Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

July / Aug / Sept 2026

Vision

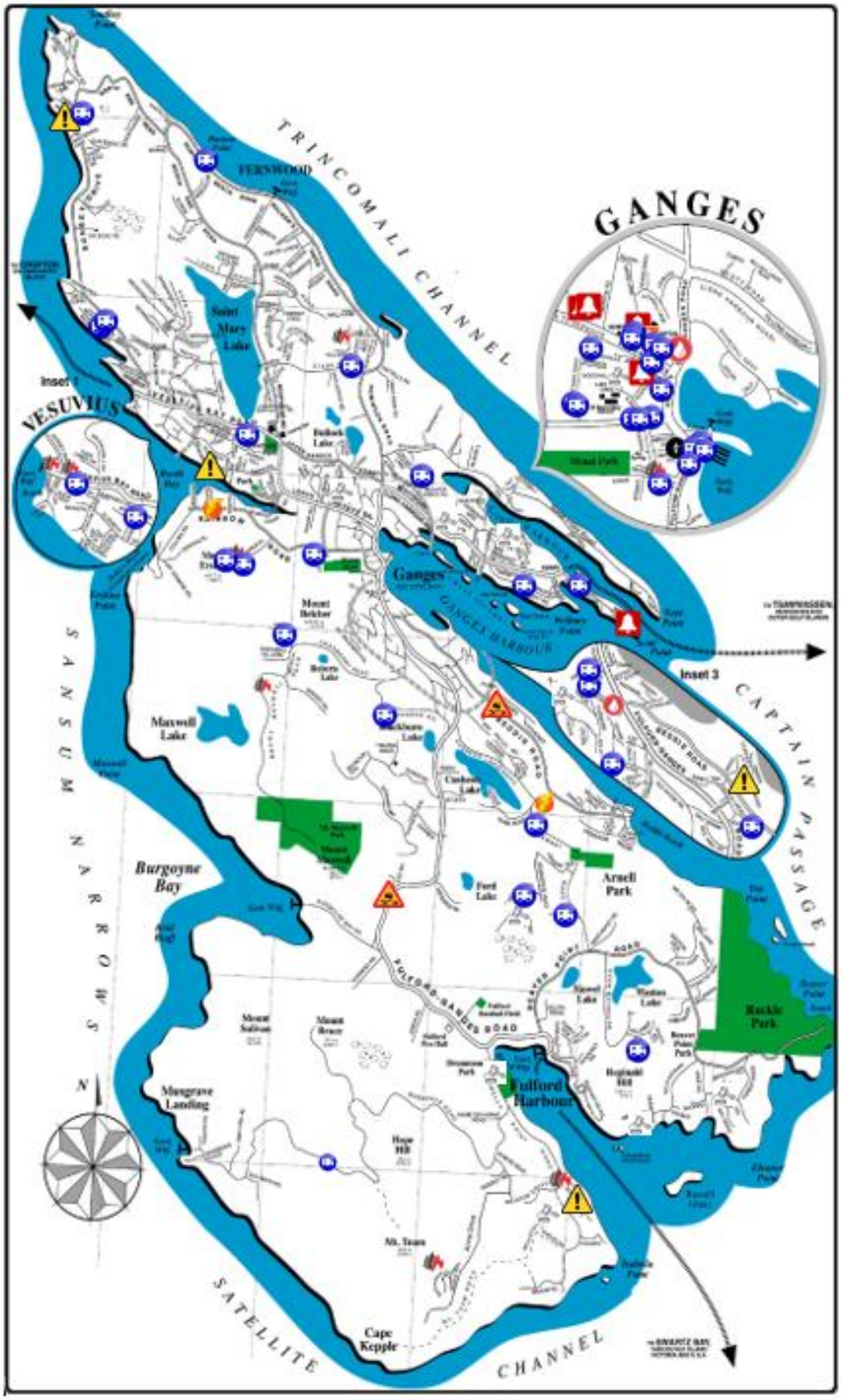
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

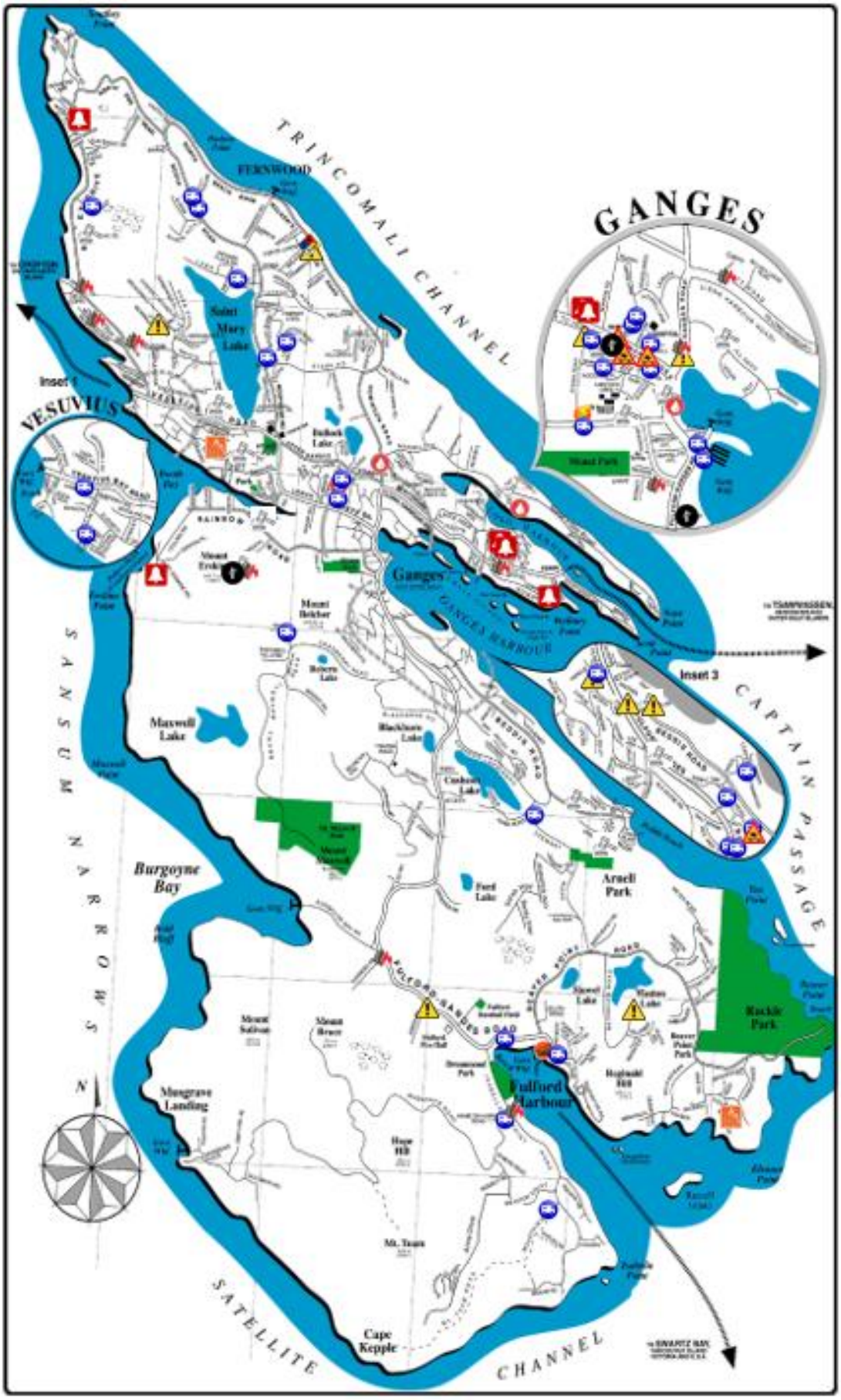
Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

Response Report

INCIDENT LEGEND		Sep-26									69
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
Act/Bylaw	Complaint	10	1	1	8	21	11	10	13	11	86
Aircraft	Emergency										0
Alarm	Alarm	7	6	7	8	4	4	5	7	10	58
Assistance	Assistance	2	8	5	5	6	5	4	9	3	47
Explosion	Explosion										0
Fire	Brush					2	3	2	1		8
	Chimney										0
	Misc	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	4	1	16
	Structure		1			1	1		1		4
	Boat										0
	Vehicle			1			1		1		3
HazMat	HazMat	1		1					1		3
Hydro	Hydro	4	1	17	2		8	2	1	2	37
Medical	Medical	20	25	24	23	22	30	42	31	32	249
MVI	MVI	1	2	1	5	3	2	2	4	6	26
Rescue	Rescue		1			1		1	3	1	7
Smoke/Smell/Sighting	Brush		1		2	1	5	6	9	1	25
	Structure	1		1		2	1	1	1	2	9
Total Calls for the month:		47	47	59	56	64	73	77	86	69	578
	2017	63	66	46	39	74	55	72	76	58	549
	2018	47	38	45	41	62	59	71	108	79	550
	2019	59	58	49	64	61	58	52	58	66	525
	2020	62	52	57	53	30	38	40	60	81	473
	2021	43	52	60	46	43	81	93	103	65	586
	2022	33	29	32	53	85	42	78	77	66	495
	2023	55	40	54	46	75	96	81	77	81	605
	2024	60	48	57	56	49	64	78	69	58	539
	2025	52	44	57	51	56	78	63	86	75	562
	2026	47	47	59	56	64	73	77	86	69	578
	2026										
	FIRE	14	10	28	15	11	25	18	26	16	163
	RESCUE	1	3	1	5	4	2	3	7	7	33
	MEDICAL	20	25	24	23	22	30	42	31	32	249
	ASSISTANCE	12	9	6	13	27	16	14	22	14	133
	TOTAL	47	47	59	56	64	73	77	86	69	578


GANGES
TRINCOMALI CHANNEL
FERNWOOD
Saint Mary Lake
Inset 1
VESUVIUS
Ganges
GANGES HARBOUR
Mount Belcher
Inset 3
CAPTAIN PASSAGE
Maxwell Lake
SANSUM NARROWS
Burgoyne Bay
Arnell Park
Fulford Harbour
Rockle Park
Musgrave Landing
Mt. Tuam
Cape Kepple
SATELLITE CHANNEL
N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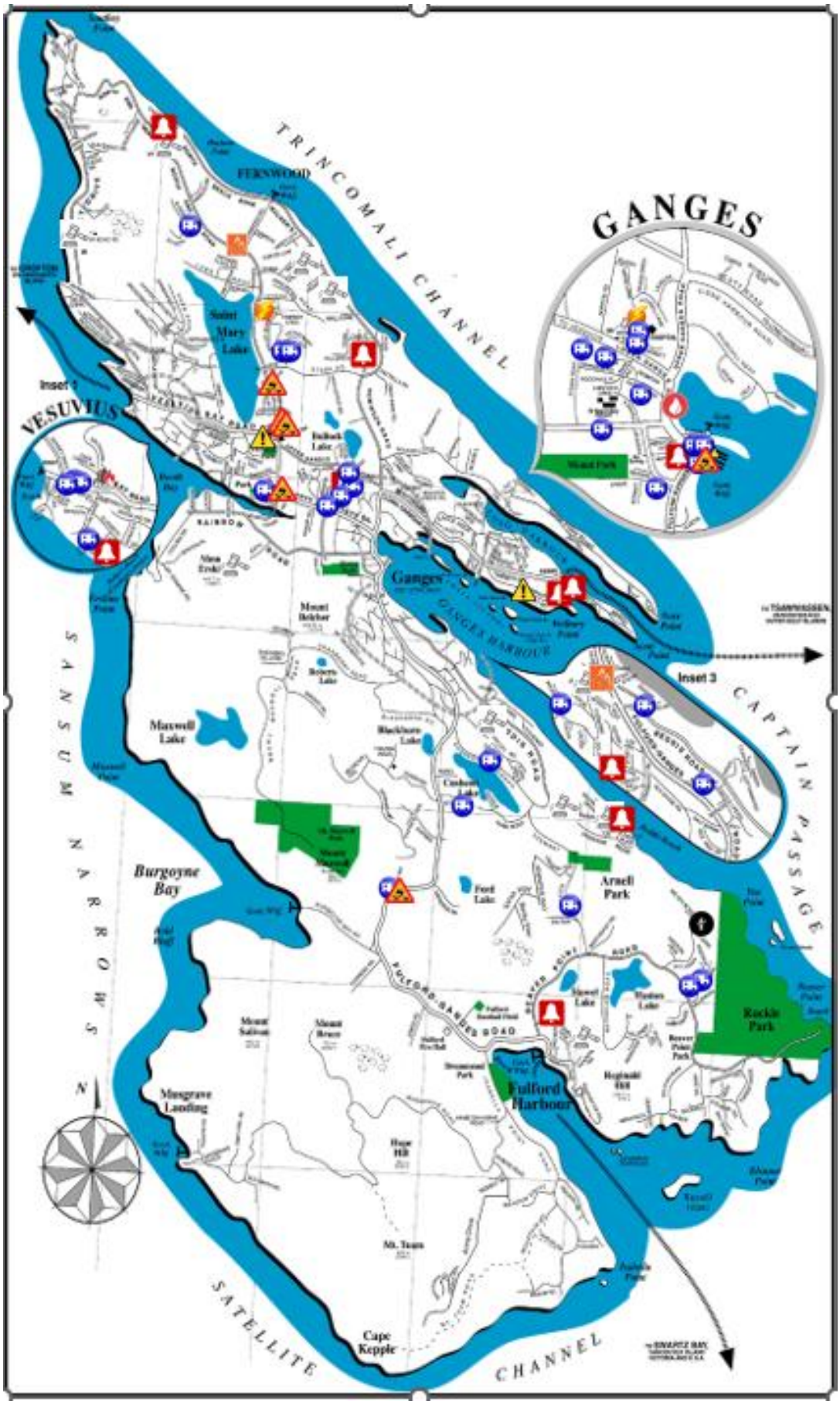
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SATELLITE CHANNEL
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Operations

This summer, Salt Spring Island experienced no extraordinary fire-related calls. That outcome reflects a community that takes fire safety seriously. Thank you to everyone who remained vigilant throughout the dry months, followed fire safety guidelines, and helped protect our island. Working together, we kept Salt Spring Island safe.

New Firehall #1: We are here; we are in! Thank you to everyone who attended the open house and helped open our new headquarters. We're still working out a few bugs, and we promise to get some artwork up on the walls to make the space welcoming.

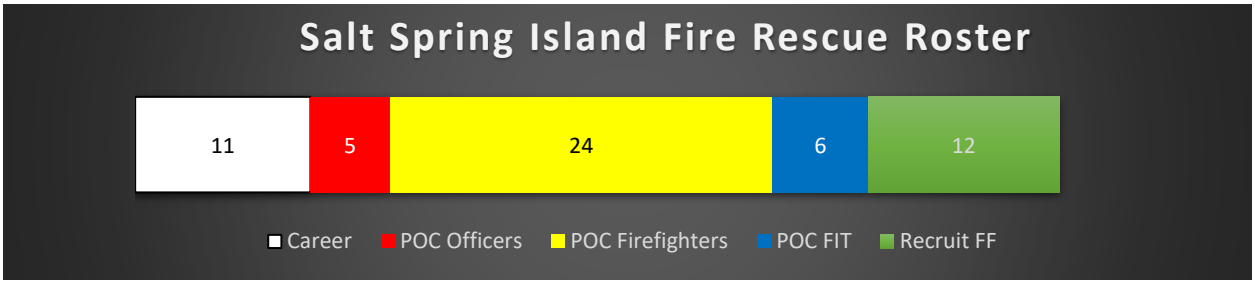


Wildfire Deployment: BC Wildfire Service called our SSIFR to utilize our reserve Tender with a crew of two members. Our truck saw action in Lillooet, Fintry, Merritt, and Boston Bar. Thank you to members Josh Lindstrom, Bree Sturdy, Eric Corliss, and Ewan Holmes for putting aside their regular summer plans and assisting the province with this year's wildfires. The experience they gained will assist our department and community if we ever face a similar situation. Our invoice to the BCWS was just over $100K for the month our truck and crew were away. After expenses; wages, fuel, repairs including new tires and emergency warning lights we will be slightly in the black and we will use those funds to help outfit the new ladder truck with equipment.

Inspection Program: With the Board's adoption of its new inspection bylaw, and recognizing that the Fire Safety Act places inspection responsibilities under the oversight of the Regional District, I believe our inspection policy should reference the applicable CRD bylaw.

I would ask the Board to direct the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee to review CRD Bylaw 4677 and determine whether the Fire Protection District can operate under the existing CRD framework or whether a District-specific policy should be developed that references and aligns with CRD Bylaw 4677.

IAFF Bargaining: Bargaining on the collective agreement with IAFF Local 4467 has stalled and we have mediation dates set with the labour relations board set for early November.



Training

609.5 hrs of training for the month of August. Numbers slightly down as I am sure many members enjoying holidays of the month. Our recruits are still going strong. In August, the topics of learning were Rapid Intervention, Rehabilitation, Salvage & Overhaul, and Advanced Fire Suppression1 & 2. The also wrote their 3rd exam getting them closer towards their NFPA 1001 certification.

The regular POC members focused on Pumps & Pumping, Tender Shuttle training, physical fitness & team building night, and spent one training night touring the new hall. The FIT group were mostly with the regular training but had one evening on their own, focusing on Station Manager duties.



September training hours totaled **886.25 hours**, reflecting a strong commitment to skill development across all divisions of the department.

Regular members focused their training on Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) scenarios, emergency vehicle driving, auto extrication, and aerial ladder operations, ensuring continued proficiency in both technical and operational competencies.

The FIT Team returned to foundational training this month, concentrating primarily on accountability procedures and on-scene support operations to reinforce core response capabilities.

The Recruit Class maintained an active training schedule throughout the month. Weekly topics included Assisting Special Rescue Teams, Fire Detection, Suppression and Smoke Control Systems, and Week 1 of Vehicle Rescue and Extrication. As is often the highlight of recruit training, members attended Live Fire Training at the Pender Island burn building. Over two intensive days, recruits participated in fire attack operations, search and rescue scenarios, and Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) exercises, gaining valuable hands-on experience in realistic fireground conditions.

In addition to scheduled training, three members successfully obtained their Class 3 driver's licences after passing their road tests in Duncan. Achieving this certification requires many hours of preparation outside of regular Tuesday training sessions, and their success is a testament to their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to professional development.





Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief