

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

January 2025



Vision

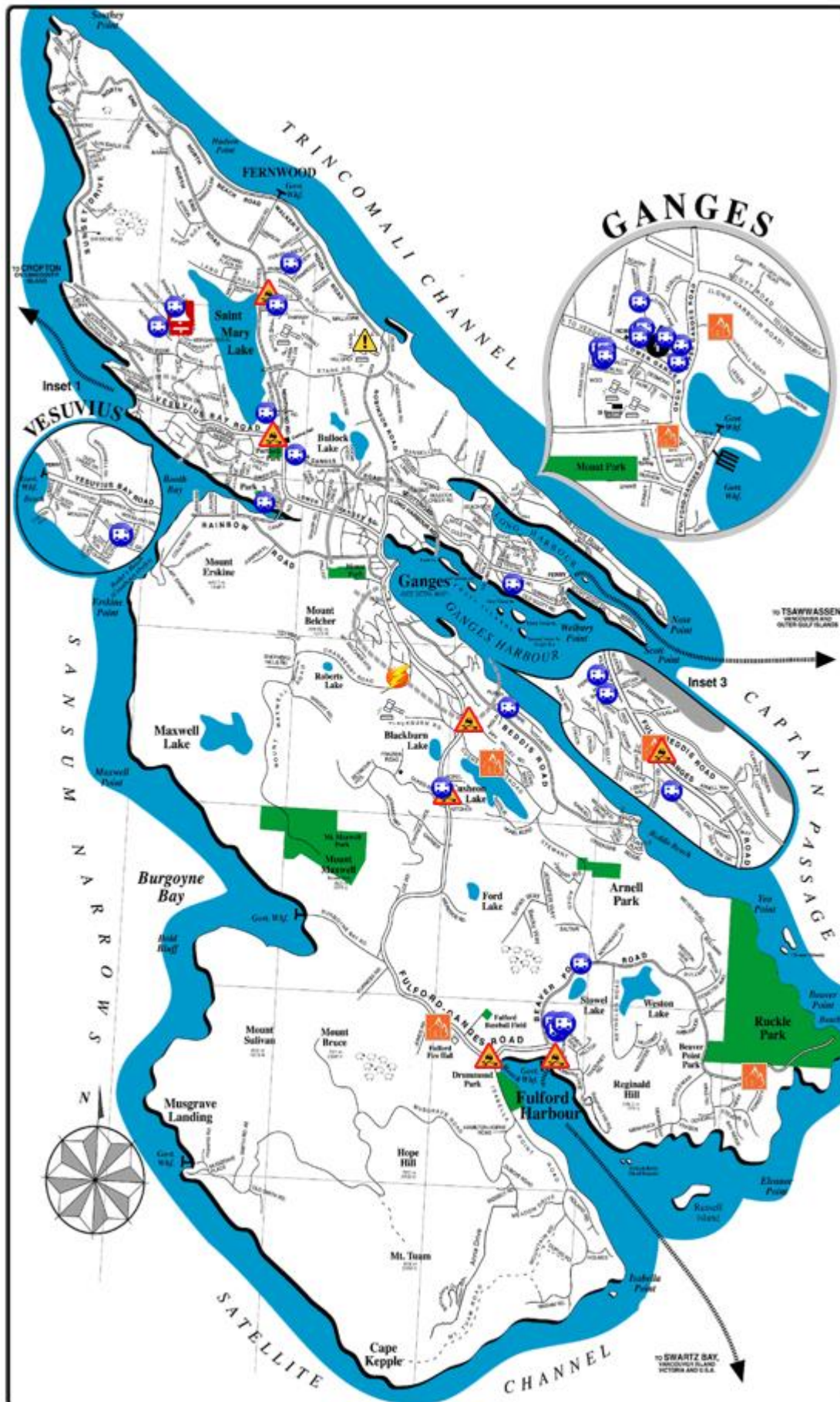
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

Response Report

INCIDENT LEGEND		Jan-25					TOTAL CALLS: 52			
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Act/Bylaw	Complaint	5								5
Aircraft	Emergency									0
Alarm	Alarm	2								2
Assistance	Assistance	1								1
Explosion	Explosion									0
Fire	Brush									0
	Chimney	2								2
	Misc									0
	Structure	2								2
	Boat									0
	Vehicle									0
HazMat	HazMat									0
Hydro	Hydro	1								1
Medical	Medical	29								29
MVI	MVI	7								7
Rescue	Rescue	1								1
Smoke/Smell/Sighting	Brush									0
	Structure	2								2
Total Calls for the month:		52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
	2025									
	FIRE	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
	RESCUE	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
	MEDICAL	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	ASSISTANCE	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	TOTAL	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52

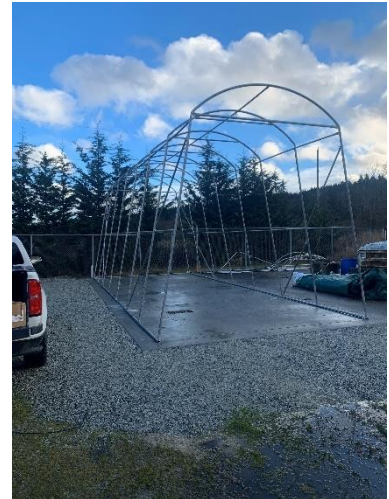


Operations

Ten apparatus and twenty-four members promptly left the new 2025 recruits during the meet and greet event when a structure fire on Jones Road was paged out at 21:41 January 7, 2025. Crews used approximately 4,500 gallons of water to extinguish a 5th wheel trailer that unfortunately was destroyed by the time crews arrived on scene. Crews shuttled water from Fire Hall #2 in the Burgoyne valley to the emergency scene and overhauled the area to ensure no fire spread. Emergency Social Services were called to assist the tenants with a housing, and other basic needs.

Reserve Shelter: A new concrete pad and shelter was erected behind Fire Hall #2 to house our reserve equipment. Engine 202 will be housed in the tent for now until the new firehall is completed, at which point Tender 302 will move under the cover.

Appreciation Dinner: The annual appreciation dinner and awards ceremony date has been set for May 24, 2025. Please mark your calendars as we would very much like all the trustees to attend.

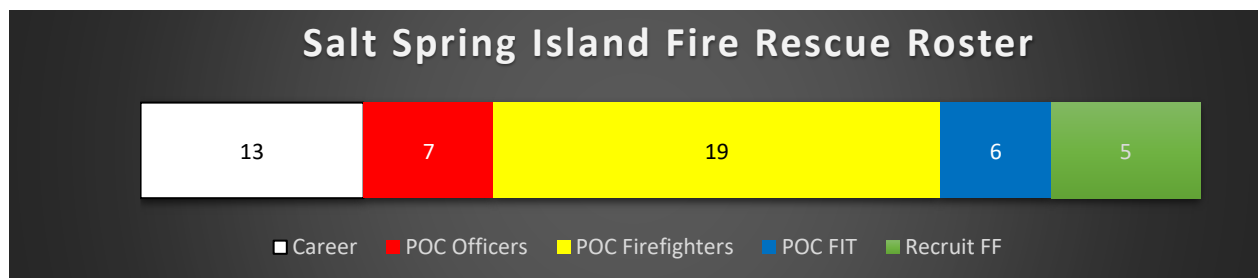


Prevention

Acting A/C Nuyens and myself were invited to Ask Salt Spring on January 17, 2025 to update the community on FireSmart activities and initiatives. Gayle Baker was a gracious host, and we had a great opportunity to share our vision and answer any questions and concerns about FireSmart and funding. More information on FireSmart can be found on our website

<https://saltspringfire.com/firesmart-ssi/>

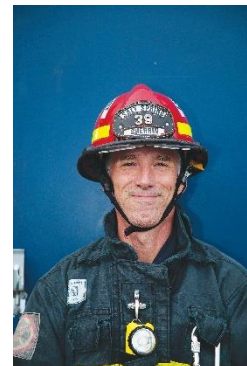
In January the Fire and Life Safety Education team visited Family Place twice and conducted four FireSmart Home Assessments. The team also taught a session on fire extinguishers.



Membership

SSIFR had three long time members retire in January.

Mitchell Sherrin joined the department in 2003 and served at every level from Firefighter up to Assistant Fire Chief. Mitchell excelled at public education and was pivotal in getting our FireSmart program up and running. Mitchell was also heavily involved in training and his high energy could be felt throughout the department. He can still be found helping the community through his work with Emergency Salt Spring Island.



Jim Pohl joined the department in 2009, joining his son in SSIFR. Jim was the top responder for several years, giving up numerous hours of sleep responding to nighttime medical calls. Jim also took care of the BBQ pit, flipping burgers and hotdogs on a regular basis keeping the crews full and happy. Jim ended his career as a Field Incident Technician (FIT) assisting command staff with important on scene task.

Chantelle joined her dad on the department in 2012 and they made a pretty awesome father and daughter response team! Chantelle, who rose to the ranks of Lieutenant, helped organize and train her platoon. Chantelle was heavily involved in our First Responder medical program and never backdown from any challenge. Chantelle was also a major part of our Fire and Life Safety Education team and always took part in Fire Prevention Week at the schools, as well as the GISS CPR program.



On behalf of SSIFR, and our community, I want to thank all three of these outstanding members for their service to our island. All the best in your future endeavors.

Training



599 training hours for the month of January. We transitioned our 2024 recruit class to the regular ranks, and we welcomed in 7 new recruits for the 2025 class. The focus of the month has been familiarization with halls, truck, and equipment.

Our recruit class of 2025 have progressed nicely. Lots of administrative work done, and a couple chapters into the program completed in the first month.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief

