



Annual Report 2020

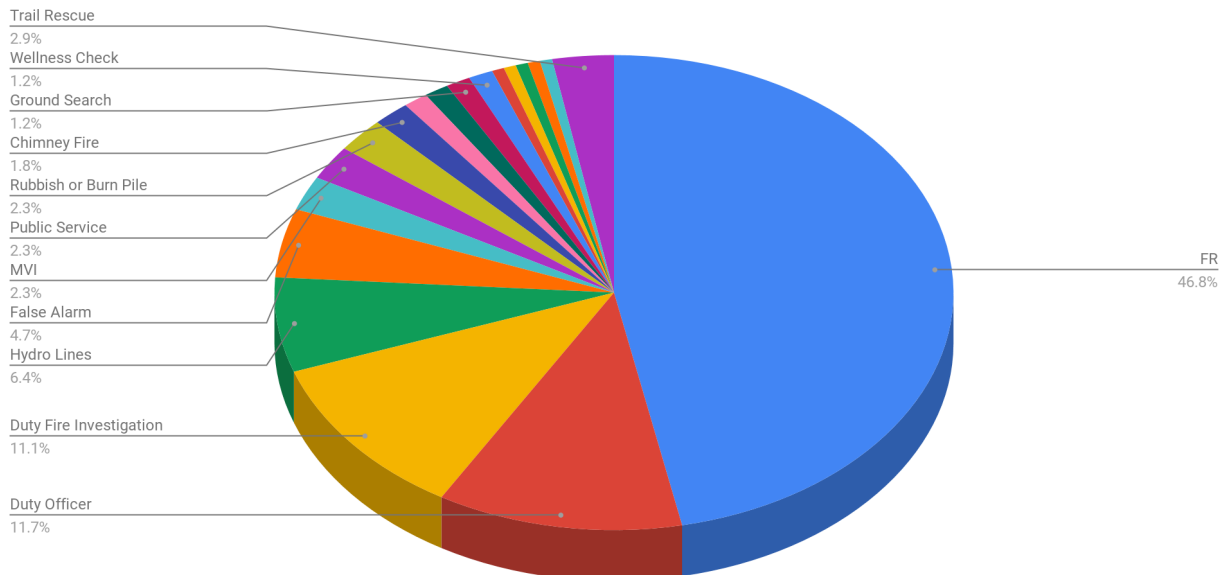
2020 brought Hornby Island Fire Rescue its fair share of challenges but also presented many opportunities. There was the stress, uncertainty, and quickly changing protocols of a pandemic. The cancellation of community events and off-island training, while disappointing, opened doors for completing some long-standing projects around the fire hall.

Callouts and activities

We recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2020. This summary doesn't account for informal time in unrecorded training and home study:

	Practices(hrs)	Incidents(hrs)	Courses(hrs)	Total(hrs)	Incident #
2020	2037	972	286	3,295	171
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

Our incident breakdown for 2020 with a total of 171 calls:



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FR	80		Public Service	4		Wellness Check	2
Duty Officer	20		Burn Pile	4		Fire Alarm	1
DO							
Investigation	19		Chimney Fire	3		Missing Person	1
Hydro Lines	11		Beach Fire	2		Rescue & Safety	1
False Alarm	8		Brush Fire	2		Traffic Control	1
Trail Rescue	5		Ground Search	2		RMCP Assist	1
MVI	4						

Medical calls dropped again to 50% of our incidents in 2020. This probably due to the lull in calls that we experienced when people were staying at home due to COVID. We also had BCAS do more non-emergency calls to patients' homes. Duty officer calls are up probably due to the recent practice of alerting dispatch for phone-in or walk-in calls that may have never been logged.

This year we were the 17th busiest department in the North Island 911 family, up one position from last year. We were the 6th busiest for FR calls.

Recruitment and Retention

2020 saw a big influx of new members with seven new people starting their training. One of those new recruits (Mark Kelly) left to pursue a great opportunity in Vancouver. Sasha LeBaron retired after 15 years of service, leaving us with 14 firefighters and 12 rookies.

Our "service level" breakdown is:

- 1 Full-Service Firefighter (2 in training)
- 13 Interior Firefighters (4 in training)
- 5 Exterior Firefighters (4 in training)
- 4 Suppression Rookies
- 2 Medical Rookies
- 2 Auxilliary/Support

We further advanced our "stream" system where personnel can pick one of the following three streams: medical, suppression, auxiliary. The results have been encouraging, and although there are still some tweaks to be made, there is good potential for sharing the load on our many FR calls and developing a support and operator crew

Training

Lt. Rob Lewis has done excellent work to keep our training program constantly moving forward and also in keeping our trainees engaged in the process.

Innes, Judith, Alex, and Ben Marsh have finished their exterior training and have moved on to the interior program. Jac, Jasper, and Ben Peterson have completed their interior training.

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We made some huge advancements to our training facility this year as we were able to take advantage of Hornby Island Diving's downtime by putting Cpt. Rob Zielinski to work. A capital request to complete the project in 2021 looks positive. Huge thanks go out to AFC Construction for their generosity in loaning equipment and labour to help with that project.

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

Air Brake Endorsement - 3 members

HAZMAT Operations - 1 member

S.T.A.R.T – 4 members

Live Fire – 4 member

Fire Service Instructor - 2 members

EOC Essentials - 1 member

Industrial Supervisor (mod 1) – 2 members

Fire Prevention and Community Engagement

COVID-19 forced cancellations of all of our community programs. Cadet Camp, extinguisher courses, naloxone training, and community first aid programs all suffered. HIFR continues to provide several successful initiatives such as the free smoke alarm program, carbon monoxide detector program, and school visits.

Finance

The operations budget for 2020 was \$204,265. HIFR closed out 2020 with a projected deficit of \$1500. Additional capital requisitions were:

- \$10,000 protective equipment
- \$35,000 Sandpiper tank replacement
- \$6,000 AED replacement
- \$20,000 Training Facility

We received \$25,000 from a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) that we applied for in 2019. These funds were used to purchase equipment to establish a structure protection program.

Significant Accomplishments

COVID-19 although a major disruption didn't slow down our ability to make improvements to the fire hall or community infrastructure. Here are some of our accomplishments in 2020:

- Completion of the installation of the new generator with enough capacity to run the entire fire hall.
- Completion of the rain catchment, pump, and plumbing for the pressurized truck filling and washing.
- Major headway was made into getting the training facility up and running.
- A pre-cistern treatment system for domestic water was installed.
- The sandpiper water tank was replaced.
- A successful pilot program for chipping yard waste was run.
- Improvements were made to the 911 mapping for Hornby Island with the addition of trail names, water sources, and civic address improvements.
- Added several rescue areas outside of our jurisdiction for improved public service.

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- Improved trail rescue equipment.
- Development of an evacuation plan in conjunction with CVRD Emergency Preparedness
- Development of an outbreak plan specifically for COVID-19 but modifiable for any similar pandemic.

In Conclusion

I like to look past COVID-19 and see 2020 as a year that we accomplished so much. From firehall infrastructure and new training facility to adding five more members to our team, we have a lot to be proud of.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Chinnery', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Doug Chinnery
Fire Chief