



Union Bay Fire Rescue 2020 Annual Report



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended Dec31, 2020

Prepared by Fire Chief Ian Ham

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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

I am very proud to present the Union Bay Fire Rescue 2020 Annual Report. The Annual Report provides a welcomed opportunity to formally acknowledge the outstanding work of our volunteer department.

More than ever, the pandemic challenges of 2020 have highlighted the incredible dedication of the Union Bay Fire Rescue membership. This report serves to document the commitment of our membership as they have persevered through the numerous COVID – 19 operational adaptations in order to continue to provide care and service to the Union Bay community.

Moreover, many of our fire fighters are trained as emergency medical responders who are often called to provide initial support and stabilization prior to ambulance services arrival. With the pandemic, our members were suddenly placed at higher risk of coronavirus infection. In my opinion, fire fighters have not been commonly counted among the ranks of frontline workers and are deserving of acknowledgement for their critical service. In like manner, the department has also supported our community in other ways. They have fed people through food drives and offered social support through drive-by events. The emotional toll of this pandemic has weighed heavily on us all yet the Union Bay Fire Rescue members have gone beyond their own family concerns and continued to volunteer services in the support of others.

In closing, I have been heart struck witnessing this unprecedented level of generosity, care and compassion. I am honored to work alongside each and every member of the Union Bay Fire Rescue.

Ian W. Ham, *CD*
Fire Chief

2020 Executive Summary

Highlights

Purchase of replacement Engine - Union Bay Fire Rescue in conjunction with Union Bay Improvement District Acting CAO, Union Bay Improvement District Board of Trustees and Community Representation continue to work towards the purchase of a replacement Engine. At this time, the key stake holders are focused on the determining Engine and equipment requirements through consultation with other local departments, manufactures and fire department members.

Mutual Aid - Union Bay Fire Rescue continues to maintain Mutual Aid agreements – with Fanny Bay, Comox, Cumberland, Courtenay, Hornby Island, Demand Island and Oyster River fire departments. Beyond, enhanced emergency response, this working relationship promotes operational consistency, identify changes in current industry standards, best practices and legislation.

Paid on Call/ Practice – The new operational guideline for Fire Fighters being paid for calls and training has now completed its inaugural year. Fire fighters are the departments greatest asset. This small stipend confirms community value for the membership’s time and commitment.

Calls- Union Bay Fire Rescue responded to numerous incidents for fire, medical, motor vehicle incidents, and hazardous materials logging 5911 member hours (# of call hours X # of personnel on scene).

Future Considerations

COVID- The effects and implications of COVID-19 will continue into 2021. Union Bay Fire Rescue will need to continue to stay vigilant in updating department operations to be in line with changing public health orders. This is no small task given the broad reaching response implications such as monitoring sufficiency of Personal Protective Equipment, unified crisis communication plans, effective training strategies that incorporate safety protocols, problem-solving social distancing guidelines for various incident environments, etc.

Governance transition to the Comox Valley Regional District- At the direction of Union Bay Improvement District CAO and the Union Bay Improvement District Conversion Working Group, Union Bay Fire Rescue will be planning for the delivery of fire services as part of the Comox Valley Regional District.

New Fire Hall Planning – Union Bay Fire Rescue is committed to the planning for the development of a new hall. This has been identified as a priority given service needs and requirements to appropriately house fire apparatus.

Recruitment and retention – call volume and department training requirements create challenges in balancing family, work and volunteer fire fighter commitments.

Our Mission

The Union Bay Fire Rescue is committed to providing professional, efficient and effective services to all residents and visitors of Union Bay.

Our mission will be accomplished through training, education and fire prevention.

When called upon we will....

- Provide a professional response to an emergency
- Attempt to minimize loss of life and property from fire, or disaster
- Show compassion for those involved
- Be committed to protection of the environment















What We Do

- Fire fighter training
- Fire Protection
- Medical assistance as first responders in support of BC Ambulance Services
- Rescue services for car accidents and other dangerous situations
- Emergency scene managements for complex emergency scenes
- Public education

Membership- Who We Are

Union Bay Fire Rescue has 85 years of history in providing service to the community. The department continues to maintain strong memberships at 21 members.

 <p>Ian Ham Fire Chief 25 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Kevin MacGregor Deputy Chief 26 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Darcy Rainey Captain & Training Officer 16 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Adam Moyle Captain 1 Year of Service/ 19 Career</p>
 <p>Travis Mephram Lieutenant 9 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Sandy Pridmore Lieutenant 3 Years of Service/ 26 Career</p>	 <p>Rikk Buijs Lieutenant 12 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Peter Wharram Fire Fighter 22 Years of Service</p>
 <p>Robert Jeffery Fire Fighter 22 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Nick Web Fire Fighter 18 years of Service</p>	 <p>Susan Hargreaves Fire Fighter 16 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Rob Hollands Fire Fighter 11 Years of Service</p>

 <p>Alexis Royer Fire Fighter 9 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Cris Preuss Fire Fighter 6 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Paul Hiebert Fire Fighter 5 Years of Service</p>	 <p>James Maxwell Fire Fighter 3 Years of Service</p>
 <p>Jeff Martin Fire Fighter 2 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Jim Hargreaves Fire Fighter 2 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Dave Logan Fire Fighter 2 Years of Service</p>	 <p>Jeff Mayse Fire Fighter 2 Years of Service</p>
 <p>Kevin Kozak Fire Fighter 2 Years of Service</p>			

Training

The Office of the Fire Commissioner establishes fire fighter training standards in B.C. as per a fire department's declared level of service. Union Bay Fire Rescue trains to the Office of the Fire Commissioner's Standards Playbook – Full Service.

Training is a large focus of the department which occurs every Tuesday evening for a two-hour session, on average, 43 practice nights yearly. Beyond this commitment, members regularly attend off site, specialized training during evenings or weekends. Live Fire, Auto Extrication and Officer training are just a few examples of member's professional qualifications. In addition, all Union Bay Fire Rescue members are encouraged to train to the Medical First Responder Level III. This emergency medical training allows the department to provide pre-hospital care for medical emergencies such as advanced first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillator usage.

Training Levels	First Responders: 19
Fire Officers: 7	Fire Fighters: 13

2020 has been a very challenging year for training given implications of COVID – 19. Training has needed to follow direction from the Provincial Health Officer, Worksafe BC, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Fire Chief's Association of BC, and Comox Valley Fire Chief's Association. Through creative problem-solving and dedicated teamwork, Union Bay Fire Rescue repeatedly pivoted training plans to safely implement training.

Through the leadership of Captain D'Arcy Rainey - UBFR Training officer, comprehensive training plans took into account:

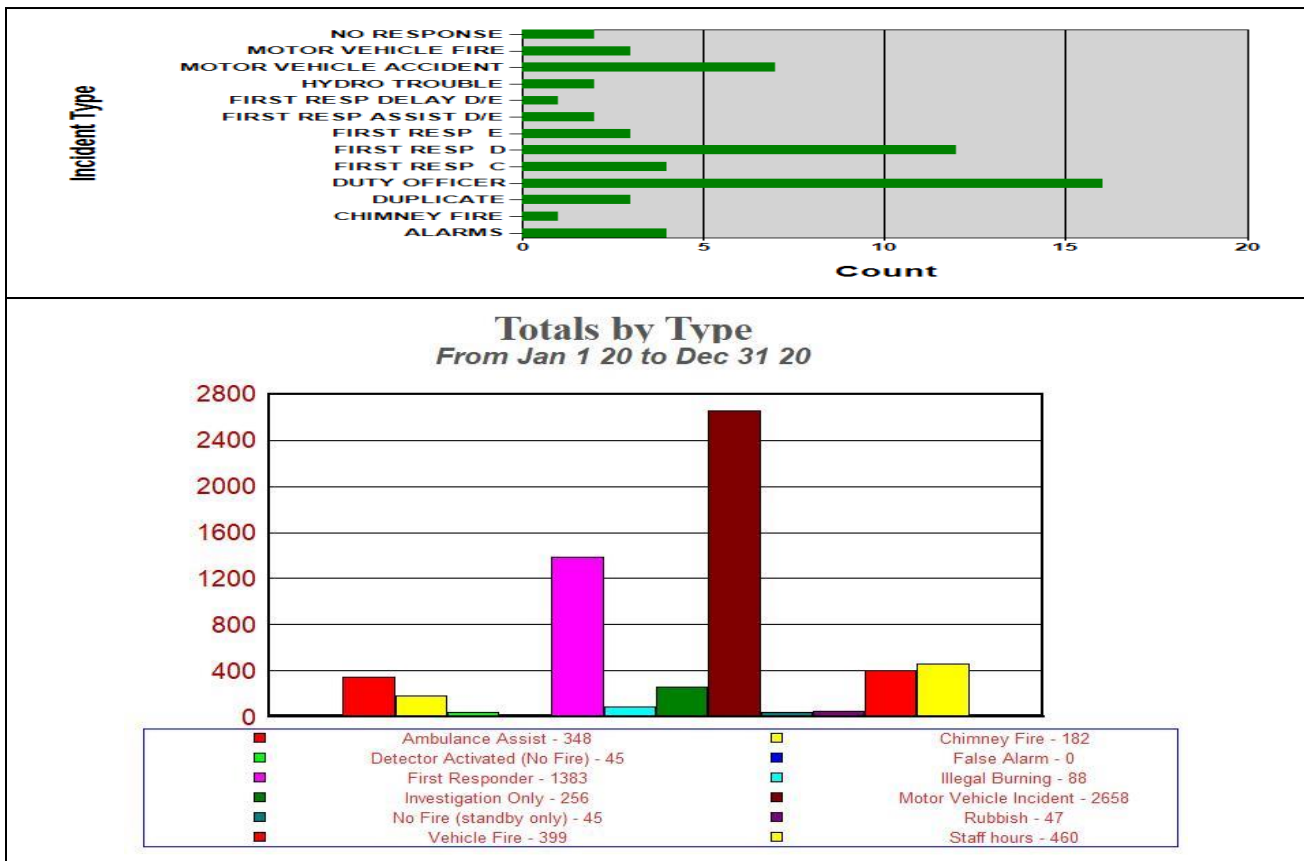
- social distancing requirements
- observance of additional cleaning demands
- additional personal protection equipment
- use of video streaming or online material
- small group training to be mindful of space capacity issues

It is important to note that even though small group instruction has been necessary to maintain safe training, this approach presents significant challenges given the additional Instructor requirements. D'Arcy has been invigilant in solution finding.

Incident Response Trends

The department saw fewer call outs in 2020 than in past years. This is largely a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the direction of Provincial Health and in consideration of Union Bay Fire Rescue resources and existing community services, first responder calls were limited to urgent and severe. This operational strategy was put in place to limit possible exposure to COVID-19.

In 2020, the department responded to 60 incidents. Incidents included structure fire, first responder medical aid, motor vehicle, burning complaints and other various public services requests. Duty Officer, First Responder and Motor Vehicle calls continue to make up the department's largest incident categories.



Financial 2020

2020 budget

The department remained within budget for the 2020 year	
Total Revenue	467,030.64
Total Administration Costs	42,735
Total Materials and Supplies	8925
Total Payroll and Expenses	250,317.93
Total Vehicle Costs	19,121.77
Total Expenditures	321,099.70
Capital Reserve Funds Contributions	145,627.71

Some of the equipment purchased this year included:

- Helmets
- Fire Boots
- Fire Hose
- Forestry equipment
- Turn out gear, gloves, balaclavas
- Pagers
- Backup generator
- Thermal Imaging camera
- Computer
- Fire extinguishers



In the Community

Easter Paraded-To support community well-being, the department participated in an Easter Parade whereby members volunteered their time to escort the Easter Bunny through the community using department apparatuses.

Farwell Visit- Union Bay Fire Rescue was asked to participate in a farewell event honoring a long-standing community member.

Wounded Warrior Run- In February, members volunteered their time to drive fire apparatuses as part of the Wounded Warrior runners escort through the community of Union Bay. The department was proud to be invited to participate in raising awareness of mental health concerns with veterans and first responders.

Fire Prevention Week – The department developed and distributed various public education online materials during Fire Prevention Week which occurs the second week of October. Materials were distributed through local community facebook pages and posted on the department’s website.

Food Drive for the Comox Valley Food Bank-

In December, Union Bay Fire Rescue/Union Bay Fire Fighter Association, Union Bay Credit Union and Union Bay Market, completed a very successful food drive to support the Comox Valley Food Bank. The drive collected an incredible amount of non-perishable food items and over \$1300.00 in donations in approximately 3 hours. The department is keen to host more of these types of events in the future.



Acknowledgements

This report would not be complete without giving opportunity to acknowledge the numerous individuals who have collectively worked to make Union Bay Fire Rescue an amazing department.

I would like to ensure that we take time to acknowledge, celebrate and Thank our Fire Fighters for the service they have provided to our community. Special Honors to the following member's achievements:

- Fire Fighter of the year for 2020 = Darcy Rainey
- Rookie of the Year 2020 = James Hargreaves
- 10 years of service :
Rob Hollands
- 15 years of service:
Darcy Rainey
Susan Hargreaves
- 25 years of service:
Kevin MacGregor

I would also like to acknowledge the families of our membership as without their support the department would not thrive.

Special Thank you to my Deputy Chief – Kevin MacGregor who so diligently performs numerous behind the scene tasks.

Thank you to our Training Officer – D'Arcy Rainey for his creative work in keeping us moving forward during this challenging pandemic year.

Thank you to the Union Bay Fire Fighter Association – Travis Mephram (Chair), Alexis Royer (Vice Chair) and Susan Hargreaves (Secretary/Treasurer). Your level of collaboration has made this another outstanding year for our department.

BIG THANK YOU to Janice Swanson (Union Bay Improvement District- Deputy Administrator). Janice has provided invaluable guidance and support to the department this year while seamlessly juggling numerous other responsibilities.

Similarly, I would like to Thank the Union Bay Board Trustee's for their time, interest, support and resulting excellent working relationship.

To conclude, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the community of Union Bay, where I am so privileged to live and work - Thank You to the taxpayers for your ongoing support of the Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted

Ian Ham, Fire Chief