Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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 incidents, wilderness misadventures 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^2 of the total 143.59 Km^2 in Area D. At the end of the year the membership of the Roberts Creek Fire Department consisted of 23 volunteer members. 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/investigation 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.

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 1000 gallon tank supplying a 1050IGPM pump. It serves as the frontline pumper carrying up to 5 firefighters to the incident scene. E2 is built on a Freightliner chassis with a Crew Cab as open rear seating is no longer permitted in new construction. Increased scene lighting increases the safety of evening responses. Other Firefighter safety features have been added to comply with current NFPA standards.

- **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.

- **Engine 4:** Formerly our frontline pumper since 1992, E4 now serves in a reserve position. E4 was built on a Peterbilt chassis by Anderson Engineering in 1991. It can carry up to 6 Firefighters to scene. In the reserve position it can operate as a pumper or in shuttle operations and carries 800 gallons suppling a 1050IGPM pump.

Car 1:

Car 1 2009 Ford F-150 crew cab, acquired in Oct of 2009. This four wheel drive vehicle is important as a day to day service vehicle for routine activities such as burn permits and inspections. It is also valuable as a crew and equipment transport during training or operational business. Car 1 is indispensable as a command vehicle during incidents. Part of Car 1's inventory is emergency first aid equipment to FRIII level.

The Crew:

L-R Rear: FF. Brian Houle, TO. Sean Hatanaka, FF. Kelly Backs, FF Andreas Tize, LT. Brett Heneke, FF. Russell Monkman, C. Patrick Higgins.

Front: FF. Patrick Visser, FF. David McIlwraith, Capt. Billy Wray, LT. Nick Wort, FF. Claude Sanders, FF. Bruce Searle.

Absent/On Leave: AC. Arthur Griffiths, FF. Shane Cross, FF. Grace Gardner, FF. Grant Gunn, FF. Kevin Kennelly, PFF. Yvonne Lewis, FF. Darin Macy, FF. Dylan McLeod, FF. Tavis Schwartzin, FF. Melanie Tilley,

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, classroom, gym and a storage area for the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program. Grounds maintenance and janitorial services are by contract.

Activity

Operations

In 2017, Roberts Creek Fire responded to a total of 112 incidents. Incident hours totalled 118.91 and consisted of 930.33 person hours.

The majority of calls in 2017 were motor vehicle incidents and illegal burns. The majority of illegal burn calls were found to be propane fires which are acceptable. Some visitors and locals objected to the burning ban in 2017, however they were in the minority.

2017 showed an increase number of structure fires with 7. There were 2 mutual aid response to Gibsons for structure fires.

The frontline pumper was replaced in the fall of 2017. The new pumper brings a 25% increase in initial water volume to the scene as well as increased scene lighting. The existing pumper has been moved to a reserve position allowing it to operate as a pumper or tender. This will be an asset to the district as Roberts Creek Fire improves it's ability to action fires with no hydrant service. In particular, the slope of Mt. Elphinstone.

Training

In-house and contract training provided 388 hours of training amounting to a total of 2372 person-hours. This is an increase over the 251/1846 hours from 2016. The total amount paid out to RCVFD members for training and honorariums in 2016 was $34,535, similar to the amounts of the previous year.

Roberts Creek Fire transitioned to the new BC standard, "Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook". All Firefighters not fully certified were enrolled in the new program and have progressed toward certification. It is expected that this group will complete the training by the end of 2018.

Permits

7 permits were issued for Class A (Land Clearing) fires in 2017.

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.

Prevention

As well as relying on commercial property inspections to promote fire safety and awareness the department also holds an open house during Fire Prevention Week in October. This provides a venue to showcase our skills and allows the public a chance to meet our members and see our equipment up close. Fire Prevention Week also gives a dedicated

group of firefighters an opportunity to bring the fire safety message to Roberts Creek School and a large number of the students have the good fortune to visit the Fire Safety House. School students have also toured the fire hall during planned field trips.

Finance

Budgetary Considerations

As our Department requires additional space for training/storage/vehicles and secure exterior training area, a plan has been put forward to expand the upper tarmac and construct

Recommendations

Due to the increase in development in the district and presence of commercial ventures employing flammable substances and compressed gasses, a Risk Assessment should be considered. Recent structure fires include an artist studio containing such compressed gasses including Oxygen. Currently there is no obligation on the part of operators to advise the district of the presence of these substances. This poses a clear and present danger to the community and First Responders. In addition to this, some of these projects are located in forested areas near the Wildland Interface. The equipment and training should address this reality.