



## Annual Report 2010

### Operations

#### Callouts and activities

The Department recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2010. This summary doesn't account for informal time in unrecorded training and home study:

	<u>Practices(hrs)</u>	<u>Incidents(hrs)</u>	<u>Courses(hrs)</u>	<u>Total(hrs)</u>	<u>Incident #</u>
2010	2307	620	429	3,356	108
2009	2606	1204	695	4,505	134
2008	2413	840	200	3,453	110
2007	1920	720	380	3,020	91
2006	1858	634	248	2,740	98
2005	1887	632	208	2,727	93

#### Our incident breakdown:

- 67 medical
- 17 Duty Officer
- 2 false alarms
- 1 brush fire
- 7 Public Service
- 1 rescue and safety
- 4 MVI
- 2 chimney fires
- 3 electrical calls
- 2 structural fires
- 1 rubbish/burn pile fires
- 1 ground search

Medical calls represented 62% of our total, which is typical for our Department.

The Fire Department volunteers respond to all categories of medical emergencies (unlike most Departments) due to our isolation and need for rapid medical response. The closest BC Ambulance station is on Denman Island and it would take between 45 minutes to 1 ½ hours for them to respond to a call. The time to hospital is significantly reduced by HIFR transporting patients to the ferry or to Denman Island, particularly after normal sailing hours. We also transport to meet the helicopter for advanced life support and rapid transport to a hospital.

We accepted one new recruit this year, welcomed back one firefighter from leave, a temporary returning firefighter and continued with the training of the remaining three recruits from the previous year.

The Department ended 2010 with a roster of 16 trained fire fighters, 5 recruits and 2 auxiliary members.

Training

The focus of our training is the response to structural fires. Although structure fires represent a small portion of our overall responses, structural fire fighting requires a high degree of skill, sufficient personnel and adequate equipment to safely respond.

Weekly training is just enough to maintain skills already learned. Extra training nights, days and weekends are necessary to learn new skills and re-certify in challenging technical skills.

The regular practice nights included training in:

- |  |   |                     |
|--|---|---------------------|
| - pump operations                            | - hose stream and maneuvers                     | - foam application  |
| - interior search and rescue                 | - exterior attack                               | - ladder operations |
| - ventilation techniques                     | - water tender shuttle                          | - portable pump use |
| - hydraulic tool use<br>for auto-extrication | - motor vehicle accident scene<br>stabilization | - high angle rescue |
| - wildfire fighting                          | - ground search and rescue                      | - medical response  |
| - patient transport                          | - electrical safety                             | - defibrillator use |
|  |   | - traffic control   |

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. This year, members attended the following off Island or online courses:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Fire Attack courses – 5 members          | Fire Dept. Evaluator workshop – 1 member     |
| Fire Inspector – 1 member                | BC Fire Code – 1 member                      |
| Tender Operations – 1 member             | Emergency Scene Mgmt Level 1 – 1 member      |
| Training Officers’ conference – 1 member | FR Instructor/Evaluator workshop – 3 members |
| ICS 200 – 1 member                       | LAFC introduction – 2 members                |

We held extra First Responder courses in our fire hall:

Re-certification of 2 members and new training for spinal and AED certification for 3 members

Fire Prevention

The Department continues to provide several successful initiatives such as the free smoke alarm program, school visits and public information flyers as part of community fire safety awareness.

The Department volunteers completed the 4<sup>th</sup> annual camp Fire Cadet Camp which had a 24 children attending the two day program. This continues to be a wonderful program for our children in teaching new skills and fire safety awareness.

Our web site was redesigned with a new look and promises to be a useful tool in reaching more people with information about what the Department does and important messages on fire safety. ([www.hifd.org](http://www.hifd.org))

Fire Prevention includes not only issues surrounding home fire safety but wildfires and campfires. The Summer Fire Patrol has been our most effective program; raising public awareness of open burning and outdoor fire issues. This program has grown into an essential part of our community fire safety awareness campaign. Individual home Fire Smart measures are encouraged and the department maintains a roster of trained community members willing to help in the event of a wildfire.

### Finance

The Operations budget for 2010 was \$181,350 and a Protective Gear and Equipment budget of \$27,150. The Department ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$6,600. Water tank installations and upgrades amounted for an additional \$65,000 and there were CVRD expenses and capital costs for an overall total budget of \$350,000.

This represented a tax requisition of \$0.7791 per \$1,000 assessed value based on a corrected Hornby assessment of \$441,088,000

### Strategic Planning

#### Fire Hall Planning

The Comox Valley Regional District made application to the Integrated Land Management Bureau for a Sponsored Crown Grant of a 1 hectare parcel of land across the road from the existing Fire Hall. This application was an integral part of the initial planning process prior to undertaking further preliminary design, cost estimates and public consultation.

The CVRD also applied for a \$400,000 grant from Towns for Tomorrow, toward the estimated cost of \$1,800,000 for the proposed Fire Hall. All preliminary budget figures have been included in the CVRD 5 year budget which indicates a rise in the requisition from the current \$0.7791/\$1,000 to \$0.9279/\$1,000 as a result of the finance costs for the new fire hall. (all reports and financial information are available on the Department web site at [www.hifd.org](http://www.hifd.org))

#### Community Water Tank Program

In 2006, the Fire Department bought seven large steel storage tanks to increase the available supply network for fire fighting demands.

The addition of these new tanks was seen as a necessity to increase the supply of water for fire fighting and reduce the delivery time of that water to fire scenes. The delivery of water is completed by tanker shuttle from the storage tank to the fire scene, using the single tanker truck in the Department.

In the early stages of planning for more storage locations, the Department became aware of the Superior Shuttle Accreditation program introduced by the insurance industry. This program was aimed at rural areas which relied on tanker trucks providing water to fire scenes, rather than a network of fire hydrants. Accreditation of a service area would qualify that area for reduced fire insurance premiums equivalent to fire hydrant service.

The Department has been working toward Accreditation with the first step being the installation of the steel tanks in strategic locations around the Island. The final tank installations will be completed in early 2011.

The recently completed Fire Underwriters audit recognized the work completed to-date and planning underway to achieve accreditation. This would aid in having an improved fire insurance grading classification of DGB 3B (Superior Shuttle Tanker Accreditation).

We recognize this will also require:

- purchase of a second tanker or replacement of the existing tanker with two larger ones;
- another truck bay to accommodate a second tanker;
- a second attack vehicle or combination if required.

The Accreditation program is dependent on the construction of a suitable new fire hall in which to house the additional apparatus.

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