



Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department April News



Joining the SVFD:

We spoke last month about the SVFD's growing roster. But what kind of resident joins our fire department? What are we looking for when somebody sends in an application?

Well in short, the SVFD wants dedicated people with a variety of useful talents and skills who will do their part to improve our collective capability. We're a team of 45, not 1. Rather than pinning up fiery posters asking would-be recruits, "Do you have what it takes?" the question we choose to ask is: "Do we have what it takes?" If a person genuinely wishes to help their community and they're willing to use SVFD training as a means to accomplish that, then the onus is on both the Department and the candidate to turn that interest into reality. It is a joint effort.

Ultimately, whether someone be hard-core athlete or retiree (or both), the transformation from rookie to skilled firefighter tends to follow a consistent path: training and experience leads to increasing confidence and ability.

Training Division:

All of our volunteers train to provincial standards. However, a core group implements that training. They show up early before our Wednesday night practices to setup, they mentor new members, they make it interesting for the experienced crew, and they stay late to get things put away. Their contribution is really important.

Member Profile:

Long-time Anmore resident, **Al Harmer** is somebody who puts in that extra time with the training division. Everybody knows that Al is there for everyone else. He is one of those people who contributes without drawing too much attention to himself. In his profile, Al speaks of his "pride" in membership and in the group's accomplishments – that when faced with adversity, the individuals within the SVFD pull together as a team to make a meaningful difference for the two communities. We share that pride as well.

We also feel particular pride that our organization attracts class-acts like Al. Here's hoping it always will.

Sincerely,

Jay Sharpe (*Fire Chief*)

Dave Gregory (*Dist. Chief Anmore*)

Jol Drake (*Dist. Chief Belcarra*)



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