



Fire Chief's Report

TO: Saturna Island Fire Protection Society

Nov 7, 2020

Since September 17, SIVFD has had a bust fall, with 5 calls: 1 hydro line, 1 bylaw enforcement, 1 rope rescue, 2 structure fires.

Most will have read my report on the Free Store fire, which was a successful operation due to us getting water on the fire early. The 2 primary reasons for such a level of success on extinguishing the fire are: A) DC Sohier's extremely rapid response time, and B) the automatic pump panel on Engine 11, which allowed DC Sohier to deploy water to the fire without a 2nd person initially operating the pump. We also had an excellent turnout that day, which allowed us to successfully run a full operation. The fire was caused by a severed hydro line.

Members of SIVFD also responded to a structure fire on Samuel Island. This was, in retrospect, an error, at least in the manner it was dispatched. Langford Dispatch put out a general page-out, informing SIVFD of a structure fire on Samuel. Therefore, 5 members of the FD put some equipment on a private boat, and responded to the island. The error is that Samuel is not part of our Fire Service area, which includes only Saturna proper, ie. not even King or Trevor islands. We are essentially unprotected if we respond outside our FSA. There is a way we could properly respond to such an incident, though: Emergency Management BC has the ability to request us to respond, in which case they would cover WCB and other insurance needs (equipment etc.). We have been in touch with Langford Dispatch, and in the future they will page only the duty officer in the case of an emergency on a nearby island. We can then determine the best course of action before mobilizing the rest of the department.

On the same day of the Samuel incident, SIVFD was paged out to rescue a dog lost at Monarch Head. It turned out the dog went over the cliff, and the department rigged a high angle rope rescue system to rappel down the cliff, secure the dog, and bring him back up to

his owner. The dog was uninjured, the operation was a success, and the owner gave us a very generous donation.

We have had our new P25 radios in use since September 22. We had a programming hiccup with them at the free store fire. That has since been corrected, and they seem to be working well. The sound quality is certainly better than the old system.

We continue to progress towards meeting our WCB and playbook requirements for testing, inspections, and servicing. Profire came again to the island on October 3. They tested the pump in E11, and tested all of our ladders. Everything passed. I have made contact with Grainger to arrange servicing of our SCBAs. One of our members, Anatole Russel-Ingram, is procuring the necessary equipment for hose testing. Our book of Standard Operating Guidelines is filling up.

I have reached out to several sources to look for other training opportunities. I have had success with answers from Mayne Island Fire and Metchosin Fire, both of whom have been quite responsive. It looks like we should be able to arrange most of our course needs with these departments (and Pender) over the next several months. A specific plan has yet to be made, and scheduling of courses may yet be disrupted by the pandemic, but our training situation looks much better now.

We are continuing with our half-online, half-in-person practices. I have yet to decide how training will work in the new year, but it will likely look similar. We plan to run a recruit training course in 2021, which will start in January. We have 4 or 5 recruits, but are open to more motivated, physically able individuals to join the team.

Again, no progress has been made to find a location for our training container. I have not had any time to pursue this amongst other commitments, however it is still a priority.
Yours,

Peter Clark
CHIEF, SIVFD

