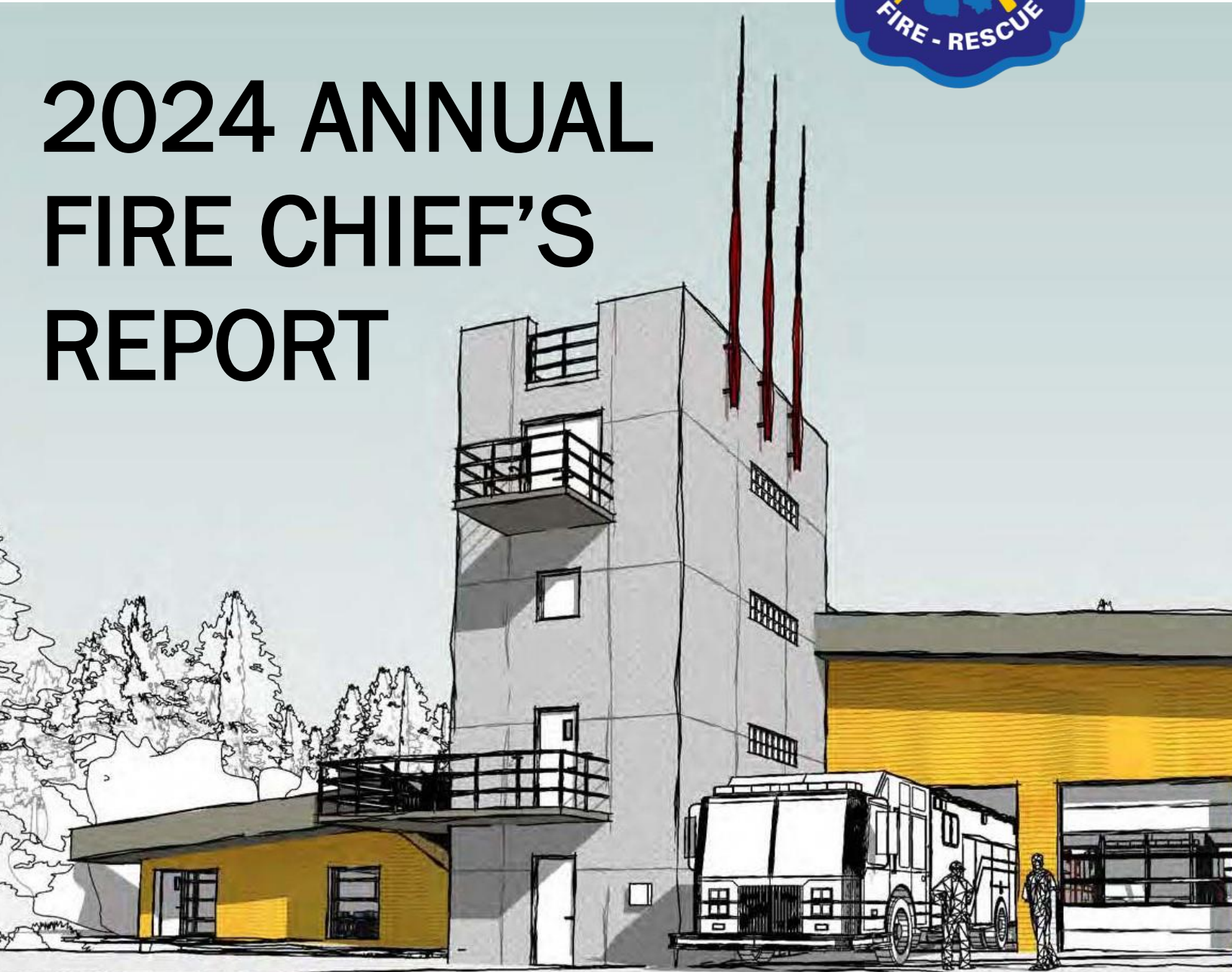


Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue



2024 ANNUAL FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT



Community Report

Prepared by

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief

Dale Lundy, Deputy Chief

PERSONAL MISSION: *To be honest, helpful, and human.*

PERSONAL VISION: *To see potential, instead of obstacles.*

CHIEF OFFICERS' VISION: *Empower others within our organization.*

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Message from the Fire Chief's Office

As Fire Chief of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue, I am honored to present the 2024 Annual Fire Chief's Report. I want to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Board of Trustees and the volunteer committee members who devoted countless hours in 2024 to enhance our community and the department.

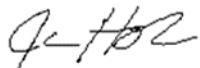
I am immensely proud of the men and women serving in all capacities of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue. They are skilled professionals who face physical, mental, and emotional challenges regularly. This report aims to showcase our performance and the achievements we celebrated throughout the year.

In 2024, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue achieved several key milestones that reflect our commitment to community safety and service excellence. We successfully maintained high response times, ensuring that emergencies were addressed promptly and effectively. Our team conducted numerous training sessions, enhancing the skills and readiness of our personnel. We also implemented new fire prevention programs that significantly increased community awareness and preparedness. Additionally, we upgraded our emergency equipment to meet safety standards, further bolstering our operational capacity. Overall, our department fostered strong community relationships through outreach initiatives, emphasizing the importance of fire safety and emergency preparedness.

I would also like to thank the families of our members for their unwavering support, as they are an integral part of our fire service family. Our aim is to foster a healthy community for our staff, residents, and visitors. SSIFR is comprised of dedicated professionals committed to delivering exceptional service to our community. We are privileged to serve this great community.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to every member of our department for their extraordinary dedication and hard work throughout the year.

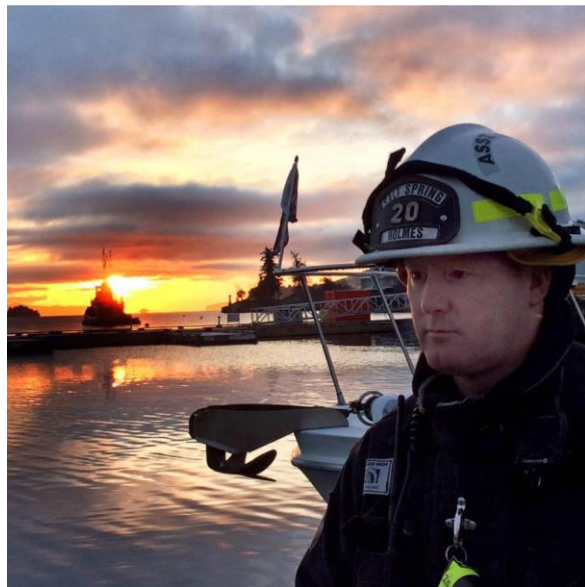
Sincerely,



Jamie Holmes

Fire Chief

jholmes@saltspringfire.com

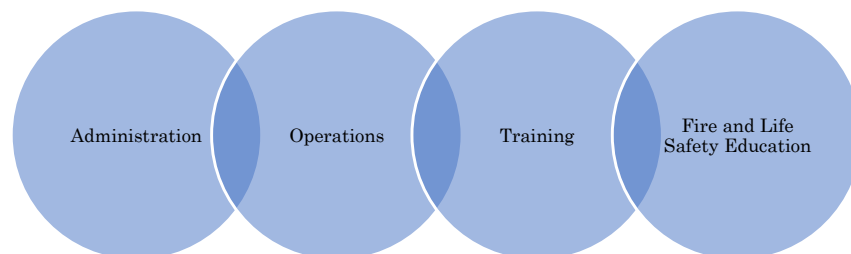


Our Purpose to Serve



Focus 2024

- Continue to enhance the health and livability of our community.
- Enhance our relationships with our neighbours and community leaders.
- Foster and support a resilient and diverse community.
- Continue to address the operational and financial requirements for our department.
- Encourage employee mental wellness.
- Construction of a new community fire station.



Organizational Overview

The Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) is a full-service department providing fire/rescue operations, emergency medical services, fire investigations, fire inspections, and fire and life safety education.

The Fire Department operates from three fire halls located strategically throughout the island to provide a rapid response. Service is delivered utilizing three Engines, three Water Tenders, one Brush, one Mini Pumpers, three Medic Units, one Hazmat Unit, one Inland Water Rescue Boat, one Wildland Sprinkler Unit (SPU) along with two reserve apparatus.

The Fire Department maintains accreditation through Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) for our water delivery capabilities under the certification of Superior Tender Shuttle.



Fran Leask

you guys are awesome. thank you for all you do ❤️

18w Like Reply Hide



Kathie Lindstrom

Awesome !!! Love your team work 👍

46w Like Reply Hide



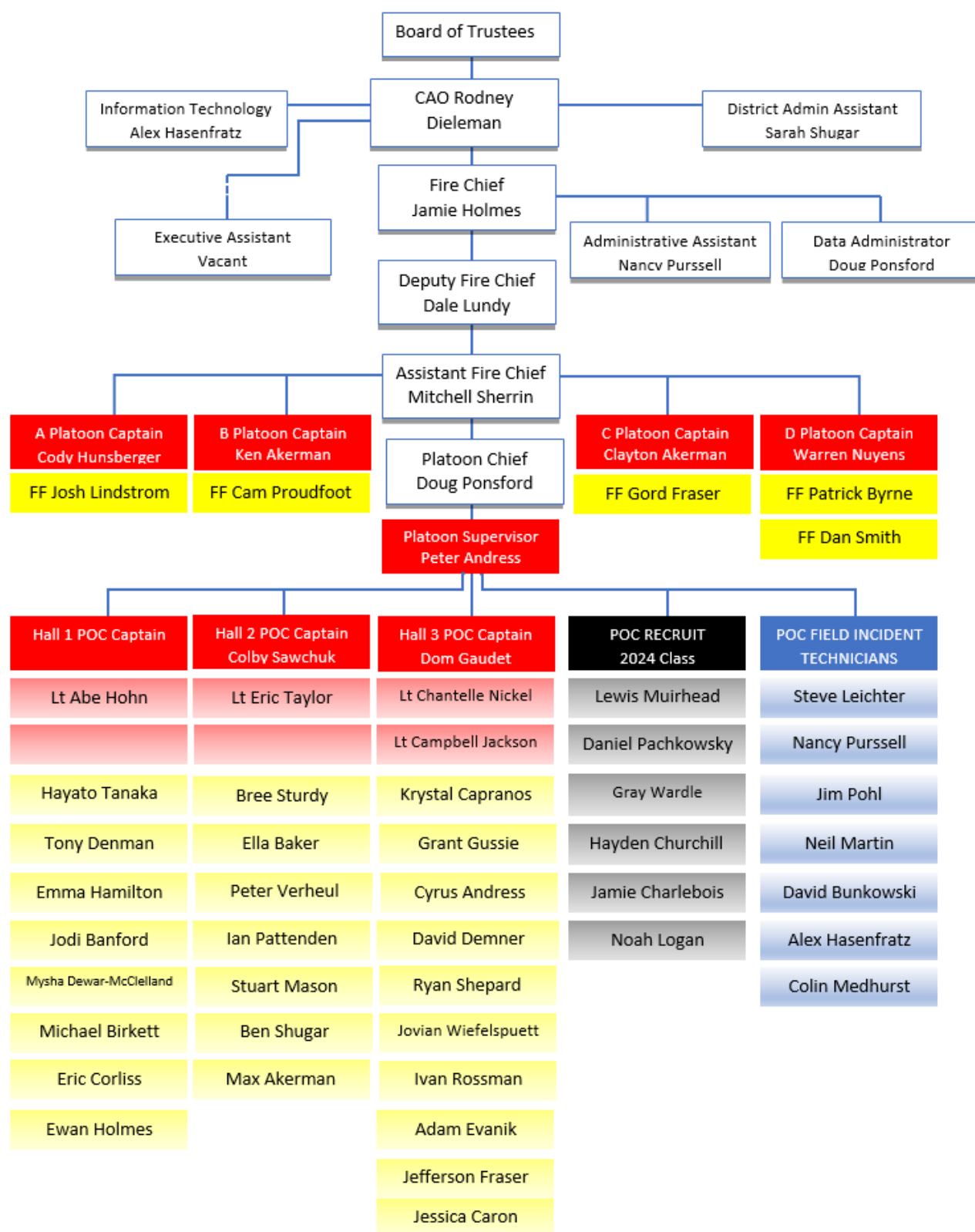
Leigh Anne Milne

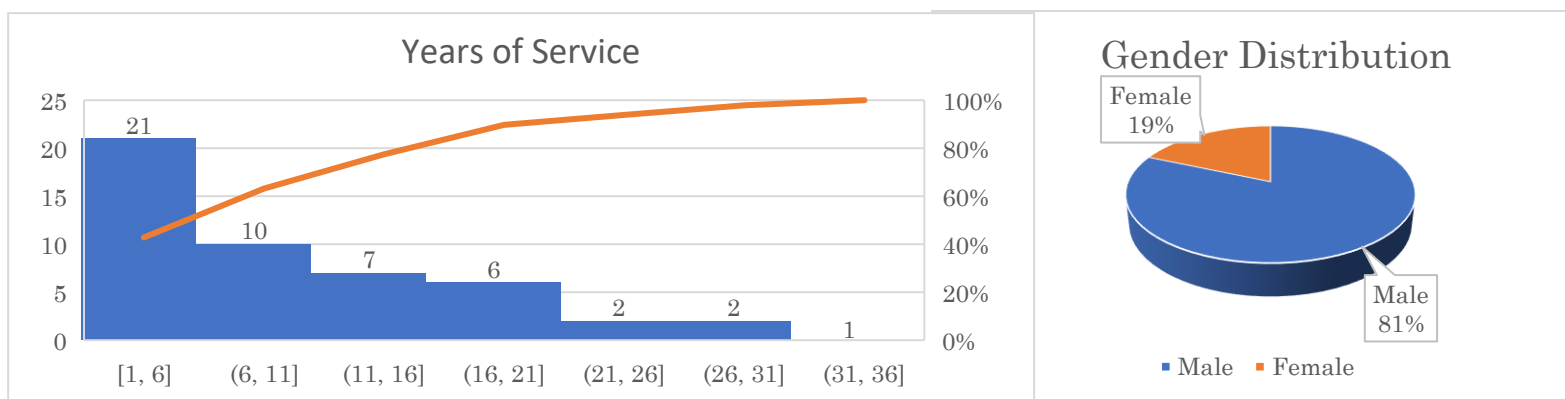
🙏🙏🙏🙏 so much appreciation.

47w Like Reply Hide



Salt Spring Fire Rescue Organizational Chart 2024





SSIFR took on six additional recruit members in 2024. We continue to be a relatively junior department, with more than half of our membership under the ten-year service mark. The average length of service currently sits at 8.9 years, which is higher than average for Paid-On-Call (POC) departments. SSIFR continues to promote diversity in our department with a nineteen percent female membership, we are well above the Canadian average of five percent. Our members range in age from sixteen to sixty plus with the average being 43 years old. The average recruit age is 34, so it's not too late if you are thinking of volunteering.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue is very proud to recognize our talented and dedicated members who celebrated years of service milestones in 2024.

Celebrating Milestones

- ❖ Five Years of Fire Service: **David Demner, Hayato Tanaka, Ella Baker, David Bunkowski**
- ❖ Ten Years of Fire Service: **Campbell Jackson, Neil Martin**
- ❖ Fifteen Years of Fire Service: **Cody Hunsberger, Jim Pohl**
- ❖ Most Dedicated to Fire and Life Safety Education: **Mysha Dewar-McClelland (139 hours)**
- ❖ Most Dedicated to Training: **Jessica Caron (334 hours)**
- ❖ Most Dedicated to Calls: **Capt. Sawchuk (127 call hours)**
- ❖ Recruit Firefighter of the Year: **Ewan Holmes**
- ❖ Fire Officer of the Year: **Platoon Supervisor Captain Peter Address**



Operations

Our mission is to minimize injuries, death and property loss related to fires, medical emergencies, and other disasters through efficient delivery of effective fire suppression, rescue and pre-hospital care.

The career members ensure our equipment is in good order, and ready for emergency response through weekly hall inspections and truck equipment checks. Paid-on-Call members assist in emergency response, when available, to give us the numbers required to deal with emergency situations safely and effectively.



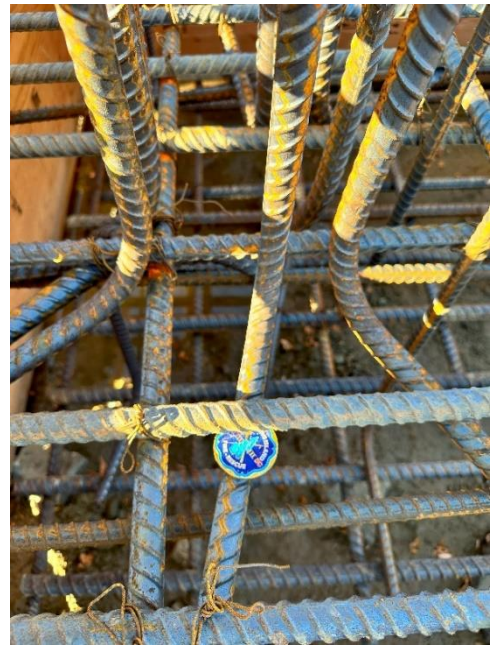
The change in staffing model to a twenty-four-hour staffed Fire Hall #1 that took place in 2021 continued to pay dividends in 2024. Several structure fires were knocked down while still small due to the quick response of on-Duty Crews backed up by Paid-on-Call members. This year SSIFR responded to thirteen structures where fires were extinguished and prevented from spreading to adjacent buildings or to nearby wildland interface areas.

In 2024 we added a Flex Firefighter to reduce overtime costs while still maintaining minimum staffing levels as laid out in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Krystal's hire is SSIFR's first female career firefighter. Krystal Capranos, a Paid-on-Call member since 2018, has been very active on our Fire and Life Safety Education team, instructing CPR, and emergency medical training, has been a great addition to our career staff.

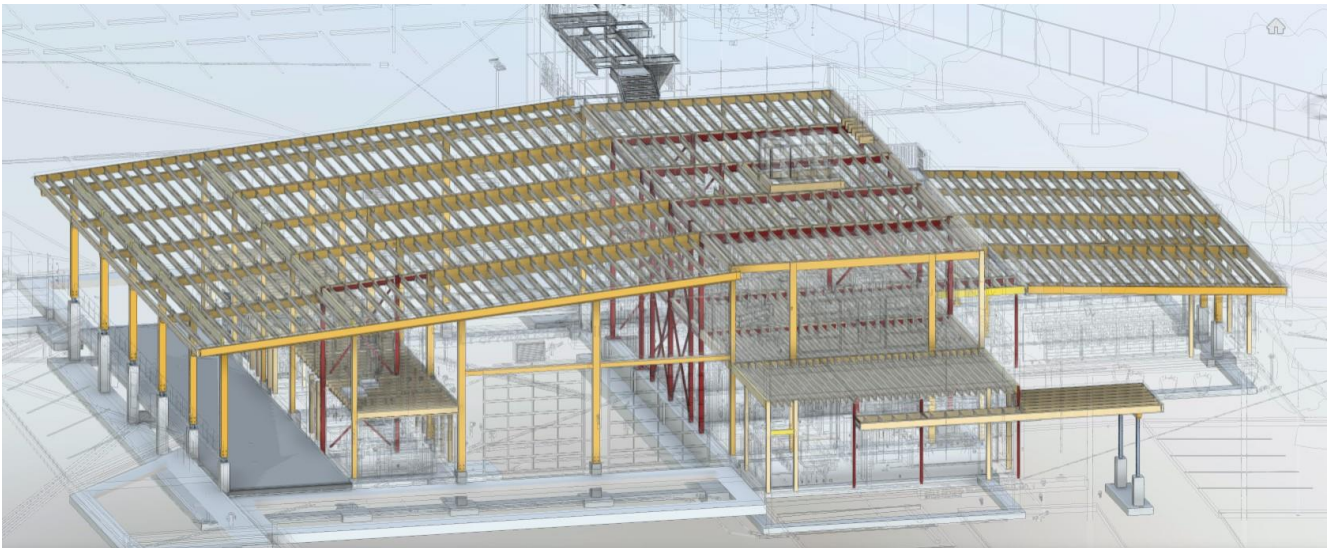
Our fleet continues to be maintained to Fire Underwriter Survey (FUS) standards. We purchased a "new to us" Medic Unit from Saanich Fire Rescue, saving 50% off a new unit. The new Brush 2, specializing in wildland firefighting, was placed into service in June, replacing our aging unit built in 1994. In September the department was the benefactor of a wildfire skid unit from GlobalMedic. We look forward to it providing rapid response this summer on SSI.



New Firehall #1: Groundwork started in earnest on the new Firehall #1 property in April of 2024. Charlie's Excavating started removing topsoil and replacing it with rock for the aprons and parking areas. In an effort to save time and keep the project on budget, the decision was made to move the Training Tower two meters off the main firehall. We obtained the necessary variance approvals from Islands Trust, and our building permit from the CRD to start foundation work over the summer. After more than thirty years of work, by countless people, it was a wonderful feeling to see foundation work being done on a new Firehall #1 building. Although some may feel frustrated at the time it has taken to get the firehall built, I truly feel we are served better by ensuring that we're doing everything possible to get the right building, at the best possible price.



The whole department is looking forward to the completion of the building and I know I speak for everyone in saying it will be worth the wait.



Penelakut: SSIFR visited Penelakut Island to build a relationship with their fire department and assist them wherever possible. We started with a tour of their firehall and their island to get an idea of where to best start. Penelakut members visited the training grounds at the Fulford Firehall in May, and it was a great day of training wrapping up with some cooking by retired Capt. Kurt Irwin. We hope to continue to work with our neighboring island and our team really enjoyed meeting their firefighters and their family members who joined them.

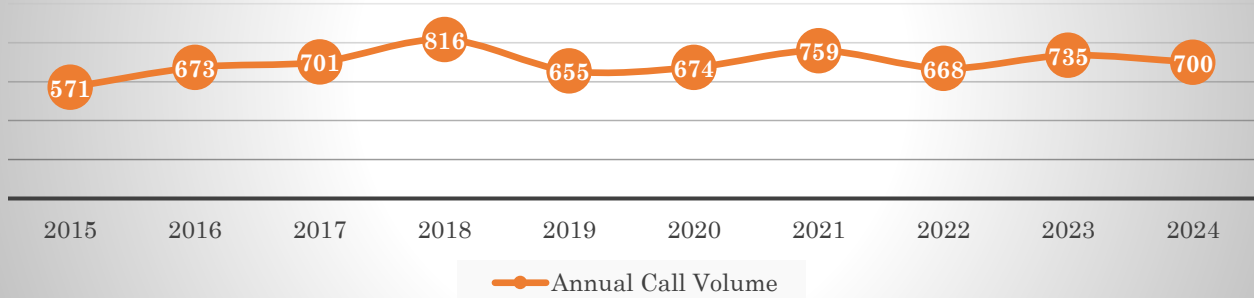


First Due: Transitions over to our new records management system First Due was another major project for the department. Platoon Chief Ponsford worked extra hours to make sure the system is ready to go and that our members were all trained on the new program. First Due replaces multiple programs including FDM, Fire Manager, IAR, Fleet Maintenance, and MS Forms. This has eliminated duplicate entries, and the system is much more harmonious, saving time and money.

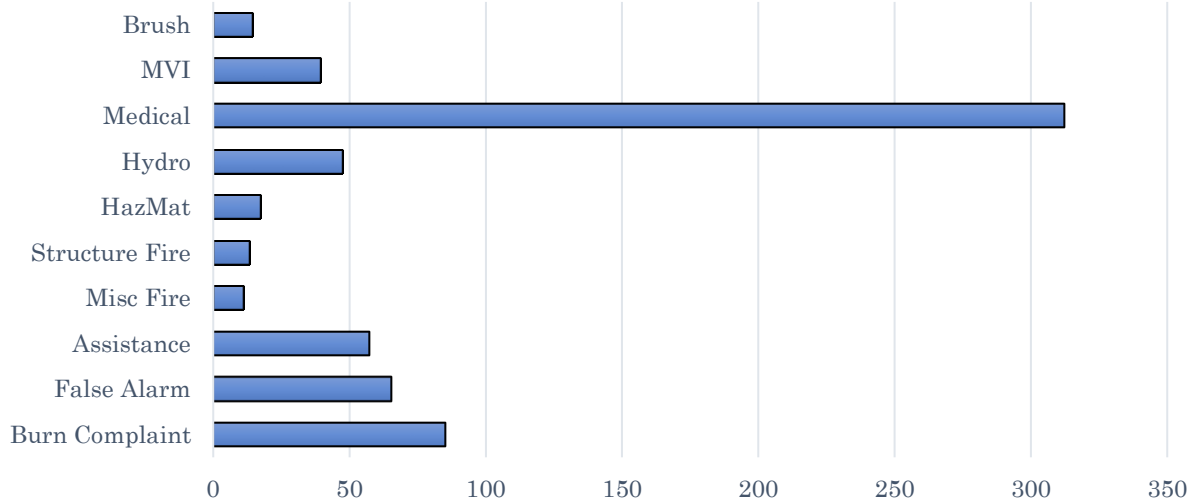
Fire Safety Act: On Aug. 1, 2024, the new Fire Safety Act came into force. Unfortunately, this document over ten years in the making still left many questions when it comes to Fire Protection Districts. We are continuing to work with the CRD, who through the act, appoints Fire Investigators and Fire Inspector to find the best solution for fire safety on Salt Spring Island.



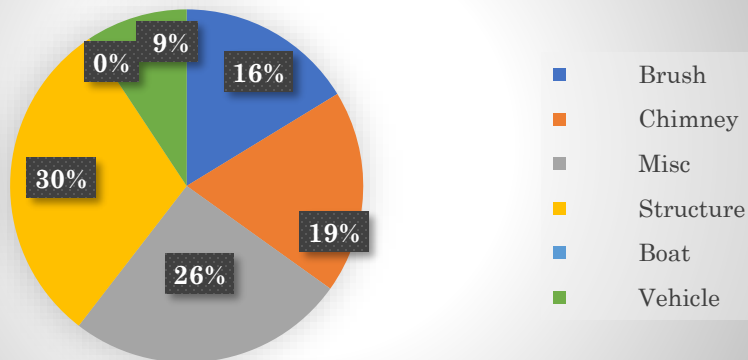
Annual Call Volume 10 Year Trendline



2024 Top 10 Calls



2024 Active Fire Breakdown



*Brush, Chimney,
Misc., Structure,
Boat, Vehicle (As
Dispatched by Fire
Dispatch)*

2024 Incident Information



INCIDENT LEGEND		Dec-24												TOTAL CALLS: 700	
Act/Bylaw	Complaint	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
Aircraft	Emergency	1	3	6	9	12	14	12	6	7	5	4	6	85	
Alarm	Alarm	7	4	5	5	2	4	5	8	5	7	8	5	65	0
Assistance	Assistance	7	3	2	3		5	10	5	6	9	4	3	57	
Explosion	Explosion								1				1	2	
Fire	Brush		1			2	2	1	1					7	
	Chimney	2		1	1		1	1				1	1	8	
	Misc			1	3	2		3		1		1		11	
	Structure	2	2		1	2		2	1	1		2		13	
	Boat													0	
	Vehicle	1			1					1	1			4	
HazMat	HazMat	2	1		1	2	4	1	3	1	1	1		17	
Hydro	Hydro	8	1	2		2	7	4	1	3	1	10	8	47	
Medical	Medical	26	28	35	26	23	18	31	32	29	18	26	20	312	
MVI	MVI	3		2	3	2	5	3	6	3	4	3	5	39	
Rescue	Rescue		2	1	1		1				1		2	8	
Smoke/Smell	Brush	1	2	1	1		3	3	1			1	1	14	
	Structure		1	1	1			2	4	1		1		11	
Total Calls for the month:		60	48	57	56	49	64	78	69	58	47	62	52	700	
2024															
	FIRE	16	8	6	9	10	17	17	12	8	3	17	11	134	
	RESCUE	4	5	9	13	14	20	15	12	10	10	7	13	132	
	MEDICAL	26	28	35	26	23	18	31	32	29	18	26	20	312	
	ASSISTANCE	14	7	7	8	2	9	15	13	11	16	12	8	122	
		60	48	57	56	49	64	78	69	58	47	62	52	700	

Prevention

We conducted 42 inspections of Alternative Water Supplies (ponds, dry hydrants, and tanks)

We switched to Company Inspections in 2024 where the on-duty crews conducted 65 commercial fire-inspections.

- Totals for the branch are as follows:
- Site Visits –17
- Fire Safety Plan Review - 6
- Bylaw Referrals – 1
- Development Permits – 4
- Subdivision Approval – 3
- Driveway Inspections – 8
- Cat 3 Machine Pile - 24



Fire and Life Safety Education (F&LSE)

Community Engagement

2,000+

Community
Engagements

In addition to traditional safety education sessions aimed at school-age children, SSIFR educators strove to reach a broad base of the community with sessions targeted to seniors, the business community, young families, and homeowners. Under the direction of acting A/C Akerman, and acting A/C Nuyens we had another successful year of providing top notch education to the residents of Salt Spring Island.

First Aid Training

CPR/AED Certification at GISS:

January: Restarted program and trained 25 students.

February: Trained 25 students.

March: Continued program, trained grade 9 students.

April: Certified 45 students over two days.

May: Certified 20 students over two days.

June: Certified 39 students over two days.

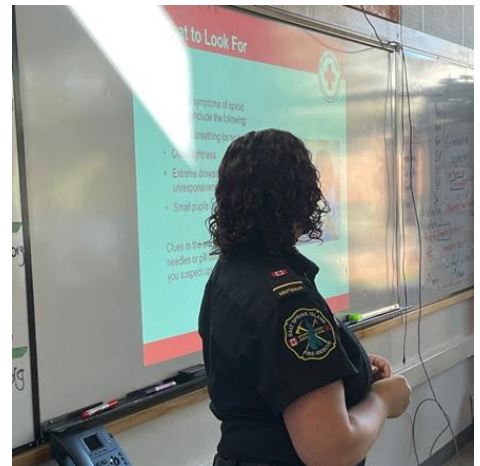
July-August: Recertified 7 members of Salt Spring Girl Guides.

September: Preparations for busy months ahead.

October: Assisted with CPR recertification for community partners.

November: Led CPR/First Aid classes, including a session for families with toddlers.

December: No specific events mentioned.



Other First Aid Classes:

February: Emergency First Aid certification for 10 students, CPR skills workshop for 8 Lion's Club members, Airway Management and Oxygen Therapy workshop for 14 Marine Search and Rescue members.

March: AED and choking management training for Lion's Club members.

April: Planned two community workshops for June.

May: Planned two community workshops for June.

June: Two-day Marine First Aid certification course for 15 participants, one-day CPR/AED certification course for front office staff at Salt Spring Island Health Center, CPR booth at Emergency Preparedness Day, two First Aid information sessions at Family Place.

July-August: Critical life-saving interventions training for 10 residents of Bayside Strata.

October: Infant CPR & First Aid at Family Place.

November: Community First Aid Classes.

FireSmart Initiatives



Home Assessments:

June: Performed 15 Home Assessments.

July-August: Completed 13 Home Assessments.

September: Completed 4 Home Assessments.

October: Completed 4 individual Home Assessments.

November: Completed two Neighborhood Assessments.

SSIFR congratulates and celebrates the achievements of five FireSmart recognized neighbourhoods: Bayside, Cusheon Lake, Kingfisher, Maracaibo and Skywater. Thank you for your efforts to help make Salt Spring Island FireSmart.

Educational Events:

January: Burn it Smart Series with Transition Salt Spring

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRc6q-90hHqVctOPA8JIBxAjb3eY-knzc>

February: Hosted tours and interactive lessons for Fernwood Elementary students, promoted FireSmart at Seedy Saturday, conducted a home safety discussion at Family Place.

March: Hosted FireSmart promotional booth at Salt Spring Home and Garden Show, consulted with Bayside community, conducted presentations for Fernwood Elementary students and Chu-Ann / Elizabeth Pod group.

April: Hosted Hall and Truck tour for Fulford School K-1 class, conducted FireSmart safety information session for Cusheon Lake Pod.

May: Participated in Ruckle Farm Day, hosted Car Seat Clinic and truck tour at Salt Spring Co-op Preschool, attended Early Learning Education Fair at Salt Spring Elementary School.

June: Participated in Salt Spring Island Emergency Services Fair.



July-August: Participated in various events including Canada Day Car Show, Island Ignite, Extinguisher Training, and First Aid for non-profit community groups.

September: Staffed FireSmart booth at Fall Fair, attended 100 Hills "Pod-luck", conducted Fire Extinguisher training for Greenwoods staff, organized 'parent and tot' story time session at library.

October: Conducted several events totaling 134 hours, including Open House, Car Seat Clinic, First Aid Training, Extinguisher Training, FireSmart, and Fire Prevention Week.

November: Led six events totaling over 65 hours, including CPR/First Aid classes, public safety discussions, Fire Hall tours, FireSmart Neighborhood Assessments, and Community First Aid Classes.



This summary highlights the extensive efforts in community education, first aid training, and fire prevention initiatives by Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue throughout 2024 and I would like to thank all the members who helped make these important community engagements. If you would like our team to visit you, please give us a call!



THE TRAINING REPORT

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

2024



SSIFR 2024 Training Story

In 2024 our team completed a total **9,913.75 hours** of training. Regular members trained on Tuesday nights, while recruits trained on Sunday mornings. We also had joint training sessions on Sunday afternoons, focusing on:

Auto Extrication

Rope Rescue

Pumps & Pumping

Emergency Vehicle Driving

Water / Ice Rescue

Fire and Life Safety Education team training



Aside from our maintenance training program below is a list of additional or optional training that various members took throughout the year. These courses are specific to the needs of members, depending on their seniority.

Air Brake Endorsement – 2.5 days

Emergency Vehicle Driver Evaluator – 2 days

Class 3 Driving Certification - (Duncan)

Emergency Scene Traffic Control – 4 hours

Strategies & Tactics - 2 days

Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) - 2 days

Wildland Firefighter 1 (WFF-1) - 2 days

Task Force Leader (Wildland) – 1 day – (Metchosin)

S-100 A Annual Wildland Firefighting Recertification - on-line

Wildland Resiliency & Training Summit – 4 days – (Prince George)

Haz-Mat Awareness NFPA 1001 Requirement - on-line

Haz-Mat Operations NFPA 1001 Requirement - 3 full days

Pumps & Pumping – 2 days

Live Fire Training – 2 days (Pender Island)

First Responder Instructor - 4 days (Victoria)

First Responder Scope Upgrade – 2 days

Fire Inspector Level 1 – on-line - 3 months

Fire Officer 1 – (in person & on-line) - 1 year

Emergency Scene Management – 5 days (New Westminster)

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) – on-line - 30 hours

Fire Service Instructor – on-line – 3 days

Wilderness First Aid – 50 hours

Incident Command System 100 – on-line 1 month

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) – on-line

Electrical Safety for First Responders (BC Hydro) – on-line

Foundations of Leadership Symposium – 2 days – Penticton

BC Training Officers Educational Conference – 4 days – Squamish

BC Fire Chiefs Education Conference – 4 days – Kamloops





We also introduced a new work shift for our Paid-On-Call (POC) firefighters to work alongside our career duty crew. This initiative allows POC firefighters to familiarize themselves with day shift operations, including truck checks, pre-trip inspections, responding to emergency incidents, training. Every other Friday and Sunday 2 POC members sign up for these shifts, known as Shift Familiarization Friday, and Shift Familiarization Sunday. These opportunities help instill confidence and familiarity with the halls and the apparatus.

I want to thank the entire membership, Fire Chief Jamie Holmes, and the Board of Trustees for their continued support of the training office.

Humbly and respectfully submitted

Dale Lundy
Deputy Fire Chief



A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, a large, dark tree trunk stands vertically. To the left, there is a pile of burning logs with bright orange and yellow flames. Thick white and grey smoke rises from the fire, filling the background and partially obscuring the other trees. The ground is covered in ash and charred wood.

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief

105 Lower Ganges Road

Salt Spring Island, BC

250-537-2531

firechief@saltspringfire.com

EVERYONE PLAYS A ROLE