



Parksville Volunteer Fire Department



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



2016 Annual Report

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

For the year ended December 31, 2016

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department strives to protect and support the community by providing outstanding service in the areas of fire suppression, emergency response, member training, fire prevention, public education and charitable community service. (2014)

MOTTO

Pride - Courage - Passion - Teamwork

Fire Protection Area

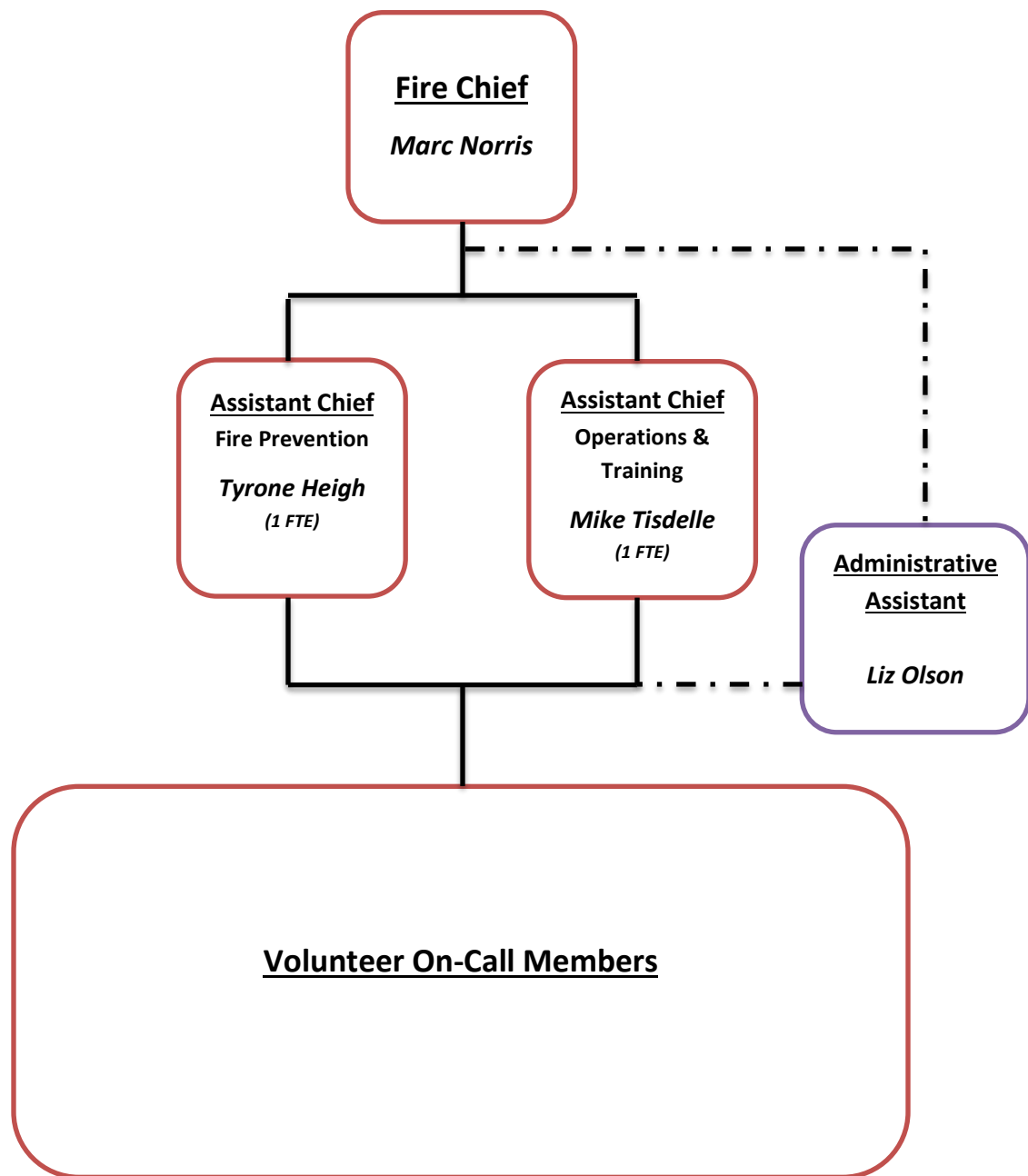
The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department provides service to the City of Parksville, adjacent contract areas of the Regional District of Nanaimo, and neighbouring jurisdictions through established reciprocal mutual and automatic aid agreements.



Organizational Profile

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) operates under the direction of the Fire Chief who is responsible to the Mayor and Council through the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

In order to deliver the services needed to accomplish our mission, the PVFD is organized in two main branches: **Fire Prevention, and Operations and Training.**



The PVFD endeavors to provide the highest quality emergency fire rescue and public safety services to the citizens of, and visitors to, the Parksville Fire Protection Area.

Highlights from 2016 include:

- Transition of Fire Chiefs – On February 29, 2016 a change of command ceremony was held. Chief Doug Banks retired after 45 years of service (24 years as Chief), passing command of the department to Chief Marc Norris.
- New Assistant Chief - A hiring process was undertaken and as a result, 16 year PVFD on-call member Mike Tisdelle was hired to take on the position of Assistant Chief Operations and Training. Mike started in his current role on July 18, 2016.
- Volume of Calls for Service – 2016 marked the highest year in terms of call for service volume, 520 in total.
- Recruit Class – In May of 2016 a recruit class of ten (10) began the eleven month recruit training program.
- 9000 training hours.



Fire Department Personnel

Paid Staff Members

1	Fire Chief	-	(1 FTE)
2	Assistant Chiefs	-	(2 FTE's)
1	Administrative Assistant	-	(.6 FTE)

Volunteer On-Call Members

33	Volunteer/On-Call	-	(Full Strength is 42)
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Recruitment Program

Recruitment is an ongoing process in the volunteer fire service. The recruitment program is in place to ensure that we maintain the appropriate human resources required to meet fire department service delivery objectives. The Parksville Fire Department recruitment program focuses on seeking out individuals that have diverse backgrounds and experiences along with the availability to take on the responsibility and commitment required to be a member of the volunteer fire service.

The fire department uses a variety of recruiting methods including 'word of mouth', local newspaper ads, flyers delivered in newspapers (fire protection area only), and local radio ads. The City of Parksville Communications Officer assists the fire department with the preparation of the advertising materials and offers input regarding the best way to disseminate the recruiting message.

The PVFD recruited 10 new members in 2016 and at the time of this report six (6) recruit members remain.

Recruitment and retention is becoming more and more challenging as demands on member time increases. With increasing call volumes, training, occupational health and safety requirements, competing with family and work obligations, recruiting volunteer on-call member is becoming ever more challenging.

Recruiting and retention will be a significant challenge as we move into the future.



FACILITIES & APPARATUS

Facilities

- 🚒 Station 41
 - 160 Jensen Avenue West
- 🚒 Training Centre
 - 1159 Franklin's Gull Road



Apparatus

Frontline

🚒 Engine 41, 2014, Hub	Main Pumper Truck
🚒 Engine 42, 2011, Hub	Main Pumper Truck
🚒 Rescue 45, 1997, Superior	Rescue Pumper
🚒 Tender 47, 2006, Pro Fire	Water Tender
🚒 Ladder 49, 1991, Smeal	Quint Aerial Ladder
🚒 Special Operations Trailer	16' Utility Trailer
🚒 Car 41	Utility / Command / Duty Training Vehicle
🚒 Car 42	Utility / Command / Duty Training Vehicle
🚒 Car 43	Utility / Command / Duty Training Vehicle

Historical

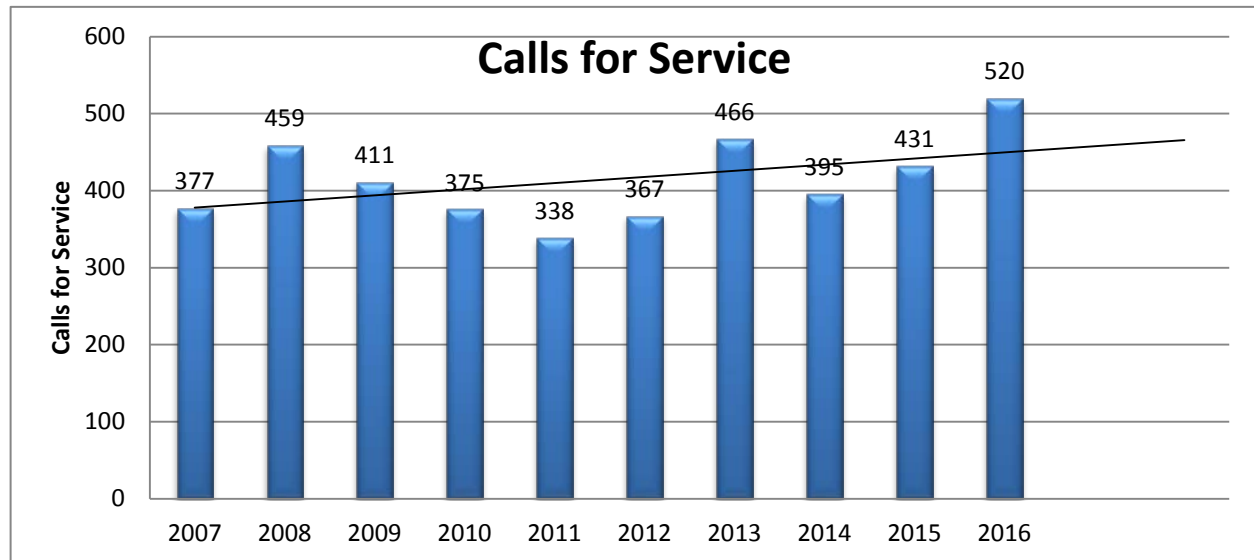
- 🚒 Trailer Pump, 1942 (Stored at Museum)
- 🚒 Pumper #2, 1950, Bickle Seagrave Pumper (Stored at EVFD Hall 1)

As the fire protection area in-fills with steady growth, the need to expand facility space to accommodate staff and equipment will become more and more of a priority.

Operations

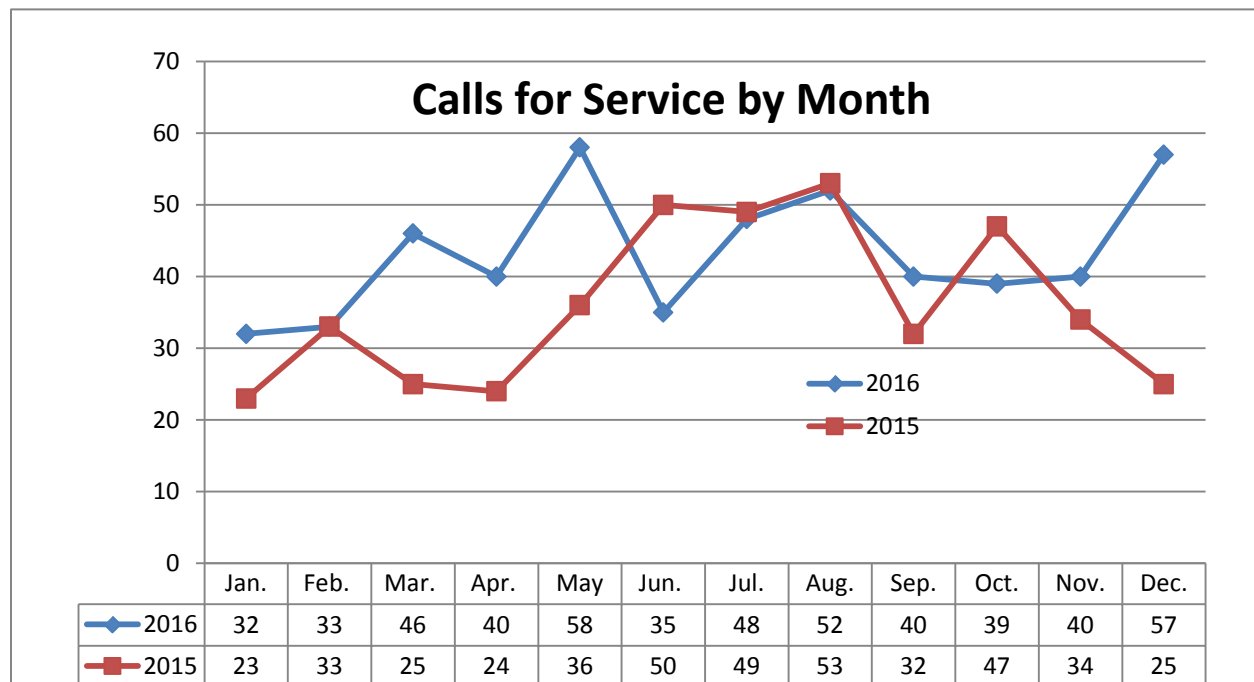
The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department experienced its busiest year ever (2016) in terms of responses to calls for service. The department responded to 520 calls for service in 2016.

Parksville Fire Protection Area - By Year (Annual Comparison)

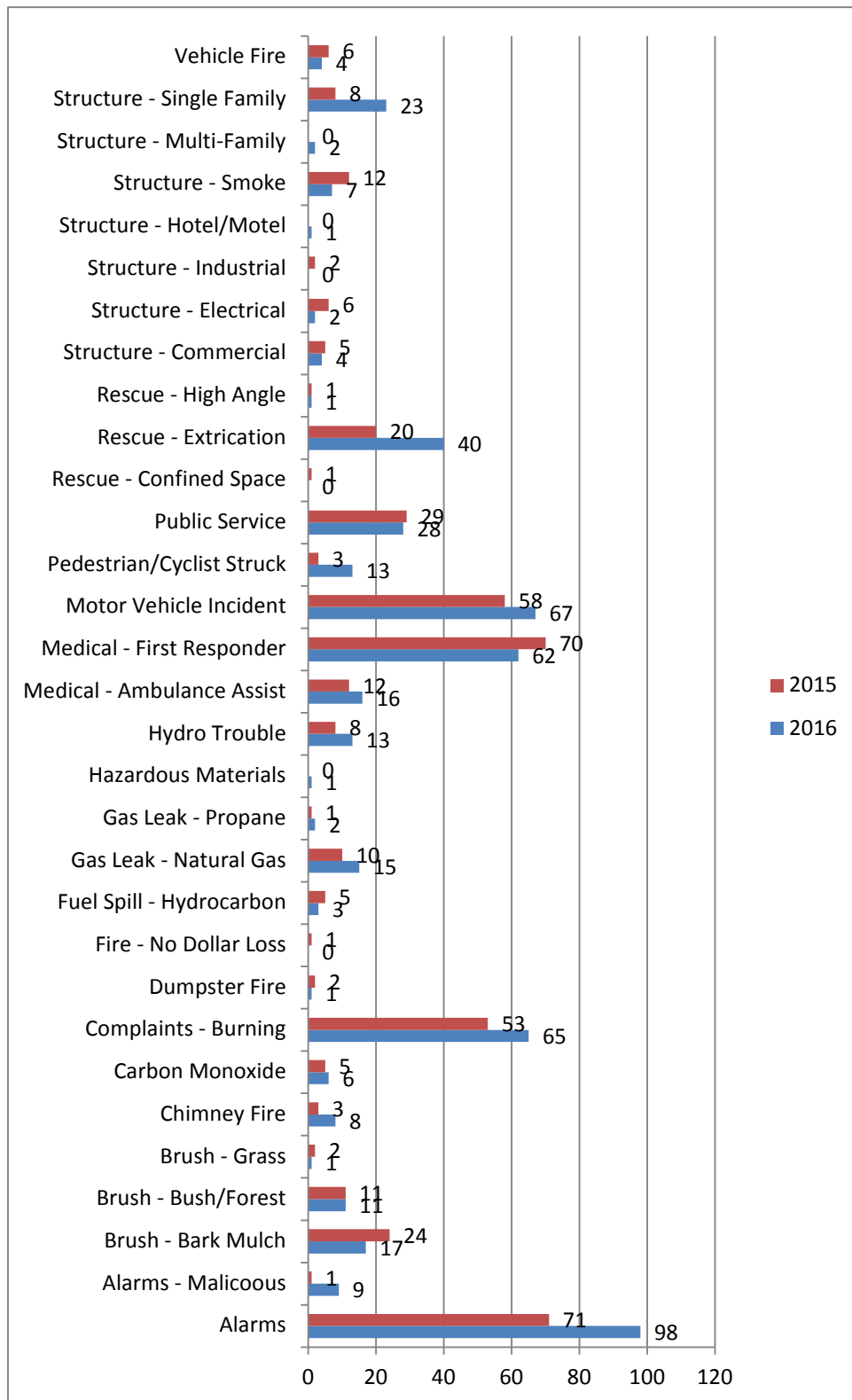


Note: The 10-year average increase is approximately 15 calls per year.

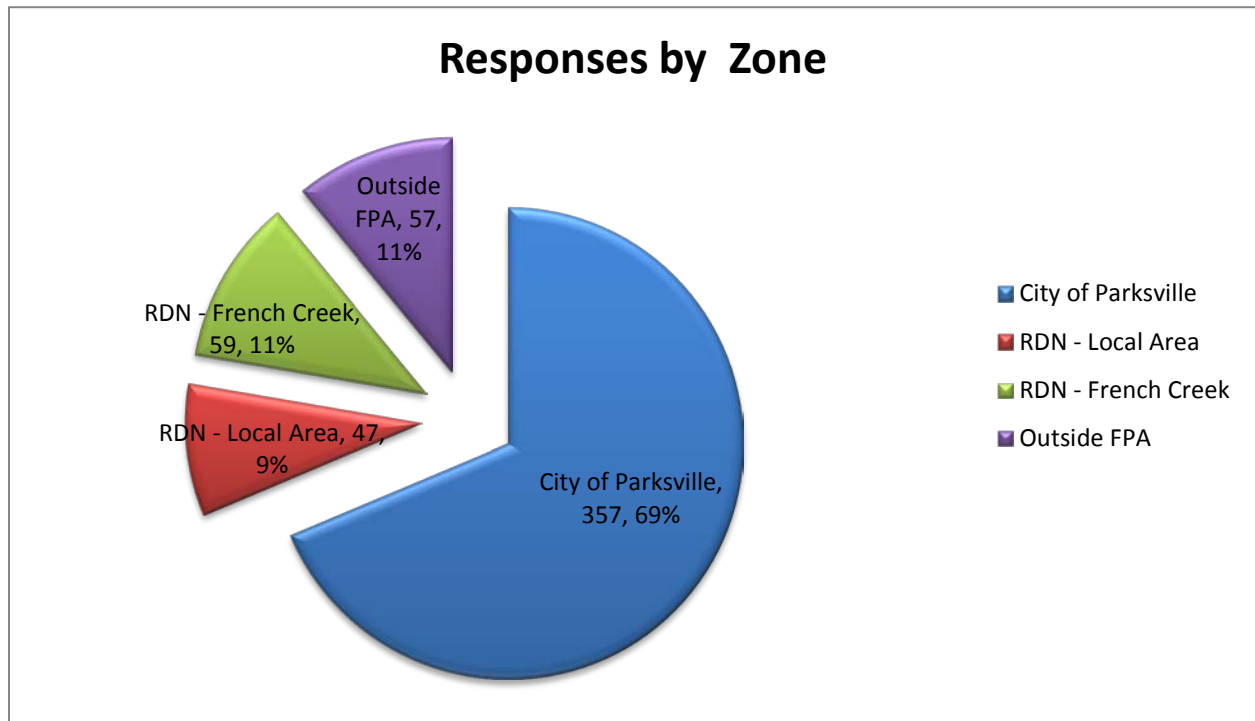
Parksville Fire Protection Area - By Month (2016)



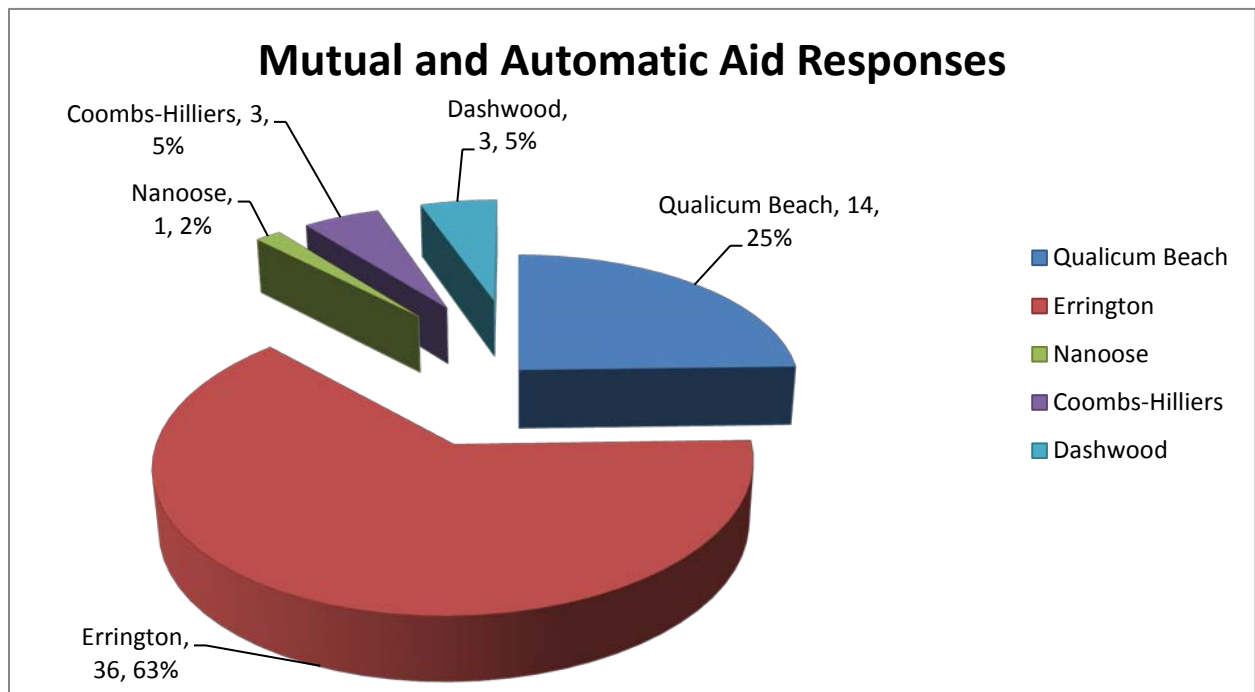
Calls for Service - By Type



Response Comparative – By Zone



Response Comparative – Mutual and Automatic Aid



Response Times (based on 520 responses)

	# Incidents	Avg. Dispatch Time (min.)	Avg. Muster Time (min.)	Avg. On-route Time (min.)	Avg. Response Time (min.)	Avg. Second Vehicle On Scene
2016 Totals	520	1.19	3.45	4.16	7.82	9.42

Co-occurring Incidents

Co-occurring incidents are clusters of incidents where the fire department is called upon to respond to 2 or more incidents at the same time.

There were a total of **10 co-occurring incident clusters in 2016.**

Dollar Loss Fires

	# Dollar Loss Fires	Estimated Dollar Loss	Dollar Saved Estimate
2016 Totals	17	1,173,000	4,982,900

Incident Response Hours

	# Incidents	On-scene Time (Hours)	Person Hours
2016 Totals	520	308	1748



Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention is separated into three (3) main areas: Fire & Life Safety Inspections, Public Fire & Life Safety Education, and Fire Cause Determination.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections

The number of inspectable occupancies is continues to grow. Over the past year we have been also been requested to conduct more inspections during the construction of building projects as well as consultations in renovation projects and systems upgrades. Conducting these types of inspections allows for a greater amount of compliance and assists with the preplanning of buildings. Public consultation and service requests for Fire Prevention are also increasing.

Last year the department switched to FIREPRO 2 for mobile inspections records management and input.

 **192** fire and life safety inspections were completed in 2016.

Inspection Program	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Inspectable Occupancies (Approx.)	TBD	812	806	808	795	787	769
Inspections Due (Approx.)	TBD	525	487	389	496	483	458
Inspections Completed	192	287	329	279	353	500	369

Public Fire & Life Safety Education

	2016
Events	28
Person-hours	568
Citizens reached	783

Fire Cause Determination

Section 9 of the *Fire Services Act* requires that the fire department investigate and report on fire cause determination. On request of the Office of the Fire Commissioner, **the Assistant Chief investigated a total of 15 fires in the past year.**

Training

The training of firefighters is critical in providing effective customer service, satisfactory job performance and safety.

The Parkville Volunteer Fire Department has an intensive training program which is comprised of a comprehensive mix of emergency service delivery related subjects.

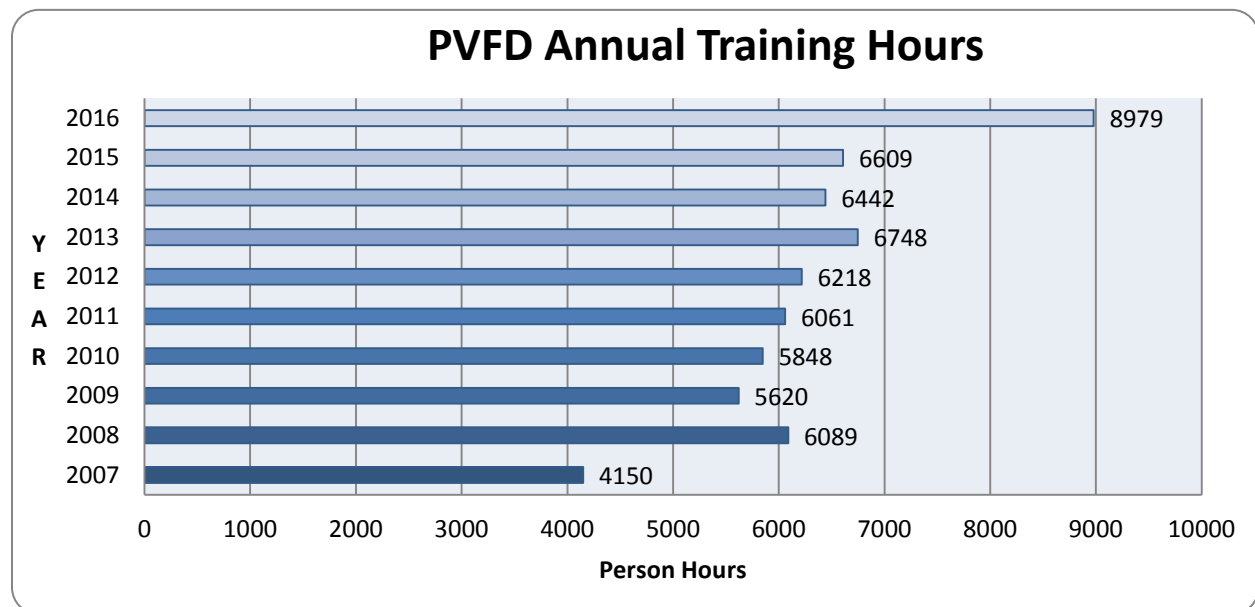
There are multiple levels of fire, medical and specialized training delivered and/or attended throughout the year. Training includes items such as, education to obtain or maintain a license or credential, recruit training, new response concepts, skills maintenance, special technical rescue training, and other training as necessary.

Training occurs at regular weekly practices held each Monday evening with an optional/extra practice Friday mornings and extra training sessions offered on weekdays/weekends, both locally and non-local, throughout the year. The focus of training continues to be firefighter and public safety in turn providing for a professional and effective fire service for the citizens and visitors served by the Parkville Volunteer Fire Department.

2016 Training Stats





















	Attendee Hours	Instructor Hours	Total Person Hours	Sessions
2016 Totals	7816	1152	8979	375

10 year Training Hours Comparison



2016 Training Highlights:

Members of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department continued to show dedication through their commitment to participation in training. PVFD members continue to meet all challenges head-on. 2016 was yet another successful training year.

-  **Four (4)** members attended Frontlines - Airbrake Endorsement Course.
-  **Five (5)** members completed their initial First Responder Emergency Medical Attendant training. (40 hours per member).
-  **Seven (7)** members recertified as First Responder Emergency Medical Attendants. (24 hours per member)
-  **Five (5)** members completed the S.T.A.R.T program at Comox FD.
-  **Five (5)** members completed their Level 2 Fire Attack in Comox.
-  **Ten (10)** new recruits started in May, 9 of which had no previous firefighting experience and at years end 6 recruits are remaining.
-  **Three (3)** members attended the BCFTOA Training conference in the Alberni Valley.
-  **Eight (8)** members completed Technical Rope Rescue course with Dynamic Rescue (60 hours per member).
-  **Two (2)** members completed the Hazardous Materials Operations course (4 days) in Comox. Hosted a Hazmat Operations Level course in which four members attended.
-  **Thirteen (13)** Chief and Company Officers attended an Aerial Strategies & Tactics program (2 Days) hosted here in Parksville (16 hours per person).
-  **Five (5)** members started their Fire Officer Level 1 Viera course (6 months - 96 hours per member).
-  **Three (3)** Officer Training Days were attended by PVFD Company Officers and/or Senior Firefighters.
-  **Six (6)** Technical Rescue Training sessions
-  **Three (3)** members completed their Emergency Vehicle Driver Operator evaluations.
-  **Five (5)** members received Class 3 learners and started driver training with road test in January 2017.
-  **Two (2)** members completed Fire Service Instructor Level 1. (2.5 days)
-  **Seven (7)** members completed their NFPA 1001, FFII, certification for Firefighter Professional Qualifications. (Approximately 550 hours, over 2 to 3 years)
-  **One (1)** member completed the Fire Officer Level 1 Program.
-  First full year of Friday morning training sessions (400 person hours over 36 sessions)
-  Hired a new Assistant Fire Chief of Training and Operations.

Conclusion

The Parksville Fire Department remains an effective, high-quality, fire & rescue service organization.

While the future is bright, it also brings challenges for the department. As our community sees steady moderate growth, so we see a steady increase in calls for service. In addition to calls for service, increased training and occupational health and safety requirements all demand more time of members. The demand for more time will continue to put an ever growing strain on the ability for volunteer members (our most important resource) to commit to delivering service, in particular during regular working hours. Additional pressures on facility capacity will also be an ever increasing issue over time.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department for their dedication to ensuring the citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Parksville and the greater fire protection are, are assisted in times of need. The City of Parksville is truly fortunate to have this incredible group of people whose diversity, commitment, skills and dedication form the backbone of fire & rescue service delivery for our community.

