

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chiefs Report

October – November 2015



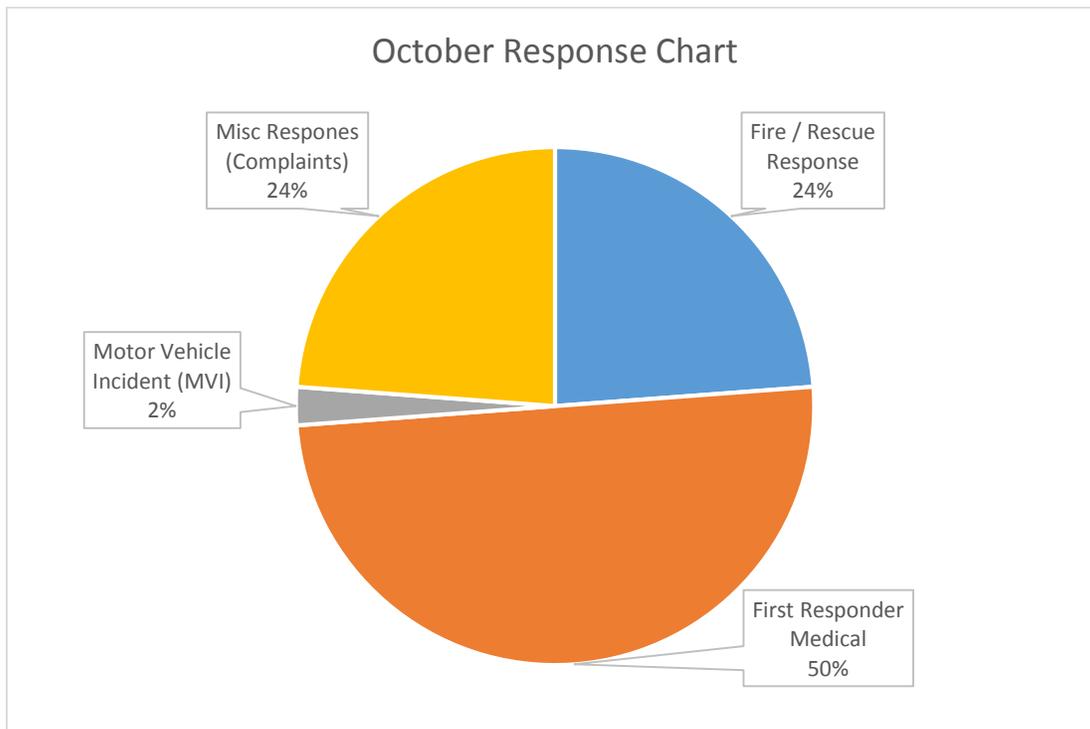
Response Report

Over the last two months SSIFR Firefighters have responded to a total of **86 incidents**. A total of **663** Call hours were logged over the last two months by career staff and paid on call firefighters. As of Dec 1st 2015 SSIFR has responded to **522** responses.

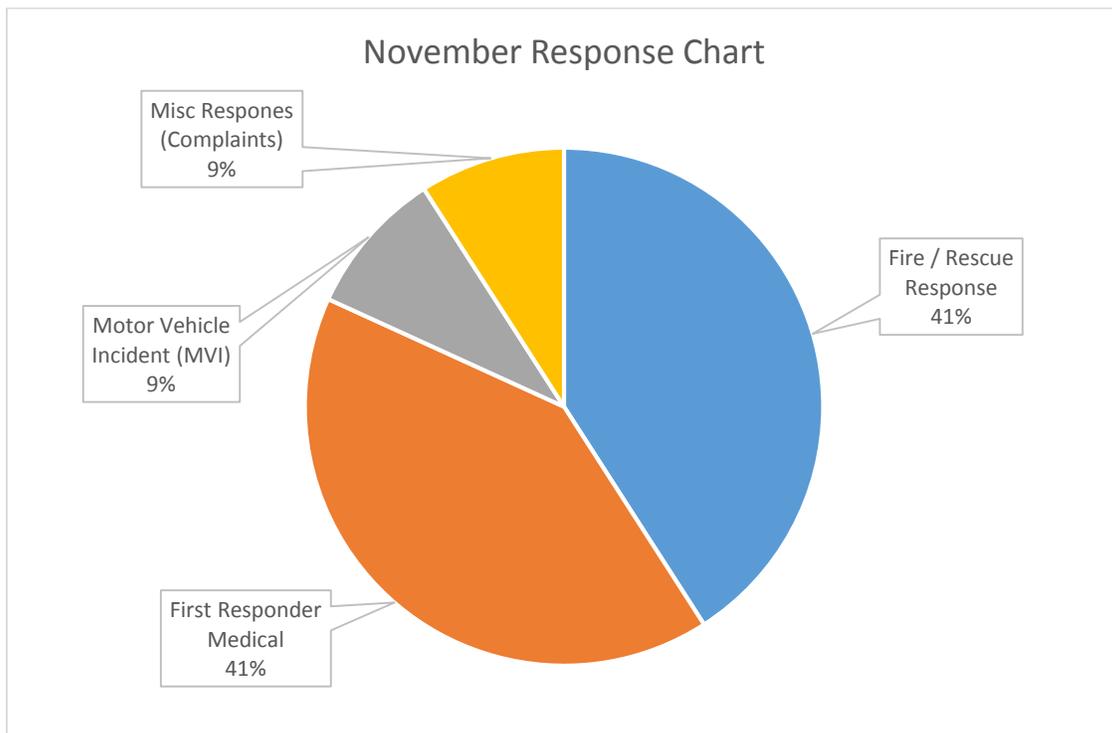
October SSIFR responded to 42 and November 44 incidents.

Incidents compared to 2014.

Year 2014 (October)	31 Incidents
Year 2015 (October)	42 Incidents
Year 2014 (November)	61 Incidents
Year 2015 (November)	44 Incidents



Miscellaneous (8 Burning complaints, 1 RCMP assist, 1 Public Assist)



Miscellaneous (3 Burning complaints, 1 RCMP assist)

October / November Incident Highlights

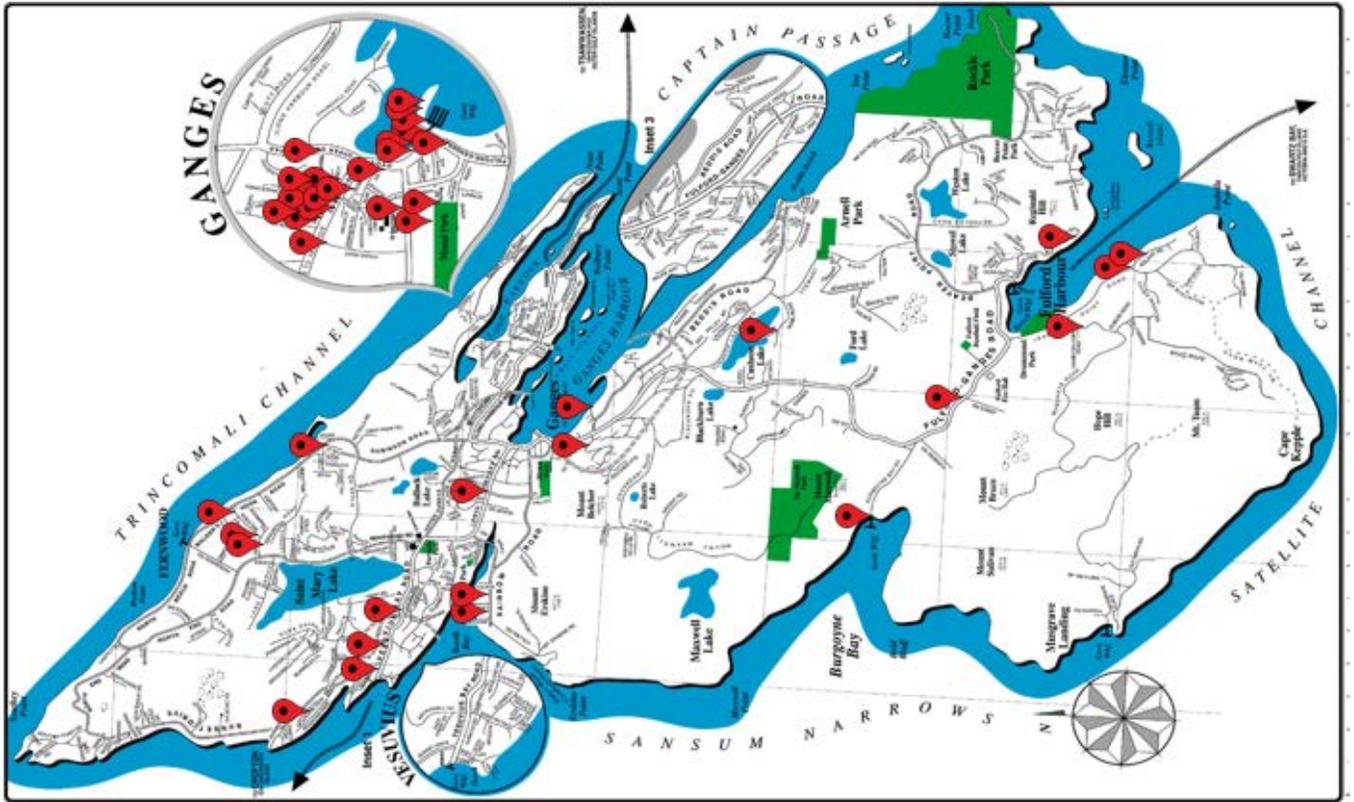
In October we started to receive calls for more chimney fires and hydro fires or lines down. This time of the year both chimney fires and electrical incidents rise in frequency. If you come across a downed power lines stay back at least 10m (33') and call 911. Downed power lines can be very dangerous, please do not approach.

November also brought an increase in chimney fires and hydro related calls.

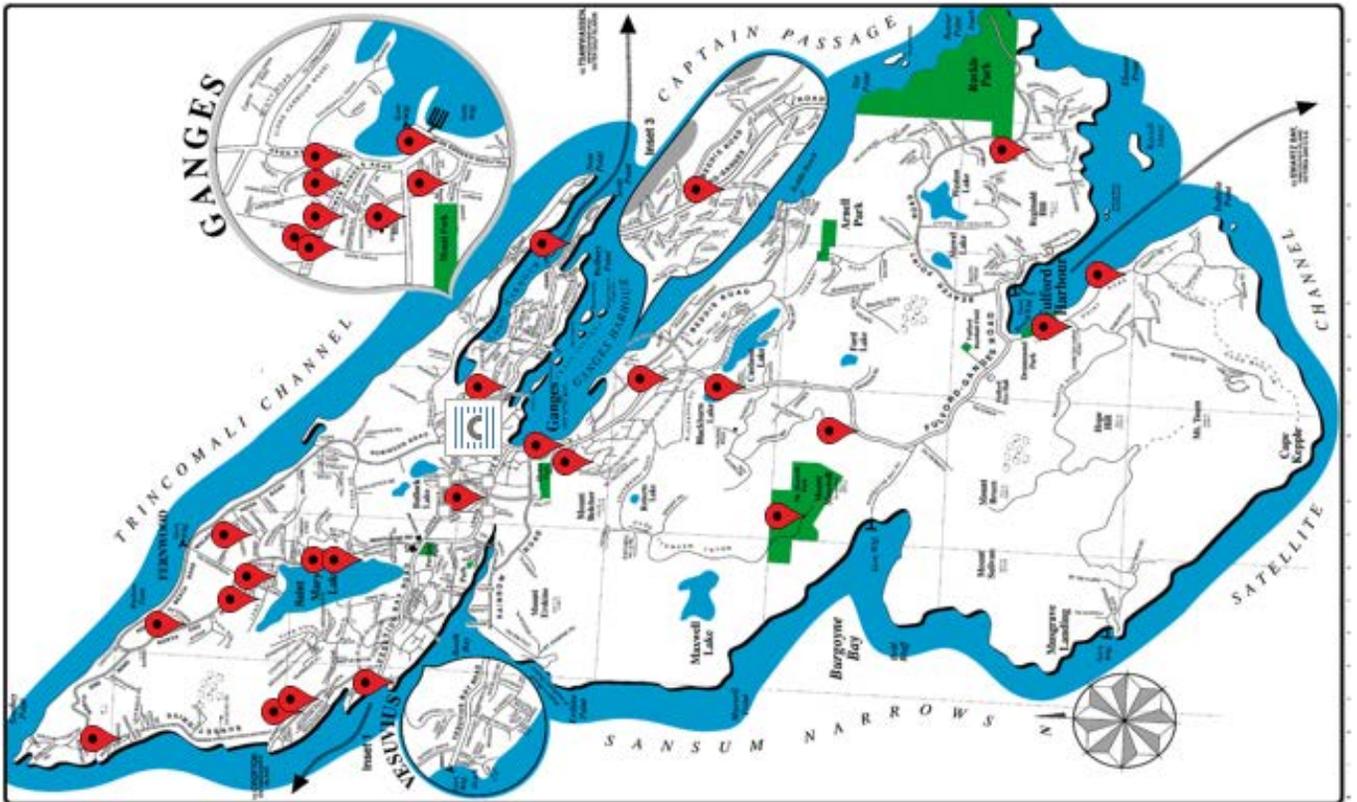
Nov 22nd SSIFR crews responded to a water rescue call on St Mary Lake. Two occupants in an overturned boat were brought to safety by two quick thinking bystanders with kayaks. The two community hero's did a fantastic job jumping into action.

Nov 22nd SSIFR Firefighters responded to a structure fire on Beaver Point Road. The fire was spotted by occupants in another cabin area and alerted the occupants inside. The fire was contained to the outside where it started. There was minimal damage to the structure due to fast thinking owners and the Firefighters on scene. These two incidents in particular could have had extremely different outcomes if it was not for the fast thinking of the public.

October 2015



November 2015



Operations Update

Engine 204 (Hall #1 Fire Engine) was out of service for seven days in November having some repairs done in Victoria. (Electrical, brake, cab mount repairs.)

Our annual fire hose testing was complete this month (Nov). We had 35 fire hoses fail this year that were identified by the annual testing.

Our 2015 Halloween Fireworks display was once again another great community event. We experienced one close call event during the show that has been investigated by our Joint Health and Safety Committee. SSIFR was able to provide this event to the island with help from our community friends Rotary, Harbour Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, and Country Grocer. AFC George would like to thank the trustees, firefighters and community partners who helped make the evening a success. For years Country Grocer has been the proud sponsor of the hot dogs and hot chocolate, thank you SSI Country Grocer for your continued support.

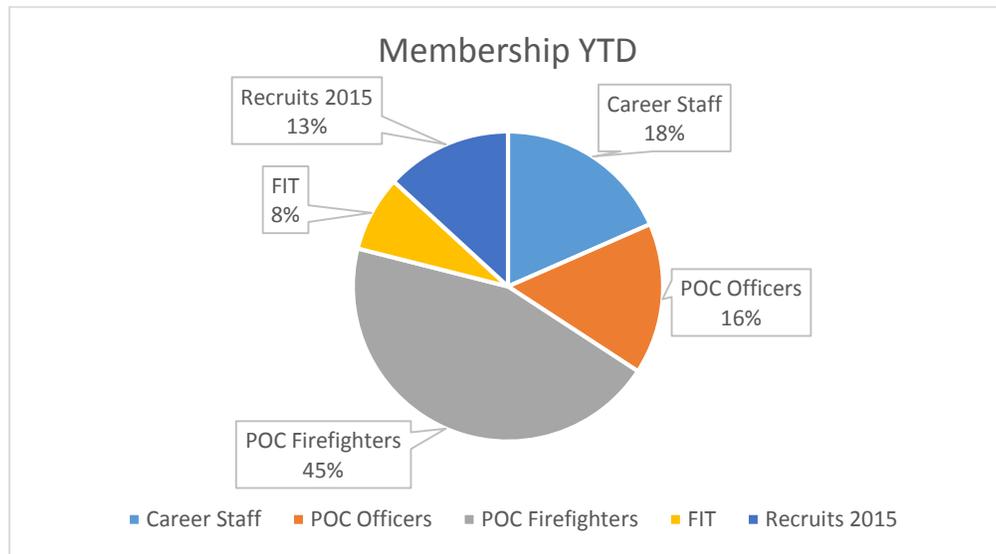
Fire Hall #2 experienced a severe roof leak over the last month and has been temporarily repaired but will most likely require some further work to be done. The roof leak caused significant drywall and insulation damage in the apparatus bay ceiling.

On Nov 28th Acting Chief George along with POC Captain Irwin, Firefighter Surman, Trustee Forest, and committee members Walde and Cunningham visited two outer island fire halls and training grounds.

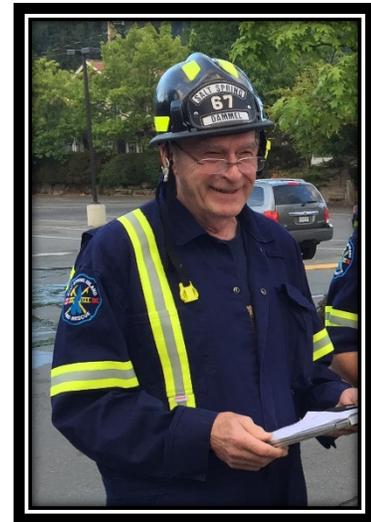
We visited Pender Island Fire Hall #1 along with their new training facility, then we attended the ribbon cutting of the new Mayne Island Fire Hall. It was a great opportunity to visit each location and to get a good understanding on the needs for a new fire hall here on Salt Spring Island.



Membership.



Our current membership as of December is 39. SSIFR would like to congratulate Field Incident Technicians (FIT) Rolf Dammel on his recent retirement. Rolf was a key player in the FIT program development and his skills and dedication will be missed. On behalf of SSIFR and the Board of Trustees, Thank you FIT Rolf for your years of service. Happy Retirement.



Our 2016 Paid on Call Firefighter recruit drive was completed in November and we are pleased to announce we have five great candidates moving forward and joining SSIFR in January 2016. The candidates took part in a firefighter physical, and an application / interview process. We look forward to having the Class of 2016 start in the New Year.



As acting Fire Chief I am proud and honoured to announce the successful firefighter for the 2016 Firefighter position as Clayton Akerman. Clayton joined SSIFR in 2010 and will begin work in January 2016. As Acting Chief I would like to thank Trustee Chair Lee, RCMP Constable Brent Friesen and Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dine who lead the hiring and selection process. On Behalf of SSIFR congratulations FF Clayton Akerman.



Training Division

Ten of our junior Firefighters spent a long day in Nanaimo at the Live Fire Training centre receiving their Live Fire certification. Congratulations to FF Ben Westlake, FF Campbell Jackson, FF Alex Reid, and FF Tom McCormick on obtaining Level II Live Fire certification. We also had our class of 2015 successfully complete Live Fire level I. Congratulations to Recruits Proudfoot, Adams, Bean, Oakes, and Voyce.



Salt Spring Island Fire Officers had a great training exercise with our friends from Pender Island Fire Rescue. A great session focusing on command and control for our members. We appreciate Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dine and Captain Adrian Hanson working together enhancing both our departments command skills.

Public Education and Fire Inspections

October was a very busy month for Fire Prevention and public education. Oct 4-10 SSIFR firefighters visited each school passing on invaluable fire and life safety information to the students and teachers. This year's theme was *"Hear the Beep where you sleep, every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm"*. We also had the pleasure of hosting four great community students as our Fire Chief for a day.

SSIFR Firefighters in conjunction with other emergency agencies attended the Earthquake forum at Artspring led by Garry Rogers. Firefighters were on hand to answer questions and provide information on emergency preparedness.

This month's inspection are targeting Assembly Occupancies (High Risk Occupancies).



Upcoming Events

December is always a busy month but we are starting it off with a Pumps and Pumping course held on island. Junior members will receive their basic pump operation training over 3 days. (Dec 11-12-13)

We also have a great potential opportunity to conduct a live fire training session locally with an acquired structure. We are in early discussion with the owners and will update Trustees as the plans develop. This rare opportunity provides our members with great real life live fire training locally.

On behalf of the membership of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue I wish the Board of Trustees, and our great community a safe and happy holiday season.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arjuna George', written in a cursive style.

Arjuna George

Acting Fire Chief