



**Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue
2010 Year End Report
April 18th / 2011**

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) continues to deal with the operational structure, financial management, training, equipment purchases & safety requirements within its numerous mandates. Accomplishments are the result of partnering participants working responsibly in creating a positive atmosphere and strong teamwork. A working relationship on a daily basis is key, partnering with the SSIFPD Trustees, resource staff, the Paid On – Call (Volunteer) Firefighters Association, and the IAFF Local 4467 Career Firefighters Association provides the SSIFR the ability and resources to provide a Public Safety 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 very appreciative. 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 SSIFR; Mission, Vision, and Value Statement, which this year sees the addition of the “Pyramid of Success”.

The vision and discussion to better utilize all three stations became a reality in 2010. Hall #1 saw an improved office space and utilization of facilities with one storage trailer purchased to address the storage requirements. Hall #2 had a number of cleanups; repairs and utilization components that took place. Hall #3 witnessed an overall cleaning, storage improvements and exterior grounds upgrading. All locations will continue in 2011 to have work completed.

As for staff deployment, Hall # 1 has four staff members working out of it five days a week, Hall #2 is open on Tuesdays, with one staff member at it. Hall # 3 is staffed with either one or two staff members five days a week in our Inspection / Prevention Division.

Some residents appear to misunderstand the makeup of the Fire Service. The Board of Fire Trustees (SSIFPD) are the overseers and creators of policies that govern the Fire Service. The SSIFR management are responsible for the daily operations and management of the policies as well as the budget funding approved by the Board of Fire Trustees annually.

- The SSIFR in 2010 underwent a number of enhancements and advancements, lead by Chief Tom Bremner and Deputy Chief Arjuna George who have the responsibility of operational management and day to day administration.
- In 2010 the members of the SSIFR suffered a number of personal and organizational tragedies and heartaches. With support from friends, colleagues and professionals our members and their families were comforted, respected and supported in times of need. As the department witnessed challenging times this past year; care and support were our key factors with moving forward for the future endeavours.
- Calls for Assistance in 2010 had a total of 624 compared to 734 in 2009. The reasons for fewer calls in 2010 were; Category 3 type inspections (Machine Piles) are no longer being recorded as calls and there were a reduced number of medical & public assist responses. Out of 624 calls 42 were responded to by staff during regular office / working hours.
- We introduced the process of the “Pyramid of Success” with the aimed outcome to internally strengthen by means of the membership itself in the ways of; teamwork, leadership, consistency and support, based on a long term approach, witnessing enhanced positive benefits within the short, mid and long term timeframes.
- In terms of financial accountability, the management continually works to maintain within the annual budgeted amounts. Training opportunities as well as advancements for members produced a strong move forward in the areas of: Officers Management, Front Line Fire Suppression, Incident Command, Communication, & Teamwork.
- With the arrival of our new Administrative Assistant last spring, Miss Iris Beck, came a new and refreshing personality for all the visitors and inquiries. With the inclusion of the new administrator, this position has been remodelled to include a wide variety of enhanced media tools for the public to access and be kept well informed.


- Several purchases contributed towards supporting the Firefighters in addressing emergencies and Firefighter safety. Such items were: training, upgraded equipment, overhaul materials, pagers, portable radios, protective clothing, and overall upgrades to our communication systems as well as an enhanced Paid On-call (Volunteer) Firefighter's insurance coverage.
- Safety is and always will be the number one priority for management and their members. Continual educational sessions and discussions were conducted to promote / inform and instill the need to address safety, no matter what the situation.
- Risk management and the awareness of the components that make up risk management on and around the Island are key elements in safety, preplanning, fire prevention, training and constructive preparedness for the community.
- Several new advancements were made within the Inspection / Prevention Division. There was the promotion of Firefighter Travis Guedes to the Division, which now has two members within it. The Inspection mandate and the overall program goals received an overall revamping. In total 268 inspections were conducted in 2010. Also numerous community projects and training programs were provided to residents in a number of different ways.
- In 2010 the SSIFPD hired one additional staff member, long-time veteran Paid on-call (Volunteers) Firefighter Ken Akerman to back fill the position left vacant as the result of the promotion of Firefighter Travis Guedes to the rank of Lieutenant within the Inspection division. Ken is a veteran firefighter who brings knowledge, leadership and experience to the position.
- Staff members process inquiries and concerns on a daily basis from both residents and visitors. In response to the variety of community safety inquiries, our members have taken great pride with working with the public on conducting educational awareness.
- The commitment by the membership is reassuring. Each year these individuals respond to emergencies and unite to assure a high level of public safety. Thank you to all the members for their dedication.

- For any real progress on this Island there must be open, respectful communications with a mutual understanding of the need to partner and resolve the challenges together. The vision and reality in the near future must be a new fire station for Ganges; which would be a huge step in addressing long standing challenges. This means, for any future new station, the vision must be 50 years of future growth, ample parking, storage and operational space. Equally important to the new station is training of our firefighters, both the present ones and our future ones, while also ensuring that the apparatus is modern and replaced on scheduled timeframes. This in turn, will provide safety for the members responding to calls for assistance and the public's needs.

In 2011 the SSIFR will continue to advance by processing the operational requirements in support of firefighter safety, the SSIFPD 10 Year Strategic Plan, policies and mandates; while committing to be; responsible, accountable and effective within the elements that make up the SSIFR operations via the Fire Trustees governances.

An enormous "Thank you" goes out to the members of the SSIFR whom 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 or visitors unless they have received assistance by the SSIFR for an emergency or have a direct relationship or interest in the organization.

2010 SSIFR YEAR END "CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE"
OVERALL REVIEW



<i>First Responder</i>	245
<i>Complaints</i>	116
<i>Alarms</i>	84
<i>MVA's</i>	51
<i>Hydro</i>	42
<i>Public Assist</i>	22
<i>Grass/Brush Fires</i>	12
<i>Chimney Fires</i>	11
<i>Misc</i>	10
<i>Structure Fires</i>	9
<i>Haz-Mat</i>	9
<i>Rescues</i>	7
<i>Appliances</i>	5
<i>Police Assist</i>	1
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<i>Total Calls for Assistance in 2010</i>	624

Respectfully:

Tom Bremner, Fire Chief
Arjuna George, Deputy Fire Chief
Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue