



Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



2017 Annual Report

Parksville Volunteer Fire Department

For the year ended December 31, 2017

Fire Chief **Marc Norris**

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

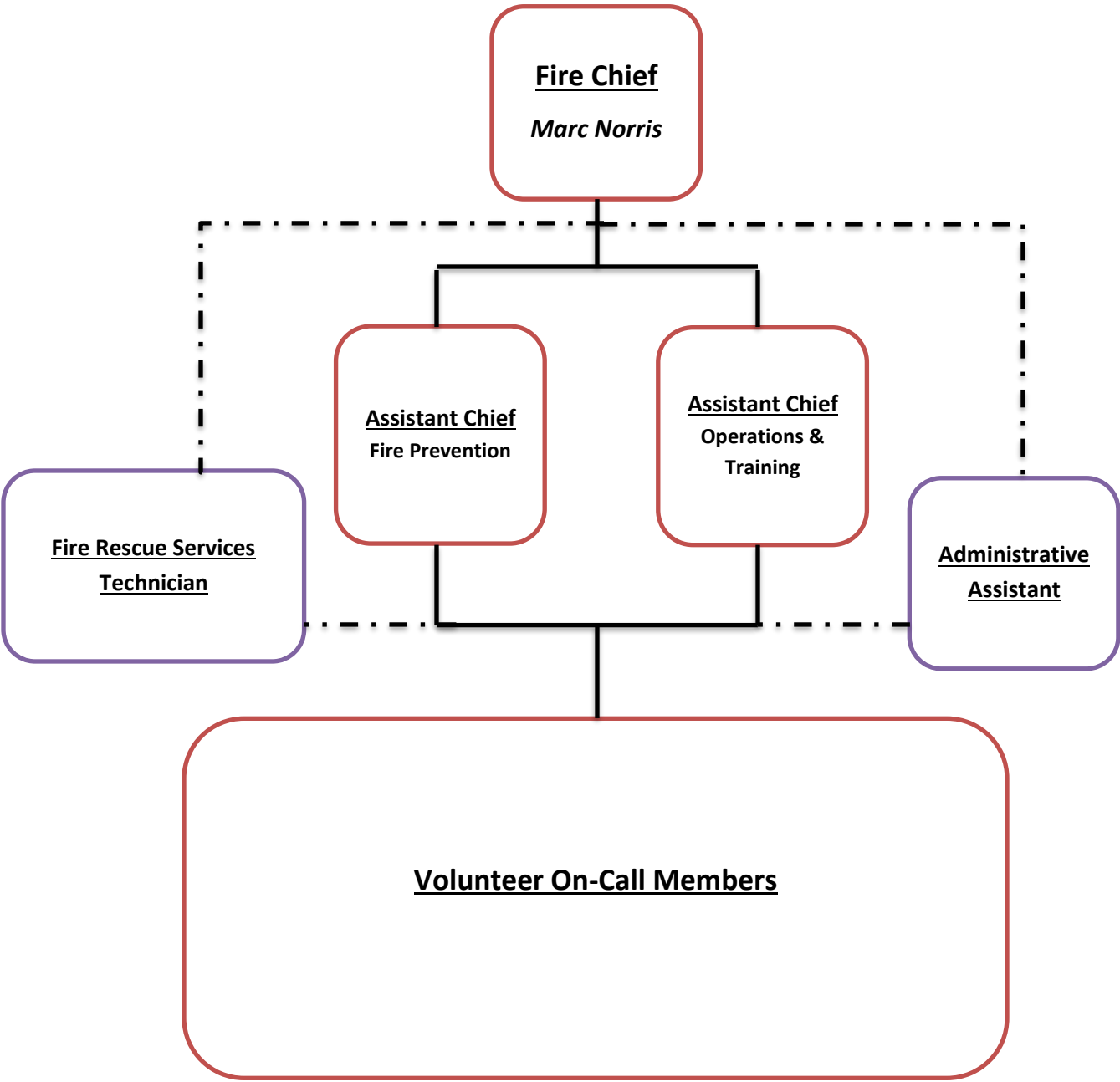
The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department provides service to the City of Parksville, adjacent contract areas of the Regional District of Nanaimo, and neighbouring jurisdictions through established reciprocal mutual and automatic aid agreements.



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 2017 include:

- PVFD 75 Year Anniversary – 2017 marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Parksville Volunteer Fire Department.
 - Open House and Show & Shine held on July 22, 2017 – with a great community and partner turnout.
- Annual member recognition banquet March 11, 2017
- Helped facilitate the local Fire Camp.
- The Training Tower plans were finalized and a purchase order was issued.
- PVFD members participated in the Emergency Preparedness Expo held at the Parksville Curling Club facility.
- L49 Aerial Ladder contract was awarded to Safetek for a Smeal/Spartan 32m/105ft Aerial Ladder Fire Apparatus.
- Hire of our first Fire & Rescue Services Technician - A hiring process was undertaken and as a result, on-call member Cameron Cruickshank was hired as the first of several planned Fire & Rescue Technicians. Cam started in this role in December of 2017.



Fire Department Personnel

Paid Staff Members

1	Fire Chief	-	(1 FTE; added 1992)
2	Assistant Chiefs	-	(2 FTE's; added 2002 & 2007)
1	Administrative Assistant	-	(.6 FTE; added 2007)
1	Fire Rescue Service Technician	-	(1 FTE; added 2017)

Volunteer On-Call Members

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

Recruitment is an ongoing process in the volunteer fire service. The objective of the recruitment program is to maintain the appropriate human resources required to meet fire rescue 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 eleven (11) new members in 2017, 10 of which remain with the department as of the time of this report. Eight (8) members left the department in 2017.

Recruitment and retention continues to become 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 more difficult and is one of our biggest challenges in maintaining our on-call volunteer model. ***It is anticipated this will continue be a critical area in relation to the ability of the department to maintain current service levels, as well as evolve as the City and Fire Protection Areas densify, 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 (Ordered replacement in 2017) |
| 🚒 Special Operations Trailer | 16' Utility Trailer |
| 🚒 Car 41, 2016 Dodge P/U | Utility / Command / Duty / Training Vehicle |
| 🚒 Car 42, 2017 Dodge P/U | Utility / Command / Duty / Training Vehicle (|
| 🚒 Car 43, 2013 Dodge P/U | Utility / Command / Duty / Training Vehicle |

Historical

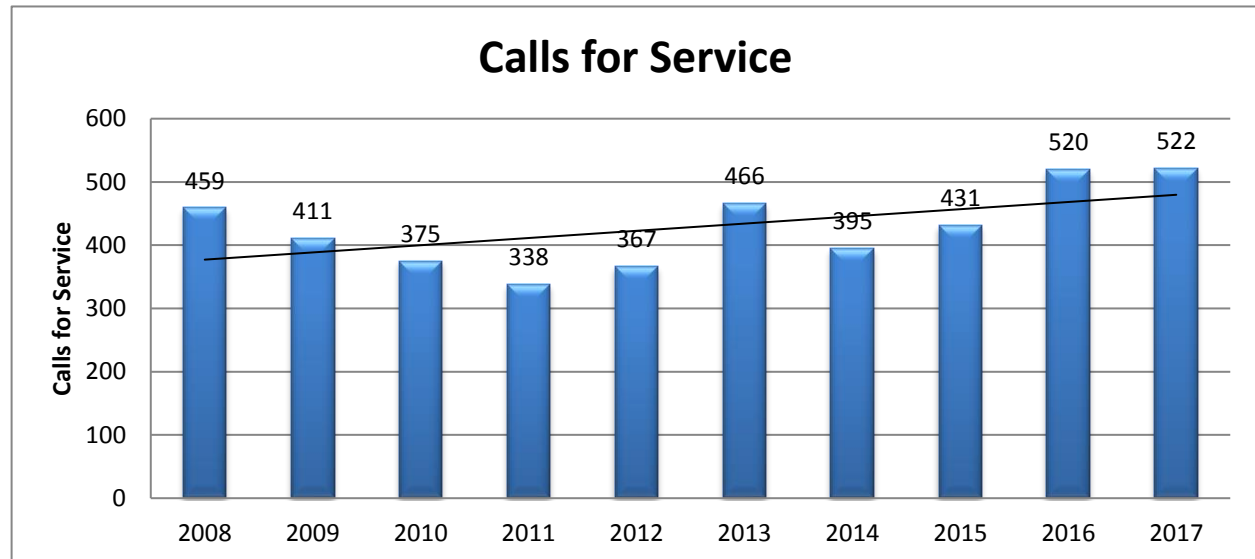
- 🚒 Trailer Pump, 1942 (Stored at the Heritage Museum)
- 🚒 Pumper #2, 1950, Bickle-Seagrave Pumper (Stored at the Heritage Museum)

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

Operations

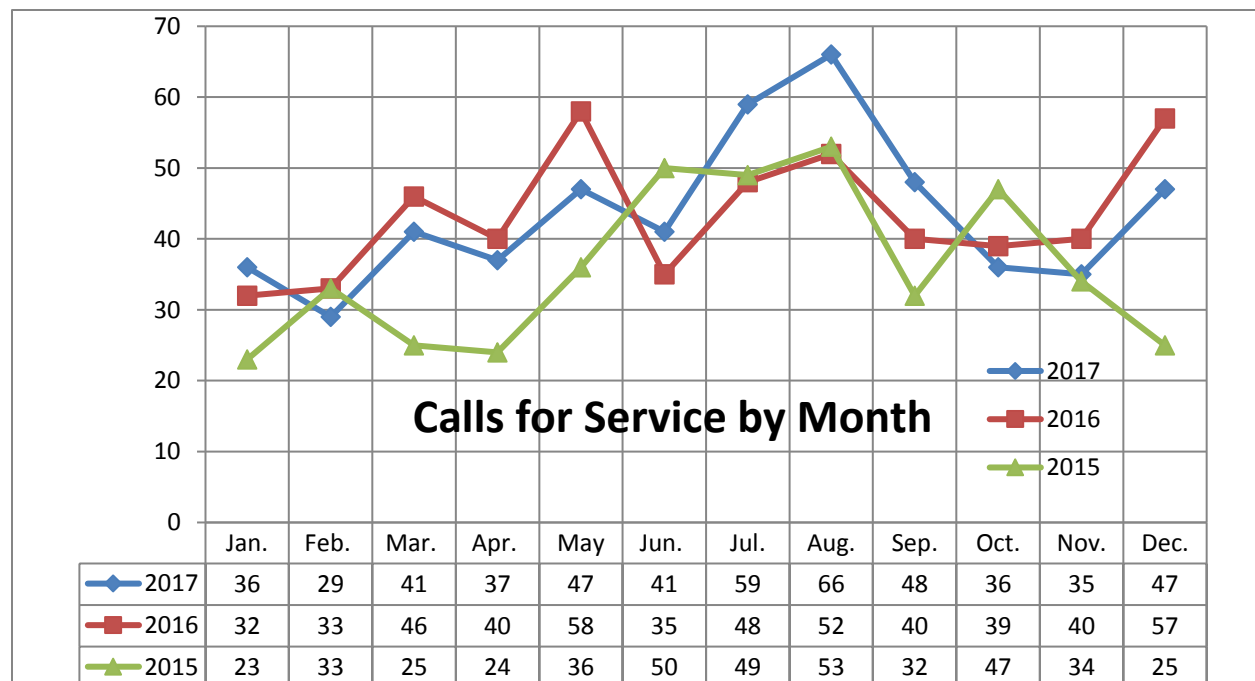
The Parkville Volunteer Fire Department experienced its busiest year ever (2016) in terms of responses to calls for service. The department responded to 520 calls for service in 2016.

Parkville Fire Protection Area - By Year (Annual Comparison)

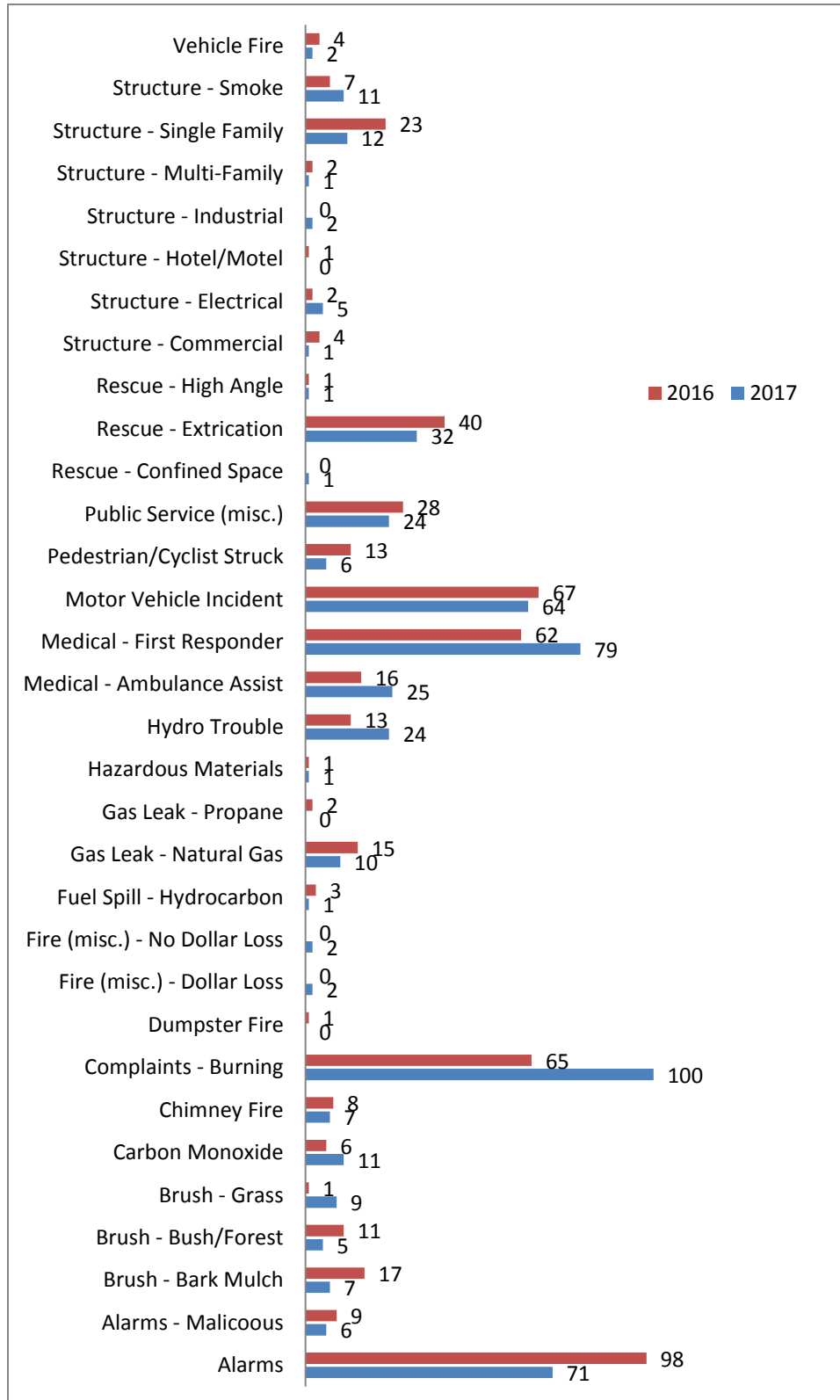


Note: The 10-year average increase is approximately 18 'requests for service' per year.

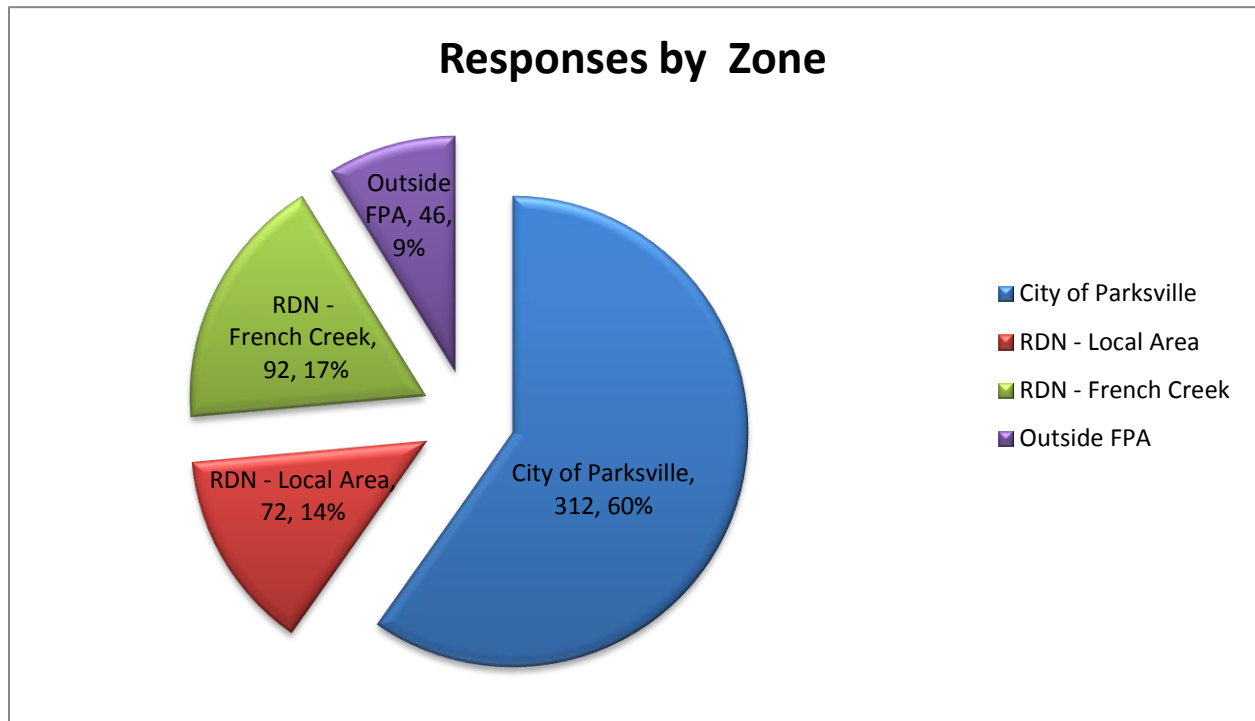
Parkville Fire Protection Area - By Month (2017)



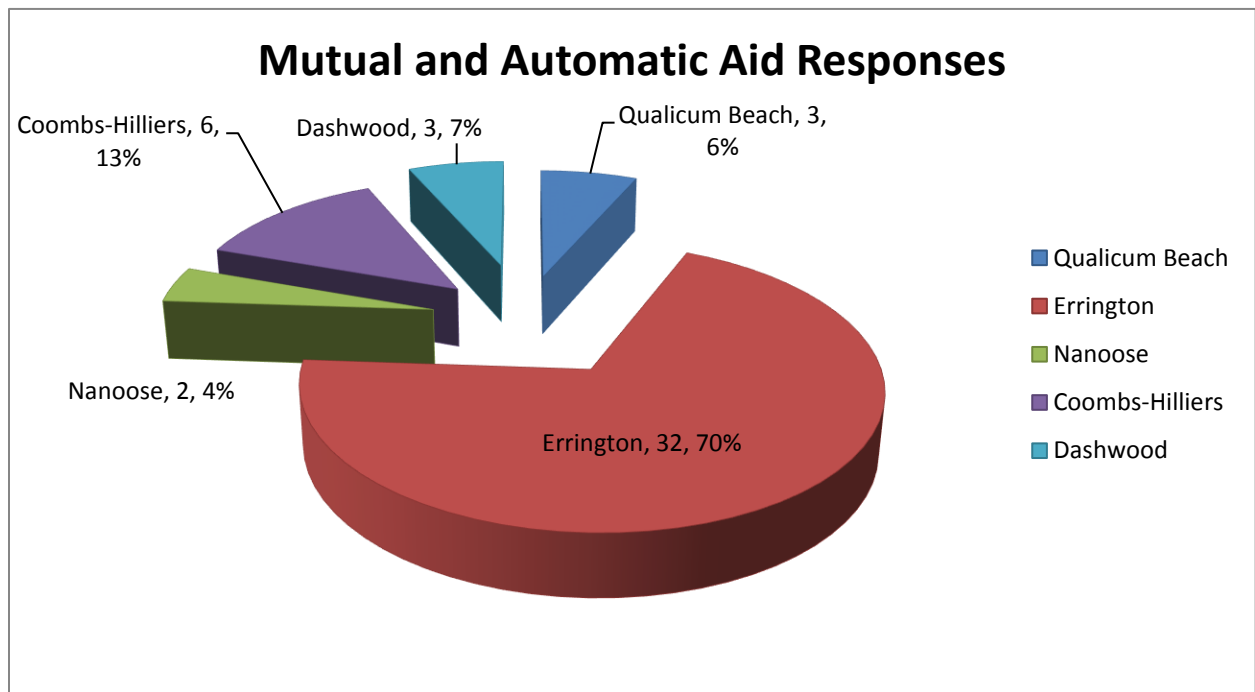
Calls for Service – By Type



Response Comparative – By Zone



Response Comparative – Mutual and Automatic Aid



Response Times (based on 522 responses)

	# Incidents	Avg. Dispatch Time (min.)	Avg. Muster Time (min.)	Avg. On-route Time (min.)	Avg. Response Time (min.)	Avg. Second Vehicle On Scene
2017 Totals	522	1.43	3.39	4.42	8.04	
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.

	2017	2016	2015
Co-occurring Incidents Clusters	16	10	7

Dollar Loss Fires

	# Dollar Loss Fires	Estimated Dollar Loss	Dollar Saved Estimate
2017 Totals	18	\$5,326,450	\$22,444,350
2016 Totals	17	\$1,173,00	\$4,982,900

Incident Response Hours

	# Incidents	On-scene Time (Hours)	Person Hours
2017	522	425	1909
2016	520	410	2218



Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention is separated into four (4) main areas: Fire & Life Safety Inspections, Public Fire & Life Safety Education, Fire Cause Determination and Review of Development/Building Applications.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections

Fire & Life Safety Inspections are completed in every public building (almost everything which isn't single residential in nature). As new buildings come online the size and complexity are increasing with densification. **Additional inspection resources are required.**

Inspection Program	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Inspectable Occupancies (Approx.)	-	-	812	806	808	795	787	769
Inspections Due (Approx.)	Approx. 530	Approx. 490	525	487	389	496	483	458
Inspections Completed	214	192	287	329	279	353	500	369

Public Fire & Life Safety Education

	2017	2016
Events	39	28
Person-hours	448	586
Citizens reached	1000+	783

Fire Cause Determination

Section 9 of the *Fire Services Act* requires that the fire department investigate and report on fire cause determination. As per the requirements of the Fire Services Act of BC, as administered by the Office of the Fire Commissioner of BC, **Fire Department Staff investigated a total of 16 fires in 2017.**

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.

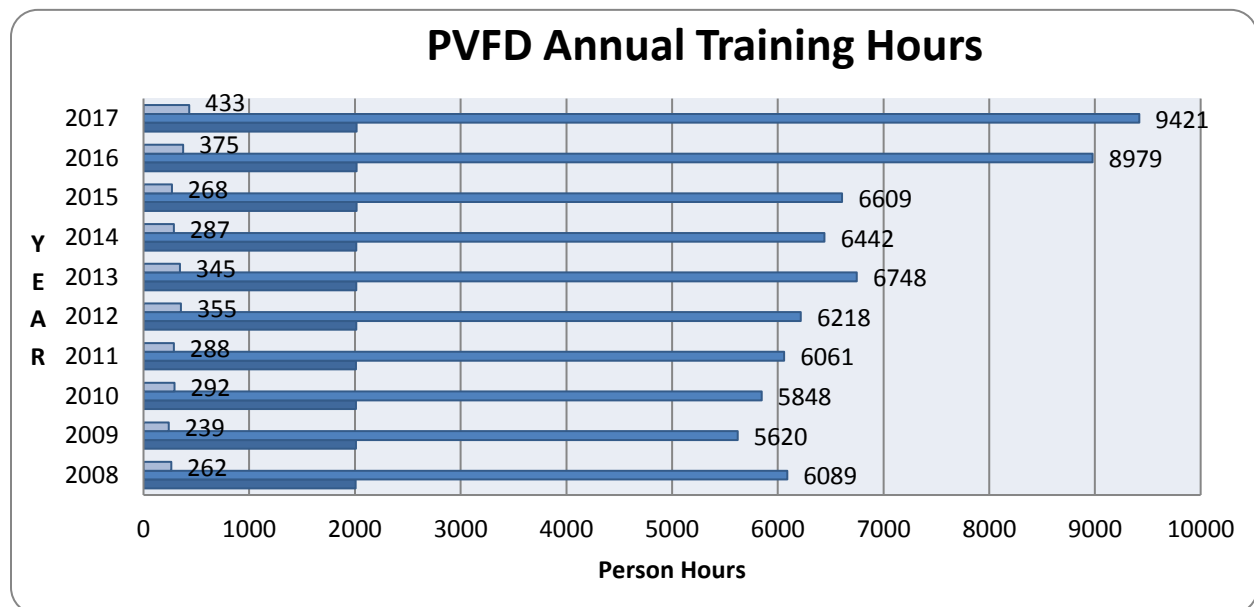
There are multiple levels of fire, medical and specialized training delivered and/or attended throughout the year. Training includes items such as, education to obtain or maintain a license or credential, recruit training, new response concepts, skills maintenance, special technical rescue training,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

2017 Training Stats





















	Attendee Hours	Instructor Hours	Total Person Hours	Sessions
2017 Totals	8265	1156	9421	433

10 year Training Hours Comparison



2017 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. 2017 was yet another successful training year.

-  **Four (4)** members attended Frontlines - Airbrake Endorsement Course.
-  **Three (3)** members attended a JIBC Playbook & Evaluation Workshop (16 hours per member).
-  **Five (5)** members completed their initial First Responder Emergency Medical Attendant training. (52 hours per member).
-  **Twelve (12)** members recertified as First Responder Emergency Medical Attendants (22 hours per member).
-  **Five (9)** members attended the KGC Auto Extrication NFPA 1006 course (20 hours per member).
-  **Five (5)** members completed the S.T.A.R.T program at Comox FD.
-  **Two (2)** members completed their Level 2 Fire Attack at Comox FD.
-  **Five (5)** members completed their Level 1 Fire Attack at Comox FD.
-  **Two (2)** members completed a Train the Trainer for Emergency Scene Traffic Management.
-  **Two (2)** members completed a Train the Trainer for Driver Training from Frontline Driver Training.
-  **Seven (7)** new recruits started in May, none with previous firefighting experience; 6 recruits are remaining.
-  **Three (3)** members attended the BCFTOA Training conference in Kelowna.
-  **Eight (8)** members completed Technical Rope Rescue course with Dynamic Rescue (60 hours per member).
-  **Ten (10)** members attended a JIBC Pumps & Pumping Training program (20 hours per person).
-  **Eleven (11)** members completed their Haz-Mat Awareness (9 hours per member).
-  **Two (2)** members completed their re-certification for First Responder Instructor Workshop (1 day).
-  **Three (3)** members completed ICS 200 (online course - 16 hours per member)
-  **Four (4)** members completed their Fire Officer Level 1 VIERA course (6 months - 96 hours per member).
-  **Two (2)** Officer Training Days were attended by PVFD Company Officers and/or Senior Firefighters.
-  **Six (6)** Technical Rescue Training sessions.

- 🚒 **Four (4)** members completed their Emergency Vehicle Driver Operator evaluations.
- 🚒 **Eleven (11)** members successfully completed and received their Class 3 License.
- 🚒 **Three (3)** members completed Fire Service Instructor Level 1 (2.5 days per member).
- 🚒 Extra Weekly Training Sessions (17 Sessions; 154 person hours)
- 🚒 Company Officer and Firefighter Development.
- 🚒 Swift Water Rescue Awareness Training.
- 🚒 Automatic/Mutual Aid practices with neighboring departments.



2018 Objectives:

- Replacement of utility vehicle C43.
- Complete Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) replacement capital project.
- Award Rescue Pumper replacement capital project contract.
- Create casual pool for back fill of Fire Rescue Technician Position.
- Maintain volunteer on-call member numbers.
- Complete Training Tower Capital Project.
- Continue to develop new Training Program as per JIBC Playbook for Full Service Firefighter Operations.
- Develop training program(s) for training tower. (Forcible Entry, High-rise 3-4 storey Fire Attack)
- Focus on continued Company Officer and Firefighter Development.
- Fire, Police and Ambulance Interagency Training.
- Automatic/Mutual Aid practices with neighboring departments.
- Class 3 Licenses for members and build on current driver training program.
- Facility, Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance program review and update.
- Pre Incident Plan updates
- Training the Fire Rescue Technician to complete fire inspections.



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.

