



2013

ANNUAL REPORT



City of Port Alberni Fire Department

Photo credit Jerry Fevens

Council Vision

The CITY OF PORT ALBERNI is a vibrant waterfront community at the heart of the West Coast that ...

- *Is sustainable and environmentally responsible*
- *Is safe, caring and healthy*
- *Has a robust and diverse economy*
- *Is welcoming, accessible and attractive*
- *And is actively creating its future*

Operational Targets

- Improve 911 dispatch services
 - Support North Island 911 Corporation in implementing a functional process for user (fire departments) input
 - Support North Island 911 in facilitating hosted records management for all users
 - Support North Island 911 in reporting dispatch performance regularly versus NFPA standard
- Develop and field test a New Officer Mentorship Program
- Improve turnout times versus NFPA standard
- Explore options for Hosted Records Management
- Begin Industrial Fire Inspection Program
- Replace one Tsunami Warning System station
- Replace SCBAs
- Develop solution for Tender 12 replacement
- Resolve challenge of providing fire protection to Franklin River Road Service Area within their cost constraints

Port Alberni Fire Department

Mission Statement

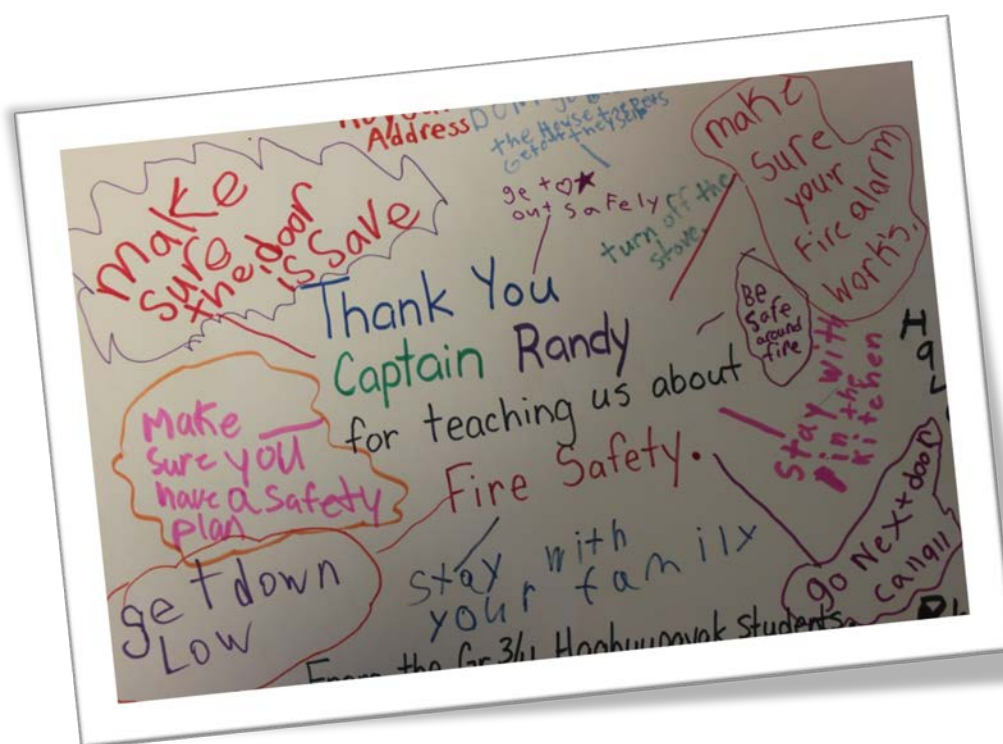
The Port Alberni Fire Department is a compassionate and professional organization committed to the protection of life, property and the environment, the avoidance of harm, and the elimination of suffering.

Vision Statement

The Port Alberni Fire Department is a progressive and dynamic organization, committed to excellence in the delivery of services.

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FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – YEAR IN REVIEW



During 2013, the Port Alberni Fire Department continued to improve operational performance, and at the same time took steps to enable reductions in some future operating costs.

The biggest success realized in 2013, and the one for which I am most proud of our members, is the significant improvement made in turnout times. The high level of professionalism and across the board engagement demonstrated by our personnel in addressing the issue of turnout times resulted in a remarkable improvement.

In our 2012 Annual Report we reported turnout times that met the National Fire Protection Association 1710 standard for fire response of 80 seconds 38% of the time, and medical response of 60 seconds 58% of the time. In both categories the target should be met 90% of the time. By December 2013, we had improved those figures to 86% and 100% respectively. The annual averages were 80% and 79%.

While we have not yet consistently achieved the standard of 90%, our progress has been amazing. When one considers that many fire departments do not track turnout time performance, fewer report turnout times publicly, and fewer still report turnout times that are better than those of PAFD, it becomes clear that by this metric as well as others, Port Alberni is served by a high performing fire department that takes service delivery seriously.

Another great operational success has been the improved value received by all participants in the Alberni Valley Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement. Through this agreement, the service areas of Beaver Creek, Sproat Lake and the City of Port Alberni all receive from each other automatic responses of firefighting resources. In 2013, this protocol was implemented thirteen times. With each coordinated response, the three fire departments have become more effective in working together, providing a greater level of service to residents in all of those service areas, at no additional cost. In this regard, the fire services of the Alberni Valley are leaders in demonstrating to other jurisdictions how to overcome fire protection service delivery challenges.

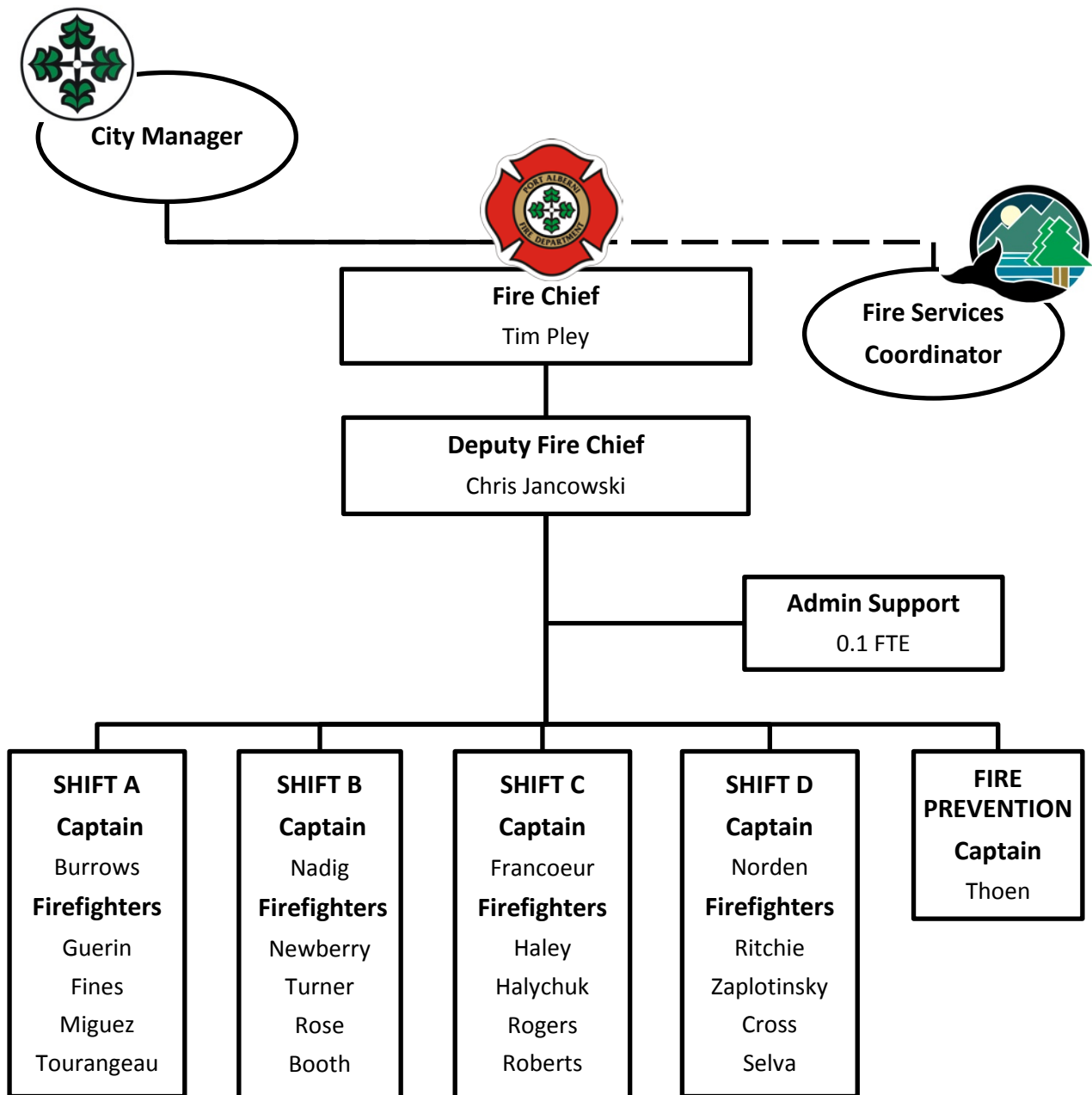
In January 2013, PAFD hired Anthony Selva as an entry level firefighter. Anthony is a graduate of the Justice Institute of BC's Firefighter Recruit Program, was a member of the Beaver Creek Fire Department, a recent employee of the Ministry of Forest's Wildfire Management Branch, and has been a lifelong resident of Port Alberni.

In December 2013, Captain Peter Aspinall retired from PAFD. Captain Aspinall leaves a significant operational hole in our department as a result of the many things that he did for us outside of his core duties.

We look forward to 2014, the opportunity to continue to build on existing partnerships and other successes, and facing the challenge of responding to and mitigating emergencies in and around our community.

"The biggest success realized in 2013, and the one for which I am most proud of our members, is the significant improvement made in turnout times. "

ORGANIZATION PROFILE



PERSONNEL

Retirement



Captain Peter Aspinall - 36 years service

Captain Pete Aspinall retired December 31, 2013 after 36 years of service. Captain Aspinall had been a member of PAFD since 1977.

During his career, Captain Aspinall was distinguished for his high level of skill and contribution in several areas including 15 years as a firefighter/ambulance attendant, leading the department's Medical First Responder program, overseeing the department's digital records management, and being one of the first officers to model the Incident Command System effectively in the field, paving the way for the department's current practices of managing emergency incidents.

New Member

Firefighter Anthony Selva

Anthony joined PAFD in January 2013. A lifelong resident of Port Alberni, Anthony is a graduate of the Justice Institute of BC's Firefighter Recruit Program, and former volunteer firefighter with Beaver Creek Fire Department. His most recent prior employment was as a Ministry of Forest wild land firefighter assigned to the Thunderbird Crew in the Alberni Valley.



Awards



20 Year Exemplary Service Medal

Andre Guerin

Firefighter Guerin began his career in 1993 as a volunteer firefighter with Nanaimo Fire Rescue at their Harewood Station. Later Firefighter Guerin relocated to Lantzville Fire Department. He worked as a fire technician for the Justice Institute of BC. In January 2001 Firefighter Guerin joined PAFD.

In 2011 Firefighter Guerin was named the Port Alberni Kiwanis Firefighter of the Year for his work in the community.

Firefighter Guerin was promoted January 2, 2014 to the position of Acting Captain.

20 Year Exemplary Service Medal**Chris Jancowski**

Deputy Chief Jancowski began his firefighting career in 1993 as a junior firefighter in Colwood BC. After completing schooling to become an electrician, chief Jancowski joined Qualicum Beach Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter while he worked as an electrician in Port Alberni for Aines and Tyler. After a short stint as Deputy Fire Chief, he became Qualicum Beach's fire chief.

In December 2008 chief Jancowski joined PAFD as a deputy chief. His many accomplishments include a Chief Fire Officer designation from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, and membership in the Institution of Fire Engineers.

**RCMP Commissioners Commendation**

Firefighter Travis Cross was recognized for his contribution to the community, in particular his involvement in the RCMP's D.A.R.E. program. As part of that involvement, Firefighter Cross joined other Olympic and professional athletes in an inspirational D.A.R.E. video that continues to be used across the country.

Diamond Jubilee Medal

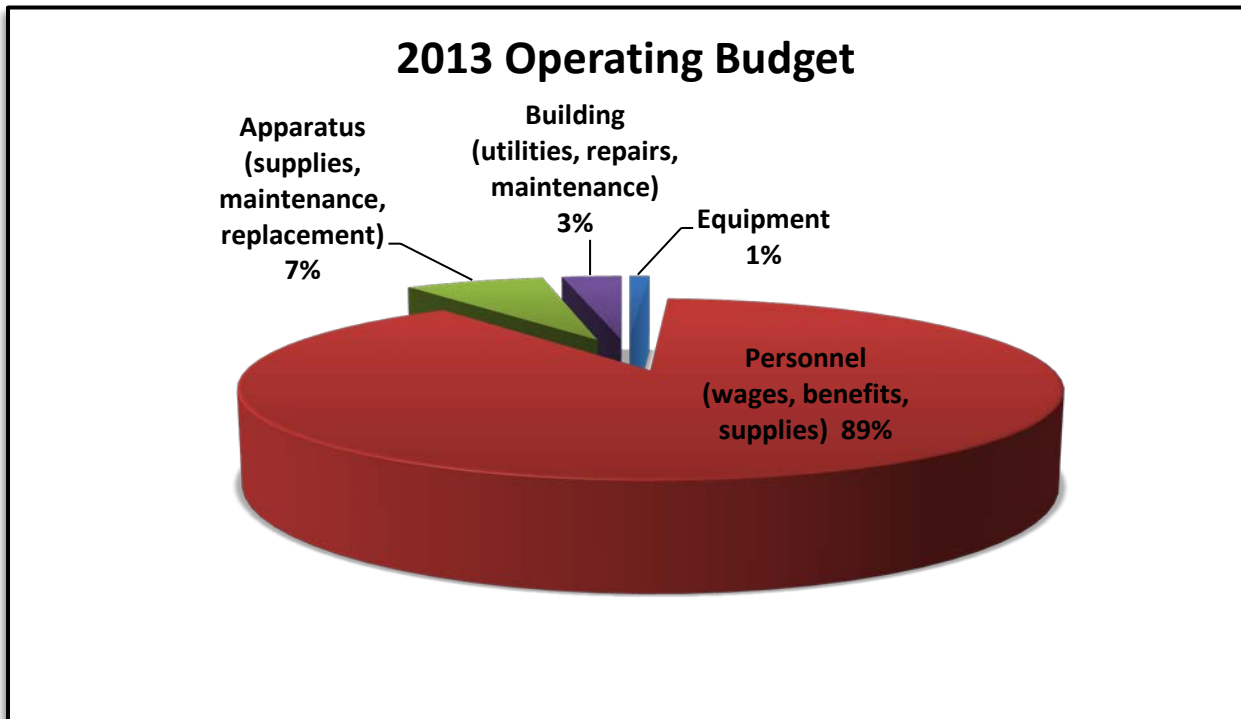
Both Fire Chief Tim Pley and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Jancowski received Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee medals for service to community; locally, regionally, and provincially.

**Provincial Leadership**

Fire Chief Tim Pley was elected as President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC.

OPERATING BUDGET

The 2013 Port Alberni Fire Department operating budget was \$3,027,230.



Industry standards for fire departments utilizing career staff are 85 – 95% of costs being associated to personnel.

2013 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

During 2013 the City replaced its entire fleet of Scott SCBA with new MSA SCBA. The replacement project cost approximately \$160,000, which was \$20,000 under budget, largely on the strength of a \$12,800 recovery for the disposal of the used units.

The new SCBA have an expected lifespan of 15 years.

SCBA technology has increased greatly since the City's older Scott SCBAs were manufactured. Improved safety standards have driven the industry to provide fuller safety measures, lighter, more ergonomic units, and common emergency fittings, to ensure that new SCBAs of all makes are able to be used interchangeably during emergencies.



Tsunami Warning System

The City of Port Alberni is at risk for tsunamis. Although there has been minor tsunami water movements in recent years as a result of earthquakes in the Pacific Ocean, the most recent significant tsunami occurred 50 years ago in Port Alberni in 1964. In the early 1990s the City installed, and has since maintained, a robust Tsunami Warning System that is capable of alerting people throughout the tsunami inundation zone. There are an estimated 2500 City residents living within the tsunami inundation zone, and many others who work or travel through that area on a regular basis.

A worst case tsunami in Port Alberni, likely caused by an earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, is expected to generate a 20 meter water height in Port Alberni. The Cascadia Subduction Zone is expected to cause a magnitude 9 earthquake every 300 – 500 years. The last such event occurred in 1700, 313 years ago.



Since 2012 the City has been undertaking a capital project that renews equipment at the City's four Tsunami Warning System stations. That equipment is now 23 years old, and had an expected life span of 20 years. In 2013 the second of four stations (Golden Street) was upgraded. Budget for this project is \$40,000 each year. Because of the critical emergency nature of this equipment, it must be in a state of readiness 100% of the time. For that reason, the City is replacing the equipment based on life expectancy as opposed to waiting until it fails before making the replacement.

The City's 2014 – 2018 Five Year Financial Plan includes funding, to replace in each of the next three years, the working equipment on one of the City's four tsunami warning system towers. That system is 20 years old. A local firm, Alberni Communications and Electronics has been retained to complete this work. A third party consulting firm was retained to evaluate the poles supporting the equipment. Those poles, all Western Red Cedar, are in excellent condition and expected to remain in similar condition for at least eight years.

Thermal Window Replacement

In 2013, the windows in the City's firehall were replaced with residential grade thermal windows. This project was completed below the budget of \$15,000 which was allocated from the City's Gas Tax Reserve Fund. The window replacement project will result in further efficiencies in heating and cooling the 47 year old building.



As a result of projects such as this, the building maintenance portion of the fire department annual operating budget has been reduced by almost \$10,000, largely because of an anticipated reduction in utility costs ... electricity and natural gas. Although the City's aging firehall has been significantly upgraded in recent years, several more projects are required going forward to provide efficiencies, and to ensure the ability to provide uninterrupted emergency services to the community.

TRAINING AND OPERATIONS



Training

The Port Alberni Fire Department experienced a busy year in training during 2013. The department has not only maintained existing skills that range from fire suppression to technical rescue, but has seen the addition of several new skills.

As part of the ongoing development of the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement (AMA), the department hosted tours of the Somass Sawmill for our partnering departments. These tours assisted in providing backgrounds of sites in preplanning and identifying workplace hazards. The Department also worked with the other AMA departments and their training divisions to standardize the training package for Staging Officers. This program standardizes duties, roles and identification of members fulfilling this Incident Command System function.

The department also delivered incipient fire training for Port Alberni Port Authority staff and Western Forest Products APD Division personnel. This training will better prepare staff members to suppress incipient stage fires and identify conditions where it is unsafe to attack certain types of fires.

Operations

The department responded to 1137 incidents in 2013 similar to recent years. These responses ranged from public assists to multiple alarm structural fires. Several notable fires occurred during 2013. One notable fire, the Elkford Road fire, proved several new initiatives successfully, such as the regional communications model and regional water shuttle. This fire was not an Automatic Aid Event but utilized similar response practices with good success.

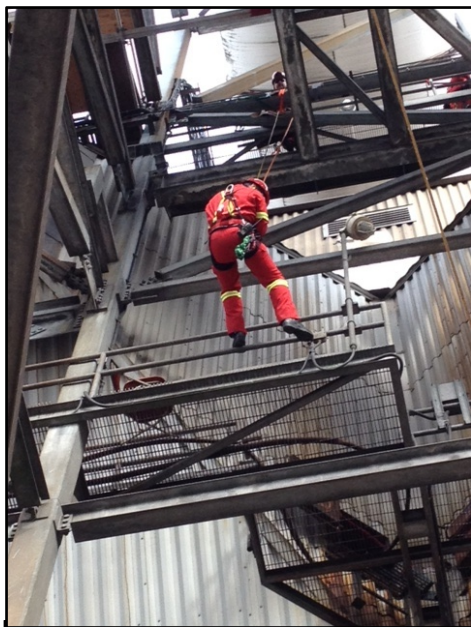
As part of our ongoing relationship with industry, the department provided confined space rescue standby services at the Catalyst Mill site during one of their annual shutdowns. This standby service is only required when high risk confined space work is underway.

The department continues to develop pre-incident plans for complex or high hazard structures. In 2013, the department completed over 80 preplans ranging from industrial mill sites to multi-residential structures.

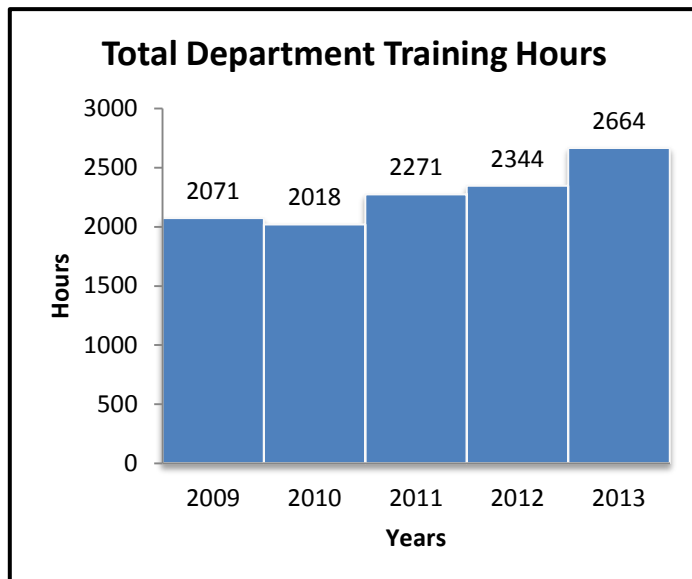


Confined Space Rescue Training

Training Summary



High angle rope rescue training at Catalyst mine site



List of Training Courses / Workshops

COURSE	LOCATION	HOURS
Fire Officer 1 (Leadership)	Port Alberni	40 Hours
Fire Officer 1 (Company Inspections)	Correspondence	40 Hours
Fire Officer 1 (Administrators 1)	Correspondence	40 Hours
Small Vessel Operation Proficiency (SVOP)	Port Alberni, North Island College	32 Hours
Radio Operators Certificate – Marine (ROC-M)	Port Alberni, North Island College	8 Hours
Marine Emergency Duties (MED-A3)	Port Alberni, North Island College	8 Hours
Fire Chiefs Conference	Penticton, BC	40 Hours
FDM Conference	Vancouver, BC	24 Hours
Supervisor Level 1	Port Alberni	24 Hours
Car Seat Installation Workshop	Port Alberni	16 Hours
NFPA Plans Examiner	Victoria, BC	48 Hours

New Training Initiatives in 2013

In 2013, the department continued to add new skills. One of these skills included the training of 6 members in child car seat installation. These skills will enable the members to assist the public to correctly install car seats and keep their children safe. This course was hosted by the department with participants of the local RCMP Detachment.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards are a cornerstone of department training. Standards such as NFPA 1001 (Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications) and NFPA 1002 (Standard on Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications) have been long accepted as best practices. In 2013, the Port Alberni Fire Department began to use an additional standard to measure initial fire ground operations. NFPA 1410 (Standard on Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations) identifies benchmarks that a department will use to assess performance. In 2013, we successfully met many performance-based evolutions that form part of this standard.

The department continued with a series of marine courses that included the small vessel operator's proficiency, marine radio and marine emergency duties. This series of courses was hosted by North Island College. Most of our members have now completed this training and are qualified to operate the fire boat (Harbour Chieftain).



August 2013 Structure Fire on 4th Ave.

Regional Training



Tender Operations Class at North Island College



JIBC Training Weekend (credit Julie Bertrand)

Training Weekend June 2013

The department was successful in co-hosting the first Justice Institute of British Columbia Alberni Valley Regional Training Weekend. This regional training weekend is not new to the province but new to the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District. The principle is to provide a central location with multiple courses allowing departments to send students to reduce travel costs and gain external accredited training.

The 2013 event was successful in seeing a variety of departments participating from across British Columbia and Alberta. Some of these departments are noted below;

PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS		
Sproat Lake Fire Department	Port Alberni Fire Department	Lantzville Fire Department
Cherry Creek Fire Department	Tofino Fire Department	Lesser Slave Lake Fire Department
Comox Fire Department	Hornby Island Fire Department	Edmonton Fire Department
Ucluelet Fire Department	Roberts Creek Fire Department	Kneehill County Fire Department
Ladysmith Fire Department		North Oyster Fire Department

Courses offered included: Incident Safety Officer, Fire Officer Leadership 1 and Tender Operations. On Saturday night, the Sproat Lake Fire Department hosted a west coast salmon BBQ, which was a great hit for all the students and instructors. A special thanks goes to Fire Chief Wade Hepp and all the members of the Sproat Lake Fire Department that made this a success.

North Island College Partnership

The department continues to provide regional training in partnership with North Island College. This partnership has provided access to training for numerous departments. Training delivery ranges from weekly practice nights leading to the NFPA 1001 certifications, to weekend officer development workshops. Activities in 2013 included;

DEPARTMENT	COURSE	HOURS
Ucluelet Fire Department	Weekly and Bi-Weekly Fire Training (NFPA 1001 Program)	2 Hour Sessions (24 sessions)
	NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Operations Course	40 Hour Course
Coombs-Hilliers Fire Department	Bi-Weekly Fire Training (NFPA 1001 Program)	2 Hour Sessions (24 sessions)
Tofino Fire Department	Weekly and Bi-Weekly Fire Training (NFPA 1001 Program)	2 Hour Sessions (24 sessions)
	Officer Development Workshop	16 Hour Session
Beaver Creek Fire Department	NFPA 1001 Evaluations	Multiple 2-4 Hour Sessions
North Island College	SCBA Training	4 Hour Sessions

2013 marked the graduation of several Ucluelet Fire Brigade members with their NFPA 1001 Level 2 certificates. Each certificate represents over 300 hours of training in various firefighter skills. The Ucluelet Fire Brigade has transitioned to a supported self-delivered instruction model for firefighter skills.

Deputy Chief Jancowski has been heavily involved in supporting NFPA 1001 training in Ucluelet.



Ucluelet Fire Brigade

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

RESPONSE TIMES

Fires in structures grow in size and severity exponentially over time. Associated damage to property and threat to life also increase exponentially over time as a fire grows unchecked.

The best way to stop fire growth, and associated risk and damage, is to assemble the necessary personnel and equipment at the scene of the fire, in order to control the fire near or at the point of ignition. In other words, fires are best controlled and extinguished when firefighters enter the structure as quickly as possible, and suppress the fire where it first ignited.

Therefore, one of the best measures of the efficiency of a municipality's fire protection services is the time elapsed between the first call to 911 and the time when a full crew arrives on scene at the fire, ready to enter the structure and control the growth of the fire.

Emergency Response Standards and Performance:

Level and Timeliness of Response

The City of Port Alberni has adopted an initial response goal of four (4) firefighters with a travel time of four minutes or less, 90% of the time. This standard of care reflects recognized best practices while adhering to WorkSafe BC regulations.

While WorkSafe BC does not set regulations for level of service, it does require that before firefighters can enter into a building or other enclosed space for the purposes of suppressing a fire, there must first be assembled at that incident a minimum of four (4) firefighters. See excerpt from WorkSafe BC regulations below;

WorkSafe BC Regulation excerpt

31.23 Entry into buildings

- (1) When self-contained breathing apparatus must be used to enter a building, or similar enclosed location, the entry must be made by a team of at least 2 firefighters.*
- (2) Effective voice communication must be maintained between firefighters inside and outside the enclosed location.*
- (3) During the initial attack stages of an incident at least one firefighter must remain outside.*
- (4) A suitably equipped rescue team of at least 2 firefighters must be established on the scene before sending in a second entry team and not more than 10 minutes after the initial attack.*
- (5) The rescue team required by subsection (4) must not engage in any duties that limit their ability to make a prompt response to rescue an endangered firefighter while interior structural firefighting is being conducted.*

NFPA 1710 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments

Fire Department **Total Response Time** to incidents is made up of several components broken down below;

- Alarm Handling which includes,
 - Call Answering (Public Service Answering Point) (PSAP)
 - PSAP Call Handling
 - Alarm Processing Time (Fire Dispatch Center)
- Turnout Time (PAFD)
- Travel Time (PAFD)

Alarm Handling Time

The time interval from the receipt of the alarm at the primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) until the beginning of the transmittal of the response information via voice or electronic means to emergency response facilities (ERFs) and emergency response units (ERUs) in the field.

Alarm Handling Time includes;

Call Answering	15 seconds 95% of times, 40 seconds 99% of times
PSAP Call Handling	30 seconds 95% of times
Dispatching	60 seconds 80% of times, 106 seconds 99% of times

PAFD is dispatched by North Island 911, an organization that provides dispatch services for 50 fire departments throughout the North Vancouver Island area.

North Island 911's PSAP is located in Courtenay BC. Their Fire Dispatch Center is located in Campbell River BC. Medical First Responder calls and Motor Vehicle Incident calls are forwarded from PSAP in Courtenay, to BC Ambulance Service Dispatch Center in Victoria, and then to Fire Dispatch in Campbell River.

ALARM HANDLING TIME PERFORMANCE - 2013		
ITEM	STANDARD	NI 911 PERFORMANCE
Call Answering	15 seconds 95% of times	15 seconds 99.8% of times
	40 seconds 99% of times	40 seconds 100% of times
PSAP Call Handling	30 seconds 95% of times	Average time per call 30 seconds ³
Dispatching	60 seconds 80% of times	60 seconds 93% of times
	106 seconds 95% of times	106 seconds 99% of times

Notes:

1. Data provided by North Island 911
2. NI911 call answering (PSAP) exceeds (is better than) standards
3. NI911 does not provide statistics in a format that enables measuring against the standard for call handling. NI911's PSAP spends an average of 30 seconds per transferred call (this includes all calls for PAFD). NI911 advises PAFD that their call handling performance exceeds (is better than) the standard, and that the average call handling time of 30 seconds per call is reflective of the fact that PSAP personnel remain on the line for quality purposes after the call has been transferred.
4. NI911's Fire Dispatch center exceeded (performed better than) the standard for call taking.
5. NI911-provided data does not account for the time duration delay that a call for service incurs when BC Ambulance Service Dispatch Center is involved. Approximately 60% of all 911 calls received by PAFD pass through BCAS Dispatch Center between the PSAP call handling and the Fire Dispatch call handling, extending PAFD dispatch times by unknown periods of time. NI911 has stated that for each of these calls there is an estimated 90 second delay in dispatching of PAFD resources.

Turnout Time

The time interval that begins when the emergency response facilities and emergency response units notification process begins by either audible alarm or visual annunciation or both and ends at the beginning point of travel time.

Over the course of 2013, PAFD personnel have made considerable effort to improve turnout times. Performance has improved significantly, especially when compared to performance 10 or more years ago.

Turnout times are often not reported in the fire service, largely because not many fire departments perform at a level that meets the NFPA 1710 Standard, and because many fire departments do not share the same level of commitment to excellence and commitment to transparent reporting as does the City of Port Alberni.

Established standards (NFPA 1710) for Turnout Time are;

Medical Incidents	60 seconds 90% of the times
Fire and Special Operations	80 seconds 90% of the times

Based on 1,137 responses to such calls in 2013, PAFD met the above-noted standards for Turnout Time;

Medical Incidents	79 % of times
Fire and Special Operations	80 % of times

Average Turnout Times for PAFD in 2013 were;

Medical Incidents	44 seconds	(58.7 seconds in 2012)
Fire and Special Operations	62 seconds	(85.2 seconds in 2012)

Travel Time

Travel Time is defined as the time interval that begins when a unit is enroute to the emergency incident and ends when the unit arrives at scene.

Established standards (NFPA 1710) for Travel Time are;

Medical Incidents arrival of a first responder unit	240 seconds (4 minutes) 90% of the times
Fire Incidents first arriving unit	240 seconds (4 minutes) 90% of the times
Fire Incidents full alarm assignment (15 firefighters)	480 seconds (8 minutes) 90% of the times

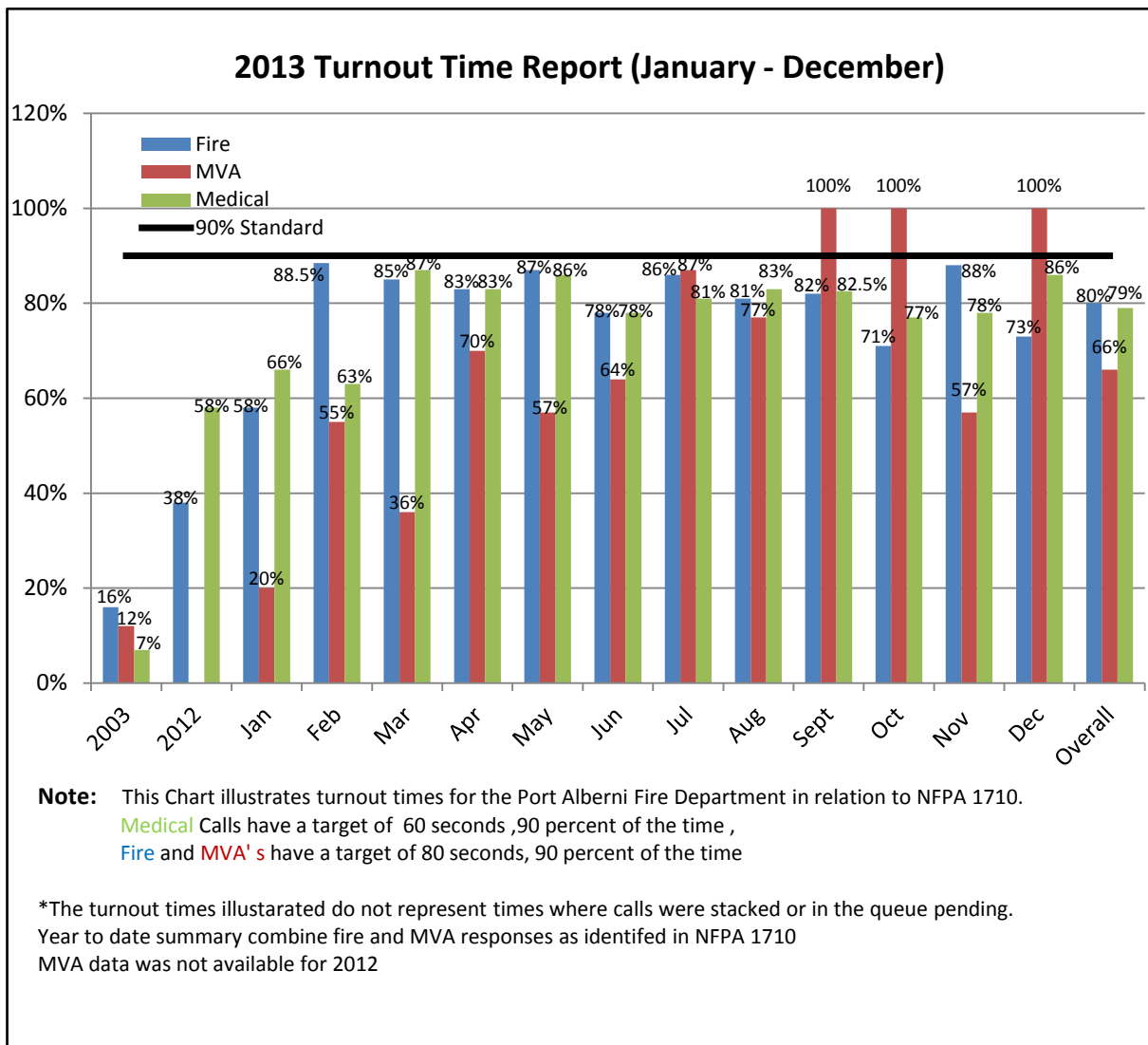
Based on 1,137 responses to calls in 2013, PAFD met the above-noted standards for Travel Time;

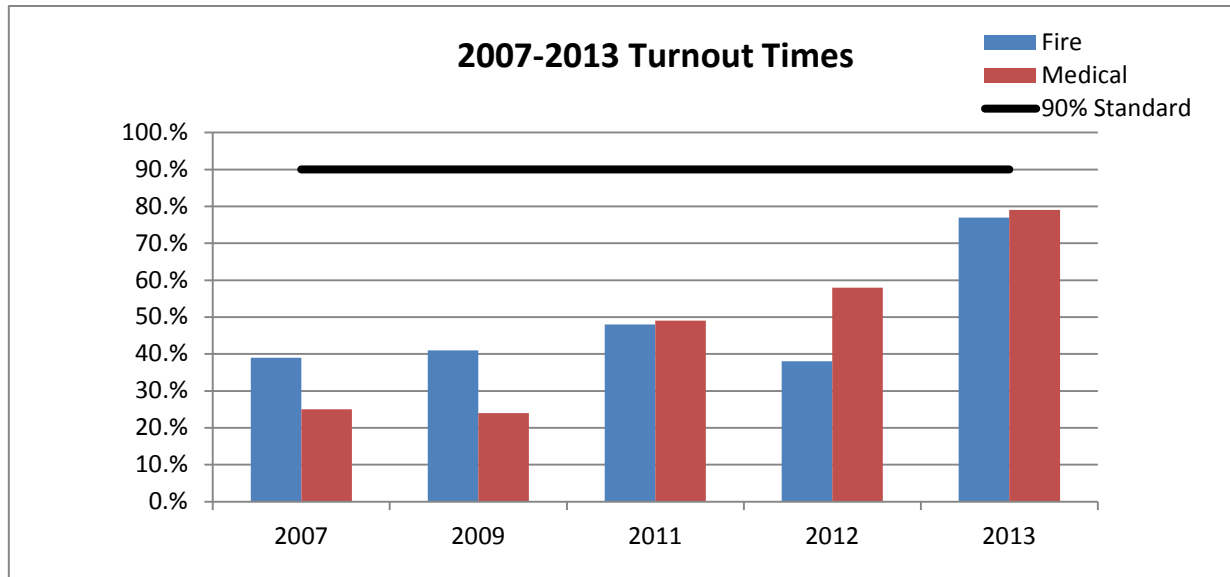
Medical Incidents	68.5 % of times
Fire Incidents first arriving unit	68 % of times
Fire Incidents full alarm assignment	0 % of times

TURNOUT TIME AND TRAVEL TIME - 2013		
ITEM	STANDARD	PAFD PERFORMANCE
Turn out time – Medical Calls	60 seconds 90% of the times	60 seconds 79% of times
Turn out time – Fire Calls	80 seconds 90% of the times	80 seconds 80% of times
Travel Times – Medical Calls	240 seconds 90% of the times	240 seconds 68.5% of times
Travel Times – Fire Calls	240 seconds 90% of the times	240 seconds 68% of times
Full Assignment – Fire Calls	480 seconds 90% of the times	480 seconds 0% of the times

Notes:

1. Average turnout time for medical calls in 2013 was 44 seconds, better than the 60 second standard. The threshold of 60 seconds was met 79% of the times, just below the standard.
2. PAFD does not meet the standard for turnout time for fire and special operations calls (80 seconds 90% of the times) having achieved that mark 80% of the time.
3. Where PAFD does not meet travel time standards (240 seconds) options for improvement are external to fire department operations, i.e.
 - a. Intersection traffic light pre-empts for emergency vehicles
 - b. Strategic crossings i.e. 10th Avenue crossing of Rogers Creek
 - c. Increase in posted traffic speeds on main arterial streets in City, i.e. Stamp Avenue
4. PAFD does not meet the standard for full assignment arrival (15 firefighters in 8 minutes). This standard is generally satisfied by fire departments in larger urban areas by allocating resources from multiple fire stations, and/or multiple fire apparatus from one station. PAFD responds with one crew of 4 firefighters from one station, and simultaneously dispatches two apparatus (4 firefighters each) from neighbouring fire departments, plus paging out of off duty PAFD personnel.



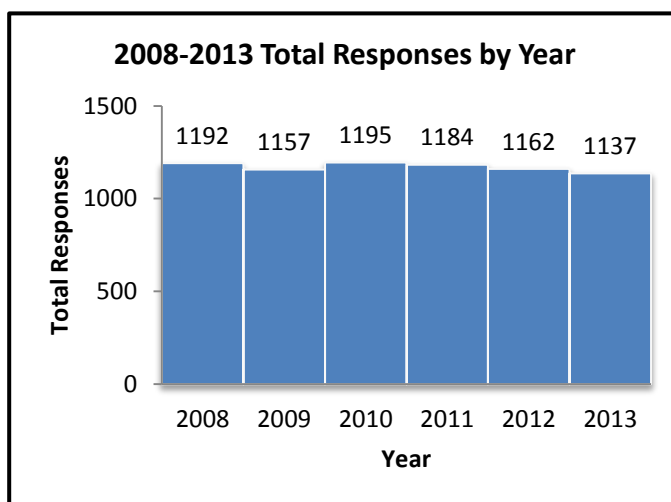


One of the stated 2013 goals was to improve turnout time performance. Fire department personnel have engaged fully in pursuit of this goal, and have demonstrated commendable commitment and ownership of the issue.

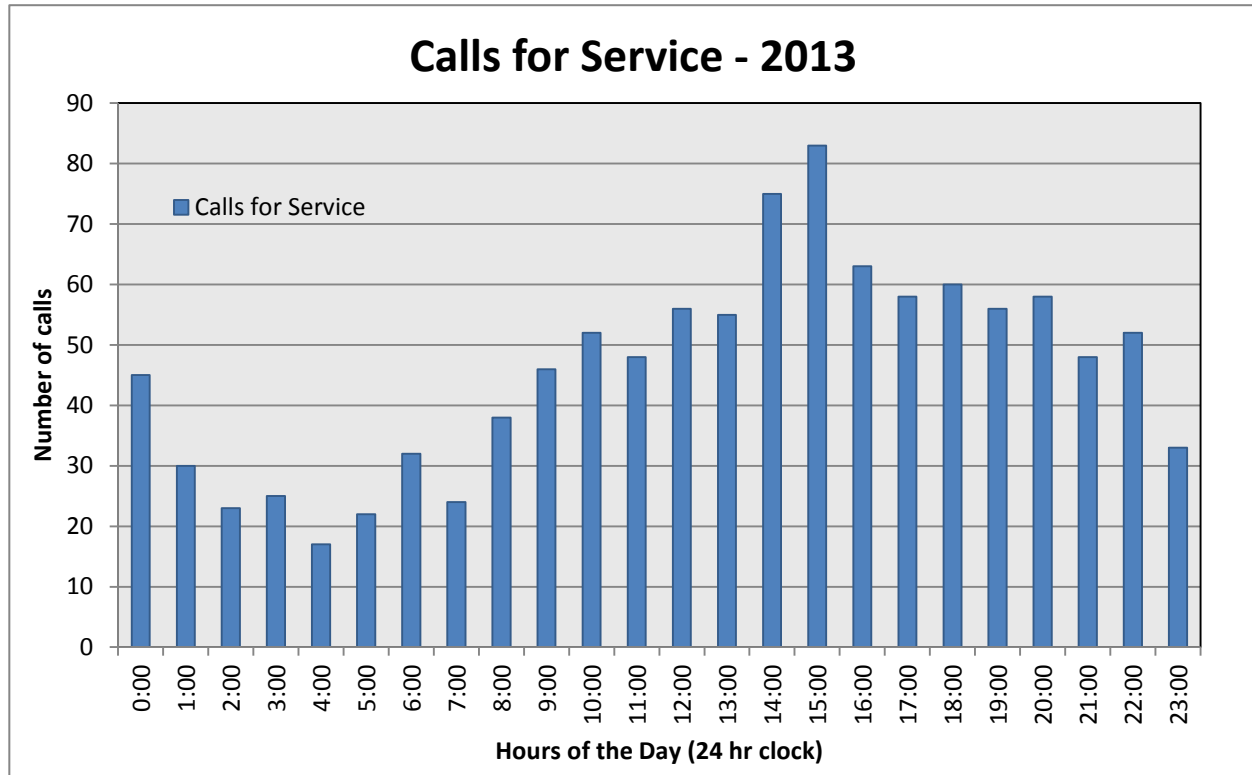
Turnout time performance meeting the standard time threshold 80% of the time for fire calls and 79% of the time for medical calls falls short of the 90% standard.

Given the inherent challenges presented by the firehall configuration and multi-disciplinary aspect of PAFD operations, turnout time performance is considered to be fully maximized.

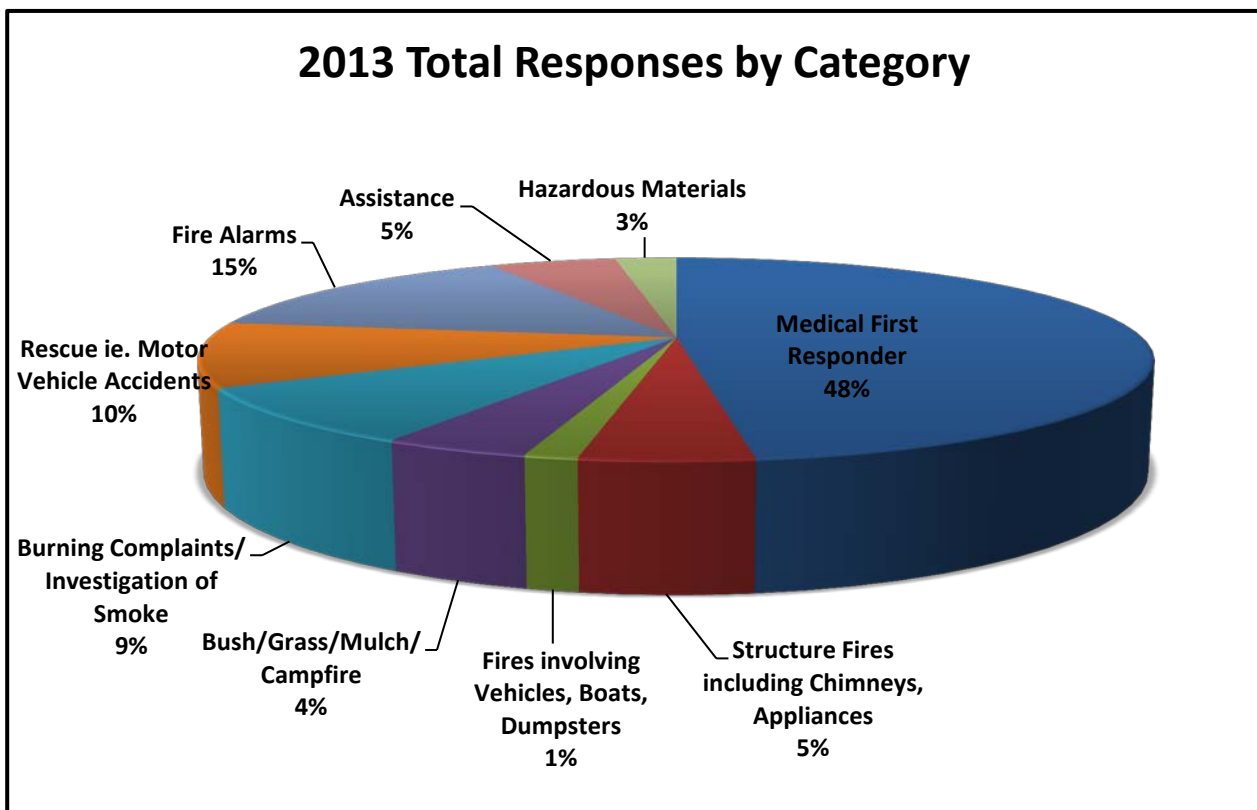
2013 PAFD turnout time is presented above in contrast to several previous years to demonstrate the considerable improvement that has been made in this regard.



4th Avenue apartment fire



This graphic demonstrates the total number of incidents occurring in each hour of the day. Most incidents occur in the afternoon and evening. The fewest incidents occur in early morning hours.

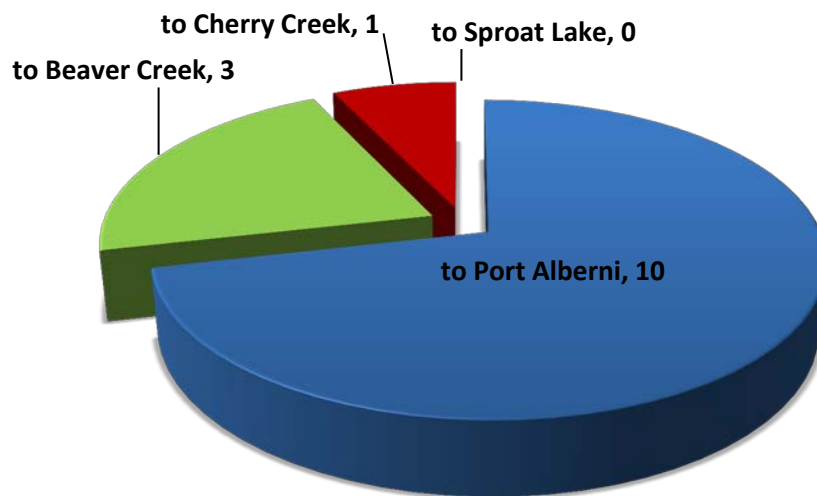


2013 TOTAL RESPONSES BY CATEGORY		
TYPE OF RESPONSE	2013	PERCENT
Medical First Responder	544	48
Structure Fires including Chimneys, Appliances	55	5
Fires involving Vehicles, Boats, Dumpsters	17	1
Bush/Grass/Mulch/Campfire	47	4
Burning Complaints/Investigation of Smoke	101	9
Rescue i.e. Motor Vehicle Accidents	117	10
Fire Alarms	167	15
Assistance	60	5
Hazardous Materials	29	3
Total Responses	1137	100



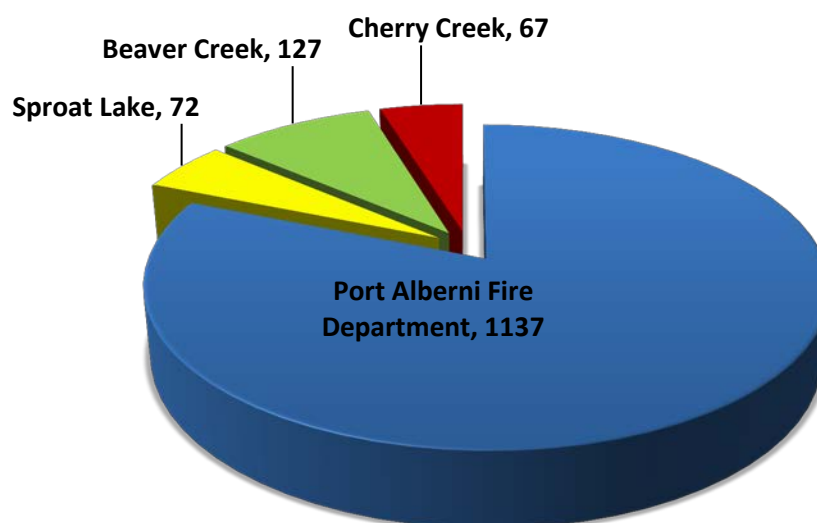
Automatic Mutual Aid Events

2013 Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid Events



Number of Total Incidents – Alberni Valley

2013 Number of Total Incidents - Alberni Valley



Communications and Technology

Computer Aided Dispatch

In 2013, the department continued with the development of new Computer Aided Dispatch Units. In recent years, the fire service in general has seen dramatic improvement in computer hardware that will operate our dispatch software. The software still continues to operate on older programs such as Windows 7. This restricted ability limits the types of hardware the department can use. In 2013, the department began to field-test tablets that operate on these older Windows systems. Tablets enable the Incident Commander to be mobile while still accessing information such as preplans or critical updates.



Firefighter using handheld tablet to extract critical building information



Building floorplan on handheld tablet

The department continues to participate as part of the North Island 911 Communications Fire Service User Advisory Group and CAD Working Group.

The Port Alberni Fire Department will continue to support North Island 911 Corporation in more effective delivery of services such as in-station alerting and use of CADs to benchmark emergency activities. Dispatch services play a large role in the overall response to our citizens.

FIRE PREVENTION



Industrial inspections, sawmill combustible dust, demolition, and training were the highlights of the Fire Prevention Division for 2013.

A number of properties were demolished in 2013 including the Tidebrook Restaurant building, the old Alberni District Secondary School and the former dry storage shed at Western Forest Products - Somass Division. In addition, the Petro Canada and 7-11 fuel stations were decommissioned. The final demolition project for the year was the Somass Hotel which was purchased by the Uchucklesaht First Nation. This unique project will see the entire interior gutted and then completely reconstructed while maintaining the exterior facade. The fire prevention significance of this is the Fire Code requirement for fire safety planning for each project. Fire safety planning has been required for some time and has now become a formal requirement of the demolition and construction permitting process in the City this year.

The unfortunate sawmill explosion incidents that occurred at Burns Lake and Prince George, brought about a provincial initiative designed to identify and mitigate potential fire safety issues. Locally, our industrial inspection program was reviewed and a number of changes were implemented. A strong working relationship with each mill site located inside the City aided with the implementation of these changes. Increased frequency of inspection, updated preplanning and a process for managing referrals from WorkSafe BC were a few of the changes.

The third solid fuel burner exchange program organized by the Air Quality Council was concluded in the first half of 2013. The local Shaw Cable channel once again worked with PAFD to develop a few more short videos on the topic of burning smart, the focus being wood storage. The City of Port Alberni amended *Solid Fuel Burning Bylaw* was exercised a number of times to address issues of improper fuels being used. It should be noted that not all members of the public were completely satisfied with the results of these bylaw inspections, but generally, the burning practices of a number of residents were improved through this education process.

Public education remains a significant part of this division's work. This year, the Port Alberni Fire Department Facebook Page provided the capacity to provide fire prevention material to the public electronically. Seasonal fire safety messages, local events, photos and bylaw information were just some of the items posted. The Fire Prevention Week theme was "prevent kitchen fires" with presentations given to local grade three students using an eBook provided by NFPA. There were two "Fire Chiefs for a Day" who participated in activities at the Fire Hall at the end of October.

An updated *Fireworks Bylaw* and permit process was adopted in 2013 to reflect changes in federal explosive regulations and current practices in similar communities in British Columbia. The most significant change was discontinuation of the consumer fireworks permit within City limits.

Professional development involved a number of training sessions throughout the year including the successful completion of the NFPA Certified Fire Plan Examiner training. I was invited by the Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC to participate as a member of the peer review committee for the exam bank for the certification process of their fire inspector training course.

I look forward to 2014 and all challenges and successes that the year will bring.

Public Education

Each year the Port Alberni Fire Department celebrates Fire Prevention Week by selecting two school children as “Fire Chiefs for a Day”. This is a highly sought-after honour among school children. Fire Chief for a Day includes breakfast with fire fighters at McDonald’s, several opportunities to explore firefighting tasks, a ride on the City’s fireboat, a visit with the Mayor, lunch with the fire fighters, and finally being dropped off at school in a fire engine.



Fire Chief for a Day: Aysia Dobler, 8th Avenue Elementary and Jayden Blake, John Howitt Elementary



Comments from Fire Chiefs for a Day:

“... thank you a lot and my mom got to come and since my mom got to come it made it even funner. Thanks for the yummy dessert too.” Aysia

“... I got to climb the ladder; it was my favorite part. We got to dress up in firemen clothes and spray the fire hose. We also got to spray foam from a big gun ...” Jayden



Raise a Reader – Deputy Chief Jancowski reading to kindergarten class at 8th Avenue Elementary School

Inspections

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Assembly	25	30	68	34	37
Institutional	29	13	19	39	25
Residential	74	77	64	89	36
Mercantile	33	22	16	36	29
Business	32	52	44	46	56
Industrial	6	8	16	22	31
Special Properties	39	40	94	107	58
Commercial Kitchens	22	37	19	23	32
Investigations/Public Concerns	13	12	35	31	36
Solid Fuel (Wood and pellet stoves)	70	49	141	185	113
Oil Fuel	53	7	30	6	11
Permits Issued	123	53	90	92	80
Total CFPO Inspections	519	400	636	710	544
Fire Crew Inspections	304	300	328	356	384
Third Party Inspections	154	81	218	198	208



JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM

PAFD has partnered for many years with Alberni District Secondary School in a Job Shadowing Program. This program is what many people would consider a *work experience* opportunity for students. It involves students gaining some insight into the nature of the job of a firefighter, and gaining school credits at the same time. This program provides fire department personnel with a youth mentoring opportunity.

During budget deliberations in early 2013 a recommendation was made by a member of the public that PAFD attempt to resolve computer data management challenges through the use of students from ADSS or North Island College. With that recommendation in mind, PAFD agreed to bring in an ADSS student for a 100 hour program.

Julia Manhas, a grade 10 student, job shadowed two afternoons each week. Julia's job shadowing experience differed from most others in three ways,

1. Julia invested 100 hours versus the usual 40 hours that previous students have engaged in.
2. Julia is not interested in a career as a firefighter. She job shadowed administrative staff.
3. Through the fire department partnership, Julia also spent time job shadowing other city employees, including Information Technology, and Heritage and Culture. This gave Julia a fuller understanding of the interconnectivity of City operations.

Julia's job shadowing involved computer work, converting of data to charts and reports, and analysis of data for specific trends (the chart on page 19 of this report demonstrating "incidents by hour" was completed by Julia. She extracted the data from the fire department database, converted that data to a usable format, and developed the chart as ready for publishing).



Julia Manhas, ADSS student

WHAT OTHERS HAD TO SAY

Medical First Responder Program

"Early this morning, your crew assisted at a cardiac arrest for a 55-year old male. The attending paramedic wanted me to let you know that they were pleased and impressed with how efficient your crew was, and the help that was given on the call. The patient regained pulses after nearly 20 minutes of CPR, which is a very unusual thing. At this point, the patient has been transferred to Nanaimo Hospital, has pulses, but I have no further information. Whatever the final outcome on this call, the best possible chances were extended to the patient because of the actions of all present. I have come to truly appreciate the training and professionalism that your crews have each time we work with them."

Bruce Patterson, Unit Chief, B.C. Ambulance Service, Port Alberni

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

"Thank you for your support in developing and providing the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) course as part of our Bridge to Success program. The Bridge to Success program is designed to help students gain employment in the Pulp & Paper industry and this course will give them another skill to add to their resume. We appreciate your department taking the time to provide their expertise to ensure we deliver quality instruction to our students.

We value our partnership and look forward to working with you to provide further training opportunities.

Leanne Moore, Regional Continuing Education & Training Officer, North Island College

Hosting of Burn it Smart Seminar

"Thanks again for a very well-run workshop. It's great that you are out there, on the ground, and able to bring back some of what you see to help educate others. Best Regards,"

Bernadette Wyton

Hosting of Burn it Smart Seminar

"Thank you to you, Randy and Bernadette for the informative evening."

Theo and Gail Koehle

Dad's Night Out

"Thanks for yet again providing a great evening for families. Your participation in Dad's Night Out is SO appreciated. Again, we got lots of great feedback about how friendly and kind everyone at the firehall is, and the kids had SO MUCH FUN! Thanks again,"

Dad's Night Out Planning Committee

Community Support

"The staff and AVCS Board of Directors would like to thank you for your Loony Toony auction donation of a "tour of the firehall and a ride in a fire truck" at the Whiz Bang Science Show on Saturday, June 15, 2013.

Your commitment to educating the public and especially children in the science of the work our firemen do for our community is most appreciated."

Stepping Stones Childcare, AVCS, Erica Schubart

Community Support

"On behalf of the Alberni Valley Hospice Society/Ty Watson House, I would like to thank you for your support at our Hike for Hospice this past May. We appreciate your presence, and thank you for helping us to make the 2013 Hike for Hospice a safe and successful one."

Blair Knoedler

Community Support – Steam Engine Demonstration at McLean Mill

"Please accept my and the Historical Society's members appreciation and thanks for supplying a bladder tank and 2 ½" hose for our Steamer demonstration at the historical McLean Mill near Port Alberni.

Your contribution of the equipment made our historical members' work easier as they did not have as much heavy work in transporting, cleaning and towering as they would have had if they had utilized their own equipment.

On behalf of the Victoria Fire Department Historical Society President Ted Alexis, and myself, I would like to convey our thanks."

Jeff Lambert, Fire Chief, Victoria

Community Support – Steam Engine Demonstration at McLean Mill

"Thank you for all of your assistance with the visit of the Victoria Retired Firefighters with the old steam pumper. It was the "star of the show" on the Saturday.

Your advice to contact Cherry Creek VFD was much appreciated and mutually beneficial.
Sincere Thanks,"

David Hooper Industrial Heritage Society

Raise a Reader

"... Once again thank you for your participation in our seventh annual Raise a Reader Day, and thank you for your support of literacy in the Alberni Valley ... Thank you for taking the time to be involved in this community initiative."

Tom Weegar, Chair, Raise-a-Reader Planning Committee

Supporting Fundraising of other Organizations

"On behalf of the Association for Community Living Foundation, I would like to convey my utmost appreciation for the support you and your PAFD crew provided us in our recent fundraising endeavor, the Battle of the Badges charity hockey game. Thanks also to Ian Ritchie for organizing your troops as the game was a huge success and all was made possible by the players who volunteered their time to come out to support our cause ..."

Craig Summers, Executive Director, Association for Community Living

Supporting Families

"Thank you for trying to help our family in our time of need, and sending firemen to install smoke detectors. We appreciate everything you did for us. THANK YOU."

Pride in Port Alberni Clean Up

"Once again, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Port Alberni Fire Department who participated in the recent 'Pride in Port Alberni' cleanup.

The effort you and other groups put forth earlier this month is making a positive difference. In this regard, our collective goals to beautify Port Alberni and build further community pride are being realized.

Thank you for your commitment to these community cleanup campaigns. We look forward to your participation in the spring of 2014 in what promises to be an even bigger event."

John Douglas, Mayor





Date: December 6th, 2013

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Port Alberni Fire Department:

Catalyst Paper Port Alberni Division would like to thank the Port Alberni Fire department for their support during this week's mill outage to address emergency repairs to our mill water system. For a 20 hour period the mill was without an adequate supply of water that would support the running of our boiler to provide heating steam to the mill.

Port Fire was asked to lend us several hundred feet of large diameter fire hose that was not available in the mill or from other outside sources on short notice. The hose allowed the mill to have an adequate supply of water from the Port Alberni fire hydrant system. The water supply was enough to run the boiler at a high enough steam production rate to provide heating for all the critical areas of the mill. This was especially important due to the sub-zero weather conditions.

With the mill being warm and once the mill water system was re-established the mill went into its start-up phase, which was drastically shortened due to the water provided by the Port Alberni fire system.

Thank you
Wayne Dube
Chief Engineer



FUNDRAISING/COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This page submitted by the Port Alberni Fire Firefighters' Charitable Committee

The Port Alberni Fire Fighters Association has had a proud tradition of serving the community we work and live in since 1967. With the support from the City of Port Alberni and the Port Alberni Fire Department, the Association administers the Port Alberni Fire Fighters' Charitable Committee, working to fulfill needs in our community, with special focus on local charities and organizations.

Charitable Committee goals and objectives

- 1) To provide relief from poverty and hunger
- 2) To assist members of the community who have been affected by traumatic wounds, injuries, or episodes
- 3) To raise money for medical and health care research
- 4) To deliver programs that offer positive life experiences and enhance self- esteem

About Us:

- 1) We are 100% volunteer based;
- 2) We have a dedicated team of fire fighters who deliver our services;
- 3) We see the need in our community through our job every single day;
- 4) We care about Port Alberni's youth, seniors and disadvantaged people

Some of our 2013 achievements:

- Served tea on **International Women's Day**
- Fundraised for the **BCPFFA Burn Unit**
- **Muscular Dystrophy** Annual Boot Drive
- Police and Fire *Battle of the Badges* **Association for Community Living** charitable hockey game
- Suited up in pink to show support for the fight against **breast cancer**
- Put down the razors for the month of November and joined men all around the world in support of **Movember**
- Drive thru food donation day – all proceeds going to the **Bread of Life**
- **Salvation Army** Kettle campaign

