

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Fire Chief's Report

November 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		Nov-24											TOTAL CALLS:	62
Act/Bylaw		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV		
Complaint		1	3	6	9	12	14	12	6	7	5	4	79	
Aircraft													0	
Alarm		7	4	5	5	2	4	5	8	5	7	8	60	
Assistance		7	3	2	3		5	10	5	6	9	4	54	
Explosion									1				1	
Fire			1			2	2	1	1				7	
		2		1	1		1	1				1	7	
				1	3	2		3		1		1	11	
		2	2		1	2		2	1	1		2	13	
													0	
		1			1					1	1		4	
HazMat		2	1		1	2	4	1	3	1	1	1	17	
Hydro		8	1	2		2	7	4	1	3	1	10	39	
Medical		26	28	35	26	23	18	31	32	29	18	26	292	
MVI		3		2	3	2	5	3	6	3	4	3	34	
Rescue			2	1	1		1				1		6	
Smoke/Smel		1	2	1	1		3	3	1			1	13	
			1	1	1			2	4	1		1	11	
Total Calls for the month:		60	48	57	56	49	64	78	69	58	47	62	648	
	2014	35	51	50	27	39	48	67	59	45	31	56	508	
	2015	32	36	44	31	44	69	56	54	45	41	44	496	
	2016	46	35	34	46	72	50	59	88	52	65	52	599	
	2017	63	66	46	39	74	55	72	76	58	44	45	638	
	2018	47	38	45	41	62	59	71	108	79	49	34	633	
	2019	59	58	49	64	61	58	52	58	66	32	54	611	
	2020	62	52	57	53	30	38	40	60	81	73	39	585	
	2021	43	52	60	46	43	81	93	103	65	64	63	713	
	2022	33	29	32	53	85	42	78	77	66	62	61	618	
	2023	55	40	54	46	75	96	81	77	81	37	45	687	
	2024	60	48	57	56	49	64	78	69	58	47	62	648	
2024														
	FIRE	16	8	6	9	10	17	17	12	8	3	17	123	
	RESCUE	4	5	9	13	14	20	15	12	10	10	7	119	
	MEDICAL	26	28	35	26	23	18	31	32	29	18	26	292	
	ASSISTANCE	14	7	7	8	2	9	15	13	11	16	12	114	
		60	48	57	56	49	64	78	69	58	47	62	648	

Operations

On Nov. 27, 2024, at 0522 SSIFR was called out to the 1000 block of Fulford Ganges Rd for a large fire seen through the trees. Upon arrival crews found a fully involved fire that had consumed most of a cabin structure. The fire was able to get a strong hold due to the fact that no one was home on the property, it was set well back from the road, and it happened at a time of day when few people would be driving by. Twenty-one members used 12,000 gallons of water over 6 hours to extinguish and overhaul the fire. Extinguishment was impeded by the metal roofing that was covering sections of the building after collapse.



New Firehall #1 Work continues on the foundation, and we hope to see the building starting to rise out of the ground early in the new year. Property drainage appears to be working well and MKM continues to keep an organized site.

First Due We are preparing to transition over to our new records management system First Due in the new year. Platoon Chief Ponsford has been working extra hours to make sure the system is ready to go and that our members are trained on the new program. First Due will replace FDM, Fire Manager, IAR, Fleet Maintenance, and MS Forms. This should eliminate duplicate entries, and the system should be much more harmonious.

BC Leadership Conference I attended this bi-annual event in Victoria with IAFF Local 4467 executive. The goal of the conference is to find common ground between labour and management and this year focused on inspiring leaders, communications, mediation, safety and mental wellness.

Remembrance Day We were honoured to participate in both the GISS ceremony and the Legion ceremony at the cenotaph to remember all who served and continue to serve our country. It was also a time to reflect on all the lives impacted by conflict all over the world. I placed a wreath on behalf of SSIFR and the Protection District. Less we forget.

Fire and Life Safety Education

In November the Salt Spring Island Fire Public Education Team led 6 events totaling over 65 hours of Fire & Life Safety Education events including a CPR / First Aid class, public safety discussions, a Fire Hall tour, FireSmart Neighborhood Assessments and Community First Aid Classes.

The 2024 Recruits wrapped up their last Module of testing and began FR training. Once completed, Haz-Mat will be the last component of their 1001 certification. Collectively the 2024 Recruits logged 175 hours of training over the month.

Fire and Life Safety

There were 3 Fire and Life Safety planned events in November. In the first November event, our team engaged with more than 100 island residents at a local Flu Clinic. Discussion topics were included Fire Extinguishers, Smoke Alarms, Home Safety, Wood Stoves and Open Burning. The second event was a Fire Hall tour and classroom session at Hall 1 for 8 people. Topics included home safety, escape plans and establishing meeting points outside the home. The third event was a First Aid session for families with toddlers focused on Choking and CPR. 18 people attended this event which is part of an ongoing series of classes organized together with the Family Place.



FireSmart

2 Neighbourhood Assessments were completed by SSIFR members in November, both for the Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (NRP). One was a new application, and the other was an annual visit to review completed objectives and collaboratively prioritize areas of focus for the upcoming year. To support communities who are working towards or have already achieved a “FireSmart Recognized Neighbourhood” status, FireSmart Canada is launching a new incentive program. Applications for the Neighbourhood Recognition Program Incentive open November 1, 2024, and close February 28, 2025. Visit <https://firesmartcanada.ca/> to apply.

FireSmart BC will now independently lead the Home Partners Program with a new online platform to be rolled out on December 16th. The move toward a standardized system will provide consistent measurable data that can be compared by region within the province. In anticipation of this move SSIFR with funding through the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment has developed 2 Team members who are now Trained as Wildfire Mitigation

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Roster



■ Career ■ POC Officers ■ POC Firefighters ■ POC FIT ■ Recruit FF 5 ■ Recruit FF

Training



782 hours of training for the month of November. Regular members participated in some joint training with Ground Search & Rescue, (GSAR). 2 very challenging scenarios working closely with the GSAR group. They also participated in "Tiny Town" training focusing on Strategies & Tactics, as well as Accountability & Scribing

Recruits have completed their F/R course, except for one more Sunday of upgrade material. They will then transition into the regular Tuesday night Platoon training with the rest of the membership. This is exciting as news as we will welcome 9 new recruits for the 2025 year. Their training will commence on January 5, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,


Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief

