

PIVFD Update, November 2023

Our Acting Chief has provided superb interim guidance and structure to the department's activities, and all members look forward to our Chief's return to good health and active participation.

The department responded to several incidents during this period — a medical welfare check, two Hydro transmission lines threatening danger, and an abandoned outdoor residential fire (which, but for intervention and extinguishment by the department, might have caused enormous damage. A reminder to residents that outdoor burns, even in the wet weather, must be actively monitored!).

Our First Responders Captain attended lengthy training in Nanaimo, which will allow her to train our First Responders in new lifesaving techniques, and comply with new requirements for licensure of responders in BC. Our gratitude for her commitment to the department in training our volunteers.

An older AED has been replaced with a new unit, with which First Responders will be training.

The fire fighters have completed Fire Commission-mandated training in the first of a series of new modules, "Driver/Pump Operator," with 10 members completing this exhaustive course. Additionally, time has been invested in removing, cleaning and repacking equipment in the engines and performing needed maintenance on the trucks, our T4 ambulance and dedicated department cart.

PIVFD hosted a Flu/Covid vaccination clinic on November 4, where 42 islanders received their immunizations. Additionally we led two FireSmart events: on October 18 fuel loads from 20 properties were removed, free of charge, and on November 22 a large fuel load from an individual property was transported and disposed, with 13 community volunteers assisting. FireSmart events have taken place without financial cost to the island, thanks to the work of the FireSmart committee in obtaining a grant to cover costs.