

October 2017

# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

*News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island*

## District Receives Community Risk Reduction Grant

The District has received a \$24,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This is part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program and supports projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to reduce injury and prevent deaths among high-risk populations.

The District's most significant high fire risk population is older adults living in homes without working smoke alarms. Older adults have the gravest and most consistent fire risk and than any other segment of society. A disproportionate number of mature adults, age 65 years or older, die in fires each year and that risk increases with age as a result of non-working smoke alarms due to missing, disconnected, or dead batteries.

- Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- The death rate per 100 reported home fires was more than twice as high in homes that did not have any working smoke alarms compared to the rate in homes with working smoke alarms.
- In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, almost half of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.
- Dead batteries caused one-quarter of the smoke alarm failures.

This grant will provide the funding necessary to focus home safety survey efforts on homes constructed before hard wired smoke alarms were required. If homes do not have smoke alarms or they are not working, new smoke alarms with 10-year batteries will be installed free of charge.

Starting in January we will be reaching out to the owners and occupants of homes constructed before 1984 to explain this program and its benefits to our residents.



### Home Safety Survey

Regardless of the age of your home, 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](http://www.cwfire.org)) by clicking on Services or by telephone at (360) 678-3602. **Let us be there before you need us!**



[www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)

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

### Volunteer Opportunity!

Would you like to serve your community and help us reduce the risk of harm from fires, falls, and other household accidents?

See Page 3 for information on our new Community Risk Reduction Volunteer Program!





## Fireside Chat

I would like to share with you some updated call volume statistics for 2017. We are currently running 15% more calls than the same time last year. In fact, emergency call volumes have increased by 50% in the last seven years alone. This is a significant jump that reflects how our community and its emergency service needs are growing.

Part of being in emergency services is planning for the future. We have spent a significant amount of time analyzing the challenges to service, and apparatus and facility needs of our community. (These documents are available on our web site at [www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org).)

Our immediate priorities are to provide more space for daily operations and replace three fire engines that are approaching the end of their usable lives. The results will be faster response times, improved firefighter health and safety, and protecting our community's insurance rating. We are asking our community to approve a bond for these capital improvements because we cannot fund them from operating revenues.

The proposal calls for renovating Station 53 on Race Road to increase its size from 5,000 to 10,000 square feet. Building on to an existing station will save taxpayers approximately \$1 million compared to a new facility. The building plans include adding sleeping quarters to the station, which will help firefighters respond to emergency calls faster.

The renovated station will provide decontamination facilities to wash protective gear after emergency calls. These facilities reduce a firefighter's exposure to known carcinogens and other cancer-causing agents that accumulate on clothing during an emergency. Mechanical systems also will be upgraded to move diesel exhaust away from people inside the building. This is essential to the health of firefighters working there, and community members who use the station for meetings.

Another outcome of the station renovation will be environmental improvements for Central Whidbey. The septic system will be updated and replaced, as will water tanks that are painted with lead paint. Station plans also ensure environmental compliance for apparatus room drains and storm water runoff.



Station 53 - Race Road



3 Fire Engines

Bond funding also will replace three aging fire engines, which is important for public safety and to protect our community's fire insurance rating. This rating is connected to how much home and business owners pay in fire insurance for their property.

Property owners would pay 22 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. I'm including a table in this newsletter so you can see the approximate amount you would pay based on the assessed value of your property. You may also contact me with any questions at [ehartin@cwfire.org](mailto:ehartin@cwfire.org) or (360) 678-3602. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Chief Ed Hartin

### What Will the Bond Cost?

Assessed Value	Per Year	Per Month
\$200,000	\$44	\$3.67
\$300,000	\$66	\$5.50
\$400,000	\$88	\$7.33
\$500,000	\$110	\$9.17
\$600,000	\$132	\$11.00

## **It's Time to Add "Close Your Door" to Your Fire Safety Checklist**

You know how important it is to have working smoke alarms, escape plans, and a designated meeting place in case of a fire. But did you know that closing the doors in your home is also important for your safety?



Closed doors can reduce fire growth, limit damage to your home, keep temperatures down, and can even save your life if you become trapped.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Because of synthetic materials, furniture, and construction, fire spreads faster than ever before.  
NIST Technical Note 1455-1, February 2008

**Make a 900 Degree Difference** - A closed door can reduce temperature from 1,000 degrees down to 100 degrees.

**Take it Down a Notch** - During a fire, a closed door can keep carbon monoxide levels at 1,000 PPM versus 10,000 PPM if the door is left open.

**Take a Breather** - A fire needs oxygen to burn. A closed door keeps more oxygen in the room and away from the fire. When you exit a fire, make sure to close the door behind you to slow down its growth.

**Doze Safely** - 50% of house fires happen between 11 pm and 7 am. Closing your doors before you hit the hay helps keep people safe.

*Learn more at [closeyourdoor.org](http://closeyourdoor.org) or by scheduling a Home Safety Survey with Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue at (360) 678-3602 or via our web site ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org))*

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## **GFOA Budget Award**

CWIFR received the Government Finance Officer Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fourth consecutive year. This award represents a significant achievement and reflects the commitment of the Board of Fire Commissioners and District staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the District had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the District's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

The District received perfect scores from the GFOA raters on the Long Term Financial Plan elements of the Budget Document.

## **Become a Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Volunteer!**

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.

As discussed on Page 1, the District has received a Federal Grant to enhance our Home Safety Survey Program. A critical element of this process is recruiting Community Risk Reduction Volunteers to help us in this program. These volunteers will not be firefighters, but will work with us in conducting home safety surveys. If you would like to help us reduce risk in the community give us a call at (360) 678-3602 or submit a volunteer interest application via our web site ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)).



**Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue**

**1164 Race Road**

**Coupeville, WA 98239**

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## Santamobile Schedule

We have worked with Santa to provide advance notice of the 2017 schedule.



- December 2      Greening of Coupeville Parade
- December 4      Town of Coupeville (North)
- December 6      Town of Coupeville (South)
- December 11      Parker, Long Point Rhodena, Harrington Lagoon
- December 13      Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive
- December 18      Lagoon Point, Dines Point, Honeymoon Bay
- December 20      North Bluff, Holmes Harbor
- December 22      Race Road, Shangri La, Admirals Cove

In November, a downloadable Santamobile map and schedule will be available on the District's web site and our Facebook page. In addition, we are working to provide satellite tracking of the Santamobile in real time so that you can follow our progress on your computer or smart phone. Stay tuned for updates!

## Calendar of Events

**October 22, 2017 Community Bond Presentation**  
7:00 pm at Station 53

**October 28, 2017 Community Bond Presentation**  
10:00 am at Station 53

**October 28, 2017 CPR/First Aid**  
9:00 am at Station 53

**November 2, 2017 Public Budget Hearing**  
***Discussion of 2017 District Budget***  
7:00 pm at Station 53

**November 9, 2017 Commissioners Meeting**  
***Adoption of the 2017 District Budget***  
7:00 pm at Station 53

**November 18, 2017 CPR/First Aid**  
9:00 am at Station 53

**December 14, 2017 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 53

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



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