

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


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Capital Bond Projects Update


In 2017, the District’s voters approved a bond for renovation and expansion of Fire Station 53 on Race Road and purchase of three Fire Engines. Progress on the Station 53 project has been slow, focusing on development of site and building plans as well as obtaining the required permits from Island County. As plans and permitting is completed, the District will go out to bid on the construction project. At which point, visible progress will be made on providing expanded facilities for District operations and apparatus maintenance.

Fire engine specifications are under development. It is anticipated that these apparatus will be placed out to bid by the end of 2019. With a typical build time of 300 days, we anticipate delivery early in the third quarter of 2020.

The District will provide updates on these projects in the Newsletter with more frequent updates on social media. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (360) 678-3602 or drop Chief Ed Hartin an email at ehartin@cwfire.org.



Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#)



Calendar of Events

- October 10, 2019 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53
 - October 24, 2019 Public Budget Hearing
7:00 pm at Station 53
 - October 26, 2019 CPR & First Aid Class
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53
 - November 14, 2019 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53
 - November 22, 2019 CPR & First Aid Class
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53
 - December 7, 2019 Greening of Coupeville Parade
4:00 pm on Main Street in Coupeville
 - December 12, 2019 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.
- For early notice of the 2019 Santamobile Schedule like
us on Facebook or visit [www.cwfire.org](#)



October 2019

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island

New Interlocal Agreement with WhidbeyHealth

Since 2008 Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) has partnered with the Whidbey Island Hospital District (WhidbeyHealth), staffing a Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance for the hospital through an Interlocal Agreement.



After extended negotiations WhidbeyHealth and CWIFR have reached agreement to continue this partnership through December 31, 2020. We will work together to explore how this agreement can be extended beyond 2020 to continue benefit to the CWIFR, the WhidbeyHealth , and the community at large.

The new agreement will provide \$281,000 in annual revenue to the Fire District, a significant increase from the \$201,495 provided annually under the previous agreement. Under terms of this agreement, the Fire District provides two Firefighter/ Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to staff the BLS Ambulance. These personnel also cross staff CWIFR fire apparatus. The renegotiated agreement will allow the us to increase consistency of on-duty staffing by adding two Full-Time Firefighter/EMTs and maintaining 3.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) with Part-Time Firefighter/EMTs (one per shift).

CWIFR is excited to continue our relationship with WhidbeyHealth and working together to serve the community by continuing to improve our delivery of Emergency Medical Services.



[www.cwfire.org](#)

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CWIFR Headquarters
Fire Station 53
1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Be Safe!

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](#)) by clicking on services or by telephone at (360) 678-3602. **Let us be there before you need us!**



Chief’s Fireside Chat

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) is a fire protection district organized under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 52). As a special district, CWIFR is separate from Island County and the Town of Coupeville, although we provide services to the residents of the Town and unincorporated areas of the county within our borders.

Advantages a special district include providing services to meet local needs and can make it easier to link costs to benefits. Citizens’ ability to understand how tax dollars are spent is fundamental to democracy. Budget and spending transparency hold government accountable for making good decisions, and provides citizens an opportunity to influence how government revenue is expended.

CWIFR works hard to conduct the business of the District in a transparent manner and ensure that we are accountable for our decisions and the way that we spend our taxpayers’ money. The District provides on-line access to its Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget as well as its Monthly Budget Position, a report on expenditures for the month and year to date provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners at their monthly regular meeting. In addition, we have consistently submitted our annual financial report to the Washington State Auditor’s Office (SAO) and have received clean financial and accountability audits . The District’s annual reports and audit reports are also available from the District’s web site as well as from the SAO web site.

The District holds several public meetings as part of its budget process, providing opportunity for questions and public input on the proposed 2020 District Budget:. Each of these meetings will be held at the Race Road Fire Station.

Presentation Proposed District Budget	October 10, 2019 at 5:00 pm
Public Budget Hearing	October 29, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Adoption of the Budget	November 14, 2019 at 5:00 pm

The Proposed District Budget will be available on the CWIFR web site (www.cwfire.org) following presentation to the Board of Fire Commissioners on October 10, 2019. As we make our way through presentation and adoption of our 2020 Budget, I encourage you to learn more about CWIFR, the services we provide, and how your tax dollars are being spent. As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at (360) 678-3602 or send me an e-mail at ehartin@cwfire.org.

Sincerely,
Chief Ed Hartin

Protect Your Family!

There are three simple things you can do to protect your family from home fires.

- 1. Have working smoke alarms!
- 2. Close your bedroom doors before going to sleep!
- 3. Have a plan that identifies two ways out and where you will meet outside your home if you have a fire!

If you need assistance with a plan, 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!**



High Wind Warning!

Every year, Central Whidbey has windstorms, particularly during the winter months. These storms cause trees to fall, knocking down power lines, damaging buildings, and present risk of significant injury.

Plan Ahead

A good winter storm plan ensures that you will have food, water, one or more flashlights and other means of lighting (that do not involve the use of open flames such as candles). If you have a generator test it before you need it and keep generators outside and away from ventilation openings to your home.



Trees and Powerlines

Emergency services experience a high volume of calls during windstorms, with most relating to trees and powerlines down. It is often unclear if a tree or powerline incident requires an immediate emergency response. **You should call 911 if:**

- A tree has fallen onto a building or vehicle causing or potentially causing damage or injury
- A tree is obstructing the roadway
- A tree has knocked down powerlines or is in the powerlines and on fire

If a tree is leaning over the roadway, but is not obstructing travel, call Island County Public Works at (360) 321-5292. When a tree is in powerlines, but not on fire, call Puget Sound Energy at (888)225-5773. Trees that have fallen or are leaning on private property must be removed by a contractor. If you see a tree down or leaning that has been marked by orange cones or yellow or orange flagging tape, the situation has been assessed and prioritized by emergency responders.

Assume all downed powerlines are energized ! Don’t touch and stay at least 20 feet away!

Not Just Fires and Medical Emergencies

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue responds to fires and medical emergencies. But did you know that we also provide a wide range of rescue services?



Marine Rescue



Urban Search & Rescue



Rope Rescue

The District’s full-time, part-time, and volunteer members are also trained to provide marine rescue and rope rescue and are in the process of training to provide operational level urban search and rescue (e.g., rescue from collapsed buildings). CWIFR’s special operations program provides added value based on the risks encountered in our community.