

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

## Fire Chief's Report

April 2017

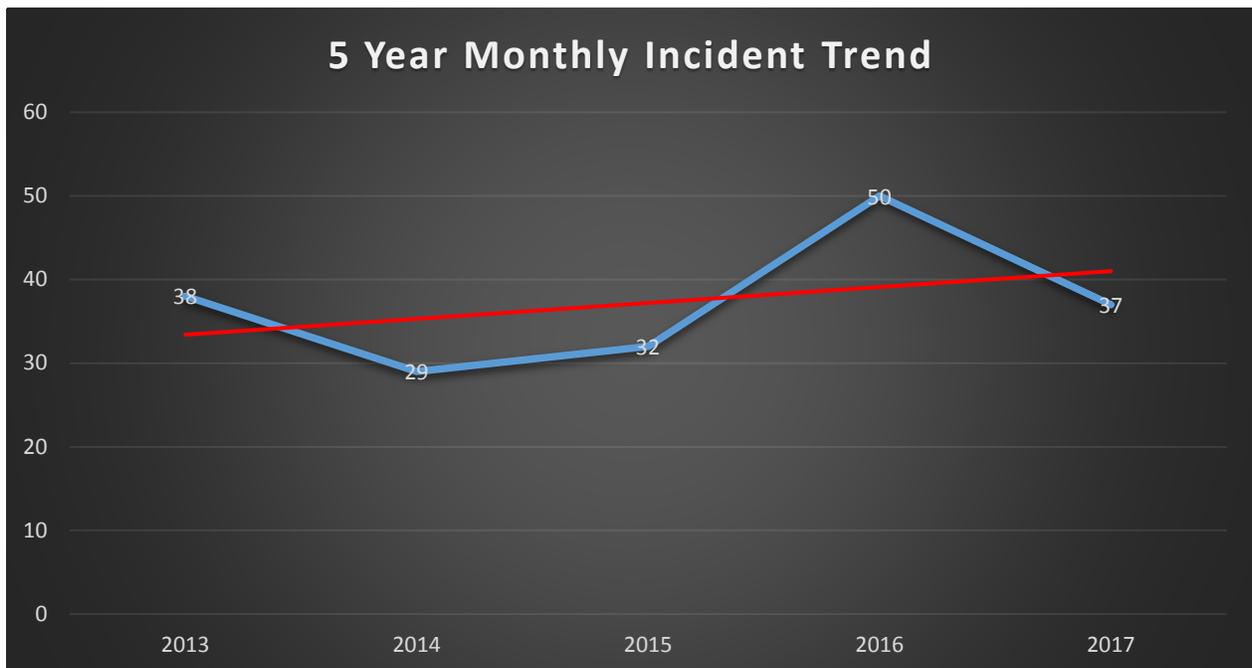


I would like to welcome our new board members to the District. As Fire Chief, I look forward to working with each of you over the coming years.

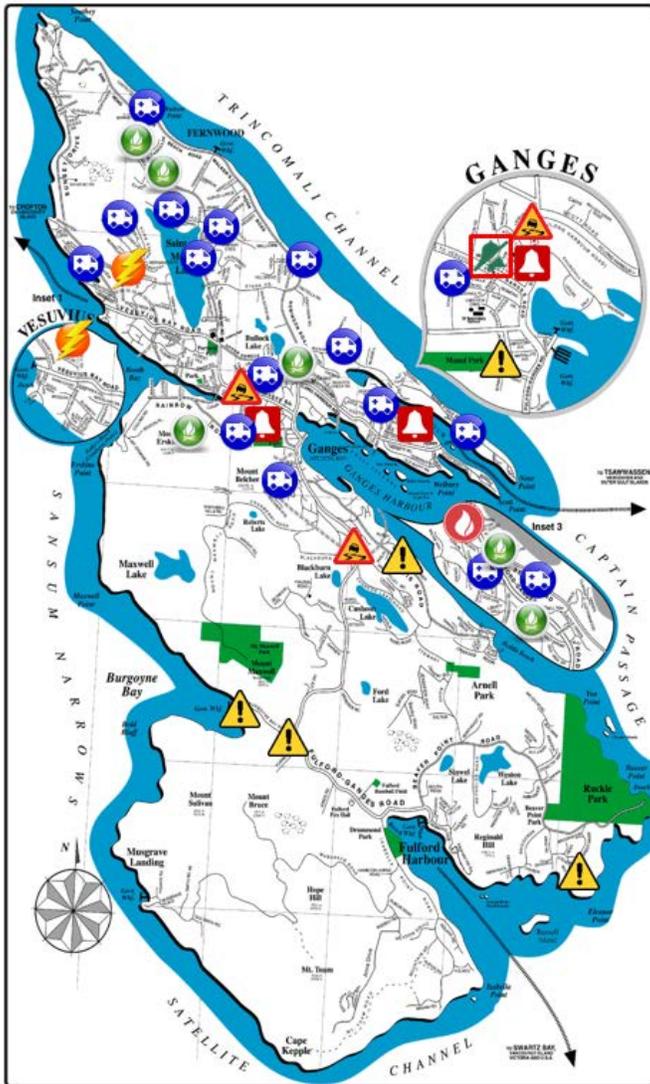
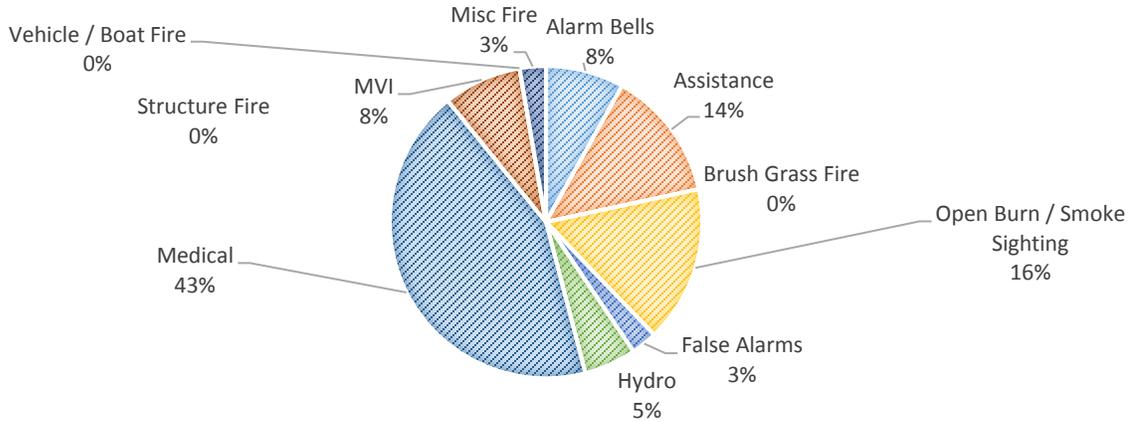


### Response Report

SSIFR responded to 37 Incidents in the month of April.



# APRIL 2017 RESPONSE CHART



Incident Legend

<b>Aircraft</b>	Aircraft - crash		<b>Hydro</b>	Fire		
<b>Alarm Bells</b> 	CO	1		Lines Down	2	
	Commercial	2		Tree on Lines		
<b>Assistance</b> 	Intrusion		<b>Medical</b> 	A/B	2	
	Residential			C		
	BCAS	3		D	13	
	Flooding			E	1	
<b>Smoke smell/sighting</b> 	Public	1	<b>MVI</b> 	MVI	3	
	Misc. Complaint			<b>Open Burn</b> 	Campfire	2
	Public Works				General	4
<b>Brush/Grass/Beach</b> 	Bark Mulch		<b>Rescue</b> 	Animal		
	Fire			Elevator		
	Beach			Rope/High/Confined Search		
<b>False Alarm</b> 	RCMP	1	<b>Rubbish</b> 	Water/Ice/Drowning		
	CO			Rubbish/Dumpster		
<b>Fire-Misc.</b> 	Commercial	1	<b>Structure Fire</b> 	Commercial		
	Residential			Comm. Smoke/smell in structure		
<b>HAZMAT</b> 	Misc. Fire	1	<b>Vehicle Fire/Boat</b> 	Residential		
	Chlorine			Chimney		
	Chemical/unknown spill/leak			Mobile home/trailer		
	Petroleum Spill/Fire			Res. smoke/smell in structure		
	Propane			Vehicle		
			<b>Medical - 1st ON SCENE</b>		4	

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

RESPONSE STATS # 17-01254 - # 17-01643

April 2017

Total 37

FULL PAGE (3998)		FIRST RESPONSE PAGE (3966)		DUTY PAGE (3967)		NOT PAGED OUT	
DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT	DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT	DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT	DAY (0700-1700)	NIGHT
3	5	2	10	5	4	6	2

## Operations Update

On April 7-9 CAO Peat and myself attended at 3-day workshop “Working Together: Effective Fire Service Administration” targeting Fire Chief’s and Local Government CAO’s. The workshop held in Victoria was of great value for both of us. During the workshop, we covered several administrative based topics, legal



issues, liability, risk management, but more importantly how important working together as a team was. I would highly recommend the Board of Trustees continue the training with future CAO’s and Fire Chief’s. I am happy to report that many of the key issues and local government problems discussed have already been addressed by the board and Fire Chief. Our administration, training program, risk management, and operations are inline with what are best practices.

Our Fire Department statistics have been reflecting a more accurate account of what Dispatch is paging our members out too. It is described in more detail then in the past to provide clearer more defined statistics. All of 2017’s monthly statistics have been reported in this more in depth manner.

We have received seventeen (17) applications for our Pre-Incident Plan Summer Co-Op student, and one (1) casual summer student resume. Interviews will be conducted in May.

Annual Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) checks are underway along with SCBA Fit testing. An advanced PPE inspection is required at a minimum of once a year.



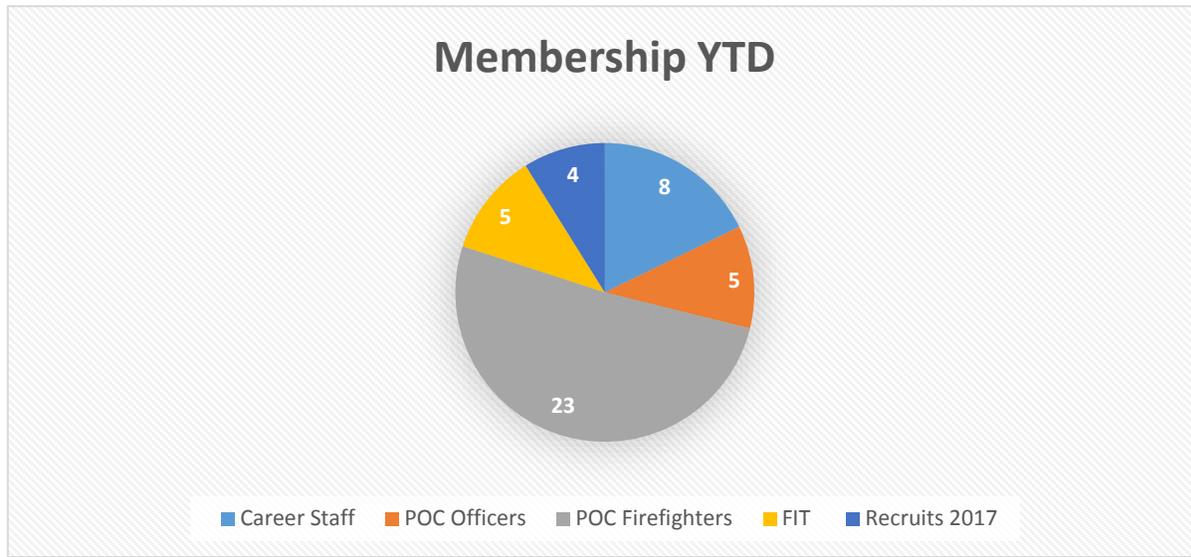
Response time tracking and improving our turn out time (Shoot Time) is one our goals for 2017. This valuable information will aide in planning and a better service to our community. During the Daytime (7-5) Monday to Thursday we have four (4) staff on shift (Plus the Chief), On Thursdays we have three (3) plus the Chief, and one the weekends we have three (3) on shift. After 5pm, our only guaranteed responder is the Duty Officer.

## Incident Highlights

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** SSIFR Firefighters and First Responders attended a major motor vehicle incident on Fulford Ganges Road with a cyclist involved. The road was closed for an extended period and one patient suffered extensive injuries.

On **April 28<sup>th</sup>** SSIFR firefighters responded to a fire on a porch of a residential house on Dean Road. Due to the quick action of the occupants and the response of fire crews the fire was contained to the deck area only and no extension in to the building.

## Membership



Field Incident Technician Howard Holzapfel has retired to work as a Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Trustee. We have one POC member on a medical LOA.

Over the years, we have lost a few members of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue to other fire services in Canada. I am proud of the fact that our training, and support has provided these members with the skills and ability to pursue careers in the Fire Service. We have had four (4) members move on to positions in Quebec, Ontario, Greater Vancouver area and Greater Victoria. We also have had three (3) move on to be Fire Chief's in other communities. All our current career staff have also moved up through the ranks within our structure. These members all provided the island with years of service and were all valued community members.

## Training

In April, we hosted an Air Brakes course for five (5) of our members.

Airbrakes is a required certificate for operating most of our fire apparatus.



We began our annual Fit Testing for medical masks (N95) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This annual Fit test is a Worksafe requirement. The Fit Test machine is a group owned unit with the other outer island Fire Departments.

Our Platoons concentrated on tender shuttle operations as part of our regular Tender Shuttle accreditation (STSS) training.

Our recruits of 2017 have successfully finished their exterior modules one and two. They are progressing very well and will be issued fire pagers in May.

We have registration open for Training In Paradise 2017. This will be our 14<sup>th</sup> training weekend offering our members great local training.

## Inspection and Public Education Division

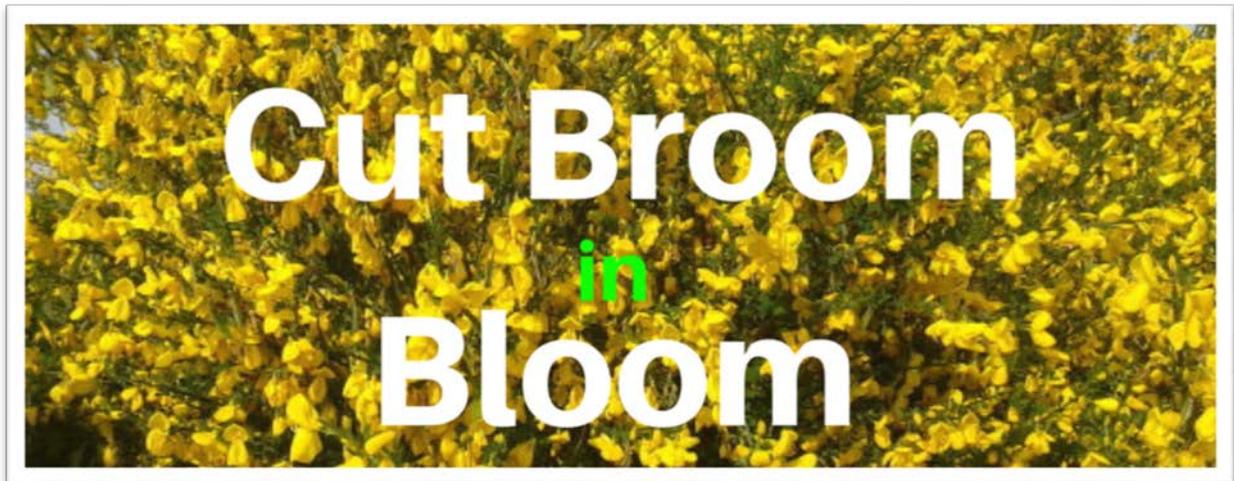
Our Inspection team conducted Forty-Four (44) Commercial Fire and Life Safety inspections in April. We also worked with the Harbour Authority to review their Fire Safety Plan for all the island's government docks and harbour buildings along with one other commercial Fire Safety Plan. Four (4) commercial Pre Fire Plans were created, along with two (2) commercial site safety visits.

Our Public Education team was busy in April with the **P.A.R.T.Y** (Prevent Alcohol-Related Trauma to Youth) injury prevention program for one hundred twenty (120) GISS Students. SSIFR worked in partnership with VIHA, BCAS, RCMP, and our local doctors and nurses. (April 25-26)



We also provided Red Cross first aid training to eight registered massage therapists. We had one school tour to our Ganges station with twenty (20) students and four (4) adults. We offered two fire extinguisher training workshops to ten (10) staff members at SD64, and a class of nursing students.

Spring is the time for FireSmarting your property and cutting broom in bloom. Broom grows rampant of Salt Spring Island and is extremely flammable. SSIFR is working with the island's conservancy group to raise awareness about Broom and other flammable invasive species. We also delivered a presentation to over sixty (60) Maracaibo Strata residents on the important of Fire Smart.



April 29<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salt Spring Island Emergency Fair was held at the Farmer's Institute. The four-(4) hour fair had booths and demonstrations from all island first responders. Our SSIFR booth provided information on our new online fire permits, wildland roof sprinklers, general fire safety and Fire Smart. The Fair brought in over one hundred (100) island residents. Congratulations to Peter Watts on being the winner of the Wildfire Protection Kit.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arjuna George".

Arjuna George

Fire Chief