



Gillies Bay Volunteer Fire Department
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**AGM May 4, 2025
 Fire Chief Report**

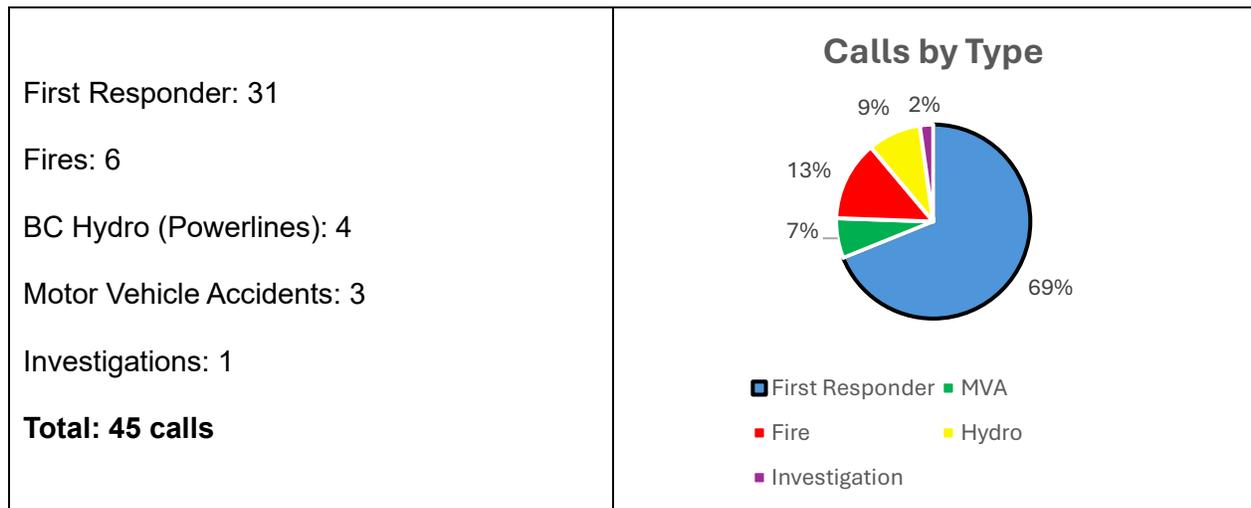
Fire Department Transition:

In 2025 the Gillies Bay Volunteer Fire Department welcomed a new Fire Chief, as Rob McWilliam has relinquished his duties as Fire Chief, and Michael Corcoran has assumed that role.

We would like to recognize and thank Rob for all his hard work and dedication to this department and community. Rob will be staying on with the department as an Auxiliary Firefighter.

We would also like to acknowledge Deputy Fire Chief, Dave Beech for all his assistance during this transition.

Calls Attended by GBVFD in 2024:



GBVFD Department Members:

Michael Corcoran, David Beech, Rob McWilliam, Richard Valentine, Sandi Martens-Carpenter, Ben Reiman, Ken Becotte, Darren Zant, Galen Muma, Brett Nikirk, Brian Hanson, Travis McCaig, Isabel Hannan, Cindy Miller, Tyler Danczak, Sofia Khan, Johan Axen, Mark Lyttle

Training:

GBVFD trains for approx. 3-4 hours Monday evenings and does 4-5 full day training scenarios yearly. Our 17 members are dedicated to furthering their training and we are happy to say we have an average 10 members per weekly training session. That works out to around 1500 hours of training yearly, not taking into account extra courses and full day scenarios.

Internal training consists of disciplines such as, Hose and Hydrants, Emergency Vehicle Operator, Auto Extrication, Technical Rescue, Wildland Firefighting, Medical and Haz-Mat.

In 2024, out of department training included, Interior and Exterior Live Fire training and certification through Dynamic Rescue and First Responder medical training. Through the 2024 budget, we were able to send all our female firefighters to a specialized Auto Extrication course, and they will be taking the lead in our future Auto Extrication Program.

We were fortunate, in 2024, to complete Live Fire training, in conjunction with Van Anda Fire and Rescue, with a structure in Gillies Bay, which had all materials other than wood removed. This was a great opportunity for our members to put their skills obtained from Live Fire Certification with Dynamic Rescue to actual practice. This type of training is invaluable as these scenarios are impossible to recreate without a structure like this.

Equipment:

Thanks to the dedicated fundraising work of the Texada Volunteer Firefighters Association and excellent support from our whole island community, we were able to raise enough money in 2024 for allow us to purchase a new Kubota side by side for Wildland Fire operations (Kubota name TBA).

Through the Community Forest Grant in 2024, we purchased a wildland firefighting skid to mount to the Kubota. This skid includes a water tank, hose and Honda pump.

Outlook for 2025:

Moving into 2025 and beyond, the department is going to focus on training, to align us with current BC Government "Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards". These standards are regulations in BC and are required by law for fire departments to complete.

To align with these standards, we will be moving towards instructor roles within the department. This will allow members to specialize in disciplines and instruct those disciplines to all our members. It also gives members an expert to go to with questions regarding any discipline.

We will be focusing on maintenance of current equipment such as the apparatus, and upgrading damaged or unusable equipment, to ensure the safety of our members and all of us, to provide the best service possible for Gillies Bay and the surrounding areas.