

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

Feb. 2024



Vision

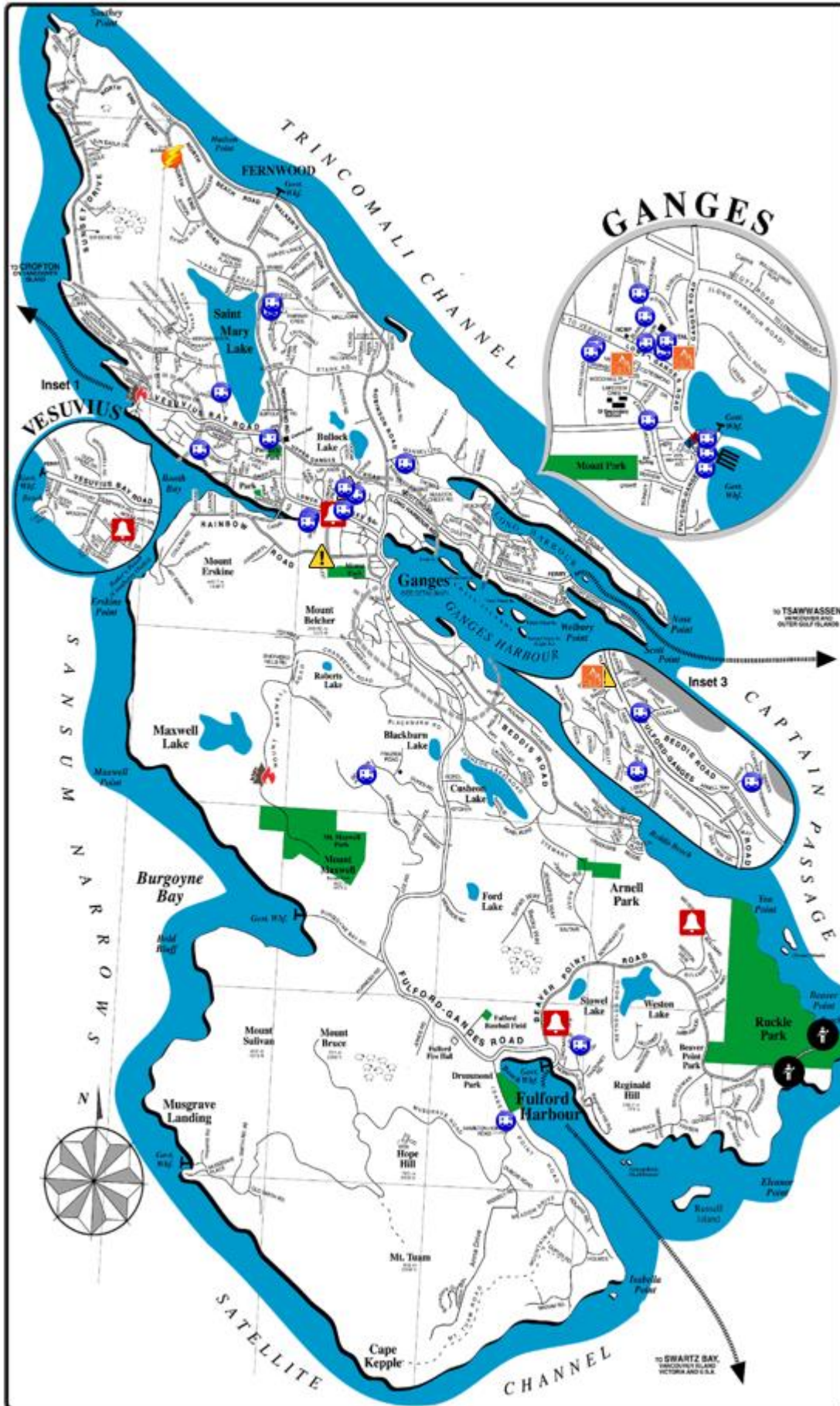
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

Response Report

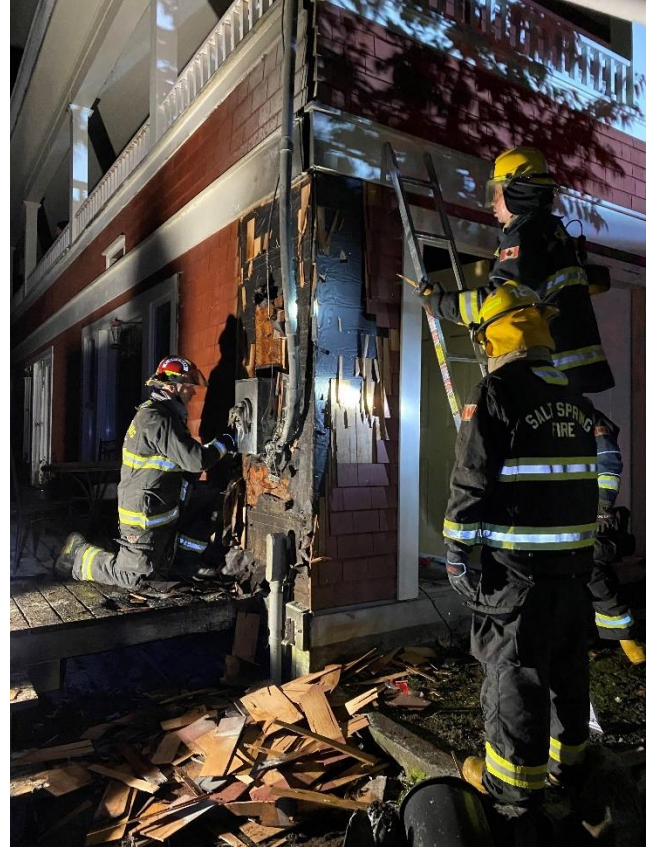
INCIDENT LEGEND			TOTAL CALLS: 48						
			JAN	FEB	MAR	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Act/Bylaw		Complaint	1	3					4
Aircraft		Emergency							0
Alarm		Alarm	7	4					11
Assistance		Assistance	7	3					10
Explosion		Explosion							0
Fire		Brush		1					1
		Chimney	2						2
		Misc							0
		Structure	2	2					4
		Boat							
		Vehicle	1						1
HazMat		HazMat	2	1					3
Hydro		Hydro	8	1					9
Medical		Medical	26	28					54
MVI		MVI	3						3
Rescue		Rescue		2					2
Smoke/Smell		Brush	1	2					3
		Structure		1					1
Total Calls for the month:			60	48	0	0	0	0	108
		2014	35	51					86
		2015	32	36					68
		2016	46	35					81
		2017	63	66					129
		2018	47	38					85
		2019	59	58					117
		2020	62	52					114
		2021	43	52					95
		2022	33	29					62
		2023	55	40					95
		2024	60	48					108
		2024							
		FIRE	16	8	0	0	0	0	24
		RESCUE	4	5	0	0	0	0	9
		MEDICAL	26	28	0	0	0	0	54
		ASSISTANCE	14	7	0	0	0	0	21
			60	48					108



Operations

One fire of note in February was the Dean Road fire. At 4am on February 10th SSIFR was called for smoke and fire showing from a 50' x 50', three story building with electrical arcing from the roadside corner. Building occupants had used a couple of extinguishers to try to extinguish the fire. Twenty-two crew members were on scene for a couple of hours extinguishing the fire and finding any extensions. BC Hydro cut power to the building and ESS was notified of the displayed occupants.

B104: Acting A/C Nuyens and myself did an inspection on B102 replacement. There are still a few things that need addressing but B104 is nearing completion and should be in place for the start of wildfire season. I would like to thank both A/C Nuyens and Captain C. Akerman for their hard work on creating the spec for the truck and ensuring we get the truck we need for our operations.



New Hire: We would like to welcome FF Krystal Capranos as the latest career Firefighter / Pump Operator. Krystal has been a Paid-on-Call member since 2018 and will be SSIFR's first female career firefighter. FF Capranos has been very active on our Fire and Life Safety Education team, instructing CPR, and emergency medical training.

There was stiff competition for the job, and I would like to thank everyone who applied, and all those that supported others in the competition.



Prevention

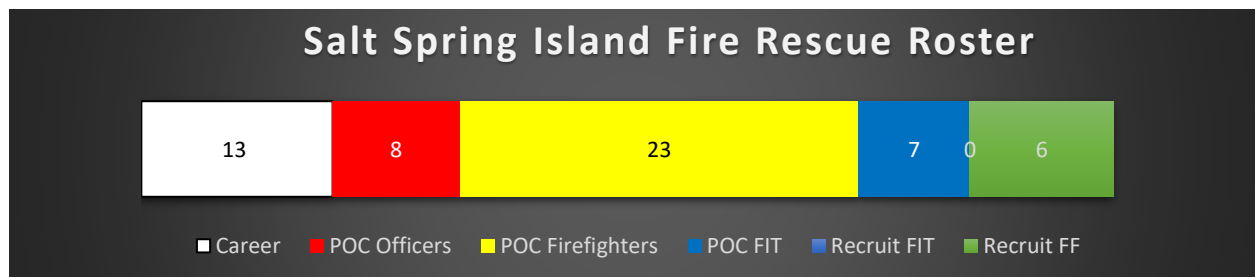
First Aid

February saw the restart of the annual Red Cross certified CPR program at GISS. SSIFR instructors trained 25 students over 2 double blocks at the High School.

Other First Aid classes this month included:

- Certified Emergency First Aid certification at Hall 1 for 10 students through the TASK program at GISS.
- CPR skills onsite workshop for 8 Lion's Club members organized with the help of Mary Lynn Heatherington.
- Certified Airway Management and Oxygen Therapy workshop for 14 Marine Search and Rescue members. This further deepened our interagency working and training relationship.

A special thank you to our First Aid Instructors who provided 32 hours of training to our community; Chantelle Pohl, Krystal Capranos and Mysha Dewar McClelland.



Educational Events

Members were kept busy this month with opportunities to promote fire safety messaging.



February 13th SSIFR hosted 23 grade 2-3 students from Fernwood Elementary for a Hall and Truck tour. Included in the tour were interactive lessons on smoke alarms and the process of calling 911 in the event of an emergency. This was followed up with more tours on the 27th of the month with back to back K-1 classes from Fernwood. Safety messaging for this group focused on Home Escape plans. Each of these classes had 20 students.

SSIFR promoted FireSmart at the annual Seedy Saturday, held at the Farmer's Institute on the 17th of February. An estimated 400 people attended the event which led to over 100 direct contacts and over 30 requests for Home FireSmart Assessments. In addition, SSIFR crews provided 2 onsite home assessments in February.

On the 29th of the month 2 members hosted a home safety discussion at the Family Place. Topics specific to parents of young children highlighting relevant hazards in the home such as; avoiding distractions while cooking, burn prevention and restricting access to cupboards containing household cleaners.

The public education team contributed 40 hours toward safety, instruction, education and building relationships with the public in February.

Much appreciation to David Bunkowski, Steve Leichter, Mysha Dewar-McClelland, Hayato Tanaka, Grant Gussie and David Demner who all contributed to the success of these events.

Training

Our members engaged in **804** hours of training in February.

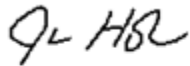
Our 2024 recruit class is in full swing with 6 active recruits. They spent the month working on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, (SCBA's). Our regular members worked on Tender Shuttle training and bringing our 2023 recruits up to speed on various disciplines. The whole department also completed the Traffic Control course.

We had 3 members attend training in Metchosin for our new Scope of Practice requirements in our First Responder Program. Those 3 will bring our entire membership up to speed with the new requirements brought in by the province. This will be an additional 24 hours of medical training for our members.

We had 3 other members attend training in Metchosin as well. They attended the Engine Boss Course. This is required training for leaders that are required to go out on deployment, and great training for any wildfire events on the island as well.

In February we hosted the Strategies & Tactics course on the island. We had 10 senior members attend the course, to hone their skills on fireground strategies, (accountability, offensive & defensive firefighting tactics). The instructor works for the JIBC and is a career member in New Westminster.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief

