

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

March 2024



Vision

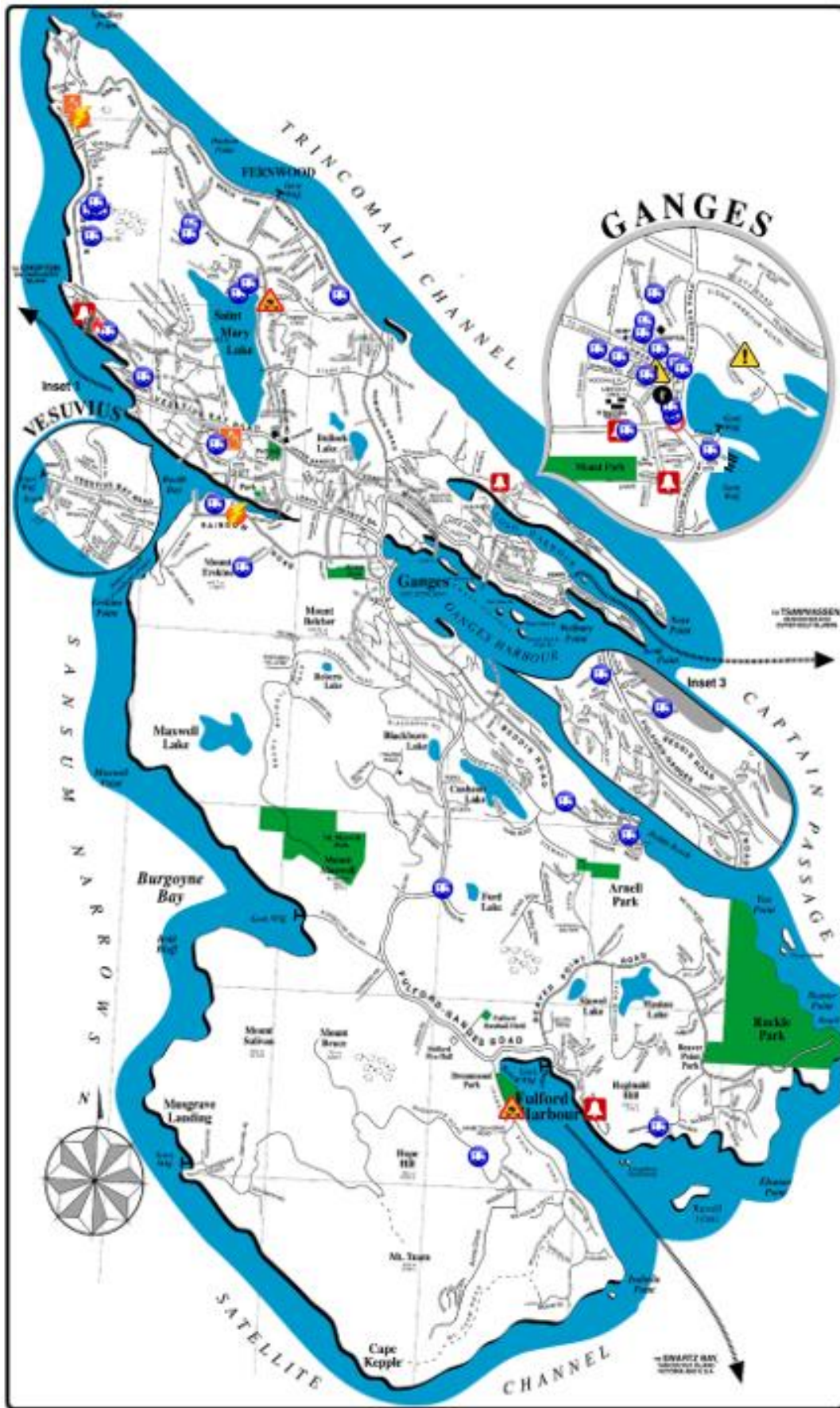
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

Response Report

INCIDENT LEGEND			Mar-24					TOTAL CALLS:			57
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Act/Bylaw		Complaint	1	3	6						10
Aircraft		Emergency									0
Alarm		Alarm	7	4	5						16
Assistance		Assistance	7	3	2						12
Explosion		Explosion									0
Fire		Brush		1							1
		Chimney	2		1						3
		Misc			1						1
		Structure	2	2							4
		Boat									
		Vehicle	1								1
HazMat		HazMat	2	1							3
Hydro		Hydro	8	1	2						11
Medical		Medical	26	28	35						89
MVI		MVI	3		2						5
Rescue		Rescue		2	1						3
Smoke/Smel		Brush	1	2	1						4
		Structure		1	1						
Total Calls for the month:			60	48	57	0	0	0	0	0	165
		2014	35	51	50						136
		2015	32	36	44						112
		2016	46	35	34						115
		2017	63	66	46						175
		2018	47	38	45						130
		2019	59	58	49						166
		2020	62	52	57						171
		2021	43	52	60						155
		2022	33	29	32						94
		2023	55	40	54						735
		2024	60	48	57						165
		2024									
		FIRE	16	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	30
		RESCUE	4	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	18
		MEDICAL	26	28	35	0	0	0	0	0	89
		ASSISTANCE	14	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	28
			60	48	57						165



Operations

No significant calls of note this month, but the crews were kept busy with routine calls, hall maintenance and equipment checks.

FCABC Career Meeting: I attended meetings in Victoria with Fire Chiefs from similar sized departments and well as larger ones discussing issues including IAFF contracts, liability after responding to fires, and new 911 dispatching protocols. The Office of the Fire Commissioner, and BC Wildfire Service also gave updates on what we can expect in the coming year.

513: SSIFR was the successful bidder for a Fire/Medic truck being demobilized from Saanich Fire Department. The truck is a 2018 3500 Chevy with less than 25,000 kms on it. Saanich was standardizing their fleet which allowed for this opportunity. We easily saved 50% off the purchase price of a new unit had we gone that route. We paid \$73,000 including all the emergency lights, the canopy, slideout tray and console. We had \$150,000 budgeted. We will be outfitting the unit in the coming months and it will most likely become Medic 1 out of Firehall #1.



Prevention

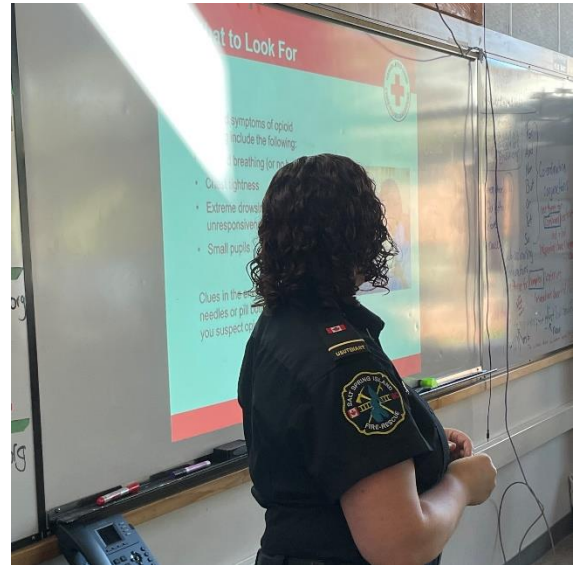
First Aid

In March SSIFR instructed 5 Red Cross workshops to a total of 74 participants.

We continued our 2023/2024 CPR/AED certification program at GISS for their grade 9 students. We certified another 29 students in March.

We returned to the Lion's Club to provide AED and choking management training to their members during their monthly meeting. There were 10 members in attendance, and they showed extreme gratitude for our presence.

We have a couple of community workshops being planned for the next couple of months and look forward to continuing this important education for our community.



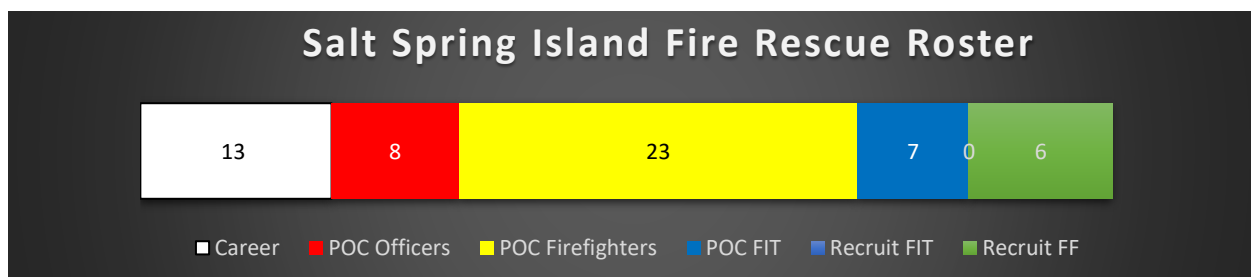
Educational Events

Salt Spring Island Fire Members hosted four events over the month.

We set up a FireSmart promotional booth at the Salt Spring Home and Garden Show. Our members were onsite for two days educating attendees on what they can do to reduce potential fuel sources in the 3 key zones: Immediate, Intermediate and Extended. We also had fire resistive plantings on display that are readily available at local island nurseries.

A huge SSIFR sized shout out to Fraser's Thimble Farm for sharing their plants with us for the weekend!

Continuing with FireSmart messaging, members consulted with the landscape committee of the Bayside community, assisting with their 2024 neighborhood plan. The Bayside community has done an impressive amount of work since 2022. They have reduced ladder fuels, incorporated nonflammable materials for groundcover and replaced cedar privacy hedges with esthetically pleasing Hardie Plank partitions to name a few of their preventative measures.



The first of our two group presentations included a grade 6/7 class from Fernwood Elementary School. Students had a Q&A session, learned what a day at the firehall looks like and worked on patient packaging for a trail rescue utilizing the spine board, basket stretcher and wheel.



Members also ran fire extinguisher training for the Chu-Ann / Elizabeth Pod group. This included instruction on selecting the proper type and size of extinguisher, appropriate locations for storage and hands on use extinguishing controlled fires.

Much appreciation to David Bunkowski, Nancy Pursell, Mysha Dewar-McClelland, Alex Hassenfratz, Krystal Capranos and David Demner who all contributed to the success of these events.

Training

950 hours of training occurred during the month of March. Our regular members worked on several different disciplines through out the month. Occupational Awareness for mental health, First Responder, Ladder drills, driver training, and SCBA familiarization, while the FIT group were getting back to basics, working on communications, and hall tours refreshing on equipment location and usage. Several members were involved in a joint training exercise with the Emergency Program.

If that wasn't enough, we had 3 weekend courses during March as well. We hosted a Pumps & Pumping course for 6 members, over a 2-day period. We had Fire Pro Training CO. come in and teach a 2-day driver evaluator course. 7 members went through the training, and are now part of our driver training branch, ensure safety behind the wheel. Finally, we had BC Wildfire send over 2 instructors and put on a 2 day "Wildland Sprinkler Protection Workshop, for 13 members.

Recruit Training

With PPE and SCBA completed, our 2024 recruits led off March with Fire Behavior and Building Construction. They then moved on to Establishing and Transfer of Command where we built on the foundations of February's communications chapter. March also included Fire Extinguisher training, written assessments and evaluations.



Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Jamie Holmes in black ink.

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief