

***Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue
2011 Fire Chief's Year End Report
April 16th, 2012***

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, the Paid On – Call (Volunteer) Firefighters Association, the IAFF Local 4467 Firefighters Association, and the resource staff, provides the SSIFR the ability and the tools 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 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 includes reflections using the “Pyramid of Success”.

The vision and discussion to better utilize all three stations continued to enhance during 2011. Hall #1 experienced improved office space and utilization of facilities by removing the main office area washroom, remodelling the Training room kitchen and creating more storage space. Hall #2 had a number of cleanups; repairs and utilization components upgraded including the addition of the Training Ground. Hall #3 witnessed an overall cleaning; storage improvements as well as a new communications tower installed with more modern operational communication radios. All locations received interior energy saving light upgrades as well as exterior grounds improvements.



SSIFR Training at Fulford Training Ground

As for staff deployment, Hall #1 is being utilized daily as our main headquarters; Hall #2 is open on Tuesdays (April to October) with one staff member positioned there. Hall #3 is hosting staff members five days a week from our Inspection & Prevention Division.

The SSIFR in 2011 continued to process 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.

Calls for Assistance in 2011 reached 558 compared to 624 in 2010. The reasons for fewer calls in 2011 can be attributed to enhanced Public Education, Fire Prevention, Media Relations and Public Awareness towards safety. Out of 558 calls 110 were responded to by duty staff.



Maliview Structure Fire

The SSIFR aimed outcome to internally strengthening by means of the membership itself in the ways of teamwork, leadership, consistency and support. This is based on witnessing enhanced positive benefits within the short, mid and long term timeframes. The “Pyramid of Success” is currently being utilized as a reflection tool.

It was another busy year on the Training front for SSIFR. Our members put in a combined 6,289 hours of drills and practises on Tuesday nights over the year, with an additional 3,070 hours of weekend courses. Topics covered ranged from basic Personal Protective Equipment right through to Fire Officer Certification. With the addition of Engine 204 to the fleet, Compressed Air Foam System training was an important technology for our members to learn. This training was used very successfully in a number of structure fires this past year. One of our members obtained his NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II certificate, an accomplishment which is no small feat, taking multiple years to complete. This brings the total NFPA 1001 certified member in the department up to 18.

The other big training event for SSIFR every year is our Annual Training Weekend. 2011 was another huge success seeing 130 firefighters from 25 departments attend with many bringing their family members with them to spend the weekend enjoying all that Salt Spring has to offer. Hosting this training not only provides certified training at a reduced cost, saving time and travel expenses, it also provides invaluable networking within the fire service and re-enforces our family first commitment within SSIFR by offering a number of spousal and family events during the weekend. SSIFR would like to thank all the people and business of Salt Spring who help make this weekend such a success year after year.

In terms of financial accountability, the management continually works to maintain within the annual budgeted total. Training opportunities as well as advancements for members produced a strong move forward in the areas of: Officers Management, Front Line Live Training Suppression, Incident Command, Communications, and Teamwork.

Several purchases contributed towards supporting the Firefighters in addressing emergencies and Firefighter safety. Such items as: Hall #2 Training Facility, training props, upgraded equipment, equipment repairs, pagers, portable radios, protective clothing, and on-going upgrades to our communication systems as well as an enhanced Paid On-call (Volunteer) Firefighter's benefit package.



Vehicle Fire Training at Fulford Training Ground



Vehicle Fire Training at Fulford Training Ground

The long awaited development of the Hall #2 Training Ground facility became a reality and is a huge asset to our firefighters and our community in means of real simulation training and being located locally. In years to come this facility will prove to be even more valuable and a positive addition to our service.

Safety is and always will be the number one priority for management and our members. Continual educational sessions and discussions were conducted to promote / inform and instil 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. Limiting risks and understanding risks is critical to prevention.

Our Inspection / Prevention Division continue to enhance with the commitment of the two members within it. The Inspection mandate and the overall program goals progressed very well in 2011. A total of 395 Commercial inspections were conducted in 2011 with another 120 Re-Inspections. As well numerous community projects and training / prevention programs were provided to residents in a number of different methods. With assistances coming from our partnerships, Paid On-call members and the community participation, this Division has made huge advancements within 2011. We also enhanced our electronic technology within this Division to now be totally “in the field” capable relating to Inspections.



2011 Junior Fire Chiefs for the Day

Staff members endlessly process inquiries and concerns on a daily basis from both residents and visitors. In response to the variety of community safety inquiries, our members take great pride in working with the public on conducting educational awareness and providing public safety.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Prevention Division 2011 Yearly Totals

395	Commercial Inspections
120	Re- Inspections
91	Category 3 Burn Pile Inspections
28	Sub Division/Plan Reviews
24	Smoke Alarm Installations
17	Fire Safety Plan Reviews
15	Fire Alarm Systems Checked
9	Car Seat Installations
7	Fire Drills Conducted

8	Driveway Inspections
6	Water Storage Tank Inspections
3	Lock Box Installations
2	Special Events Permits
1	Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention

NOTE: Over 1100 persons were positively affected by direct contact through Public Education and Fire Prevention sessions in 2011.

Iris Beck continues to be our refreshing personality for all the visitors and inquiries. With the inclusion of our administrator, this position has been remodelled to include a wide variety of enhanced media tools for the public to access as well as our interior daily needs.

Social networking for our organization has progressed greatly in 2011 towards modernizing our communications internally and externally. Our team of communications masters have create multiple ways and systems to keep people / members informed, educated and a chance to voice their thoughts and create dialogue. We encourage you to visit or follow us on our Website: www.saltspringfire.com, Facebook, Twitter.

During the past year we have grown leaps and bounds in partnerships to help enhance public safety, communications, community support, improved understandings and general positive relationships. We have worked with multiple agencies within BC and beyond.

In the commitment of real progress within our service and Island there must be open, respectful communications with a mutual understanding of the necessity to partner and resolve challenges together. The vision and reality 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. We must be realistic to the Islands needs, firefighter safety, changes and future by providing a functional core fire station and the equipment needed. This in turn, will provide safety to the public and for the members responding to calls for assistance.

In 2012 the SSIFR will continue to advance by managing and addressing the operational requirements in support of; firefighter safety, the SSIFPD 10 Year Strategic Plan, Community needs, policies and mandates; while remaining; responsible, accountable and effective within the elements that make up the SSIFR operations via the Fire Trustees governances.

Recruiting new members to join the SSIFR is critical in enabling this organization to meet its mandates. Diversity and looking at the options within provides a wider horizon for those community folks that do not want to be front line firefighters. In 2011 the SSIFR created a new division of membership call the Fire Incident Technicians (F.I.T) who are support workers in a number of specialized fields without being firefighters. Recruit has continued to enhance over the past number of years and we look forward to that tern continuing by means of position community participation and word of mouth.

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 many 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 within the organization. The commitment by the membership is reassuring. Each year these individuals respond to “Calls for Assistance” and unite to assure an extremely high level of public safety.

Respectfully Submitted,

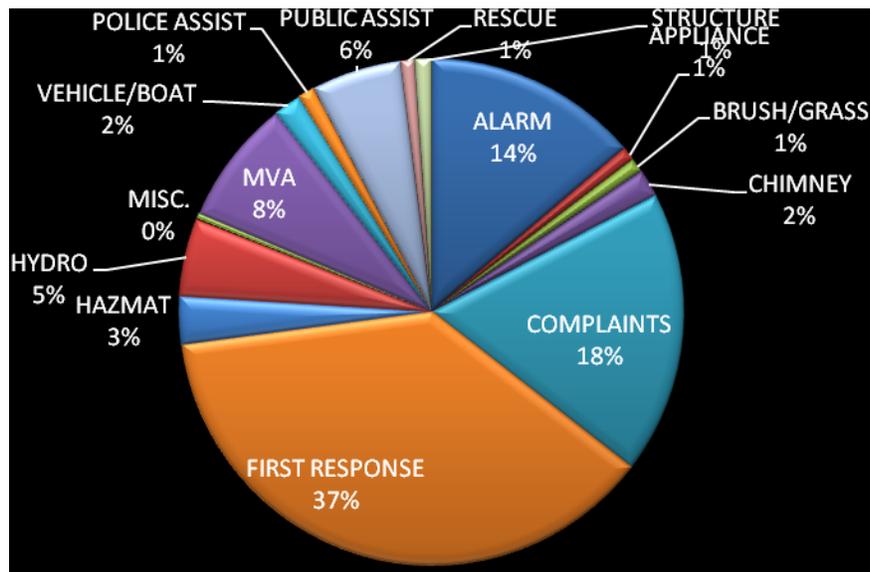
Chief Tom Bremner

Deputy Chief Arjuna George



SUPERIOR TANKER SHUTTLE ACCREDITATION APRIL 9TH, 2011

2011 SSIFR YEAR END "CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE" OVERALL REVIEW



FIRST RESPONSE	209
COMPLAINTS	101
ALARM	77
MVA	45
PUBLIC ASSIST	32
HYDRO	28
HAZMAT	17
CHIMNEY	10
VEHICLE/BOAT	10
STRUCTURE	6
POLICE ASSIST	6
RESCUE	5
APPLIANCE	5
BRUSH / GRASS	5
MISCELLANIOUS	2

2011 TOTAL CALLS: 558