



Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue.  
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**COPY**

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Adam Olsen, MLA  
Saanich North & the Islands  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria,  
BC V8V 1X4

Dear Sir

Salt Spring Island faced one of the most devastating and demanding emergencies in recent history during last December's windstorm. In collaboration with CRD Emergency Operations and other participants, Salt Spring Island Fire-Rescue played a key role in the emergency response during and following the storm. The "Emergency Operations Centre" was established at the Ganges Fire Hall. In addition to environmental damage, the December 20<sup>th</sup> storm severely impacted local infrastructure (road closures and hydro/telecommunications outages), taxed available resources and our ability to respond.

Subsequently, emergency response organizations have met and identified several areas of concern that should be addressed. From Fire-Rescue's perspective the greatest challenge was hosting the "Emergency Operations Centre" at the Ganges Fire Hall without an adequate source of back-up power. All three of our fire halls do not have back-up generator power and this weather event tested our abilities to effectively respond. Suitability of the Ganges Fire Hall as the default Emergency Operations Centre for a large-scale event, such as a wildfire or earthquake, is questionable because of lack of equipment and resources.

Our community expects that Salt Spring Island Fire-Rescue will have the capacity to function and respond during large scale events and we would like to engage discussion with you on resources that might be available to us and other possible support

Sincerely,

Per Svendsen  
Board of Trustees Chairman  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

CC: Gary Holman, CRD Director Salt Spring Island