



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

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Annual Report 2015

Callouts and activities

The Department recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2015. This summary doesn't account for informal time in unrecorded training and home study:

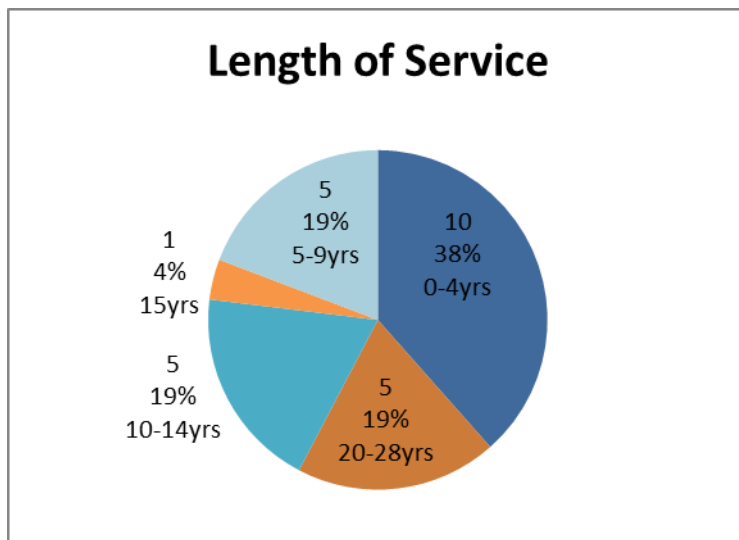
	<u>Practices(hrs)</u>	<u>Incidents(hrs)</u>	<u>Courses(hrs)</u>	<u>Total(hrs)</u>	<u>Incident #</u>
2015	2164	824	275	3,263	129
2014	2171	918	236	3,325	130
2013	1790	585	220	2,595	102
2012	2197	983	576	3,755	130
2011	1922	1018	390	3,330	114
2010	2307	620	429	3,356	108

Our incident breakdown for 2015 with a total of 129 calls:

- 91 medical
- 16 Duty Officer
- 1 structure fire (trailer)
- 3 brush/beach fire
- 1 MVI
- 5 hydro lines down
- 0 chimney fires
- 2 RCMP assist
- 3 false alarms
- 7 Public Service

Medical calls accounted for 70% of our incidents in 2015. The total number of medical calls has increased over the years as well as the ratio to our other calls.

Recruiting new members is a challenge in a dwindling, ageing population and remains one of our priorities. Our roster at the end of 2015 included 18 fire fighters (with 4 on leave), 2 recruits undergoing training and 5 auxiliaries.



The graph shows the distribution of years of service for our members. The Auxiliaries are included in the graph which may show a higher number in the 0-4 years of service. This looks like a fairly good ratio for the department with new members coming in, good middle distribution and long service members with experience to share with others.

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Training

This year we made the choice to train to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) Fire Fighter 1 level after reviewing the Playbook prepared by the Office of the Fire Commissioner. This level now includes Hazmat Operations as a requirement for certification and we have decided to not pursue formal accreditation by not completing the Operations Level Hazardous Materials Response portion. We have made this decision based on an evaluation of the low risk of a hazardous materials incident occurring on Hornby Island.

The department ended 2015 with 97% of its firefighters having completed FF1 level with recruit training continuing and several firefighters completing their final missing module components.

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:

Training Officers' conference – 1 member	Emergency Vehicle Technician course – 1 member
Fire Chiefs' conference – 1 member	Incident Safety Officer – 1 member
Vehicle Rescue Course - 2 members	Thermal Imaging Camera – 2 members
Hazmat Operations – 2 members	Camp Ignite – 1 member
Live Fire 2 – 1 member	CAFI (fire investigation) – 1 member
START – 1 member	PTSD workshop – 2 members
First Responder Instructor recert – 2 members	

We held a successful First Responder course in 2015 which included training of new members and recertification for those with an expired license.

Fire Prevention

Fire safety inspections for community buildings and private businesses resumed in 2015 and will continue to be a focus in 2016. These inspections 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.

Our web site is a useful tool in reaching more people with information on the latest activities in the Department. (www.hifd.org) Hornby Island Word of Mouth on Facebook has also proven to be useful in getting information out to the public.

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Finance

The Operations budget for 2015 was \$177,070 with a Protective Gear and Equipment budget of \$8,500. The Department ended the year 3% over budget with a deficit of approximately \$5,761. A portion of this deficit was due to a spread sheet being used that incorrectly showed a surplus and the department proceeded with the budgeted fire hose order and additional equipment.

The total budget amount for the Regional District was \$474,593 and represented a tax requisition of \$1.0567 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Fire Hall Planning

The architectural firm of Simcic+Uhrich Architects completed the design for the new fire hall following the successful borrowing referendum on April 18.

The Tenders went out to the pre-qualified contractors on January 22, 2016 and the CVRD Board approved the Contract Award to Island West Coast Developments Ltd.

The site was cleared prior to the Tender going out, as a way of reducing overhead costs and providing a clear site for the tender process with the building contractors.

Community Water Tank Program

The tank program for providing water storage around the Island in preparation for Superior Tanker Shuttle included the installation of an intake in the pond in the Regional District Park off St. John's Point Road. This will improve fire protection coverage for McLean Road as identified by Fire Underwriters (FUS). The department will be installing water storage tanks at the intersection of Northwind and Strachan in the other area identified by FUS as being deficient. Current planning will see the purchase of a second tanker truck in 2017 and the challenge for accreditation soon after.

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

Giff La Rose
Fire Chief