

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue



www.cwfire.org

News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island

Fire Destroys Historic Smith Barn

In the early evening hours of March 8, 2017, CWIFR responded to a report of a fire in the historic Smith Barn on Ebey Road in Coupeville.



The barn was fully involved before fire companies arrived and CWIFR firefighters quickly deployed hoselines to protect the nearby residence and extinguish the fire. Operations were complicated by the location of the barn at the end of a 1000' foot long driveway and a considerable distance from a fire hydrant. CWIFR, assisted by North Whidbey Fire-Rescue laid hose down the driveway and established a water shuttle using three water tenders.

Investigation into the cause and origin of the fire determined that the fire was accidental and the source of ignition was a portable space heater in an office located inside the barn. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), portable space heaters are involved in over 30% of residential fires, and account for 79% of home heating fire deaths. The leading factor contributing to these fires is the portable space heater being too close to combustible materials. While we are (hopefully) moving into warmer weather, it is important to use caution and keep at least three feet between portable space heaters and combustible materials.



Home Safety Survey

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue will check your smoke alarms, install smoke alarms if you do not have them, and help you develop a plan to minimize your risk from fire or injury by conducting a home safety survey. You can request a home safety survey on the District's web site (www.cwfire.org) by clicking on Services or by telephone at (360) 678-3602. **Let us be there before you need us!**

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CWIFR Headquarters
Fire Station 53
1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239
(360) 678—3602

Where There Is Love, There are Smoke Alarms



Test to make sure they work!

1. Push the test button
2. Do you hear a loud noise?
 - Yes-It works
 - No-Change the battery or get a new smoke alarm



Fireside Chat

Well, 2017 has started off with a bang! Call volumes for the first quarter (January-March) of 2017 are more than 10% percent higher than the same time last year.

I want to reassure you that we are ready and prepared to respond when you need us. Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue has a five-year Strategic Plan and a 10-year Capital Projects Plan in place for meeting the increased demand for emergency services in our community.

Short-term, the Capital Projects Plan calls for replacing three fire engines and renovating Station 53 on Race Road. Like most fire districts, we plan to use a voter-approved bond for these types of capital projects. You can view the Strategic and Capital Plans as well as additional information about our proposed bond on our web site at www.cwfire.org/bond.

Our Board of Fire Commissioners will consider a resolution asking voters to approve a bond during the November General Election. There will be meetings on June 8 and July 13 where we discuss the resolution. Both meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at Station 53, 1164 Race Road in Coupeville (98239). We invite community members to join us for one of these gatherings.

We have three fire engines that are approaching the end of their 25-year life span. Replacing them is important to maintain our fire insurance rating, which is directly linked to the amount you pay in home and business fire insurance premiums.

Renovating Station 53 has two goals: reducing response times and improving firefighter health and safety. The renovations call for adding sleeping quarters in the fire station so on-duty full-time, part-time, and volunteer firefighters can respond directly from the station, which will save time.

Station renovations also will upgrade mechanical systems to move diesel exhaust away from emergency personnel inside. There will be improved decontamination facilities and storage spaces for firefighters' protective gear. This is important to reduce their risk of exposure to cancer-causing contaminants that accumulate on such clothing at fires and other emergencies.



We feel strongly that emergency personnel should have as safe an operating environment as possible. This is important to our current firefighters' health, and our ability to retain and recruit new volunteers to serve our community.

The bond is projected to cost 22-cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or approximately \$5.45 per month (\$65.45 per year) for the owner of a \$300,000 home. Renovating a station would cost almost \$1 million less than if we built a new facility. Basically, we're getting twice the space and spending 17 percent less, which is good for taxpayers.

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, please feel free to send me a letter to above address or email ehartin@cwfire.org to share your thoughts. All communication is welcome and becomes a matter of public record. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Chief Ed Hartin, MS, EFO, FIFireE, CFO

Community Risk Reduction Volunteers

CWIFR is committed to reducing risk in our community. Working smoke detectors, a home escape plan, and awareness of fall risk hazards are important elements in reducing your risk of fire and falls, two of the major home safety risks. In the next several months, CWIFR will be recruiting community members to assist us in visiting homes built before hard wired smoke detectors were required. Watch the CWIFR newsletter and social media for more information.

Are You Firewise?

Hearing about large wildland fires east of the Cascades, residents of Central Whidbey often think of wildfire as a problem that threatens other parts of Washington. However, this risk is closer than you might think.



Fuels, prevailing winds, and topography are the key factors in determining the potential risk to your home during a wildfire. Central Whidbey has a variety of land cover, from prairie grasses to timber, and homes are often in close proximity to these natural fuels. In the drier summer and early fall when fine fuels dry out, westerly winds and steep slopes further increase risk to homes.

It does not take a large fire to present a substantial risk to individual homes. Even a small vegetation fire can spread quickly and extend to adjacent structures.



CWIFR is partnering with the Whidbey Island Conservation District and Department of Natural Resources to make Central Whidbey Firewise. The Firewise program is designed to help homeowners develop an understanding of wildfire risk and provide them with the tools to proactively reduce their risk from wildfire.

In much the same way that we conduct Home Safety Surveys to identify and help our residents reduce risk within their homes, Firewise home assessments and site visits can help you identify specific steps you can take to reduce the risk of harm from wildfire.

To learn more about Firewise visit the Whidbey Island Firewise web page (<http://www.whidbeycd.org/firewise.html>) or give us a call!

Lieutenant Jen Porter, CWIFR Community Risk Reduction Manager, at (360) 678-3602 or jporter@cwfire.org.

CWIFR Addresses Cancer Risk

According to the National Cancer Institute, it is usually not possible to know exactly why one person develops cancer and another doesn't. But research has shown that certain risk factors such as exposure to chemicals or specific behaviors may increase a person's chances of developing cancer. Most cancer risk factors are identified in epidemiology studies. These studies look at large groups of people and compare those who develop cancer with those who don't and exposures or behaviors that are correlated to specific cancers.

Cancer is a significant concern for firefighters as they experience a higher risk of specific cancers than the general population due to occupational exposures.

Cancer	Increased Risk
Testicular Cancer	2.02
Multiple Myeloma	1.53
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1.51
Skin Cancer	1.39
Malignant Melanoma	1.31
Brain Cancer	1.31
Prostate Cancer	1.28
Colon Cancer	1.21
Leukemia	1.14

CWIFR has taken positive steps to reduce our firefighters' risk, including effective use of personal protective equipment, on-scene decontamination, washing personal protective equipment and clothing after firefighting operations, and providing access to periodic medical examinations.

However, much more remains to be done. Next steps include exhaust extraction systems to reduce exposure to diesel exhaust, and improving decontamination facilities for firefighters, their personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus.

Follow CWIFR on Social Media

Connect with Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue to find valuable and breaking information about your fire district and how to reduce risk in our community. The District is using Facebook and Twitter to share stories, information about emergency incident operations, and ways that you can partner with us in community risk reduction.

Social media provides a way for us to interact with members of our community and a way for you to learn more about what our volunteer, part-time, and full time staff are doing to protect our community.



Like us on [Facebook](#)



Follow us on [Twitter](#)

The District also maintains a user friendly web site (www.cwfire.org) where you can access important information and documents about District operations. In addition, our web site also provides a quick way for you to request services such as a free reflective house number sign, a home safety survey, or hands-only CPR training. A new addition is the ability for residents to report leaking or damaged fire hydrants.

Calendar of Events

May 26, 2017 CPR/First Aid

9:00 am at Station 53

June 8, 2017 Commissioners Meeting

Discussion of Bond Measure

7:00 pm at Station 53

June 23, 2017 CPR/First Aid

9:00 am at Station 53

July 13, 2017 Commissioners Meeting

Discussion of Bond Measure

7:00 pm at Station 53

July 28, 2017 CPR/First Aid

9:00 am at Station 53

Station 53 is located at 1164 Race Road in Coupeville, just east of the intersection of State Routes 20 and 525.



Learn Hands Only CPR Today: Free training for individuals or groups. Call today (360) 678-3602 to schedule a 10-minute training session at your location or at one of our fire stations!

Central Whidbey Island Fire Rescue
1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COUPEVILLE, WA 98239
PERMIT 11

BOXHOLDER