



City of Port Alberni Fire Department

2012

ANNUAL REPORT



Council Vision 2012-2016

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*

Goals of Council 2012-2016

- Revise Woodstove Bylaw
- Support Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District in adopting a woodstove bylaw
- Enhance education re: woodstove use emissions
- Provide enforcement for woodstove use bylaw
- Investigate alternatives to backyard burning; i.e. curbside pick-up, drop-off depot
- Develop and implement an Automatic Aid Agreement
- Explore potential for a North Island Hazardous Materials Incident Response Capability

Operational Targets

- Revise the City's woodstove bylaw
- Implement new woodstove bylaw after Council adoption
- Support the City of Port Alberni and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District to develop alternatives to backyard burning
- Develop and implement an Automatic Aid Agreement
- Begin dialogue between North Island stakeholders on topic of shared regional hazardous materials incident response
- Continue to seek opportunities for regional partnering in the provision of fire protection services

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

A progressive and dynamic organization, committed to excellence in the delivery of services.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Table of Contents	3
Fire Chief's Report	4
Organization Profile	5
Personnel	6
Centennial	7-8
Operating Budget	8
Capital Projects	9-11
Training and Operations	12-20
Fire Prevention	21-24
What Others Had to Say	25-26
Fundraising/Community Support	27
2013 Outlook and Objectives	28-29



FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – YEAR IN REVIEW



The year 2012 saw significant positive change in the Port Alberni Fire Department.

During the year several projects were undertaken to refurbish the City's aging fire station. The fire station, built in 1966, remains well-located to serve the community's needs. While many other municipalities and regional areas are constructing new fire stations often at costs of over \$5 million, the City of Port Alberni is wisely investing a small fraction of those costs into our existing fire station, ensuring that it will serve the community for many years to come.

In early 2012 the Port Alberni Fire Department lost two long term employees to retirement. Captain Duncan McVie and Firefighter Gordon Hall each left significant and noticeable holes in our roster. Other senior members are rising to the challenge of filling those roles, and two excellent young firefighters, Brennan Tourangeau and Jason Roberts, have been hired to bring the suppression roster back to 20 persons.

Brennan Tourangeau had worked a short stint with our fire department in 2011. He was brought back in early 2012 on a permanent basis. Brennan 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.

Jason Roberts also completed his firefighter training and certification at the Justice Institute of BC. At the time of hiring Jason was a volunteer captain in the Qualicum Beach Fire Department, and was working as a journeyman electrician. Jason's firefighting and electrical background have already proven to be valuable assets to our department.

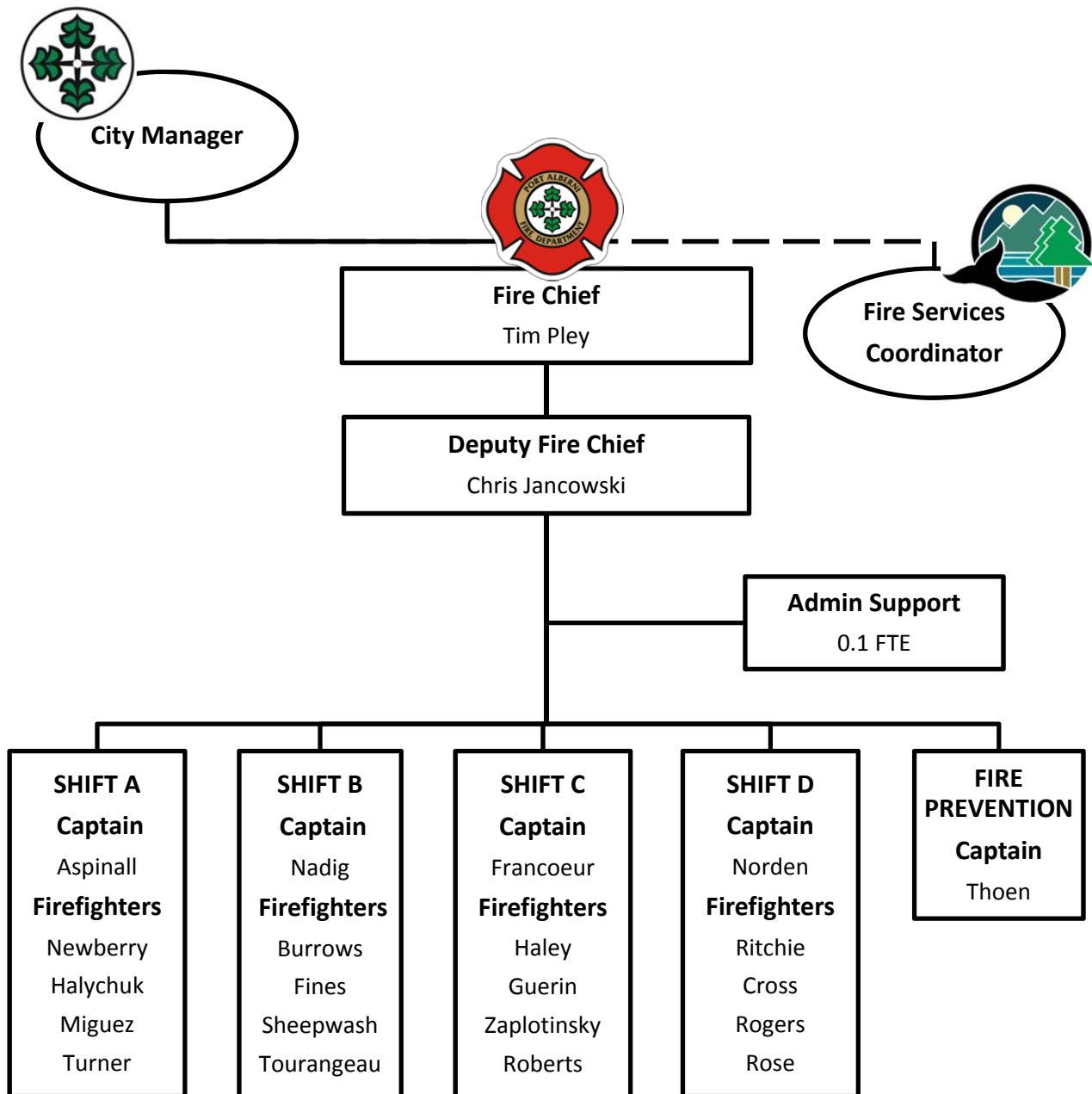
In early 2012 an agreement was reached between three fire departments to respond automatically to significant fires in each other's districts. The Alberni Valley Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement involves Port Alberni Fire Department, Sproat Lake Fire Department, and Beaver Creek Fire Department. The automatic mutual aid agreement represents the culmination of years of work, and is the single biggest step forward in the provision of fire services in the Alberni Valley to occur during my career.

The automatic mutual aid agreement would not have occurred without the leadership and trust of many, from local elected officials, administrators, the ACRD's fire services coordinator, fire chief officers, fire department members and firefighter associations. To date there have been several fire events that have triggered automatic mutual aid responses within the districts of each of the fire departments party to the agreement. Already this agreement has provided benefit to all fire departments and citizens in those areas.

We look forward to 2013, the opportunity to continue to build on existing partnerships, and facing the shared challenge of responding to and mitigating emergencies in and around our community.

"The automatic mutual aid agreement represents the culmination of years of work, and is the single biggest step forward in the provision of fire services in the Alberni Valley to occur during my career".

ORGANIZATION PROFILE



PERSONNEL

Retirees

Captain Duncan McVie
38 years service



Firefighter Gordon Hall
32 years service



New Members

Firefighter Brennan Tourangeau
Firefighter Jason Roberts

Awards



Captain Pete Aspinall 35 year long service bar
Captain Herb Nadig 20 year exemplary service medal
Captain Ed Francoeur 20 year exemplary service medal



Deputy Chief Chris Jancowski named
BC Fire Training Officers' Association "Trainer of the Year"



Chief Tim Pley received his CFO (Chief Fire Officer Designation) from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

CENTENNIAL (1912-2012)

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.

In 2012, PAFD celebrated its centennial year by reflecting back on the previous 100 years, and by looking forward to the future.

Some uniform changes were made, including;

- Issuance of service badges to all PAFD personnel
- Issuance of a centennial department pin
- Creation of a new uniform shoulder patch, incorporating the traditional 4 trees City logo into a modernized shoulder patch

The City's current fire station is 46 years old. Significant renovation work was continued in 2012, helping to ensure that the current fire station will continue to serve the City well into the next 100 years.



Perhaps the most significant centennial celebration was the restoration of the City's 1928 Chevrolet fire engine. This unit had been purchased new by the City of Port Alberni. After leaving the City's service, Engine #1 remained in the community. It found its way into the possession of two volunteer firefighters, Don Reid and Eddie Towe.

Years later, in the late 1980s, Engine #1 was donated back to the City with the intention that it be restored. Fire Chief Rusty Phillips oversaw the repatriation of Engine #1 to the City's care.



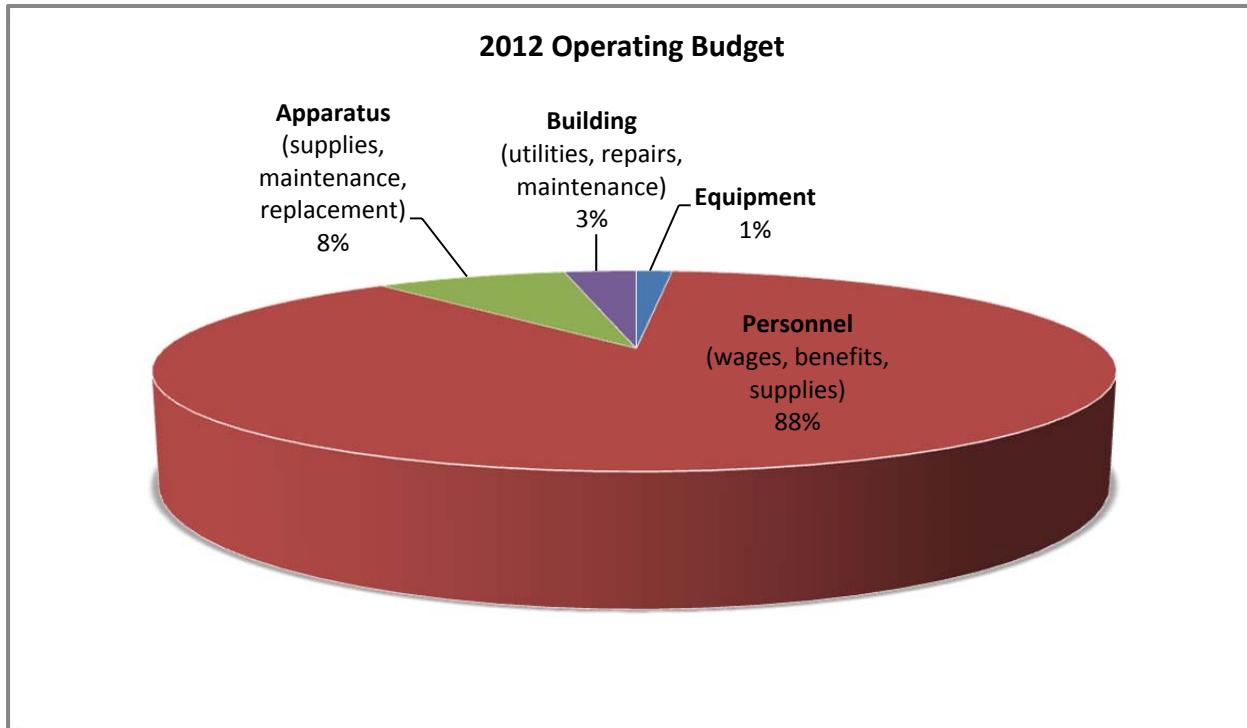
In 2011 the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society approached the City with an offer to complete the restoration of Engine #1 in time for the 2012 Centennial. Under the leadership of Ben Schievink, the restoration project was completed on time and on budget, and was showcased at the July 1st Canada Day parade.



The City and PAFD are grateful to all of the individuals who had the vision to preserve Engine #1 over so many years, and to the many who took part in the eventual restoration project.

OPERATING BUDGET

The 2012 Port Alberni Fire Department operating budget was \$2,923,434.



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

2012 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Tsunami Warning System Replacement Project

The City's 2012 – 2016 Five Year Financial Plan includes funding, to replace each year, 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.



Firehall Exterior Doors Project

This project involves the replacement of several exterior doors and metal frames at the fire station, refurbishing of some others, and the installation of a centralized security system. Three local firms were contracted to complete the work, D. Gallagher Renovations, Alberni Technology Solutions, The Locksmith Monster, and Beaver Creek Home Center.



Vehicle Exhaust Extraction System

The fire station houses two separate fan systems to extract diesel exhaust from the building. Diesel exhaust is known to be carcinogenic. Employers are obligated under WorkSafe BC regulations to provide for removal of exhaust fumes from enclosed areas where employees are working.

In 2012 replacement of the older of those units was planned. That unit failed just weeks prior to the planned replacement, demonstrating that replacement was in fact overdue.





Two local firms were contracted to complete the work, Alberni Valley Refrigeration and Aines and Tyler Electric. A third local firm, Aurora Roofing, was subcontracted on this project.

This project not only involved the routine replacement of older equipment, but also involved an improvement of sorts in that the new equipment has been installed on the roof rather than inside the building. This has resulted in a reduction of noise in the workplace.

Breathing Air Cascade System

The firehall maintains its own breathing air compressor and associated bank of large air storage tanks, known as a breathing air cascade system. The cascade system is made up of six large cylinders, each certified to a pressure of 6000 pounds per square inch.

This cascade system was scheduled for replacement in 2012, and funds for that replacement were provided in the Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund.

Supply and Installation of this equipment was contracted to Irwin Air, the same contractor that provides regular servicing of our compressor and existing cascade system.



Large Diameter Supply Hose – Engine #5

Large diameter water supply hose is used to move large volumes of water from fire hydrants to fire engines. This hose is dropped and dragged on asphalt roadways, and is exposed to significant abrasion and degradation from road grit, salt and oils.

The large diameter supply hose on Engine #5 was over 20 years of age, and beginning to fail during annual hose testing. In 2012 we replaced the entire inventory of supply hose on Engine #5, 1200 feet.



Upstairs Bathroom Renovation

This proved to be the most complicated and disruptive capital project in 2012. The firehall upstairs bathroom is a non-public facility, used only by fire department personnel. The facility had been in continuous use for 46 years. Several plumbing failures had resulted in the urinals being out of service, one toilet being non-serviceable, and an inability to service several plumbing shut offs.

The project began with an asbestos assessment, followed by asbestos abatement, demolition, rough plumbing, tiling, cabinetry, and finished plumbing.

Several local firms were contracted to complete the work, including, Rock Steady Restorations, ProPacific, Flooring Depot, Beaver Creek Home Center, D. Gallagher Renovations, Todd Patton Plumbing, Aines and Tyler Electrical, and Kevin Weber Cabinetry.



Radio Repeater Tower

Fire departments in the Alberni Valley have made changes to the way in which they use radios to communicate with 911 dispatchers and with each other during emergency operations. A new multi-channel communication plan has been adopted by all four fire departments in the Alberni Valley.

In order to facilitate the new communication plan and insure the safety of firefighters at emergency scenes, the City has purchased new radio repeater equipment in order to repeat the PAFD tactical radio channel. This new equipment is currently in operation on a privately-owned radio tower. Provisions have been made to move that equipment to Telus' new tower in 2013 when it is installed on City lands at Johnston Road.



TRAINING AND OPERATIONS



Training

Members of the Port Alberni Fire Department have participated in thousands hours of emergency services training in 2012. In January of this year the department co-sponsored a workshop on leadership and building construction innovations. This was presented by Fire Chief Steve Kraft of the Richmond Hill Fire Department.

In 2012 there were several new training initiatives. Members of the department received lockout training internally and have participated in Catalyst Paper's orientation program.

The department continues to prepare members for advancement, through internal succession planning. Members continue to participate in Fire Officer and Fire Prevention Courses.

The department also continued with marine training courses including Small Vessel Operator, Marine Emergencies Duties and Restricted Radio Operators Marine. These courses are now required to operate the Harbour Chieftain, the City's fire boat. To date 12 members have completed fire boat operator training.

Operations

2012 has been a very active year for department operations.

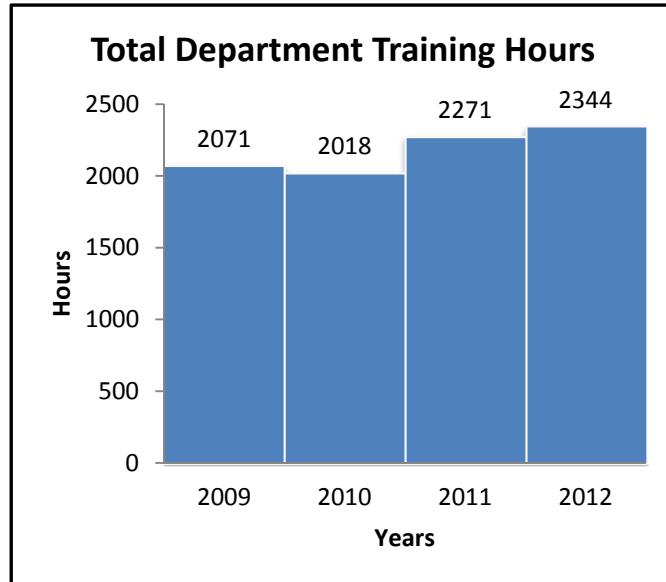
The department, as part of the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement signed this spring, has developed and implemented a new communications model. This model maintains a common dispatch channel for all Valley departments and has tactical operations on predetermined simplex channels. In addition, the department has added a tactical repeater for large scale and geographically challenging scenes. This model has been used on several Port Alberni Fire Department Events and Automatic Mutual Aid emergency scenes with success during 2012.

Communications has been a focus in 2012. A new set of 911 alert tones was implemented facilitating improvements to turnout times. These alert tones provide the classification of call, prior to the message being broadcast by the dispatcher. Improved turnout times equate to improved responses to the citizens of Port Alberni.

The department in 2012 has also seen the second generation of 911 CAD software (Computer Aided Dispatch Software). This software was rolled out in September and the department continues to add pre-incident plans to better prepare for emergency responses.

Suppression members have continued to develop pre-incident preplans. The department developed 48 preplans in 2012.

Training Summary



List of Training Courses / Workshops

COURSE	LOCATION	HOURS/ATTENDEE
Fire Officer 1 /Administration 1	Correspondence	40 Hours
Fire Officer 1 / Company Inspection 1	Correspondence	40 Hours
Fire Officer 1 / Leadership 1	Correspondence	40 Hours
Small Vessel Operations	Port Alberni, North Island College	24 Hours
Radio Operators Certificate - Marine	Port Alberni, North Island College	8 Hours
Marine Emergency Duties	Port Alberni, North Island College	8 Hours
Elevator Rescue Workshop	Port Alberni Area	4 Hours
Fire Chief Steve Kraft Leadership	Port Alberni Fire Station	8 Hours
Fire Inspector Level 1	Victoria	48 Hours
Fire Chiefs Conference	Richmond, BC	40 Hours
Emergency Vehicle Operations JIBC	Port Alberni	40 Hours
Fire Prevention Officers Conference	Sooke, BC	40 Hours
Dust Awareness Workshop	Port Alberni, Pacific Coast University	8 Hours
Safe and Effective Scene Management	Port Alberni, North Island College	8 hours
Critical Incident Stress Management	Port Alberni	16 Hours
Respectful Workplace Workshop	Port Alberni	4 Hours

Regional Training

The City has an ongoing partnership with North Island College to provide quality fire training opportunities for firefighters in our region. During 2012, the Port Alberni Fire Department partnered with NIC to provide the following training courses for other fire departments.

DEPARTMENT	COURSE	HOURS
Ucluelet Fire Department	Weekly Fire Training (NFPA 1001)	2 Hour Sessions (24 sessions)
	First Responder Level 3	40 Hour Course
	Emergency Scene Traffic Control	6 Hour Session
Bamfield Fire Department	Weekly Fire Training (FF Basic)	60 Hour Course
Beaver Creek Fire Department	Module 7 Training (NFPA 1001)	7 Hour Session
Region Wide	Fire Service Instructor Level 1	20 Hour Session
Region Wide	Safe and Effective Scene Management	8 Hour Session

New Training Initiatives in 2012



Vent, Enter, Search

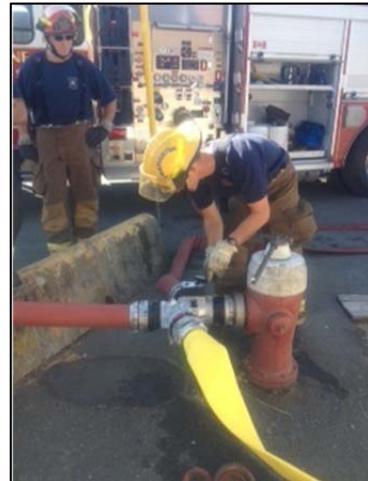
Vent, Enter, Search is a technique that enables a firefighter to enter a room (often a bedroom) to search for a victim, even while a fire is burning uncontrolled elsewhere in the same building. This is a technical skill, only to be utilized under specific conditions, when it is known that there is a viable victim.

Firefighter conducting VES (Vent, Enter, Search) training at the rear of the fire station

Hydrant Assist Valve

While the City of Port Alberni is well-serviced with fire hydrants, there are occasions when the distance between a hydrant and the fire is too great to provide large volumes of water at the fire. This is most often encountered at large fires where the City's ladder truck is used.

In 2012, a new appliance called a hydrant assist valve, allows additional arriving fire apparatus to boost the pressure to the fire ground.



Work Assignments

In 2012, the department developed work assignments and tasks for the first-in crews at various types of emergencies. These duties and responsibilities have been standardized as predetermined riding assignments.

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, 90 seconds 99% of times

PAFD is dispatched by North Island 911, an organization that dispatches for 49 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 - 2012		
ITEM	STANDARD	NI 911 PERFORMANCE
Call Answering	15 seconds 95% of times	15 seconds 99.7% of times
	40 seconds 99% of times	40 seconds 100% of times
PSAP Call Handling	30 seconds 95% of times	Average time per call 47.8 seconds ³
Dispatching	60 seconds 80% of times	60 seconds 89.2% of times
	90 seconds 99% of times	90 seconds 97.2% of times

Notes:

1. Data provided by North Island 911
2. NI911 call answering (PSAP) exceeds 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 47.8 seconds per transferred call (this includes all calls for PAFD). NI911 advises PAFD that their call handling performance exceeds the standard, and that the average call handling time of 47.8 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 the standard during the assessment period (600 calls throughout the entire north island area reviewed between May 1, 2011 and December 31 2012).
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.

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.

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 1,162 responses to such calls in 2012, PAFD met the above-noted standards for Turnout Time;

Medical Incidents	58 % of times
Fire and Special Operations	38 % of times

Average Turnout Times for PAFD in 2012 were;

Medical Incidents	58.7 seconds
Fire and Special Operations	85.2 seconds

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 1,162 responses to calls in 2012, PAFD met the above-noted standards for Travel Time;

Medical Incidents	73 % of times
Fire Incidents first arriving unit	59 % of times
Fire Incidents full alarm assignment	0 % of times

TURN OUT TIME AND TRAVEL TIME - 2012		
ITEM	STANDARD	PAFD PERFORMANCE
Turn out time – Medical Calls	60 seconds 90% of the times	60 seconds 58% of times
Turn out time – Fire Calls	80 seconds 90% of the times	80 seconds 38% of times
Travel Times – Medical Calls	240 seconds 90% of the times	240 seconds 73% of times
Travel Times – Fire Calls	240 seconds 90% of the times	240 seconds 59% of times
Full Assignment – Fire Calls	480 seconds 90% of the times	480 seconds 0% of the times

Notes:

1. Average turn out time for medical calls in 2012 was 58.7 seconds, below the 60 second standard. However, the threshold of 60 seconds was only met 58% of the times, not meeting the standard.
2. PAFD does not meet the standard for turn out time for fire and special operations calls (80 seconds 90% of the times).
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. River Road

4. PAFD does not generally 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.

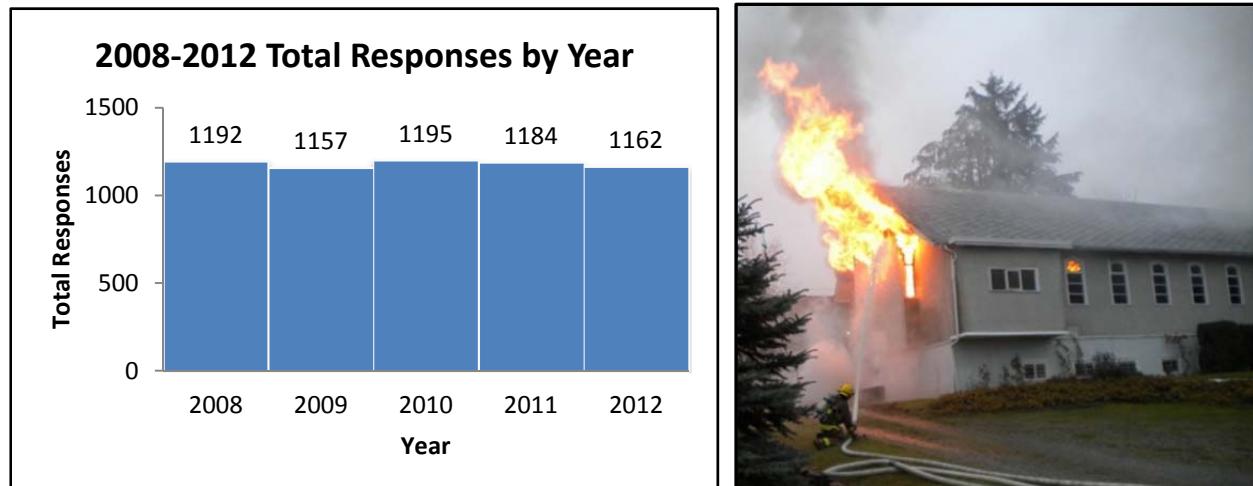
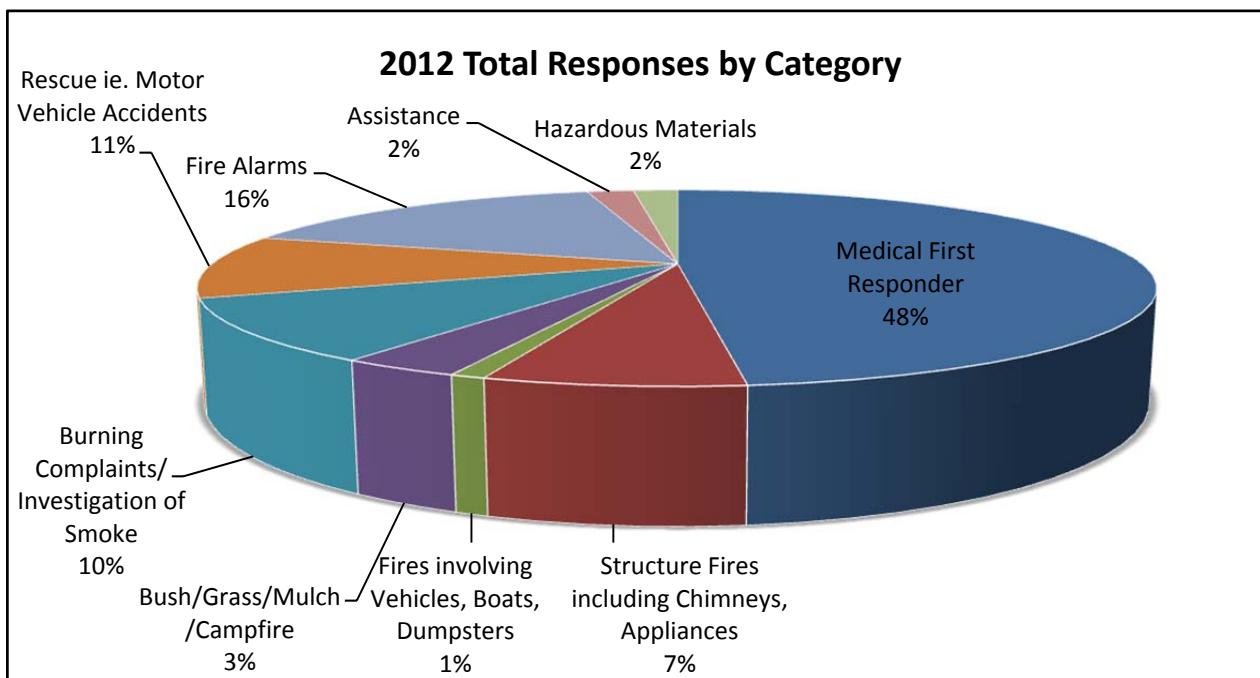
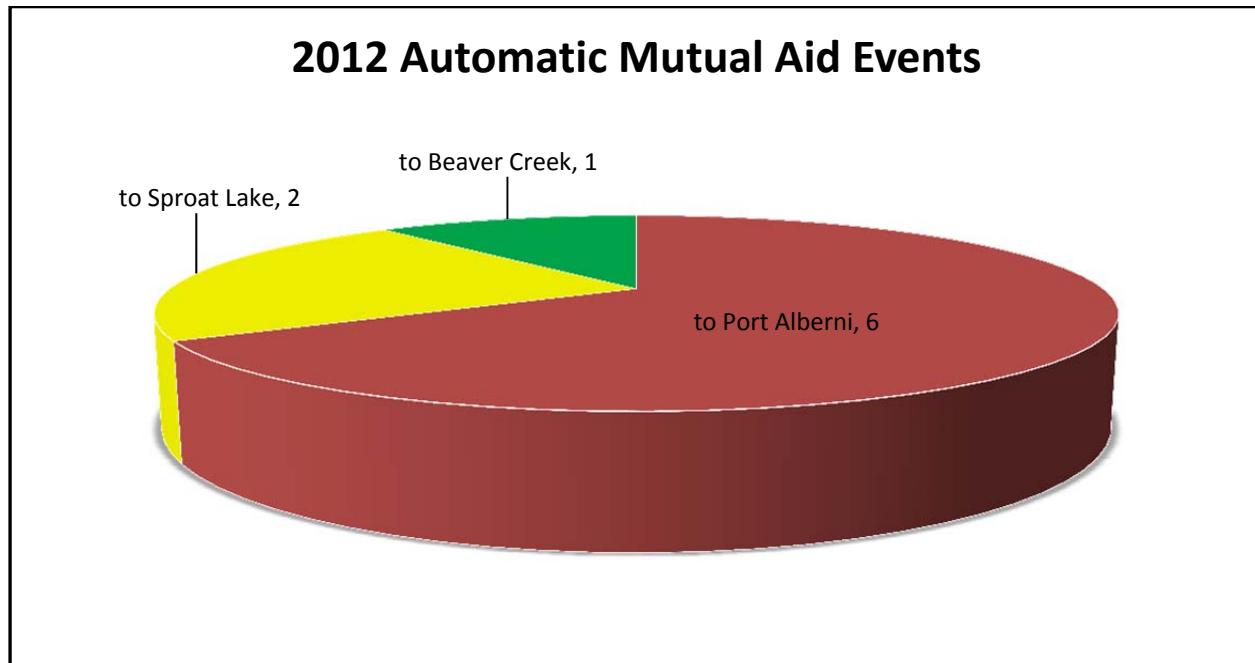


Photo of Structural Fire at Southside Community Church

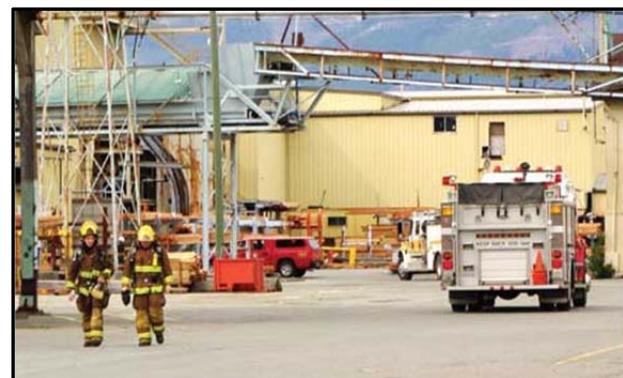


2012 TOTAL RESPONSES BY CATEGORY			
TYPE OF RESPONSE	2012	PERCENT	
Medical First Responder	560	48	
Structure Fires including Chimneys, Appliances	81	7	
Fires involving Vehicles, Boats, Dumpsters	11	1	
Bush/Grass/Mulch/Campfire	38	3	
Burning Complaints/Investigation of Smoke	117	10	
Rescue ie. Motor Vehicle Accidents	121	11	
Fire Alarms	189	16	
Assistance	23	2	
Hazardous Materials	22	2	
Total Responses	1162	100	

Automatic Mutual Aid Events



August 6, 2012 – Auto Aid Call to Somass Sawmill



Picture by Susan Quinn, Alberni Valley News

Communications and Technology

Computer Aided Dispatch

The Department in 2012 implemented a newer version of Computer Aided Dispatch. This software allows the department to communicate with dispatch with reduced voice transmissions and allows the real time updates of information to be received by responding apparatus.

This technology also allows the department's preplan to be attached to a specific address. This information can be accessed during a response to identify hazards and allow members to gain access to specific units and areas.

Radio Communications

As part of the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement the department implemented a new communications model. This model uses a repeated link for apparatus, incident commands and base station communications to and from dispatch. Mission critical communications such as tactical operations are conducted on predetermine channels.



FIRE PREVENTION



The Fire Prevention Division was very busy in 2012 with some significant changes occurring.

Input into new construction and inspection for final occupancy topped the list of tasks this year. The most significant of these projects were:

- the medical offices on Maple Way
- North Island College's new Teaching Kitchen building on Roger Street
- renovation of the old Alberni Mall on Johnston Road
- completion of Alberni District Secondary School on Roger Street

While creating a significant workload, the opportunity to work on projects of this magnitude has been extremely beneficial in terms of professional development.

2012 began with a significant fire loss. A fire at Southside Community Church occurred very early in the year, and so began a series of fire losses involving the need to complete fire investigations that required significant staff time. The Tidebrook Motel fire investigation in January required the use of an excavator to pull apart the building in an orderly manner allowing determination of cause. Later in the year the Courtyard Restaurant building on the same property also burned. The investigation into the cause of a fire that occurred at Alberni Pacific Division's "Bag House" late in 2012 involved collaborating with investigators from PAFD, Work Safe BC and a private fire investigator representing Western Forest Products.

The Alberni Valley Air Quality Council has successfully organized two solid fuel burner (wood stove) exchange programs, with a third to come in early 2013. The Port Alberni Fire Department and ACRD partnered with the AQC to host a Burn It Smart workshop at the fire station. Local wood stove industry stakeholders and local inspectors all had an opportunity to present.

In response to City Council's direction to facilitate education on the topic, PAFD worked with local Shaw TV to develop a series of short videos on the topic of burning smart. These successful videos continue to air on Shaw TV locally and on YouTube.

The City of Port Alberni amended their solid fuel burning bylaw, including defining permissible fuels and requiring the removal of all non-EPA approved devices by 2017. With this bylaw the City of Port Alberni is a leader provincially in terms of addressing the issue of wood stove smoke pollution.

Public education remains a significant part of this division's work. In 2012 equipment and material was purchased to develop that capacity to provide fire prevention material to the public through a static display. Themes developed were Fire Safety for Seniors, Fire Safety for First Nations, and Seasonal Fire Safety – Christmas. Fire Prevention Week occurred October 7-13, with a theme of "*have two ways out*". Presentations were given to 14 classes of local grade three students . After a raffle draw, two "Fire Chiefs for a Day" were selected to participate in activities at the Fire Hall at the end of October.



The capacity to inspect and approve display fireworks and pyrotechnic displays was developed by attending training hosted by Explosives Regulatory Division of Natural Resources Canada. Based on the content of this training, a revised bylaw has been drafted for Council's consideration in 2013.

The most significant change to fire prevention happened in December when the British Columbia Building and Fire Codes were amended and the 2012 editions came into effect. Documents referenced by these two codes were updated at this time.

The Fire Prevention Division looks forward to new challenges and opportunities to enhance fire safety for our community in 2013.

Public Education

CFPO Thoen at Argyle Pier



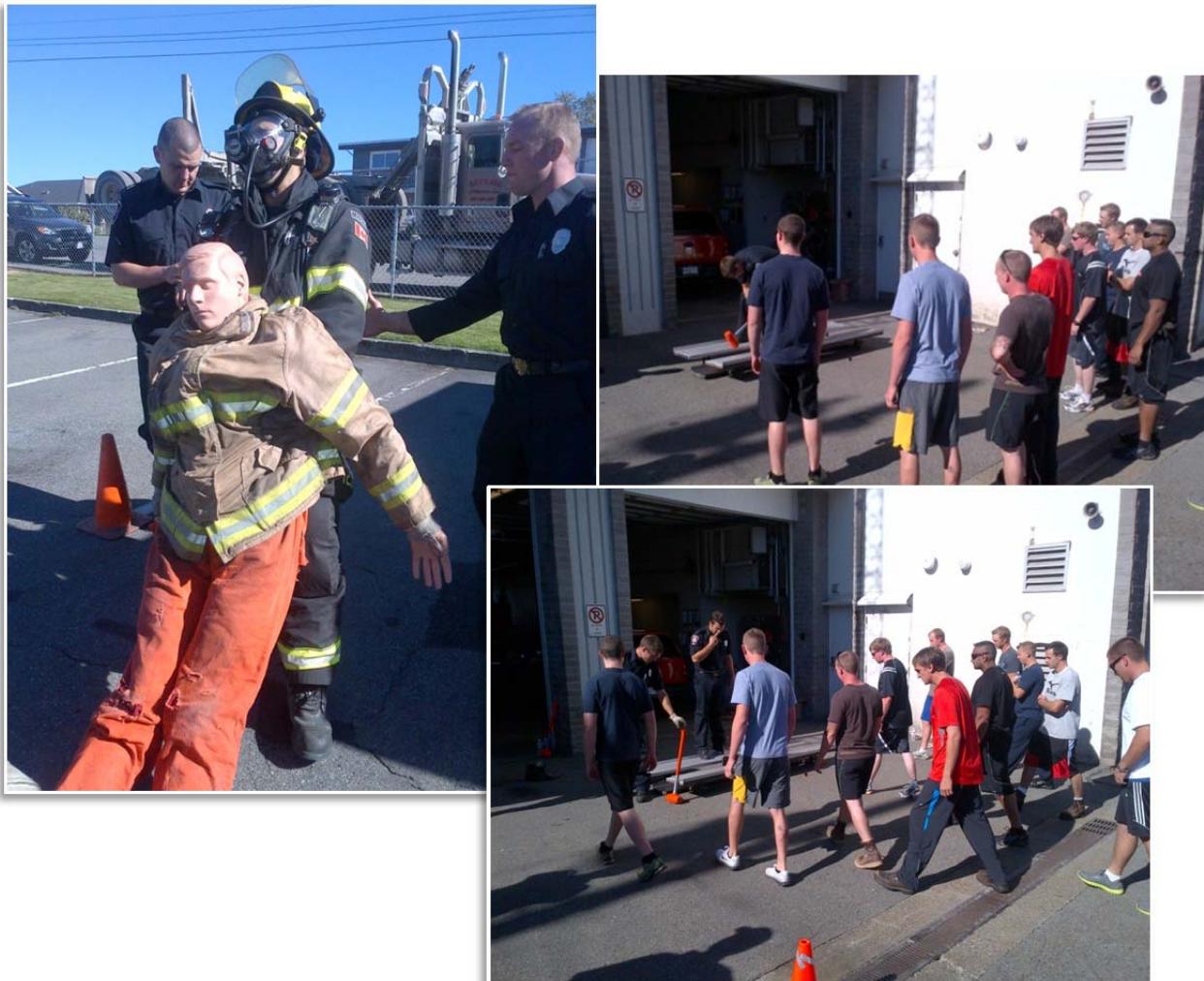
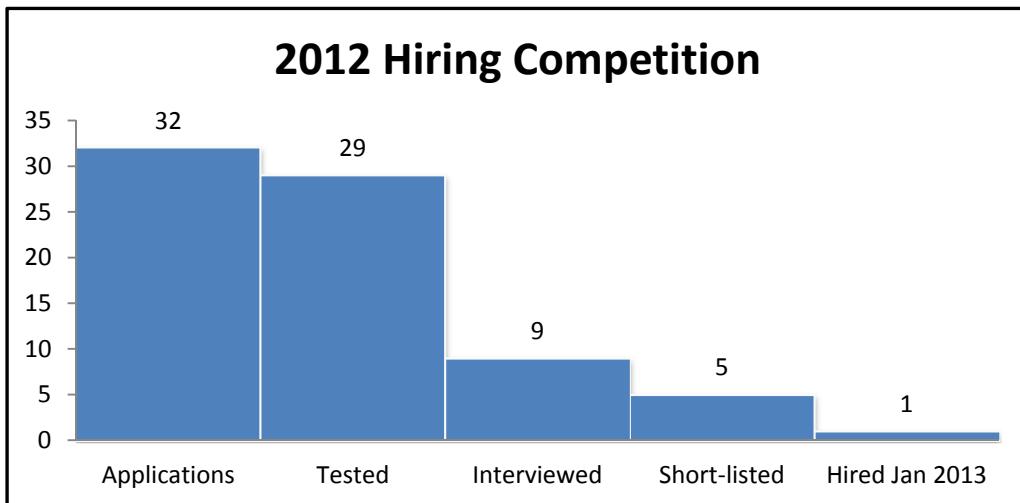


Inspections

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Assembly	67	25	30	68	34
Institutional	32	29	13	19	39
Residential	124	74	77	64	89
Mercantile	53	33	22	16	3
Business	37	32	52	44	46
Industrial	15	6	8	16	22
Special Properties	40	39	40	94	107
Commercial Kitchens	22	22	37	19	23
Investigations/Public Concerns	30	13	12	35	31
Solid Fuel (Wood and pellet stoves)	65	70	49	141	185
Oil Fuel	32	53	7	30	6
Permits Issued	153	123	53	90	92
Total CFPO Inspections	670	519	400	636	677
Fire Crew Inspections	325	304	300	328	356
Third Party Inspections	148	154	81	218	198

Hiring

During the fall of 2012, a hiring competition was conducted in order to establish a short-list of qualified candidates from which to select new firefighter employees as the need arises.



WHAT OTHERS HAD TO SAY

Restoration of vintage fire truck

"Thank you so very much for all the hours in restoration. We are truly appreciative of the detailed craftsmanship on the fire truck. I know Dad and Eddie would be so proud!"

Donna and Dan Reid

Painted Bread of Life building

"I know I said it, but thank you again. May you have an idea of what it meant to be able to change our face as other businesses struggle to pull up this end. Thank you for helping us do our part. Very grateful"

Cindy Sjoholm, Bread of Life

Regional Training

"I attended the fire service instructor course over the weekend in a nutshell great instruction coupled with great course content. The course definitely has given me a lot more tools to work with. I look forward to more courses in the future. Many thanks."

Grant McCombie, Beaver Creek Fire Department

Support Beaver Creek water

"Tim, thank you, Chris and Derrin and the crew for your help today! The problem was the relief valve stuck in the open position, which we were able to close. After that we had a successful test on the water system and will now dial in the procedure to fill both reservoirs.

Your department's help with the pump test and troubleshooting is much appreciated."

Andy Daniels, ACRD

Fire Cause Investigation

"I believe that the outcome of this fire has been very positive for everyone involved. It is always a pleasure to work in Port Alberni as you and your members treat me with the utmost respect and professionalism. Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can ever help you out."

Scott Melville, Fire Cause Investigator

Fire Incident – APD Sawmill

"Thanks Guys – Again I just want to thank all the local firefighters who responded that night – it was so professional and efficient – I was amazed at the force that was assembled here - and to you two in particular as well for your participation in the investigation process – "

Joe Holmes, A.P.D.

Community Support

"Thank you for your willingness to take part in Dad's Night Out. Your crowded firehall is a testament to just how much families respect and appreciate the work that you do. We do too. Thanks again for participating."

Dad's Night Out Planning Team

Hiring Competition

"Anyone on here out to PA this weekend for phase 1 of the recruitment? Written test seemed pretty standard, and physical/work related test was cool. I was impressed with the Chief and DC actually attending the tests and answering questions, not to mention the rest of the duty crew. Great group, it would be a winning lottery ticket to get an offer here! Pretty small group going though, so fingers crossed for a call back."

(anonymous posting at online fire chat site)

Hiring Competition

"I would like to thank you for the opportunity in participating in the Port Alberni Recruitment. It was a great experience and the atmosphere of the competition was a positive one even though we all were competing for a career. After this experience Port Alberni had sparked my interest of re-applying, with the crew of Firefighters who were there to help and cheer the applicants on, it really seemed the city has a great focus of making the city a great place to reside and work. Looking forward to the next recruitment."

Candidate, 2012 Hiring Competition



Firefighter Ryan Turner rescues a dog from a culvert

FUNDRAISING/COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

The Port Alberni Fire Fighters have a long and proud history of fundraising in our community. When not protecting the lives and property of the citizens and visitors to Port Alberni, the firefighters are dedicating hundreds of hours of our own time in support of local charities and organizations. We understand that protecting a community is more than handling emergencies ... it's about helping people in our community everyday ... people who have to deal with many of life's challenges. We know we can make a difference and will continue to do so. The Port Alberni Fire Fighters' Charitable Committee is administered by the Port Alberni Professional Fire Fighters Association, and is supported by the Port Alberni Fire Department.

Charitable Committee goals - 2012

- 1) To provide relief from poverty & hunger
- 2) To assist members of Port Alberni and British Columbia who have been affected by significant events, wounds, injuries, or episodes
- 3) To raise money for medical and health care research
- 4) Deliver programs that offer positive life experiences and enhance self-esteem

Below is a list of events we focused on in order to achieve our 2012 charitable goals:

- Teamed up with the **Bread of Life** to assist in meeting shared goals
- Continued to support **Muscular Dystrophy** - In April we sent a cheque for \$8500
- Served tea for the **International Women's Day** on March 8th
- Continued to sit as representatives on the **BC Firefighters Burn Fund**
- Attended the **Variety Children's Charity** spaghetti dinner and silent Auction
- Assisted Nanaimo FF's with their summer heat event with proceeds going to support the **Burn Fund**
- Assisted with fundraising for the **KidSport – Port Alberni**
- Participated in a Charitable hockey game against local RCMP with proceeds going to support **Association For Community living** (approximately \$5,000 raised)
- Sponsored and attended another successful free public skate at **Winter Wonderland**



2013 OUTLOOK AND OBJECTIVES

Referenced against strategic goals and objectives of City Council

Replace Self Contained Breathing Apparatus' in 2013

Objective 1.2 Provide and sustain needed municipal infrastructure for now and future generations

Objective 2.1 Support public safety through provision of protective services

This project will improve firefighter safety and operational efficiency, and also improve the level of breathing apparatus protection provided to City Works and Parks and Recreation workers. During 2012 the Fire Department drafted the City's Respiratory Protection Program. This helps to provide a further layer of worker safety. The absence of such a program was pointed out during the WorkSafe BC (COR) Certificate of Recognition review process.

Address shortfalls In turn out times and travel times v/v NFPA 1710 standard

Objective 1.1 Provide sustainable transportation corridors

Objective 1.2 Provide and sustain needed municipal infrastructure for now and future generations

Objective 2.1 Support public safety through provision of protective services

Objective 4.1 Ensure a positive image of the City

Objective 5.1 Provide civic leadership through the setting of priorities

Objective 5.3 Ensure a responsive and high performing workforce

PAFD has done considerable work in measuring performance in terms of turn out times and travel times. Going forward, the following work must be completed;

- Verify validity of data recorded for each incident. Are we tracking the correct data? Is it reliable? Is the software (FDM) working correctly in this regard?
- Examine performance shortfalls v/v the standard. Is the standard applicable to Port Alberni? Should Port Alberni adopt a standard lesser than NFPA 1710?
- Examine performance for opportunities to improve. Develop an action plan for improvement. Set improvement goals for 2013.

Develop fire officer mentorship program

Objective 2.1 Support public safety through provision of protective services

Objective 5.3 Ensure a responsive and high performing workforce

A fire officer mentorship program would facilitate the development of future officers and acting officers in a manner that would enable those individuals to build practical experience in a safe and controlled setting. This is envisioned as an in-service program, involving upcoming officers gaining experience under the guidance of Captains and/or chief officers.

Explore solutions to PAFD records management challenges

Objective 1.2 Provide and sustain needed municipal infrastructure for now and future generations

Objective 2.1 Support public safety through provision of protective services

Objective 2.4 Address issues of affordability

Objective 5.5 Provide proactive access to information

PAFD currently uses FDM software to maintain and manage fire department data. Current practices utilize a standalone data base. PAFD does not have the internal capacity to customize the program and manage the data effectively.

Other fire departments experiencing similar challenges have been moving toward a hosted records management solution that involves multiple fire departments maintaining their individual data within one collective, providing an economy of scale that enables technical support for users. In 2013 PAFD will explore this option, with the possibility of making a change in 2014.

Host a Justice Institute of BC Training Weekend

Objective 2.1 Support public safety through provision of protective services

Objective 2.5 Maintain and grow 'social capital' by supporting volunteer initiatives

Objective 4.1 Ensure a positive image of the City

Objective 5.3 Ensure a responsive and high performing workforce

The JIBC partners with local governments to co-host regional training weekends throughout the province. In June 2013, the Port Alberni Fire Department will partner with JIBC and North Island College – Port Alberni to co-host a training weekend in the Alberni Valley. This will provide an opportunity for all firefighters in our region to access high quality training, locally and affordably.

