



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Township of Esquimalt Fire Department



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT MISSION STATEMENT.....	3
FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT–YEAR IN REVIEW.....	4
2018 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	5
PERSONNEL	6
TOWNSHIP SERVICE AWARDS	7
CAPITAL PROJECTS.....	9
COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO	10
DEPARTMENT SERVICES PORTFOLIO.....	13
ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	17
FIRE APPARATUS.....	18
OPERATIONAL RESPONSES	20
RESPONSE LOCATIONS	23
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES	24
FUNDRAISING / COMMUNITY SUPPORT	25
WHAT OTHERS HAD TO SAY.....	26
2018 GOALS: HOW DID WE MEASURE UP?.....	28
2019 GOALS	30

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.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 was a busy year for the Esquimalt Fire Department.

We started 2018 with a project to change our fire dispatch provider from Saanich Fire to Surrey Fire. This project involved changing radio communication protocols, radio channels, records management systems and establishing new radio links between CREST and ECOMM radio networks. The Esquimalt Fire Department along with four other departments in the Capital Regional District successfully changed over to Surrey Fire Dispatch on September 18, 2018.

In May, we began a pilot health and wellness program. This pilot will run for 19 months in a two-step sequence. We have already received positive feedback from many of the members.

In June, the British Columbia Ambulance Service made changes to its medical priority dispatch system. These changes along with a new clinical response model (CRM) have reduced the lower priority calls of service for medical first response in Esquimalt.

2018 was extremely emotional and challenging at times. A significant loss to the department was our Chaplain Ken Gill. Ken was a long time career member with the Oak Bay Fire Department and upon his retirement he continued to serve as the fire department chaplain for both the Oak Bay and Esquimalt Fire Departments. Ken is sincerely missed.

During 2018, we continued to improve operational service delivery and partnerships. By working alongside CFB Esquimalt, we have streamlined response procedures with a joint automatic aid response when responding to structural fires in Esquimalt or on the Canadian Forces Base. This partnership provides an additional five firefighters on the initial response. This is in addition to our mutual aid responses with View Royal Fire Department under the Fire Services Agreement.

In December we conducted an internal audit with the support of the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner. This self-audit is designed to create an awareness of many of the fire service's best practices. The results of this audit will be further reviewed and actioned as required as we move forward into 2019.

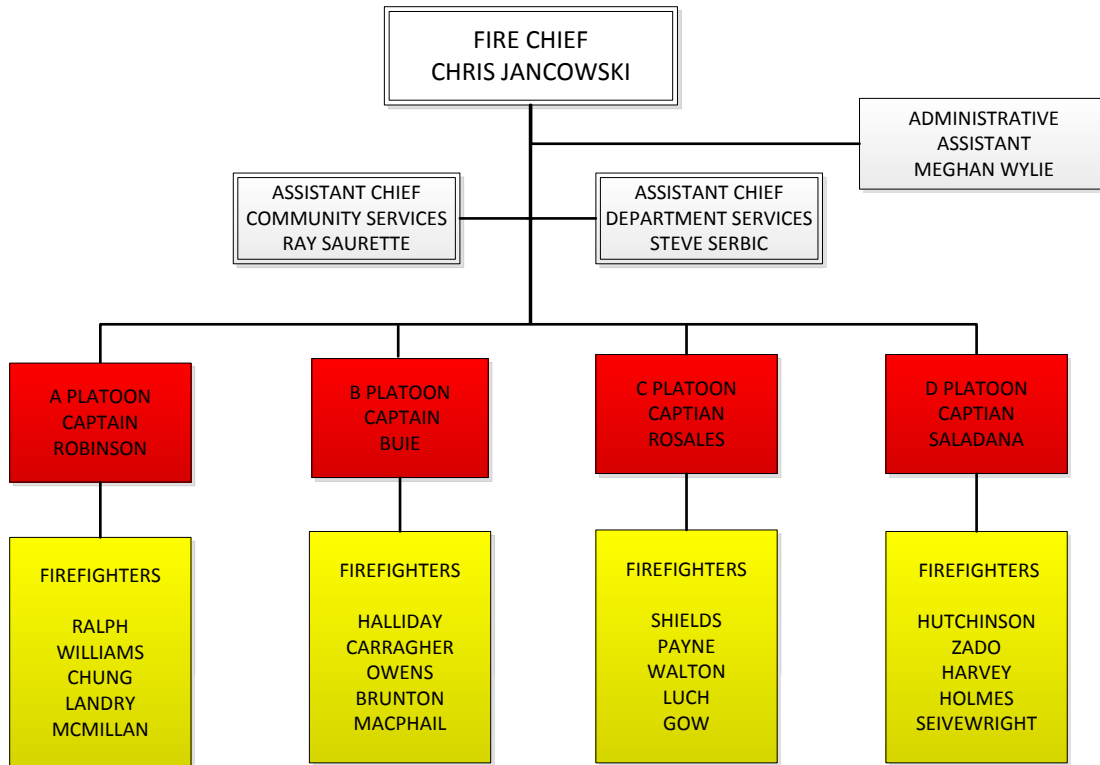
Respectfully,

C.A. (Chris) Jancowski, M.A., CFO, C.Mgr, MIFireE



Fire Chief Jancowski

2018 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Esquimalt Fire Department is organized under the leadership of one chief and two assistant chiefs. The department is one of seven departments in the Township all reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer.



September 2018: Emergency Services hockey game to raise awareness of mental health.

PERSONNEL

Chaplain Ken Gill

This page submitted by the Assistant Chief Steve Serbic.

Ken Gill was a Chaplain in the Oak Bay Fire Department, providing spiritual and personal counseling for firefighters and other staff members. He retired as a firefighter in 2014 after 34 years of service, but continued to fulfill his chaplain duties with Oak Bay. A few years later Ken made the decision to offer his services to the Esquimalt Fire Department. He was one of the most kind and helpful people you could ever meet, so we were incredibly fortunate to have him as our primary peer support person. If we went to a traumatic call, felt depressed, or required general counselling for Fire Department staff members, their spouses or fiancés, Ken was our man! Ken's most amazing quality was his ability to mentor firefighters in our department and knowing that we could speak to him in true confidence.



Chaplain Ken Gill

Our Chaplain Ken Gill passed away on March 29, 2018, and left a massive hole in our fire department. Though the loss of his amazing smile and ability to make a very dark situation bright again will be hard to recover from, we are forever grateful for the lasting impression he has left with us.

Ken will be never forgotten.

TOWNSHIP SERVICE AWARDS

10-year service award

Firefighter Chris Carragher joined the Esquimalt Fire Department in June, 2008. In the past several years, Chris has assisted the department in coordinating medical first aid training, is an on shift first responder instructor and is a role model for new firefighters.

15-year service awards

Firefighter Mark Ralph joined the department in December, 2003. Mark has assisted the department in training members with rope rescue skills and is currently the acting captain on A Platoon.

Firefighter Alex Halliday joined the department in December, 2003. He has served on the IAFF Local 4264 Union executive and the Capital Regional District Hazardous Materials Team. Alex is currently the acting captain on B Platoon.

Captain Chris Buie joined the department in June, 2003. He has taken on roles in a variety of disciplines ranging from fire ground self-survival to a member of the Capital Regional District Hazardous Materials Team. Chris is currently the captain on B Platoon.

Captain Angelo Rosales joined the department in January, 2003. In his 15 years of service he has served as a firefighter, lieutenant and acting assistant chief and has participated in many projects and teams. Currently Angelo is the captain of C Platoon.

Captain Spencer Robinson joined the department in 2003. He has assisted the department as a first responder instructor and in co-ordinating uniforms for the membership of the department. Spencer is currently the captain on A Platoon.

Captain Troy Saladana joined the department, 2003. Troy has assisted in bringing new technologies into the fire department, and participated in many projects and teams such as the Capital Regional District Emergency Hazardous Materials Team. Troy is currently the captain on D Platoon.



10-year service award



15-year service award

20-year fire service: Exemplary Service Medal



Firefighter Kevin Shields

Firefighter Kevin Shields began his fire service career in 1997 at the Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department. Kevin also joined the BC Wildfire Service as a forestry firefighter from 2000 to 2006. In 2006, he made the transition from the BC Wildfire Service to the Esquimalt Fire Department. Since his start as a firefighter, Kevin has been involved in many projects and is currently serving as the acting captain on C Platoon.

Assistant Chief Steve Serbic

Assistant Chief Steve Serbic started his career in the fire service with Surrey Fire Department in 1990. He had served with Surrey in a variety of roles that included firefighter and captain. Steve has had the opportunity to teach for several fire academies both within the Province of British Columbia and internationally. Steve most recently served the department as the assistant chief in charge of department services and oversees both C and D Platoons.

20-year federal fire service medal issued by the Governor General of Canada.



2018 Township of Esquimalt Perfect Attendance and Long Service awards.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Fire hose

As part of the 2018 Capital Plan, the department replaced a significant complement of our fire hose. The replacement consisted of various quantities of 1.75, 2.5 and 4 inch hose, and is expected to have a lifespan ranging from 12-15 years. These new hoses along with other current hoses are tested on an annual basis in accordance to NFPA 1962.

The Esquimalt Fire Department uses these new 1.75 and 2.5 inch hoses as attack hoses that assist in fire suppression by delivering water from the fire engines to the fire. In contrast the 4 inch fire hoses are used to supply water from the fire hydrants to the fire engine.

Foam nozzles

The use of foam is a valuable tool as part of modern fire suppression tactics. With the replacement of these nozzle applicators and associated hardware, the department is able to provide foam from a variety of systems.

Thermal imaging camera

The department continued with the addition of thermal technologies in 2018. These technologies have been used successfully in applications such as; fire suppression, search and rescue, and hazardous materials responses.

Electric fire attack fans

The use of ventilation fans as part of fire suppression to limit smoke damage is a commonly accepted practice in the fire service. The use of these fans prevents carbon monoxide from entering the structure or space. This newer electric technology allows the units to run for a limited period of time on enclosed self-contained battery systems.



Left to right: fire hoses, a thermal imaging camera and an electric fire attack fan.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Fire inspections

In 2018, the department began recording its fire inspection program using the Fire Department Management Software inspection module. This process replaced the use of Excel and Access database spreadsheets and enabled the department to record inspection findings more efficiently. It has also allowed us to better define the issues for the owner and give them the necessary information required to bring the building or its processes into compliance with the BC Fire Code.

Using FDM allows us to create an inspection history which is attached to a master property file used to record incidents in FDM. This provides a one stop shopping database for the fire service. Paper forms are still being used for the initial inspection, however we are looking into mobile inspection software that will allow data input in the field. This information could then be sent to the customer via email or other electronic means. This remains an outstanding issue with many FDM users, and we are hoping to work with our new dispatch provider to achieve this milestone in the near future.



*Assistant Chief Community Services
Ray Saurette*



Outdated fire alarms pose a risk to life and property.

Fire alarm upgrade program

In an effort to ensure that all multi-residential complexes in Esquimalt meet a standard of life safety, the department completed a community-wide assessment to determine where fire alarm upgrades are required. Letters were sent to all property owners affected by the upgrade requirement and meetings were held with the buildings' owners/representatives to highlight the requirements and the timeframe for achieving compliance. 2019 will see continued monitoring of their progress.

Fire prevention training

The department contracted Pacific Coast Fire Protection Ltd. to provide on duty educational awareness for conducting inspections. Each member received a reference guide outlining key areas of the training such as; sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire extinguishers, commercial cooking systems, fire pumps, generator, standpipe and hose cabinet systems.

BC Fire Code course

A member of the department needed this course in order to complete their Fire Inspector Certification through the Justice Institute of BC. The department saw the benefit of offering this course to other regional departments and was able to host six external individuals to also take advantage of this educational opportunity.



The BC Codes are based on the model National Codes of Canada with some modifications specific to BC.

Autism fact sheet for first responders

The department strives to provide different educational learning opportunities to its members. The Autism Fact Sheet allows members to better understand the effects we may have on a person who has autism. This information may also help them in their everyday lives as well as during stressful emergency situations.

Hoarding

This year the department has seen fewer requests for hoarding interventions than previous years. The department continues to work closely with the Victoria Fire Department who generally receives the initial notification through the Hoarding Education & Action Team and passes on concerns within the Township of Esquimalt to our department. As part of the delivery of this program, we are very fortunate to have a mental health specialist from Island Health to help address any mental health issues that may be part of the hoarding concern raised. One of the biggest challenges facing an individual once they agree to de-clutter is the financial burden, as most are on a disability pension, fixed low-income, or have no family to call for help. While the program helps to identify the vulnerable and provide social service support, the system breaks down when it comes time to removing items as this can be costly.

Fire and building code fact sheets

Department members are tasked with conducting annual fire building and property inspections. Continuing education has been made a priority in an effort to promote higher levels of knowledge amongst the entire department. The department has developed several resource documents designed to assist the members in understanding the application of specific fire protection systems and building construction features that they may encounter during their inspections.

Community child car seat clinic

Summer 2018 saw the continuation of two initiatives: car seat installation instruction (by appointment at the fire hall) and community car seat clinics at the recreation centre. These clinics have been well received and attended. We are very appreciative to the Esquimalt Lions Club for their support in providing refreshment/food at these events.

Learn Not to Burn

Learn Not to Burn is a two-session program targets grade three students and teaches fire safety behaviour. The fall session is an in-classroom presentation and the spring session brings the kids outside to interact with the firefighters. This interaction provides an opportunity to practice lessons learned from the fall session and to experience operating a fire hose.

Fire Prevention Week open house



This annual event occurs every October. This year we had our best community response to date with approximately 500 people attending our open house. The success of this year's event could not happen if it was not for our corporate sponsors and the off-duty firefighters who volunteered their time.

The open house provided a chance to interact with the community in a fun and informative atmosphere.

Business licence applications

This year the Esquimalt Fire Department reviewed 108 licence applications, many of which were home-based businesses and did not require a fire inspection.

Oil tank inspections

The Department continues to be busy responding to inquiries regarding oil tank history for property listings. In addition, 15 removal permits for oil tanks have been issued. Late in the year we started the process of merging several sources of data formats to feed into Fire Department Management software. This endeavor will improve our ability to provide a timely response for oil tank inquiries.

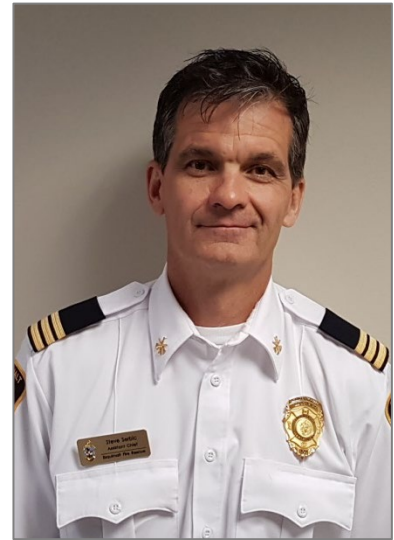
The Township also ensures regional partners like the Capital Regional District have Esquimalt's emergency information available to the public. Oil tank and spill information can be found at crd.bc.ca/report-spill.

DEPARTMENT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2018 was a good year for leading the region in innovative and next level training.

Our Structural Collapse Program now has a trauma doctor, an engineer, 4 medics, 7 structural collapse technicians and 14 firefighters trained to the structural collapse operations level. By using these new skills and other previously taught disciplines such as rope rescue and confined space, it makes for a well-rounded team.

All four crews have been certified in Roco Rescue 1 for rope rescue, confined space and high angle training to the operations level. This course is the first in laying the foundation of advanced rescue certifications. The department will continue to explore the technician level as operational priorities allow.



Assistant Chief Steve Serbic

We hosted a multiday Justice Institute of British Columbia marina firefighting course that helped train not only our own department, but other firefighters from as far away as Tofino. This course prepares our structural firefighters for a land-based approach when responding to marine fires in areas such as the West Bay.

Thanks to Dr. Mark Vu and advanced life paramedic Mike Billingham, we are leading the region when it comes to training our firefighters in emergency childbirth and large trauma bleeding.

Our firefighters were invited to several sessions that were hosted by the CFB Esquimalt Fire Department with guest speaker, oncologist Dr. Kuntz. He provided high level training on recognizing cancer from exposures related to firefighting and gave members information to bring to their doctors to support advanced testing.

Esquimalt Fire Department was the first department to make cyber counselling available to every firefighter, thus providing another tool to improve the department's mental health and morale.

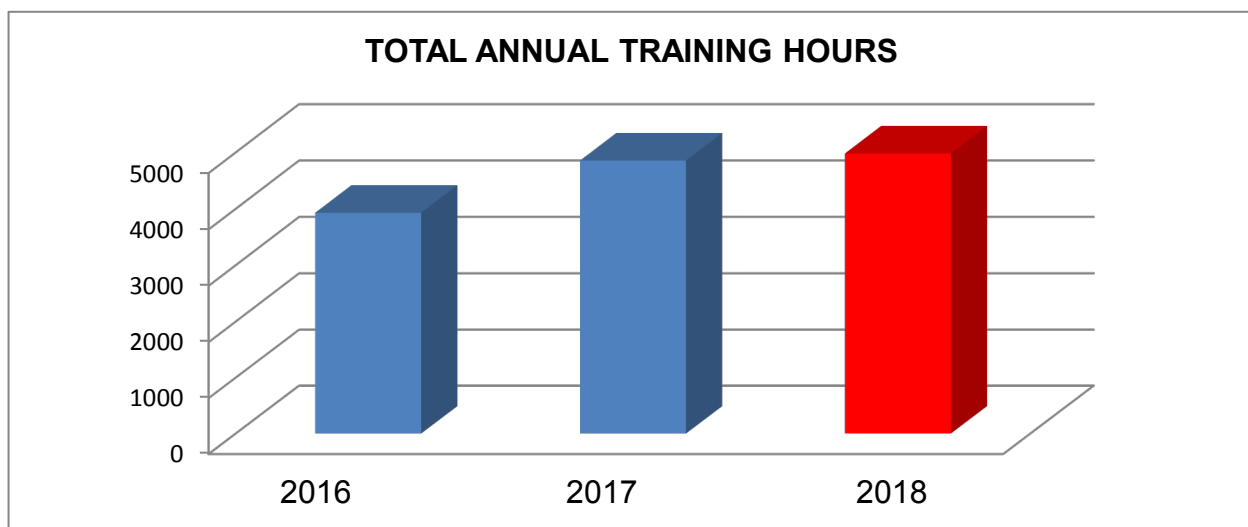
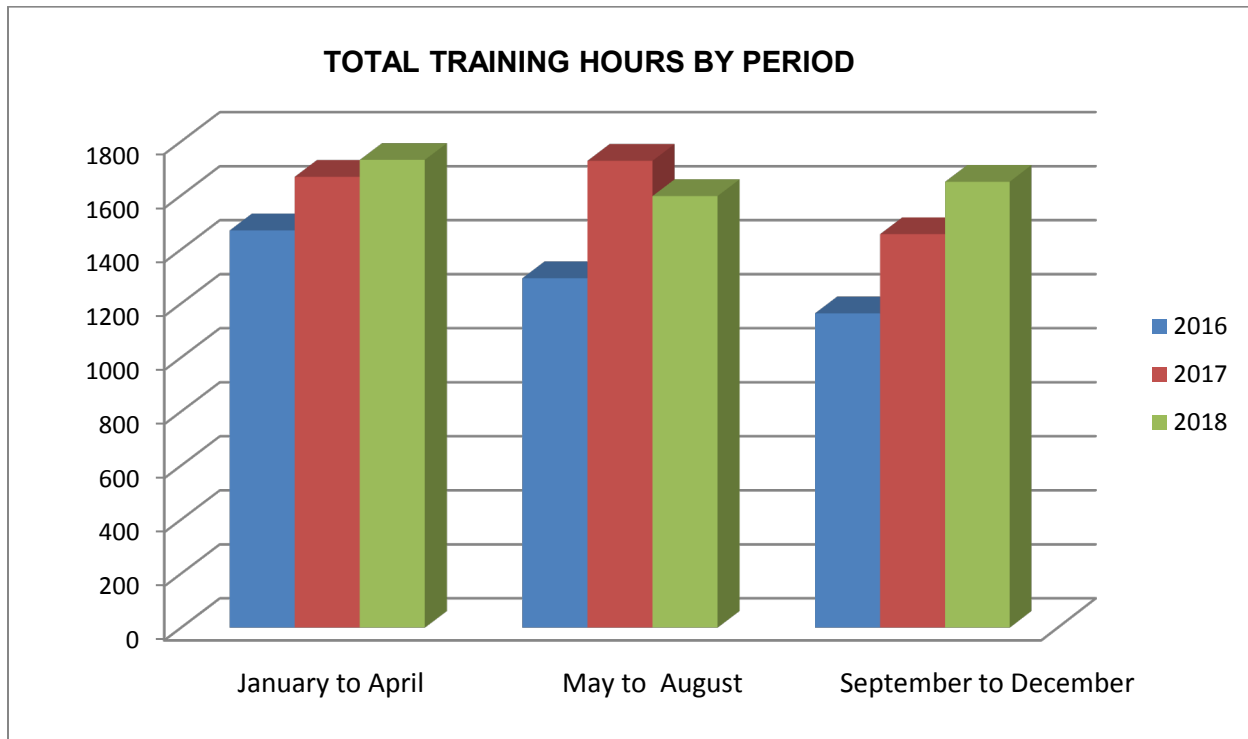
The department was pleased to host the week long First Nations Emergency Services Society expo in Esquimalt. This expo brings First Nations firefighters from around the province to learn new skills as well as challenging and competing with existing skills.

The department also took additional steps to improve the decontamination process of its members after contaminated incidents. These steps now include the immediate decontamination after a fire with washing and bagging up all gear for transportation, and advanced cleaning at the fire station with our National Fire Protection Association-rated extractors. Members who are decontaminated also have access to spare coveralls and footwear while on scene and returning to the station. These steps combined with each member having a spare set of gear will ensure a clean and safe work environment.

Company level training hours

Fire Department members train daily to learn new skills and maintain existing disciplines. These internal training sessions typically range from 1 to 2 hours per shift. In 2018, the department participated in 4,981 hours of internal training compared to 2017 with 4,855 hours.

Firefighters and fire officers also participate in external training courses. These courses can range from several hours to several days.



External training courses

In 2018, members of the department attended several external training courses. These courses included learning new skills, promotional development and best practices.

2018 TRAINING COURSES	
COURSE	TYPE / SUBJECT
Urban Search and Rescue - Structural Collapse Level 1	Technical Rescue
Roco 1 - Rope Rescue Level 1	Technical Rescue
Crowd Management Training	Technical Skills
Fire Ground Survival Skills - Train the trainer	Technical Skills
Cancer Awareness - Dr. Kuntz	Health and Wellness
Firefighter Safety Conference	Health and Safety
Health and Wellness Program - Tailor Making Health	Health and Wellness
Car Seat Workshop - BCAA	Fire Prevention
BC Fire Code Course - JIBC	Fire Prevention
Marina Firefighting - JIBC	Fire Suppression
Incident Command Systems 200 - JIBC	Fire Suppression
Incident Command Systems 300 - JIBC	Fire Suppression
Introduction to Emergency Management - JIBC	Fire Suppression
High Rise and Ventilation Strategy	Fire Suppression
First Responder Level 3 Re-Certification	Medical Aid
Emergency Childbirth Course	Medical Aid
Frontline Leadership Fire Officer 1 - JIBC	Fire Officer



Structure fire – 800-block Craigflower Road. Mutual aid assistance from Victoria Fire Department.

Crowd Management Unit pilot program

In the fall of 2016, the Esquimalt Fire Department was approached by the Victoria Police to participate in a pilot program with the Greater Victoria Crowd Management Unit (CMU).

The Greater Victoria CMU was modelled after the Vancouver Police Public Safety that was born from the wake of the 2011 Stanley Cup riots.

In early 2017, the Esquimalt Fire Department posted for applications from members, and selected several members to participate in the pilot program. They underwent security clearance checks and participated in the basic CMU training course. Four firefighters and one assistant chief were selected to participate in this pilot as fire medics.

The primary role of the fire medics is generally grouped into two parts; fire and medical duties. Fire duties include extinguishing fires that may directly impact police members (e.g., Molotov's thrown at team members) and provide technical advice to CMU team leaders or command officers to help them make informed decisions. Medical duties include the primary care of team members who suffer medical emergencies and assist in a limited capacity to care for members of the public that may be injured during an event.



This pilot has been considered a success by both the Esquimalt Fire and Victoria Police leadership groups.

Fire medics participated in training for tactical medical training under the guidance of Dr. Mark Vu, Medical Director for the Victoria Police Department.

The ultimate goal of the implementation of the fire medics is to enable police officers to focus on their mission of public order while enabling fire medics to focus on imminent fire suppression duties and medical care.

This pilot has been considered a success by both the Esquimalt Fire and Victoria Police leadership groups. This pilot has demonstrated the willingness of both groups to working towards a common goal of maintaining a safe and healthy community. The success of the CMU has fostered new conversations on separate joint initiatives such as "Rescue Task Force" concepts that have been adopted in other parts of North America.

We look forward to 2019 and the continuation of the program with additional positive outcomes.

ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

2018 was another active year for the department's administration.

In late 2017, our ongoing partnerships with CFB Esquimalt Fire implemented automatic aid—a first for our department. In early 2018, automatic aid proved its value with joint responses to structural fire events by placing more apparatus and Firefighters on scene in a faster time. This mutual cooperation has a direct impact on improving fire safety to both communities and assists in fire underwriters ratings.

In May, the department created a pilot for a wellness program. This pilot involved representation from the Association and Management as part of a wellness committee. This committee with the assistance of Sara Wegwitz from Tailor Making Health has assisted in improving the overall health for members and assisting in reducing lost time.

In June, we increased our administrative support from part time to full time. This increase in support will assist in day to day public requests (e.g., oil tank record searches) in a timely fashion. We wish a warm welcome to Meghan Wylie as she transitioned into her full time role.

As part of the capital projects in 2018, several opportunities to conduct group purchasing occurred. These purchases included several departments from the lower and mid-Vancouver Island area working together to save costs on common items.

In preparation of a change to our new dispatch provider, the department created standardized alarm assignments. These assignments predetermine types of apparatus to specific types of events. This systems based approach makes it easier for incident commanders to increase the resources to a specific emergency event (e.g., first, second and third alarms for structure fires).

In early 2018, the department, along with four other regional fire departments, issued a request for proposal for fire dispatch services. Based on this process, Surrey Fire Dispatch was selected. In preparation for this transition, our department made changes to its records management system and remote access. In addition, a temporary reconfiguration was required for Surrey to gain access to the CREST network, the provider of emergency radio communications for multiple emergency response agencies in the Capital Region. This connection was made possible by the assistance of many parties that include Surrey Dispatch staff, Surrey radio engineers and CREST staff.

Additional benefits of this new transition include increased analytics and client centered customization of the records management system. These services will reduce the time to create reports and statistics that will guide the department in making future improvements to service delivery.

On September 18, 2019, we transitioned to our new fire dispatch provider (Surrey Fire). We would be remiss if we did not thank Deputy Chief Thomas from the Surrey Fire Department for his efforts in making this a successful transition.

FIRE APPARATUS

Engine 10

AGE / MANUFACTURER: 2015
ROSENBAUER

FIRE PUMP / WATER: 1750 GPM PUMP,
625 GALLONS OF WATER / 60 GALLONS OF
FOAM

CONDITION: EXCELLENT



Engine 11

AGE / MANUFACTURER: 2007 SPARTAN /
SMEAL

FIRE PUMP / WATER: 1750 GPM PUMP,
600 GALLONS OF WATER / 40 GALLONS OF
FOAM

CONDITION: GOOD



Engine 12

AGE / MANUFACTURER: 1988 MACK /
ANDERSON

FIRE PUMP / WATER: 1250 GPM PUMP,
500 GALLONS OF WATER

CONDITION: FAIR / POOR



Rescue 10

AGE: 2001 CHEVY
SILVERADO

FIRE PUMP / WATER: PORTABLE HONDA PUMP

CONFIGURATION: LIGHT RESCUE

CONDITION: FAIR / POOR



Ladder 10

AGE / MANUFACTURER: 2010 SPARTAN / SMEAL

FIRE PUMP / WATER: 1500 GPM PUMP,
500 GALLONS OF WATER / 20 GALLONS OF FOAM

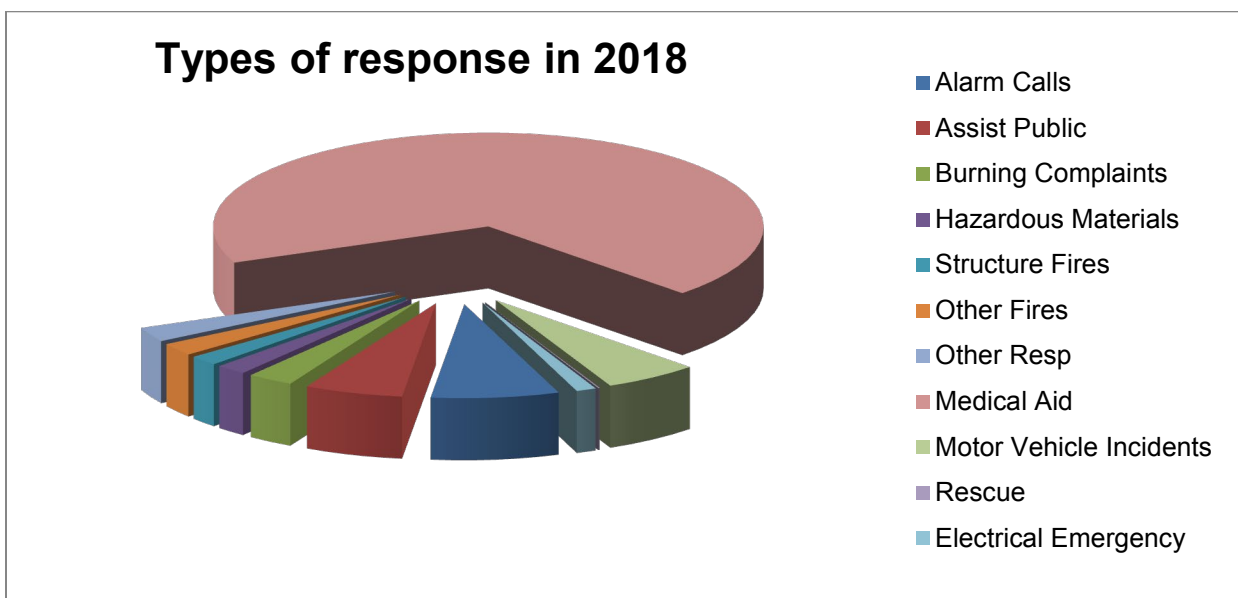
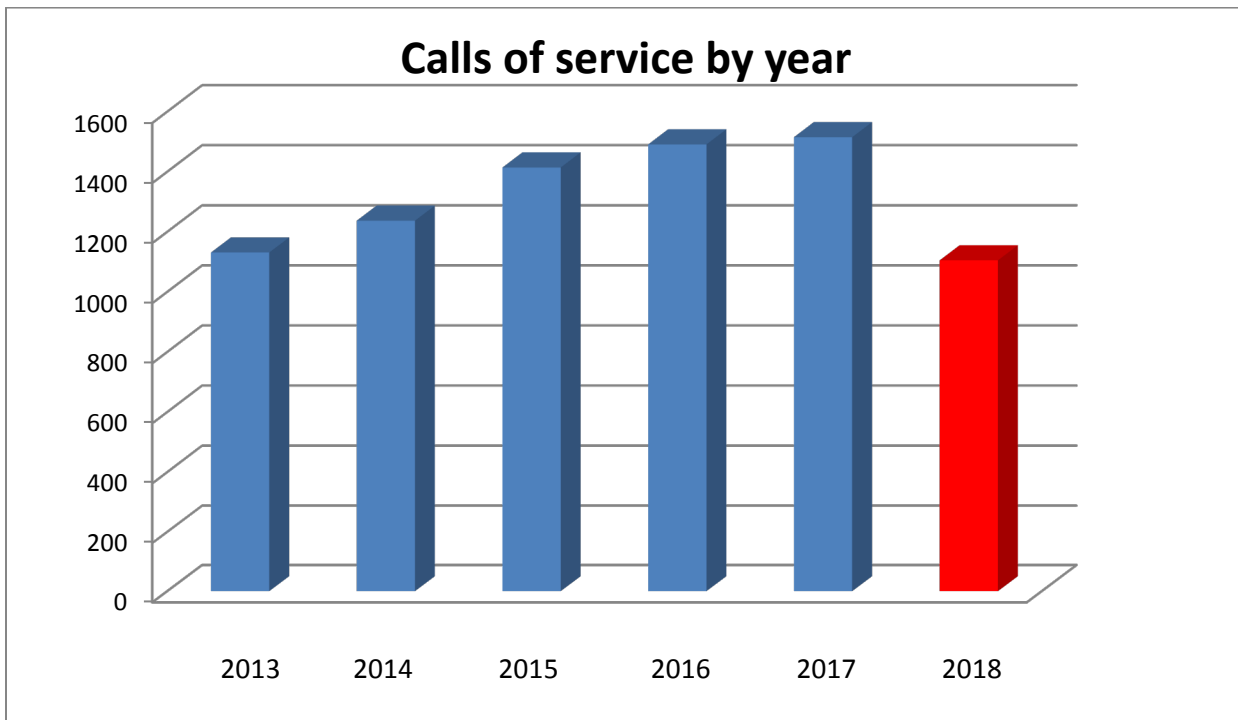
CONFIGURATION: QUINT WITH 105 FOOT REAR MOUNTED LADDER

CONDITION: EXCELLENT / GOOD

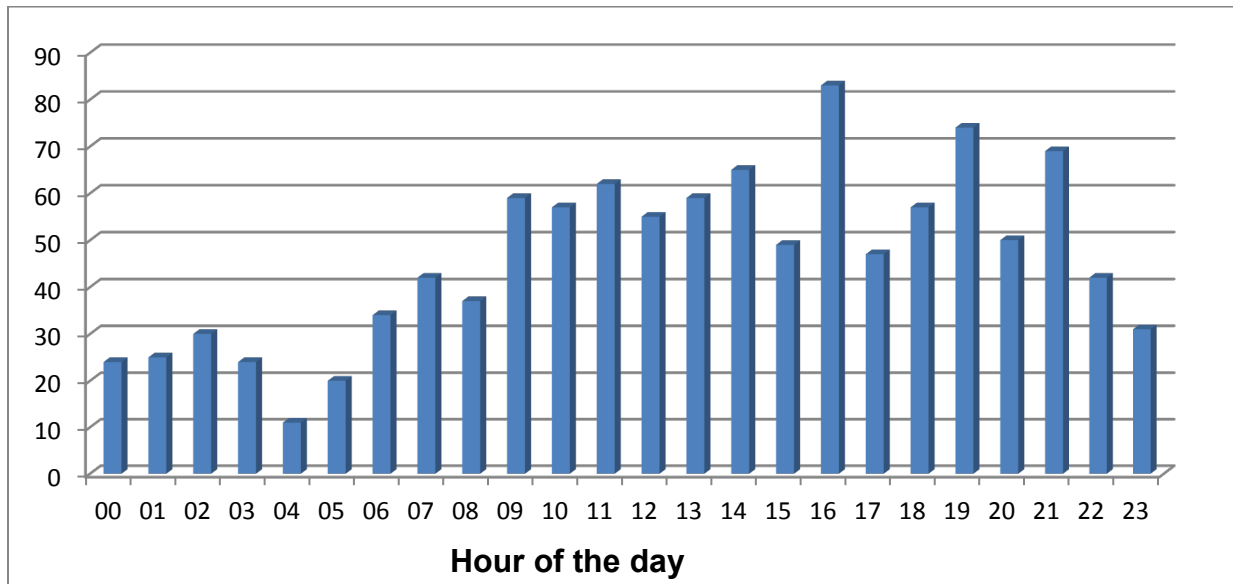


OPERATIONAL RESPONSES

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 2018, the department experienced a 37 per cent decrease to the overall calls of service from 2017. This decrease is due largely in part to the changes of the British Columbia Ambulance medical priority dispatch system and clinical response model.



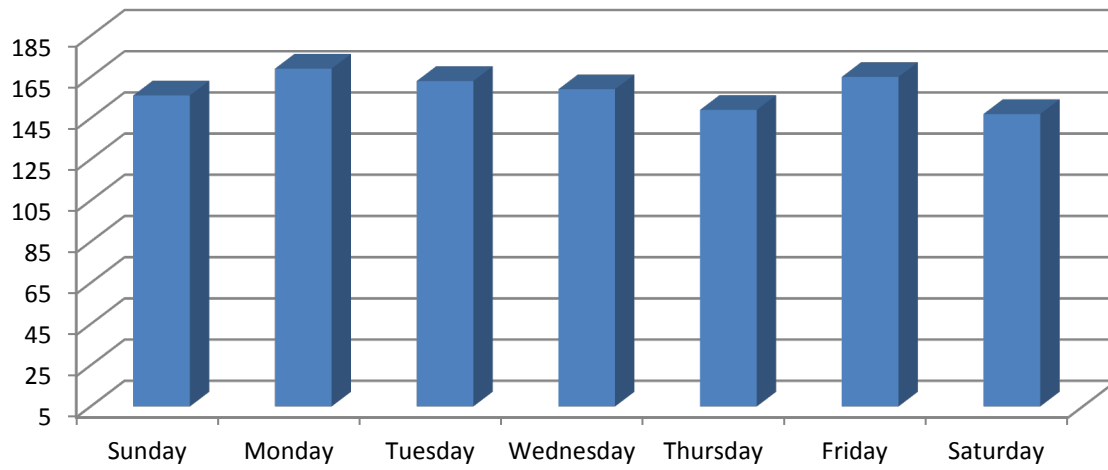
Type of Response	2018	Overall %
Alarm Calls	83	7.52%
Assist Public	64	5.80%
Burning Complaints	30	2.70%
Electrical Emergency	13	1.20%
Hazardous Materials	20	1.80%
Structure Fires	19	1.70%
Other Fires	24	2.20%
Other Responses	28	2.50%
Medical Aid	761	69%
Motor Vehicle Incidents	62	5.60%
Rescue	1	0.10%
TOTAL	1,105	100%



Hours of the day that calls for service were received by the Fire Department, including emergency and non-emergency responses.

In summary, the department responded to 572 calls on day shifts and 533 on night shifts. Day shifts are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and night shifts from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Response by day of the week

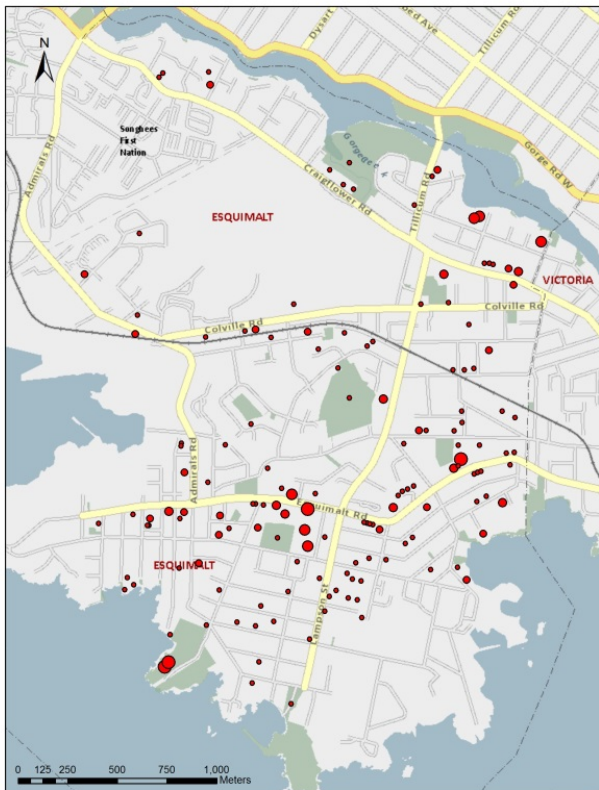


*Structure fire mutual aid to View Royal Fire Department.
(Esquimalt, Colwood and View Royal fire departments)*

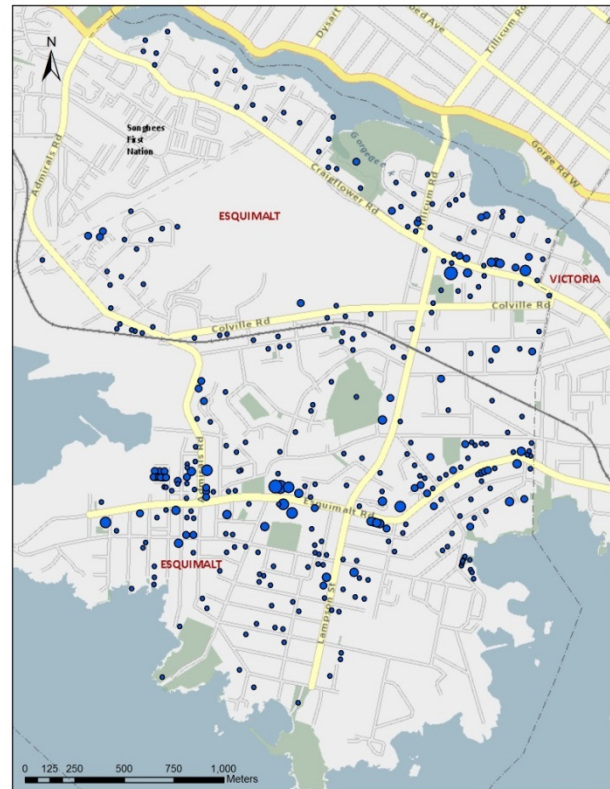
RESPONSE LOCATIONS

Fire and other calls

The department responds to a variety of events that range from alarms, structure fires, public assists and assisting other agencies.



Areas where Esquimalt Fire Department services have been delivered within our community



Areas of response for medical aid calls within our community.

Medical aid

The Esquimalt Fire Department provides medical aid assistance to our citizens as part of the Provincial First Responder Program. Our fire department is dispatched to assist the BC Ambulance Service for priority calls through a medical priority dispatch system. This system triages the calls into ranked categories based on the urgency of the medical condition. In 2018, the department responded to significantly fewer medical calls due to changes within dispatch and the clinical response model.

The response data contained within these maps was converted to a series of maps with the assistance of the Township's GIS Technician, Alex Tang. It should be noted that several locations identified on these maps have received multiple calls for service.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2018 was an active year for community involvement. The membership takes great pride in participating in local community events.

Tim Hortons Camp Day

Tim Hortons Camp Day provides an opportunity for local leaders and community groups to become guest servers while raising funds and awareness to send kids to summer camp.

First Nations Emergency Expo

Each year the British Columbia First Nations Emergency Services Society hosts an annual firefighting expo. This expo brings First Nations fire departments from across the province to showcase skills through a variety of practical challenges as well as provides a venue to learn new skills.

This year's expo was held in Esquimalt during the first week of June. Several agencies such as the Justice Institute of British Columbia, Office of the Fire Commissioner, CFB Esquimalt, View Royal Fire Department and Esquimalt Fire Department came together to assist in making a successful event.

Federal minister's visit

In May, the department had an opportunity to host Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Jean Yves-Duclos. The department was pleased to assist the minister as he announced the next steps and changes by the Federal Government of Canada to bolster the Canada Pension Plan.



Being involved with the community is an important role of the Esquimalt Fire Department.



Minister of Families, Children and Social Development visited Esquimalt in May 2018.

FUNDRAISING / COMMUNITY SUPPORT



This page submitted by the Esquimalt Firefighters' Charitable Foundation.

This past year the Esquimalt Fire Fighters Charitable continued to grow as a foundation as well as strengthen relationships within the community. Throughout 2018 we were able to continue with our commitments that have been previously made and were fortunate enough to expand on our involvement. Our foundation's strength comes from our members who volunteer their time; our community members and leaders who support us; and the residents who selflessly donate to our foundation.

Our foundation worked with CFAX Santa's Anonymous, Muscular Dystrophy Canada and the BC Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund. We also became more involved with 1Up Victoria Single Parent Resource Centre this year as well. Our growing relationship with our neighbouring departments allows us to contribute to organizations that truly need it. This year we were able to donate to the Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Victoria General Hospital, donate funds to schools in our community and neighbouring ones, and provide a new sign for the lacrosse box at Archie Browning Sports Centre.

Within our community, all of the schools have our ongoing support. We're proud to contribute to Macaulay Swim Club, for new computers at Rock Heights School and finally athletic and academic bursaries for Esquimalt High.

Rib Fest plays a massive role in our success as a foundation and that success is directly related to the support, time, and dedication from the volunteers in the community and from the employees of the Township of Esquimalt. This year our charitable foundation was one of the recipients of funds raised from the annual Fight 4 the Cause, much thanks to Kahlil Holmes who put the hard work and time in to compete in the ring.



The Esquimalt Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation gives back to the community.

Our charitable foundation is looking forward to another year of involvement within our community, and growing those relationships so that we have the best chance of getting help to those who need it.

For more information about our foundation, or to donate, please visit esquimaltfirefighters.ca/charitable.

WHAT OTHERS HAD TO SAY

School program

“Thanks you so much on behalf of Mr. Nate’s Grade 7 class.”—Mark A.

“Just a quick thank you for helping with a work experience placement for one of my grade 12 students.”—Dave R.

Medical response

“I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the amazing members of Esquimalt Fire Department who came to my house this evening to help my husband who had the misfortune of passing out after cutting his thumb.”—Jenean T.

Crowd Management Unit pilot program

“I would like to recognize Assistant Chief Serbic for his steadfast commitment to advancing interagency special operations collaborations. Also, Drew Brunton's leadership within the CMU Fire Medic team has been instrumental in the success of the Fire Medic Program's material preparedness.”—Mark V.

Fire Prevention

“Hello Chris—a quick note to say that Capt. Chris Buie did a stellar fire rescue presentation at Grafton Lodge today. His knowledge and experience gave more credence to know we are good hands.”—Marilyn D.

“We at Swallows Landing wish to thank you for all your assistance in helping organizing last night's fire drill.”—Mike B.



Joint marina fire training at West Bay Marina

Joint Operations

“I am writing to express my sincere thanks to the Township of Esquimalt for supporting the Office of the Fire Commissioners Incident Command Program [...]”–Gordon A.

Joint training

“I am writing to express my appreciation for the training provided by members of your department to members of our department.”–Keith L.

“Steve, I would like to express my thanks for your agencies training session completed today.”–Jonathon S.

2018 GOALS: HOW DID WE MEASURE UP?

The following are goals the department established for 2018, with a brief synopsis of how the department did for each one.

Goal #1: Develop and implement an operational plan/program to ensure operational readiness for long duration emergencies and to support community natural disasters.

In the fall of 2018, the department created a first draft of an internal emergency operations plan. This plan groups together many of the current activities that the Department has previously identified to sustain medium to longer term operations. The development of the plan also identified the need to provide additional internal resources for self-sustained operations (e.g., food and water rations) for up to seven days. In December 2018, the department increased these supplies.

Goal #2: Conduct an operational needs analysis for the replacement of Rescue 1.

This goal was deferred into 2019 due to the time commitment of several emergent projects such as changing dispatch providers in the first half of 2018. This operational needs analysis will maximize the role of the apparatus to serve the community for several decades.

Goal #3: Continue and expand joint training sessions with neighbouring departments.

2018 continued to be a busy year for joint hosted training. These opportunities included courses ranging from fire suppression to technical rescue to medical skills. Some of these courses include Emergency Childbirth, Marina Firefighting and the First Nations Emergency Services Expo.

The department alongside the CFB Esquimalt Fire Department participated in several joint low slope rope rescue training sessions in the spring. This training was led by Glen Cooper of the CFB Urban Search and Rescue Team.



Joint (Esquimalt and CFB Esquimalt) low slope rope rescue training session

Goal #4: Conduct an internal audit (self-assessment) of fire department activities based on the British Columbia Fire Commissioner recommendations.

In the fall of 2018, the Department began the process of conducting an internal audit using the Office of the Fire Commissioner Self Audit Tool (Appendix E). This project was an initiative that involved members from management and D Platoon.

In the early phase of project initiation, an opportunity to involve the Office of the Fire Commissioner local Fire Safety Advisor (FSA) was identified. Bob Cooper, the Vancouver Island FSA, attended and assisted with the audit.

At the end of the audit the department identified several areas for potential improvements. These improvements range from administrative policies, operational procedures and record keeping. These potential improvements as identified in the audit results will be considered as part of ongoing improvements to operations as we move into 2019.

Goal #5: Perform final testing and operationally implement the CREST P25 Radio Network for fire department use.

Several years ago the Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunication (CREST) Corporation began an upgrade to the regional radio network with the implementation of a new P25 system. P25 represents a suite of standards for digital radio communications used by first responders and other government agencies.

In 2016, our department began the preparation for the P25 program with the purchase of new portable and mobile radios. CREST provided assistance in pre-programming all radios in the fall of 2018 for the pending conversion.

The conversion for local police agencies has been planned for early 2019, with the regional core fire agencies (Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Victoria and Saanich fire departments) to follow in the first half of 2019.



2019 GOALS

The department has established several goals as we move forward in 2019:

1. Update water supply mapping in the Township to display flow rates and identify alternate water sources.
2. Implement CREST P25 Radio Network.
3. Increase the delivery of public education programs.
4. Increase technical rescue skills and training for firefighters.
5. Conduct an operational needs analysis for the replacement of Rescue 1 and complete the purchase subject to budget approvals.



Members attended the Line of Duty Death of Cst. Ian Jordan of the Victoria Police Department.



Township of Esquimalt Fire Department

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