

REGIONAL FIRE SERVICES



NEWSLETTER FORMAT AND CONTENT

Building from the success of the sub-regional newsletter for Area C, this comprehensive regional newsletter was developed to provide fire services information from each fire suppression area in the Regional District. This way all committee members (both sub regional and local) can remain current on the activities of the respective fire department they represent and gain an understanding and appreciation of the region as a whole.

The CSRD will endeavor to prepare and distribute a Regional Fire Services Newsletter to all committee members on a semi-annual basis.

DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

The following statistics show the number of call-outs each fire department has been called to between January and July, 2015 compared with the five year annual average number of call outs.

Fire Department	Total Call Outs (January – July 2015)	Average annual call outs (2012 – 2014)
Anglemont	12	19
Celista	11	9
Eagle Bay	10	9
Falkland	6	10
Malakwa	18	20
Nicholson	7	16
Ranchero Deep Creek	10	21
Scotch Creek Lee Creek	17	24
Silver Creek	9	12
Shuswap	71	60
Swansea Point	8	8
Tappen/Sunnybrae	49	48
White Lake	11	7
<i>Region-wide Totals</i>	239	263

CSRD STAFFING - NEWS AND UPDATES

In March 2015, the Fire Services Coordinator position was reclassified and titled Regional Fire Chief. A new position of Assistant Regional Fire Chief was created to support the day to day operations of CSRD Fire Services and to coordinate fire training.

The position was filled in early August and we are pleased to have Sean Coubrough now working in the department.

Sean brings several years of experience from the Field Fire Rescue Department in Yoho National Park where he was the Fire Chief for the past five years. His operational experiences and educational background will be a very valuable asset to Fire Services and future growth. Welcome Sean!



ROSTER UPDATES

The following table identifies the number of active firefighters at each Fire Department:

Department	April 1, 2015	Department	April 1, 2015
Anglemont	19	Scotch Creek/Lee Creek	23
Celista	18	Shuswap	35
Eagle Bay	15	Silver Creek	22
Falkland	20	Swansea Point	18
Malakwa	12	Tappen/Sunnybrae	32
Nicholson	20	White Lake	19
Ranchero/Deep Creek	24	Totals	277

In 2014, the fire departments rosters totaled 313 members region-wide.



2015 PROJECTS AND CAPITAL UPDATES

Nicholson

- Rendek Construction has been awarded the contract to complete the construction of a two bay addition to the existing firehall building to house a future water tender and a command unit. The cost for the extension is approximately \$190,000. An additional \$15,000 has been approved by the Area Director to access Community Works Fund (Gas Tax) to upgrade the lighting and hot water needs of the building.

Malakwa

- Interior and exterior lighting upgrades to high efficiency LED is in progress. The upgrades are being funded from the Community Works Fund (Gas Tax).

Swansea Point

- Interior lighting upgrades to high efficiency LED is in progress. The upgrades are being funded from the Community Works Fund (Gas Tax).
- Lighting and equipment will be installed on the new Command Unit.
- The SCBA units will be replaced with units from the Tappen/Sunnybrae department.

Ranchero/Deep Creek

- The new water tender was delivered in March 2015.

Falkland

- The fire hall driveway and parking area around the building is now paved and was completed in early August.

Silver Creek

- The RFP for the purchase of a new Water Tender was released earlier this year. HUB Fire Trucks was the successful proponent and the new unit will be delivered in the late spring of 2016.

White Lake

- The fire hall driveway and parking area around the building is now paved.
- Electrical upgrades to electrical service panel and upgrades to the interior lighting to high efficiency LED have been completed. The upgrades were funded by the Community Works Fund (Gas Tax).

Tappen/Sunnybrae

- Quotes have been received for the replacement of the existing SCBA units to new MSA G1.
- A concept design completed for fire hall expansion plan was developed and it was determined that the 2015 budget for the expansion as designed is insufficient to advance the project in 2015. The concept will be redesigned with plans to carry forward the project into 2016 with a more accurate construction estimate and an architectural consultation.

Shuswap

- The fire hall driveway and parking area paving is now complete at Hall #1 in Sorrento.

- Compressor upgrades and improvements will be completed by Drew Ayre of Wade Technologies. The upgrades will increase the filling speed and capacity of the SCBA air bottles.

Eagle Bay

- Drew Ayre of Wade Technologies will be refurbishing the compressor unit and filling station for the SCBA bottles.

Scotch Creek/Lee Creek

- A new Jordair MiniKat air compressor was purchased and installed late in 2014.

Celista

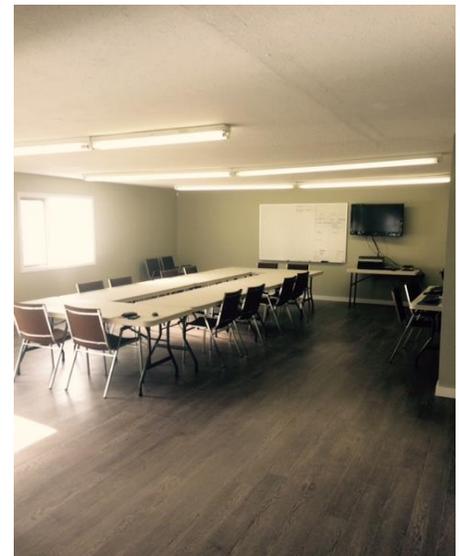
- A feasibility study is currently underway for a new water supply source including a possible dry hydrant option.



Scotch Creek/Lee Creek Compressor

Anglemont

- An RFP for a new 4x4 Engine unit has been released and closes in early September.
- A new Jordair MiniKat air compressor was purchased and installed in late 2014
- Renovations to the training room are now complete thanks to volunteer efforts of the members
- Parking lot development options have been explored and Crown Grant tenure is being amended to include both joint fire department parking and parks use at the Evelyn Falls trailhead. A parking area will be created which will allow for additional parking for members during call outs and practices, and for park users wanting to make the hike along the trail to Evelyn Creek Falls.
- Interior lighting upgrades to high efficiency LED is in progress. The upgrades are being funded from the Community Works Fund (Gas Tax).



Anglemont Training Room

POLICY AND REGULATION UPDATES

Office of the Fire Commissioner Releases 'Playbook'

The Office of the Fire Commissioner unveiled the [Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook \(Playbook\)](#) in September, 2014. The Playbook was subsequently revised and replaced by the second edition in May of 2015. The Playbook provides a detailed approach to establishing minimum standards of training for fire services personnel in BC. The Playbook requires the local authority to review its fire service capabilities within each of its departments and designate each department according to the Playbook training guidelines. The new guidelines have been developed to ensure firefighters are trained accordingly and therefore are safer in the roles they perform.

The Playbook provides guidelines for industry recognized minimum standards of training which utilizes the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firefighter qualifications. The Playbook establishes the minimum standards for the skills and training necessary to perform the role of a firefighter at each of the three designated levels of operations which include: Exterior Operations Level Firefighter, Interior Operations Level Firefighter, and Full Service Operations Level Firefighter. The Playbook is intended to be a living document that will be reviewed and updated periodically.

CSRD Fire Services is well positioned with respect to the level of training its firefighting personnel have already received. Many CSRD firefighters will meet the Interior Operations Level standard, given current CSRD firefighting training includes interior operations. CSRD Fire Services has been working with its members who need to achieve their Basic Firefighter accreditation, with respect to Exterior Operations Level standards. Further administrative work is required within the training records database in order to ensure and track the established competency. The Playbook will allow CSRD Fire Services to leverage the training already completed with Basic Firefighter requirements and implement its own certification in-house, which will meet or exceed the Playbook standards. At this time, Fire Services will not be implementing the Full Service Operations Level standards. The Playbook also outlines training levels for fire officer positions. CSRD Fire Services is confident that all CSRD Fire Departments already contain fire officers that meet or exceed the Playbook standards for the roles of Exterior Operations Team Leader, Interior Operations Team Leader as well as Exterior Operations Risk Management. An evaluation of each department will be undertaken in order to ensure any training deficiencies are addressed accordingly.

Implementation of the Playbook is not expected to adversely affect existing budgets. Training budgets for all departments will meet the requirements of Playbook training standards. The Playbook will empower CSRD Fire Services to evaluate its training in-house, which will reduce its dependency on third party instructors to complete evaluations. Some costs will be incurred in order to train key Fire Services personnel to become certified evaluators, however, these costs will help realize future savings. The Playbook and its official launch in BC is still currently being reviewed by various provincial jurisdictions, including the Office of the Fire Commissioner.



New Water Tender at Rancho/Deep Creek Fire Department

FINANCIAL NEWS

Financial statements to the end of July 31, 2015 have been distributed to all department chiefs and commission members.

2016 Budgets – CSRD Staff will be working with the Fire Chiefs on 2016 budgets over the next few weeks. Once preliminary discussions have been held with the Area Director(s) the draft budgets will be presented and reviewed with the Commissions. Commissions meetings will be held in early to mid-October to provide adequate time for feedback on the budget initiatives before submission to the Board.

FIRE UPDATE & NEWS

An aggressive wildfire caused by a lightning strike in the Bolean Lake Area near Falkland was the focus of the Falkland Fire Department for a period of time in the latter part of July. The CSRD's Structural Protection Unit (SPU) team was also deployed at the request of the BC Wildfire Management Branch to set up a sprinkler protection zone at residences along Chase-Falkland Road in the Evacuation Alert area. An Emergency Operations Centre was activated by the Shuswap Emergency Program and one property was evacuated. The fire burned for several days and luckily, due to the efforts of the BC Wildfire Management Branch and Mother Nature, the Evacuation Alert was lifted after seven days.

The CSRD has deployed a Structural Protection Unit (SPU) team to Grand Forks in response to the August 26, 2015 Evacuation Alert issued in that area. The Stickpin Wildfire in Washington State continues to burn only five kilometers south of the border. Kenn and Sean, (far right), see off this elite team of (left to right) Marc Zaichowsky (Tappen/Sunnybrae), Mike Zdebiak (Scotch Creek/Lee Creek), Scott Davies (Shuswap), Darnell Krussel (Ranchero/Deep Creek) and John Quilty (Salmon Arm). There is concern over the risk of ember showers in the Grand Forks and Christina Lake areas due to strong winds forecasted for the coming days.



TRAINING UPDATE & NEWS

Revised training is ongoing in alignment with the new Playbook guidelines. Exterior Live Fire training occurred at the Fire Training Centre in April with further sessions scheduled throughout the year. This is the first delivery of a new format of Live Fire Training. The training included the rehab team and new instructor staff attended to become more familiar with the new course format. The previous Live Fire 1 and Live Fire 2 have been reworked with the development of a new lesson plan. The courses are now more closely aligned with the new OFC Playbook format of an Exterior Live Fire and Interior Live Fire. The first Interior Live Fire is planned for a fall delivery. Another Exterior delivery was held in Golden and Nicholson in June.



The Evaluators Workshop Course was recently completed and was well received. It is a Justice Institute BC accredited course where select Fire Officers are put through the process of being an accredited evaluator. This will position training staff with the ability to properly evaluate fire service personnel to the Interior Firefighting service level if required.

Attendance was good at the BC Fire Prevention Officers conference and the Kamloops Firefighters spring seminar, <http://www.fpoa.bc.ca/>. The spring seminar is hosted by the Kamloops Firefighters Auxiliary. The CSRD had about 40 firefighters in attendance; we had a very strong showing in the firefighter's challenge competition. <http://www.firebc.org/>.

The fall training calendar is under development. Course content and scheduling is currently underway. Content such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder will be a new offering that is expected to be delivered in September. Assistant Regional Fire Chief Sean Coubrough will be taking the lead on building the fall calendar.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

- Improvements have been made to the SPU units – new batteries, solar panels and interior lighting have been installed.
- IamResponding software application has been in place for the past six months at the Shuswap Fire Department. The Tappen Sunnybrae Fire Department will be testing a competitive software called WhosResponding.

These technologies allow for better informed information to be displayed on several different types of electronic devices indicating what members are responding, when and from where, as well as some routing, mapping and messaging capabilities.

- CSRD staff received a demonstration recently with a piece of software called FirePro II. FirePro II is a records management software utilized by over 200 fire services across Canada to record all aspects of fire department records such as training, payroll, personnel documentation and other clerical functions. Staff was very impressed with the software's capabilities and will be looking including in the 2016 budget.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Maltese Cross



The Maltese Cross is known around the world as a symbol of the fire service. It is often seen painted on fire trucks, on the clothing of firefighters, depicted on firefighter's badges, and is quite often the chosen design of firefighter tattoos. So where did the Maltese cross come from, and how did it get to be known as a symbol of the fire service?

The Badge of a Fire Fighter is the Maltese Cross. The Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection and a badge of honor. Its story is hundreds of years old.

When a courageous band of crusaders known as Knights of St. John fought the Saracens for possession of the holy land, they encountered a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a simple, but horrible device of war. It wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave fighters for the cross. The Saracens weapon was fire.

As the crusaders advanced on the walls of the city, they were struck by glass bombs containing naphtha. When they became saturated with the highly flammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming torch into their midst. Hundreds of the knights were burned alive; others risked their lives to save their brothers-in-arms from dying painful, fiery deaths.

Thus, these men became our first Fire Fighters and the first of a long list of courageous Fire Fighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders who awarded each hero a badge of honor—a cross similar to the one fire fighters wear today. Since the Knights of St. John lived for close to four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea named Malta, the cross came to be known as the Maltese Cross.

The Maltese Cross is your symbol of protection. It means that the Fire Fighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down his life for you just as the crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago. The Maltese Cross is a Fire Fighter's badge of honor, signifying that he works in courage...a ladder rung away from death.