

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

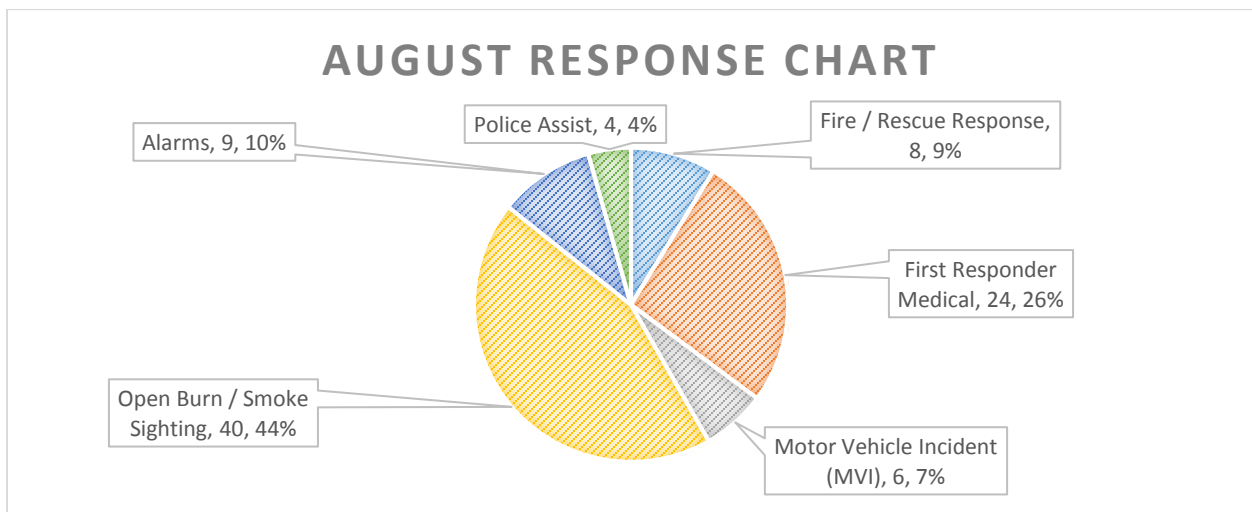
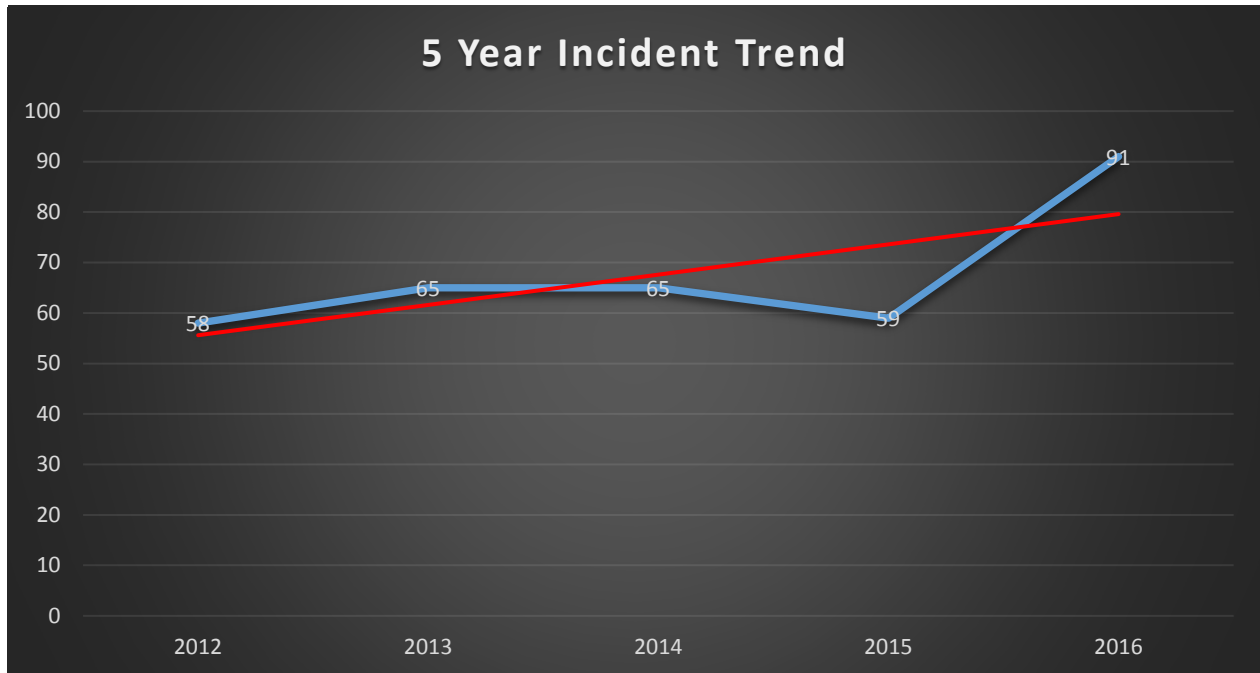
## Fire Chief's Report

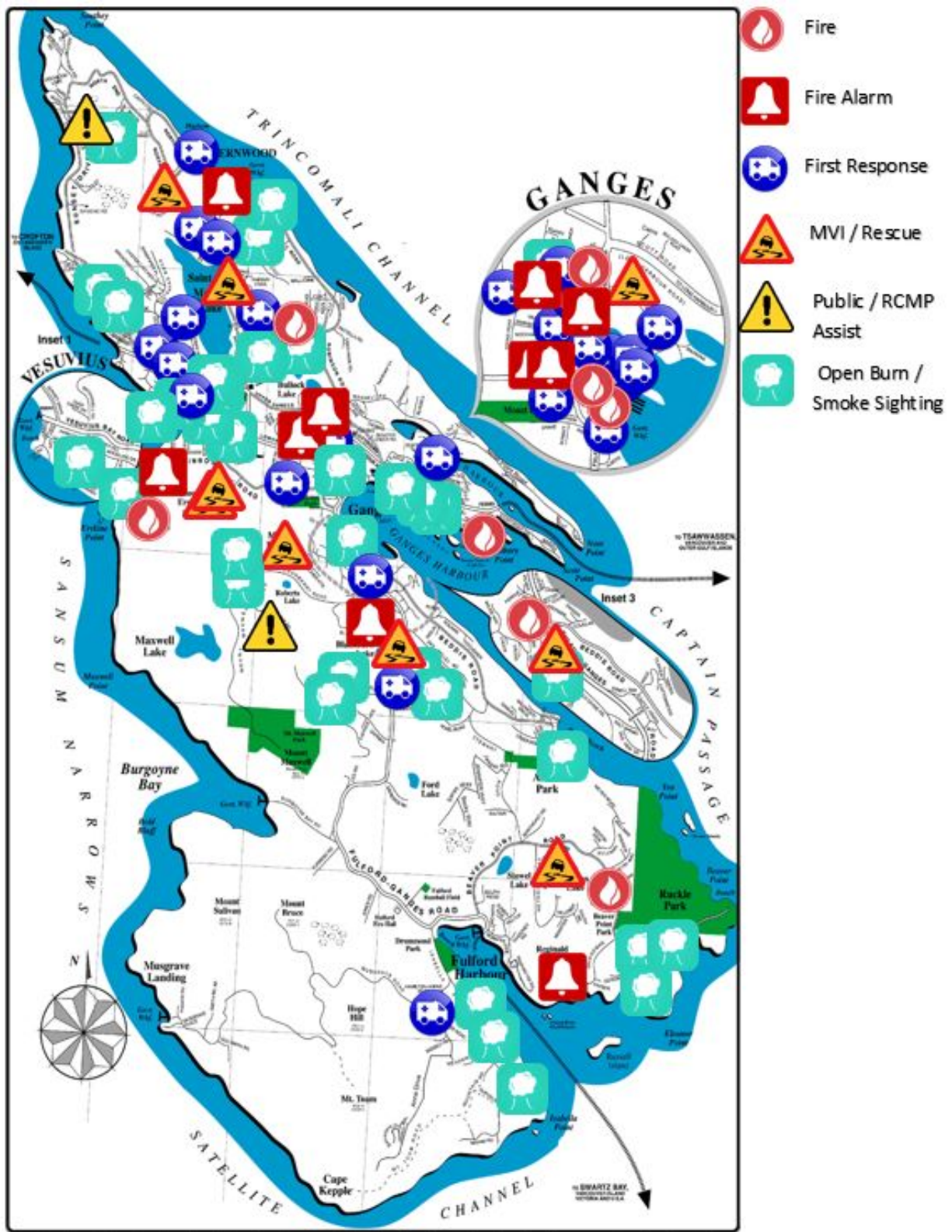
### August 2016



#### Response Report

August was an incredible busy month for Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue with ninety-one (91) incidents for the month. Of those 91 calls, 39 of them were full emergency responses. Due to the very dry summer and heightened alert for wildfires Duty Officers were busy with 52 smoke sightings, and open burning concerns (including High Risk Activities). As of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 SSIFR has responded to 451 incidents for the year.





Fire Calls in Detail

## Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue – August 2016 Response Stats – TOTAL 91 RESPONSES

FULL PAGE		FIRST RESPONSE PAGE		DUTY PAGE		NOT PAGED OUT	
DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT	DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT	DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT	DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT
13	13	5	8	30	22	-	-

### FIRE CALLS:

BURN ENQUIRY	RESIDENTIAL FALSE ALARM	BURNING		CHAINSAW COMPLAINT		CHIMNEY	VEHICLE	SMOKE/CO ALARM	HYDRO	COMMERCIAL ALARM BELLS	
		LEGAL	ILLEGAL	LEGAL	ILLEGAL					WITH CAUSE	FALSE ALARM
-	2	6	10	2	9	-	1	1	4	-	6

RESCUE	TRASH/DUMPSTER	OUTSIDE OF AREA	MISC flooding	SMOKE SMELL IN STRUCTURE	SMOKE SIGHTING FALSE ALARM	STRUCTURE FIRE	BRUSH/GRASS	MVI (no injuries)	HAZMAT (exterior dumping)
1	-	1	-	1	11	-	2	1	1

### FIRST RESPONDER CALLS: (SSIFR 1<sup>st</sup> on scene 5/32 - 16%)

MEDICAL	TRAUMA		RESPIRATORY	STOOD DOWN	CARDIAC		ASSIST BCAS/RCMP	MVI WITH INJURIES
	MAJOR	MINOR			WITH CPR	NO CPR		
14	-	3	1	5	1	-	4	4

### Operations Update

Salt Spring Island experienced an unprecedented summer with **53 days** recorded as a HIGH or EXTREME Fire Danger rating.

**High:** Forest fuels are very dry and the fire risk is serious. New fires may start easily, burn vigorously, and challenge fire suppression efforts. Extreme caution must be used in any forest activities. Open burning and industrial activities may be restricted.



**Extreme:** Extremely dry forest fuels and the fire risk is very serious. New fires will start easily, spread rapidly, and challenge fire suppression efforts. General forest activities may be restricted, including open burning, industrial activities and campfires.

An Island wide campfire ban came into effect August 17<sup>th</sup> due to the extreme hot weather and increased fire risk.

**As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, the ban has been lifted, but only for campfires.** No other forms of open burning are currently allowed.



In August we developed a special permit process for selected High Risk Activities. We issued twenty-six (26) special permits under the Open Burning Bylaw 125. This process allowed workers to continue to work but only if they could meet special fire prevention measures. This process was very successful and we will build on more awareness and processes for 2017's fire season.

We responded to a number of close calls in Assisted Living Complex's over the past two months. We are meeting with the management teams and reviewing procedures for occupants and staff. These high risk buildings are complex in that they are large, and house many people with mobility issues.

[www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)

## OFC Fire Report Update



We have made great advancements in our Office of the Fire Commissioner Fire Reports. All the 2015 and 2013 Files are complete and pending with the OFC. 2014 is Complete and submitted. 2016 Fire Reports are in progress.



The BC Office of the Fire Commissioner reporting system will be changing in the near future to be able to interact with the new Canada National Fire Information Database (NFID). The National Fire Information Database (NFID) is a groundbreaking national fire data pilot project that will gather and unify 10 years of fire information from across the country and create Canada's first national system for collecting fire statistics. This project, to be launched this fall, will link fire data with other relevant datasets, and will initiate the creation of new evidence-based research related to fire, public safety, and security.

## Incident Spotlight

August 1<sup>st</sup> SSIFR crews responded to six (6) incidents including a grass fire, and hydro fire. Both fire's were quickly contained by crews.

August 3<sup>rd</sup> SSIFR crews responded to the south end for a Hydro Fire with trees on fire. Working along side BC Hydro crews kept the scene safe and effectively extinguished the fires. Beaver Point traffic was closed for two hours.

August 4<sup>th</sup> SSIFR Firefighters responded to an Assisted Living complex on Atkins road for reports of smoke in the building. A full evacuation was performed and a complete building search. The fire was a result of a cooking incident in one of the suites. No damage occurred and the building was ventilated.

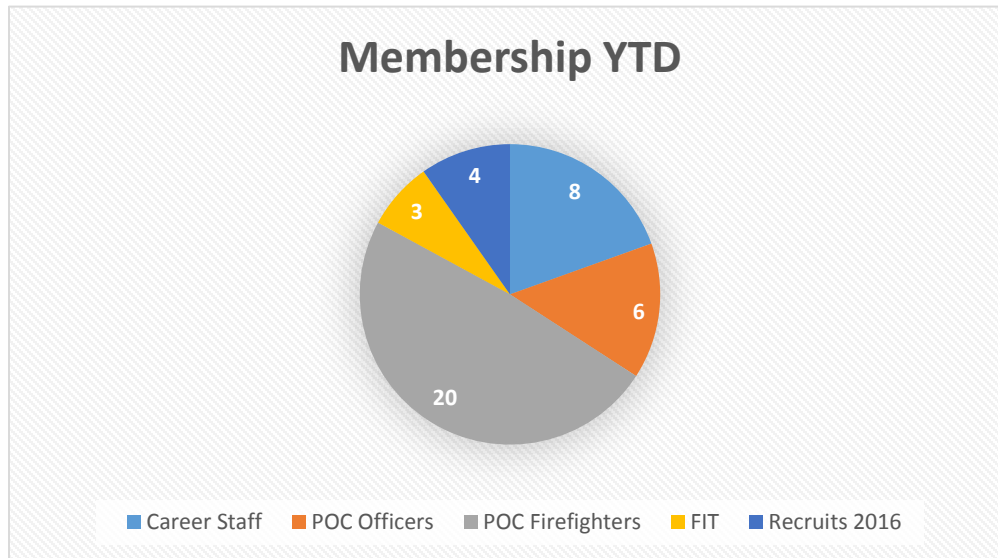
August 16<sup>th</sup> SSIFR Firefighters responded to a tragic call at Weston lake in the south end for a double drowning incident. Two patients were attended to and both transported to Lady Minto Hospital in cardiac arrest. Responders utilized the SSIFR Rescue boat to locate one of the patient's. The rescue boat performed perfectly and was a great asset to the rescue operation.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> SSIFR Firefighters responded to a brush fire on Trincomali Place. Crews were able to quickly extinguish the fire that was approaching some exposure buildings. Cause of the fire is unknown.

## Office of the Fire Commissioner Playbook Update

Mayne Island Improvement District recently declared Full Service for their island community. There are no further updates at this time.

## Membership



Our membership for SSIFR is holding strong and saw the return of one firefighter who was on a leave of absence (LOA). Currently we have one member on a LOA until October 2016. September marks our annual Recruit Drive launch. We are looking for Paid on Call Firefighters and Field Incident Technicians (FIT's) to join our team. Recruit Application deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. Applications are available at the Ganges Fire Station or online at [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)



## Training Division

Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Training in Paradise weekend was a great success for our members. We had twenty-one (21) of our members partake in a variety of courses over the four days. In total we had over 80 students from over 20 Fire Departments attended. We held eight courses (Critical Incident Stress Management, Command and Control, First Responder Instructor, Emergency Services Drone Pilot, Situational Awareness, Fire Service Instructor, Confided Space Operations and Incident Safety Officer. This year's new format allowed for some new training providers to lead the training. We had Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy (VIERA), Dynamic Rescue Systems (DRS), Canadian Red Cross, Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) as well as a course led by Pender and Salt Spring Island fire department trainers.

A huge thank you to our community partners School District 64 (GISS) and the Farmers Institute for their continued support of local training. Also a big thank you to all the local businesses that helped support this great training event.



Our Training Division has a busy fall planned for our firefighters.

- Four Members to HAZMAT Operations in Sooke. (Sept)
- One Member to Kelowna for the BC Fire Code Course. (Sept)
- Twelve members to Nanaimo for a one-day Live Fire Re-fresher. (Oct)
- Three members to Otter Point for Live Fire I certification. (Nov)
- Four Members to Nanaimo for Live Fire II certification. (Dec)



### **Inspection and Public Education Division**

For the month of August Fire Inspectors completed thirty-eight (38) commercial building inspections. In addition, inspectors were requested to do two (2) driveway inspections, and two (2) High Risk Exception site inspections. The Office of the Fire Commissioner also requested a local assistant to the Fire Commissioner (LAFC) fire code inspection at one property on their behalf. One new pre incident plan was also constructed for our response planning.

As part of emergency planning our prevention teams met with the Garlic festival organizers and conducted a site inspection for public safety.

Together with CAO Andrew Peat, our inspectors and management are drafting two documents to bring forward to the board. First document will be a proposed Inspection Policy, and the second being a Mobile Food Cart bylaw proposal. These important documents will help improve our islands safety and improve our prevention of fires.

During August our staff also created procedures and a special permit for High Risk Activity exemptions. Due to the lengthy early shift or shut down periods, providing a resolutions was critical. More public information will be provided before the 2017 summer season.

### **Upcoming Events**

- October Public Fire Works Display (Oct 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Fire Prevention Week (Oct 9-15 2016).



Respectfully Submitted

Arjuna George, Acting Fire Chief