

Quadra Island Fire Department

2024 AGM FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Presented at: South Quadra Island Fire Protection District, Annual General Meeting, April 30, 2025
Presented by: Sharon Clandening, Fire Chief

I'd like to begin my report by respectfully acknowledging the unceded traditional territory of the Laich-kwil-tach people specifically the We Wai Kai First Nation. We want to say thank you for allowing us to live, work and play on your lands.

Welcome everyone to the #1 fire hall where it gives me great pleasure to present to you the 2024 Fire Chiefs Report.

Organizational Overview

The Quadra Island fire department provides a wide range of emergency and non-emergency services to the residents of the South Quadra Fire Protection District. Services to the community include fire suppression, fire/rescue operations, HAZMAT, emergency medical response, fire investigations, inspections and fire & life safety community education and training.

The fire department operates from two fire halls located strategically on either side of the protection district to optimize response times to all emergencies no matter the location. Service is delivered utilizing two engines, two water tenders, a CAFS truck, a hose laying vehicle and a wildland rescue truck.

Department Membership

Quadra Island Fire Department has 37 highly skilled professionals who are committed to providing exceptional service to our community 24/7. This requires and involves continuous training and preparation to ensure that we are always ready to respond swiftly and effectively to any situation that may arise. Our fire dept personnel's commitment to serving and safeguarding the lives and property in our community is second to none and I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work that they do, not just during emergencies, but throughout the entire year. We as a community, are incredibly fortunate to have such a devoted team of firefighters. I cannot thank them enough, their commitment is unwavering and their impact is immeasurable.

Training

Our professional team of volunteers train and are accredited to meet the National Fire Protection Association standard 1001 firefighter professional qualifications. They are also trained, certified and provincially licensed medical First Responders. In addition they undergo rigorous training and spend countless hours to continually improving their skills and proficiencies in fire suppression, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, low slope and road rescue, fire prevention, water supply operations, fire investigation and inspections.

One of our focuses in 2024 was Wild land firefighting. Not only did we send personnel to the first ever BC wildfire training summit, we also had BC wildfire service join us for a weekend of wildfire training. We got to know our local crews and they helped us gain some additional critical skills like danger tree assessing, which is crucial for effective and safe fire management.

I'd like to thank Deputy Chief Graham Swanson, and our 4 officers Captain Evan Ross, Lieutenant Jesse Millard, Lieutenant Eamon Simmons and Lieutenant Haven Ullstrom. The extra time and effort you and the officers put into our training program shows in the knowledge and skills of our personnel. This is a reflection of your hard work, dedication, guidance and commitment to our members, helping them too achieve and succeed.

Fire Prevention and Education

In 2024 we commenced with our Fire Prevention education program by doing a Quadra Elementary School fire safety day, educating each grade on the importance of fire safety at home, in particular smoke detectors and street addresses.

We hosted elementary school kids at #1 firehall. They toured the building and we demonstrated some of our life saving equipment up close and personnel.

We participated in the Childrens center Teddy bear picnic where we provided education on fire Safety to the young children and their teddy bears.

In 2024 we participated in the U of Q focusing on fire extinguishers and their use, street address signage, close before you doze and driveway types and how they all effect our response. It was a positive night of questions and answers. We are looking forward to doing another educational session in 2025.

We also continue to provide fire prevention education and important timely safety information to the public through our Facebook page and website (quadrafire.org). Feel free to share our posts to spread awareness and help us reach a wider audience.

Community Involvement

In 2024 we participated in several Community events including both the May day parade, and the Quadra Island Pride Parade and festival.

The Fire Department provided and prepared a free hot lunch for the children and staff of Quadra Elementary School to celebrate the end of the school year. In addition to enjoying a tasty lunch, this initiative serves as a platform for educating students about fire safety and the important role that the fire department plays in our community.

Our annual July 1st pancake breakfast was well attended with a sit down breakfast for visitors and community members alike. We included fire safety demonstrations, meet-and-greet opportunities with our firefighting team, and fun activities for the kids. It's a great opportunity for us to show who we are and what we do to the community-all the while enjoying some tasty food.

Our Halloween night at #2 hall has become one of our yearly highlights. We dress up and hand out hotdogs, hot chocolate, treats, reflective stickers and glow sticks so the little ghosts and goblins are easy to see while they are prowling the road at night.

Once again we attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Royal Canadian Legion. Our team looks forward to standing alongside other community members and organizations to honour the memories of those who have served and sacrificed for our country. It is a time for reflection and gratitude.

In December we featured our annual Christmas lighted truck parade, along the parade route, the fire department members picked up donations of cash and food from the community in support of the local food bank. This cherished tradition not only showcases our community's spirit and creativity but also highlighted the vital role the fire department plays in bringing us together during the festive season fostering goodwill and helping those in need.

2024 Call Volume

Through 2024 Quadra Island Fire Department has remained dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. We are proud to report that we responded to a total of 241 incidents in 2024. I would like to highlight some key statistics from the past year.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
First Responder/Ambo assists	59	98	146	160	156
Alarm Activations/False alarms	05	11	16	06	09
Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)	09	06	07	06	04
Chimney Fires	05	07	01	02	03
Wildland/ Beach/Brush Fire	02	01	02	04	01
Hydro Trouble	13	30	19	14	19
Hazardous Materials	03	01	02	00	02
Structure Fires	03	05	01	04	09
Vehicle Fires	01	00	00	00	00
Public Service/Auto launch	04	10	02	05	05
Marine Incident	00	01	02	01	02
Duty Officer	32	33	41	59	26
Rescue	01	01	01	00	05
Total	137	204	240	261	241

Of the 241 incidents in 2024 we handled 156 medical emergencies which included cardiac arrests and trauma cases. Advanced medical intervention proved crucial in these instances, underscoring our commitment to emergency medical training. We also responded to a increased amount of structure fires in 2024. The quick response of our personnel helped prevent the spread to adjacent buildings, and no injuries were reported. The Quadra Island Fire Department remains committed to serving the community effectively and safely.

Halls and Equipment

The following is a basic inventory of major physical assets of the department at the end of 2024:

Halls:	#1 Hall 844 Heriot Bay Rd	Built 2003
	#2 Hall 1515 West Rd	Built 1970
	#2 Hall property 1525 West Rd	Land Purchased 2021
	Training Facility 844 Heriot Bay	On going Improvements
Apparatus:		
T-12	1985 Ford Tanker	Good Condition
T-10	2010 Pumper/Tanker	Excellent Condition
E-11	2016 Spartan Pumper	Excellent Condition
T-22	2015 International Tanker	Excellent Condition
E-21	2005 Ford 550 CAFS	Good Condition
4x4	2013 Dodge 4x4	Good Condition
BR-1	1992 Volvo Pumper/Tanker	Good Condition
Water supplies:	Steel Tanks @ Hall #1	31,500 Gallons
	Steel Tank @ Hall #2	12,500 Gallons
	Pond @ Hall #1	Approx 70,000 Gallons
	Pond @ Smith Rd	Approx 70,000 Gallons
	Dry Hydrant Rebecca Spit	10,000 Gallons
	Quadra Comm Cent Tank	15,000 Gallons
	Quadra Elementary School Tank	30,000 Gallons
	April Point Steel Tank	18,000 Gallons
	Whiskey Point Tank	10,000 Gallons
	Quadra Golf Course	Approx 500,000 Gallons
	Seniors Center	Approx 50,000 Gallons

In 2024 we were awarded a funding grant from UMBC **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund** For \$11,400.00. This grant allowed us to procure 3 structure protection sprinkler units enhancing our capabilities in protecting lives and homes in our community during a wildland fire event. With the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires, the importance of having the right equipment for the right job cannot be overstated. This equipment will allow our department to be better prepared to respond effectively and efficiently when wildfires threaten our Island.

In our ongoing effort to provide the best possible on site training to our firefighters, in 2024 we constructed and attached a roof chimney fire prop to our training facility, this will offer invaluable

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hands-on experience and improve our teams readiness for real-life incidents. The prop's realistic design and versatile configurations mean our firefighters can rehearse a variety of scenarios safely, ensuring they are well-prepared for any situation they may encounter in the field.

In 2024 we continued our endeavor of making the replacement firehall #2 conceptual drawings a reality. A budget was determined. After much debate the AAP process was decided upon as it was the least expensive way to ask the community to borrow the funds. Much of 2024 was spent getting ready for the AAP process in 2025.

Also in 2024 we initiated a Wildland firefighting auxiliary team consisting of personnel from all of Quadra. This team of volunteers is being trained and certified strictly with wildland fire fighting in mind. As we are all well aware Quadra Island is at a disadvantage when it comes to getting additional resources in a timely manner. Our goal is to reduce the amount of time it takes for trained personnel to assist us during large wildland fire events by calling upon our own trained and certified Wildland Aux Firefighting team.

Thank You

I'd like to thank the Community for all the support you have given us throughout the year, your generous donations and heartfelt words of encouragement have been an inspiration to us all. As First Responders, we are committed to protecting the lives and property of our community members, and are proud to serve a community that demonstrates such incredible support for its First Responders. Your continued support means the world to us.

To our families, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude for your support. You have witnessed first hand the incredible sacrifices that happen each day whether it's responding to a call in the middle of the night, or battling flames in extreme heat, our members continue to respond when others would not, to protect their community. I recognize that the sacrifices made by our firefighters extends beyond their own lives – they touch the lives of their families as well. You worry about their safety and well-being, and you shoulder their responsibilities in their absence. I want to thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement, and patience. Thank you!

To our devoted group of trustees, I wanted to take a moment and thank each of you for your unwavering support and dedication to our community and its safety. Thank you for the outstanding work and support you give to maintain our safety and wellbeing, your efforts have made a significant difference in our ability to serve and protect. We are grateful to have you standing beside us as we work to keep our community safe.

I'd like to end my report with our Mission Statement:

We are committed to serving the community and its visitors by protecting life, property and the environment through prevention, education, emergency medical and fire/rescue services.

We exist and are prepared for one reason only:

To provide our service to the community.