

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

## Fire Chief's Report

February 2025



### Vision

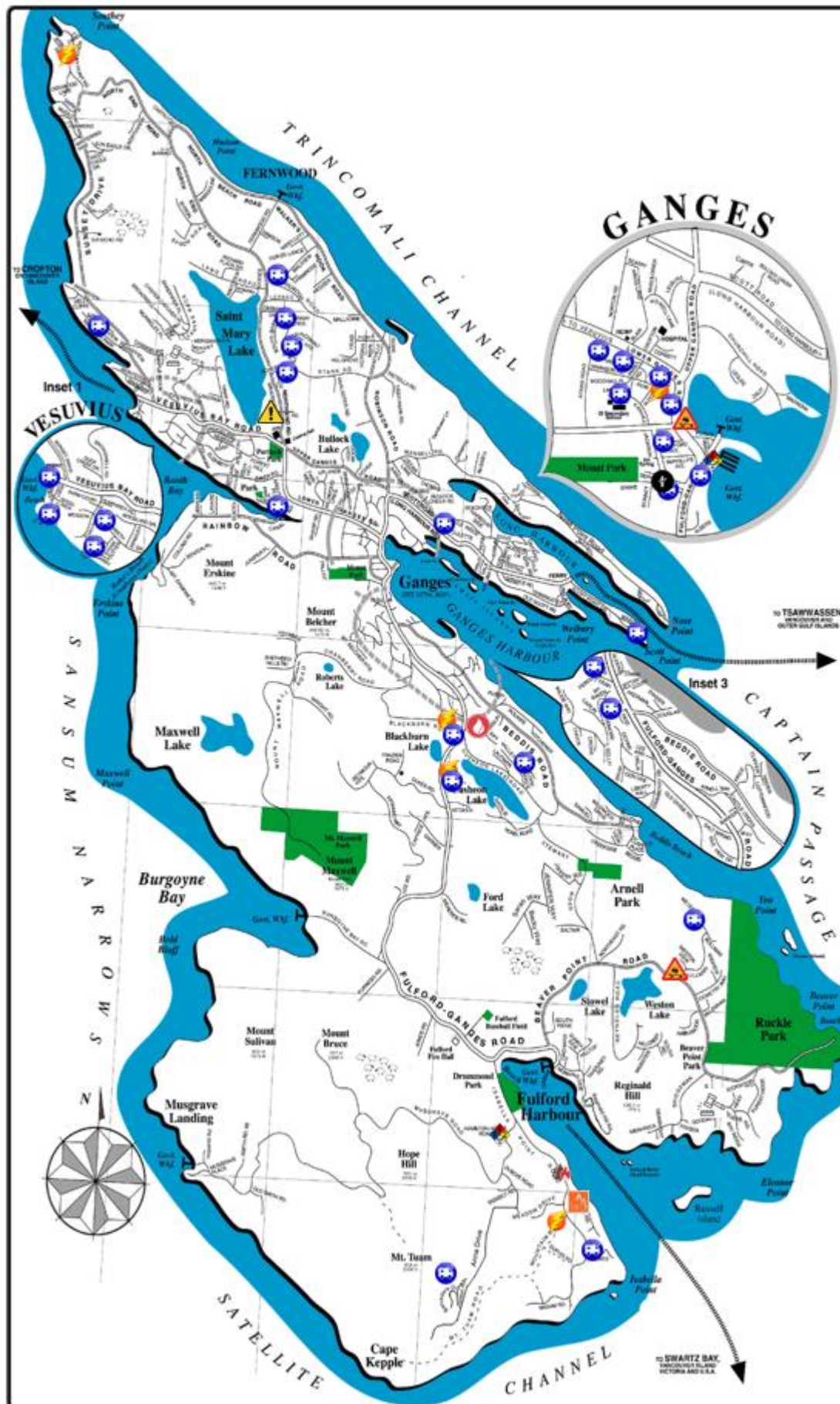
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

### Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

### Response Report

INCIDENT LEGEND		Feb-25					TOTAL CALLS: 96			
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Act/Bylaw	Complaint	5	2							7
Aircraft	Emergency									0
Alarm	Alarm	2								2
Assistance	Assistance	1	1							2
Explosion	Explosion									0
Fire	Brush		1							1
	Chimney	2								2
	Misc		1							1
	Structure	2	1							3
	Boat									0
	Vehicle									0
HazMat	HazMat		2							2
Hydro	Hydro	1	5							6
Medical	Medical	29	28							57
MVI	MVI	7	2							9
Rescue	Rescue	1	1							2
Smoke/Smell/Sighting	Brush									0
	Structure	2								2
Total Calls for the month:		52	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	96
	2016	46	35	34	46	72	65	52	48	647
	2017	63	66	46	39	74	44	45	63	701
	2018	47	38	45	41	62	49	34	183	816
	2019	59	58	49	64	61	32	54	44	655
	2020	62	52	57	53	30	73	39	89	674
	2021	43	52	60	46	43	64	63	46	759
	2022	33	29	32	53	85	62	61	50	668
	2023	55	40	54	46	75	37	45	48	735
	2024	60	48	57	56	49	47	62	52	700
	2025	52	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	96
	2025									
	FIRE	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
	RESCUE	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
	MEDICAL	29	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
	ASSISTANCE	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
	TOTAL	52	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	96



# Operations

No calls of note in February but the week of snow added some challenges to our operations this month.

The structure fire noted in the response report was a portable shelter next to a RV that fortunately was discovered and extinguished by the owner prior to fire department arrival. Once again old lithium batteries appear to be the source of ignition. The shelter, a couch, and the front of a vehicle were damaged due to the fire. It serves as another reminder to recycle old lithium batteries and considering storing active batteries in metal storage lockers.



**Superior Tender Shuttle Service Accreditation:** The Superior Tender Shuttle Accreditation (STSS) is a significant fire protection method for areas without fire hydrants. It involves using water trucks, known as tenders, to shuttle water from a source to the site of a fire. This method aims to provide a level of fire protection equivalent to a municipal hydrant system.

To achieve STSS accreditation, fire departments must demonstrate their ability to transport and maintain a water flow of 200 Imperial Gallons Per Minute (IGPM) for at least 1 hour. This accreditation can lead to reduced insurance premiums for property owners within the covered areas, which include properties within 8 km of a firehall and 5 km of a recognized water source.

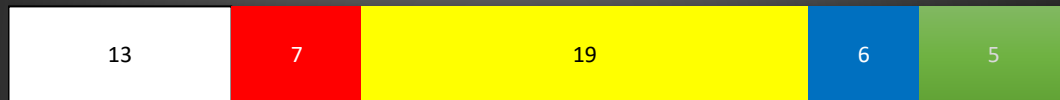
Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue first received this accreditation in April 2011, which was a significant achievement for the department. This led to decreased fire insurance rates for many residents. The department re-accredited in 2016 and, after a reprieve due to COVID-19, prepared for another on-site accreditation process in 2025.

In February 2025, a team consisting of 24 department members practiced diligently and successfully completed the accreditation test, with Fire Protection Specialist Jomari Gaza from Fire Underwriters Survey overseeing the process. His positive remark, “Beautiful” at the 30-minute mark highlighted the team’s excellent performance. Deputy Chief Lundy and Platoon Chief Ponsford organized the evaluation team and the whole crew did an amazing job. We would also like to thank BC Ferries for letting us use the ferry lanes at Long Harbour for the evaluation and North Salt Spring Waterworks for ensuring the fire hydrants and water system stayed in great working order.





## Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Roster



■ Career ■ POC Officers ■ POC Firefighters ■ POC FIT ■ Recruit FF

**Fire Safety Act:** The province enacted the new Fire Safety Act late in 2024. We were waiting for the province to define how Improvement Districts would be handled in the new act and finally heard word last week. Improvement Districts will not have powers under the Fire Safety Act unless given through the Regional Districts. This seems like another way for the province to continue to squeeze Improvement Districts out of the conversation. I have met with CRD initially and they would like all our bylaws, policies, operational guidelines, and procedures regarding fire inspections and investigations. It could mean the end of our current risk-based inspection program and move to a complaint driven model handled by the CRD.

## Prevention

Ken Akerman is now filling the Assistant Chief's role with A/C Sherrin's retirement. A/C Akerman will be responsible for Prevention including Fire and Life Safety Education, Inspections, and FireSmart coordination. A/C Akerman will also oversee Recruit Firefighter training as it takes place over the weekends.

### Fire and Life Safety Education:

- We participated in several Education events over the month,
- 16 Students were taught CPR at GISS
- We saw over 80 grade 11 students during the Party Program where we talked about road safety and motor vehicle accidents

### Fire Smart:

- 10 Fire Smart home assessments were completed
- At Seedy Saturday a booth was set up and 14 people came through and learned about Fire Smart practices and principles.
- 5 Neighbourhoods were given a Canadian Fire Smart Recognition Award for the work they have been doing to keep improve their neighbourhood in case of a wildfire.



## Training



**883.25 hours** of training in February. **Regular** training consisted of First Responder training, fire attack techniques, as well as Tender Shuttle practices. Our **FIT** group Haz-Mat, Traffic Control, First Responder, and most FIT members were on the Tender Shuttle team. **Recruits** spent the bulk of the month working on SCBA training as well as Communications.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JL HBL'.

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief

