

Chiefs' Report for SIFPS
March 2021

Attached is SIRs call volume report. We have had 14 calls since the end of February.

Crew

SIR currently has 14 members, six EMRs, five EMR recruits and three drivers. We have lost Matt who had to move off island to the Mainland. In 2021 we have had four members on medical leave, three of those for all of 2021 and one for a month of it and who will now be on reduced shifts. We have three members who have voiced that retirement from SIR will be in their future. Although I am not on a recruitment drive, I would be happy to talk to anyone wanting to join as the best way to join SIR is slowly.

Vaccinations

There was a large disruption nationally and the timelines for vaccines was pushed back. There have been meetings between Saturna and the Health Unit and SIRs interests were brought up. It is now looking like Saturna will be designated as a rural community and the entire community will be offered the vaccine at the same time. This will save money and time. Vaccine clinic should occur in the spring and I am proud that several members of SIR have volunteered to work there.

Community Paramedic

Saturna now has a new Community Paramedic. Trevor Melville worked as a PCP for years in Victoria and received his CP training last March. He has worked from the Galiano station since 2020. BCEHS has restricted their people from non-emergency travel during the pandemic and that is just starting to be lifted. Trevor will most likely not be visiting clients quite yet due to both the pandemic and changes in the number of clients recommended for the program since early 2020 but he will be available to train and talk with SIR. Our first session will be on Zoom and will be naloxone training.

Training

Due to Covid-19 SIR members have not met in person since November 2020. I am pleased that the Community Hall has accepted our booking for a session March 9th. We will be the first group allowed to book that space since November and take safety and disinfection procedures seriously so that we will be accepted back. This month's session will spend more time on reviewing calls, and we will be training on car2s new Sagar splint for leg fractures as well as some small pieces of trauma equipment.

I am trying to create a list of Saturna residents who have experience in medicine and would be willing to be a guest trainer.

For the spring I am looking to book in a BCEHS training on strokes here on Saturna.

Rules and Protocols

One of the things I have been trying to get from BCEHS is copies of their protocols as this would save me a great amount of time as well as ensuring we have all the protocols in place that we should. It's not very likely I will get those, so I am writing ours from scratch as well as all of the rules and agreements we have made over the years. This will be a long project for me, and my goal is to slowly work on getting this done.

Medical License

March marks the end of the year for SIR medically speaking. I have confirmed with each of our EMRs that they have enough credits to retain their medical licenses and am helping one of them complete some outstanding work.

EMR recruits

SIR has 5 members who still need to take their EMR licensing online exams. I have checked in with them several times, offering to facilitate study sessions, making myself available to answer questions. I have booked them (separately) a day at ESB1 to write the exams just to have every one of them cancel that day. I am looking for advice on how to help them. I just recently decided that I will most likely be using our training budget to bring in a professional trainer to help them. I don't believe this will adversely affect the rest of the crew too much as I would be removing only one training item, be that a session with our trainer Mike Billingham or the online training we are scheduled to buy in April 2021.

Driver's License

I also am aware that I need to do additional action than just asking members to complete the driver's license and my goal is to make a plan for that. I also am open to any suggestions on how to do this.

Thank you.

Vanessa Verbitsky
Unit Chief, Saturna Island Rescue