

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

August 2023



Vision

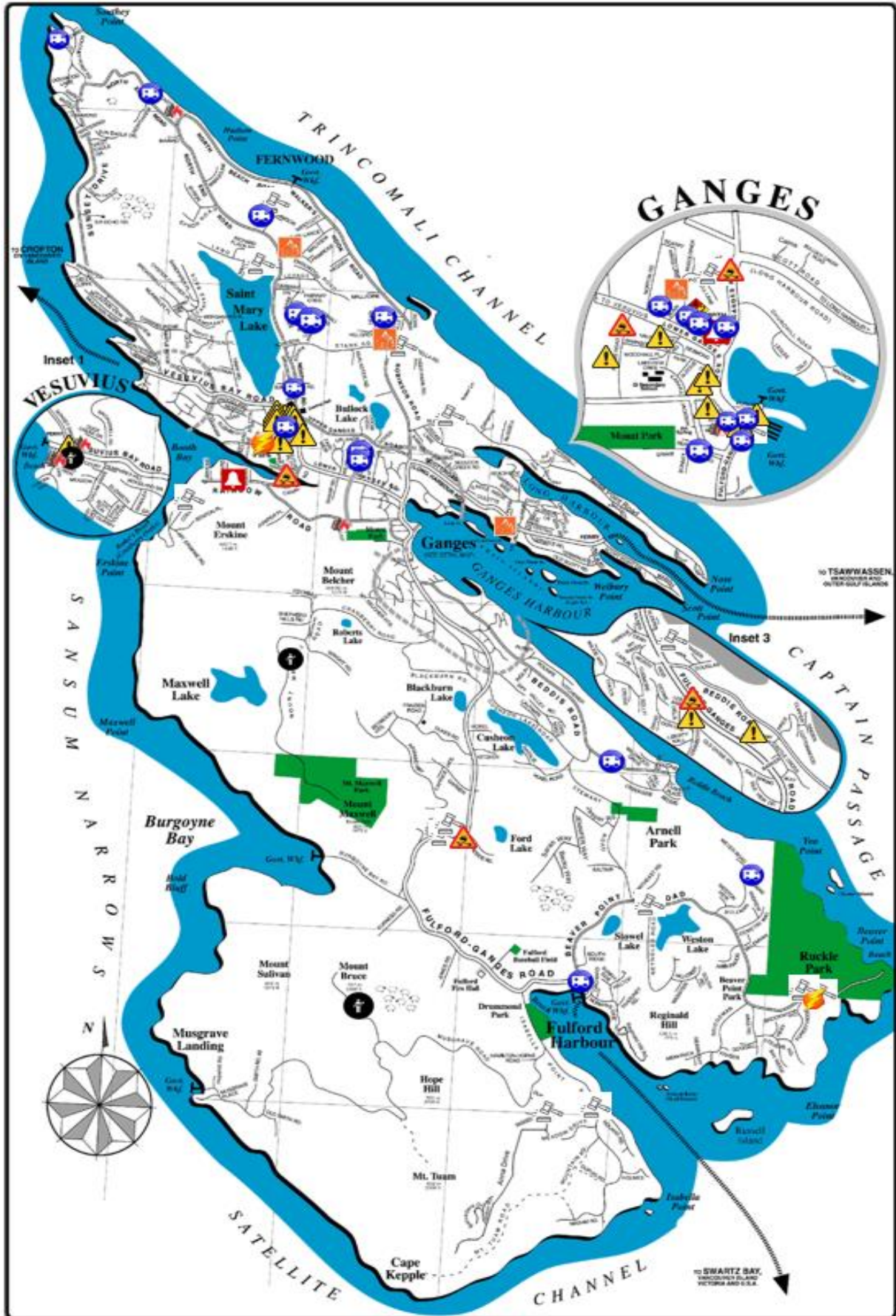
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

Response Report

INCIDENT LEGEND		2023									
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG		
Act/Bylaw	Complaint	5		4	5	14	12	16	15		
Aircraft	Emergency										
Alarm	Alarm	6	4	7	4	6	5	6	2		
Assistance	Assistance	4	5	4	3	10	18	14	19		
Explosion	Explosion										
Fire	Brush			1	2	2	1		1		
	Chimney	1									
	Misc	2	3	3		2	3	1			
	Structure	2	2	1			1	1	3		
	Boat				1		1				
HazMat	Vehicle	1		2		2					
	HazMat								1		
Hydro	Hydro	4	12	4	1	1		3	2		
Medical	Medical	21	11	20	24	30	40	29	21		
MVI	MVI	7	3	5	1	5	4	4	5		
Rescue	Rescue	1		1				2	3		
Smoke/Smell/Sighting	Brush			2	4	3	8	3	4		
	Structure	1			1		3	2	1		
Total Calls for the month:		55	40	54	46	75	96	81	77	524	
	2014	35	51	50	27	39	48	67	59	376	
	2015	32	36	44	31	44	69	56	54	366	
	2016	46	35	34	46	72	50	59	88	430	
	2017	63	66	46	39	74	55	72	76	491	
	2018	47	38	45	41	62	59	71	108	471	
	2019	59	58	49	64	61	58	52	58	459	
	2020	62	52	57	53	30	38	40	60	392	
	2021	43	52	60	46	43	81	93	103	521	
	2022	33	29	32	53	85	42	78	77	429	
	2023	55	40	54	46	75	96	81	77	524	
	2023										
	FIRE	11	17	13	9	10	17	10	12	99	
	RESCUE	13	3	10	6	19	16	22	23	112	
	MEDICAL	21	11	20	24	30	40	29	21	196	
	ASSISTANCE	10	9	11	7	16	23	20	21	117	
		55	40	54	46	75	96	81	77	524	



Operations

August was a busy month for the crews with a few calls of note.

Rope Rescue Mt. Bruce Towers Aug. 7 at 13:47. 14 members attended the calls that lasted 7 hours. As the call was out of our Fire Protection District a EMBC Task number was obtained.

Crews arrived on scene to find a 63-year-old male caught up in a tree about 70' off the ground (inverted) in his harness and about 300' down a cliff from road access. Patient reported no injuries but inaccessible without tree-climbing equipment.

We established a technical rope-rescue system, and called SSI GSAR to assist, along with a certified arborist.

SSI-GSAR and the arborist accessed the patient and lowered him down to the ground. From there both teams worked together to haul the patient back up the mountain.



Walker Hook Structure Fire Aug. 14 at 03:35.

Initial call for "Minor Brush Fire" in the area of Mansell/Cedar Lane at 0335. Engine 1 (E1) Investigated that area with nothing found. An update at 0351 reported a "grass fire" at Walker Hook and Stark Road.

Upon arrival to the area, E1 found a fully involved structure fire with hotspots spreading to threaten exposures. The E1 crew paged additional units and initiated action on spot fires and protecting exposures. 20 members attended over a 7-hour period using 16000 gallons of water.

Hazards on scene included a venting 500lb propane tank, a downed power-line feed, structurally unsound flooring on the main cabin, and a structurally compromised chimney. The residence was comprised of a pan-abode cabin, with an addition, and an attached RV with various shipping containers nearby. Unfortunately, the building and RV were a total loss, but crews did an excellent job containing the fire to the immediate area and controlled any spread to the adjacent forest.

Kings Lane Structure Fire Aug 18 at 0115.

SSIFR was paged out to a structure fire at 154 Kings Lane, BC Housing Unit. Upon arrival fire was visible on the exterior of the building facing the roadway. The building was evacuated, and initial crews knocked down the external fire. The fire was being supported by a break in the main propane line and could not be extinguished until the propane supply to the building was shut off. Fire operations were aided by the fire hydrant across the street which allowed for sufficient water readily available. 20 members attended the 3-hour call.

With the main power and gas shut off to the building Emergency Social Services was called to help with the displaced occupants.

The fire was deemed suspicious in nature and the file has been turned over to the RCMP.

Maliview Structure Fire Aug 25 at 19:46.

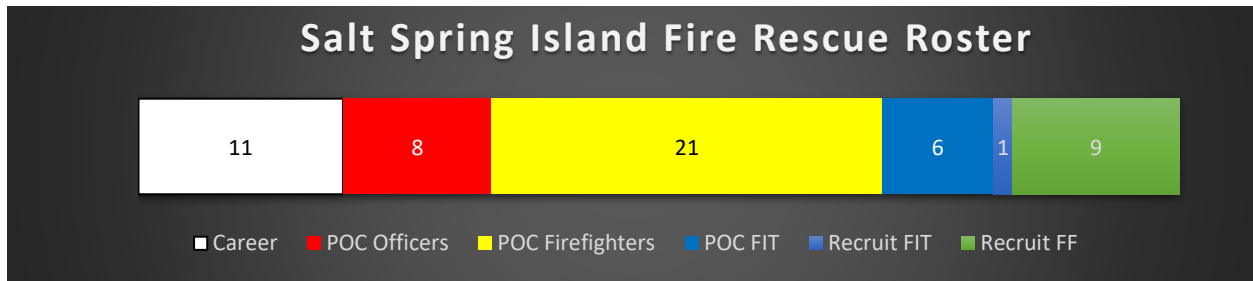
With reports of black smoke visible from a neighbour's house on Maliview Drive, POC FF Wiefelspuett responded to scene. Upon arrival he checked for occupants, and finding none, he closed doors and windows to confine the fire. This was a big help in containing the fire until the fire apparatus arrived.

Within 15 minutes of additional crews arriving the fire was knocked down in room of origin. A primary search of the full building yielded a rescued kitten from the fire area who was treated with oxygen. Crews checked the other suites for extension, including the attic, and overhaul was completed at 2100. While there was extensive smoke damage to the fire suite, and water damage to the suite below, the neighboring suites in the building did not have smoke or water damage.

17 members worked for 4 hours using less than 500 gallons to extinguish the fire.

An investigation was completed and found the fire caused by lithium batteries from a pile of discarded phones.





Prevention

Fire and Life Safety Education (six FLSE events with a total of 113 attendees) Highlights included:

- A FireSmart presentation at Cottonwood Close Strata meeting with 15 attendees on Aug. 12
- Mountain Park Pod FireSmart presentation with 36 attendees on Aug. 10
- Pre-fire plan meeting with three library staff on Aug. 14
- A certified Standard First Aid class for eight health professionals on Aug. 26 & 27.
- Attended the LCC meeting on Aug. 31 to address fire-safety and evacuation concerns with 52 attendees.

Residential FireSmart Assessments: SSIFR members assessed 78 residences (including Roscommon Strata) with 58 attendees.

Commercial Inspections: our crews completed 17 commercial fire inspections in August.

Training

As the summer winds down, August still provided our members **528.25** total hours of training for the month. Further broken down:

Career – 82.5 hours

POC FF's/FIT – 279.50 hours

POC Recruits – 166.25 hours

Aside from regular Tuesday and Sunday training, several members are working on Fire Officer 1, (a requirement for being a POC officer), and several career members continue working on Fire Inspector 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief