

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

## Fire Chiefs Report

### September 2015



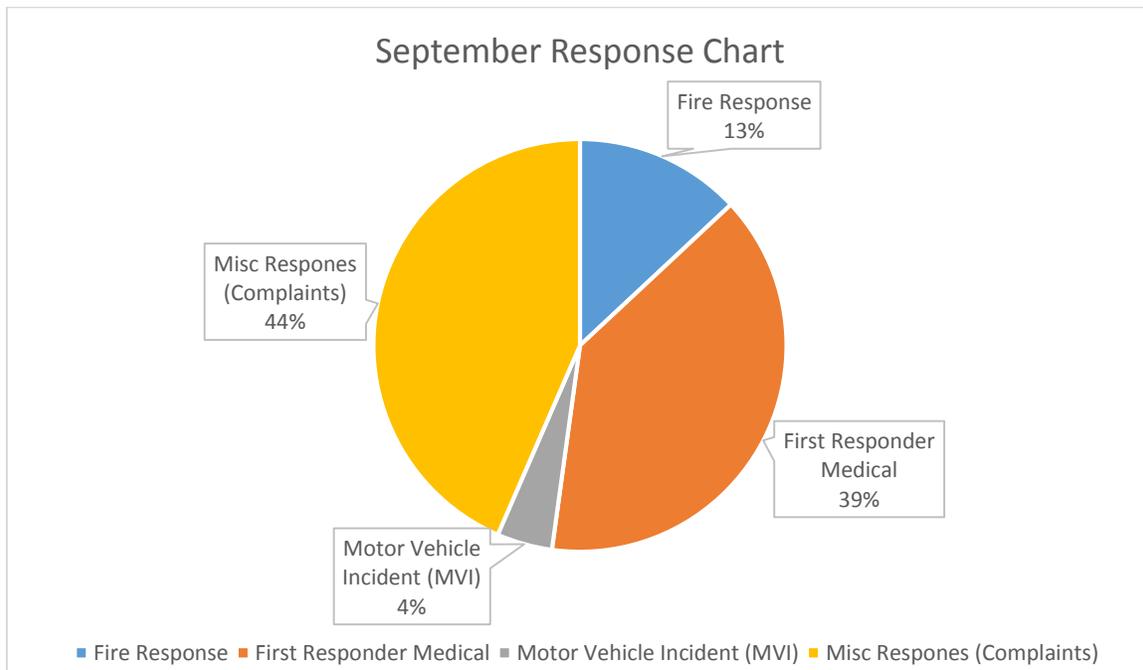
#### Response Report

SSIFR members had another busy month responding to 46 incidents. A total of **219** Call hours were logged for the month by career staff and paid on call firefighters.

**47%** of September's incidents (**22** of the **46**) Calls occurred after hours. (5pm-7am)

#### Incidents YTD compared to 2014.

Year 2014 (Sept)	48 Incidents
Year 2015 (Sept)	46 Incidents



**September Incident Highlights**

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 15:39 Commercial Boat Fire in Ganges. 11 Firefighters responded. 1.25 Hrs.

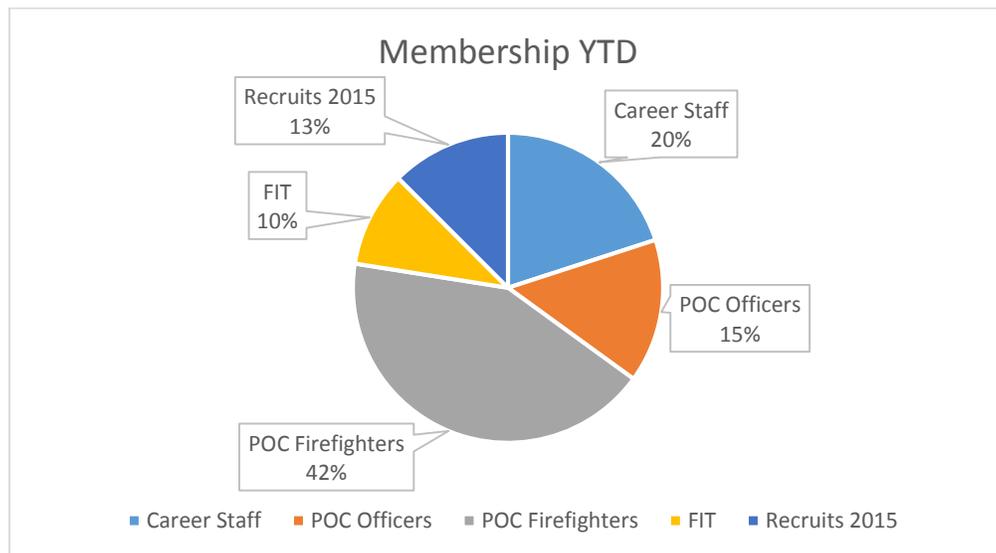
Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 16:28 Rescue call on Reynolds Road. Inter-Agency response with BC Ambulance and BC Ferries rescue team. 10 SSIFR firefighters worked closely with BC Ambulance paramedics and the rescue team on BC Ferries to rescue an injured hiker.



**Operations Update**

In September our apparatus had its annual fire pump testing completed along with pump maintenance and ladder testing. Each of these tests are required annually. A full status report is expected to be completed in October.

**Membership.**



Our current membership is a total 40. Currently we only have 1 Front Line Firefighter on a leave of absence due to return Nov 2015.

We would especially like to thank Sr. Firefighter Alisa Owen for her 14 years of service to the Island and SSIFR. Alisa joined in 2001 and has held the ranks of Firefighter right to Lieutenant. Lisa was a very active member and paramount in our Public Education development. Alisa was also one of the key members who championed the Infant Car Seat program for SSIFR. We wish Alisa all the best in her future and she will be missed by her SSIFR family.



### **Training Division**

September SSIFR offered a one day Fireworks Display course at Fire Hall #1 for seven of our POC Firefighters. We now have 20 certified members (5 Supervisors, 15 Assistants) to participate in our upcoming Halloween Fireworks show.

Our membership dedicated over 600 total training hours this month focusing on skill maintenance in interior building search and rescue, ropes and knots, auto extrication and HAZMAT decontamination and recon.

Acting Fire Chief George is proposing three training items to be reviewed by the board for 2015. First is an on-island Pumps and Pumping course for our junior Paid on Call Firefighters. Second is a First Aid Instructor class for one of our Paid on Call Public Education team members. The third course is an off island Emergency Vehicle Operator course for our Paid on Call junior Firefighters. Please see attached course summaries at the end of the Chiefs report for more details.

## **Public Education and Fire Inspections**

Our Public Education team has had a busy month delivering fire and life safety to island businesses and community groups. Highlights from the month include Fire Safety and Evacuation Training with the ushers from Artspring as well as Red Cross certified First Aid training to GISS Students. Our team also met with parents and children of Family Place, fire extinguisher training at the Fall Fair, Fire Hall tours and two car seat installations.

Public Education Highlight for September was Fire Extinguisher training. At the Fall Fair we had hundreds of adults and children learn the basic of fire extinguishers and the safe operation of them. SSIFR provides fire extinguisher training for community groups and local businesses. If you are interested in having our Pub Ed team attend your business or group please call the Ganges Fire Hall (250-537-2531)

Planning is underway for the 2015 Halloween Public Fireworks Display in partnership with The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce, Harbour Authority, and the Royal Marine SAR team.

This month's inspection schedule is targeting Assembly Occupancies (High Risk Occupancies) and marinas.

## **Upcoming Events**

October is the launch of Fire Prevention Week with this year's theme "Hear the Beep, Where you sleep" focusing on residential smoke alarms.



Halloween Fireworks Display in Ganges. The Halloween public fireworks display will be Oct 31<sup>st</sup> in Ganges. SSIFR is proud to offer this safe and fun alternative to the community each year. Please join us Oct 31 and be sure to stop into the Ganges Hall after the show for a free hot dog and hot chocolate generously donated by our local community partners, Country Grocer.

Our annual Fire Hose testing will begin in October on island.

Respectfully Submitted

Arjuna George

Acting Fire Chief

## Training Proposal

**Pumps & Pumping Course** (estimated 10 POC participants – On Island) This on island course instructed by in house instructors will increase our current qualified driver pool within the Paid on Call members.

Estimated course cost breakdown: Course \$4250 + \$400 meals = \$4650 from education. \$3400 from wages.

Estimated Grand Total \$8050.00 Target Date Dec 2015

**Red Cross First Aid Instructor** (1 POC member off Island) this off island course will help strengthen our Public Education division for public first aid training.

Estimated course cost breakdown: Course \$750 +accommodations, travel and meals from Public Education budget line.

Estimated Grand Total \$1600.00 Date November 2015

**Emergency Apparatus Driver Training** (estimated 7 POC participants – Off Island) this off island course is required for our junior Paid on Call driver operators.

Estimated course cost breakdown: Course \$200 /FF + \$30 per Diem = \$230. (\$230 x 7 students) + \$84 ferries = \$1694 from education. \$952 from wages.

Estimated Grand Total \$2646 Target Date 2015, Date TBA.

## **SSIFR First-Aid Training – A Business Case**

### **Community need for First-Aid Training**

We've identified a community need for increased first-aid training on Salt Spring Island. Several employers require first-aid training for their staff and numerous individuals inquire at the SSIFR office about first-aid training options.

Based on anecdotal evidence, it appears that demand exceeds available options. People walk into the fire hall almost every week seeking information about first-aid training. Over the years, several islanders have provided first-aid training but these businesses do not seem to thrive. Several providers have come and gone. The only current First-Aid provider rarely advertises courses and teaches only a few times a year.

We believe that SSIFR is well positioned to provide first-aid training to the public. Several other fire departments in B.C. provide First Aid training. We have the skills, tools and resources. We currently teach a few first-aid courses to community partners (School District 64, Lady Minto Hospital, medical offices). We are seeking to simply expand this role to include the larger public.

As an added note, several valued paid-on-call firefighters struggle financially. Added employment opportunities could assist to retain members with the organization.

### **Advantages for First-Aid training on Salt Spring Island are numerous.**

- It will increase public health and safety by providing more health and safety training in the community.
- It will benefit island residents and businesses by reducing the need to travel (or send staff) off island for required first-aid training. Off-island training is expensive (added travel costs) and inconvenient.
- It will demonstrate the SSIFR role as a community leader in first-aid, public health and safety.
- It will provide a consistent easy-to-find first-aid provider for the community.
- First-aid training could be a modest revenue generator (or cost neutral at least) for SSIFPD.
- First aid-training could provide employment for on-call firefighters (assisting retention and morale of paid-on-call members).

### **Current provisions for First-Aid training on Salt Spring Island**

The only business currently teaching first aid on the island is Charlene Wolff. She only advertises on the Salt Spring Exchange and the Driftwood calendar when she is offering a course and she offers courses only a few times a year. Lt. Sherrin has spoken to Ms. Wolff, who supports the idea of SSIFR First-Aid training. As first-aid providers, we could schedule easily classes so as to not affect her business.

Additionally, the Lady Minto Foundation (LMF) provides CPR/AED training (with instructor Beth Weston) but this course does not meet requirements for a Standard or Emergency First Aid course, as is required by Worksafe BC for many businesses and occupations.

SSIFR has an authorized provider agreement with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) for First-Aid training. SSIFR also possesses required liability insurance and training supplies (including mannequins and AED trainers) which are required for classes. SSIFR currently has one certified CRC instructor and one instructor in training.

As a further note, certified CPR/AED training is a prerequisite for the First Responder (FR) programme (licensed emergency medical assistant). Consequently, SSIFR CRC instructors could provide required training to fire fighters in preparation for the FR programme.

### **A Proposal for SSIFR to Provide CRC First-Aid Training**

Offer community first-aid courses periodically (perhaps six per year as a trial) at standard CRC rates. Reviewing costs from nearby providers in Victoria and Vancouver reveals that a one-day Emergency First Aid course typically is priced at \$75-\$105, two-day Standard First-Aid classes run \$135-\$155. We can easily manage a class of approximately 6-12 students at the fire hall (rent free).

#### **SSIFR Suggested rates**

- Standard First Aid (with CPR/AED Level C) – 14 hours (two days) \$150
- Emergency First Aid (with CPR/AED Level C) – 7.5 hours (one day) \$75
- CPR/AED Level C – 4 hours (1/2 day) \$50
- Continue to provide courses at cost for school-aged students

There are a few consumables for each student: textbook and certificate cost \$24, and medical supplies (gloves, bandages, cleaning wipes) cost about \$1 per student. Instructor at \$32 per hour for an eight-hour day, would cost \$256 (regardless of the number of students). There would also be additional wear and tear on existing equipment (AED trainers, mannequins) that could be amortized over several classes. Consequently, classes would need a minimum six students to cover expenses. CRC requires a teaching ratio of one instructor per 12 students (or portion) so classes larger than 12 require two instructors. Additionally, instructors require mentoring for the first few sessions they teach. A class of 6-12 students at \$75 per student could net after-expenses revenue of \$144-\$344 per day. Annual revenue from these classes of \$600-\$1,200 could also supplement FR training costs for SSIFR.

In order to provide this community service, we've learned that two instructors are insufficient to meet community needs. One additional CRC First-Aid Instructor would help provide coverage during career vacations and paid-on-call schedule conflicts.

Expected cost for the instructor course is approximately \$1600: course registration (\$750), travel to Victoria (approx. \$80-100), five days of per diems (\$257.50) and four nights of accommodation (approx. \$400-600). I propose that these expenses can fit within the public-education budget.

This instructor course is rarely offered and often cancelled due to low enrollment (one SSIFR student has been enrolled and cancelled twice this year) but a course is currently scheduled to run next month, "guaranteed." We are hoping to enroll a fire fighter in the Canadian Red Cross First Aid instructor course on November 2-6 to provide sufficient instructor resources to support this vital programme.