

SOOKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECRUIT NEWSLETTER

July 26, 2019

EMERGENCY CALL VOLUME

2019 – 386*

2018 - 726

2017 - 847

2016 - 839

2015 - 795

*through July 15, 2019

SOOKE FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO MULTIPLE STRUCTURE FIRES IN FIRST WEEK OF JULY

It was a busy start to the month of July as Sooke firefighters responded to two separate residential structure fires. In the early morning hours of July 1, crews from Sooke, Metchosin, and Otter Point were called to a structure fire in the core where they encountered heavy fire at the front of the building. Unorthodox construction and renovation histories presented multiple challenges in cutting off fire spread and accessing some of the void spaces in the structure. Aggressive attack allowed crews to salvage property from some of the rear rooms of the residence, and several pets escaped the blaze. It was determined that improperly discarded smoking material was the most probable cause.



Just days later, during a weekly training night on July 4, crews were called to assist Otter Point Fire Department with a working fire in a mobile home park. Engine 1 and Engine 3 responded and provided RIT team and interior attack support for the operations. While the home sustained heavy damage, the residents were not home, and no firefighter injuries were sustained.





New Probationary Lieutenant Dixon

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SOOKE FIRE PROMOTES NEWEST LIEUTENANTS

Following a formal application process, Fire Chief Mount has announced the promotion, to rank of Lieutenant, of Scott Rear (Station 2) and Jason Dixon (Station 1). Both members will serve as Probationary Lieutenants for a period of six months, while beginning on-the-job training for the role, including readying themselves to fill the Duty Officer role in the near future. Both members have worked extremely hard to earn the experience and credentials required of the rank and will provide a new level of value to their respective platoons and the Department.

PAID-ON-CALL ERA BEGINS

In an effort to convey appreciation and to improve firefighter recognition and retention, Sooke Fire Rescue Department has moved to a Paid-On-Call remuneration system for non-career members. Beginning July 1, responding members will see hourly compensation, based on rank and qualifications, for a variety of emergency responses. Over the next 3 years, the system is slated to expand, eventually compensating members for their attendance at training events and weekly drill nights.

While volunteer members have been offered a small stipend for several years now, the new model brings the department in line with the majority of non-career halls in British Columbia, and the system will better reflect individual contribution and qualification.



Firefighter Glasgow shows a potential recruit the finer points of running the tools

RECRUIT OPEN HOUSE ENJOYS STRONG TURNOUT

June 23 saw Sooke Fire Rescue Department open its doors to prospective volunteers and interested community members. An opportunity to experience the skills and role of a firefighter was on tap. Attendees were able to breathe from SCBA while in mask and bunker gear, be lowered from the training tower in a simulated high-angle rope rescue, use the auto extrication tools, and even flow water from attack lines. FIST members were on hand to serve up hot dogs and cold drinks and families were welcome. Lots of applications were handed out, and we look forward to seeing a great number of applicants for the 2020 recruit class.

SOOKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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