

SOOKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECRUIT NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2021

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SFRD?

- Paid-On-Call remuneration
- Internationally recognized training certification
- Mentorship development
- 24-hour Gym/Fitness access
- Wellness benefits package
- Annual appreciation banquet
- Member and family social events

ACQUIRED STRUCTURE PROVIDING IMPORTANT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Realism is always a hurdle to training in the fire service, so when a house slated for demolition came available, the SFRD Training Department jumped at the chance to practice operations in a real structure. The donated 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom structure has been furnished with old household items and offers crews the opportunity to move through typical residential spaces.

To date, hundreds of man-hours have been spent at the acquired structure, with crews working on skills ranging from search and rescue to hose handling and water application. As the house will eventually be leveled, members are able to practice destructive entry techniques generally impossible in training environments.

Use of the acquired structure culminates with live fire training on April 10, when the majority of the department will gain valuable experience working under real fire conditions to suppress fire, ventilate the structure, and search for trapped victims.





DEPARTMENT ADDS 9-MONTH FIREFIGHTER POSITION

The need to increase frontline staffing in the Fire Department, particularly in the midst of a global pandemic, received a boost in late February with the announcement of a 9-month term position funded by the BC COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant. The position will bring much-needed manpower to the career staffing contingent, and Chief Mount has identified several key deliverables that will be made possible through the increased manpower.

Long-time Paid-On-Call Lieutenant John Hester was the successful applicant in a competition that included evaluation from Human Resources, Department Chiefs, and IAFF 4841 members. The term will run April 1 – December 31.

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SFRD EMBARKS ON MASTER PLAN PROJECT

The growth of our community is exciting to watch as developers, businesses, and residents see the opportunities Sooke has to offer. SFRD is working to grow appropriately alongside the community to best position the department to serve the Sooke of the future. The Department has issued an RFP for the creation of a Fire Department Master Plan to guide our development and assist council in future decision making. The Master Plan will use consultative processes with Mayor and Council, senior district leadership, Fire Department leadership, and Fire Department labour groups to present recommendations on subjects including staffing, apparatus, fire stations, service levels, training, fire prevention, and emergency planning. The Master Plan contract will be awarded in the near future and the final product is scheduled to be delivered by mid-2022.

SOOKE FIRE FIGHTERS BATTLE DUPLEX FIRE

While most of the community enjoyed a snow day on February 13, Sooke firefighters were busy with a residential structure fire in the Whiffin Spit area of town. Engine 1 arrived to find a duplex with a fully involved carport and fire extending across the entire front of the residence. Crews initially employed a fast attack with the deck gun before entering from the rear for further suppression and search.

Fire extended into both units of the duplex, through void spaces including the attic. As a result, extensive overhaul was required to ensure extinguishment.

No residents were home at the time of the fire, but 2 dogs were rescued from the interior of the dwelling. No firefighter or civilian injuries were reported.



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