

Dear Islanders,

Happily, we have had a quiet winter on Piers with only one medical event, but we are continuing apace with both Fire Fighting and Medical Response training.



We are also trying our best to maintain and repair our equipment but this is a challenge – much as it has always been for every iteration of the Fire Department.

If anyone has a hankering to help out with all things mechanical, we would be grateful for your contribution.

I wanted to take a moment to thank the Victoria Fire Department Chief Paul Bruce and his Deputy Chris Royle for their kind offer of a set of turn out gear.

Every little bit gets us closer to our goal of everyone having protective equipment.

And thanks to the kind donations of Barbara Eckman, Mary Tucker, Dick and Sally Tuckey and Adam Ungstad we were able to acquire proper jackets for all of our certified Medical First

Responders. It is quite a feat for a small island such as ours to have 10 certified Level 3 FRs and 2 fully certified Trainers.

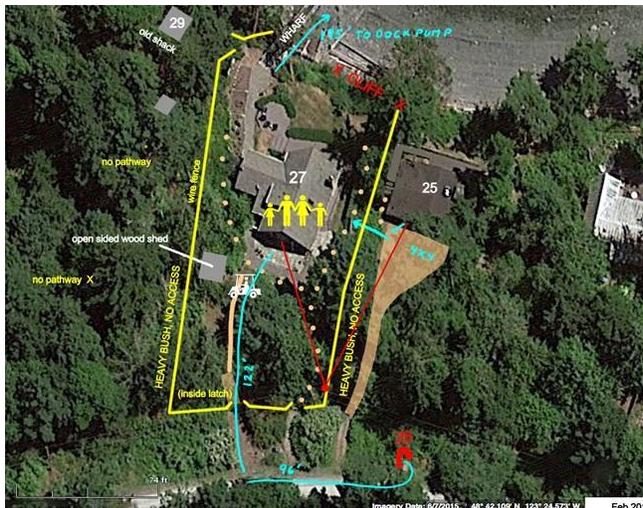
The winter we focused some of our practice times on Propane and Electrical fires; both of which can cause serious injury and damage if not handled properly – they pose a real danger on our island.

Barry Tate is preparing our Preplans electronically so please (for your safety and ours) co-operate with him when he arrives at your home.

It would be of considerable assistance to the PIVFD if you could provide easy access to your home/dock. An unencumbered pathway

5-6' wide would be ideal. If you put in a gate, the opening should accommodate a golf cart as we hope to acquire a golf cart style ambulance this coming year. Our intent is to transport First Responders to your door and the patient back to the road and/or nearest dock by this type of vehicle . A pathway

which would accommodate this would be great.



FireSmart'ing your property is probably the best and least expensive investment you can make to protect your home and your neighbours. Soon we will have a modest grant from the Union of BC Municipalities to help us promote this program so stay tuned for that. It's not about clear cutting your property or removing all vegetation from your lands. A big worry with a wild fire is the ember/spark storm which develops – it's like a blizzard of firebrands. They will blow under decks, land in your gutters and on your roof. They will accumulate on your wooden deck much like snow does in winter storm. It is not the flames licking your home which poses the most danger – it's the sparks and the "flow" of the fire along the ground because of the fuel on the ground or from tree to tree because the separation of trees is not sufficient. We need to educate ourselves and we will begin doing that this spring with workshops and presentations on FireSmart activities that you can do yourself. Hopefully you have seen the work being done by the Monday morning crew around the island and this will give you a good idea of how a FireSmart property might look.

I am very pleased to announce that Gerry Kristianson has been appointed Medical Response Officer for the PIVFD. He will be serving you along with Deputy Chief Stevenson and Risk Management Officer Pauline Olesen.

And finally, the PIVFD bids a fond goodbye to Bob Snelling and Wendy Eden. Bob has been very instrumental in building construction, equipment management, fire fighting training and he was our Chief for several very instructive years. Wendy served as one of our senior First Responders having attended multiple call outs. She was professional, warm and friendly to all she worked with for so many years. Both will be missed and we wish them well in their new home and in their new life in Parksville.

Keep safe,  
Steve Cruise

