

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

June 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		Jun-24						
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
Act/Bylaw	Complaint	1	3	6	9	12	14	45
Aircraft	Emergency							0
Alarm	Alarm	7	4	5	5	2	4	27
Assistance	Assistance	7	3	2	3		5	20
Explosion	Explosion							0
Fire	Brush		1			2	2	5
	Chimney	2		1	1		1	5
	Misc			1	3	2		6
	Structure	2	2		1	2		7
	Boat							0
	Vehicle	1			1			2
HazMat	HazMat	2	1		1	2	4	10
Hydro	Hydro	8	1	2		2	7	20
Medical	Medical	26	28	35	26	23	18	156
MVI	MVI	3		2	3	2	5	15
Rescue	Rescue		2	1	1		1	5
Smoke/Smel	Brush	1	2	1	1		3	8
	Structure		1	1	1			3
Total Calls for the month:		60	48	57	56	49	64	334
	2014	35	51	50	27	39	48	250
	2015	32	36	44	31	44	69	256
	2016	46	35	34	46	72	50	283
	2017	63	66	46	39	74	55	343
	2018	47	38	45	41	62	59	292
	2019	59	58	49	64	61	58	349
	2020	62	52	57	53	30	38	292
	2021	43	52	60	46	43	81	325
	2022	33	29	32	53	85	42	274
	2023	55	40	54	46	75	96	735
	2024	60	48	57	56	49	64	334
	2024							
	FIRE	16	8	6	9	10	17	66
	RESCUE	4	5	9	13	14	20	65
	MEDICAL	26	28	35	26	23	18	156
	ASSISTANCE	14	7	7	8	2	9	47
		60	48	57	56	49	64	334

Operations

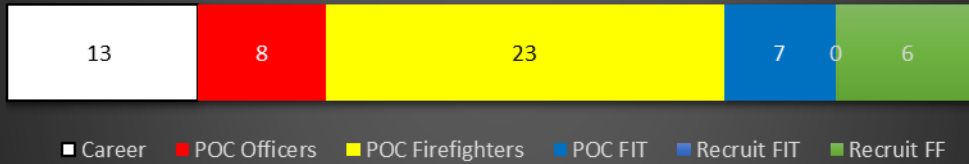
No special calls of note for June. It was nice to see the June rains this year which will assist us in July, keeping the island greener a little longer. The two brush fires noted in the response chart were both very minor and detected before they spread anywhere. Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI) were up this past month which is typical with the increased tourism and traffic to our island.

FCABC: I attended the Fire Chief Association of BC annual conference in Kamloops. There were many informative sessions including bargaining, grievances, leadership, safety, code enforcement and a major focus on wildfire within our communities. I also had the honor of being elected as the Deputy Director for Zone 1 (Vancouver Island) of the FCABC. Chief George, Chief Bremner, and Chief Enfield were all very active in the FCABC while with SSIFR and we have benefited from those relationships.

New Firehall: I share the frustration of others with the delays in construction of the new firehall. Rest assured we are doing everything we can to get shovels in the ground and get this building completed. We continue to work with CRD, MoTI, and Islands Trust to finalize all the requirements to ensure we can complete a building that can meet the community needs for years to come.



Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Roster



Prevention

It was a busy June for both the Salt Spring Island Fire Public Education Team and Recruits. 93 hours of Community Education from our Public Education Team and 155 hours of Recruit Training from SSIFR Recruits and Instructors.

First Aid

In June SSIFR continued our 2023/2024 CPR/AED certification program at GISS for their grade 9 students. We certified another group of students over 2-days, 17 the first day and 22 the second. In total this year we provided invaluable life saving education to 93 Grade 9 students at GISS.

We ran a 2-day Marine First Aid certification course for 15 participants at the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club. This course was directed at sailing coaches, but other members of the club and the public were invited to participate as well. This was a great opportunity to work with a new community group and enhance their knowledge and technical skill level.

We ran a 1-day CPR/AED certification course for the front office staff workers at the Salt Spring Island Health Center. 4 staff members spent the day learning, practicing, and team building in an effort to be better prepared at their workplace and in their community.

At this year's Emergency Preparedness Day we ran a CPR booth both demoing and teaching basic CPR techniques. We used this as an opportunity to educate the community on vital statistics regarding CPR and AED as well as give them hands-on guided practice with our CPR mannequins. This booth was well attended by adults and youth of all ages. We saw approximately 20 people during the event.

We also offered two First Aid information sessions at Family Place. We worked with 12 participants at the first session and 9 participants at the second. We covered the following topics: infant choking, CPR, car seat safety, poisonous plants, and water safety.

This was a busy and incredibly rewarding month of First Aid education in our community. We look forward to many more opportunities and relationship building throughout the rest of the year.

FireSmart

In June SSIFR members performed 15 Home Assessments. The assessments include a walk of the exterior of the home and surrounding area with the homeowner. The assessment begins first with the Home, then focuses on the Immediate Zone (0-1.5 meters), Intermediate Zone (1.5-10 meters) and finally the Extended Zone (10-30 meters). Areas of note are identified and methods of risk reduction are discussed.



Salt Spring Island Emergency Services Fair

On June 8th Salt Spring Emergency Management, Emergency Social Services, GSAR, Amateur Radio, BCWS, MSAR, RCMP, Transition Salt Spring, BCAS and Salt Spring Fire Rescue held an Emergency Services Fair at Hall 1. This was a fantastic opportunity for the public to meet with the agencies that support our island. The event also promoted a casual environment for teambuilding between service groups that most often meet during incidents.



Training

761.25 hours of training for the month of June. The recruits are progressing nicely. They worked on Search & Rescue, as well as ventilation tactics and techniques. They also wrote their 2nd module exam. Regular members continue to work on the Tender Shuttle Accreditation skills, as well as Haz Mat and driving. One POC member also completed their Fire Officer 1 requirements this month, and 1 member was successful in acquiring their Class 3 driving license.

On June 26th, members of SSIFR participated in a Wildfire Scenario working with The Emergency Program, ESS, GSAR, RCMSAR, and the Vesuvius pod members. Training with the various emergency response agencies, allows us the opportunity to ensure all aspects of an emergency response are covered and we are all response ready.

Recruit Training

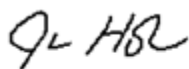
Recruits focused on primary and secondary searches, ventilation, rescue techniques, occupant removal, carries and assists.

Their training also included safe chain saw use in preparation for their task of vertical ventilation. The recruits each performed a series of cuts that created a vent for the release of smoke and heated gasses through the roof and away from the crew.

The month capped off with the Module 2 skills assessment and exams.



Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief