

### 6.3.2 Fire Hazard Reduction

**Implement a fuel reduction program and regular fire risk assessments for the 707CP to reduce the risk of fire through natural processes and unauthorized park uses.**

Campfires and motorized vehicle use, which increase the risk of wildfire, are prohibited by RDN Park Bylaw 1399. A No Smoking rule will also be imposed in the 707CP whenever the Province bans campfires in provincial parks and on Crown lands during the summer months. During periods of extreme fire hazard, the Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD), in consultation with the RDN, will have the authority to close down the park to public access.

Although slash-piles provide denning, hibernating, nesting, perching and resting sites for a variety of park wildlife, they also create extreme fire risks within the 707CP. Remaining slash piles will be assessed by both the GVFD and Strategic Forest Management Inc. (SFMI) during the development of detailed fuel reduction prescriptions for the 707CP. Select logs and branches from prescribed slash-pile removal should be reused for construction of park amenities whenever possible.



Remaining slash pile in the 707CP.

### 6.3.3 Emergency Access

**Designate and maintain an emergency access route through the 707CP in collaboration with the Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department.**

The GVFD has identified three possible emergency access points and two connecting access routes through the 707CP:

- **EAST-WEST ROUTE** - Running between South Road and North Road along a portion of existing trail referred to as Central Road, this emergency access route will require a formal access agreement with a neighbouring property owner and the construction of a new park entrance at North Rd.
- **NORTH-SOUTH ROUTE** - Extending southward from the EAST-WEST ROUTE to Fisher Rd, this emergency access route will require entrance construction and gate installation at Fisher Rd.

The RDN will develop emergency access routes through the 707CP that will be maintained at a 4m width and a 4m vertical clearance in order to accommodate the GVFD vehicle height and wheel span. Entrance construction, gate installation and trail regrading (as well as culverting along wet portions of trail) will also be required to ensure emergency vehicle accessibility. Refer to Figure 6.1 for locations of designated emergency accesses in the 707CP.



Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department's emergency vehicle.