

Operations

The biggest call of note in December was the structure fire at 140 Swanson Road.

At 1:48am on December 30th we were dispatched to a residential structure fire at 140 Swanson Road. Arriving on scene, crews found a large exterior fire that had just breached the windows and attic space. An aggressive exterior knockdown was initiated in conjunction with pulling the soffits and getting water on the attic fire. Crews then transitioned to an interior attack extinguishing the last of the fire and performing overhaul. The fire was investigated and deemed accidental.

Given the proximity to the staffed firehall, crews were able to quickly take care of the blaze despite the heavy snowfall. All occupants were safely accounted for and there were no injuries.

I would like to thank all the members that came out in extremely poor weather conditions and saved this structure. Our community is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of POC firefighters and FITs that jump into action when required.



Here's a brief update on a few other items:

Hall 1 Furness: The oil furnace has gone down in Hall 1 and we have had no heat for weeks. Parts have been ordered but have not arrived. In the meantime, we have brought in ceramic heaters but continue to pop fuses due to the electrical system. I suggest we start looking into replacement systems as we have had multiple issues with this system in the past, and servicing the unit is becoming harder and harder.

SCBA Compressor: The new SCBA compressor has been installed and is operational down at Hall 2. This now gives us redundancy in the event the Hall 1 compressor goes down again. The compressor has its own storage shed, while the fill station is in the insulated shipping container.

Dispatch: The dispatch change over to Saanich seems to be going well and we are receiving positive feedback from dispatch on our radio operations. We are still awaiting a records management system from CRD, as they have run into technical difficulties.

E205: The Freightliner chassis has now arrived at Fort Garry and work is in full swing on our Engine. Under the new timeline it seems we should see a March delivery.

Amateur Radio: SSIFR beefed up communications capabilities with the addition of a HAM radio at Hall 1 with Winlink, which allows users to send emails via short wave radio. These efforts are being spearheaded by our FIT group with assistance from the Amateur Radio group and Richard Kerr. Our radio has been assigned the callsign VA7SSF.



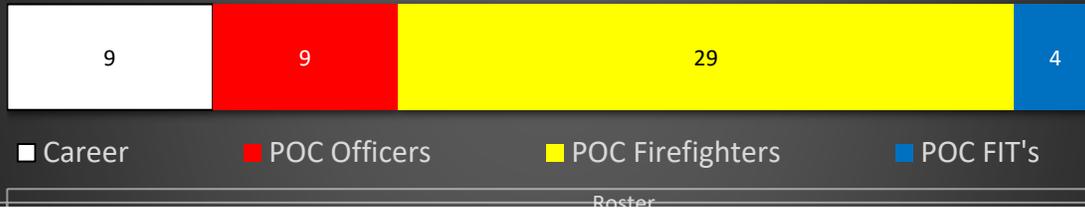
Membership

Our department numbers continue to be stable. Two members returned from leaves during the month, and two remain on leave of absence. Two additional members remain on long term medical leaves.

One POC member retired in December. The department would like to thank FF Christine Vopel for her time and service to our community.

POC retention benefits continue to be used and appreciated. Fifty percent re-imbusement of gym memberships, matching RRSP, up to \$500, and \$1000 private health services plan were offered to every POC members this year.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Roster



Fire Safety Education

In December 2021 we completed the following tasks within the F&LSE area (overall, 51 public interactions at 12 F&LSE events in December):

- We conducted 9 Residential FireSmart Assessments, with a total of 11 attendees.
- Hosted a CPR/AED course for GISS students in the Real-9 program (25 attendees)
- We reviewed an application for FireSmart Community Recognition for a Salt Spring neighborhood.
- We provided an uncertified CPR/AED class for 13 members of the SSI Masonic Hall.
- Capt. Sherrin worked on developing a Financial Report and template for a Project Summary toward application for funds under the Economic Recovery Grant.
- We attended a fire drill for Islands Trust staff and assisted them to review and revise their Fire Safety Plan.
- In addition, we worked on preparation for the Saanich dispatch transition, we taught a full-day live fire class, we reprogrammed our pagers, collected, and verified a list of Common Place Names for dispatch, and we reviewed and updated data collection for our lock-box program.

Training



In December, before the holiday break, members worked on Ice Water Rescue, Radio Operations, and Mental Wellness.

Eleven members participated in Live Fire training on Pender Island putting in a full days of fire scenarios keeping their skills sharp.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief