

SOOKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECRUIT NEWSLETTER

January 14, 2021

2020 EMERGENCY CALL TYPES*

TOTAL CALLS: 625

ALL FIRES: 61

MVT'S: 73

MEDICAL CALLS: 287

ALARMS: 69

RESCUES: 15

HAZMAT: 16

OTHER: 104

*Unofficial statistics

NEW FRONTLINE ENGINE PLACED INTO SERVICE

The long-awaited arrival of our newest apparatus is here!

Engine 1 was officially placed into service on January 7, with the ceremonial transfer of water from the outgoing apparatus to the new engine by Deputy Chief Barney and Fire Fighter Sutherland. SFRD members were unable to attend the ceremony due to COVID-19 restrictions on gathering, but Captain McCrea made sure the event was recorded so everyone could watch.

Since arrival in late October 2020, the new apparatus has been tested, adjusted, and trained on in preparation for use. Many hours have been spent readying the details like cabinet layouts, radio installations, and hose load tests. Crews have spent countless hours training to know this new workhorse as well as they knew their old one.

Engine 1 made its maiden voyage on January 9 to an emergency medical call, crewed by Capt. McCrea, Lt. Hester, and FF Sutherland.

With the new apparatus moving into a frontline bay, the remainder of the fleet has experienced movement as well. The former Engine 1 (SK 204) is now in service at Station 2 as Engine 2. The former Engine 2 (SK 205) will return to Station 1 as the reserve engine and current Engine 3 will be sold off.





WINDSTORM TAXES SOOKE FIRE RESOURCES

The night of January 12 was one unlike Sooke Fire has seen in some time. A heavy storm off the Pacific Ocean arrived in the late evening, bringing punishing winds and rain. By midnight, when all members of the department had been summoned to their stations for resource management, the community had sustained heavy damage. Uprooted or broken trees and branches throughout the community created access and travel challenges, disrupted the power grid, and created several fire incidents. Multiple medical emergency calls further complicated the scenario. Four homes were impacted by fallen trees, resulting in a variety of damage. A Department Operations Center was opened to increase capacity and manage call response. The last crews returned to service at approximately 5:00 am.

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DEPARTMENT RETURNS TO SMALL GROUP TRAINING

After a return to regular Thursday training this summer, escalating COVID-19 cases across the country prompted a return to smaller sessions in October. Training is now available four days of the week – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday – though each is limited to a small number of participants.

Feedback on the adjusted training model has been varied. Small groups allow for more active participation and increased repetitions, as well as in-depth skills training. Members do miss the connection of seeing all department members and maintaining their comfort with one another. In addition, more involved practical scenarios are difficult to create with limited numbers. The training model will continue to be evaluated by departmental leadership and the Training Department, based on feedback and public health recommendations.

FIREFIGHTERS RAISE FOOD BANK FUNDS AND DELIVER HAMPERS

Once again, the members of SFRD came together to ensure that everyone in our community had a merry Christmas. Through the Fill-A-Fire-Truck event, and the 27th annual Santa Run on December 12, members of SFFA and IAFF 4841 raised an astounding \$36,735.87 for the Sooke Christmas Bureau.

COVID-19 presented a host of challenges to the customary plan for these events, and project co-chairs Kyle Sutherland and Heather Lane were admirable in solving challenge after challenge to ensure the events could proceed while keeping crews and the public safe.

Beyond the money raised, members of the Sooke Fire Fighters Association helped to deliver hampers for the Food Bank, and IAFF 4841 members delivered nearly 70 hampers to Sooke families for CFAF Santas Anonymous.



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