



**FIRE  
RESCUE**



# 2015 Annual Report

Township of Esquimalt Fire Department

May 2016



## Township of Esquimalt Mission Statement

Focusing on community priorities, the Township of Esquimalt works to make our community and environment a better place for today and the future.



## Our Values

**Accountability** – we acknowledge and take responsibility for our actions, decisions and policies.

**Integrity** – we practice high standards of ethical behaviour and open communication that inspire trust.

**Respect** – we foster an environment of fairness where people are valued and treated with dignity.

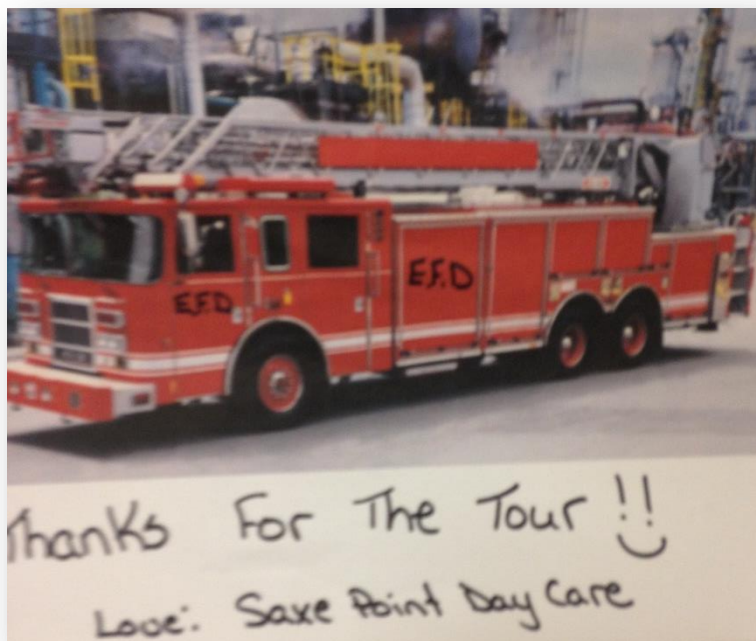
**Service** – we strive to meet community needs and achieve high-quality results through teamwork, innovation and creativity.

## Strategic Priorities 2015-2019

- *We continue to enhance the health and liveability of the community*
- *We recognize the importance of, and will enhance relationships with our neighbours and the other levels of government*
- *We encourage a resilient and diverse economic environment*
- *We continue to address the operational and financial requirements of our infrastructure*

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## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – YEAR IN REVIEW



2015 was a year of transition for the Esquimalt Fire Department.

I had the pleasure of joining the department in March. Upon my arrival, the department had several new initiatives underway ranging from training programs for new firefighters to a restructuring of the organization. In September of 2015, the department changed the organizational model which resulted in a new Assistant Chief and several firefighters being hired. There are now two Assistant Chiefs reporting to the Fire Chief, and they are assigned to a rotational day shift schedule. In accordance with the *Fire Department Act*, each platoon rotates on a two day and two night, four day off schedule. All four platoons have five firefighters and are supervised by a Captain. I am very proud of the members' commitment to professionalism during this year.

As part of my initial orientation to the community, I had the benefit of receiving guidance from Assistant Chief Ray Saurette. Ray was a tremendous asset in providing me with the foundation to understand the existing partnerships with our department. Since that orientation, our Leadership Team has continued to explore other opportunities with various emergency services to increase service levels and to maintain cost controls. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CFB Esquimalt Fire Department for their committed support through 2015, and look forward to continuing this partnership in the years to come.

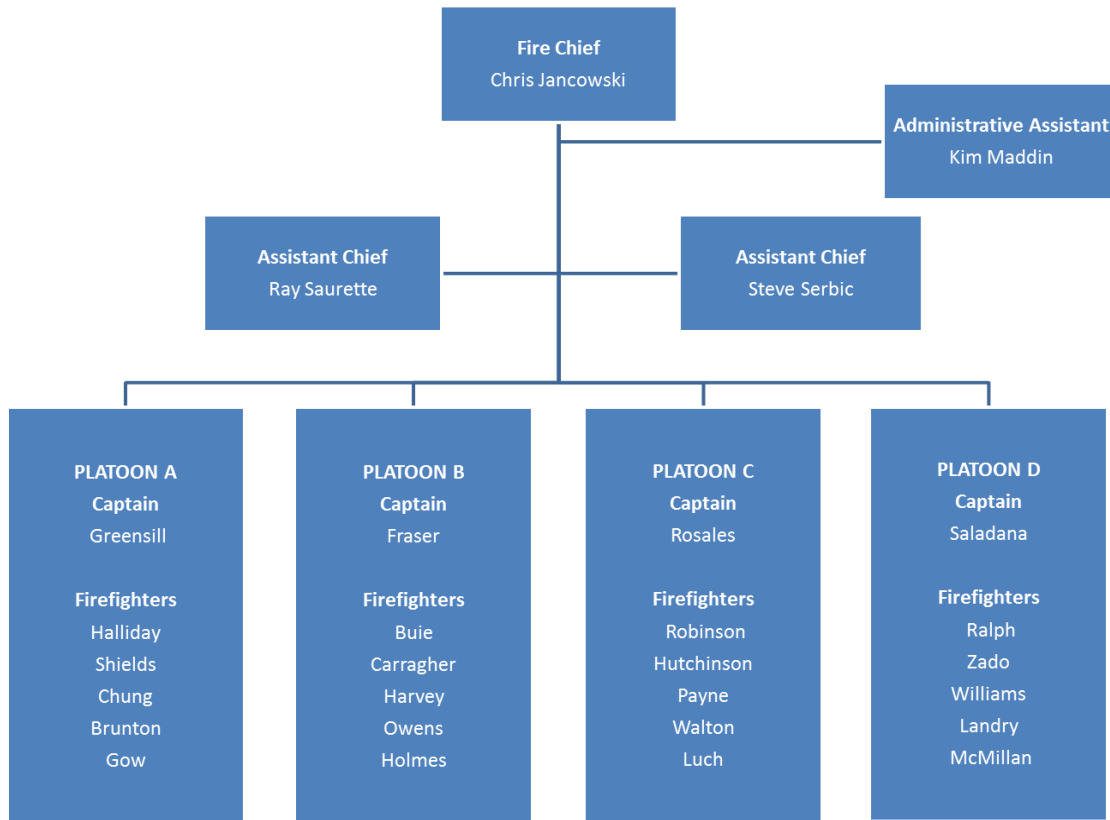
In 2015, the department responded to several challenging emergency events. In April, we responded to a drowning in the Gorge Waterway that involved one of our members entering the water to effect an urgent rescue. In July, we attended a structure fire on Admirals Road that resulted in the rescue of two residents.

In closing, I would like to thank the department membership, the Township staff and our Mayor and Council for supporting me in my new role. I am looking forward to continuing to build relationships and to delivering service to the Township of Esquimalt in 2016.

Respectfully,

C.A. (Chris) Jancowski, B.FSS, CFO, MIFireE

## 2015 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



### Public Education Fire Extinguisher Training

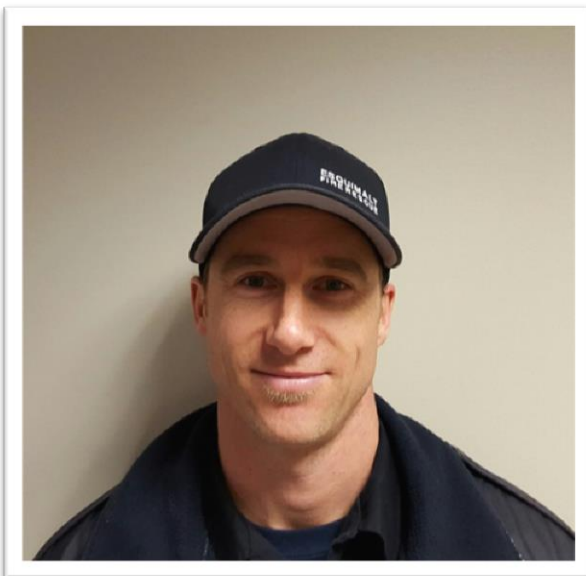


## PERSONNEL

### New Members

#### Assistant Chief Steve Serbic

Steve joined the department in September. Steve was a former member of the Surrey Fire Service for 17 years. He has also taught fire service skills in Saudi Arabia. Steve is a committed lifelong learner and brings many skills to the department's leadership team.

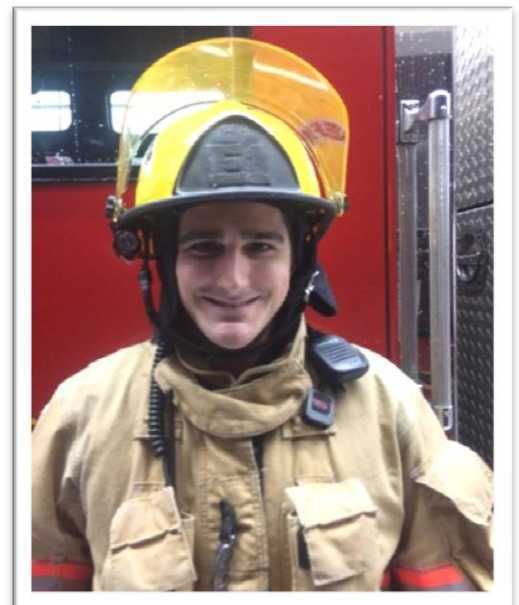


#### Firefighter Drew Brunton

Drew joined the department in April. Prior to joining our department, Drew served as a firefighter in Nanaimo for several years.

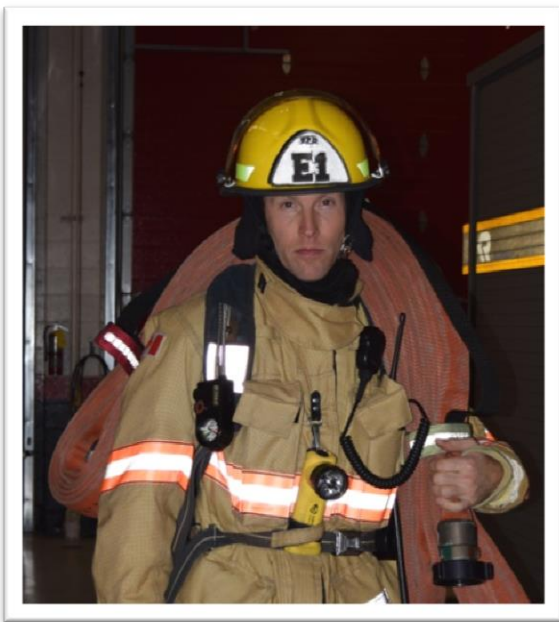
#### Firefighter Matt Landry

Matt joined the department in April. He has worked as a fire dispatcher at the Capital Regional Fire Dispatch Center in Langford. Matt has also served for several years as a firefighter at the Langford Fire Department.



**Firefighter Andrew Luch**

Andrew joined the department in August. He previously served with the Vancouver Fire Rescue Service. He has also served the country as part of the armed services.



**Firefighter Kahlil Holmes**

Kahlil joined the department in August after 16 years of experience as a carpenter. He also comes with a wealth of firefighting skills and experience from his years with Tofino Fire Rescue and North Saanich Fire Rescue.



**Firefighter Tyler Gow**

Tyler joined the department in September. He brings several years of firefighting experience from Nanaimo Fire Department along with industrial experience as a plant security officer in an industrial mill.

## Firefighter Scott McMillan

Scott joined the department in November. He served for several years as a volunteer firefighter with the Shawnigan Lake Fire Department.



## Retirement

### Firefighter Elias Mavrikos

Elias started with the Esquimalt Fire Department in May of 2006. Since then he has been a committed member of the department. In September, Elias resigned from our department to pursue other opportunities. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

## Awards

In 2015, several members of the department were recognized for service awards. In July and December the Township hosted an event to recognition the long-term service of the following fire department members.

### 10 Years of Department Service

- Alex Halliday
- Angelo Rosales
- Chris Buie
- Ian Fraser
- Mark Ralph
- Spencer Robinson
- Troy Saladana
- Jason Hutchinson





## Medals

In December, two members of the Esquimalt Fire Department were recognized with the 20 year Federal Exemplary Service Medal. This medal was presented by Mayor Desjardins and Fire Commissioner Anderson.

### Captain Troy Saladana

Captain Saladana began his career with the CFB Esquimalt Fire Department in 1995 and joined the Esquimalt Fire Department in January of 2003. Since joining the department Troy has been committed to the department as a lead fire investigator and by spearheading changes to fire apparatus technologies.

### Firefighter Spencer Robinson

Firefighter Robinson began his career with the Burnaby Fire Department in 1995. He joined our department in January 2003. Spencer has been very active as a first responder instructor. He also has assisted in taking a lead in selecting and purchasing the uniform issue.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### New Engine

In July, the department received the newest addition to the fleet, a 2015 Rosenbauer Type 1 fire engine. This engine replaces the oldest engine (Engine 11) and will be formally known as Engine 1. This new engine combines several safety and efficiency features that include backup cameras, remote control monitors and multiplexed electronic control systems. In addition the apparatus is also equipped with an auxiliary engine that serves a dual purpose of being an on-site generator, along with providing the power to the apparatus while shutting down the main engine to prevent long periods of idling. This engine will serve the Township for several decades.

#### Engine 1 Quick Facts

- 1750 IGPM
- 600 Gallons(US) of Water
- 500 Horsepower
- 60 Gallons (US) of Class A/B Foam
- Seating for 8



### Flooring Replacement

As part of the 2015 capital budget, the department replaced the flooring on the second floor of the fire station. This replacement involved the removal of all subflooring, surface preparations, new covering materials and the replacement of all cove borders. This replacement will serve the department for many years with low maintenance requirements.



### Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)

The department purchased an additional Thermal Imaging Camera in 2015. This camera (MSA 6000) is similar to the current camera used by department members with additional features. The MSA 6000 incorporates newer technologies, is capable of measuring distance and is able to incorporate the use of a multi-colour pallet to assist a firefighter in locating occupants or heat signatures of hidden fires. Cameras like the MSA 6000 are becoming more common in the fire services and have proven value in a multi-use role ranging from assisting in motor vehicle incidents to hazardous materials incidents.



### Sewage Lift Pumps

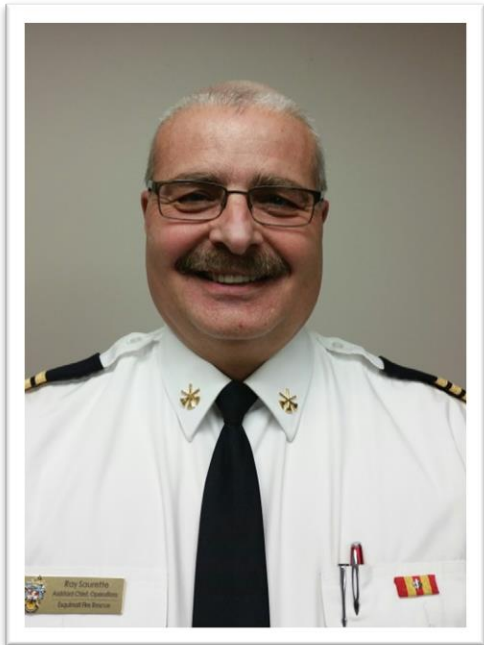
As part of the continued maintenance of the Public Safety Building in 2015, the basement lift pumps were replaced. These pumps have been serviced in the past but had reached their useful life span. The project incorporated the upgrading of the electrical wiring along with the replacement of both pumps.

### Gas Detection

As part of the capital budget the department also upgraded the gas detection docking and calibration systems. This increased capacity will allow the department to download all monthly calibrations and functional tests. Gas detection devices enable the fire department members to monitor numerous gases that include carbon monoxide, oxygen and ammonia.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO



*Ray Saurette*

As part of the department’s transition, two administrative portfolios were created. The Community Services portfolio, led by Assistant Chief Saurette, is responsible for the overall fire prevention strategy for the Township of Esquimalt. This strategy incorporates a variety of activities such as fire inspections, plan reviews and public education.

The department strives to maintain a high degree of life and property protection through its many fire prevention activities.

The membership takes great pride in ensuring the department provides a top notch prevention program and works diligently to maintain a positive work relationship with all its customers.

### Fire Prevention Officer’s Association

As part of the responsibilities for Community Services portfolio Assistant Chief Saurette has become an active member of the Greater Victoria Region Fire Prevention Officer’s group which meets every two months to review issues that may impact all members. These meetings move around the region and Esquimalt hosted one of the meetings in the fall.

### Oil Tanks

There is a growing concern from government agencies and the insurance industry regarding oil tanks but more specifically underground tanks and their potential impact on the environment. The greatest impact to the fire department has been the increase in the number of inquiries from realtors looking for data associated to oil tanks on properties for sale. These inquiries have added a significant workload on the department staff, as each request requires a manual data search through hand written ledgers or requesting information from municipal archives. In addition to inquiries, the department handled over 100 requests for information and installation and removal permits. To ensure the department remains up to date with current and future issues surrounding oil tank regulations, the department participated in a fall workshop hosted by the CRD.



### Fire Inspections

In 2015, the department conducted 546 company-level inspections, which was broken into four quadrants with each platoon responsible for one of the areas. This approach to conducting inspections was introduced in 2014, and has proved to be very effective. This approach also continues to help the department in its efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions.



2015 Annual Fire Department Open House

### Hydrant Maintenance

In addition to company-level inspections the department focuses its attention on getting strata developments to maintain their hydrants in accordance to the Fire Code. In total, the department initiated seven letters requiring the property owners to have their hydrants inspected and serviced.

### Business Licences and Plans Review

The department assisted in the approval process of over 80 new business licence applications and provided numerous comments on development proposals and fire safety plans for buildings requiring plans as per the Fire Code.



Fire Extinguisher Training

### Public Education

Public education has several components that includes: fire hall tours; fire extinguisher training for high school students and private companies; *Learn Not To Burn* program presentations at elementary schools; and the annual Fire Prevention Week open house, which always draws a good crowd. In 2015 we had about 65 different interactions with members of our community, reaching hundreds of people.



The department prides itself on its long running participation with the *Learn Not to Burn* program, which teaches kids from K to grade three about fire safety, what to do in the event of fire, having a fire safety plan for their home, and practicing it with family members. This year the kids while at school were given an opportunity to race through an obstacle course designed to practice their Learn Not To Burn skills. Fun was had by all.

In addition to the fire prevention week activities, the department became involved in the provincial fire safety initiative. Participating students from Victor Brodeur school were entered into draws, which resulted in:

- One student becoming the Honour Fire Chief for a day, and,
- One winning a regional iPad contest.

*2015 Fire Chief for a Day*

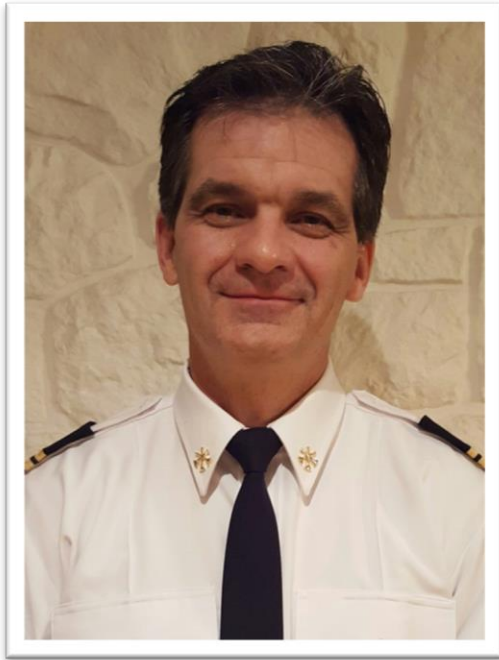
Another program the department became involved in during Fire Prevention Week was get a free pizza if you have your residential smoke detector checked by the fire department. This initiative was actioned through the regional fire prevention officers group at the request of Victoria Fire who had been running the program over the past several years. The success of the program could be measured in obtaining local television coverage and reaching two homes in our community. We would like to thank Esquimalt Domino's Pizza for their sponsorship.

### **Lock Box Program**

Three years ago the department, through Council, adopted a Lock Box Bylaw designed to reduce the risk to the department for the storage and handling of building access keys for specific types of properties. To be proactive in obtaining compliance, the department created a brochure explaining the program and its requirements which was distributed during annual fire inspections. This initiative saw moderate success with about 30% of the properties complying with the notification. For those that did not, the department will be returning the keys to the property owner or their representative and then determine the next course of action for compliance with the bylaw.



## DEPARTMENT SERVICES PORTFOLIO



*Steve Serbic*

2015 was an exciting year for the Esquimalt Fire Department. In September Steve joined the department and was tasked with general operations and the administrative portfolio of Department Services.

The Department Services portfolio incorporates internal and external department training, apparatus, and general equipment purchasing and repairs.

In September, Steve as our newest chief attended his first Greater Victoria Training Officers Meeting. These meetings are held several times a year and present a collaborative opportunity for training staff from all fire departments to share new concepts and best practices. Our department also hosted a fire hydraulics and nozzle workshop. This workshop presented alternative theories and approaches to water application to control fires. This workshop was well attended by the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt and several of our members.

### Skills Maintenance

During 2015 members of the department also participated in ongoing skills maintenance. First Responder medical re-licensing started in the last quarter of 2015 with completion expected in early 2016. First Responder skills allow fire department members to provide frontline life safety measures to residents within our community.

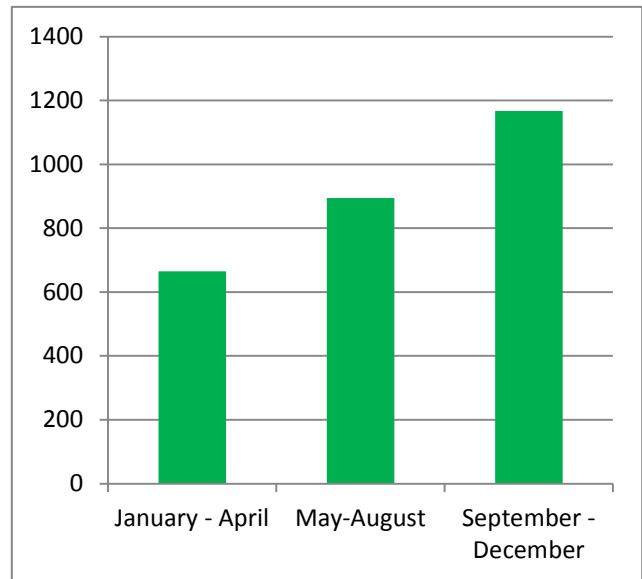
In addition to medical skills, members also participated in rope rescue refresher skills and personal floatation device (PFD) training. Our PFD training was supported by our Township Parks and Recreation Department lifeguards at the pool. As part of the department emergency response services, members may work near water and have to be equipped and have operational knowledge of PFD usage and care.



**New Initiatives in 2015**

Several new training initiatives took place in 2015. In May, a British Columbia Safety Authority elevator rescue course took place. This course prepares firefighters to perform elevator rescues when emergency situations exist and no elevator mechanic is available.

In November, the department attended a fire dynamics workshop that incorporated science with recent fire ground research and fire ground principles. This workshop was hosted by the Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy (VIERA) with departments all over Vancouver Island attending.



**Company Level Training Hours**

In December, the department hosted several medical-based professional development workshops. These workshops focused on the need to understand emergency childbirth and basic obstetrics. These workshops were well attended by local fire departments with positive feedback.

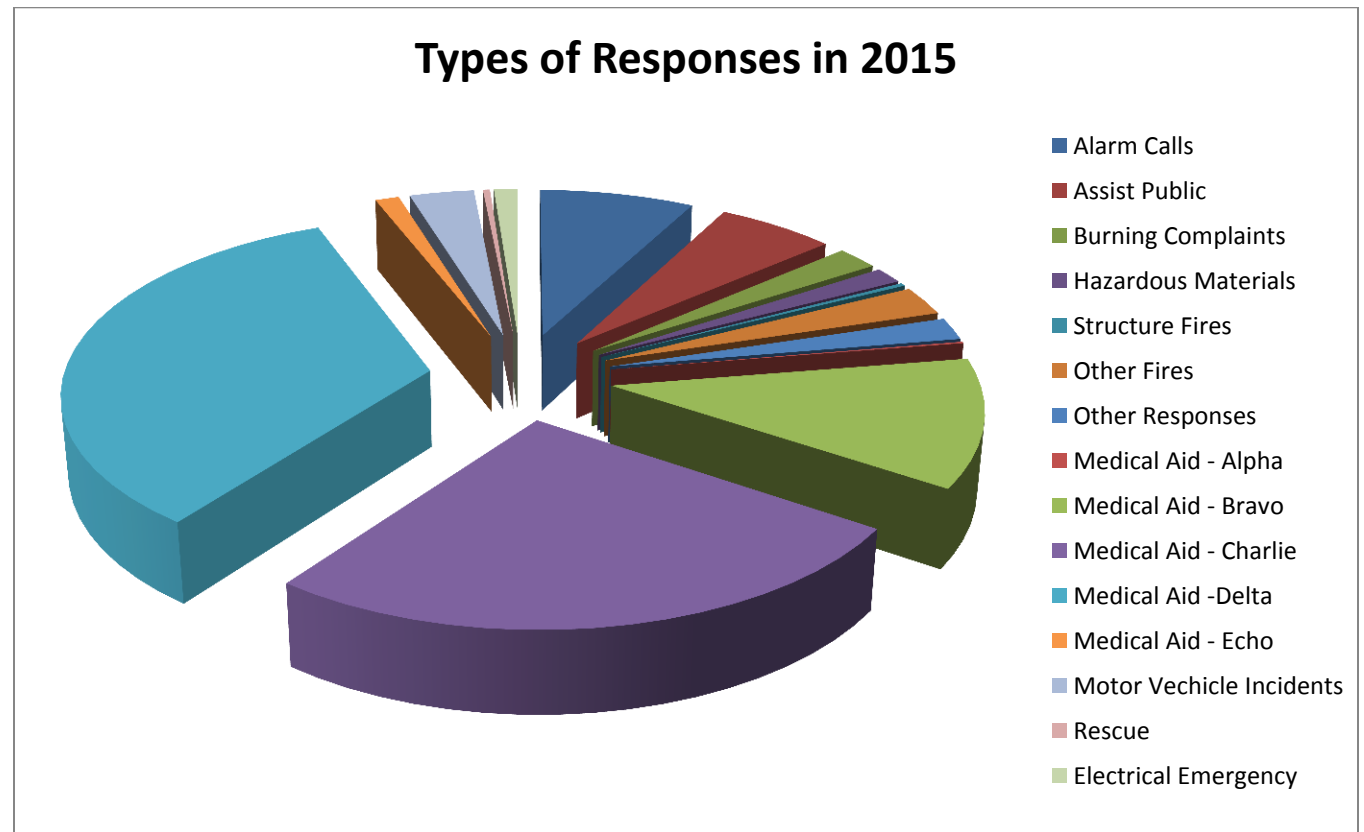
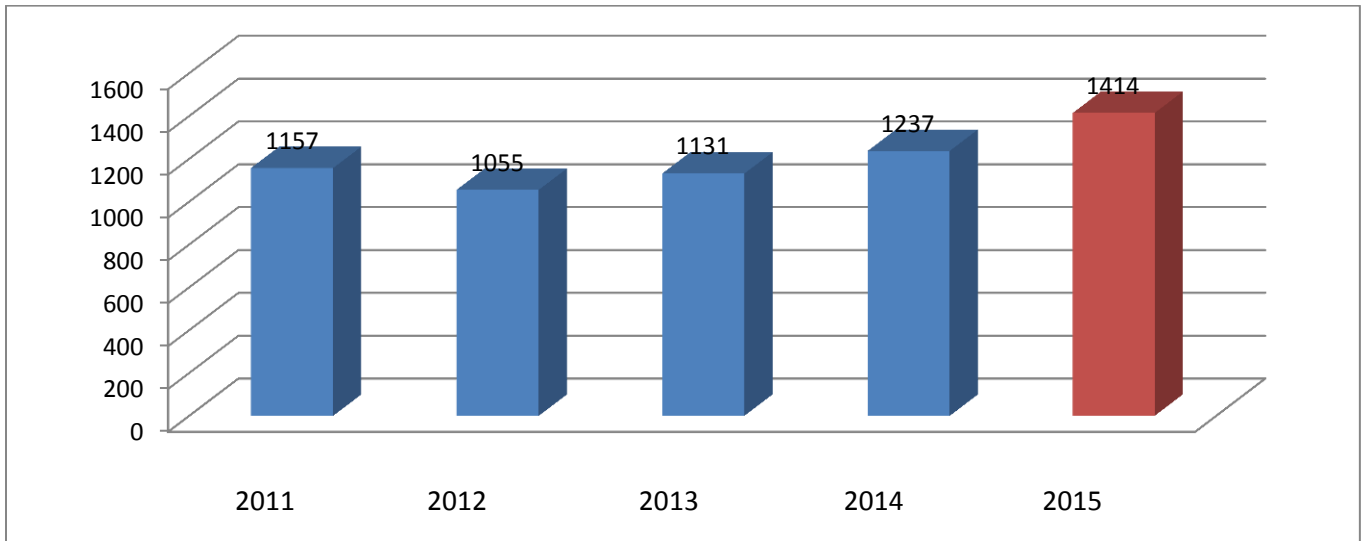
As we move forward, 2016 is expected to be a great year. Members will receive additional opportunities to participate as in-house instructors for first response medical skills. As part of our existing relationship with CFB Esquimalt Fire Department we also look forward to sharing knowledge in areas that include Urban Search and Rescue and Rapid Intervention Team skills.

| <b>2015 TRAINING COURSES</b>              |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <i>Course</i>                             | <i>Type / Subject</i>       |
| <b>Collaborative Conflict Resolution</b>  | <b>Leadership</b>           |
| <b>Budget Management</b>                  | <b>Fire Officer Studies</b> |
| <b>Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention</b>  | <b>Fire Prevention</b>      |
| <b>Incident Command Systems 200</b>       | <b>Fire Suppression</b>     |
| <b>Emergency Scene Management Level 1</b> | <b>Fire Suppression</b>     |
| <b>Fire Life Safety Educator</b>          | <b>Fire Prevention</b>      |
| <b>Fire Inspector 1</b>                   | <b>Fire Prevention</b>      |
| <b>First Responder Level 3</b>            | <b>Medical Aid</b>          |
| <b>Fire Services Administration</b>       | <b>Fire Officer Studies</b> |
| <b>Company Inspections</b>                | <b>Fire Prevention</b>      |
| <b>Frontline Leadership</b>               | <b>Leadership</b>           |
| <b>Leading People</b>                     | <b>Leadership</b>           |
| <b>Fire Dynamics</b>                      | <b>Fire Suppression</b>     |
| <b>Infant Obstetrics</b>                  | <b>Medical Aid</b>          |



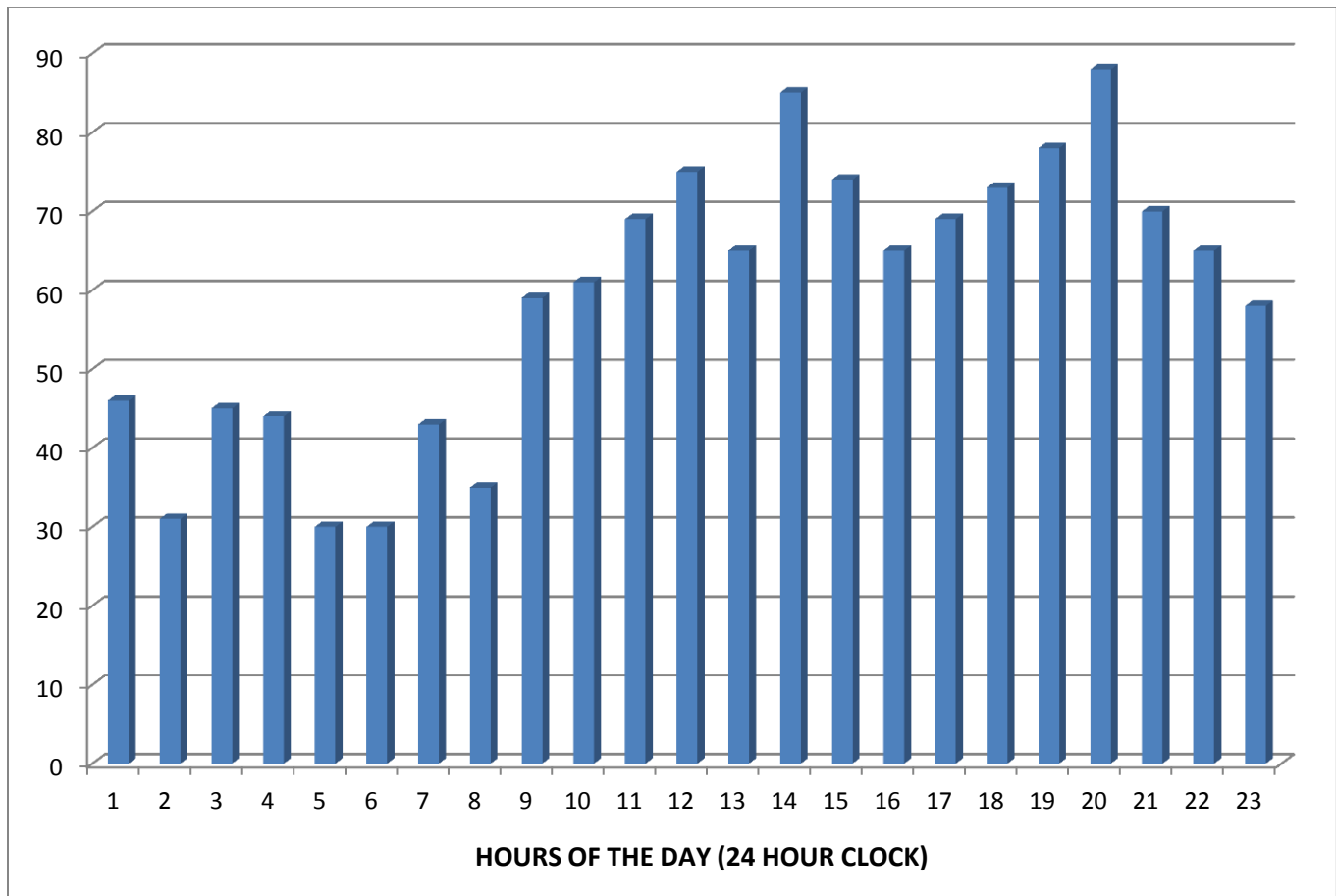
## OPERATIONAL RESPONSES

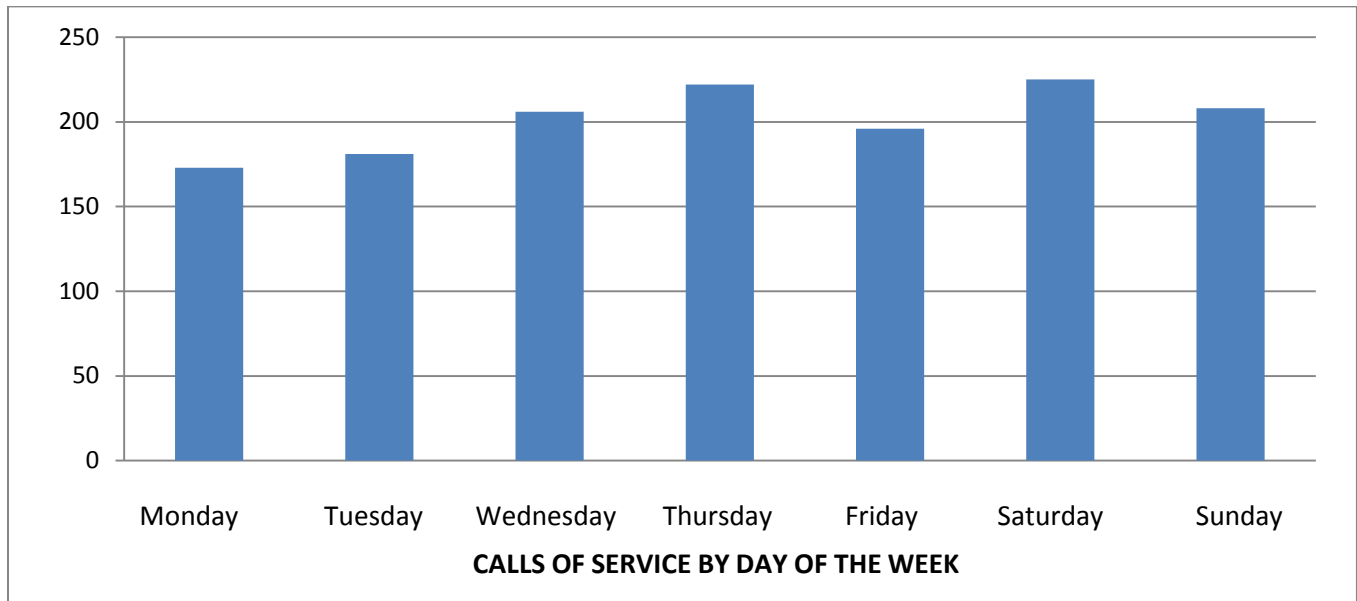
The department provides a wide range of emergency and non-emergency services to the citizens of Esquimalt. The following data provides a brief overview of these activities. In 2015 the department has seen a 14 percent increase to the overall calls of service from 2014. These calls ranged from assisting in resetting a fire alarm system to performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).



| <b>2015 TOTAL RESPONSES BY CATEGORY</b> |             |                |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| <b>TYPE OF RESPONSE</b>                 | <b>2015</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
| <b>Alarm Calls</b>                      | <b>110</b>  | <b>7.8</b>     |
| <b>Assist the Public</b>                | <b>84</b>   | <b>6</b>       |
| <b>Burning Complaints</b>               | <b>30</b>   | <b>2.2</b>     |
| <b>Hazardous Materials</b>              | <b>21</b>   | <b>1.5</b>     |
| <b>Structure Fires</b>                  | <b>4</b>    | <b>.3</b>      |
| <b>Other Fires</b>                      | <b>38</b>   | <b>2.7</b>     |
| <b>Other Responses</b>                  | <b>29</b>   | <b>2.1</b>     |
| <b>Medical Aid</b>                      | <b>1030</b> | <b>72.9</b>    |
| <b>Motor Vehicle Incidents</b>          | <b>46</b>   | <b>3.3</b>     |
| <b>Rescue</b>                           | <b>5</b>    | <b>.4</b>      |
| <b>Electrical Emergency</b>             | <b>17</b>   | <b>1.2</b>     |
| <b>Total Responses</b>                  | <b>1414</b> | <b>100</b>     |

The table below illustrates the time of day that calls for service were received by the fire department. These calls included emergency and non-emergency responses. In summary, the department responded to 696 calls on day shifts and 718 on night shifts.





On November 4th the department was assisted by the Capital Regional District Hazardous Materials Team for a response to a reported leak of ammonia at the Archie Browning Sports Center. The post-incident analysis of the event identified the importance of facility familiarization for all staff. The department also identified the need for atmospheric monitoring capability of ammonia gases, allowing Esquimalt Fire Department personnel to fully diagnose the space and make informed decisions as part of the overall incident management.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### LGMA Tour

The department hosted a tour of the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) in May. This tour had staff from the LGMA performing a wide range of basic firefighter tasks that included using fire extinguishers, to donning firefighting gear, to using small fire hoses.

### Halloween Bon-Fire

The department also worked with Esquimalt Parks and Recreation staff and the Esquimalt Lions on the Annual Halloween Bonfire. This is a great community event that attracts citizens of all ages.

### McHappy Days

The department was once again proud to support our local McDonald's in "McHappy Days." This annual event was proudly supported by our department while sharing in a few new duties, all in the spirit of raising funds for charity.

### United Way BBQ

The fire department was pleased to assist the Township's Annual United Way campaign with a BBQ at the Public Safety Building. This BBQ was the kick off to the 2015 campaign which raised thousands of dollars to support community organizations in Esquimalt.



### Peruvian Firefighter Tour

In July, the department had the opportunity to provide a tour to two Peruvian firefighters. After their visit the department members were able to demonstrate and describe the British Columbia style of fire department operations. The members demonstrated the use of aerial devices along with a tour of the fire station and other fire apparatus.

## FUNDRAISING / COMMUNITY SUPPORT

*This page submitted by the Esquimalt Firefighters' Charitable Foundation.*

Esquimalt Firefighters' Charitable Foundation was officially accredited with its charitable status in 2013. Our objective is to raise funds to assist those who need it most with a focus on local charities and organizations. With support of administrators and the Township of Esquimalt Fire Department, our members have been increasingly raising our annual targets to help those in need.

### Charitable Committee goals / objectives:

- Deliver programs that develop life skills of youth
- Assist those who do not have the socio-economic means to live healthy lives
- Raise money for the families and survivors of burn trauma
- Raise money and awareness for medical research for diseases such and cancer and muscular dystrophy.

### **Quick Facts about the Charitable Foundation:**

*100 % volunteer based*

*Hands-on-approach of working with our community*

*Dedicated team of professional firefighters carrying out our yearly goals and initiatives*

*Each year members donate approximately 400 hours of community service to the community*



### 2015 Achievements

#### **RibFest**

Approximately \$70,000 was raised from our third annual Ribfest event.

#### **Youth and Education Programs**

We sponsored local youth groups such as Rockheights hockey academy, Esquimalt High basketball tournament, Macaulay Elementary swim lesson program, Esquimalt High School travel van and Rugby Academy.

### **Direct Financial Support**

Notable time and cash donations were provided to social programs such as: Santa's Anonymous toy drive and hamper deliveries, the Mustard Seed Food Bank and Victoria Hospitals Foundation NICU / neo natal unit.

### **Assisting Other Charities**

The Foundation participated in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive (lower Island ), fundraised for the BCPFFA Burn Fund and increased our annual revenue by nearly 80% from 2014.

## WHAT OTHERS HAD TO SAY

### McHappy Day

“On behalf of all of us at Esquimalt McDonald’s thank you for helping to make the 22<sup>nd</sup> McHappy Day® such an outstanding success. Your participation and support is very much appreciated.”

*Paul G.*

### Block Party

“Thanks Kim! The pumper truck was a big success!”

*Heather L.*

### Fire Station Tour

“I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you and your crews for hosting the Peruvian Firefighters during their visit here in Canada. The tours, information & training provided was very informative for them - they have commented on the volume of new ideas, techniques and behaviours they will be taking back to their individual departments, Callao and (hopefully) all of Peru.”

*Stephanie D.*

### Medical Aid Call – First Responder

“He says he wouldn’t have made it if it wasn’t for you! He also apologizes for not being cooperative when you put the air mask on him. He is in great spirits and is truly thankful for saving him.”

*David*

### Daycare Involvement

“I work at Island Kids Academy daycare in Esquimalt. We care for children from 1-5 years old and we take the children on walks around the neighbourhood a few times a week. I just wanted to let you know how much we truly appreciate all the staff in the public works, parks, fire and police departments who take the time to wave to us, flash their lights or say "hi". It just takes a moment, but the children get such joy from these interactions. Esquimalt is a wonderful place to work and we thank you for everything you do for the community!”

*Jen C.*

**Medical Aid call with Victoria Police**

“You guys do great work and I always enjoy working with you guys because I know things are going to be done right. Your team epitomizes professionalism and we are lucky to have you guys on our Team!!!”

*VPD - Member*

**Seniors Christmas Lunch**

“Thanks for Esquimalt Fire Department’s help with Friday’s Senior’s Lunch. It is greatly appreciated.”

*Scott H.*

**Fire Response**

“Wanted to say thank you to members who responded to an incident on my street this afternoon. Neighbours had a problem and Esquimalt turned out in impressive numbers to help them out. Many thanks.”

*Angela N.*

**Smoke Alarm Activation**

“I wish to thank you very much for your kind attention to my smoke alarm problems on Sunday. I feel very honored and privileged to have such care...”

*Lois K.F.*

**Wounded Warrior Run**

“On behalf of the 2015 Wounded Warrior Run BC, I would like to sincerely thank both of you (Ray Saurette and Andrew Zado), the crews of Battalion 1, Engine 1 and Truck 104, as well as the 7 runners for your assistance...”

*Ron M.*

## 2016 GOALS

The department has established the following goals as we move forward in 2016:

1. Establish a plan for the transition and implementation of changes to conform to the newly established Greater Victoria Passport Accountability System.
2. Explore opportunities and develop a plan for computer-assisted dispatching terminals in the fire apparatus.
3. Co-ordinate and deliver several training courses and workshops for emergency services within the Township.
4. Develop a digital preplan program that is standardized to be consistent with neighbouring fire departments.
5. Update mapping within the Township of Esquimalt for all public and private fire hydrants.
6. Explore opportunities to develop partnerships with other emergency service organizations for increased service delivery.
7. Upgrade the Fire Department's records management system to reflect best practices for storage of records and data in accordance with the Township's approved Records Management Policy and Classification System.