



## **Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Year End Report December 31<sup>st</sup> / 2009**

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) continues to tackle the operational structure, financial management, training, equipment purchases & safety requirements of its mandates. Accomplishments are the result of partnering participants working responsibly in creating a positive atmosphere and strong teamwork. The working relationship on a daily bases is key, partnering with the SSIFPD Trustees, the Volunteer Firefighters Association, and the IAFF Local 4467 Career Firefighters Association provides the SSIFR the ability and resources to supply the 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 grateful. The main focus continues to be the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District; 10 Year Strategic Plan, which is a living document as well as the Mission, Vision and Value Statements of the SSIFR.

- The year 2009 witnessed the SSIFR undergo a number of key changes and processes which included the retiring of Chief Dave Enfield after ten years in the position. Chief Enfield brought moderation to the SSIFR and a provision for safety first. An express of appreciation is extended to Retired Chief Enfield on behalf of the SSIFR for his commitment. With the retiring of Chief Enfield came the hiring of a new Fire Chief in September; Chief Tom Bremner who joined with Deputy Chief Arjuna George in now encompass the responsibility of operational management and day to day administration.
- 2009 was the busiest year in the history of the SSIFR in calls for assistance. SSIFR responded to a total of 735 alarms. The commitment by the membership is reassuring. Each year these individuals respond to emergencies and unite to assure a high level of public safety protection. Thank you to all the members for their dedication.

- In terms of financial accountability, the service continually works to maintain itself within the annual budgeted amounts. Training opportunities and advancements for members produced a strong move forward in the areas of: Officers management, Front line fire suppression, Communication & Teamwork.
- Equipment purchases contributed towards several new items in support of the firefighters to assist in addressing fire emergencies. Such items as: an additional Thermal Imaging Camera, new Breathing Apparatus, overhaul materials, pagers, portable radios, protective clothing and the addition of a Wildland Fire Protection trailer.
- Safety is always the number one priority of the members and management team, endless educational sessions and discussions were conducted to promote / inform and instill the need to continually address safety in no matter what situation.
- Risk management and the awareness of the components that make up risk management are key elements in safety, preplanning, fire prevention, training and positive outcomes for the community
- Addressing community inquires and concerns are processed daily at the fire station. The staff conducts public education in response to community or safety issues as required.
- The vision and reality must be a new fire station for Ganges which will be a huge step into the future. Secondly important to the new station is; training of our firefighters, both the present ones and our future ones and ensuring that the apparatus is modern, replaced on a schedule date commitment which in turn, provides safety for the members responding to calls for assistance.

In 2010 the SSIFR will continue to advance by processing the operational requirements in support of the SSIFPD 10 Year Strategic Plan, while committed to be responsible, accountable and effective within the elements that make up the SSIFR operations.

An enormous “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 massive hours of training, responses and community participation is not generally understood or entirely comprehensible by most island residents unless they have received assistance by the SSIFR for an emergency or they have a direct relationship or interest in the organization.

Respectfully

Tom Bremner, Fire Chief  
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 Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue  
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2009  
**Call assistance volume by Incident type**

Alarms	75
Appliance	3
Brush/Grass	28
Chimney	9
Complaints	146
First Response	268
Hazmat	13
Hydro	29
MVA's	50
Police Assist	6
Public Assist	78
Rescues	8
Structure	9
Vehicle/Boat	8
Interface	1
Miscellaneous	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>735</b>