

---

**TO: Fire Services Advisory Committee****DATE: January 26, 2021****FROM: Anita Sharma,  
Fire Services Coordinator****SUBJECT: 2021 Fire Services Year in Review**

---

The following report represents highlights and activities from the six Regional District of Nanaimo Fire Departments during the period of January 1, 2021- December 31, 2021:

- Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department
- Coombs – Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department
- Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department
- Errington Volunteer Fire Department
- Extension Volunteer Fire Department
- Nanoose Volunteer Fire Department

Over the course of 2021 and during another pandemic year, I have had the opportunity to meet and work closely with the Fire Chiefs, Society board members, and volunteer firefighters on various issues, initiatives, and projects. We have been busy! And just as importantly, we have begun to build a strong working relationship built on trust, honesty, and collaboration. We will continue to work diligently to ensure the level of service each fire department delivers, strikes the best balance between appropriate, acceptable, accessible and affordable.

As we have clearly seen over this past year, the needs of our citizens continue to evolve and grow and demand for fire services has shifted and expanded in areas beyond our traditional fire suppression role. The nature of incidents we respond to is also changing, the concentration and distribution of our population is shifting and communities are looking to their fire departments more and more to help them become more resilient and prepared for any type of emergency. Given these changing needs, we are always working towards being more innovative and adopting best practices to be more effective and efficient. We look forward to the many initiatives we have identified for 2022 and working towards a more sustainable fire service.

Thank you to every one of our members who work each day to improve our communities, deliver outstanding service and contribute to public services where every citizen can feel safe and protected.

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

***Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department***

**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW:**

***Bow Horn Bay Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw 1385***

The Bylaw establishes a service for the purposes of acquiring, improving, constructing, or otherwise obtaining property, personnel and equipment to provide fire protection and emergency response to other classes of emergency, including but not limited to fighting fires, providing aid to or rescuing persons in distress and undertaking fire safety initiatives. The Bylaw stipulates how taxes are to be levied and setting the maximum amount of taxes which may be collected in relation to the provision of the authorized services.

***Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw 1402***

A bylaw to make rules for the provision, operation, and administration of the local services for fire prevention and suppression and the provision of assistance in response to other classes of circumstances that may cause harm.

**MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:**



Through the hardest days and nights of 2021 and with the full support of the Bow Horn Bay Society working behind the scenes, the Bow Horn Bay Fire Dept members acted with extreme professionalism and efficiency while working as a team throughout the 2021 Covid-19 pandemic. I commend each members selflessness and dedication for the countless hours put forth to better the life and safety of their own community.

In 2021, the Bow Horn Bay Fire Dept was proud to announce the accreditation in Superior Tanker Shuttle Service further protecting rural properties from disaster within the Bow Horn Bay fire protection area. Bow Horn Bay Fire Department completely revamped their entire training program which led to four members achieving their firefighter 10-01 certification

The purchase of a new command vehicle was made possible with the guidance of the Regional District of Nanaimo Fire Services Coordinator. The Bow Horn Bay Fire Dept looks forward to 2022 with the acquisition of a new Rescue Pumper for motor vehicle incidents, new training equipment for water rescue, completion of additional firefighter certifications and continuing to build on our strong relationship with our mutual aid fire department partners.

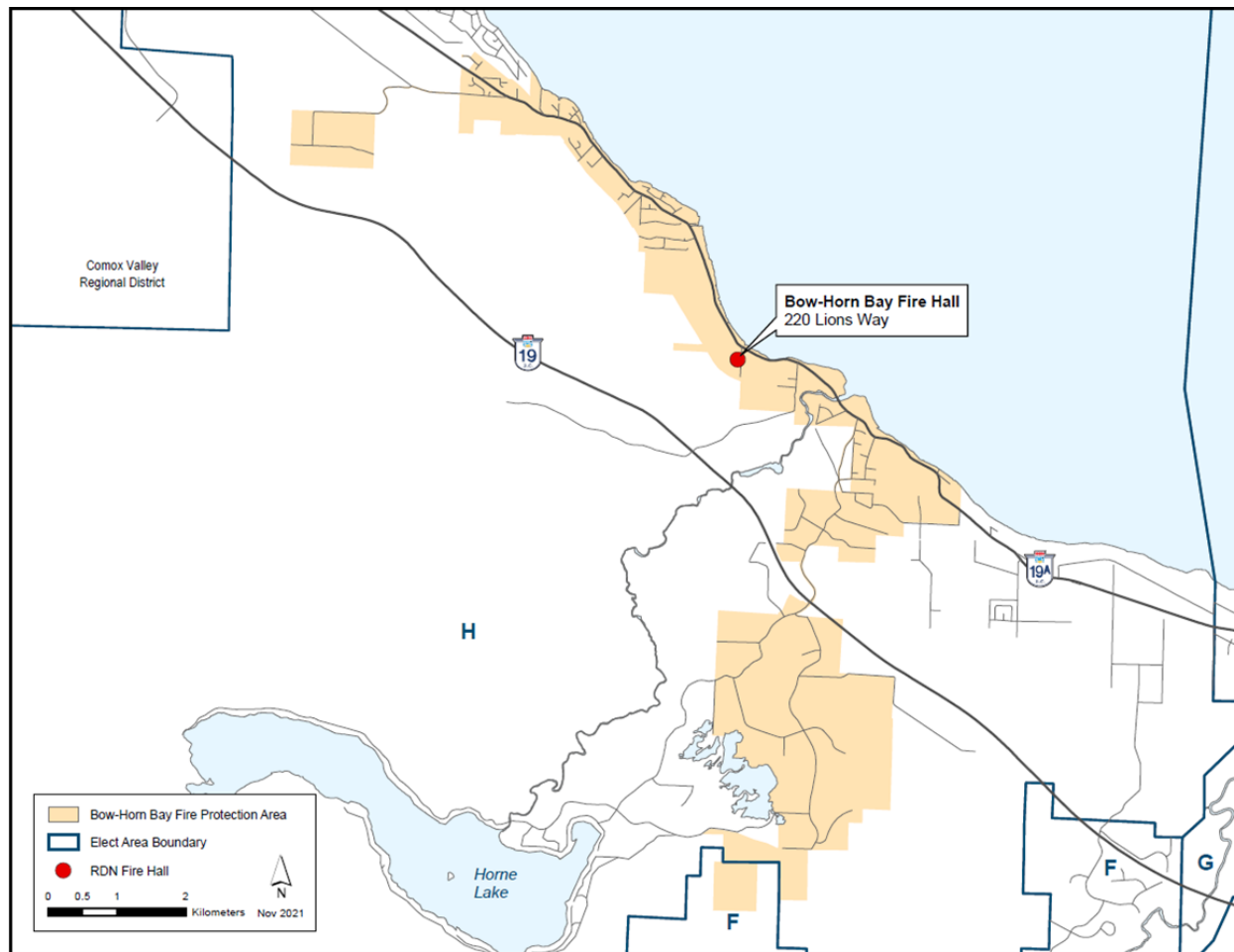
*Fire Chief Clayton Bucoviz*

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**COMMUNITIES SERVED:**

- ❖ Qualicum Bay, Bowser, Spider Lake Community & Horne Lake Community

***Bow Horn Bay Fire Service Area Map- Population (approx.2658)***



**FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING LEVEL:**

- ❖ Number of Volunteers Dec 2021: 18
- ❖ Number of Incidents/Responses 2021: 161
- ❖ Number of training hours 2021: 2400 hrs
- ❖ Current training level: Interior Operations
- ❖ Additional Services: First Response, Road Rescue, Road Rescue, Medical Services
- ❖ Mutual Aid Agree- BHB and Deep Bay and Automatic Aid Agreements BHB and Dashwood, Coombs-Hilliers, and Qualicum Fire Department

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- ❖ C700 Chief Command Vehicle, First Responder/Safety equipment
- ❖ C701 First Responder Response Vehicle, First Responder equipment
- ❖ C702 Deputy Chief Command Vehicle, First Responder/Safety equipment
- ❖ Rescue 78 MVI Response Apparatus, Extrication equipment/Hazmat equip
- ❖ Engine 71 Second line Fire Engine, initial attack equipment/First Responder Equip
- ❖ Engine 72 Frontline Fire Engine, Initial attack equip/first responder equip
- ❖ Tender 74 Water Tender, wildland suppression equipment
- ❖ UTV 7, Back Country rescue/wildland support/transport vehicle

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ✓ Purchase of Used Rescue Engine
- ✓ Fire Smart Community Program
- ✓ Recipient of Red Cross Community Resiliency Grant
- ✓ Superior Tender Shuttle Service Certification achieved
- ✓ Participated in RDN initiatives such as Apparatus Planning and Inspection Committee
- ✓ Four members completed their 10-01 certification
- ✓ One member was hired as the BHBFD FireSmart Coordinator
- ✓ BHBFD purchased a new Fire Chief command vehicle. A 2021 Chevrolet Silverado
- ✓ BHBFD Hired full-time Deputy Chief

**2022 LOOK AHEAD:**

- Participate in RDN initiatives: Asset Management and Sustainability Plan
- New training equipment for water rescue
- New Used Rescue Engine
- Completion of additional firefighter certifications and continuing to build on our strong relationship with our mutual aid fire department partners.

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

***Coombs Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department***



**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW:**

***Coombs Hilliers Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw 1022***

The Bylaw establishes a service for the purposes of acquiring, improving, constructing, or otherwise obtaining property, personnel and equipment to provide fire protection and emergency response to other classes of emergency, including but not limited to fighting fires, providing aid to or rescuing persons in distress and undertaking fire safety initiatives. The Bylaw stipulates how taxes are to be levied and setting the maximum amount of taxes which may be collected in relation to the provision of the authorized services.

***Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw 1744***

A bylaw to make rules for the provision, operation, and administration of the local services for fire prevention and suppression and the provision of assistance in response to other classes of circumstances that may cause harm.

**MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:**

Our department is nothing without our volunteer members, first and foremost we need to recognize their ongoing commitment to an excellent level of fire protection to the Coombs Hilliers fire protection area. I would like to thank the society directors for there ongoing commitment and support of the operations and administration in Coombs Hilliers. The Regional District of Nanaimo requires thanks to many of the staff members from administration, finance, and transit for their guidance and support.

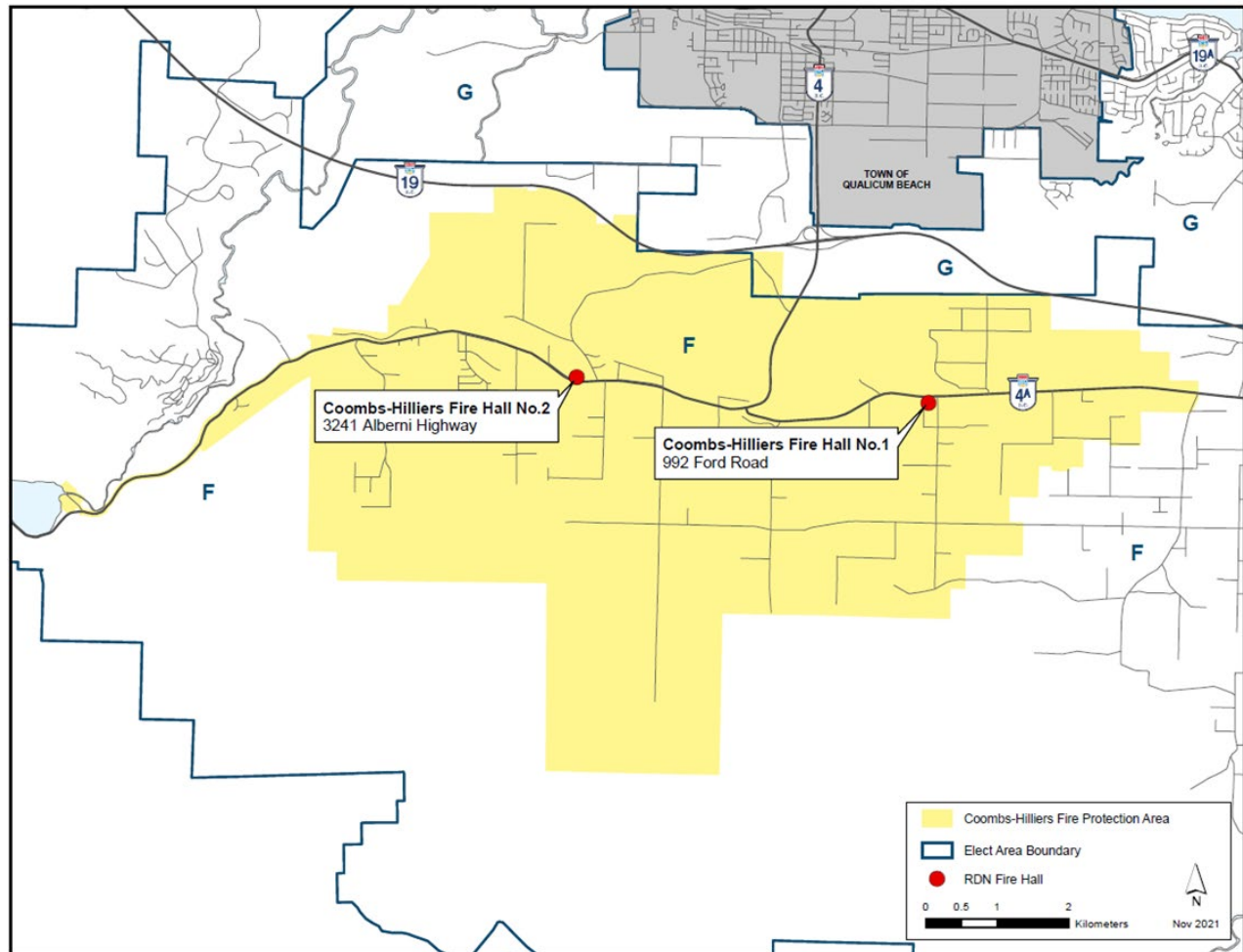
*Fire Chief Aaron Poirier*

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**COMMUNITIES SERVED:**

- ❖ Coombs, Hilliers, Whisky Creek

***Coombs Hilliers Fire Service Area Map- Population (approx. 3538)***



**FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING LEVEL:**

- ❖ Number of Volunteers Dec 2021: 29
- ❖ Number of Incidents/Responses 2021: 329
- ❖ Number of training hours 2021: 3900 hrs
- ❖ Current training level: Interior Operations
- ❖ Additional Services: First Response, Road Rescue, Medical Services
- ❖ Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements with District 69

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- ❖ 2 Engines
- ❖ 2 Tenders
- ❖ 1 Rescue Engine
- ❖ 1 Pick up

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ✓ BC Wildfire Deployment to support BC Interior
- ✓ Purchase of Used Rescue Engine
- ✓ Fire Smart Community Program
- ✓ Recipient of Red Cross Community Resiliency Grant
- ✓ Record year for calls
- ✓ Superior Tender Shuttle Service Certification achieved
- ✓ Commitment to reducing energy consumption: LED light upgrades to interior and exterior at both stations, as well as timers and motion detection/automatic switches
- ✓ Participated in RDN initiatives such as Apparatus Planning and Inspection Committee

**2022 LOOK AHEAD:**

- Long term future planning development for Coombs Hilliers
- Participate in RDN initiatives: Asset Management and Sustainability Plan
- Full review of fire hall location, response times, deployment, water supply points and financial management
- Purchase of new Dual Tender Apparatus
- Upgrade to training ground at Coombs Hall #2



**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

***Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department***



**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW:**

***Dashwood Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw 964***

The Bylaw establishes a service for the purposes of acquiring, improving, constructing, or otherwise obtaining property, personnel and equipment to provide fire protection and emergency response to other classes of emergency, including but not limited to fighting fires, providing aid to or rescuing persons in distress and undertaking fire safety initiatives. The Bylaw stipulates how taxes are to be levied and setting the maximum amount of taxes which may be collected in relation to the provision of the authorized services.

**Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw 1057**

A bylaw to make rules for the provision, operation, and administration of the local services for fire prevention and suppression and the provision of assistance in response to other classes of circumstances that may cause harm.

**MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:**

As the years tick on and time goes by, we could not be prouder of the accomplishments and advancements our department has made and how far we have come.

From our Board to our Officers, and our firefighters we all should be very proud of the service we provide to our community. We have a strong team made of people who want nothing but the best for our community and visitors. We will continue to invest in our people and get them the training and equipment they need to keep providing this high level of service.

We could not provide the service we do without our people, the support from our Board of Directors and most of all our community.

*Fire Chief Nick Acciavatti*

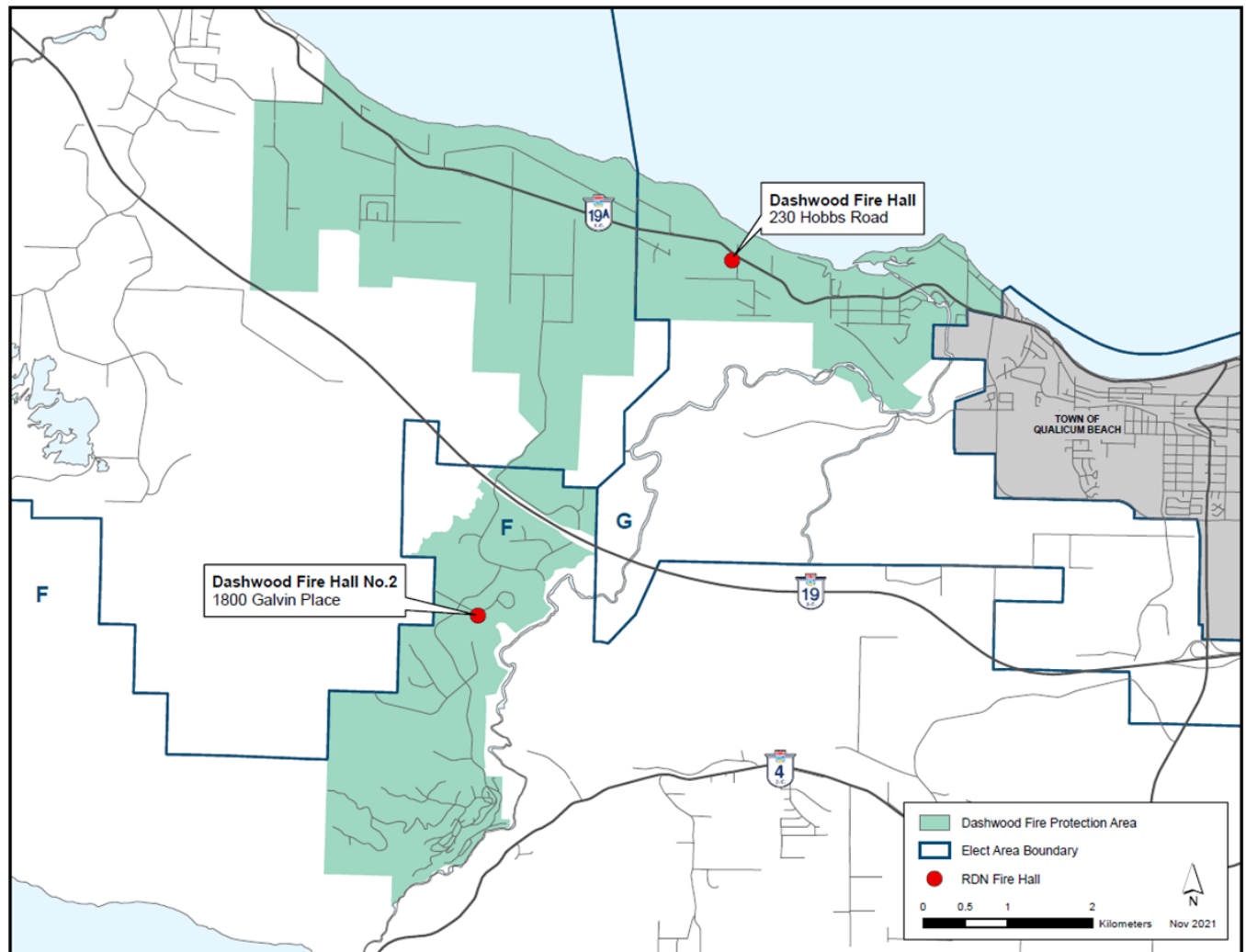


**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**

(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**COMMUNITIES SERVED:**

- ❖ Dashwood, Meadowood

***Dashwood Fire Service Area Map- Population (approx. 3054)*****FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING LEVEL:**

- ❖ Number of Volunteers Dec 2021: 37
- ❖ Number of Incidents/Responses 2021: 183
- ❖ Number of training hours 2021: 4500 hours
- ❖ Current training level: Interior Operations
- ❖ Additional Services: First Response, Medical Services, Low Slope Rescue, Water Rescue Awareness.
- ❖ Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements with District 69

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- ❖ 2 Engines
- ❖ 2 Tenders
- ❖ 1 Wildland Truck
- ❖ 1 Medium Rescue
- ❖ 2 Command Vehicles

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ✓ Purchase of New Tender Apparatus
- ✓ Fire Smart Community Program and neighbourhood champions
- ✓ On going Structure Triage and Wildfire Preplanning
- ✓ Recipient of Red Cross Community Resiliency Grant
- ✓ Superior Tender Shuttle Service Certification achieved
- ✓ 60% design completion for new Fire Hall
- ✓ Participated in RDN initiatives such as Apparatus Planning and Inspection Committee

**2022 LOOK AHEAD:**

- Long term strategic planning
- Develop Dashwood Emergency Response Plans
- Participate in RDN initiatives: Asset Management and Sustainability Plan
- Full review of fire hall location, response times, deployment, water supply points and financial management
- Purchase of new Engine Apparatus

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

***Errington Volunteer Fire Department***

**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW:**

**Errington Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw 821**

The Bylaw establishes a service for the purposes of acquiring, improving, constructing, or otherwise obtaining property, personnel and equipment to provide fire protection and emergency response to other classes of emergency, including but not limited to fighting fires, providing aid to or rescuing persons in distress and undertaking fire safety initiatives. The Bylaw stipulates how taxes are to be levied and setting the maximum amount of taxes which may be collected in relation to the provision of the authorized services.

**MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:**

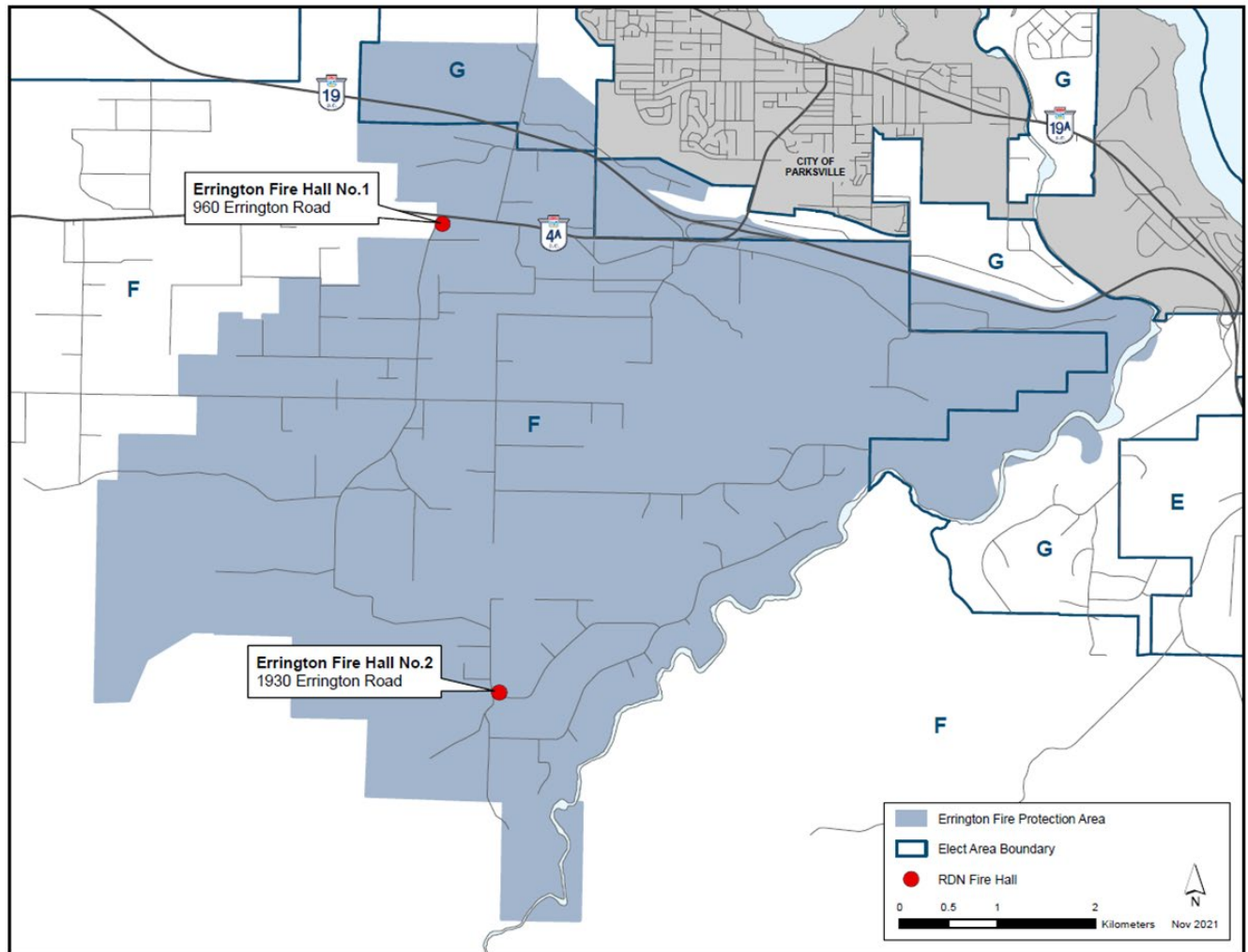
2021 was a challenging year with the ups and downs of COVID. We went from zoom meetings to in person meetings and back again to meeting virtually. All of Errington Fire Department members have been double vaccinated. Training was also a big challenge this year as most training was cancelled or conducted online. I'd like to thank all my members and my board for stepping up this last year with all the new protocols and COVID procedures that are in place. This was one of our biggest years for call volume with a total of 285. We are hoping to get back more hands-on training and seminars for 2022 so members can get back out and meet with other firefighters.

*Fire Chief Troy Bater*



**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW***(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)***COMMUNITIES SERVED:**

- ❖ Errington, and parts of Electoral Area F and Electoral Area G

***Errington Fire Service Area Map- Population (approx. 3098)***

- ❖ Number of Volunteers Dec 2021: 30
- ❖ Number of Incidents/Responses 2021: 285
- ❖ Number of training hours 2021: 3500 hrs
- ❖ Current training level: Interior Operations
- ❖ Additional Services: First Response, Medical Services
- ❖ Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements with District 69



**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- ❖ 4 Engines
- ❖ 2 Tenders
- ❖ 1 Rescue Pick Up Truck
- ❖ 1 Pick up
- ❖ Air Light Pod
- ❖ SPU Pod
- ❖ 2 spare water tank pods

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ✓ BC Wildfire Deployment to support BC Interior
- ✓ Fire Prevention Week Community Open House
- ✓ Recipient of Red Cross Community Resiliency Grant
- ✓ Record year for calls
- ✓ New CAD systems for 2 front line engines and Car21
- ✓ New CAD TVs throughout the stations
- ✓ New heater in station # 1

**2022 LOOK AHEAD:**

- Participate in RDN initiatives: Asset Management and Sustainability Plan
- New exhaust system for station # 1
- New member training
- Finish upgrades at station # 1
- Begin upgrade planning/replacement for station # 2
- Planning for a new bush truck and Tender upgrades

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

***Extension Volunteer Fire Department***



**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW:**

***Extension Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw 1439***

The Bylaw establishes a service for the purposes of acquiring, improving, constructing, or otherwise obtaining property, personnel and equipment to provide fire protection and emergency response to other classes of emergency, including but not limited to fighting fires, providing aid to or rescuing persons in distress and undertaking fire safety initiatives. The Bylaw stipulates how taxes are to be levied and setting the maximum amount of taxes which may be collected in relation to the provision of the authorized services.

**MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:**

Being a volunteer only department has had its challenges. The level of commitment and loyalty to our community from this department never ceases to amaze me. I would like to recognize every one of our volunteer members. Our members and I are also very thankful for the continuing hard work and support from our society directors who also are strong and involved community members. A big "thank you", to the dedicated RDN staff who help and support our department and community. Our goal for 2022 is to maintain our membership numbers, improve training and stay devoted to serving our community safely.

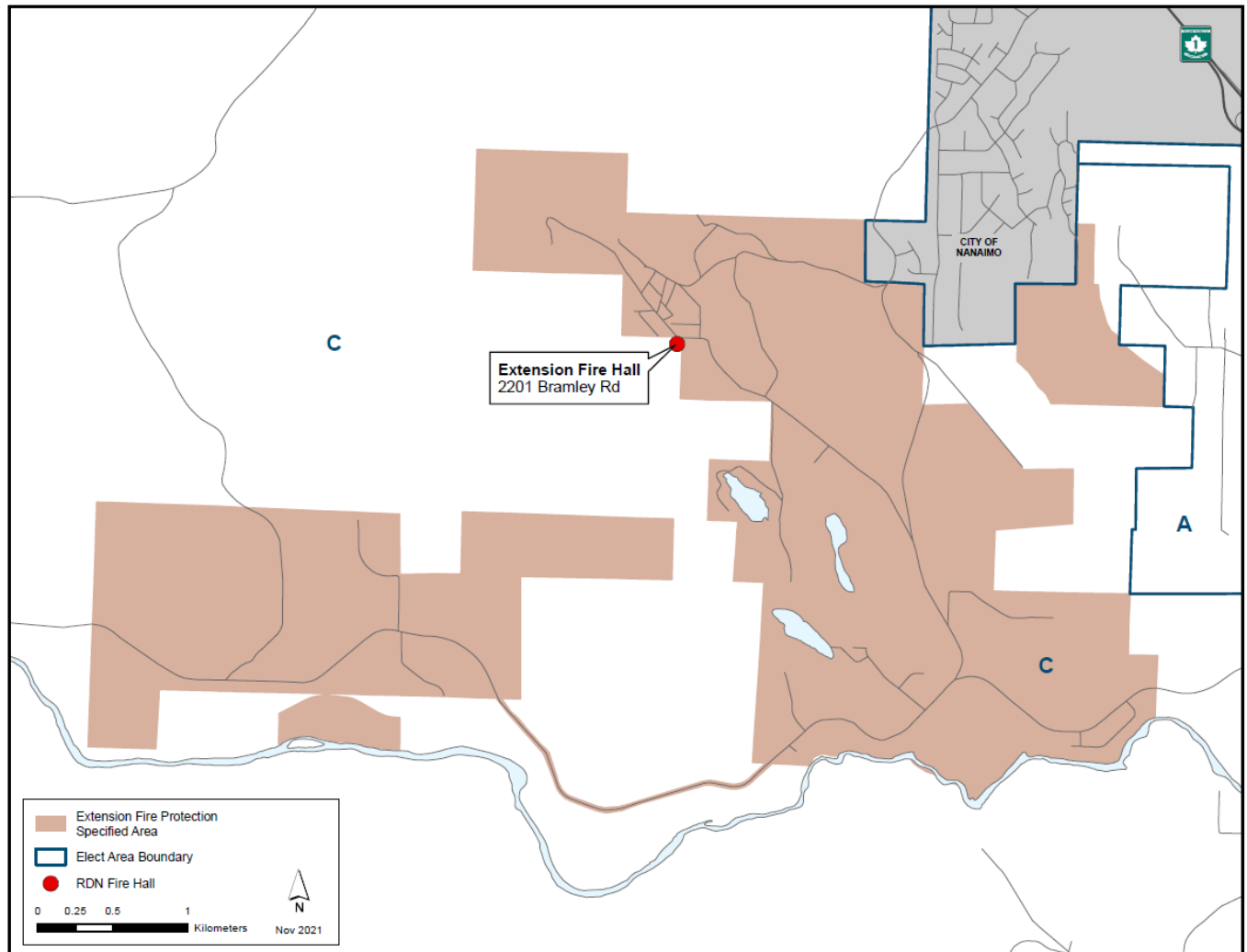
*Fire Chief Kevin Young*

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**COMMUNITIES SERVED:**

- ❖ Extension, Nanaimo South Forks River

***Extension Fire Service Area Map- Population (approx. 964)***



**FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING LEVEL:**

- ❖ Number of Volunteers Dec 2021: 27
- ❖ Number of Incidents/Responses 2021: 36
- ❖ Number of training hours 2021: 3100 hrs
- ❖ Current training level: Interior Operations
- ❖ Additional Services: Swift Water Rescue, Road Rescue, BCAS Assist
- ❖ Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements with Cranberry, North Cedar and City of Nanaimo



**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- ❖ 2 Engines
- ❖ 1 Tenders
- ❖ 1 Rescue/Rapid Attach Bush Truck

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ✓ Purchase of New Spartan Metro Custom Cab Engine
- ✓ Recipient of Red Cross Community Resiliency Grant
- ✓ Recipient of UBCM Grant
- ✓ Fire Smart Community Program
- ✓ 10 members completed Swift Water rescue training
- ✓ 4 new members
- ✓ Commitment to reducing energy consumption: LED light upgrades to interior and exterior at both stations, as well as timers and motion detection/automatic switches
- ✓ Participated in RDN initiatives such as Apparatus Planning and Inspection Committee

**2022 LOOK AHEAD:**

- Auto Extrication gear purchase/training
- Officer/Firefighter Training Initiatives
- Recruitment and Retention Initiatives
- Participate in RDN initiatives: Asset Management and Sustainability Plan

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

***Nanoose Volunteer Fire Department***



**FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW:**

***Nanoose Bay Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw 991***

The Bylaw establishes a service for the purposes of acquiring, improving, constructing, or otherwise obtaining property, personnel and equipment to provide fire protection and emergency response to other classes of emergency, including but not limited to fighting fires, providing aid to or rescuing persons in distress and undertaking fire safety initiatives. The Bylaw stipulates how taxes are to be levied and setting the maximum amount of taxes which may be collected in relation to the provision of the authorized services.

***Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw 1003***

A bylaw to make rules for the provision, operation, and administration of the local services for fire prevention and suppression and the provision of assistance in response to other classes of circumstances that may cause harm.

**MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:**

I would like to thank our members for their continued commitment and dedication to providing the high level of emergency response service to our community. Throughout the COVID pandemic, our crews have been very mindful of the department and its members and have done their best at wearing all the appropriate PPE at practices and emergency responses thus keeping everybody safe. We did shut down practices for the month of April, but with some planning and cooperation from the crews, we assigned “bubble crews” for all training sessions for the remainder of 2021.

2021 also saw the dissolving of the Nanoose Fire Protection Society and the transition to being managed directly by the Regional District of Nanaimo, becoming the first fire department to be operated by the RDN. The NFPS Board, RDN Emergency Services team, and the Fire Department management team all worked collaboratively for a seamless transition. Although we have only been in this new model for approximately 5 months, the resources and administrative support that has come with the change is unparalleled.

Reflecting on the previous 50 years of NFPS, there have been countless hours by many dedicated people who all took time from their personal lives, to contribute towards the making of the NVFD as we know it today. Thank you all for what you have contributed. The newfound support network has been phenomenal! We have met lots of new people, all very willing to provide excellent guidance to support us. We are very grateful and look forward to a strong working relationship for many years to come!

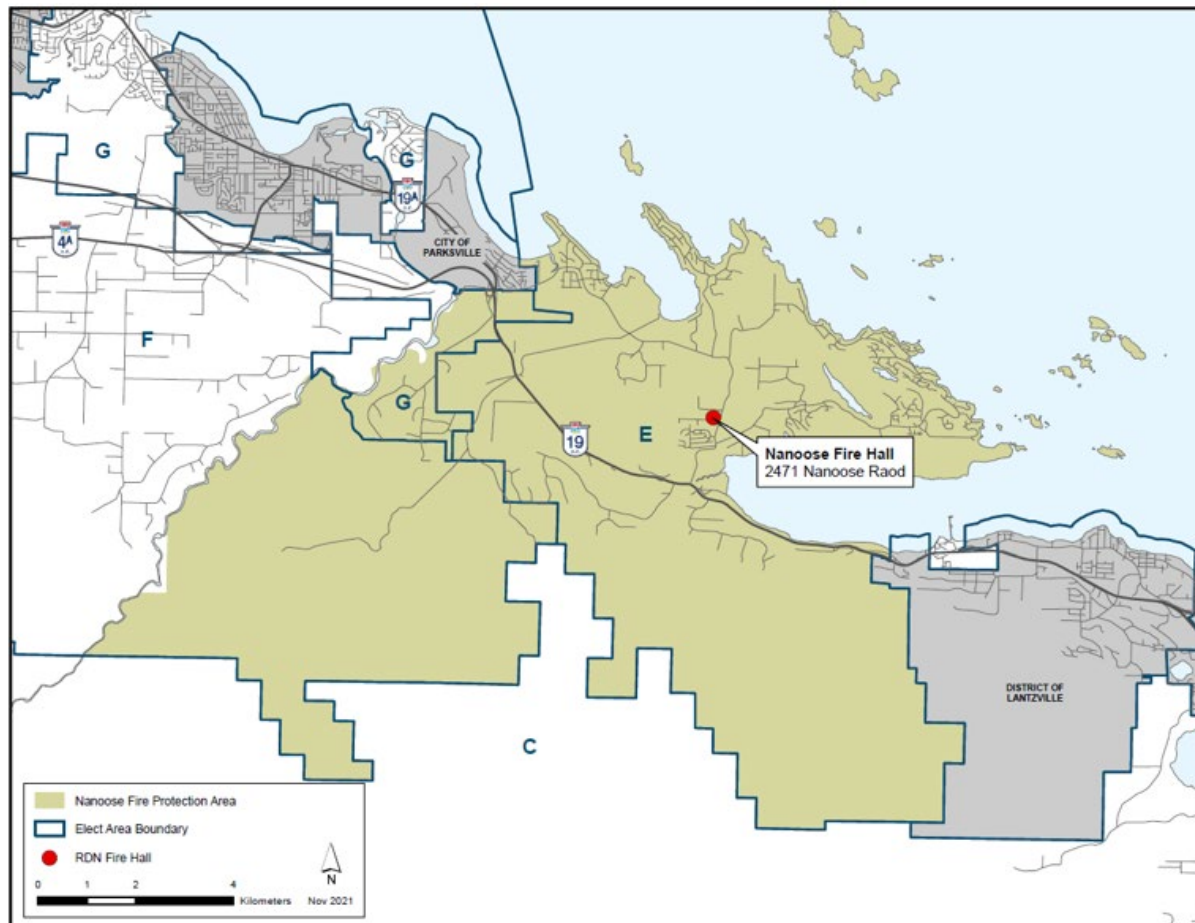
*Fire Chief Doug Penny*

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**  
(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

**COMMUNITIES SERVED:**

- ❖ Rumming Road, Hillview Road, Seablush, Morello Road, Dawson Road, Rivers Edge, Madrona Point, Rocking Horse, Beachcomber, Dolphin, Fairwinds, Garry Oaks, Red Gap, Nanoose Village

***Nanoose Fire Service Area Map- Population (approx.7718)***



**FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING LEVEL:**

- ❖ Number of Volunteers Dec 2021: 24
- ❖ Number of Incidents/Responses 2021: 214
- ❖ Number of training hours 2021: 2115 hrs
- ❖ Current training level: Interior Operations
- ❖ Additional Services: First Response, Medical Services
- ❖ Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements with District 69 & Lantzville

**2021 FIRE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW**

*(period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)*

**APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- ❖ #13 1993 Freightliner Tender (new tank & pump 2003) 400 GPM pump & Roll, 1300 gallons water, remote controlled monitor on front, carries 2 FF's.
- ❖ #15 Spill containment supplies trailer
- ❖ #16 1999 1050 GPM pumper, 800 gallons water, carries 5 FF's, due for replacement 2023-24
- ❖ #17 2002 International Tender, 400GPM pump & roll, 1700 gallons water, remote controlled monitor on front, carries 2 FF's.
- ❖ #18 2011 International Rescue/ Mini Pumper, 400 GPM pump & roll, 400 gallons water, carries most of the small equipment carries 3 FF's.
- ❖ #19 2016 custom Spartan 1250 GPM Pumper, 800 gallons water, carries 6 FF's.
- ❖ #20 2015 Dodge 3500 with equipment storage body, FR Medical calls, Forestry equipment, carries 5 FF's

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ✓ "Neighbours of Nanoose" magazine features a firefighter each month and a piece of equipment
- ✓ New Automatic Aid Agreement implemented between Nanoose and the District of Lantzville Fire Departments
- ✓ Superior Tender Shuttle Service Challenge Certification achieved
- ✓ "Neighbourhood Champion" program and Fire Smart training within the community
- ✓ Updated radio use training program
- ✓ Roll out of "Early Vaccination for emergency responders" initiative led by the health care workers at Oceanside.
- ✓ Transition of the operation of the NVFD to the RDN from the NFPS Board of Directors- held an appreciation luncheon for the board members.
- ✓ Community awareness initiatives of the "Fire Danger" rating during summer months
- ✓ Received Red Cross Community Resiliency Grant to acquire two chain saws and a new port a tank
- ✓ Partnered with the "Nanoose Community Services" group at the annual "Food Drive"
- ✓ Demonstrated fire and rescue training to the Nanoose Bay Elementary School
- ✓ Ongoing evaluation and updates to operational guidelines, and ensure standards are met in the BC Training Playbook

**2022 LOOK AHEAD:**

- Increased promotion of the Fire Smart program
- Administrative effectiveness and efficiency program evaluation
- Develop "Fire Pre-Plans"
- 3 new members to begin training
- Skills development for members with 2 & 3 years
- Introduction of "formal" driver/operator training
- Participate in RDN Fire Services initiatives: Asset Management and Sustainability Plan