

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

February 2023



Vision

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

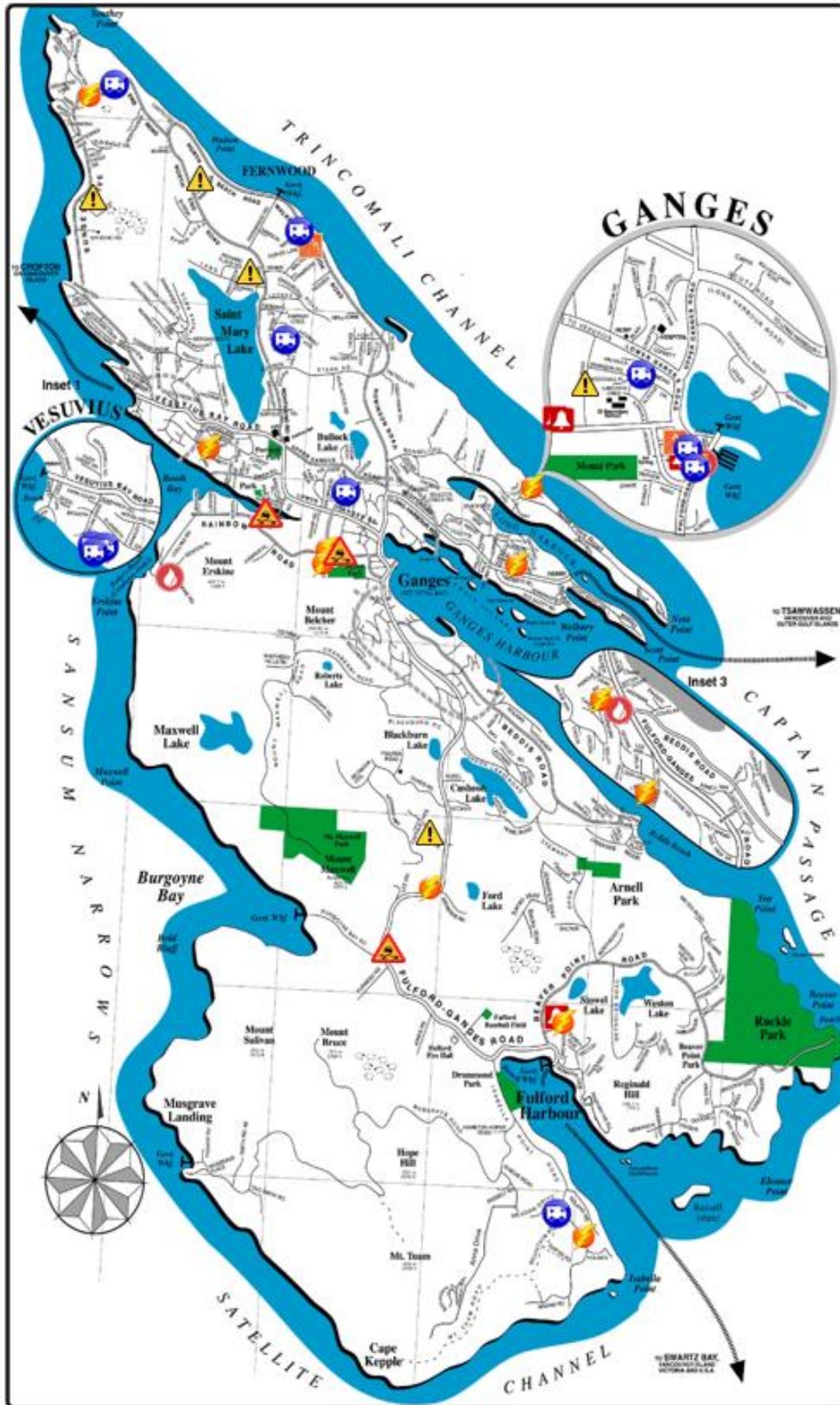
Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

Response Report

INCIDENT LEGEND

		JAN	FEB	MAR	
Act/Bylaw	 Complaint	5			5
Aircraft	 Emergency				
Alarm	 Alarm	6	4		10
Assistance	 Assistance	4	5		9
Explosion	 Explosion				
Fire	 Brush				
	 Chimney	1			1
	 Misc	2	3		5
	 Structure	2	2		4
	 Boat				
	 Vehicle	1			1
HazMat	 HazMat				
Hydro	 Hydro	4	12		16
Medical	 Medical	21	11		32
MVI	 MVI	7	3		10
Rescue	 Rescue	1			1
Smoke/Smell/Sighting	 Brush				
	 Structure	1			1
Total Calls for the month:		55	40	0	95



Operations

On February 7, 2023, at 0112 SSIFR was called for a Commercial Structure at 116 Hereford Ave, Salt Spring Linen & Dry Cleaners. Upon arrival crews found heavy smoke and fire conditions in the loading bay, extending up to the second floor of the structure. Initial crews attacked the fire externally, to slow the spread of fire, until Paid-on-Call (POC) firefighters arrived. When Tender 1, and Engine 3 arrived, operations transitioned to the interior to extinguish the fire, search the building, salvage items, and complete overhaul.

The crews did an amazing job! The on-duty firefighters got here quickly, started an action plan, and bought some time for the POC Firefighters to arrive and complete the job. It was a total team effort.

A total of 13 firefighters and 6 apparatus used approximately 3700 gallons of water to extinguish and overhaul the fire in just over 6 hours. The fire is currently under investigation, but initial assessments did not find anything suspicious. BC Hydro, BCAS, and RCMP were also on scene to assist SSIFR.



Another call of note, SSIFR was called to the Rainbow Road Aquatic Center Feb. 20, 2023 at approximately 9:30pm for alarm bells. Upon arrival and after a 360 size-up of the exterior of the structure, there was nothing showing. After crews gained access to the building, they confirmed the trouble alarm was coming from the basement mechanical room. An interior team proceeded downstairs to the mechanical room/basement and were met with moderate smoke conditions. After further investigation and searching, they were able to locate a malfunctioning heat pump that was damaged and the source of the smoke. They were able to isolate and shut down the power to the heat pump preventing any further damage. "A quick response from the on duty crew supplemented with a quick and ample response of the POC staff, alongside TLC Security and PARC management/maintenance staff aided to a quick knockdown and minimal damage allowing the pool to avoid any closures." noted Incident Commander Captain Cody Hunsberger. 12 Firefighters and 3 Fire Apparatus responded to the incident.

New Firehall #1: We continue to work on the floor plans and layout trying to maximize efficiencies to save space and money. I am working with the SSI Emergency Program as well as CREST to see if we can find space to accommodate some of their equipment and requests.

MLA and Minister Visit: I wanted to thank Adam Olsen and Mike Farnworth for sitting down with the Fire Department over lunch and listening to our concerns and some of the issues we face. I feel we had positive dialog and I hope they can both assist us in our future endeavors.

Bargaining: Working with the GVLRA we have started the bargaining process with IAFF Local 4467 to renew our Collective Agreement that expired in December of 2022.

Firehall #2: The roof on the Fulford firehall need replacing. We have contracted Capax, the same company that did the downtown firehall to complete the repairs.

Apparatus: We are working with Intercontinental Truck Body to finalizing the plans for Brush 2's replacement. This truck is still several months away from delivery but will be a welcome addition to the fleet upon arrival. Brush 2 will be decommissioned and disposed of when the new truck is in service.

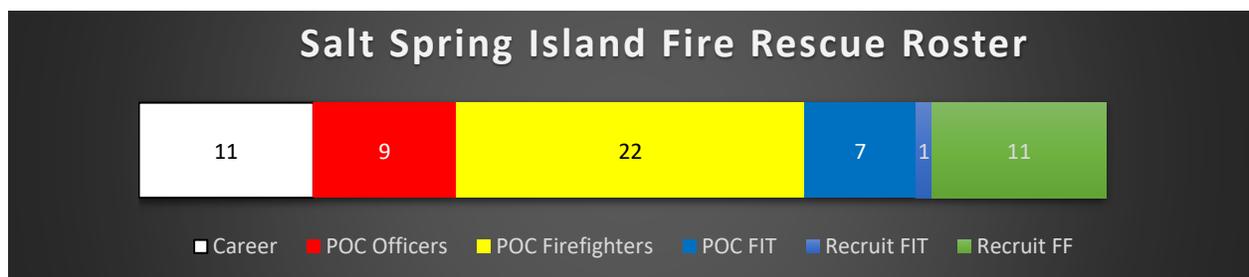
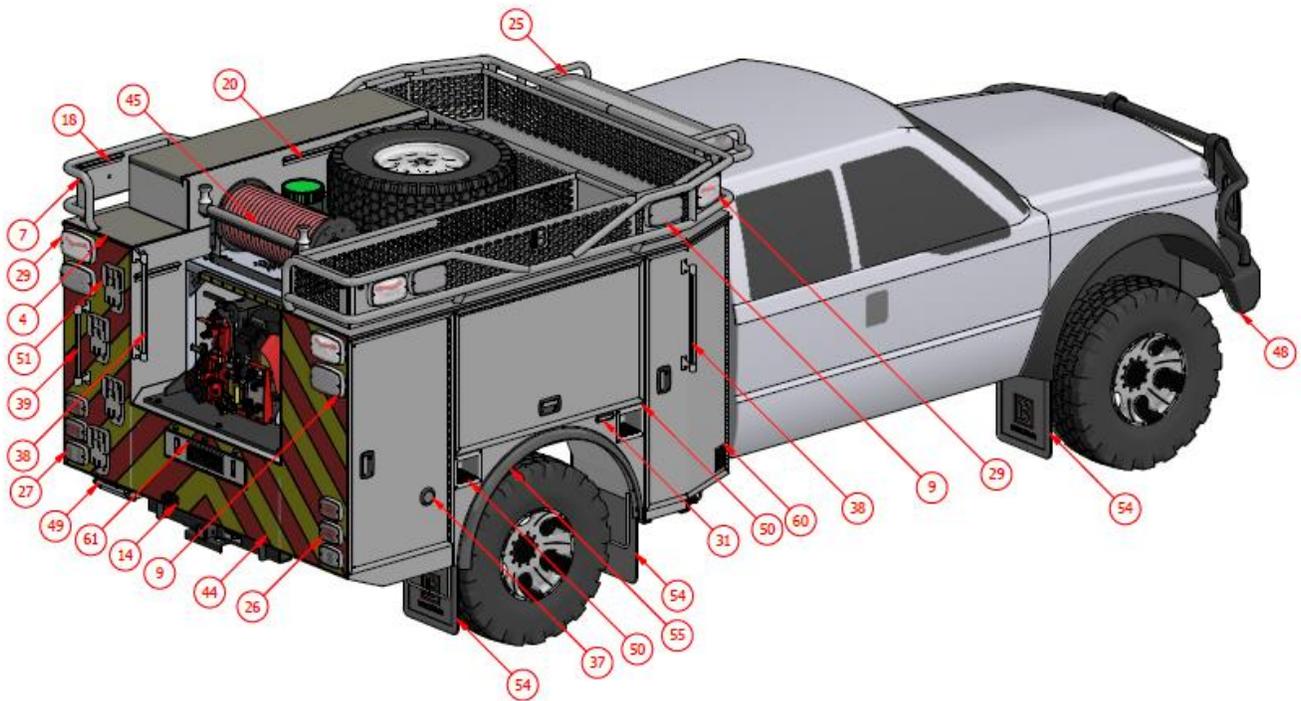




PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

NEIGHBOURLY BACK-UP:

With most Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) members attending the funeral of their colleague Dayten Sanders in Nanaimo on Saturday, four Central Saanich (CS) firefighters joined a Salt Spring crew to help ensure protection for the island. From left are Kyle Dupuis (CS), Gordon Fraser (SSIFR), Capt. Dan Little (CS), Capt. John Inoke (CS), Jovian Wiefelspuett (SSIFR), Deputy Chief Rob Nelson (CS) and Capt. Ken Akerman (SSIFR).

Membership

SSIFR had good representation up in Nanaimo to support the Sander family at Dayten's funeral service. Firefighter Sander was an incredible soul, and he will be missed. I want to thank the duty crew that stayed on island to ensure the community was well protected along with our friends at Central Saanich Fire Department that made the trip over to assist.



Fire and Life Safety Education

Fire Inspections

In 2023 we initiated Platoon inspections and so far, we have completed 40 commercial inspections. This is a new process and will take some time to iron out a sustainable system that has the community's best interest in mind.

Fire Investigations

Structure Fire at 308 Maliview Road - cause improper use of a non-CSA certified Lithium battery power supply.

Structure Fire at 116 Hereford Road - cause accidental undetermined (insurance investigator believes the cause is self-heating from oil-soaked rags)

FLSE Activity

Feb 6 Family Place visit - topics: childproofing the home, fire safety, CPR, choking (14 attendees)

Feb 17 one-day First Aid Class for GISS students in the TASK program (17 Attendees)

Feb 22 and Feb 27 GISS CPR (18 attendees at each class)

Feb 25 FireSmart display booth at Seedy Saturday, Farmers Institute (60 attendees)

Feb 27 FireSmart presentation at the "Fire and Risk Reduction" hosted by Transition SSI with attendees from Islands Trust, CRD, NSSWD, Parks Canada, and various NGOs (72 Attendees)



Training

SSIFR members participated in 623hours of training in the month of February.

The recruits spent the month honing their skills around donning and doffing PPE, and SCBA.

The regular members were working on their First Responder skills, SCBA w/ the recruits, drone operations, and Operation Guideline review.

We had 2 two members attend a two-day course over in Port Coquitlam, learning how to be Peer Supporters. We now have 5 Peer Supporters fully trained, which will be very helpful moving forward in our mental wellness initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief