

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

## Fire Chief's Report

Nov / Dec 2025



### Vision

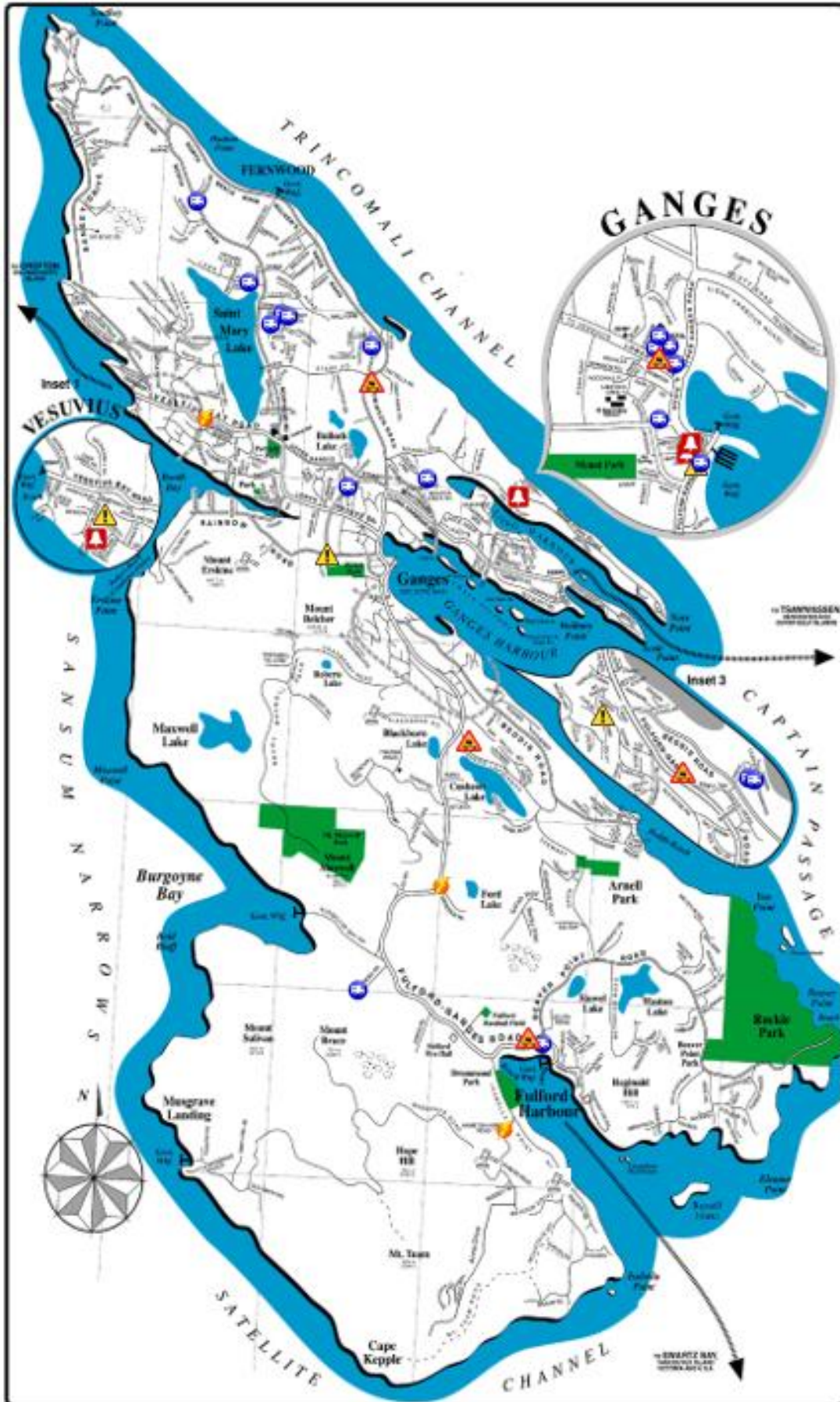
A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.

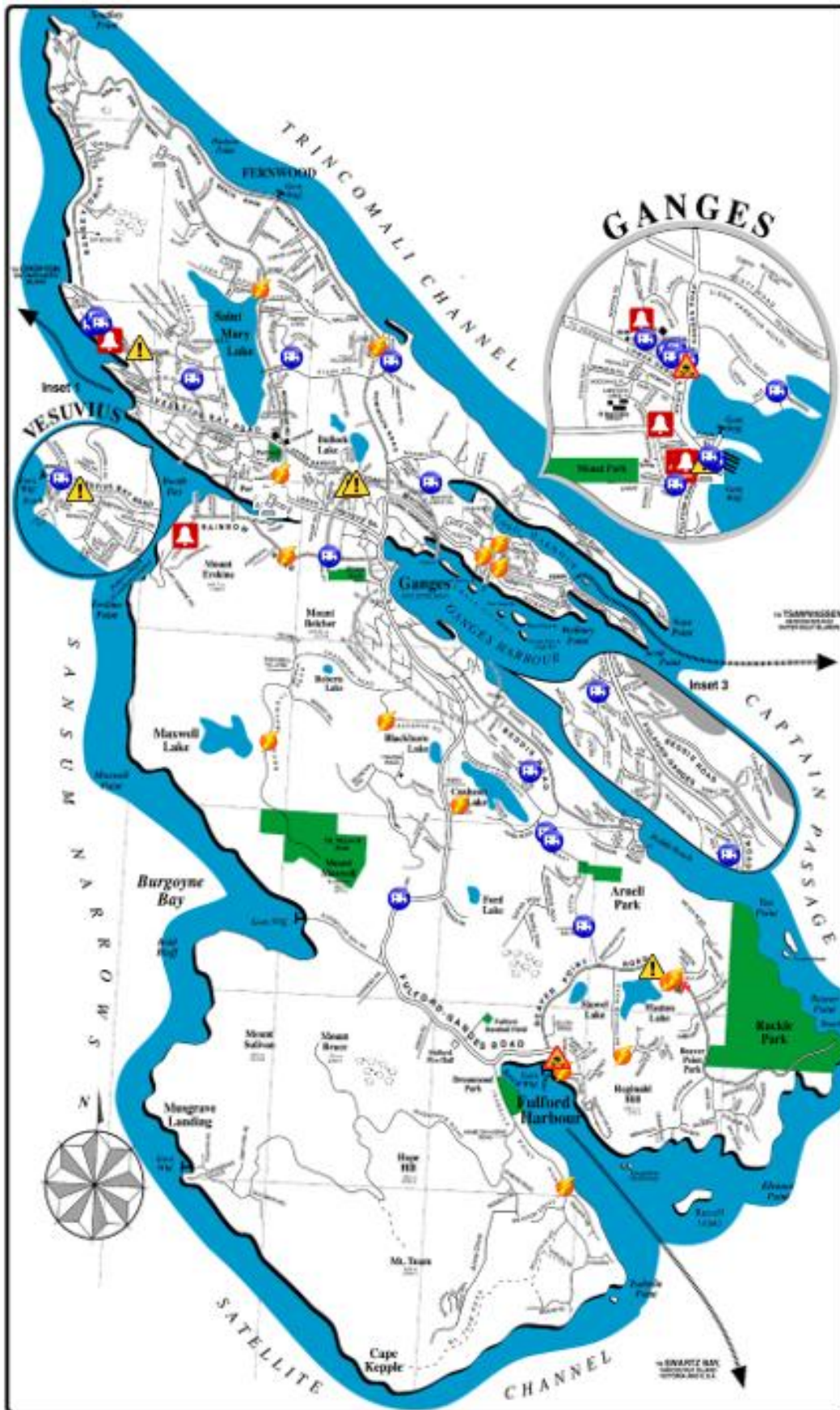
### Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

### Response Report

INCIDENT LEGEND		Dec-25										TOTAL CALLS: 729
		JAN	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
Act/Bylaw	<b>Complaint</b>	5	12	13	9	13	8	5	5	4	85	
Aircraft	<b>Emergency</b>										0	
Alarm	<b>Alarm</b>	2	3	8	9	10	10	7	5	7	71	
Assistance	<b>Assistance</b>	1	4	11	3	3	9	4	4	6	55	
Explosion	<b>Explosion</b>										0	
Fire	<b>Brush</b>		1	1	1	1	5			1	11	
	<b>Chimney</b>	2						1			4	
	<b>Misc</b>			5							7	
	<b>Structure</b>	2	1	1	1		2	1			11	
	<b>Boat</b>		1								1	
	<b>Vehicle</b>			1		1					2	
HazMat	<b>HazMat</b>		1			1					4	
Hydro	<b>Hydro</b>	1	1	1	2	8	4	3	3	17	48	
Medical	<b>Medical</b>	29	23	31	31	39	33	37	18	25	357	
MVI	<b>MVI</b>	7	5	2	4	4	2	5	5	2	43	
Rescue	<b>Rescue</b>	1	2		1	1		1			8	
Smoke/Smell/Sighting	<b>Brush</b>		1	2	1	4	1	1			13	
	<b>Structure</b>	2	1	2	1	1	1				9	
Total Calls for the month:		52	56	78	63	86	75	65	40	62	729	
	2016	46	72	50	59	88	52	65	52	48	647	
	2017	63	74	55	72	76	58	44	45	63	701	
	2018	47	62	59	71	108	79	49	34	183	816	
	2019	59	61	58	52	58	66	32	54	44	655	
	2020	62	30	38	40	60	81	73	39	89	674	
	2021	43	43	81	93	103	65	64	63	46	759	
	2022	33	85	42	78	77	66	62	61	50	668	
	2023	55	75	96	81	77	81	37	45	48	735	
	2024	60	49	64	78	69	58	47	62	52	700	
	2025	52	56	78	63	86	75	65	40	62	729	
	<b>2025</b>											
	<b>FIRE</b>	9	10	21	15	26	23	13	8	25	181	
	<b>RESCUE</b>	8	7	2	5	5	2	6	5	2	51	
	<b>MEDICAL</b>	29	23	31	31	39	33	37	18	25	357	
	<b>ASSISTANCE</b>	6	16	24	12	16	17	9	9	10	140	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	52	56	78	63	86	75	65	40	62	729	





## Operations

No calls of note for November or December. The winter winds picked up in December and increased our Hydro line but nothing atypical.

**New Firehall #1:** The new firehall build continues to take most of my time with many walk throughs with sub trades to ensure everyone is on the same page.



**Water Supply Pond Fulford:** The 750,000-gallon pond behind the Fulford Firehall is complete and full. A dry hydrant has been installed and will provide water for both drills and emergency calls for the island. Fencing is now up and a dock will be added in the spring for drafting drills with portable pumps.

# Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Roster



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

## Prevention

### Fire Smart

Once again November was very busy for Fire Smart with 13 Assessments. We also hosted a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist course, 7 members of Salt Spring Fire Rescue and visitor from the CRD participated. It was a great course with a high level of training that will improve the Fire Smart Program.

December slowed down for Fire Assessment with only 3 for the month and it was also a slow month for Fire and Life Safety.

But the year in review was a huge success. SSIFR performed 79 Fire Smart Home Assessment and currently has 6 Neighbour Hoods working towards a Neighbour Hood Recognition.

### Public Education

One group of kindergarten through grade 2 students came for a Hall visit and some class education.

SSIFR attended many public events over the year to teach a variety of Fire and Life Safety subjects, some of which are Seedy Saturday, Ruckle Farm Day, Canada Day Car Show, Emergency Fair, and Fire Safety Week.

I would like to thank everyone that helped in Fire and Life Safety as well as Fire Smart for the 2025 year.



# Training



November was an extremely busy month for training within the department. **1190.25 hours** of training happened collectively

The regular members worked on First Responder skills, ropes & knots, as well as rope rescue systems.

The FIT group also spent an evening taking an on-line course in Helicopter Landing Zone set-up for BCEHS, in the event we have to land a helicopter somewhere other than LMH.

The entire department spent an evening focusing on Mental Wellness. A registered clinician was brought in for support and educational purposes.

On the recruit training front, the class spent the entire month taking their First Responder course, upwards to 75 hours of training each to achieve their certification.

December training hours were lower compared to the rest of 2025, largely due to the extended holiday break that allowed members to spend valuable time with their family and friends. Even with the reduced schedule, the department still committed **516.50 hours** to training efforts. This total does not include the additional online training completed independently by several recruits throughout the month.

Aside from mental wellness initiatives and monthly meeting, December's primary training focused on driving and apparatus handling. Crews spent an evening rotating through the fleet, becoming more familiar with each vehicle and reinforcing operational readiness. The department officers also hosted the annual officer dinner, providing firefighters with a well-earned meal and an opportunity to unwind. This event marked the close of the 2025 training year. After dinner, crews and officers reflected on the past year, filling the whiteboards with the "good", "bad" and the "future" of 2025. The insights gathered offered the administration team clear direction and priorities to carry into the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JL HBL".

**Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief**

