



Annual Report 2013

Operations

Callouts and activities

The Department recorded the following summary of volunteer time for regular training and incidents for 2013. 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>
2013	1790	585	220	2,595	102
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

Our incident breakdown:

- 70 medical
- 7 Duty Officer
- 2 structure fires
- 4 brush/beach fire
- 1 MVI
- 1 motor vehicle fire
- 3 hydro lines down
- 1 burn pile
- 1 fire unclassified
- 6 false alarms
- 6 Public Service

Medical calls represented 68% of the total, which is higher than typical for most departments providing First Responder services. 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.

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. We have been fortunate to welcome two new recruits into the department and look forward to completing their basic firefighter training in 2014.

The Department ended 2013 with a roster of 14 trained fire fighters, 2 recruits and 2 auxiliary members.

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.

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.

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

The regular practice nights included training in:

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

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:

Incident Command Level 4 – 1 member	Training Officers’ conference – 1 member
Fire Chiefs’ conference – 1 member	Incident Safety Officer – 1 member
Draeger Service Technician - 1 member	Module 6 and 7 evaluation – 1 member
Wildfire Instructor – 2 members	Thermal Imaging Camera – 1 member
HazMat Awareness – 3 member s	Mental Health First Aid – 1 member

We also occasionally have instructors over for special courses and this year we had Frontline Training over for driver training and evaluations for eight of our truck drivers.

Fire Prevention

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. 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.

Community building fire safety inspections, which form part of the overall fire prevention program, have not been completed in 2013 and will become a focus of attention in 2014. Inspections have been carried out by volunteers in the past and have been of great benefit in helping community groups and businesses ensure fire safe premises.

The Department annual Fire Cadet Camp was well attended during Spring Break, with 20 children attending. This has proven to be a popular program which raises fire safety awareness for the children as well as their parents.

The Department continues to provide several successful initiatives such as the free smoke alarm program and school visits.

Our web site is proving to be a useful tool in reaching more people with information on the latest activities in the Department. (www.hifd.org)

Finance

The Operations budget for 2013 was \$193,564 with a Protective Gear and Equipment budget of \$22,200. The Department ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$13,700 as a result of some specialized training being cancelled.

Expenditures in 2013 included the purchase and equipping of a new Duty Officer vehicle (4x4 pick-up).

The total budget amount for the Regional District was \$450,000.00. This overall budget included the final payment for the main fire truck purchased in 2004 as well as contributions to capital reserves.

This represented a tax requisition of \$0.9342 per \$1,000 assessed value based on a corrected Hornby assessment of approximately \$472,923,000

Strategic Planning

Fire Hall Planning

The Regional District hired Tor Nawrot as the Pre-Construction Coordinator (PCC) to undertake community consultation and coordination of the design process. Tor organized a series of neighbourhood meetings as part of the communication plan to solicit input on the proposed new fire hall and published two newsletters to update residents and property owners.

A Request for Proposals was issued for the services of an architect and 11 proposals were received. These were evaluated by the local members of the select committee and the PCC with a recommendation presented to the District as to the preferred proponent.

Funding for the architect and PCC was allocated in the Regional District budget for 2013.

Community Water Tank Program

All of the planned tank installations had been completed in previous years and the department incorporated shuttle exercises involving the different tanks into its Thursday night practices. Timing drills were also carried out to confirm tanker shuttle delivery times compared to the Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation format.

The Regional District completed the legal survey of three tank installations on private lands in preparation for registration of statutory right of way agreements as part of the process leading toward Shuttle Accreditation.

The 'Get Tanked' project of the Arts Council took a year off from having any of the five remaining tanks painted.

Fire Services Administration Review

This had been completed in 2012 with several of the recommendations being implemented in 2013. The Fire Chief, as selected by the fire department members, was hired by the Regional District under a three year contract.

The changes to the Service Agreement with HIRRA had been forwarded to the HIRRA Executive for review with the expectation that the final agreement would be signed in 2014.

Giff La Rose
Fire Chief