

# Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department

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## ANNUAL REPORT

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**2015**



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# ROBERTS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

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### Overview of the Fire Department

The Roberts Creek Fire Department provides life, property and environmental protection to the community of Roberts Creek. Service to non-residents is also provided, e.g. rescue from motor vehicle accidents and medical assistance to BC Ambulance Service (BCAS). The fire department serves a population of 3307 (2006 Census – an increase of 7% since 2001) and protects over 1600 private dwellings as well as several commercial and public buildings. The Fire Protection Area covers roughly 28.5 Km<sup>2</sup> of the total 143.59 Km<sup>2</sup> in Area D. At the end of the year the membership of the Roberts Creek Fire Department consisted of 25 volunteer members including 2 junior member (16 – 19 years of age). Volunteer firefighters are responsible for all aspects of the operation of the department. This includes 24/7 response to fire and rescue operations and maintaining the operational readiness of all apparatus and equipment. No remuneration is paid to the membership for providing these services. The Sunshine Coast Regional District employs one person to look after clerical/administrative/fire inspection duties.

#### Apparatus

RCVFD apparatus consists of the following:



- **Rescue 1:** Rescue 1 entered service in the summer of 2006. This apparatus was built to our specs by Hub Fire Engines on a Freightliner M2 chassis and is leased through MFA. This is a multi-purpose unit functioning as an equipment carrier, mobile lighting plant, firefighter rehab centre and general staging hub. The PTO driven 25 KW generator supplies copious amounts of power and allows the twenty five foot high 9000 watt light tower to transform darkness into daylight. An eight foot powered slide-out tray brings all the auto extrication equipment out in the open, easily at hand.



- **Engine 1:** This apparatus is a compressed air foam system (CAFS) manufactured by Hub Fire Engines in 2000. It is a very versatile piece of apparatus being built on a one ton Ford F550 4x4 chassis. This offers a great amount of manoeuvrability allowing it to negotiate the many narrow, winding driveways encountered in Roberts Creek. The CAFS in effect provides for a tenfold increase in the usefulness of water. In other words the 300 gallons of water carried is equal to 3000 gallons.



- **Engine 2:** This apparatus is a full Class "A" Type I pumper with a 1050 igpm pump, carries 800 gallons of water and can transport six firefighters. Engine 2 is equipped with a 10" dump valve so it can function as a water shuttle when fighting fires outside of hydrant serviced areas. It is built on a Peterbilt chassis and was manufactured by Anderson Engineering in 1992; replacement will be postponed until 2017.



- **Engine 3:** This apparatus is a full Class “A” Type II Pumper and fills our need for a tanker as it carries almost 1300 gallons of water. It also has a foam injection system and carries 30 gallons of foam concentrate. Engine 3 is built on a Freightliner FL112 chassis and was manufactured by Hub Fire Engines in 1999. It carries three fire fighters.



- **Car 1:** Car 1 is a 2009 Ford F-150 crew cab, acquired in Oct. Of 2009 and leased through MFA Leasing. This four-wheel drive vehicle is important as a day-to-day service vehicle for routine activities such as burning permit inspections mainly located on rough back roads and as transportation for fire fighters to and from education venues. Car 1 is also indispensable as a command vehicle at emergency incidents as it contains an array of reference material as well as first aid and communications equipment.



Coast Reporter©

The Crew:

L to R Back Row: Arthur Griffiths, Darin Macey, Billy Wray, Patrick Visser, Andreas Tize, David McIlwraith, Joé Tessier, Ben Adams, Russell Monkman, Bruce Searle, Pat Higgins. Front Row: Brian Houle, Kevin Kennelly, Melanie Tilley, Nick Wort, Brad Plows, Chris Danroth. Camera Shy: Grace Gardner, Grant Gunn, Sean Hatanaka, Brett Heneke, Colin Kelso, Dylan McLeod, André Michaud, Claude Sanders, Rui Ventura, Josh Williams.



Facilities:

The Roberts Creek Fire Hall consists of meeting room, offices and apparatus bays. The bays are a two tandem-bay arrangement accommodating four vehicles. The lower floor area consists of one bay, a classroom, a gym/fitness centre and a storage area for the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program. Grounds maintenance and janitorial services are by contract.

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## Activity

### Operations

In 2015 Roberts Creek Fire responded to 76 call outs. Incidents in 2015 totalled 86.48 hours this consisted of 569.62 person hours, up from 2014 where we saw 488 hours. Daytime calls still remain a significant concern as many of our firefighters have regular daytime employment.

Traditionally, motor vehicle incidents account for the bulk of our emergency response. 2015 saw a change in this as our members responded to an equal number (14) of illegal burns. This is troubling as the drought last year not only produced the conditions for wildfire but as we all know too well, wildfire and a fatality. The losses emotionally, financially and environmentally make this statistic completely unacceptable.

2015 also saw an increase in emergency response to high voltage wires down. On the surface this type of call may not appear as serious as it is. All Fire Departments on the coast work to secure these emergency scenes as rapidly as possible to prevent injury or death until BC Hydro has declared the scene safe. In times of high call volume to BC Hydro, our members can be staged at a scene for several hours. Private flagging contractors can take over responsibility for these scenes if available and paged out by BC Hydro.

Roberts Creek Fire responded to a mutual aid call by Sechelt Fire Dept to suppress a shipboard fire. During this operation, there was an additional page out for smoke showing at a gas station in Wilson Creek. This call was responded to by Sechelt, Roberts Creek and Gibsons Fire Departments. The initial report was smoke coming from an underground fuel storage tank. The actual source was smouldering vegetation, most likely cause is discarded cigarette butt. Though there was not a fire in this case, this event initiated an emergency response by 3 Fire Departments. The potentials in such an event still need to be clearly explained to members of the public.

A resident of Roberts Creek reported a smell of smoke in their neighbourhood. Upon investigation by our members, a house was found with flames showing on one exterior wall. Though this fire was quickly extinguished by our members, it was the attention and quick thinking on the part of that individual that prevented the further spread of fire in this case.

Members responded to calls of injured persons on the trails of Mt. Elphinstone. Patients included mountain bikers and hikers. We worked well with Sunshine Coast Search and Rescue and BC Ambulance. Though these rescues take place outside of our district boundaries, our members will continue to respond as we can be staging in the area in less than 15 minutes. Command can easily be transferred to SAR upon their arrival. As well Roberts Creek Fire can provide support of persons and equipment to SAR as requested. Training with SAR will be on going in the future to increase efficiency of these operations.

### Training

In-house and contract training provided 429 hours of training amounting to a total of 2461 person-hours. The total amount paid for training and honorariums in 2015 was \$47,259, similar to the amounts of the previous year. In 2015, our members were fortunate to have a single family house donated to the Fire Department for the purpose of Live Fire Training. This structure provided several evenings of practice using a fog machine to simulate real smoke. Practice scenarios ended with a burn of the structure. This training is invaluable, especially for Firefighters with less experience with structure fires, as though this is a controlled exercise, it is not a simulation.

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## Permits

Ten Permits were issued for Class A (Land Clearing) fires in 2015.

## Inspections

The Roberts Creek Fire Prevention Officer/Office Administrator carries out fire inspections. There are approximately forty premises requiring inspection. These include two schools (one public, one private), one beverage establishment, three restaurants, several commercial occupancies, day cares and two youth camps. We expect additional commercial enterprises in Roberts Creek Fire Protection District soon, and with them new challenges.

## Prevention

The Sunshine Coast is well served by all the Fire Departments and their Firefighters. However, for Fire Prevention to be successful, Public Education is required. As seen this past year and as noted in this report, we have had an increase in calls for illegal burns. Some of these took place during a total fire ban. As well, fires were caused by the ejection of lit cigarette butts. If these behaviours continue, we fail in our Public Education and of course Fire Prevention efforts.

# Finance

## Budgetary Considerations

Roberts Creek Fire Department has been part of the Facilities Audit Process and deficiencies have been identified. As well, an estimate of annual investment amounts have been noted. The 2016 budget proposal has an increase to our Reserves to work towards this estimate. Primary focus will be roof drainage/leakage and roof system replacement.

## Financial Plan

### 2016

Building: Roof system replacement. Water supply upgrades required.

### 2017

Machinery and Equipment: Pagers and radios to be replaced

Vehicles: Front line pumper to be replaced

# Recommendations

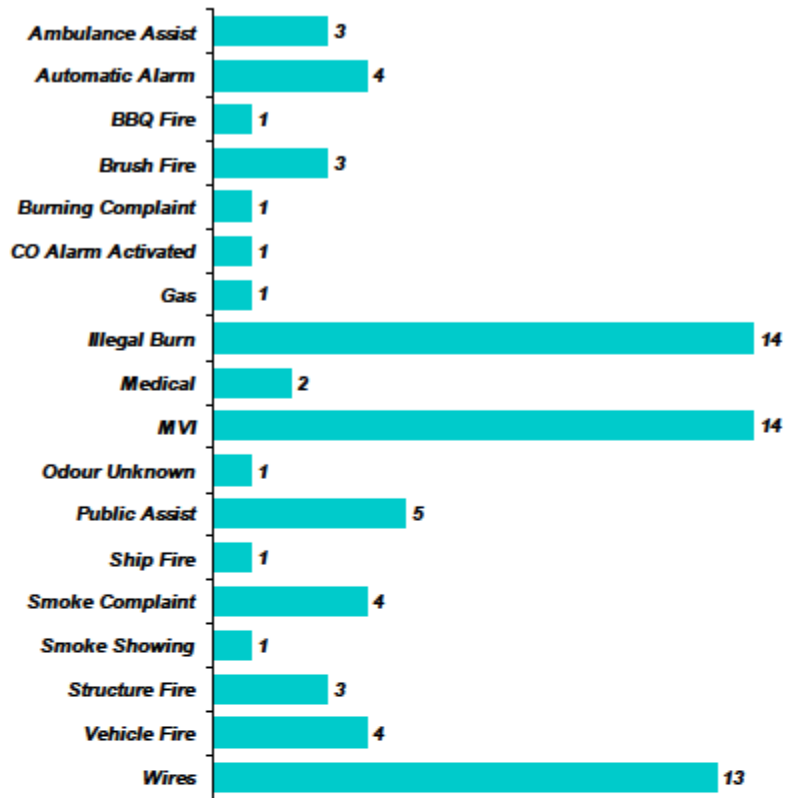
Due to increased Administration required to achieve compliance with the Office Of The Fire Commissioner's Playbook on Minimum Training Standards, the cost of training will increase. Though we do not see the need for a full time Training Officer at our Fire Department at this time, we do see the need for a Regional Training Officer. Fire Departments have Training and other Officers qualified

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to deliver the training. A Regional Training Officer can design monthly and annual training schedules that Sunshine Coast Fire departments can follow. For accountability, Fire Dept Administrators can upload training reports to the Regional Training Officer. I suggest this officer be an SCR D Fire Training Officer with the costs shared by local Fire Departments.



## Incident Statistics 2015



<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Callout Count</u>
Ambulance Assist	3.95%	76
Automatic Alarm	5.26%	
BBQ Fire	1.32%	
Brush Fire	3.95%	
Burning Complaint	1.32%	
CO Alarm Activated	1.32%	
Gas	1.32%	
Illegal Burn	18.42%	
Medical	2.63%	
MVI	18.42%	
Odour Unknown	1.32%	
Public Assist	6.58%	
Ship Fire	1.32%	
Smoke Complaint	5.26%	
Smoke Showing	1.32%	
Structure Fire	3.95%	
Vehicle Fire	5.26%	
Wires	17.11%	