



# Annual Report 2019

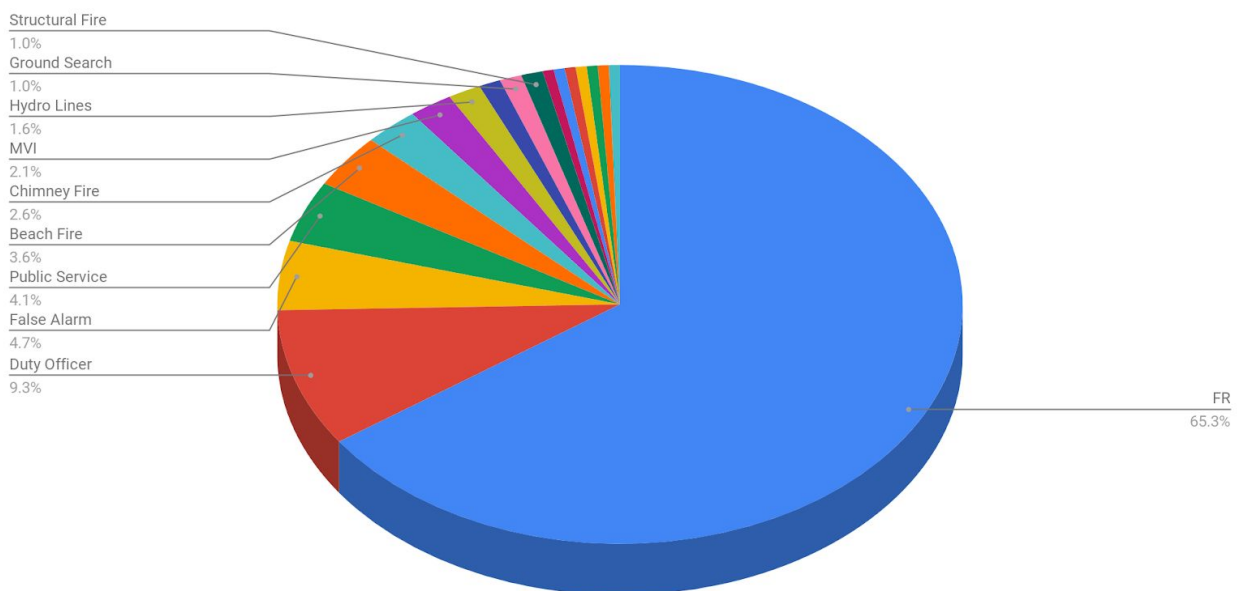
In 2019 we responded to more calls than any other year. Busy years are a curious mix of invigorating and exhausting. While there were certainly periods where we hoped for a solid night's sleep, we can feel great about how many people we helped, property that we protected, and the many things that we accomplished.

## Callouts and activities

We recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2019. This summary doesn't account for informal time in unrecorded training and home study:

	Practices(hrs)	Incidents(hrs)	Courses(hrs)	Total(hrs)	Incident #
2019	2465	1132	130	3,802	193
2018	2943	1069	293	4,305	163
2017	1844	1025	140	3,009	179
2016	2499	898	472	3,869	140
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

Our incident breakdown for 2019 with a total of 193 calls:



## HORNBY ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

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FR	126		MVI	4		Fire Unclassified	1
Duty Officer	18		Hydro Lines	3		Burn Pile	1
False Alarm	9		Brush Fire	2		Walk-in First Aid	1
Public Service	8		Ground Search	2		RCMP Assist	1
Beach Fire	7		Structural Fire	2		Telephone Wires	1
Chimney Fire	5		Investigation	1		CO Alarm	1

Medical calls dropped again to 65% of our incidents in 2019. This could be due to getting BCAS to do more of the non-emergency calls that we have traditionally done. I am hoping to have BCAS take on a few other non-emergency calls in 2020 which may cut a few more calls from our load. Duty officer calls are down slightly but false alarms, beach fires, and public service calls are up.

Some may find it interesting that of the 65 departments dispatched by North Island 911, we were the 18th busiest in 2019. We were dispatched to the same number of calls as Port Hardy, we passed Dashwood, and are closing in on Tofino. Our call volumes were more evenly spread out across the year with November having more incidents than August.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

Most of our new members are still with us and we added three more in 2019. Bernie Morissette left us for love in Vancouver which is a pretty good excuse. Congratulations to Faroe, Jac and Ben Peterson for successfully challenging our in-house test to be promoted to the rank of firefighter. Our roster at the end of 2019 is 23, made up of 14 firefighters, three members who have begun the in-house exam process, six new members on track to become exterior firefighters, and one new auxiliary.

Our auxiliary program has made some advances. Jeremy has taken on the role of coordinating this program and working out a plan for keeping the auxiliary members engaged with the rest of the team. After completing the fundamentals program with all new recruits, members may choose to not continue with the exterior firefighter program but transition into an auxiliary program. More work needs to be done to flesh out what that program looks like but we are off to a great start.

Until we are able to move our newest members through the certification and training process I am reluctant to embark on a recruitment drive for 2020.

### **Training**

Duncan built on the work started by Faroe and Quana in developing a “pre-exterior” or “fundamentals” program. Any new recruits can now be run through the eight module lesson plans to learn basic fireground safety, traffic, communications, and water supply concepts. All

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members of HIFR are now carrying pagers and several new members have attended their first incidents.

Aside from individual training, we brought over Chief Schreiner from Comox Fire Rescue to give us an evening primer on structure protection.

The extra training courses that our members took part in this past year are:

ISC100 - 4 members

S.T.A.R.T – 3 members

Evaluator Certificate - 1 member

FR III with spinal recert – 2 members

HAZMAT Operations - 3 members

ICS200 – 1 member

Emergency Scene Management - 1 member

The training center has been slow to get started with delays in getting a development permit and, most recently, undergoing engineering work. We have a verbal commitment from a local builder to do the footings for cost once we can get drawings certified for construction.

### **Fire Prevention**

The Department annual Fire Cadet Camp continues to be well attended. This has proven to be a popular program which raises fire safety awareness for the children as well as their parents. An opportunity exists to engage older teens by running a separate camp but the extra work involved is a hurdle at this time.

The Department continues to provide several successful initiatives such as the free smoke alarm program, carbon monoxide detector program, and school visits.

### **Community Engagement**

The untimely deaths of two of our community members (one from a stroke and one from an OD) was hard on many of us. However, out of that darkness came some light. Partnering with Community Paramedic Jason Stevens and with the help of our own John Heinegg we gave out training and naloxone kits to over 100 people. Many more community members attended stroke awareness training, and hands only CPR training.

The fire hall continues to be an important community resource with many activities taking place in the building, such as Community Paramedic talks, blues workshops, and a voting place for the federal election. I feel it is important to community ownership of the building to open it up to events whose purpose is of benefit to the community and the schedules can work within our constraints. There is a balance to be struck between community usage and not interfering with our operations, but I think we are narrowing in on that balance.

### **Finance**

The Operations budget for 2019 was \$199,580 with an extra protective gear and equipment budget of \$8,500. HIFR ended 2019 with a projected deficit of \$4400.

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In 2019 we applied for a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) grant for \$25,000 to fund the beginnings of a structure protection unit to deploy in the case of a wildfire on Hornby Island. We should hear the results of that application in February 2020.

### **Fire Hall Completion**

Some major headway was made on projects to complete the new fire hall. The landscaping has been all but completed. In 2019 the plantings have been done, an irrigation system installed, and the entire area mulched. Huge contributions were made by several HIFR members in addition to the amazing volunteerism by Darren Bond, Liz Earle, Dean McKay, and Eben Walmsley. Thanks also to the \$5600 contribution to this project from the CVRD.

- A new generator with enough capacity to run the entire fire hall has been acquired and will be installed in 2020.
- The new fuel tank was installed in 2019 in partnership with the Hornby Island Recycling Depot
- 70% of the upper deck has been covered with paving stones. The remainder will follow in 2020.
- Our sign at the front of the fire hall is up and functional. The street address component is here and ready to be installed in the next few weeks.

The last remaining item to be completed is the pressurized truck washing and filling system.

### **The New 64**

We put our new rescue truck into service this summer. The stars aligned so that Oyster River Fire Rescue was getting rid of the exact truck that we were looking for. Captain Zielinski has done an amazing job of tailoring the new truck to meet our needs and if it weren't for a welder breakdown it would be 100% complete.

### **In Conclusion**

We took advantage of the positive movement that we had in 2018 and built on it in 2019. Our team is an excellent mix of experienced members and youthful enthusiasm. Our community is as supportive of us as I've ever seen and every day I'm proud of the work that we do.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and long hours of community service. Each and every one of you is making a positive difference in our community.



Doug Chinnery  
Fire Chief