



Annual Report 2011

Callouts and activities

The Department members volunteered a total of approximately 3,330 hours in 2011 for practices, attending courses and responding to 114 emergencies.

Medical calls represented only 54% of the total incidents while it has fallen to 50% for the North Island 911 area.

We accepted two new recruits this year (both under 19 years of age) and celebrated the retirement of David Cloud after having served 35 years on the Department.

Training

In addition to the growing complexity of structural fire training, the Department maintains competency in high angle rescue in the event of incidents occurring on our cliffs.

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.

Fire Prevention

The Department volunteers held the 5th annual Fire Cadet Camp which had 19 children attending the two day program. This continues to be a wonderful program for our children in teaching new skills and fire safety awareness.

Finance

The Operations budget for 2011 was \$179,662 and a Protective Gear and Equipment budget of \$104,200. This included an allowance of \$90,000 for the purchase of new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus(SCBA) and a compressor/fill station for the fire hall. The new SCBA bring the Department up to date with safety standards and have a life expectancy of 15 years.

The Department ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$6,614

The total budget amount for the Regional District was \$400,000.00, which represented a tax requisition of \$0.8248 per \$1,000 assessed value based on a corrected Hornby assessment of \$441,088,000

Fire Hall Planning

The District has anticipated moving forward with planning in 2012 and has included an estimate of fees and preliminary fire hall budget in that tax year as part of prudent financial planning should the community approve the project. This forecast would see the annual requisition increase slightly to \$432,000; representing a tax rate of \$0.8699 per \$1,000 of assessed value. (this would represent an increase of approximately \$0.0423 per \$1,000 assessed value to cover the cost of the fire hall – or \$21.15 on a property assessed at \$500,000)

Community Water Tank Program

The last of the tank installations was completed in 2011 and all tanks are now fully operational.

The Fire Underwriters audit, completed in 2009, recognized the installation of the tanks at that time and the planning underway to achieve accreditation. This would aid in having an improved fire insurance grading classification of DGB 3B (Superior Shuttle Tanker Accreditation) for the whole Island.

The purpose of the program is to reduce fire insurance premiums. Indications are that fire insurance premiums would be reduced by approximately 30% to 40% once accreditation has been achieved.

Submitted by Giff La Rose, Fire Chief