

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

January 2019



VISION

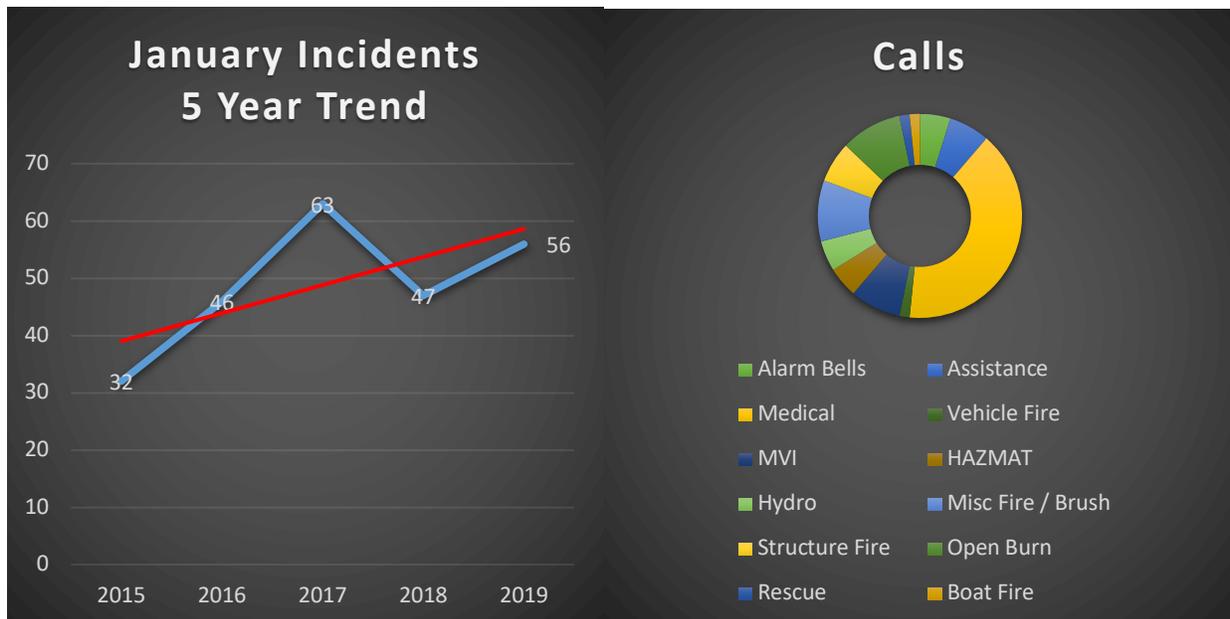
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

MISSION

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

Response Report

2019 is starting off with above average call volume with 56 calls for assistance in January.



INCIDENT LEGEND		Jan 2019	Total Calls: 56
Aircraft	Aircraft-Crash		
Alarm Bells	CO		
	Commercial	3	
	Intrusion		
	Residential		
Assistance	BCAS	1	
	Flooding	2	
	General Public		
	Misc Complaint	1	
	Public Works		
	RCMP		
Beach	Beach Fire	1	
Boat	Distress/Fire	1	
Brush/Grass	Bark Mulech		
	Fire		
	Smoke Smell/Sighting	1	
False Alarm	CO		
	Commercial		
	Residential		
Fire-Misc	Misc Fire		
HazMat	Chlorine		
	Petroleum Spill/Fire		
	Propane	2	
	Chemical/Inkknown spill/leak	1	
Hydro	Fire		
	Lines Down	2	
	Tree on Lines	1	
Medical	Medical A/B		
	Medical C	1	
	Medical D	23	
	Medical E	1	
MVI	MVI	5	
Open Burn	Campfire	1	
	General	4	
Rescue	Animal		
	Elevator		
	Rope/High/Confined		
	Search		
	Water/Ice/Drowning	1	
Rubbish	Rubbish/Dumpster Fire		
Structure Fire	SFCOMM - Smoke/Smell		
	SFCOMM (Structure Fire)		
	SFRes - Chimney	3	
	SFRes - Mob Home/Trailer		
	SFRes - Smoke/Smell		
	SFRes - (Structure Fire)	1	
Vehicle Fire	Vehicle Fire		
		Total Calls for the month: 56	

Operations

Fire Crews had their first Structure Fire of the year on January 8th, 2019 on Orchard Road. With an aggressive exterior and interior fire attack, firefighters were able to minimize the damage to the single-family home. No occupants were home at the time. Two Firefighters had to be treated for minor injuries. A Fire Investigation was conducted, and it was concluded that the cause of the fire was a faulty electrical wall heater.

Firefighters responded to a fully involved house boat fire in the Ganges Harbour January 30th, 2019. The Fire was quickly brought under control and a search conducted finding no occupants on board. The fire was deemed suspicious and the investigation was transferred over to the RCMP.



Our Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee met for a day-long workshop reviewing the committee's accomplishments for 2018 and target goals and strategies for 2019.

Planning is underway for our Gulf Islands Cadet Camp being hosted on Pender Island this Spring Break. This event co-organized with Pender Island Fire-Rescue is one of the most important community outreach and recruitment strategies we support. The week-long camp provides Grade 11-12 students an opportunity to learn some incredible life skills while also having a first-hand look at what being a firefighter is like. Since the very first camp we have been able to attract students who have since joined SSIFR as active firefighters.



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.



January 8th Our recruit Class of 2018 were presented their yellow structure helmets in recognition of their new status of "Interior Firefighters". After successfully completing Hazardous Materials Operations course they will be fully National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Firefighter I/II.

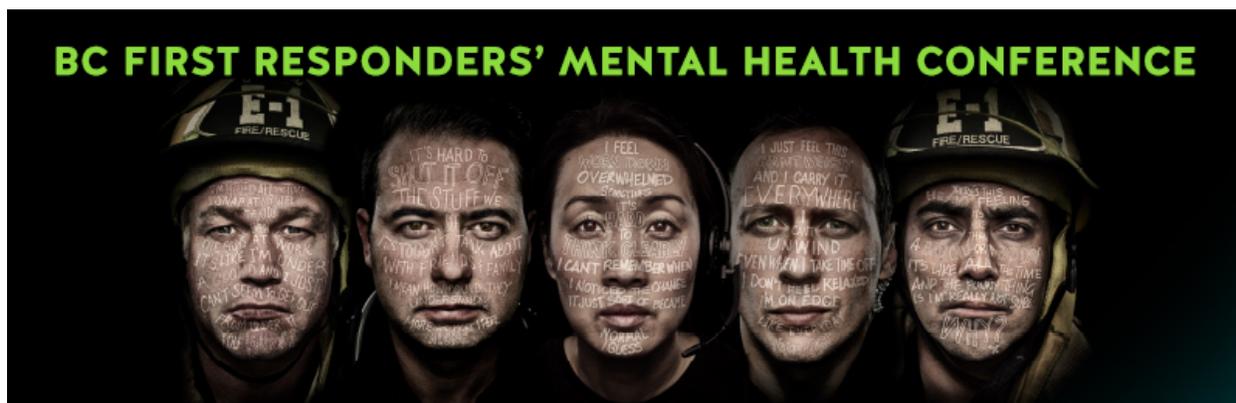


Training

As our new recruits started their careers with Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue understanding our culture, organization and history, the regular members concentrated on basic skills maintenance and training around responses to storm events and lessons learned from the Dec 2018 windstorms.

Our special operations Rope team and Pump Operations team also met on their regular nights as well as our Inland Water Rescue team concentrating on ice rescue techniques.

We attended the first annual B.C. First Responders Mental Health Conference in Richmond BC. The inaugural event was a massive success with over 400 delegates. The conference provided valuable information on First Responder mental health awareness and prevention for us to utilize within SSIFR.



Inspection and Fire and Life Safety Education

Fire Inspections

6 Fire/Life Safety Inspections



1 Fire Safety Plan



1 Fire Investigation



2 Sub Division Reviews



Respectfully Submitted



Arjuna George

Fire Chief

Fire & Life Safety Education

95 Community Outreach



Our Education team started off the year with our annual Christmas Tree chipping in an effort to reduce fire hazards and to help educate the public on FireSmart principles.

We met with a group of young families after the Dec 2018 Windstorm to assist in emergency preparedness planning.

We attended the Climate Action workshop with other community leaders to address future plans for the increased wildfire and storm emergencies on Salt Spring Island.

We are currently in the process of updating our Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other initiatives of our FireSmart education and prevention. A new B.C. FireSmart resource website has been launched and is a great resource for information. <https://firesmartbc.ca>

