

## DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET

Fire

The Port Alberni Fire Department (PAFD) is committed to serving the citizens of Port Alberni through the protection of lives, property and the environment. PAFD provides fire suppression, fire prevention and fire inspection services as well as first responder medical services, industrial high angle rope rescue, and confined space rescue services. The department is also equipped to respond to and deal with hazardous materials incidents inside city limits.

2012 marked the 100 year anniversary of the Port Alberni Fire Department. Earliest records show that the first fire practice of the PAFD volunteers was conducted in May of 1912, the same year that the City of Port Alberni was incorporated.

### SERVICE STATS



20 Fire Fighters  
1 Inspector  
1 Fire Chief  
1 Deputy Chief



24 HOURS  
365 days  
a year



1,166  
Calls for  
service in 2012

#### Service Responses by Category

Medical Fire Responder	48%
Structure Fires	7%
Bush/Grass/Vehicle/Boat Fires	4%
Burning Complaints	10%
Rescue ie. Motor Vehicle Accidents	11%
Fire Alarms	16%
Assistance	2%
Hazardous Materials	2%



800  
fire hydrants  
protect over  
6,000  
properties

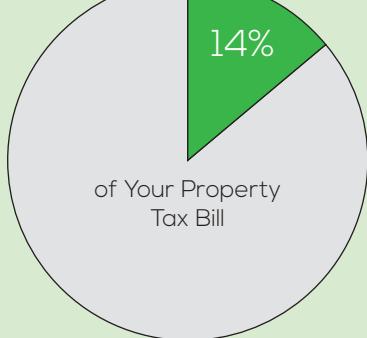
2,344  
hours of training  
in 2012



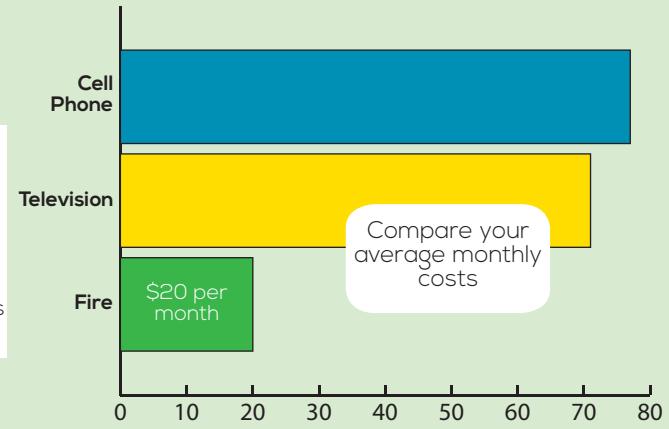
#### Fire department calls for Alberni Valley in 2012 (calls via 911)

Port Alberni	1166	83%
Cherry Creek	62	4%
Beaver Creek	113	8%
Sproat Lake	67	5%
Total	1408	100%

1 Ladder Truck  
3 Fire Engines  
1 Rescue Truck  
1 Water Tanker



Budget Expenditure  
**\$3,200,000**  
-  
Service Fee & Other Revenue  
**\$120,000**  
=  
Net Operating Requirement from Property Taxes  
**\$3,080,000**





## PARTNERSHIPS

The Port Alberni Fire Department partners with a number of stakeholders in fulfilling the City's direction to pursue regional delivery of fire services.

**1. Automatic Mutual Aid** – Partnering with Sproat Lake and Beaver Creek fire departments to automatically co-respond to fires in each other's districts.

**2. Fire Boat** – Partnering with Port Alberni Port Authority to use their patrol boat as a fire boat. The retrofit for this costs approx. \$70,000, with the end result being a fire boat with a replacement value of \$500,000. The sharing of maintenance costs provides ongoing savings.

**3. Mutual Aid** – Partnering with Cherry Creek, Sproat Lake and Beaver Creek fire departments to provide response assistance when requested. This will enable the City to discontinue maintaining a Tender truck, saving \$200,000 in replacement costs.

**4. Regional Fire Training** – This partnership with North Island College not only provides quality training in the Alberni Valley for all firefighters, but also provides modest revenue to the City.

**5. Ucluelet Fire Brigade (UFB)** – Partnering with UFB involves the PAFD providing training support. In return the City receives cost reimbursement plus modest revenue.

**6. Wildland Firefighting** – Partnership with Ministry of Forests that involves each party supporting the other in suppressing wildland fires inside or outside of the City during times of extreme fire risk. The Ministry of Forests reimburses the City for costs.

**7. Road Rescue Program** – PAFD responds to motor vehicle accidents outside of the City on behalf of the Province. The Province reimburses the City.

## FOCUS

Fire services are an important part of the City Council's overall strategic goal to support public safety in Port Alberni. Fire protection contributes significantly to economic sustainability by preventing the loss to fire of key economic driver facilities like Catalyst and Western Forest Products (WFP)-owned facilities. In 2013 the Fire Department began a comprehensive industrial fire inspection program plus working with WorkSafe BC on an industrial explosive dust mitigation program. Each year the Fire Department establishes objectives in line with this goal and others. Examples of such current objectives include:

- Working towards achieving targeted turn out and travel times for fire and rescue responses.
- Development and delivery of firefighter core competency and officer mentorship program to support a high performing workplace.
- Explore solutions to fire service records management challenges

### CITY OF PORT ALBERNI STRATEGIC PLAN



## MORE INFO

If you have questions about fire services in Port Alberni or would like more information please contact the Fire Hall:

**Phone: 250-724-1351**

You can also connect via our website and Facebook page: [www.portalberni.ca](http://www.portalberni.ca)

**Facebook: Port Alberni Fire Department**



## FIRE FACTS



Kitchen fires are the leading cause of residential fires.



Fires double in size every 30 seconds, having a working smoke alarm installed increases your chances of survival.



Adults (18-64) have the highest risk of dying in a house fire in BC.



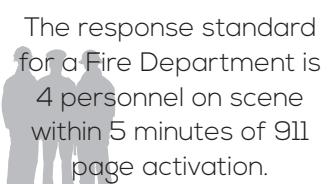
Most fire fatalities occur during the winter months.



On average a British Columbian is injured in a residential fire every 32 hours.



A recent study of fires in BC proves that buildings made of wood are as safe as buildings made of concrete.



The response standard for a Fire Department is 4 personnel on scene within 5 minutes of 911 page activation.