

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

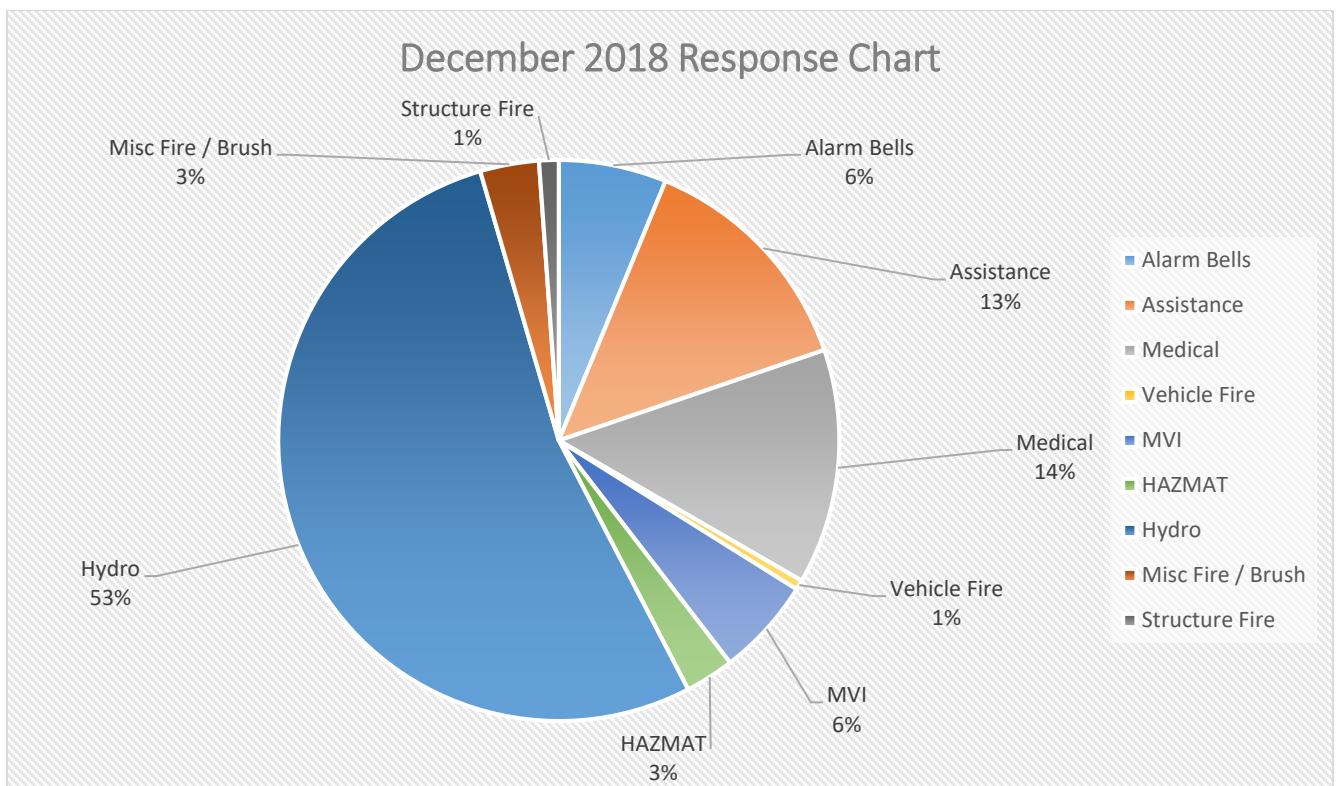
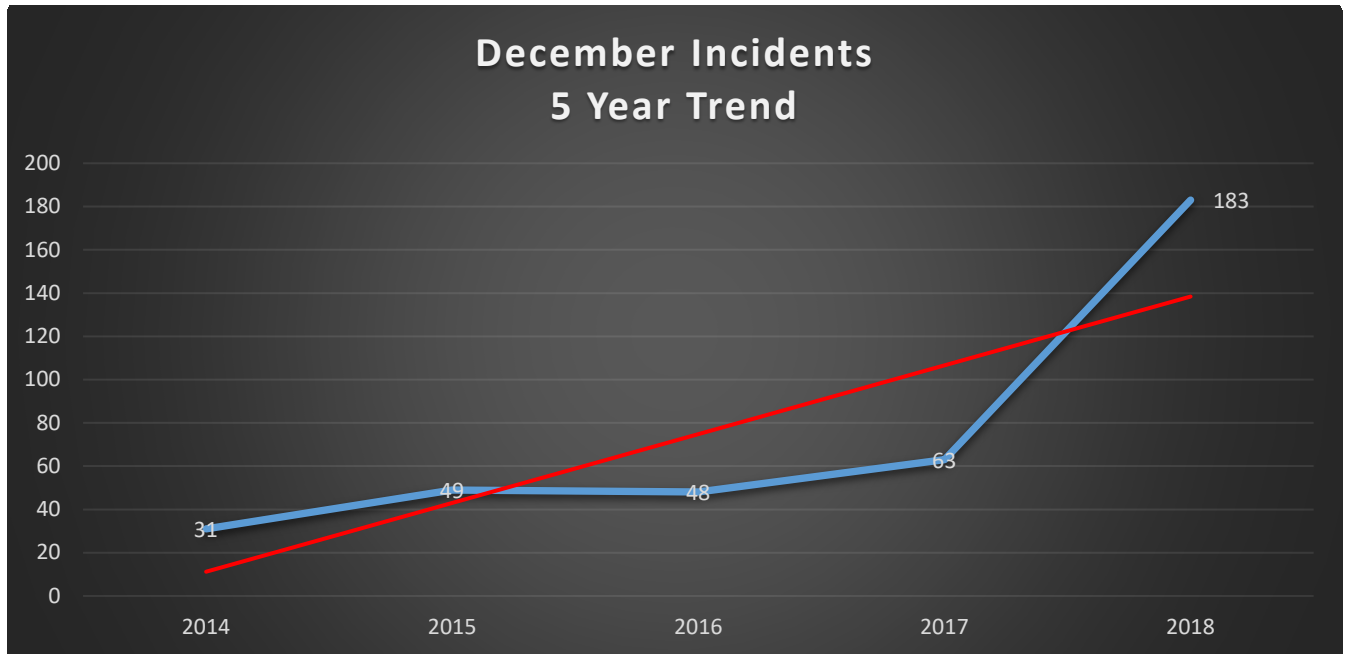
Fire Chief's Report

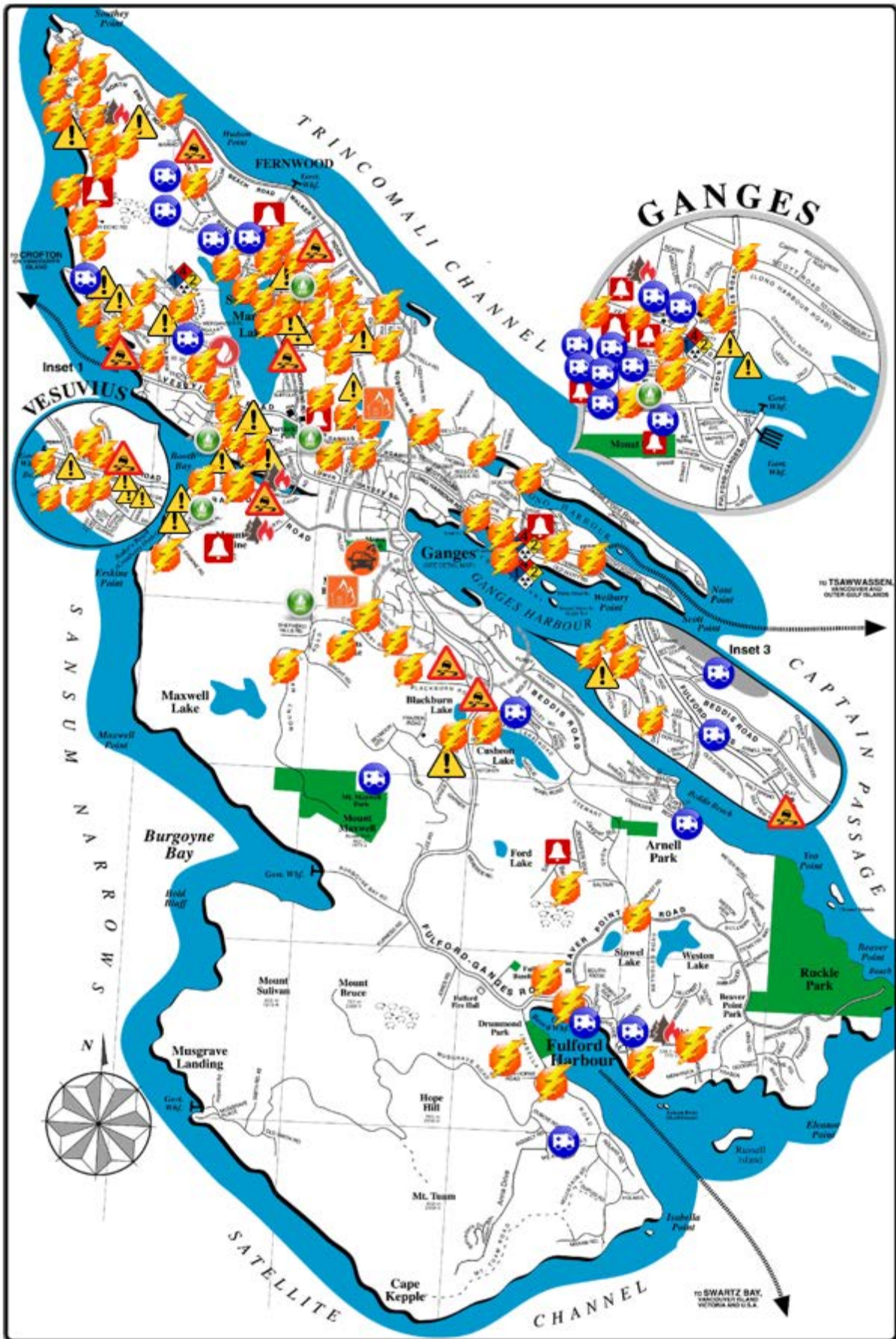
December 2018



Response Report

SSIFR responded to a record **183** Incidents for the month of December, ending the year with our highest call volume in history with **816 incidents**.





















INCIDENT LEGEND

DEC 2018

Total Calls: 183

Aircraft	Aircraft-Crash		 Hydro	Fire	8	
 Alarm Bells	CO	6		Lines Down	72	
	Commercial	5		Tree on Lines	14	
	Intrusion			 Medical	Medical A/B	
	Residential				Medical C	
 Assistance	BCAS	4		Medical D	24	
	Flooding			Medical E		
	General Public	8		 MVI	MVI	10
	Misc Complaint	7	 Open Burn		Campfire	1
	Public Works	4			General	5
		RCMP	1	 Rescue	Animal	
 Beach	Beach Fire		Elevator			
 Boat	Distress/Fire		Rope/High/Confined			
 Brush/Grass	Bark Mulch		Search			
	Fire	2	Water/Ice/Drowning			
	Smoke Smell/Sighting	3	 Rubbish	Rubbish/Dumpster Fire		
 False Alarm	CO			 Structure Fire	SFComm - Smoke/Smell	
	Commercial		SFComm (Structure Fire)			
	Residential		SFRes - Chimney		1	
 Fire-Misc	Misc Fire	1	SFRes - Mob Home/Trailer		1	
 HazMat	Chlorine		SFRes - Smoke/Smell			
	Petroleum Spill/Fire		SFRes - (Structure Fire)			
	Propane	3	 Vehicle Fire	Vehicle Fire	1	
	Chemical/inknown spill/leak	2		Total Calls for the month: 183		

Operations Update

December 1st the Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) hosted a Community Information Meeting at the Legion on the improvements coming to improve regional safety through communication upgrades for Salt Spring Island.

Early December in cooperation with the Local CRD Emergency Program Coordinator and the CRD Fire and Emergency Manager we submitted a formal application for a 2019 FireSmart grant. Within 90 days we should be notified if we were successful in our bid. Our key strategies if we are successful are to enhance our FireSmart Education program, train local FireSmart Representatives and community champions, Firefighter cross training in wildland firefighting and other enhancements to wildfire prevention.

Salt Spring Island and our organization faced the most severe weather event in recent history on Dec 20th. The windstorm topping at 100 Km per hour (equal to a Category 1 Hurricane) caused island wide damage and emergencies. SSIFR responded to 87 calls on the 20th alone. Majority of the calls were weather related including propane tank leaks, trees on residences, trees on vehicles, power lines down and MVI's.

Working with all our islands emergency responders we were able to manage the situation resulting in no major injuries or fatalities. Much of the storm hit the island for over eight hours causing the most damaging wind storm in BC Hydro's history. On Salt Spring alone more than 500 spans of wire were needed to replace the damaged lines. Majority of the power was restored to the island by Dec 31st, 2018.



The Ganges Fire Hall #1 was the hub of the emergency management with the Fire Area Command set up as well as the Emergency Operations Centre. It was demonstrated that the solid working relationship SSIFR has with our responding agencies aided in the positive outcome and management of this record-breaking storm. As a follow, up to the event I have posted some suggestions for

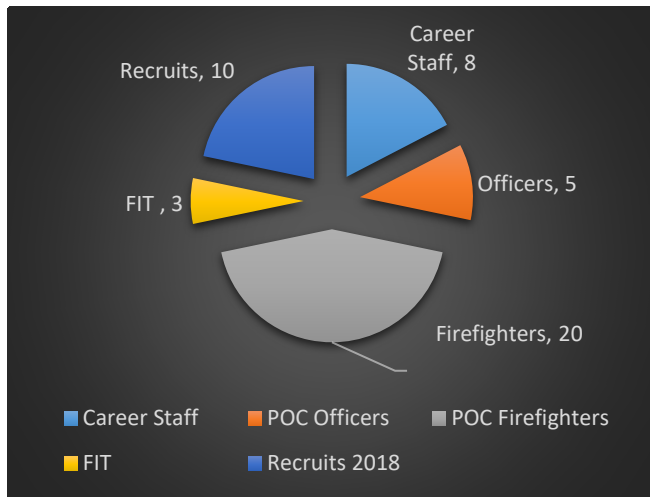


the public to consider so they are more prepared next time this type of event occurs. The bulletin can be accessed at <https://saltspringfire.com/preparing-for-the-next-one/>

SSIFR Firefighters responded to a Dec 23rd residential structure fire on Mount Erskine Road. There were no occupants home at the time of the fire. The fully involved structure fire was in close proximity of surrounding buildings that fire crews were able to protect. The Fire was investigated with no conclusive findings for cause and origin.

In December our apparatus fleet and ground ladders were all tested and maintained by HUB. All apparatus received annual maintenance and repairs but received a service test pass.

Membership



Recruit Firefighter Process update. After a four-month recruitment campaign, we are excited to announce that nine (9) Probationary Recruit Firefighters and two (2) Probationary Field Incident Technicians (FIT) have accepted positions with SSIFR. They will start their training Jan 8th, 2019.

RECRUIT CLASS 2019

SSIFR



PROBATIONARY FIT #53
Scott Chapman



PROBATIONARY FIT #140
David Bunkowski



PROBATIONARY FF #141
David Demner



PROBATIONARY FF #142
Tony Denman



PROBATIONARY FF #143
Hayato Tanaka



PROBATIONARY FF #144
Amin Ebrahimian



PROBATIONARY FF #145
Daniel Crossin



PROBATIONARY FF #146
Brandi Blair



PROBATIONARY FF #147
Evan Hinshelwood



PROBATIONARY FF #148
Eddie Novakowicz



PROBATIONARY FF #149
Jordon Kitchen



Training

Due to the holidays season, December was a short training month. Our 2018 recruits completed the Fire Prevention module, completed their NFPA 1001 final exam and have only one certified course (Hazardous Material Operations Level) to complete the NFPA 1001 Firefighter certification.

General membership also wrote a year end 100 question NFPA 1001 refresher exam and performed very well. Our Training Branch hosted Vancouver Firefighter James Johnson for a three-hour session on fire behaviour and building construction. This very valuable session was well received and provided our membership with more knowledge and tools to use in emergency situations.



Inspection and Fire and Life Safety Education

November was another busy month for fire-prevention staff. We held several events and had numerous interactions with the community. These events included:

- SSIFR hosted our second annual Burn It Smart workshop to teach wood heating safety at the SSI Library with 37 participants in conjunction with the SSI Conservancy Cameron Sweet (of Cameron Sweet Chimney Sweep), Richard Elwell (of Home Design Centre) and Ben Westlake (of Salish Forestry Solutions).
- Our Public Education team visited Family Place (a resource centre for young families) and met with 32 children and parents on important holiday safety.
- SSIFR held two CPR classes for 25 Grade 9 GISS students as part of our ongoing education plan for teaching all students the lifesaving skill of CPR.
- Our Education team met with residents of Brinkworthy to discuss Advance Directives along with Pat Desbots of the Hospice Society and our island Community Paramedic Chris Griffiths.
- We held a year-end review of our Public Education programs and planning for 2019 programs.

Respectfully Submitted

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

Arjuna George

Fire Chief