

# COLWOOD FIRE RESCUE

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



*Serving our Community with Pride  
For 70 Years!*



*Special Anniversary Edition*

# COLWOOD FIRE RESCUE - 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2016 PERSONNEL ROSTER

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### **DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND CAREER STAFF**

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Acting Fire Chief                | John Cassidy     |
| Assistant Chief/Training Officer | Greg Chow        |
| Captain                          | David Topping    |
| Captain                          | Greg McClelland  |
| Lieutenant                       | Tim Hamblin      |
| Lieutenant                       | Bill Naylor      |
| Lieutenant                       | Craig Twidale    |
| Lieutenant/Fire Inspector        | Bryan Erwin      |
| Firefighter                      | Scott Abrahamson |
| Firefighter                      | Kyle Smith       |
| Firefighter/Mechanic             | Josh Pettigrew   |

### **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

|                    |                  |                |                |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Danielle Yates     | Peter Fast       | Tim Yeo        | Pat Seward     |
| James Dixon        | Kevin Porteous   | Adam Whittaker | Ryan Rufh      |
| Dallas Lozoway     | Jeff Birtwistle  | Norm Choo      | Brian Monaghan |
| Dimitri Karatsikis | Trevor Barrett   | Greg Johnson   | Brandon Kahl   |
| Daryl Ford         | Jason Stewart    | Paul Clarke    | Michael Poole  |
| Jordan Wenzel      | Dean Gaschermann | Jeff Roy       | James Banman   |

John Rufh

### **SUPPORT STAFF**

Joanne Topping, Emergency Services Support Coordinator (Fire)

Lisa Abrahamson, Emergency Services Clerk (PT)

### **RETIREMENTS IN 2016**

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Frank Gale | Kerry Smith   |
| Shane Cyr  | Matt Erickson |

## FIRE CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - YEAR IN REVIEW



*John Cassidy, LAFC  
Acting Fire Chief*

The year 2016 was an eventful one for the Colwood Fire Department as we celebrated a milestone anniversary and the retirement of two of our long serving members. These events brought about some significant changes within the organization.



June 12th, 2016 marked the Colwood Fire Department's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from its founding in 1946. Rather than having one large celebration, the department marked its anniversary by creating a special anniversary logo that was displayed in the fire station and on all of our fleet vehicles.

In the fall of 2016 the fire department recognized the retirement of two long serving career members, Fire Chief Kerry Smith after 26 years of service and our Mechanic, Captain Frank Gale after 35 years of service. Both of these members will be missed after so many years of dedicated service to our community.

Early in 2016, Fire Department staff began to refurbish and outfit the ATV/Gator vehicle that had been donated to the fire department in 2015. This unit has been retrofitted with a small water tank and pump that allows firefighters improved access to suppress small fires that may occur within the wooded lands of Royal Roads University as well as some of the hard to reach areas along the beach and foreshore of Esquimalt Lagoon.

A major rebuild was also completed on the Fire department's 1973 foam trailer. This custom made trailer carries 500 gallons of Class B foam that is used to suppress fuel fires. As there are two major fuel storage facilities located in the City, Colwood Fire Department completed the rebuild to ensure that it can continue to provide efficient and effective fire suppression services to these facilities.



Fire Department staff continue to look at our carbon footprint and we have once again have been awarded a Gold Certification by the Vancouver Island Green Business organization. All staff have willingly participated in various internal initiatives (both new and existing) and their efforts, combined with the use of existing solar panels to generate a constant supply of hot water to the fire station building has allowed us to be consistent in doing our part to protect the environment.

Requests for service have increased 3.1% since 2015. This increase is consistent with those reported over the past five years and the trend is expected to continue into the future as our community grows. The Fire Department responded to a total of 584 incidents in 2016 consisting of 466 emergency and 72 non-emergency requests for service. Of the emergency incidents recorded in 2016, the fire department responded to 11 fires that resulted in property loss. Post investigation of these fires resulted in a combined loss of \$282,789 dollars on property with a total value of \$1,778,489. While fire calls only make up approximately 9% of the fire department responses, the property damage resulting from these fires can be significant. Thankfully, there was no loss of life resulting from any of these incidents.

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## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - YEAR IN REVIEW

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Other areas of emergency response have remained consistent with Medical First Responder calls representing 33% and motor vehicle incidents representing 13% of our total requests for service.

The retirements of long time career members Frank Gale and Kerry Smith allowed for some staff movement within the Fire Department. In May of 2016, after an internal posting and extensive competition, Firefighter Josh Pettigrew was selected as the successful candidate to replace Captain Frank Gale in the Maintenance Division of the Fire Department. Josh brought with him his previous firefighting experience as a volunteer firefighter as well as his extensive background as a heavy duty mechanic. Following the retirement of Chief Kerry Smith in September, Assistant Fire Chief John Cassidy was promoted to Acting Fire Chief to keep the department moving forward until the end of the year when a final decision would be made by the City with regards to a permanent successor. Three new volunteer firefighters also started on with the fire department in June to maintain approximate numbers in personnel levels. Our annual volunteer firefighter recruitment drive will continue to encourage those who would like to volunteer with us are given an opportunity to do so.

The Training Division continued to implement significant changes to firefighter training. The first of these changes came from the Provincial Fire Commissioner and the release of the "Structural Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook". The "Playbook" as it is referred to in the fire service, sets out three levels of training criteria for all fire departments in the Province of B.C. namely; exterior operations firefighter, interior operations firefighter, and full service operations firefighter. Based on the level of training, the "Playbook" determines the level of service that each fire department can provide. Colwood Fire Department has been very fortunate that the level of training and the standards that we set for ourselves many years ago has, with the approval of Council, allowed us to be classified as a full service fire department. Concurrently, Colwood Fire Department has also made the transition to the Canadian Red Cross program model for medical first responder training. This certification is mandatory in order for our firefighters to be able to provide first aid services. Efforts will continue to ensure that our firefighters are retrained to the new program model as their current medical first responder licenses come up for renewal.

Fire inspection and prevention activities continue to be a major component for limiting the loss of life and property within our community. Staff in this area continue to meet the challenges presented with a rapidly growing City and have found ways to streamline the overall delivery process. In 2016, there were a total of 798 fire and life safety inspections performed and 73 public safety events held in Colwood. These fire prevention activities equated to an audience of over 7,000 people in our community who received important fire prevention education and life-safety messages. As a result of the promotion of Assistant Chief John Cassidy to Acting Fire Chief in late September, Lieutenant Bryan Erwin's area of responsibility was moved from Fire Inspector to Acting Operations Officer and Firefighter Scott Abrahamson assumed the role of Acting Fire Inspector.

It has been a busy year for the fire department that cannot just be measured in call response numbers. We have also been able to adapt to sudden internal and external changes that demonstrate the Fire Department's will, capacity, and drive to meet the demands that are placed before us.

John Cassidy, LAFC  
Acting Fire Chief

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## **2016 STATISTICAL DATA**

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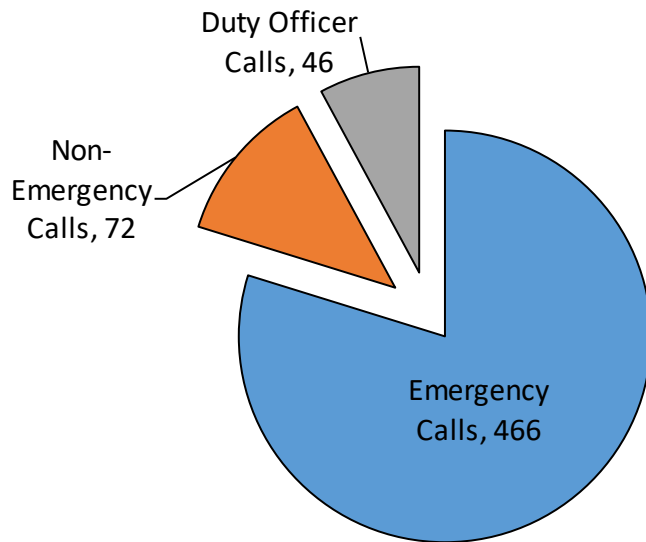
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## 2016 SUMMARY OF INSURABLE FIRE LOSS

| DATE                                | TYPE OF FIRE          | CAUSE                                  | FIRE LOSS        | VALUE AT RISK      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|
| Mar 15, 2016                        | Vehicle Fire          | Undetermined                           | \$15,389         | \$15,389           |
| Mar 23, 2016                        | Outdoor Dumpster      | Undetermined                           | \$2,000          | \$2,000            |
| Mar 27, 2016                        | Structure Fire        | Ignorance of Hazard                    | \$1,500          | \$575,000          |
| Apr 20, 2016                        | Structure Fire        | Suspicious Not Identified              | \$200,000        | \$253,900          |
| May 23, 2016                        | Outdoor Dumpster      | Undetermined                           | \$2,000          | \$2,000            |
| May 27, 2016                        | Outdoor Miscellaneous | Undetermined                           | \$100            | \$5,000            |
| Jul 2, 2016                         | Vehicle Fire          | Undetermined                           | \$1,200          | \$1,200            |
| Aug 15, 2016                        | Structure Fire        | Improperly Discarded Smoker's Material | \$2,000          | \$700,000          |
| Oct 12, 2016                        | Vehicle Fire          | Undetermined                           | \$25,000         | \$25,000           |
| Dec 8, 2016                         | Structure Fire        | Over Fueling                           | \$3,600          | \$154,000          |
| Dec 22, 2016                        | Structure Fire        | Undetermined                           | \$30,000         | \$45,000           |
| <b>TOTAL FIRE LOSS FOR 2016</b>     |                       |  | <b>\$282,789</b> |                    |
| <b>TOTAL VALUE AT RISK FOR 2016</b> |                       |  |                  | <b>\$1,778,489</b> |

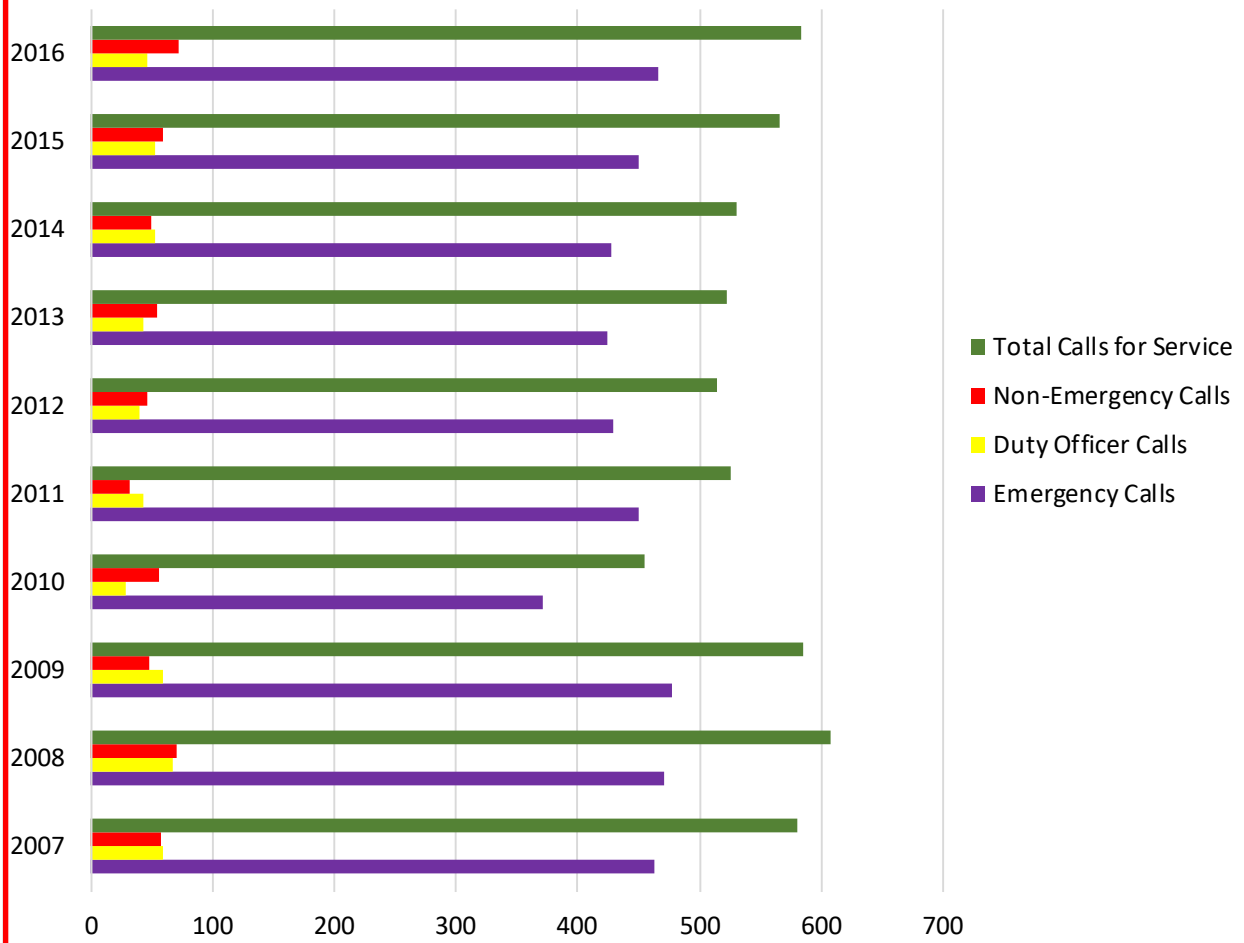


## 2016 TOTAL CALL SUMMARY



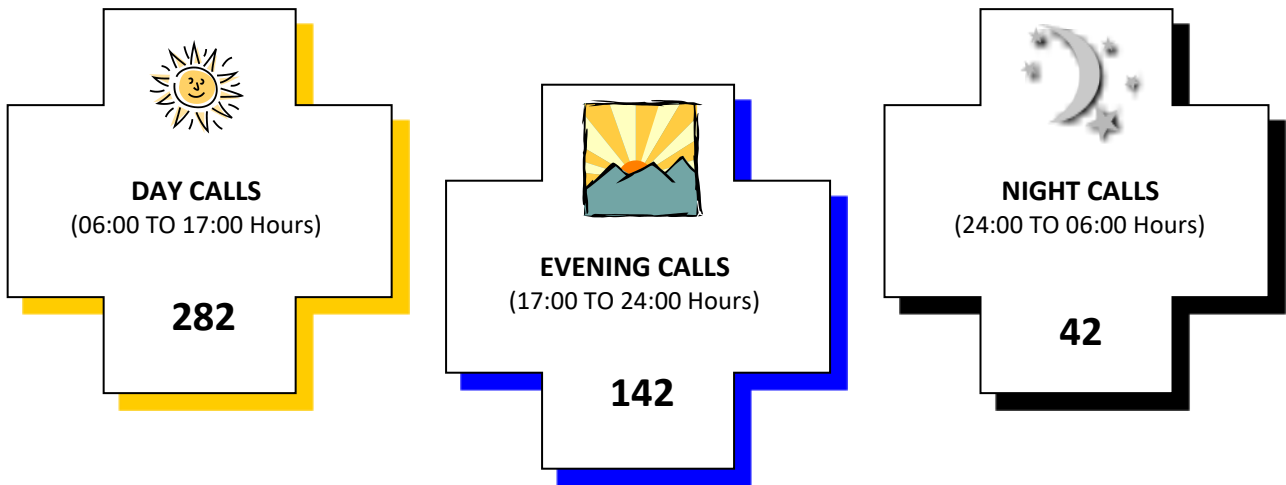
|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Emergency Calls                       | 466 |
| Non Emergency Calls                   | 72  |
| Duty Officer Calls                    | 46  |
| Total Requests for Emergency Services | 584 |

## TEN YEAR COMPARISON OF TOTAL CALL SUMMARY RESULTS





## EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUMMARY BY TIME PERIOD



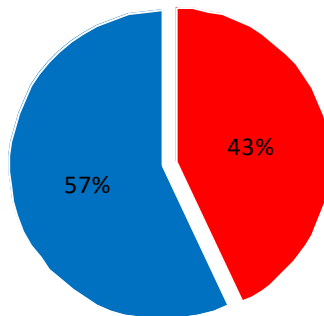
Note: Colwood Fire Rescue attended a total of 466 Emergency Calls in 2016

## MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER vs OTHER EMERGENCY

January 1st to December 31st, 2016

■ Medical First Responder

■ Emergency-Other



### 2016 ANNUAL SUMMARY

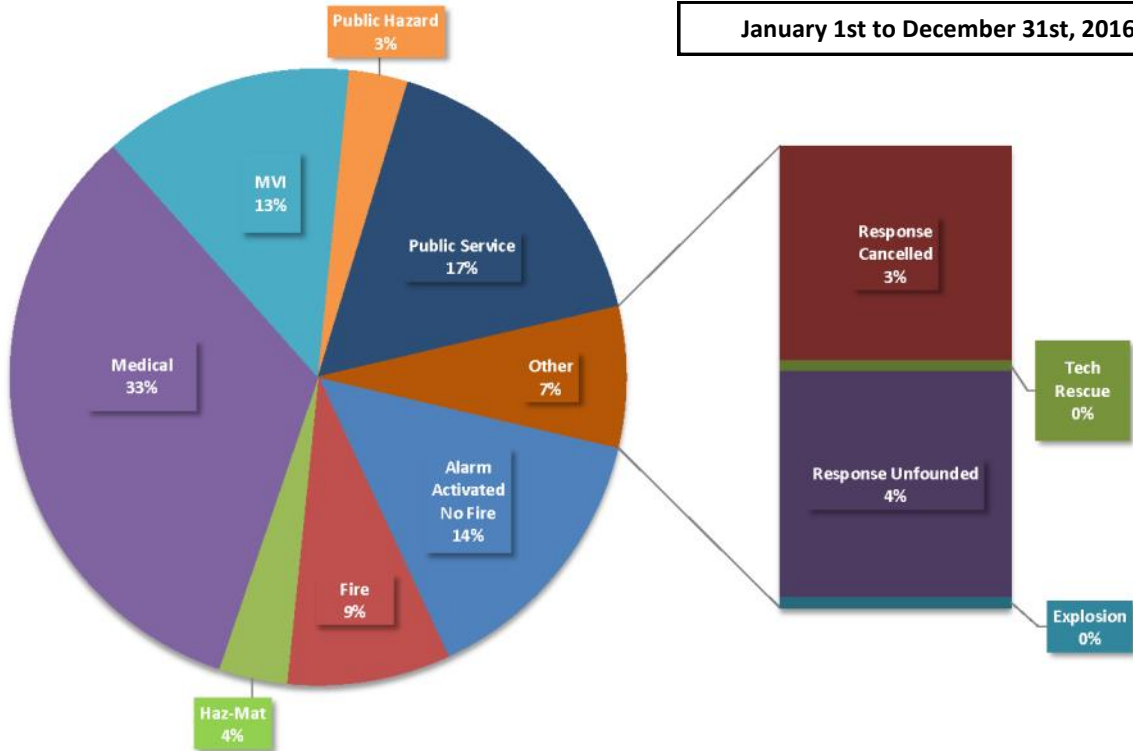
|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Emergency First Responder    | 200        |
| Emergency Other              | 266        |
| <b>Total Emergency Calls</b> | <b>466</b> |



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE ANALYSIS

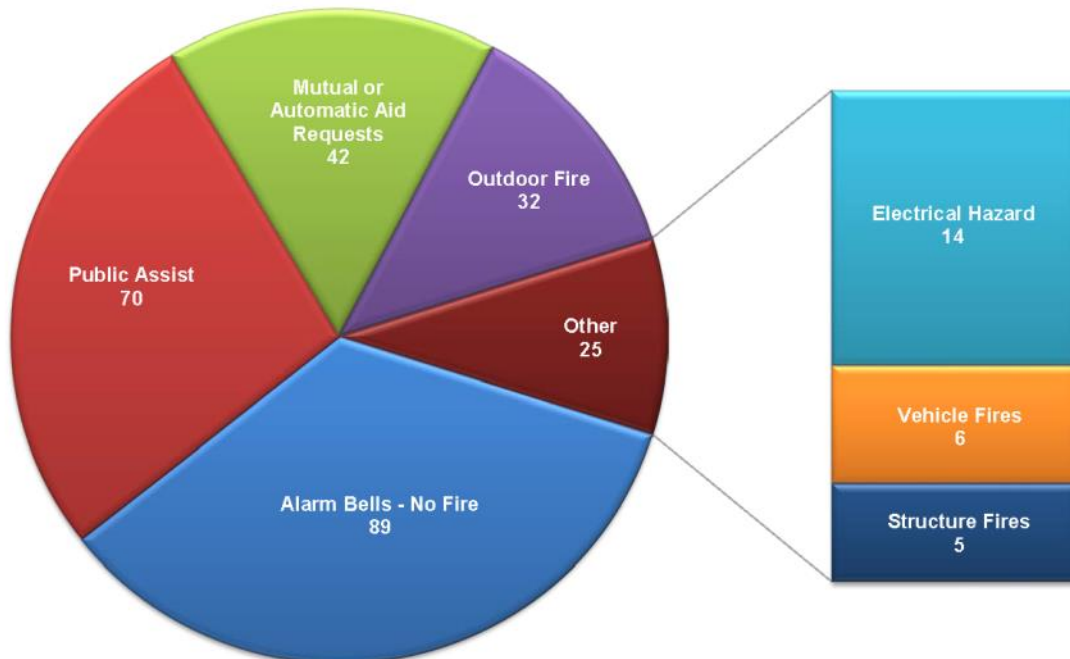
### BY MAJOR RESPONSE CATEGORY

January 1st to December 31st, 2016



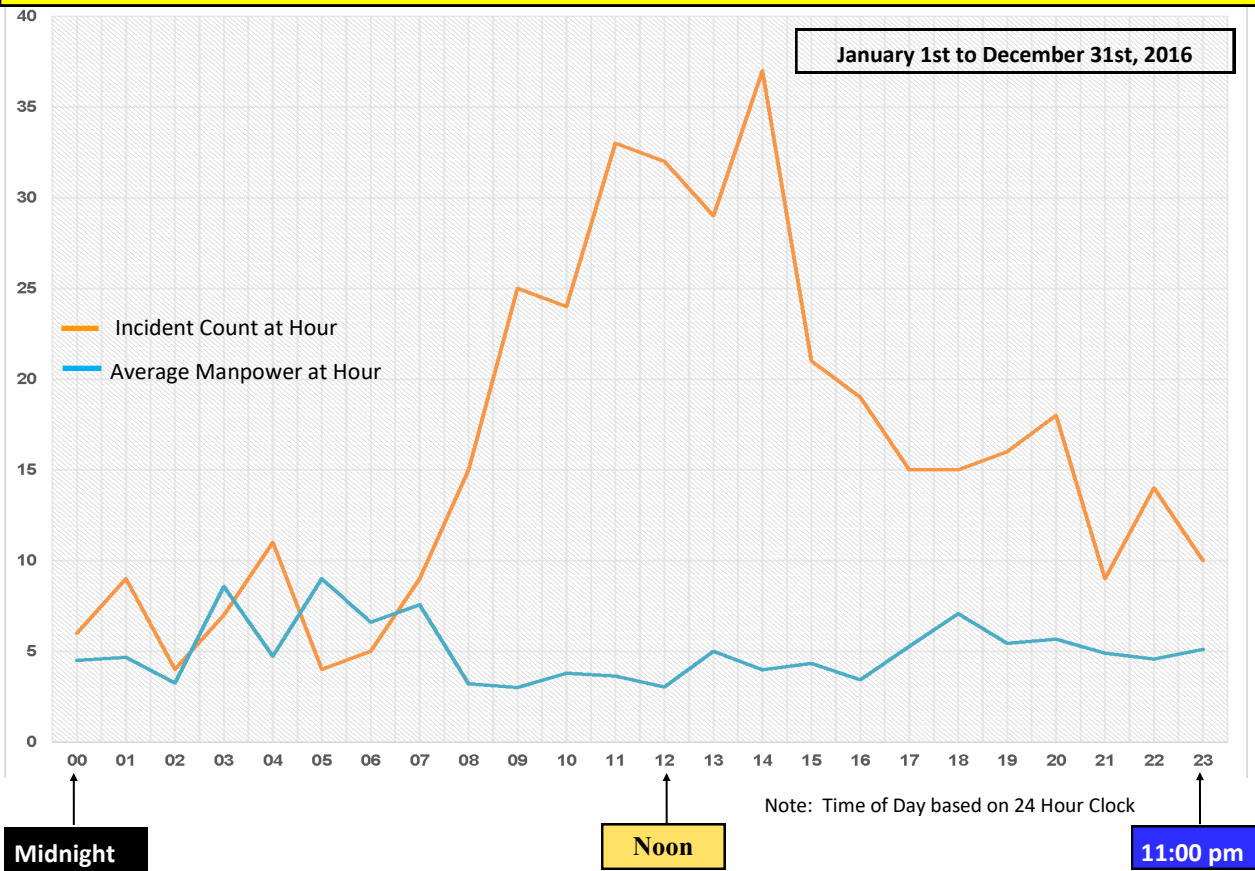
### BY FIRE TYPES AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RESPONSES

January 1st to December 31st, 2016

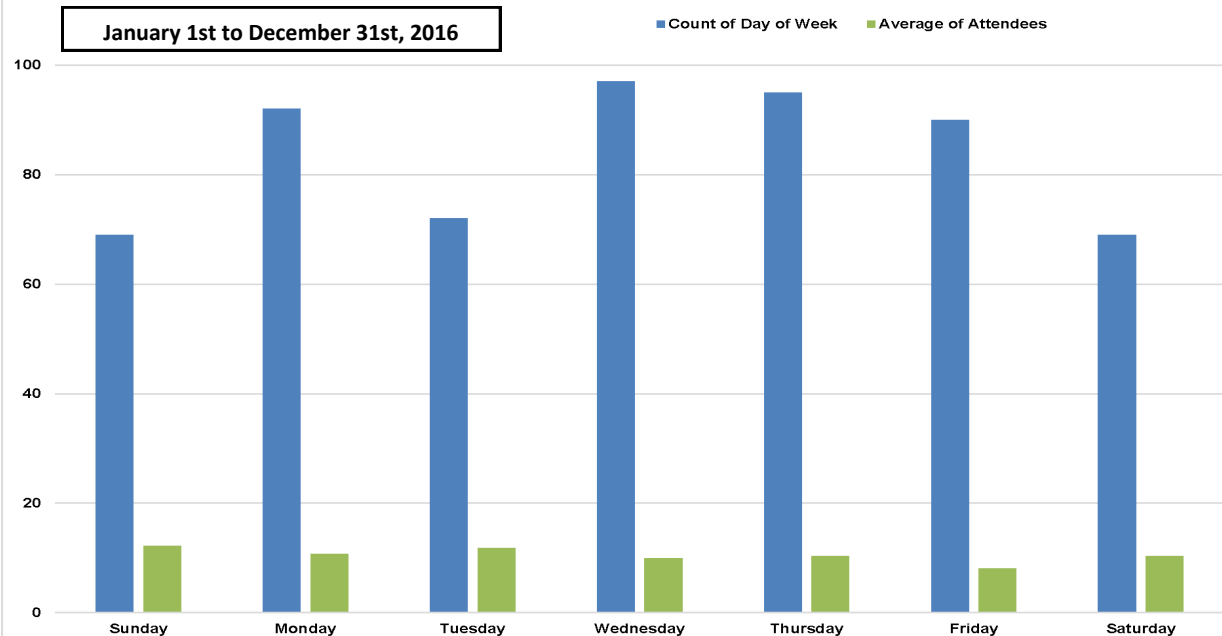


## EMERGENCY CALL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES

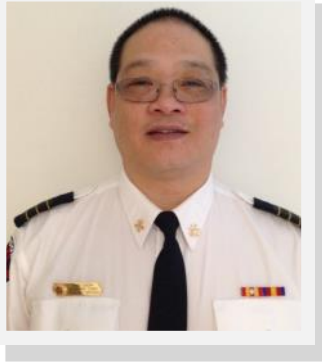
### EMERGENCY CALL COUNT FOR HOUR OF DAY WITH ATTENDANCE AVERAGES EACH HOUR



### EMERGENCY CALL COUNT FOR DAY OF WEEK WITH ATTENDANCE AVERAGES ON EACH DAY



## TRAINING AND OPERATIONS



*Greg Chow  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Training Officer*

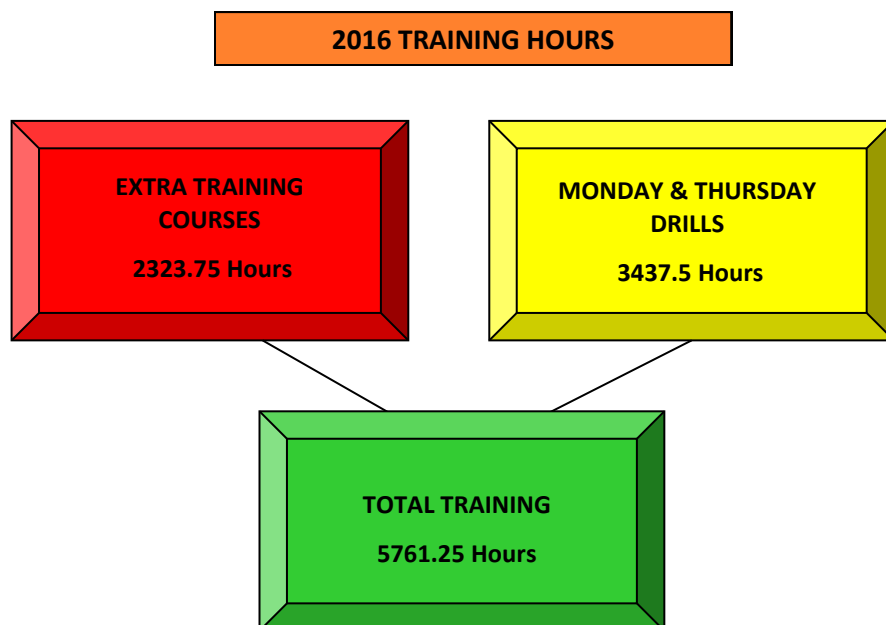
### TRAINING OVERVIEW AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2016, the members of the Colwood Fire Department continued to participate in training at the highest level. These dedicated individuals provided countless hours of their personal time towards training to be the best firefighters for the City of Colwood.

The total number of training hours for 2016 are down from 2015 (6,136) with a combined total of 5,761.25 hours. This total not only represents Monday/Thursday drill sessions, but also includes the extra courses that the fire service demands of today's firefighter. The decrease in training hours can be directly attributed to the last minute cancellation of some courses such as a Live Fire Training event in May and the Incident Command system course that usually takes place in November.

Training on Tower 57, our newest piece of apparatus, continues to progress as our members work diligently to gain experience on the operation of this elevated articulating platform. In fact, due to its capabilities, Tower 57 was the requested apparatus to assist firefighters in the retrieval of an injured worker on a roof top in a neighbouring municipality. This was later described by many as a "textbook" rescue.

Colwood members are fully engaged in the new "Playbook" requirements and I am pleased to report that the department now has thirteen (13) Team Leaders, fifteen (15) Interior Firefighters and eight (8) Exterior Level Firefighters.



## TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

The Justice Institute of British Columbia Maple Ridge facility continues to be our primary site for Live Fire certified training sessions. This valuable training provides firefighters with confidence and education as well as a safe working environment to develop fire tactics around fire suppression, all within a “live fire” setting.



In addition to this training, the time spent with fellow firefighters continues to build on the camaraderie within our membership. We are fortunate to also have access to the Otter Point facility to train locally. This year, the Colwood Fire Department rented this facility and hosted a Live Fire training session exclusively for Colwood firefighters. Our members were given the opportunity to work together and fine tune their skills, creating a stronger bond within the department. The Training Division will continue to build on this momentum and future training dates at the Otter Point facility are scheduled for 2017.

I am proud to report that eight of our firefighters completed their NFPA 1001 Professional Qualifications for Firefighter I & II in 2016 and were presented with their certificates at the annual appreciation banquet in November. At the same time four members were presented with their Fire Officer Level 1 and two members were presented with their Fire Officer Level II certificates.

The Driver Training program also remains a priority as there is always a need to have as many certified drivers and pump operators as possible. In order to successfully complete the driver program, firefighters are required to successfully complete their air brakes endorsement and class 3 driver's license.

### SUMMARY OF AVERAGE FIREFIGHTER ATTENDANCE



| Year | Emergency Calls | Training Mon. or Thurs. |
|------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 2016 | 32%             | 98%                     |
| 2015 | 32%             | 93%                     |
| 2014 | 35%             | 95%                     |
| 2013 | 35%             | 92%                     |
| 2012 | 38%             | 96%                     |
| 2011 | 32%             | 92%                     |
| 2010 | 33%             | 89%                     |
| 2009 | 32%             | 93%                     |
| 2008 | 30%             | 82%                     |
| 2007 | 32%             | 87%                     |
| 2006 | 35%             | 93%                     |



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## TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

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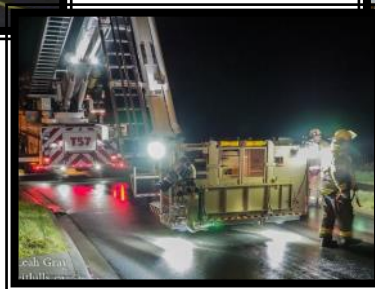
Many hours have been spent by individuals ensuring that they are knowledgeable and competent in the safe operation of the fire apparatus as well as having a good knowledge of the road network within the City. Additional training sessions were scheduled to include the service vehicles to ensure our members are appropriately trained. The firefighters have continually dedicated time towards achieving this level of competency. One member completed the Safe Operation of a Fire Apparatus course held in Victoria. Additional Colwood firefighters were scheduled to complete this course late in 2016, however there was insufficient interest to feasibly hold the course.

In the summer of 2015, the Justice Institute of BC advised all fire departments in British Columbia that they would be cancelling the First Responder program effective March 31, 2016. This prompted the Training Division to seek out a new training partner for our First Responder Program. In 2016, Colwood Fire elected to transition to the Canadian Red Cross First Responder program, which is a nationally recognized program. I am pleased to report that the Training Division successfully recertified five (5) instructor/evaluators, eight (8) first responders and four (4) of our newest firefighters achieved their initial certification.

Since the adoption of the OFC playbook requirements for training in 2016, Colwood Fire continues to work towards the interior firefighter designation. The additional workload has placed higher expectations on our volunteer members as more training hours are now required in order for these members to obtain and maintain their high level firefighting skills.

Overall, I am very satisfied with the dedication the members have put towards training in 2016. The statistics reveal the time and effort they have all committed to be valuable firefighters for the City of Colwood.

**"Being a Volunteer Firefighter is a lifestyle, not a hobby."**



## TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

### 2016 COURSES AND SEMINARS ATTENDED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| PUMPS & PUMPING PRACTICES EXTRA TRAINING                      | 8 Members     |
| DRIVER TRAINING & FAMILIARIZATION                             | 12 Members    |
| AUTO EXTRICATION TEAM TRAINING                                | 14 Members    |
| EMRG-1610 INTRODUCTION TO RECEPTION CENTRES                   | 1 Admin Staff |
| INCIDENT COMMAND-LEVEL 1 & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS-LEVEL 1       | 2 Members     |
| GAS DETECTOR TRAINING   | 3 Members     |
| W.H.M.I.S. 2015   | 1 Member      |
| REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAM MEETINGS & REGIONAL TEAM TRAINING EVENTS | 10 Members    |
| EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE EXERCISE                          | 2 Admin Staff |
| FOAM TRAILER TRAINING   | 3 Members     |
| EMRG-1615 REGISTRATION & REFFERALS                            | 1 Admin Staff |
| THERMAL IMAGING TRAINING                                      | 2 Members     |
| FIRE INSPECTOR II COURSE                                      | 1 Member      |
| PEER TO PEER WORKSHOP (CISM)                                  | 2 Members     |
| LIVE FIRE TRAINING (OTTER POINT)                              | 17 Members    |
| HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS COURSE                         | 9 Members     |
| BCFPOA CONFERENCE   | 1 Member      |
| EMRG-1681 ESS DIRECTOR  | 1 Admin Staff |
| FIRE-1113 FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP I & II                         | 2 Members     |
| LIVE FIRE I   | 2 Members     |
| FIRST RESPONDER PRE-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS                        | 7 Members     |
| SUPPLIED AIR & PUMP TRAINING                                  | 4 Members     |
| BCTOA CONFERENCE  | 3 Members     |

## TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| FIRST RESPONDER RECERTIFICATION                       | 8 Members                  |
| SCBA MSA G1 REVIEW                                    | 5 Members                  |
| SAFE OPERATION OF FIRE APPARATUS (SOFA)               | 6 Members                  |
| WILDLAND SIMULATION & PRESENTATION                    | 2 Members                  |
| SafeTALK SUICIDE ALERTNESS                            | 4 Members                  |
| RED CROSS INSTRUCTOR CROSSOVER COURSE                 | 5 Members                  |
| FIRE-1123 FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP II                     | 1 Member                   |
| NALOXONE TRAIN THE TRAINER                            | 3 Members                  |
| TOWER 57 TRAINING                                     | 13 Members                 |
| TABFUSION TRAINING                                    | 1 Admin Staff              |
| AKRON V-MUX TRAINING                                  | 2 Members                  |
| MODULE 3 PRACTICAL (LADDERS, ROPES, KNOTS & AUTO EX.) | 19 Members                 |
| EMERGENCY SCENE MANAGEMENT I                          | 1 Member                   |
| EMRG-1136 COMMUNITY EVACUATIONS                       | 1 Admin Staff              |
| RESPECTFUL CONDUCT IN THE WORKPLACE                   | 5 Members<br>2 Admin Staff |
| HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS COURSE                  | 1 Member                   |
| SPP-WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING COURSE                      | 3 Members                  |
| PEDIATRICS & OBSTETRICS                               | 4 Members                  |
| MODULE 2 PRACTICAL                                    | 2 Members                  |
| FIRE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION II                        | 1 Member                   |
| MODULE 5 PRACTICAL                                    | 10 Members                 |
| INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICERS COURSE                       | 6 Members                  |
| FIRE DYNAMICS   | 10 Members                 |
| LIVE FIRE II  | 10 Members                 |
| LOW/MID/HIGH RISE TRAINING                            | 5 Members                  |



Canadian Red Cross





## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION



*Bryan Erwin, Lieutenant  
Fire Inspector  
Acting Operations Officer*

It is the Fire Prevention Division's purpose to provide two major functions to the City of Colwood as part of its core services; to protect its citizens and property. The first is the application of appropriate safety legislation through property inspection and the second is to conduct fire and life safety education sessions throughout our community. Staff continue to deliver a professional and customer service based approach to these important functions of the Fire Department.

### ***Commercial and Public Building Inspection Program:***

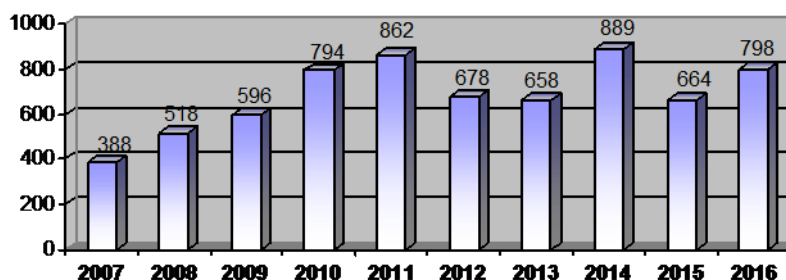
One of the primary focuses for the Fire Prevention Division is to the business community through a structured platform of commercial and public building safety inspections. These inspections are to ensure the overall fire and life safety to each and every occupant who may work or live within the City. This is achieved primarily through an education process, followed by enforcement of any appropriate federal, provincial and municipal regulations or bylaws.

The Fire Department's inspectors conduct on-site field inspections to identify any concerns or deficiencies within an occupancy to ensure that the safety measures set forth by government legislation, the British Columbia Fire Code, and local bylaws meet compliance. If items of concern are identified, a follow-up inspection will be conducted to ensure corrective action has been taken to correct the deficiency. In the end, it is the close working relationship with the business community, property owners and managers that help reduce the dangers to life and property within the City.



In 2016, a total of 798 fire and life safety inspections were conducted, which is a 20% increase from the total number of inspections conducted in the previous year. This includes all regular fire and life safety inspections, re-inspections to ensure compliance, new business inspections (commercial and residential), as well as special event applications. This increase was in direct relation to a request from the Department of National Defense to reschedule their 2015 fire inspections to early 2016, combined with the previously scheduled 2016 inspections conducted in the later part of the year, which increased our overall output by 65 plus inspections.

### **TOTAL FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED**



## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

|      | Regular Inspections | Re Inspections | New Business Inspections | Special Events | Annual Total |
|------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2007 | 388                 | 310            | 58                       | 20             | 388          |
| 2008 | 223                 | 104            | 115                      | 75             | 518          |
| 2009 | 242                 | 231            | 65                       | 58             | 596          |
| 2010 | 384                 | 261            | 97                       | 52             | 794          |
| 2011 | 417                 | 323            | 81                       | 41             | 862          |
| 2012 | 360                 | 204            | 80                       | 34             | 678          |
| 2013 | 394                 | 175            | 49                       | 40             | 658          |
| 2014 | 468                 | 278            | 75                       | 68             | 889          |
| 2015 | 359                 | 160            | 79                       | 56             | 664          |
| 2016 | 474                 | 199            | 84                       | 41             | 798          |

In addition to inspections, the Fire Prevention Division has expanded the capabilities of the existing electronic inspection program by allowing inspectors to have the ability to access countless resources at their fingertips. All electronic mobile devices have been pre-loaded with various codes, regulations and bylaws that aid inspectors when conducting field inspections. Furthermore, fire department personnel have the ability to verify and update critical pre-fire plan information in the field. These pre-fire plans are a valuable tool for the Fire Department's emergency response when responding to fire alarm bells, structure fires or other emergencies in our commercial or residential structures.

### ***Special Events:***

With all special events, it is the foundation of the Fire Prevention Division to find compliance through strong working relationships with event organizers and facility providers operating within the City of Colwood. This is demonstrated through an organized professional approach by fire inspectors as part of the City's special event permit application process. Fire Inspectors complete full application reviews along with field inspections for the large scale events to ensure compliance of all federal, provincial and local bylaws. This approach ensures public safety is the highest priority for any special event.

**Remember!**



### ***Fire Prevention and Education Program:***



In 2016, fire prevention continued to be the main focus for department staff and volunteer members in the delivery of public education initiatives to an audience of 7,000 people across 73 events. Station tours and visits from local interest groups, pre-schools and daycares remain our primary focus group for educational programs.

We also recognized a significant milestone in our public education initiatives with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Western Communities Fire Safety Exposition. This expo is intended to teach fire and personal safety to all grade four students within School District 62. It is delivered as a collaborative event between Colwood, Langford, Metchosis and Sooke fire departments in addition to other emergency service

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

agencies including the Westshore RCMP. This year's milestone was marked by the presence of the Province of British Columbia's Lieutenant Governor, local area Fire Chiefs and other local dignitaries to kick off the event. The total attendance for this two-day event was 890 students along with 70 teachers.

### 2016 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND ATTENDANCE

| Event Category  | No of Events | Adults | Children | Total Attendees |
|---|--------------|--------|----------|-----------------|
| <b>STATION TOURS</b><br>Daycare/Preschool Groups, Local Interest Groups,<br>General Public Drop-ins                         | 43           | 167    | 462      | 629             |
| <b>FIRE DRILLS</b><br>SD 62 Schools, Other Buildings  | 5            | 190    | 3067     | 3257            |
| <b>PRESENTATIONS</b><br>SD 62 Schools<br>Local Interest Groups  | 12           | 132    | 305      | 437             |
| <b>RESTORATIVE JUSTICE</b><br>Junior Fire Setters (Young Offenders)   | 0            | 0      | 0        | 0               |
| <b>PUBLIC SAFETY EVENTS</b><br>Fire Safety Expo, Fire Department Open House,<br>Emergency Preparedness Day, Static Displays | 5            | 860    | 1850     | 2710            |
| <b>FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING</b><br>Family Groups, Workplace Groups, Other Local Interest Groups                           | 8            | 69     | 1        | 70              |
| <b>ANNUAL TOTALS FOR 2016</b>   | 73           | 1418   | 5685     | 7103            |

The Colwood Fire Department Annual Open House event was again held in the month of June and offered an opportunity for the residents to meet their local firefighters, view the emergency response equipment, ride in a fire truck and browse our many other static displays and educational booths. Our local Emergency Support Services group were also on hand to provide information on Emergency Preparedness and the many valuable services that their volunteer group provides to the City of Colwood. Total attendance at the Open House in June of 2016 was estimated at a little over 500 people.



## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

### *Fire Investigation: Cause and Origin*

Under the Fire Services Act, the Fire Department is responsible to conduct and report the cause and origin of all fires to the British Columbia Office of the Fire Commissioner. This is an additional area of responsibility that the Fire Prevention Division oversees. In 2016, the department investigated 11 reported fires that resulted in a total property loss of \$282,789 dollars in properties with a combined value of \$1,778,489 dollars. *See Page 6 for more information.*



These fire investigations were conducted in the field through physical gathering of evidence, collection of records and meticulous documentation. Our highly trained and experienced career fire investigators pride themselves in detailed record management and a professional approach when working with outside agencies.

In the end, the Fire Prevention Division is committed to keeping the community safe, through strong positive relationships, continued education and a high level of professionalism. Our focus to the commercial industry has once again demonstrated an excellent platform to achieve compliance. This combined with our ongoing emphasis to fire and life safety education will continue to ensure public safety within the community.

Lieutenant Bryan Erwin  
Fire Inspector  
Acting Operations Officer



## 2016 FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS & SPECIFICATIONS



**COMMAND 55**

### **2013 Chevrolet Tahoe Half Ton - 4X4**

Placed in service in late 2013, this vehicle responds to a majority of emergency calls and is utilized as the Duty Officer vehicle for after hours call outs. It is the Mobile Command post for all major incidents, and is equipped with a mobile computer data terminal.

**INSPECTION 53**

### **2010 Ford Escape**

As the Fire Department's first eco-friendly hybrid vehicle, Inspection 53 is assigned exclusively to the Fire Prevention Division for their routine and daily transportation needs. This vehicle is well suited for its' function and is also well equipped to attend any emergency incident as a "first on scene" response vehicle when being used by personnel for Fire Inspections.



**TRUCK 50**

### **2001 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup**

This vehicle is in good operating condition, and is used by both the Fire Inspection and Administration Division for the Department. It is the Fire Chief's response vehicle for night calls. Truck 50 is scheduled for replacement in 2017.





## 2016 FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS & SPECIFICATIONS



**TRUCK 54**

### **2009 Ford F450 Crew Cab 4x4 With Service Box & Tow Package**

This vehicle is in excellent operating condition and is used to pull our Marine Unit and Foam Trailer. It is also used to transport a crew of four firefighters to any emergency scene should additional manpower be required.

**ENGINE 51**

This vehicle is the frontline, second out engine for the department. It is in good operating condition and meets most current applicable standards for modern fire apparatus. It is maintained in good operating condition to ensure NFPA compliance. This vehicle has now completed over 80% of its' service life expectancy and is beginning to show some wear and tear. Engine 51 passed its annual pump test and motor vehicle inspections, however due to its age it has been placed in a second response role until its' replacement in 2017.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

Total Length: 28'9"      Total Height: 9'3"  
Medium Cab Seats 6 Firefighters  
Rear Mount 1500 Igpm Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Water Tank  
20 Gallons Class B Foam  
10 Gallons Class A Foam  
1000' of 4" Hi-Volume Hose  
800' of 2.5" Hose  
Honda 6500 Watt Water Cooled Generator  
2 X 1500 Watt Telescoping Lights



### **1995 Spartan Custom Built by Anderson Engineering**

## 2016 FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS & SPECIFICATIONS

### **ENGINE 52**

This vehicle is the frontline, first out engine for the department and is in excellent condition.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

Total Length: 31'6" Total Height: 9'6"  
Seats 6 Firefighters  
Rear Mount 1750 lpgm Hale Pump  
500 Gallon Water Tank  
Class A & B Foam System  
1000' of 4" Hi-Volume Hose  
Harrison 15 Watt Hydraulic Generator  
4500 Watt Command Light/Light Tower



**2012 Spartan  
Custom Built by Hub Manufacturing**

### **GATOR UNIT**



**2008 John Deere ATV**

Our newest unit, the "Gator" is a refurbished ATV repurposed as a Bush Fire Unit. It has the capacity to carry two firefighters as well as a 75 gallon water tank and 5 gallon foam tank. This unit will allow improved access to suppress small fires that may occur within the wooded lands of Royal Roads University as well as some of the hard to reach areas along the beach and foreshore of Esquimalt Lagoon.

## 2016 FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS & SPECIFICATIONS



### **TOWER 57**

In full service, our one of a kind tower apparatus continues to wow onlookers with its technical abilities and 115 foot high articulating boom. Training is ongoing as we become more familiar with the apparatus and its capabilities.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

2014 Rosenbauer  
115' T-Rex - Articulating Aerial Platform  
Carries 6 Firefighters

- 1750 lgpm Hale 8fgr Pump
- 1250 lgpm TFT Monsoon Monitor on the Platform
- 250 Imperial Gallon Tank
- 600' of 4" Hi-Volume Hose
- 350' of 1.75" Leader Line

### **RESCUE 56**

Although starting to show its age, this vehicle remains in very good condition. Rescue 56 is the "workhorse" of the Colwood Fire Department. It is superior in design and performance and has many technological features that make it a valuable multipurpose vehicle suiting a variety of rescue and fire suppression support needs. This apparatus is first to respond to all rescue, motor vehicle incidents and medical aid calls in the City and continues to meet all requirements of the Department. This vehicle is scheduled for replacement in 2022.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

2002 - Spartan Metro Star Rescue Body  
Seats 6 Firefighters  
Carries Equipment for:

- Auto Extrication
- Confined Space Rescue
- First Response (Medical Aid)
- Electrical Generation Unit & Lighting
- Fire Support Equipment



### **2002 Spartan Metro Star**



## 2016 FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS & SPECIFICATIONS

### **TANKER 58**

New to the Colwood Fire Department in 2009, this custom built fire engine/tanker is in excellent operating condition.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

Medium 4 Door, 6 Person Cab  
1,640 Igpm Quick Dump Tank  
Fully Certified 1,500 Igpm Pump  
Foam System and Class A Concentrate  
1,000' of Supply Hose  
800' of 2.5" Hose  
35 Foot Ladder on Auto Carrier  
Certifiable Water Tank for Potable Water



**2009 Spartan Metro Star  
Engine/Tanker**

### **FOAM UNIT**

This unit was refurbished in 2016 by retired Captain Frank Gale.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Holds 500 gallons of Class B Foam  
LED Lighting  
1,250 Igpm Akron Brass remote control monitor  
5,000 W Honda Generator powering  
Two Halogen Scene Lights  
150 feet of 2.5" attack hose  
150-feet of 1.75" attack hose



**1973 Big Brother Foam Trailer**

### **MARINE UNIT**

This equipment was purchased in 2005 with proceeds raised by Fire Department Members during our Saving Hearts & Homes Fundraising Campaign. The Marine Unit includes:

1 - 3 Person Sea-Doo Jet Drive  
1 - 10 Foot Zodiac Boat & Outboard Motor  
4 Cold Water Emersion Suits

All components of this unit are in good operating condition.



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## **AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY**

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I may not ~~remember~~ remember much  
from ~~that~~ that day but I will never  
forget what you guys did for  
me and my friend. -Eric (The kid  
who kept calling 911)

\*\*\*\*\* Thanks!

We were so fortunate  
to have people who  
care!!

Thankyou

Danielle

or  
Gary

Preston.

## Kids gain valuable life skills



Colwood firefighter  
Scott Abrahamson  
helps Sangster  
elementary student  
Mia Dayson operate  
a fire extinguisher at  
the Safety Expo at  
Metchosin fire hall  
last week.

Rick Stiebel/  
News Gazette staff





*Photo contributed*

**Firefighter John Ruff practices his swing in anticipation of the Colwood Volunteer Firefighters Association golf tournament this fall. The event is a fundraiser for the association's scholarship fund, which to date has awarded more than \$10,000 to local students.**



**Volunteer Firefighters Association**

## Local grads receive a leg up for studies

Firefighters golf tourney raises cash for scholarships

Katherine Engqvist  
*News Gazette staff*

Colwood's volunteer firefighters are hosting their 20th annual fundraiser golf tournament this fall, and leading up to the big event they are looking to the West Shore community to support students.

"After eight years of raising funds to refurbish our antique fire engine, which is on display in our museum, we moved to form a scholarship fund five years ago," said firefighter John Ruff, tournament organizer for 13 years.

Proceeds from the Sept. 18 tournament at Olympic View Golf Club go to the fund, which to date has raised more than \$20,000 and handed out roughly \$10,000 to local students.

"We as an association wanted to give back to the community and what better way than to help some students get a good start on their post-secondary education," Ruff said.

To help boost that fund, the association is turning to the community for help. "As usual, we are out knocking on doors to see if we can drum up some support from local businesses to sponsor holes for \$125," Ruff said, noting they are also hoping to collect prizes for the big event.

The cost to play is \$120 per person or \$480 for a team of four, which includes green fees, carts, dinner at the Colwood Fire Hall and a chance to win some great prizes.

"If you can't put a group together I'm always looking for singles to fill some groups," Ruff added.

The event begins with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. on the Sunday. If you're interested in hitting the links or sponsoring a hole, you can pick up more information at the fire hall, 3215 Metchosin Rd., by calling 250-478-8321, or by emailing Ruff at [jmruff@yahoo.ca](mailto:jmruff@yahoo.ca).

[katie@goldstreamgazette.com](mailto:katie@goldstreamgazette.com)





## All fired up

(From top) The Holmwood family, Angus, left, 5, Mandy, Brian and Jude, 2, relax after enjoying a hot dog lunch on the grass in front of retired pumper truck 53 during the Colwood Fire Department's open house Sunday. Callum Searle, 6 (left) and brother Aidan, 4, are decked out in their mini turnout gear in front of an antique fire truck. And, volunteer firefighter Dean Gaschermann describes the uses and benefits of having a fire extinguisher in your home.

*Photos by Don Descoteau/News Gazette staff*





## Fire practice on target

Volunteer firefighter Paul Clarke assists Colwood resident Ashton Webb, 7, with practising some fire hose target work at a pair of "burning" targets (not shown), while Olivier Chiasson, 10, waits his turn. The action came Sunday at the Colwood Fire Department's open house, where visitors could hear about what firefighters do, learn some home fire protection techniques, go for a ride in a fire truck, grab a snack and check out the department's historical displays.





## AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

City of Colwood shared Suzanne Sagmeister's photo.  
21 hrs

A touching story and a note of thanks to Colwood Firefighter Craig Twidale. Sincere thanks to Suzanne Sagmeister for your compassionate actions to care for your neighbour, and for taking the time to post this positive message which stands out among the many disheartening stories we hear these days.



Our neighbour was feeling ill today and had some symptoms that prompted us to make the decision that I should drive her to the hospital. We live in a rural area and while my neighbour and I were enroute, I became more concerned for her wellbeing and less confident that I was doing the safest thing for this person we adore. I pulled into a firehall that was on the way and quickly found some firemen that were working around back. When I stopped the vehicle and got out, one approached me. As soon as I expressed my concerns he jumped into action (although saying jumped seems like the wrong thing to say as it was so calm, almost graceful). He was requesting equipment and assistance from the team and ultimately 'ALS' (Advanced Life Support), asking us the questions he needed answers to, creating order at the scene all the things he was trained for. And, as he did all this, he instinctually leaned into the window to embrace the hands of a woman he had met a mere 30 seconds earlier. This wasn't something you could really be 'trained' for. This was something we were born with, this was simply a human loving his fellow human.

- Suzanne

PS

Thank you to Craig, Colwood, BC Fire Rescue and all of those who day in and day out prove that kindness and compassion are still alive and well in our world. And 'Lucy', I'm so glad you're doing okay.

Suzanne Sagmeister with Suzanne Sagmeister in Colwood, British Columbia  
July 19 at 9:54pm ·



Capt. Frank Gale, who first joined the Colwood Fire Department as a volunteer in 1975, has announced he will retire on Oct. 31 of this year. He has been a career firefighter since 1996, specializing in machinery. —  
*image credit: Joel Tansey/News Gazette staff*

## Scrutinizing power bill pays off at hall

Colwood Fire Rescue staffer finds savings

Katherine Engqvist  
*News Gazette staff*

The Colwood Fire Department is looking at a savings of roughly \$1,500 a year in energy costs thanks the hard work of one individual.

Joanne Topping, the emergency services support co-ordinator at Colwood Fire Rescue, doesn't have a lot – if any – free time in her day. But that didn't stop her from trying to find ways to make the fire hall more efficient. While she turns lights and computers off behind others, setting her sights on even bigger cost saving measures has started to add up in savings for the city.

"I've managed to cut my bill at home quite significantly," she said. "If you can do it at home, you can do it here ... We forget about the obvious."

After looking at the hall's hydro bills, paired with the high replacement costs of T12 fluorescent lamps, and after receiving a cold call from a B.C. Hydro representative, Topping decided something had to be done.

"There's people that will do the legwork for you, you just have to initiate the process," she said. Working with a Hydro staffer who also recommended a number of contractors, she helped the hall lower its energy costs through the replacement of more than 60 halogen light bulbs and a dozen T12 fluorescent lamps with LED bulbs.

While the fire hall was renovated roughly 10 years ago, there are still areas that could use updating, she noted. "We still have the old half of the building." That section has sometimes been overlooked and Topping said a few fixtures still need to be replaced. Most of those are on the exterior of the building, or in the museum. "I hope to maybe do



**Joanne Topping**

some of that replacement on our own," she said, pointing a further cost-saving measure.

A number of lights at the fire hall are motion-activated or on timers, although some have to be left on to help facilitate volunteers coming and going at all hours of the day.

It's especially important that those lights are as energy efficient as possible, she said, adding that even small measures, such as replacing some of the T12 fluorescent lamps with T8s,

has made a difference.

Colwood Coun. Cynthia Day, chair of the City's protective services committee, said, "it's interesting ... it's just that common-sense approach." The steps Topping has taken are "all things that many of us would do in our daily lives, but don't look at in a big workplace."

In this case, Day said, all of the work Topping did allowed the fire department to move straight into a plan of action. "When Joanne and others take that leadership step and are recognized for it, they energize others to take those steps. The firehall has been a great leader in that way."

Day's hope is that others will follow the department's lead to make their own businesses and workplaces more energy efficient. "The whole city has been working towards that ... It really takes those individuals that own it."

Topping noted that thanks to the hard work of firefighter Scott Abrahamson and many others, Colwood Fire Rescue received gold certification in the Vancouver Island Green Business Certification Program in 2014. Last year they were only one criteria area short of achieving the top-rated "green" certification.

"These kinds of initiatives are always ongoing," she said. "We are very aware of that here and that's thanks to the City."

*katie@goldstreamgazette.com*



