

Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT

2009



ROBERTS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

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Overview of the Fire Department

The Roberts Creek Fire Department provides life, property and environmental protection to the community of Roberts Creek. Service to non-residents is also provided, e.g. rescue from motor vehicle accidents and medical assistance to BC Ambulance Service (BCAS). The fire department serves a population of 3307 (2006 Census) and protects approximately 1600 private dwellings as well as several commercial and public buildings. The Fire Protection Area covers roughly 28.5 Km² of the total 143.59 Km² in Area D. At the end of the year the membership of the Roberts Creek Fire Department consisted of 18 volunteer members including 1 junior member (16 – 19 years of age). Volunteer fire fighters are responsible for all aspects of the operation of the department. This includes 24/7 response to fire and rescue operations and maintaining the operational readiness of all apparatus and equipment. No remuneration is paid to the membership for providing these services. A \$10/hr training honorarium is paid quarterly to members for attending practice and other outside courses as well as honorariums for officers. The Sunshine Coast Regional District employs one person to look after clerical/administrative duties. At this time the fire chief is filling this position.

Apparatus

RCVFD apparatus consists of the following:



- **Rescue 1:** Rescue 1 entered service in the summer of 2006. This apparatus was built to our specs by Hub Fire Engines on a Freightliner M2 chassis and is leased through MFA. This is a multi-purpose unit functioning as an equipment carrier, mobile lighting plant, fire fighter rehab centre and general staging hub. The PTO driven 25 KW generator supplies copious amounts of power and allows the twenty five foot high

9000 watt light tower to transform darkness into daylight. An eight foot powered slide-out tray brings all the auto extrication equipment out in the open, conveniently at hand.



- **Engine 1:** This apparatus is a compressed air foam system (CAFS) manufactured by Hub Fire Engines in 2000. It is a very versatile piece of apparatus built on a one ton Ford F550 4x4 chassis. This offers a great amount of manoeuvrability allowing it to negotiate the many narrow, winding driveways encountered in Roberts Creek. The CAFS in effect provides for a tenfold increase in the usefulness of water. In other words the 300 gallons of water carried is equal to approximately 3000 gallons.



- **Engine 2:** This apparatus is a full Class "A" Type I pumper with a 1050 igpm pump, carries 800 gallons of water and can transport six fire fighters. Engine 2 is equipped with a 10" dump valve so it can function as a water shuttle when fighting fires outside of hydrant serviced areas. It is built on a Peterbilt chassis and was

manufactured by Anderson Engineering in 1992; replacement is due 2012 however this can be postponed by performing annual ULC certification.



- **Engine 3:** This apparatus is a full Class "A" Type II Pumper and fills our need for a tanker as it carries almost 1300 gallons of water. It also has a foam injection system and carries 30 gallons of foam concentrate. Engine 3 is built on a Freightliner FL112 chassis and was manufactured by Hub Fire Engines in 1999. It carries three fire fighters.



- **Car 1:** Car 1 is a 2009 Ford F-150 crew cab, acquired in Oct. Of 2009 and leased through MFA Leasing. This four-wheel drive vehicle is important as a day-to-day service vehicle for routine activities such as burning permit inspections mainly located on rough back roads and as transportation for fire fighters to and from education venues. Car 1 is also indispensable as a command vehicle at emergency incidents as

it contains an array of reference material as well as first aid and communications equipment.

The Crew: (current photo unavailable)

Fire Chief – Bruce Searle

Assistant Chief – Ian Martin

Training Officer – Rob Michael

Captain – Don Kraus

Lieutenant – Pat Higgins

Lieutenant – Doug Dew

Secretary/Treasurer – Darin Macey

Fire Fighters: Andy Dubé, Stephan Gemmell, Arthur Griffiths, Grant Gunn, Brian Hamilton, Colin Kelso, Kevin Kennelly, Edna Naylor, Stefan Weston, Josh Williams, Billy Wray

Junior – Chris Rose



Facilities:

The Roberts Creek Fire Hall consists of meeting room, offices, clubroom and apparatus bays. The bays are a two tandem-bay arrangement accommodating four vehicles. The lower floor area consists of one bay, a classroom, a gym/fitness centre and a storage area for the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program. Grounds maintenance and janitorial services are by contract.

Activity

Operations

The Roberts Creek Fire Dept. responded to 68 incidents in 2009, 5 more than 2008. Incident hours totalled 76.32 hours requiring 555.85 person hours. As in the past, the highest percentage of calls was 22 Motor Vehicle Incidents (31.88%). We attended 2 structure fires. One unfortunately was a total loss however quick response by the

department prevented any damage to adjacent homes or impingement on the forest; no mean feat in this crowded beach-front locale. The other structure fire also occurred during the hot summer conditions. The house sustained major damage to one portion but the bulk of the structure was saved and reconstruction is underway. The Gibsons Fire Department provided mutual aid for us on this call. We attended mutual aid requests by the Sechelt Fire Dept. on three occasions in 2009, two for standby in Davis Bay and one for a wildfire at the end of Norwest Bay Rd also attended by Halfmoon Bay Fire Dept and Forestry. We responded to fourteen calls to investigate or extinguish beach fires and three dispatched calls for illegal fire complaints.

Training

In-house and contract training provided 192 hours of training amounting to a total of 1393 person-hours. The total amount paid out to RCVFD members for training and honorariums in 2009 was \$21,730, similar to the 2008 amounts.

We currently have five fire fighters certified to Basic Fire Fighter standards with five more partially completed. All new recruits are being certified to this as our minimum standard. We will be offering Fire Fighter Level II training for those who request it.

One member took the Critical Incident Stress Management course in January. Several members took advantage of Justice Institute of BC certificate courses being held at the Maple Ridge campus; four members attended Live Fire I in Sept. and two attended Auto Extrication I in Nov. Four members got their airbrake tickets following a weekend-long course at the Gibsons fire hall in Nov.

Budget restraint prevented anyone from attending conferences in 2009.

Permits

Fifteen Class "A" burning permits were issued in 2009, an increase of 36% from the previous year

Inspections

A contract Fire Prevention Officer carries out fire inspections in Roberts Creek at this time. There are approximately 40 premises requiring inspection. These include two schools (one public, one private), one beverage establishment, three restaurants, several commercial occupancies, daycares and camps.

Prevention

As well as relying on commercial property inspections to promote fire safety and awareness the department also holds an open house during Fire Prevention Week in October. This provides a venue to showcase our skills and allows the public a chance to meet our members and see our equipment up close. Fire Prevention Week also gives a dedicated group of fire fighters an opportunity to bring the fire safety message to Roberts Creek School and a large number of the students have the good fortune to visit the Fire Safety House. A lack of available personnel prevented these two events from happening this year.

Finance

Budgetary Considerations

The Roberts Creek Fire Dept. Ended the year with a \$66,972 surplus. The buy-in to the E-Comm managed Fire Department Management (FDM) records management program was again moved to next year.

Capital Plan Implementation

The 1997 Ford Explorer command vehicle was retired this year and replaced with a new Ford F-150 XLT crew cab pickup in the fall. This vehicle is being leased through the Municipal Finance Authority. An exhaust extraction system supplied by Nederman Canada was installed by Coast Sheet Metal of Gibsons and RJS Electrical Contracting of Halfmoon Bay. This unit captures the exhaust emitted by the fire apparatus and expels it to the outside atmosphere preventing the breathing of harmful particulates and carbon monoxide when the trucks are running in the hall.

Five Year Plan

2010-2015

Land & Improvements:	None Planned
Building:	None Planned
Machinery and Equipment:	Training Prop - \$25,000
Office Equipment:	None Planned
Vehicles:	None Planned

Miscellaneous

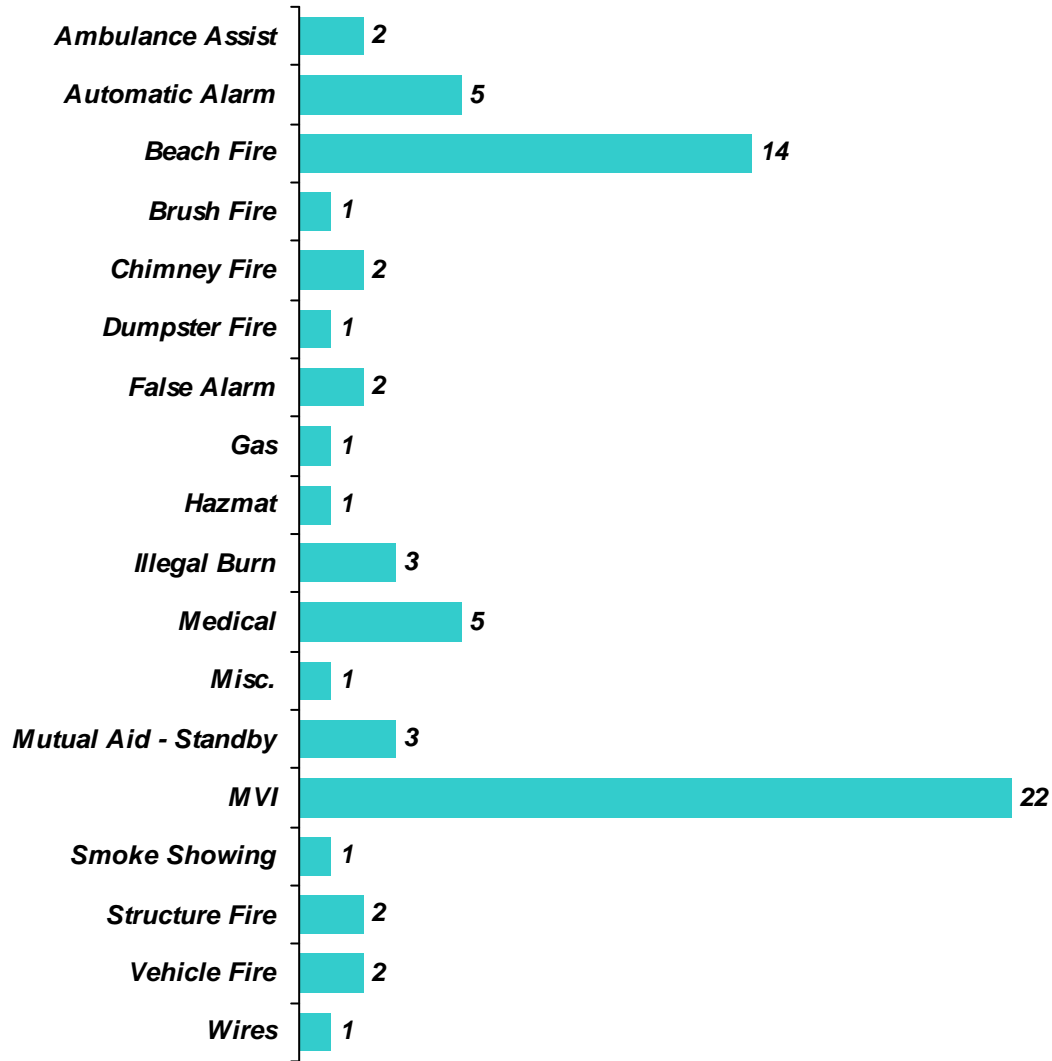
- We continue to struggle with a low membership. At the end of 2009 we find ourselves with only nineteen members, up four from last year. We are fortunate to have both a dedicated crew of volunteers, strong mutual aid agreements and good relationships with our neighbouring departments. As mentioned in the 2008 report it may be time to revisit the idea of one fire department for the Sunshine Coast to improve sharing of resources and manpower.
- We are pleased to see that the traffic signal we have been requesting for the last ten years will be installed before the end of the March 2010. Installation will be funded by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways. The signal will incorporate emergency vehicle pre-emption which will turn the signal red on the cross street keeping the traffic flowing in the direction the emergency vehicle is travelling. This system responds to the sound of an approaching siren to activate the signal. Since it is on a provincial highway and will benefit emergency response by agencies other than the fire department ICBC has agreed to fund the addition of the pre-emption system.

Recommendations

Our five year plan has included the replacement of our frontline pumper for several budget-years. The Insurance Underwriters require that a pumper be replaced when it is twenty years old which for this truck will be 2012. Engine 2, typical of those in the volunteer/rural fire service, has not incurred the depreciation seen in a career/municipal environment. It seems irresponsible to “dispose” of a low mileage vehicle with many years of service before it. A pumper can continue in service as a frontline pumper for an additional five years if it is certified every year to ULC standards. It is our recommendation that replacement of this truck be postponed until 2017 by performing ULC testing every year following 2012.



Incident Statistics 2009



<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Callout Count</u>	<u>Notifications/Pre-Alerts</u>
Ambulance Assist	2.90%	69	3
Automatic Alarm	7.25%		
Beach Fire	20.29%		
Brush Fire	1.45%		
Chimney Fire	2.90%		
Dumpster Fire	1.45%		
False Alarm	2.90%		
Gas	1.45%		
Hazmat	1.45%		
Illegal Burn	4.35%		
Medical	7.25%		
Misc.	1.45%		
Mutual Aid - Standby	4.35%		
MVI	31.88%		
Smoke Showing	1.45%		
Structure Fire	2.90%		
Vehicle Fire	2.90%		
Wires	1.45%		