

# SOOKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECRUIT NEWSLETTER

March 30, 2019

## 2019 RECRUIT CLASS MILESTONES

03/10 – Exterior Fire Fighter  
Certification

05/11 – Interior Fire Fighter  
Certification

05/12 – Probationary Fire  
Fighter Status – begin  
attending emergency calls

06/20\* – SFFA Recruit  
Dinner

11/02\* – Completion of  
probationary period

\*Approximate date

## 2019 RECRUIT CLASS COMPLETES EXTERIOR FIRE FIGHTER CERTIFICATION

Our 2019 Recruit Class continues to progress. On March 10, all members completed the practical and written components of their Exterior Firefighter certification. This included a day of vehicle, dumpster and propane tank fire simulations at the Otter Point Training Center – their first opportunity to feel some heat! The recruits continue their training with Interior Firefighter skills, culminating in two days of practical evolutions fighting structural fires as they progress towards graduation in May.



*February 17 Commercial Structure Fire*

## SOOKE FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE FULLY-INVOLVED COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRE

In the late afternoon of February 17, Sooke firefighters responded to a commercial structure fire in the Saseenos area. On arrival, the structure was heavily involved and a defensive strategy was adopted, ensuring adjacent structures were protected and damage was limited to the building of origin. Assisted by mutual aid departments from Metchosin, East Sooke, and Otter Point, and an excavator from a local operator, crews worked for many hours – eventually placing all apparatus back in service in the early morning hours on February 18. Investigations, in cooperation with insurance agencies and RCMP, continued for several days afterwards.



*Firefighter Ben Temple shows his support on Pink Shirt Day, February 27.*

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*Firefighters Dixon and Sutherland practice their “tiny town” emergency scene management skills*

## **SOOKE FIRE FIGHTERS WEAR PINK TO “SAY NO TO BULLYING”**

February 27 marked International Pink Shirt Day – a global movement against bullying, begun in Canada in 2007. Sooke Fire Fighters proudly showed their support for the initiative, donning pink components of their uniforms in an effort to raise awareness of bullying that takes place in our schools, homes, workplaces, and online. Our staff also wear pink during the month of October each year, showing support for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Sooke Firefighters IAFF 4841 plans to produce unique new pink shirts in 2019, for sale to the public and members of the department. Watch for an announcement coming soon!

## **SOOKE FIRE ADDING NEW CAREER STAFF POSITION**

The promotion of Assistant Chief Matt Barney, to the Deputy Chief position, triggered the addition of a new firefighter to the career staff contingent at Sooke Fire Rescue Department. An internal posting closed on March 8, and applicants are progressing through a very competitive process including physical evaluations, written testing, and a panel interview. We are blessed with an extremely high-quality volunteer corps, making for an exciting opportunity to add great value to the District of Sooke fire department roster. Anticipated start date is in early June – good luck to all the candidates!

## **NEW GENERATION OF INCIDENT COMMANDERS EMERGE**

Our up-and-coming class of future officers took a giant leap forward with their completion of the 6-day Emergency Scene Management 1 course in February. This course provides members enrolled in the Fire Officer 1 program the knowledge and practical skills to successfully manage single-family residential structure fire incidents, including development of an Incident Action Plan and maintenance of crew accountability throughout an incident. The course is a key component of the Fire Officer 1 program and a very important stepping stone towards effectively filling the Duty Officer and Company Officer roles. Congratulations to all who completed the course!

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## **SOOKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

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