

NORTH SAANICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

FACILITIES, CAPABILITIES, GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

August 2004

A. FACILITIES

- formed in 1972 as an independent operation
- mandate formed by by-law (1998) numbered 877
- 43 volunteer members - 38 active, 2 active auxiliary
- 2 career firefighters and part time administration assistant - a full time chief and a full time inspector operating from Wain Rd Fire Hall
- 2 halls - Wain Rd. (main hall) and McTavish Rd
- operate as one department - rotating platoons through both halls
- practice every Tuesday night 7 - 10 pm
- Social side - North Saanich Volunteer Firefighters Association - separate from Fire
- truck compliment - 4 triple combination pumpers, 1 rescue van, 2 utility vehicles
- Officer compliment- Chief, Deputy, Training, Safety and 4 platoon captains
- 4 platoons (for practice purposes only) rotated annually
- Officers are elected for a two year period
- mutual aid agreements with Sidney, Central Saanich and Airport Fire Departments and Forestry
- North Saanich, Sidney and Central Saanich Fire Chiefs jointly manage Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization (PEMO)
- 9-1-1 service through RCMP Langford
- receive calls through Saanich Fire Dispatch under contract
- Alarm panel monitors Municipal Hall, IOS, Marine Tech Bldg, Fire Hall
- all members carry voice pagers
- sirens on both halls activate between 7 am and 7 pm

B. CAPABILITIES

- as per bylaw our activities include: suppression, rescue, mutual aid, haz mat awareness response, first responder, disaster planning, fire prevention, public information
- train to JI and IFSTA standards
- participate in JI Edukit examinations
- certify all firefighters in emergency driver training, level I and level II Firefighting
- Officers train to level III and IV J.I. firefighting
- follow the incident command procedure
- use the Seattle based passport accountability system
- dispatch our calls from our radio room once handed off from Saanich Fire

SUPPRESSION

- first response trucks attack with cisco lay (21/2" attack to gated Y to 2 - 13/4")
- automatic foam proportioners on 1st response trucks
- fight all fires with appropriate foam

- 2nd response trucks hydrant catch with 4" lines
- positive pressure ventilation

RESCUE

- auto/aircraft extrication
- no heavy rescue capability
- have Genisis hydraulic cutter, spreader and power unit
- have Genisis combination cutter, spreader tool with power unit
- carry high pressure air bags
- misc electric and hand tools
- misc cribbing

MARINE RESCUE

- jointly operate a 37' launch with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Airport Fire Dept. The ***Nucleus*** is located at the Coast Guard Base, Institute of Ocean Sciences in Pat Bay. Operating range is limited mainly to the Saanich Inlet area.

MUTUAL AID

- written agreement with Sidney and Central Saanich to back each other up if required
- agreement with forestry to cover provincial parks for our forest backup
- mutual aid contract to cover aircraft firefighting as back up to airport
- assist BC ferries and Fisheries and Coast Guard in shipboard fires

HAZ MAT

- respond as first responders and stabilize scene
- no haz mat capabilities beyond awareness

FIRST RESPONDER

- all qualified to level III
- have a kit and response vehicle from each hall

FIRE PREVENTION

- do all our own prevention, inspections and fire investigations

C. GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

- all members carry voice pagers
- all (most) members trained to do any function
- on tone out all members proceed to closest hall unless close to scene
- Chief and Deputy Chief proceed in own vehicles to scene
- functions are determined by order of arrival

- 1st to arrive at hall is radio operator, 2nd is driver/pump operator of 1st response vehicle, 3rd is passenger seat in 1st response vehicle, 3rd, 4th, 5th are attack team 1, and so on
- Wain rd hall dispatch's our scene, if McTavish hall happens to answer first it passes dispatch to Wain Rd once someone arrives
- If a senior officer is not at scene when the 1st response truck arrives the co-pilot in the 1st response truck assumes command
- staging is set up as soon as possible and all manpower is to report there where accountability is set up and waits for assignments requested from command
- maintain a duty officer to handle non-emergency calls after regular working hours
- this function is rotated through the platoons
- the fire inspector or chief handles these calls Mon- Fri -midnight to 5 pm on a rotating basis
- duty officer has a separate page out