



Annual Report 2014

Operations

Callouts and activities

The Department recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2014. This summary doesn't account for informal time in unrecorded training and home study:

	Practices(hrs)	Incidents(hrs)	Courses(hrs)	Total(hrs)	Incident #
2014	2171	918	236	3,325	130
2013	1790	585	220	2,595	102
2012	2197	983	576	3,755	130
2011	1922	1018	390	3,330	114
2010	2307	620	429	3,356	108
2009	2606	1204	695	4,505	134

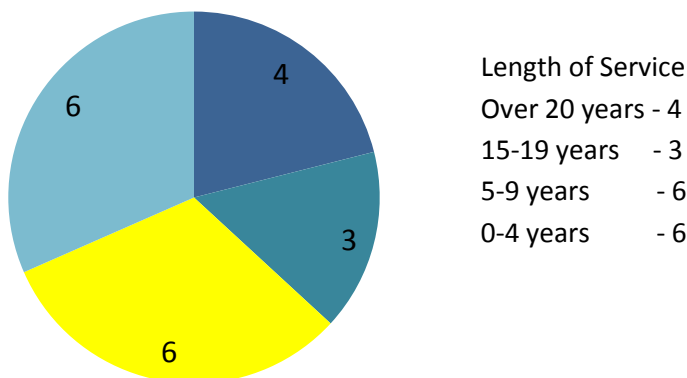
Our incident breakdown for 2014:

- 86 medical
- 11 Duty Officer
- 5 structure fires
- 6 brush/beach fire
- 3 MVI
- 1 electrical
- 3 chimney fires
- 3 RCMP assist
- 2 hydro lines down
- 4 false alarms
- 6 Public Service

Medical calls represented 66% of the total, which is typical for our department but higher than most other departments providing First Responder services. The Fire Department volunteers respond to all categories of medical emergencies (unlike most Departments) due to our isolation and need for rapid medical response. The closest BC Ambulance station is on Denman Island and it would take between 45 minutes to 1 ½ hours for them to respond to a call. The time to hospital is significantly reduced by HIFR transporting patients to the ferry or to Denman Island, particularly after normal sailing hours. We also transport to meet the helicopter for advanced life support and rapid transport to a hospital.

Recruiting new members is a challenge in a dwindling, ageing population and remains one of our priorities. Our roster at the end of 2014 included 13 fire fighters and 6 recruits undergoing training. We are working toward building the Auxiliary volunteers and ended the year with 4 on the roster. We welcomed back a returning fire fighter after a fourteen year absence.

Our department is fortunate to have volunteers who have served for so many years.



Training

Our department, again this year, acquired a large house as a training focus for several months and allowed everyone an opportunity to refresh old skills and maintain live fire proficiency rather than having to go to the training centre in Comox.

We continue to make slow progress in having all our members complete Fire Fighter 1 certification.

Weekly training is just enough to maintain skills already learned. Extra training nights, days and weekends are necessary to learn new skills and re-certify in challenging technical skills.

The regular practice nights included training in:

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| - pump operations | - hose stream and maneuvers | - foam application |
| - interior search and rescue | - exterior attack | - ladder operations |
| - ventilation techniques | - water tender shuttle | - portable pump use |
| - positive pressure attack | - high angle rescue | - patient transport |
| - hydraulic tool use
for auto-extrication | - motor vehicle accident scene
stabilization | - medical response |
| - wildfire fighting | - ground search and rescue | - defibrillator use |
| - electrical safety | | - traffic control |

The Department Training Program uses in-house trainers to teach new skills to the other members as well as sending members off Island for advanced training, instructor training and live fire re-certification training. This year, members attended the following off Island courses:

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| Training Officers' conference – 1 member | Emergency Vehicle Technician course – 1 member |
| Fire Chiefs' conference – 1 member | Incident Safety Officer – 1 member |
| Draeger Service Technician - 1 member | Accident investigation course – 1 member |
| Fireworks safety – 3 members | Thermal Imaging Camera – 2 members |
| Fire Ground Sizeup – 1 member | Mental Health First Aid – 2 members |
| Emergency Scene Management – 1 member | Marina Firefighting – 1 member |

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention includes not only issues surrounding home fire safety but wildfires and campfires. The Summer Fire Patrol is our most effective program; raising public awareness of open burning and outdoor fire issues. Individual home Fire Smart measures are encouraged and the department maintains a roster of trained community members willing to help in the event of a wildfire.

Community building fire safety inspections, which form part of the overall fire prevention program, are scheduled to recommence in early 2015. Inspections have been carried out by volunteers in the past and have been of great benefit in helping community groups and businesses ensure fire-safe premises.

The Department annual Fire Cadet Camp was well attended during Spring Break, with 20 children attending. This has proven to be a popular program which raises fire safety awareness for the children as well as their parents.

The Department continues to provide several successful initiatives such as the free smoke alarm program and school visits. This year, a student from our school won an iPad as part of the annual Fire Prevention Week activities in the Province.

Our web site is proving to be a useful tool in reaching more people with information on the latest activities in the Department. (www.hifd.org)

H O R N B Y I S L A N D F I R E R E S C U E

Finance

The Operations budget for 2014 was \$166,808 with a Protective Gear and Equipment budget of \$8,500. The Department ended the year with a deficit of approximately \$1,300

The salary for the Fire Chief was shifted from Operations to be included in the Regional District side of the budget.

The total budget amount for the Regional District was \$450,000 and represented a tax requisition of \$0.9507 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Strategic Planning

Fire Hall Planning

The architectural firm of Simcic+Uhrich Architects was retained by the Regional District and commenced preliminary design in March of 2014. Neighbourhood meetings and general community information sessions provided input on the overall proposal and detailed design as the architects worked with the HIFR design team and Cost Consultant (AFC) to adjust the building components to reflect the cost ceiling of \$1.9 million.

The Select Committee agreed with the recommendation from the architect to include enhanced building insulation and design features to provide for energy savings throughout the life of the structure.

Community approval for the borrowing of the funds to construct the fire hall was delayed until 2015 and design of the building completed to the 60% stage at the end of 2014.

Community Water Tank Program

All of the planned tank installations had been completed in previous years and the department received approval from Fire Underwriters Survey for fire hydrant certification of the tank installation at the top of Euston Road. All houses within 300 meters of this tank now benefit from lower insurance premiums as they are hydrant protected.

The department modified the tanker truck to more efficiently discharge the water and carried out shuttle practices in preparation for future Tanker Shuttle testing and accreditation by Underwriters. The goal of this program is to provide all of Hornby Island with fire hydrant protected status.

The 'Get Tanked' project of the Arts Council completed the painting of the water tank at Periwinkle Place by a local artist. This now brings the total number of tanks with a mural to seven.

Fire Services Administration Review

The Fire Chief, as selected by the fire department members and hired by the Regional District, completed the first year of a three year contract.

The HIRRA Executive completed their review of the new Service Agreement with the Comox Valley Regional District in July. This Agreement reflects the changes recommended in the Fire Services Review for the delivery of the Fire Services on Hornby Island.

Giff La Rose
Fire Chief