

By Gavin Brunton
Chief Fire Officer

Who we are

Fire and Emergency Kawau (aka the fireteam) is made up currently of 13 volunteers including myself.

With our focus being “Service to the community”, we respond to emergency calls covering medical emergencies, fire related callouts as well as other emergencies like missing persons, sinking boats, and Civil defence emergencies.

In 2022, we responded to 19 Callouts. (A number that is steadily growing over the years).

- 3 were fire-related.
- 15 Medical emergencies.
- 1 to help prevent a boat from sinking.

Training we undertake

On the Island we get together each month for a half day training which covers firefighting, medical training, and a good amount of general logistics, communication and teamwork, which are all fundamentals for any sort of response required here on the island.

In addition to this training the leadership team has also been doing a lot of good work towards improving our resources with projects ongoing looking to improve our

- Radio communications, Looking to install a new radio repeater on the island.
- Upgrades to the lighting and sirens at the South cove and School House depots. As well as a major upgrade to our main siren.
- Also putting forward a business case for an upgrade of our fire vehicle.

Our team

A big thankyou needs to go out to all the members of our team who put in extra time to not only train and respond to callouts but also step up and help with the ongoing improvements to our team cohesion and the resources available to us.

Education around fire safety on the island

Not so much this year with the very wet summer. But most summers now it's a reality that on Kawau with its steep kanuka covered hills, a small fire on a windy summer's day could travel halfway across the island and have devastating consequences for everyone.

To this end we are continuing to promote

- Fire safety in and around your homes and beaches.
- Helping people understand what defendable space is around your houses. Along with good fire safe trees to plant for the future.
- Also fire outlets on large water tanks around the island, where sea water is not readily available.

If you'd like more information on anything I've mentioned or if you might be interested in joining our awesome fire team, please just ask.

Regards

Gavin Brunton

CFO (Chief Fire Officer)

FENZ KAWAU

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