



Fire Chief's Report

TO: Saturna Island Fire Protection Society

March 11, 2021

Since Jan. 15 2021, SIVFD has had 7 calls: 8 medical, and 1 commercial alarm bell.

The chief and his team would like to thank President Quinn and Ian Gaines for making arrangements to get us a training space and structure on Ian and Amber's property. This is very exciting, and it will bring this department forward into the future. Much work and many decisions remain to be made about how this structure will be laid out, who will do the work, etc. DC Sohler has made a good point that we really ought to have a water tank there to supply us water for practicing with. It could also be a water source for emergencies.

SIVFD's recruit training course is going well. We have a group of 4 promising recruits. The DC and I are delivering the Exterior Operations Level Firefighter course to them, which will continue until the end of 2021. So far, we have covered Safety and Communications, PPE and SCBA, and Ropes and Knots.

At the same time, the rest of the firefighters have been broken into two groups who on alternative practice nights either stay home for online training or come to the hall for small group live drills. Vector solutions is working out as a provider for our online training.

I am in the process of arranging training courses for the fall of this year: an Automobile Extrication course, an Incident Safety Officer course, and a Traffic Control course. I believe this fall will be a reasonable time to bring trainers in from off island, and hopefully to gather in somewhat larger groups, likely still with some precautions.

In January I signed us up for a free 60-day trial period with I Am Responding. This is an online responder management system about which I believe Martin Wale presented the board with some information. We have not particularly had the chance to see it put to great use on a call yet, but we can certainly see how useful it could be. Linda Cunningham and I had a detailed webinar with our IAR representative, and it is clear that it is a powerful and useful system. We should be able to have the same account as SIR, which saves a subscription fee and enhances our interoperability. Our free trial period is nearly up, and we

are supposed to sign the agreement afterwards. Unfortunately, Martin is still having technical difficulties setting up the SIR IAR system. My preferred option at this point is to wait until Martin figures out the issues with his system, and then activate a joined account for both “agencies”. Pender Island and other nearby FDs use this system, and it is clear that this is the way of the future. The cost is modest at about 300USD per year.

This should be purely a Firefighter’s Association topic, but the SIVFFA is working on plans for a drive-through Pig Barbecue in May.

Peter Clark
CHIEF, SIVFD

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