



Annual Report 2012

Operations

Callouts and activities

The Department recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2012. 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>
2012	2197	983	576	3,755	130
2011	1922	1018	390	3,330	114
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

Our incident breakdown:

- 75 medical
- 18 Duty Officer
- 7 structure fires
- 5 brush/beach fire
- 1 rope rescue
- 3 MVI
- 8 RCMP assist
- 4 electrical calls
- 1 carbon monoxide alarm
- 1 fire unclassified
- 1 false alarm
- 6 Public Service

Medical calls represented 57% of our total, which is in the typical range for most departments providing First Responder services.

Duty Officer and RCMP assist calls were up this past year in part due to the absence of the RCMP during portions of the summer. This is always a challenge for the Duty Officer and department and we will continue to be of assistance within our guidelines.

Our most recent structure fire may be deemed a change from the typical call for a 'fully involved structure' and a sign of a transition to interior fire operations including the need for salvage and overhaul.

Recruiting new members is a challenge in a dwindling, ageing population and remains one of our priorities. We have to rely on a smaller number of trained members, however this places a higher responsibility on those individuals and the community risks changes in response levels due to insufficient numbers of responders or burnout.

The Department ended 2012 with a roster of 16 trained fire fighters, 1 recruit and 1 auxiliary member.

Training

Our department acquired a large structure as a training focus for several months and allowed everyone an opportunity to refresh old skills and maintain live fire proficiency rather than having to go to Comox. We continue to make slow progress in having all our members complete Fire Fighter 1 certification.

Regular practice planning continues to improve thanks to the efforts of the Officers involved in setting them up. A good practice can take a lot of work in the setup and it also requires good participation by the members. This is supported by regular attendance on Thursday nights.

H O R N B Y I S L A N D F I R E R E S C U E

This year, members attended the following off Island courses:

Fire Attack course – 1 member	Fire Evaluator workshop – 1 member
Fire Chiefs' conference – 2 members	Emergency Scene Management 1 – 1 member
Training Officers' conference – 2 members	Occupational First Aid Level 3 – 1 member
Safety Committee – 1 member	Rope Rescue Level 1&2 – 1 member
Draeger Level 2 Technician – 1 member	Draeger Posicheck – 1 member
Hybrid vehicle techniques – 1 member	EMS Safety/Survival – 2 members

A First Responder training course was held with 7 members underway in either new certifications or re-licensing. This is a major commitment for everyone and ever so necessary for the majority of our incidents.

Fire Prevention

We continue to struggle to establish an effective and coherent community fire prevention program. Some exceptions are the smoke alarm awareness program, HIFD web site, revived First Edition page and the Summer Fire Patrol, which remains a major fire safety outreach to the community and visitors. We had to cancel our usually popular Cadet Camp due in part to different Spring break schedules for resident and non-resident children.

Another way of getting the fire safety message out to the community is with fire safety inspections of buildings. This requires dedication on the part of the LAFC and we have been working on streamlining report filing to manage time more effectively when making the rounds of the various businesses and organizations.

Finance

The Operations budget for 2010 was \$89,000 and a Protective Gear and Equipment budget of \$22,200. The Department ended the year with a deficit of approximately \$545

The total budget amount for the Regional District was \$480,734.00

This represented a tax requisition of \$0.8715 per \$1,000 assessed value based on a corrected Hornby assessment of \$487,084,000

Strategic Planning

Fire Hall Planning

The Regional District obtained the Sponsored Crown Grant for the 2.5 acre parcel across Central Road from the existing fire hall and held two public information meetings to introduce the project and launched the project web site as the main information exchange medium.

Community Water Tank Program

All tanks have been installed and are operational. We are waiting for the Regional District to complete the legal surveys and documents for the installations at Euston Road and the Co-op in order to have these tanks certified as fire hydrants.

The community mural project is attracting attention and the Arts Council is continuing with its plan of completing two murals each year as funding becomes available.

Fire Services Administration Review

The Regional District completed a review of the way fire services are administered in the four rural areas and this will see a change in our relationship with HIRRA and the CVRD. The Fire Chief, chosen by each department, will become an employee of the CVRD, which strengthens the liability and indemnification protection for all members.

Our department and community are so fortunate to have such dedicated individuals willing to come out every week for training and respond instantly, no matter what time of night or day.

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