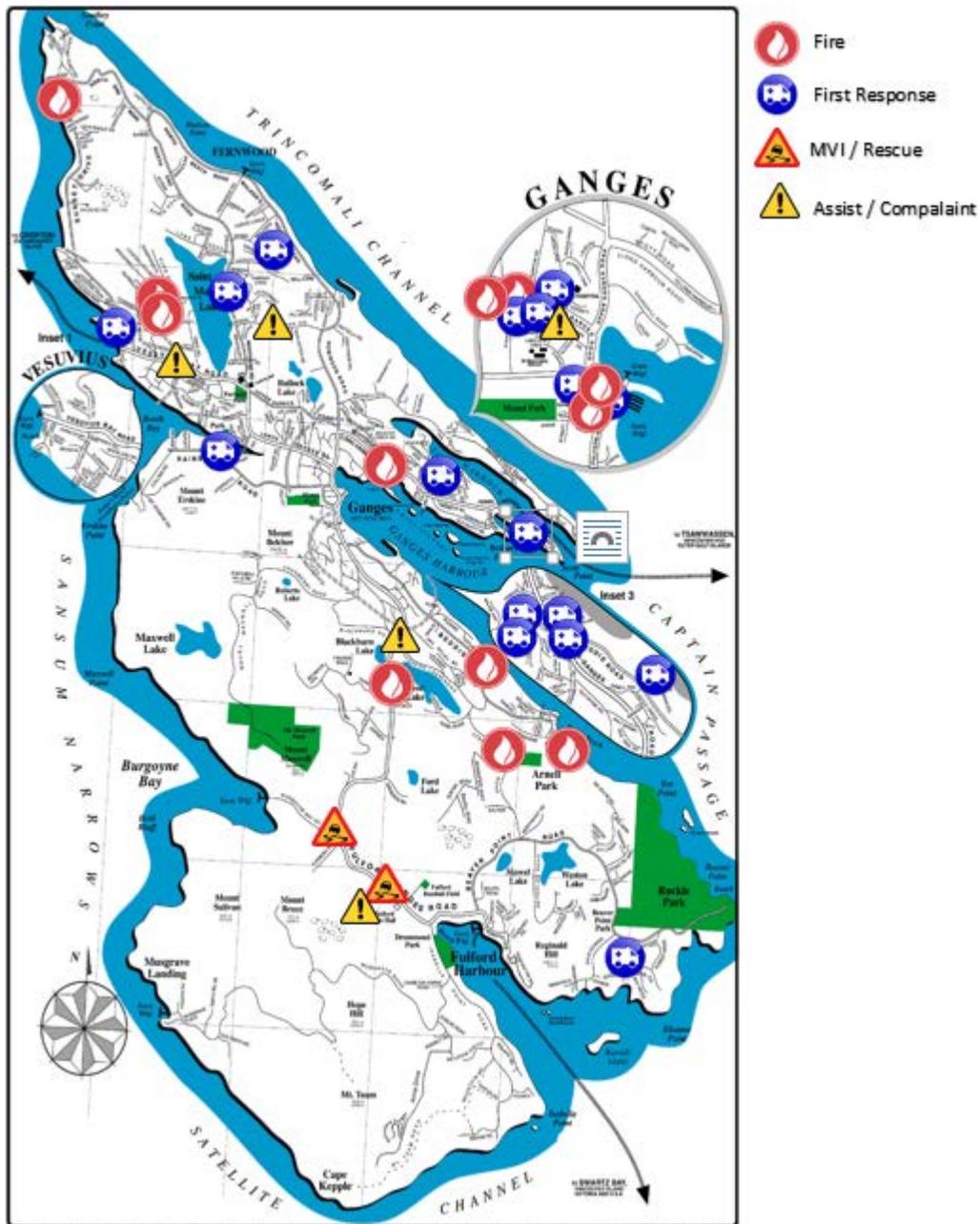


Response Report

February 2016 was average for incident responses with a total of **36** Fire Department responses.

5 Year Trend for Incidents occurring in February. (Average 36.6)





Operations Update

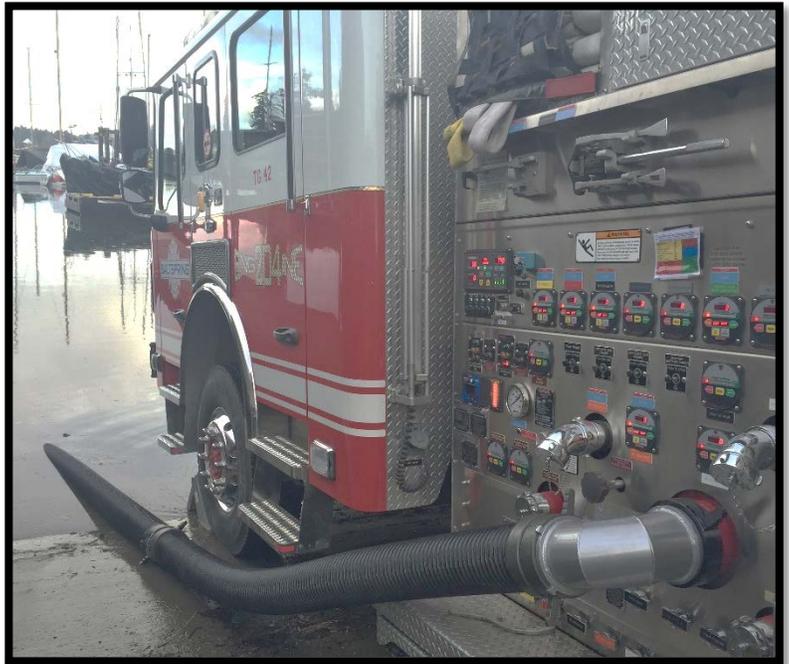
The requests for proposals (RFP) for Fire Hall landscaping closed February 15th. We received five proposals from local landscape contractors. After reviewing the contracts, we are pleased to announce “The Right Hand Man” as the successful bid for the fire hall landscape contract.

The RFP for a replacement Water Tender apparatus was posted in February. The RFP was sent directly to a number of North American manufactures, as well as posted to Civic Info BC, BC Bid, the BC Fire Chiefs, social media, and our local website (www.saltspringfire.com). For the March Fire Chief’s report I will report the final process and the status of the RFP. (Deadline for submissions March 15th 2016)

We are beginning our annual review of the SSIFR Operational Guidelines (O.G.) Our 180+ OG’s are reviewed annually for accuracy and functionality.

We conducted an operational test to confirm our ability to draft from the Ganges boat launch (Centennial Park). The test proved our ability to draft from the ocean in an emergency as a backup alternate water source.

We have seen a dramatic increase in Fire Permits so far this year. For January and February alone we have already issued **317** fire permits compared to **164** in 2015. One change that has taken place is that permits can only be issued to homeowners. This change has been a real challenge to staff and residents. To streamline the process we have an online "Authorization Form" available to homeowners, tenants, and contractors to download. The form is available by visiting <http://goo.gl/LNtWJz>



Once the Open Burning Bylaw #125 is received back from the Ministry we will work on a public awareness campaign to ensure all residents are provided with information on the changes to the bylaw.

February Incident Highlights

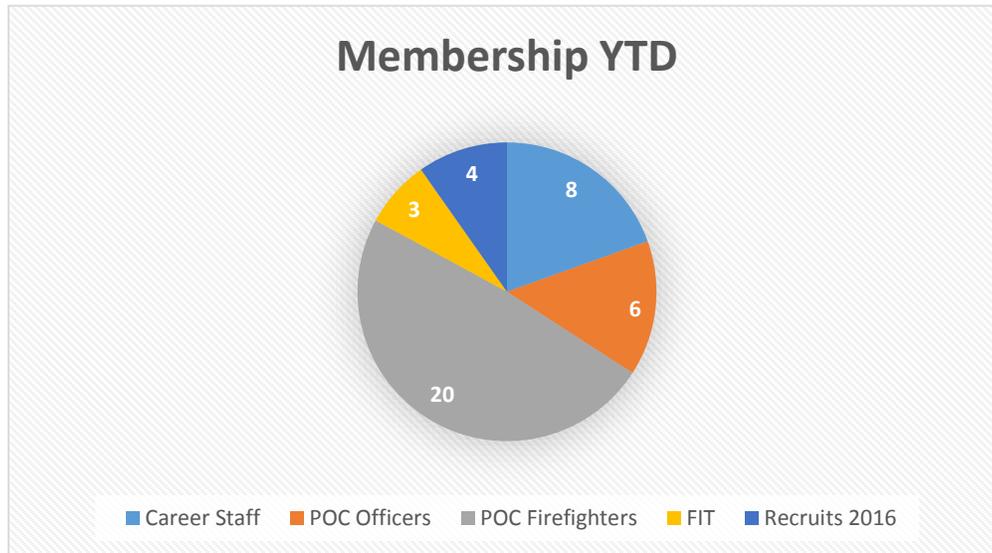
On **February 11th** 2016 Fire crews responded to 5th wheel trailer fire at the end of Beddis Road. Crews made a rapid interior attack and contained the fire quickly with minimal water damage. 16 Firefighters responded to the daytime incident. No injuries and no other property damage occurred.



On **February 16th** SSIFR crews responded to a commercial structure fire (roof fire) at Embe Bakery. A quick knock down of the fire by bystanders, and contractors helped keep the fire at bay until crews arrived. The fire started as a result of roofing work being done at the time. The fire extended into the roof but no further. A special thank you to the fast action of bystanders with portable fire extinguishers that helped keep the fire manageable.

Photo courtesy of the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

Membership



Our current membership as of February 2016 is 41 members. We have two Paid-On Call Firefighter on a 3 month leave of absence.

Training Division

Three of our members attended a Leadership workshop held in Errington. The focus of the workshop was fire station leadership and dealing with generational differences. The course proved to be very valuable and the three officers will share their knowledge with the rest of our membership.

February we had the rare and invaluable opportunity to conduct live fire training in an acquired structure. On February 6th, twenty-seven (27) firefighters conducted a full day of hands on live fire training. The crews had the opportunity to be involved in six interior firefighting scenarios. The training was very valuable to our senior members and especially our junior firefighters. Skills that were used during the eight hour training session included fire attack (interior and exterior), ventilation, Rapid Intervention Team Rescue (RIT), pump operations, officer leadership, as well as command and control. The opportunity was a real bonus to our team's skills development.

Our last month's training focus has been based around our Tender Operations and water supply tactics. We are expecting to hear back from FUS on the re-certification of our Superior Tender Shuttle accreditation, but FUS has not confirmed the test dates or details.



Public Education and Fire Inspections

Our Fire Prevention and Public Education division completed five commercial inspections with only one re-inspectional need for compliancy. SSIFR staff was also involved in three sub-division plan reviews along with two driveway access inspections. Our prevention and public education team is also working on developing a plan to address the growing fire safety concerns around hoarding on the island.

Upcoming Events

Bill 4 – 2016 *Fire Safety Act* is now in front of the Legislative Assembly for First Reading. The new Act may replace if passed, the current Fire Services Act. The new act can be viewed here:

<https://goo.gl/xKYFkD>

First Responder Level III Course to be held on the island. We will soon have four new recruits who will be trained Emergency Medical Responders. First Responders have to renew their licence every three years. This year we have nine first responders due for re-certification.

In March and April we will be offering our firefighters two courses off island for emergency driver training. This course is one of the last steps to becoming a certified Code 3 driver operator.

Respectfully Submitted



Arjuna George

Acting Fire Chief