



The Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Advisory Committee decisions are guided by key principles developed and adopted by the committee.

Guiding statement:

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue provides fire, rescue, emergency medical, hazmat, vehicle crash, fire inspection service and public education for the island's residents, businesses, and visitors from three fire hall sites. Regulations and requirements for fire halls and fire rescue services have changed since the first hall was built in 1960. Aging infrastructure, evolving fire and rescue response needs, growing population, and more stringent building code requirements and regulations mean existing infrastructure must be evaluated with a broader set of criteria to ensure facilities meet the needs of the fire rescue service now, and in the decades to come.

Building:

- New, expanded or renovated facilities must serve the Island well into the mid-century (30-50 years from now).
- Related agencies, partners, and organizations must be considered and engaged to explore space- and cost-sharing opportunities.
- Needs, assessments, and possible solutions must be supported by third-party research, evidence, or testimony, and recognize these guiding principles.

Resilience:

- Wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis, and climate change impacts must be considered in order to ensure any new or expanded facilities are resilient and able to effectively serve the Island, especially in an emergency.

Island solution:

- Solutions, plans and proposals must be made on Salt Spring, for Islanders.
- Salt Spring Island has a tradition of green, sustainable, and environmentally positive amenities, and any new or improved fire rescue facilities should meet these qualities.
- Islanders will ultimately pay for any upgrades to fire rescue infrastructure, and the limited tax base must be taken into consideration.
- The Fire Rescue Advisory Committee will help ensure Islanders have ample opportunities to learn more and provide input. Key decisions must be clear, transparent, and collaborative.

Fire rescue service:

- Through the needs assessment process, ensure the community has a firm understanding of the roles, services, and governance of the fire rescue service.