

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



CSRD Fire Services

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION 3

 Fire Department of the Year 3

OPERATIONS..... 4

 2019 Call Stats 4

 2019 Provincial Wildfire Deployments 5

 Recruitment and Retention 5

 Mission, Vision and Values 6

PURCHASING and PROCUREMENT 6

 Command Vehicles 6

 Exhaust Removal System 6

 Pumper/Engine Purchase - Shuswap Fire Department..... 7

 Celista Property Expansion – Training Site Development..... 7

 New SCBA 7

 Compressor Upgrades..... 8

TRAINING 8

 Spring and Fall Training..... 8

 Junior Firefighter Program 9

 Respectful Workplace and Leadership - Phil Eastwood (Fiore Group) 10



INTRODUCTION

Fire departments within the CSRD demonstrated their continuing commitment to fire and life safety initiatives within their communities in 2019. Total call volumes decreased for the second consecutive year, but structure fire calls remain higher than pre-2017 levels and have remained consistent. The reduction in wildfire activity within the province compared to the previous years, has reduced the number of burn complaints and provincial deployment requests to the Fire Services function.

A number of capital projects were advanced in 2019, including the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), SCBA compressor replacements and the development of a fire training site in Celista. New command vehicles were acquired for two CSRD fire departments to expand their capacity to rapidly respond to emergency calls in their communities.

The Junior Firefighter Program expanded in 2019 to include eight participating fire departments with a total of 19 junior firefighters. Six junior firefighters graduated from the program and joined their respective halls as full-fledged members after turning 18.

The completion of the Mission, Vision and Values statement for CSRD fire services was the result of two years of consultation with CSRD fire chiefs and highlights a shared focus, goals and direction to serve as a guide for decision making for all CSRD fire departments.

Fire Department of the Year

The 2019 Fire Department of the year was awarded to the Anglemont Fire Department, under the leadership of Fire Chief Graham Lucas. The Anglemont Fire Department has consistently demonstrated leadership in the areas of fire prevention and training. The department is actively involved in the community, through numerous fire prevention activities, the regional FireSmart initiative program and community outreach. Chief Lucas has played a pivotal role in the development of a number of Neighbourhood Emergency Programs (NEPs) that will assist residents during emergency events that impact their community. The department's members are a dedicated group and have worked hard over the past year to reach out to their mutual aid partners on the north shore of Shuswap Lake to participate in joint training exercises and fire prevention activities.

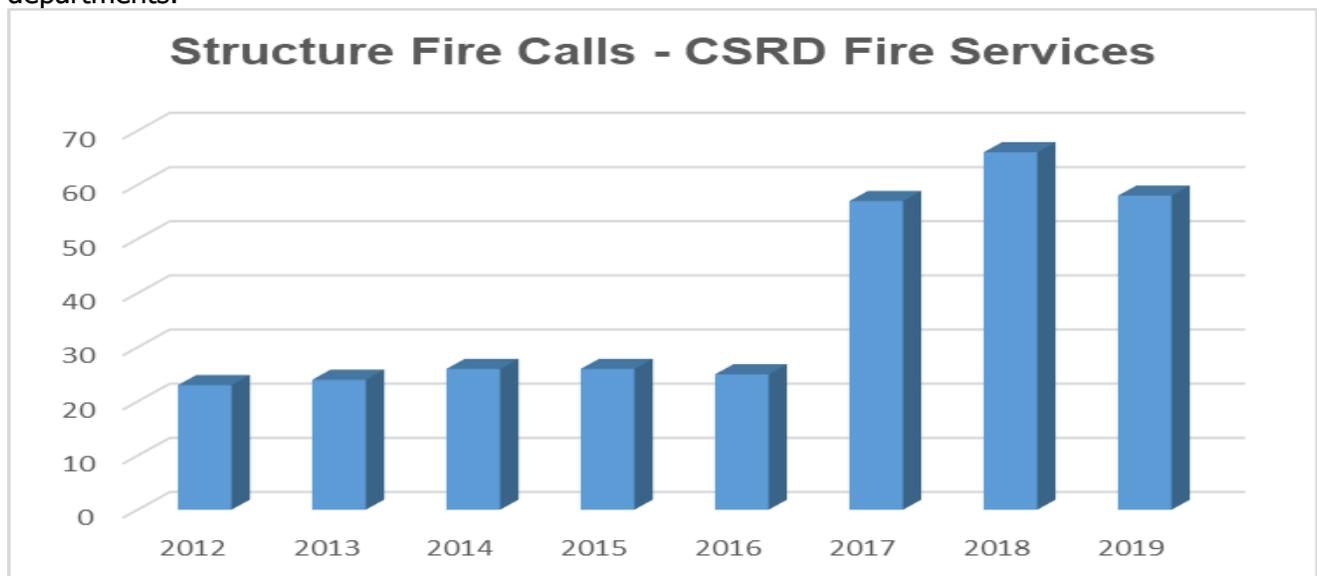
OPERATIONS

2019 Call Stats

CSRD fire departments responded to a total of 370 calls in 2019, a 15% reduction from 2018.

Fire Department	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Anglemont	16	20	18	14	18	54	39	28
Celista	12	11	10	16	13	42	28	15
Eagle Bay	12	9	7	16	19	22	27	21
Falkland	16	11	5	10	10	23	19	18
Malakwa	17	24	16	25	21	47	25	25
Nicholson	16	10	16	8	10	29	17	16
Ranchero/Deep Creek	25	16	22	19	26	77	27	38
Scotch Creek/Lee Creek	19	26	21	20	13	45	37	30
Silver Creek	13	14	9	18	5	21	13	19
Shuswap	68	61	46	95	102	125	110	90
Swansea Point	9	10	5	11	8	25	15	17
Tappen/Sunnybrae	33	48	56	72	45	74	54	40
White Lake	7	6	9	13	7	16	24	13
Totals	263	266	240	337	297	600	435	370

The absence of a province-wide campfire ban in the summer of 2019 reduced the number of burn complaints CSRD fire departments responded to, from 69 in 2018 down to 36 in 2019. While the total number of structure fires decreased over the record high set in 2018, they remain higher than pre-2016 totals because of an increase in the number of mutual aid support calls requested from fire departments.



This trend in the increase in structure fire call outs due to mutual aid requests is proof of a changing culture with fire services. Fire chiefs and incident commanders are quickly requesting mutual aid from nearby CSRD fire departments, with the knowledge that they are all part of a larger team with similar training, operational guidelines, skills and equipment.

2019 Provincial Wildfire Deployments

After experiencing two of the worst wildfire seasons on record in 2017 and 2018, 2019 saw a decrease in wildfire activity across the province. According to the BC Wildfire Service, there were 793 fires across BC that burned an estimated 20,967 total hectares. These numbers are down from the over 1,300,000 hectares burned in 2018 and well under the ten year average of just over 400,000 hectares per year. With the decrease in fire activity came a decrease in the request for aid from the Province. The CSRD did not receive a request for structural protection unit trailers or teams in 2019 and received only one call requesting a wildland engine.

- The Scotch Creek/Lee Creek Fire Department provided a Type 3 wildland engine and a crew of three firefighters; two from the Scotch Creek/Lee Creek Fire Department and one from the Celista Fire Department. The engine was sent in support of the Eagle Bluff Fire near Oliver, BC. The crew was deployed for a total of four days, after which time they were stood down by BC Wildfire Service.

Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment and retention of firefighters continued to be an issue in many areas of the CSRD in 2019. While CSRD fire departments saw 50 new recruits join the team, 69 trained and experienced firefighters were lost through resignation and retirement, for a net loss of 19 firefighters.

Recruitment efforts continued throughout 2019 which included posters, radio, print advertisement and media releases targeting a vast segment of the population. The CSRD held community consultations and information sessions to spread the word that its fire departments are recruiting and are in need of new members. This included the use of an online survey, one for firefighters and one for the community-at-large, looking into the motivations and barriers in place for people to join their local fire department. The information gathered from these surveys has allowed the CSRD Fire Services team to better target recruitment messaging to achieve the best results.

Mission, Vision and Values

Over the past two years the CSRD has engaged in discussions with its fire chiefs to develop a Mission, Vision and Values statement for firefighters to refer to as a guide to decision making. The first brainstorming session was held at the 2018 spring fire chief's meeting, and the document was discussed and refined at each subsequent meeting. The final document will be presented to the fire chiefs at the February 2020 meeting. The Mission, Vision and Values statement outlines core values that are shared by the 13 fire departments that will serve as the foundation of activities within the CSRD Fire Services function.

- *Mission: To serve our communities in the CSRD through excellence in fire protection, prevention, education and safety.*
- *Vision: To create resilient communities through our efforts as a fire service in coordination with the public.*
- *Values: Community, Teamwork, Professionalism, Integrity, Safety and Leadership.*



PURCHASING and PROCUREMENT

Command Vehicles

The CSRD received delivery of two new command vehicles in 2019. The Tappen Sunnybrae Fire Department and the Rancho Deep Creek Fire Department each received a new 3/4-ton Dodge Ram in November 2019. These vehicles will be used to transport firefighters and officers quickly to emergency incidents to provide a size up of the incident and establish a command structure at the scene. The vehicles will also be used in a variety of ways to assist the fire department including:

- Early intervention at fire scenes by incident commanders
- Provide access to remote locations that cannot be accessed by larger fire trucks
- Transport firefighters to training events
- Respond to burn complaints
- Provide additional safety when providing emergency scene traffic control
- Transportation of additional equipment and supplies

Arrangements have been made to have the vehicles outfitted with lights, sirens, communication equipment and decaling in 2020.

Exhaust Removal System

A contract for the supply and installation of a vehicle exhaust removal system for the Nicholson Fire Hall building was awarded in 2019. This project was the final stage of the fire hall expansion project that began in 2016. WorkSafe BC requires that all fire departments have a system to limit the firefighter's exposure to vehicle exhaust fumes while working in a fire hall. The exhaust removal system in Nicholson is an active exhaust removal system that attaches directly to the exhaust pipe of fire

apparatus using magnets and vents the fumes to the exterior of the hall, providing the best protection available for our firefighters.

Pumper/Engine Purchase - Shuswap Fire Department

A contract for the replacement of the Shuswap Fire Department’s Engine 1 was tendered in 2018 and was awarded to Rocky Mountain Phoenix to supply a Rosenbauer Fire Engine. This will be the first fleet engine in the CSRD from this manufacturer and is the result of a year-long tender process to find a suitable replacement for the department’s 1997 Freightliner Engine.

The new pumper truck will have a 1,050 Imperial Gallons per Minute (IGPM) pump, a side-mounted pump panel, seating for five, a bumper-mounted booster line and two pre-connected hose lines.

Delivery of the vehicle has been delayed due to a shortage of available chassis in North America. Delivery is expected in the spring of 2020.

Celista Property Expansion – Training Site Development

The CSRD reached an agreement with a property owner that holds lands adjacent to the Celista Fire Department, with the goal to establish a fire training site in Electoral Area F. An easement agreement has been reached with the property owner after approval by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to permit non-farm use of the property. Plans for the new training area include a burn building for structure fire training, a car fire prop area and a dumpster fire prop area. This new training area will be available for year-round use by fire departments in Electoral Area F and will also be used for regional training courses.

New SCBA

The CSRD continued with a program started in 2015 to replace low pressure Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with high pressure MSA G1 SCBA. The air packs were supplied by Rocky Mountain Phoenix, the sole supplier of MSA SCBA in BC. The replacement program is slated to run through to 2023, at which time all CSRD fire departments will have upgraded to the MSA G1 SCBA.



The table below identifies the fire departments that received new SCBA in 2019, and demonstrates that the project was completed under budget:

Department	Budgeted	Harness \$5,437.00	Cylinder \$1,120.00	Mask \$317.00	QC Adaptors \$61.50	Total cost (before taxes)
Eagle Bay	\$70,000.00	8 \$43,496.00	8 \$8,960.00	8 \$2,536.00	8 \$492.00	\$55,484.00
White Lake	\$90,000.00	10 \$54,370.00	10 \$11,200.00	10 \$3,170.00	10 \$615.00	\$69,355.00
Silver Creek	\$72,000.00	8 \$43,496.00	8 \$8,960.00	8 \$2,536.00	8 \$492.00	\$55,484.00
TOTAL	\$232,000.00	26 \$141,362.00	26 \$29,120.00	26 \$8,242.00	26 \$1,599.00	\$180,323.00



There are many benefits to standardizing SCBA throughout the CSRD fire departments including:

- The new upgraded units hold approximately 45 minutes of air, compared to the older packs which hold approximately 22 minutes of air. This increases the amount of time a firefighter can work before needing to replace their air cylinder.
- The new SCBAs conform to the recent changes made to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1852 for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
- Standard SCBA units for all CSRD fire departments increases interoperability between departments on mutual aid calls and training events; and
- The costs per unit is decreased by purchasing in bulk quantities on an annual basis.

Compressor Upgrades

Upgrades to MSA G1 SCBA and high-pressure cylinders necessitates the requirements to replace older compressor units that are designed for filling low pressure cylinders. Compressors were upgraded in 2019 at the Celista Fire Hall and the White Lake Fire Hall.

TRAINING

Spring and Fall Training

The regional training program, which runs each spring and fall, received over 450 students, representing over 200 individual CSRD firefighters, participating in 26 course offerings. The 2019 course offerings included:

- Exterior & Interior Live Fire
- Hazmat Awareness & Ops
- Incident Safety Officer
- Fire Service Instructor 1
- Rapid Intervention Team
- Live Fire 3 (Emergency Scene Management)
- Respectful Workplace/Leadership
- Chaplaincy & Critical Incident Stress Management
- Wildland Firefighting for Structure Firefighters
- Ventilation
- Emergency Vehicle Driving
- Apparatus Pump Operator
- Strategies & Tactics
- Structure Protection Unit Training



Junior Firefighter Program

The Junior Firefighter Program commenced in 2018 and has continued to offer students between the ages of 15 to 17 an opportunity to learn firefighting skills taught by experienced firefighters at local departments. The participating students are eligible for course credits through their school's Work Experience Program, and many departments are currently participating in the program including:

- Malakwa FD
- Tappen/Sunnybrae FD
- Silver Creek FD
- Eagle Bay FD
- Shuswap FD
- White Lake FD
- Rancho/Deep Creek FD
- Anglemont FD

The Junior Firefighter Program currently has 19 participants. Six former junior firefighter program participants reached the age of 18 and made the choice to join their local fire department as full members. These program graduates bring with them the skills they learned as a junior member, substantially reducing the amount of training required as adult recruits to attend emergency incidents. The program continues to offer youth in rural areas a positive local program where they can learn the value of serving their community while gaining experience in a highly respected profession.

Respectful Workplace and Leadership - Phil Eastwood (Fiore Group)

On September 8, 2019, the CSRD hosted Phil Eastwood of the Fiore Group to deliver a seminar on Respectful Workplace & Leadership, in conjunction with the fall CSRD Fire Chief's meeting. Phil was a police officer in England and Canada for 35 years, and transitioned to training industry, government and emergency services personnel in human resources and leadership issues. He has been providing this type of training for over 20 years, and gets his message across by examining his personal experiences over his exemplary career.



The seminar was attended by 44 members of CSRD fire departments and was well received by all participants. The seminar was the continuation of the CSRD's goal to provide continuing education for fire chiefs, officers and firefighters, by ensuring they have the tools necessary to treat all members with respect and to fulfil their leadership roles within the department.