



# AGM 2019

## June 30, 2019

### The Year in Review

This has been an interesting year for the PIVFD. We have been busier than usual however our callouts were all well-attended by the members. A breakdown of these events might be of interest to some of you. Besides helping with the two major winter storms, in the past 12 months we have managed:

- 8 medical emergencies
- 2 RCMP assists
- 7 power line failures
- 1 power line pole fire
- 2 hold-over fires

### Our People

We have a very dedicated and talented crew of Fire Fighters and First Responders. Most of them have seen front line action this year - they are seasoned and experienced. However, our training and our practices must continue every week. We now have a majority of our members certified as Exterior Operation Level Fire Fighters and we have kept all the Medical First Responder Training and the Fire Training "in house". We are pleased to let you know that one of our members has been certified for SCBA repairs. These self-training programs have saved us more than \$28,000 over the past 5 years. We were very fortunate to have had three of our members attend 2 days of intensive training in Lake Country this spring.

I encourage anyone who would like to become part of the Fire Department to contact me. This promises to be a very exciting year for our members; people and practice will always be the keys to our success.

- With our basic skills now in place, we will be ramping up specialized training. We have arranged with the Fire Department at the Victoria International Airport to introduce us to **ARFF (Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting)** techniques which will be very valuable to the PIVFD given our proximity to the airport and aircraft overflights.
- We also have training set up for **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** fires known as the **S-100 certification**. In September, twelve of our firefighters will complete the course here on Piers with an instructor from Chilliwack. This will give us the ability to respond quickly and efficiently to a forest fire.
- We have begun our **Saturday Summer Training** program for those islanders who want to help us but could not commit to our usual Thursday practices.

## Our House

The Fire Department has been asking for an apron in front of the hall for training and for vehicle/equipment maintenance. We began the Paver Project three years ago and are hopeful that 2019 will be the year we see completion.

We should be concerned regarding the seismic status of our Hall – we don't know what will happen to our Emergency Building when we have an earthquake.

- Apron completion
- Seismic study

## Our Plan

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FireSmart'ing and Fire Prevention activities continue apace. We were awarded the Community FireSmart designation again for 2018 thanks to the endless work of many of you. Our plan is to continue to support fire prevention, early detection and to provide you with a rapid response to any emergency. We have the people and the will to make this a priority again for the year ahead. To avoid a disastrous WUI fire, our very best defences are to:

- Thin Trees
- Reduce the fuel loads
- Encourage management of fire risks on private properties and on PIA lands using best practices
- Continue the prohibition of golf carts in the centre of the island and on the grassy fields

We are NOT advocating clear cuts or the destruction of natural habitat nor do we wish to prohibit families from using the forests and the fields. Our goal is to promote a healthier forest which will be safer and more resilient to wildfire. To this end, we are in the process of applying to the UBCM for grant to help with our interface fire fighting by adding equipment, training and tools to our arsenal.

## Our Equipment

We acquired 4 additional used SCBA (air tanks for breathing in noxious environments) from BC Ferries this year at a fraction of the cost of new units. We need more air cylinders but those should be easily located. We are also in the market for a vehicle to replace the 4x4 but there is no urgency; we would rather wait for the right vehicle at the right price. Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) has changed how emergency transmissions will be managed; we now need to order new radios. Replacing our analog units with digital mobile devices will enable us to transmit data as well as voice. The cost for these will continue to be included in each owners BC

Property Tax assessment. CREST tells us that the P25 radios made by Motorola will provide enhanced coverage and better audio quality. We have no choice; our old radios will not work with the new system. On the horizon is NG 9-1-1 for our consideration.

- CREST Radios
- 4X4 replacement
- Air cylinders

In closing, I wanted to thank Trustee Greg Miller for his dedication and support these past three years. We would not be where we are without him.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Cruise

Chief, PIVFD