



## Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department

71731 Meadow Road, Hope, B.C. V0X 1L5 (604) 869-2414

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### **FALL 2017 Newsletter**

Hello All,

Here we are in September already and still in the middle of a fire ban. As you all know this wild fire year has been a tough one for our province. Sadly, it looks like its going to continue well into the winter months. The SVVFD would like to thank all of the residents who complied with the fire ban, and those who assisted in keeping our community safe by reminding visitors and neighbours of the ban as needed. A big thank you to those residents who called us when they observed fires. We were able to respond to and educate the parties involved, or put out the fires.

There have been some changes to the structure of the Fire Department and the Fire Department Board. Konrad Sears has taken on the duties as our Fire Chief. Konrad is a career fire fighter with the City of Vancouver and brings a vast wealth of experience with him. Aaron Harris and Steve Smith have been promoted to Assistant Chief. This will allow for full time coverage from the executive group for administrative, training and operational duties.

In addition to operational changes, the fire board has also seen some new faces added. The SVVFD has come a long way from its inception 20 years ago! A new direction is being forged by both the Fire Department and the Fire Board. Both entities are here to serve the residents of Sunshine Valley, and both are 100% volunteer. As we move forward residents will see a more open and inclusive department. Please feel free to contact the Board members or Fire Department members with any questions or concerns that you have. Those who utilize Facebook, e-mail, and internet services will see more open communication such as information posts, updates, and discussion about fire issues. Chief Sears has appointed Fire Fighter Chris Farsky as the Information Officer for the department. Please feel free to contact Chris regarding any questions or concerns that you may have. Chris will be available via email, Facebook and in person. Please see the last page for contact information.

The SVVFD and the Fire Board are excited to move forward with a new vision. We have come a long way from our beginnings. This has been made possible by many volunteers who have selflessly given up their free time to respond, train, and administer the department. However, our success would not have been possible without the support of our community, individual donors, and local businesses. Through this immense generosity we have grown into a new fire hall with three trucks, plenty of storage, and a training area.

Over the last few months there have been many questions from residents regarding “dues” and whether or not the “dues” are mandatory. We understand that in the past this has been a sensitive subject. The Department and Board would like to offer some clarification, explanation, and openly welcome all questions and criticism. In regards to the fee, here are some Frequently Asked Questions, with answers of course!

**What does the \$100 I pay go towards?**

Your payment of \$100 goes towards the operations of the fire department. It is split into two portions. The first, \$75 goes into the operations fund. This money is used to pay for everything from fuel for the trucks to medical supplies, and equipment needed to operate the fire department. The second portion, \$25 goes into a savings account for the replacement of one of our fire engines. The “Mack” or engine #4 is over 30 years old and requires replacement. Maintenance and repairs are not fiscally responsible due to the age of this apparatus. SVVFD is looking to replace this engine with a smaller rescue truck that would be used for medical calls and highway incidents.

**Do I have to pay to \$100 fee?**

No, you do not have to. The fee is voluntary and 100% your choice.

**Will the SVVFD still provide Fire Fighting service to me if I do not pay?**

No, the SVVFD will not provide fire fighting services to properties that are not society members.

**Why will the SVVFD not respond to my property if I choose not to pay?**

The SVVFD will not respond to a fire at your property unless you have paid your society fee of \$100. This is due to liability reasons. The SVVFD carries insurance to protect itself and its fire fighters as required by law.

**Will my insurance coverage be affected?**

Yes it will...Society members receive “Semi-Protected” Status which in many cases significantly reduces your rates. If you choose to not join the society for \$100 a year, you will need to inform your insurance provider that you are unprotected.

**Will the SVVFD respond to my property for a medical emergency if I have not paid?**

Yes! SVVFD will respond to your property for medical emergencies regardless of membership status. SVVFD has a response agreement with the BC Ambulance Service and is dispatched to all 9-1-1 medical calls.

**How do I join the Society so I can have structural fire suppression services for my property?**

Simply complete the form at the back of this newsletter and submit it along with your payment (Cheque or Money order made out to the Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department) via mail. If you would like to pay by cash please contact Chris Farsky or Norm Barker to arrange collection and issuance of receipt. Other payment options are being looked at and set up to ensure seamless transition of service.

As we quickly move into October we approach **“Fire Safety Week”** which runs from October 7<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Department will be hosting an open house on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a pancake breakfast on the 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have any fire safety questions or concerns please stop by and visit us! If you are all fire smarted out :) please stop by and say hello and have a tour of our hall and equipment and meet us. We love meeting you and saying hi!!

As we make our way into some cooler weather, please take some time and “fire smart” your properties. Trim back tree branches, remove low hanging branches, remove piled up pine needles and dead grass and remove accumulated debris from your roof. If you are unsure as to what you should do please contact us and we would be happy to stop by, say hello, and help you protect your home! Please do not dump your branches, pine needles and trimmings along the forest service road. This only adds to the combustible fuels that we are trying to eliminate. Please take this debris to the transfer station. If you are not sure what you should do, please contact us!

Keeping with messages of Fire Safety, please check your smoke detector batteries. It is suggested that you replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors every six (6) months and please don't forget to test them!! If you need help with this please let us know. We will be happy to come visit and test your detectors with you. If you need a smoke detector(s), or a carbon dioxide detector, or if you need help selecting a fire extinguisher let us know, we will help you out happily!

The SVVFD will be offering free fire extinguisher training to any resident during fire safety week. That's right, you will learn how to use a extinguisher for free! Not only how to use one, but how to correctly select one for the fire situation you may face. Of course, we know that not all residents will be around during fire safety week. If you are interested in learning how to use a fire extinguisher correctly contact us and we will be happy to arrange a training time with you.

The SVVFD is 100% volunteer. None of our members, regardless of rank, are paid for any of the calls that they attend, even those sent to us by 9-1-1. We rely solely on the contributions of local residents and businesses through donations, payment of annual fire fees and the donation of refundable bottles. If you would like to donate your refundable bottles to the Department, please drop them off at the “old” fire hall (the SCCC) or at the transfer station with Gary or Norm. Contact Chris Farsky for free pick up within the valley. Through the generosity of local residents the SVVFD has been able to use deposit monies from returned beverage containers to purchase personal safety equipment, cover training costs, and buy much needed operational supplies.

Thank you to all residents who have supported us over the last 20 years. Without you we would not have been able to become the department we are today!

How to call the SVVFD during an Emergency?

**Emergency Number: 604-869-2404 or 9-1-1**

When you call your Fire Department at **604-869-2404**, you are calling our emergency page out system.

Please follow the system prompts and state your name, physical address, lot number, and phone number (in the valley) and let us know why you are calling... for example: is it a medical emergency or fire call?

Please describe the situation the best that you can and tell us where the emergency is at. The more information we have the more efficiently we can respond.

While you are connected to our page out system, all fire fighters will hear their pagers ring twice like a regular phone, and then the pager will sound the emergency tone, followed by your message.

We understand that you may be facing a stressful situation when you call for help. Please take a moment to breathe, collect your thoughts, and provide the information as calmly as possible.

Once your message begins to transmit, all available fire fighters are already responding to the hall, donning their protective equipment and responding to your call.

If you call our emergency line and it is not an emergency, **please do not hang up**, feel anxious, or that you made a mistake! Follow the prompts and simply say, for example, "This is Chris from M4, this is not an emergency I called by mistake, my phone number is 604-###-####, or This is Chris from M4, this is not an emergency, I am looking for some information regarding ... my phone number is 604-###-####"

We would rather know that you are OK and need some information than respond to an emergency call hang up.

You may also call 9-1-1 for emergency assistance in the valley. When calling 9-1-1 please ensure that you have your physical address to provide to the operator. The 9-1-1 dispatchers do not use the Valley lot number system that we in the Valley understand. As with the paging system, please remain calm and provide as many details of the emergency as you can.

If you have any questions about how to call for help please contact Information Officer Chris Farsky, or speak with any of our fire fighters or board members.

Fire Department Contacts:

**EMERGENCY: 604-869-2404 or 9-1-1**

Questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, general information etc.  
Contact Information Officer Chris Farsky at: [inquires@svvfd.net](mailto:inquires@svvfd.net).

Chief Konrad Sears may be reached at: [fire.chief@svvfd.net](mailto:fire.chief@svvfd.net)

An up to date website will be provided shortly to Valley residents for self service information. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Upcoming activities:

October 7<sup>th</sup> - Fire Hall open house and BBQ to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to kick off Fire Safety Week. There will be prizes, fire safety information and weather depending free fire extinguisher training. BBQ by donation, all proceeds go to the operations of the fire department.

October 8<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Breakfast at the Holiday trails great room. Come spend the morning with your neighbours and your fire department.

More to come!!

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Once again, Thank you for your ongoing support. Without the generous contributions from valley residents, local businesses, and our volunteers we would not be the fire department we are today.

If you see us driving by give us a wave! If you're out for a walk and we are at the hall stop by and say hi. If you want to see the hall or you want to bring the kids by send us an email at [inquires@svvfd.net](mailto:inquires@svvfd.net) and we will organize a time for you to visit.

Please check the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. If you need help doing this let us know!

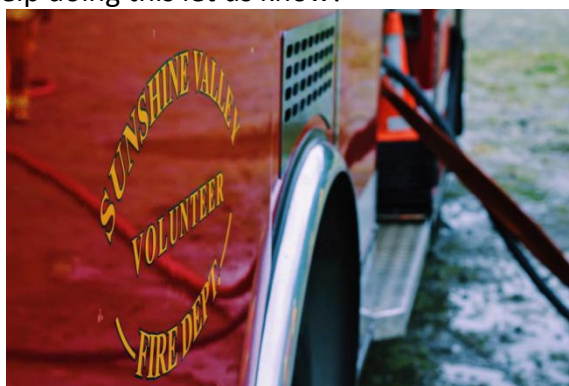


Photo: Jordan Niles



Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department  
71731 Meadow Road  
Hope BC V0X 1L5

**EMERGENCY #: 604-869-2404 or 9-1-1**

## Structural Fire Firefighting Service & Society Membership Application Form

Please Print

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Full time Address:</b>	
<b>City/Province/Postal Code:</b>	
<b>Telephone # :</b>	<b>Mobile #:</b>
<b>Email:</b>	

### Sunshine Valley Address

<b>Street Address:</b>	<b>Lot #:</b>
<b>Telephone #:</b>	
<b>Number and type of Pets:</b>	
<b>Emergency Contact (must be an adult) :</b>	

The annual membership fee is \$100. The membership year is from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Upon receipt of your fees you will be provided with a sticker to place in a visible area near your front door. As a member you receive "semi-protected" status which can significantly reduce your insurance premiums. The Fire Chief will issue a letter confirming this status should your insurer require it.

**Please note:** if your membership expires, or you choose not to join the society, your property will return to, or remain as "unprotected" status. You will need to inform your insurance provider of this status. **SVVFD cannot respond to a fire at your property if you are not a society member due to insurance and liability issues.**

Membership also includes participation and voting rights at the annual general meeting.

All Sunshine Valley residents receive **emergency medical services** from the fire department regardless of membership status. There is no fee for emergency medical service.

Please make the cheque(s) payable to the Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Please include your lot number on your cheque. Memberships are not transferable.

I/We the undersigned, hereby give the Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department permission to enter my/our property, lot, and structures at any time for the purposes of firefighting.

<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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