



Dear Islanders

Everyone deserves congratulations for doing such a great job all summer – this was a very dry and hazardous time on our island but we remained free of flames thanks to you. FireSmarting, applying for Fire Permits and abstaining for those months of absolute fire bans were all activities that worked. With the return of wet weather (after Oct. 15th) there is no need to apply for a permit. Still, everyone needs to be mindful of safe burning practices and protocols. If in doubt, just ask us.

In the last Chiefs Chat I outlined the history and purpose of our 9-1-1 system. Part of that system is the audible sirens you might hear on Piers. To understand what the sirens mean and what is expected of you when they sound I can summarize:

- Most Thursdays at 4pm – one siren will sound calling firefighters to our weekly practice.
- Other days – one siren sounds – this tells our PIVFD team to go immediately to the Hall as we have a local emergency. No action required by the community.
- Siren sounds again after 5 minutes – if a PIVFD member does not respond to the call out above, our Dispatcher in Langford will sound the siren again and again every 5 minutes until we do.
- 4 repeated sirens – this tells the whole community that we have an island wide emergency that requires evacuation. All firefighters go to the hall. On direct order of the Chief, the Piers Island Emergency Program will contact you by phone or text or in person if possible. Get your Go Bag ready and listen carefully to what they say and follow their instructions.
- Continuous sirens – immediate evacuation is required – leave the island - check in at Dolphin Road or Canoe Cove with Emergency Staff. If you do not have a boat, go to the nearest dock and wait on the float, vessels will be circling the island with loud hailers to pick people up.

We are prepared for emergencies and we are practiced. As Thomas Jefferson said: *Nothing gives a person so much advantage over another as to always remain cool and un-ruffled under all circumstances.* Your fire fighters, medical first responders and emergency program members spend so much time training so that they are ready to serve you when the need arises. The sirens begin the process.

I am very pleased to report that Risk Management Officer Pauline Olesen is the very first Piers Islander to successfully complete the mandated Playbook Training course. This represents a tremendous amount of time and work and dedication. Thank you, Pauline, for showing us the way! And thanks to a generous donation by Barbara Eckman, Pauline will soon have a PIVFD jacket to wear while carrying out her duties.



Most of you will have noted the stockpile of logs at the Firehall. We are organizing a fund-raising event to help improve the building. Details to follow shortly.



Volunteers hold a special place in our hearts on Piers Island. They are what drives this community. If you would like to help the fire department, please let me know. We always have a basket of jobs that are needing to be done. Even the youngsters help. This young lady arrived one Monday morning with her cousin to help the Monday Morning Crew and along with her younger sister, re-modelled some of the turnout gear donated to us by Surrey Fire. Volunteering is good for you and it is good for your community; you are never too old or too young to lend a helping hand.

One of our enjoyable traditions on Piers is the burning of the pile at Biscoe Beach on Halloween. This year (winds and weather permitting) the PIVFD will light the fire around 6pm. By 7pm it should be well underway. We use

this event as a live fire practice for the fire fighters but more importantly, it is a time for islanders to gather. Some wear costumes, some bring beverages and some just come to feel the heat of this monster. We might toss in one of our new FIRE EXTINGUISHER BALLS to see how they work. They can be rolled or thrown into a fire and once they contact with flames, they explode dispersing a retardant material to extinguish or slow the fire spread.



A last reminder to be safe this Halloween. Fireworks are fun to watch, but please use them safely and carefully.

Steve Cruise

PIVFD Fire Chief