



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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To: Board of Fire Commissioners
From: Chief Ed Hartin
Date: September 10, 2020
Subject: Chief's Report

COVID-19

During the month of August, COVID-19 was a factor in 28 incidents (17.95% of the total number of incidents for the month). This is a significant increase from July in which COVID-19 was a factor in nine incidents (6.82% of the total number of incidents for the month). This data is reported by CWIFR members based on patient symptoms or presence of others who are symptomatic and is not based on confirmation that the patient or others involved in the incident were confirmed to have COVID-19. CWIFR continues to be alert to the prevalence of this disease in the community and continues work practices to minimize risk to our members and the community.

The district received notice that we have received a \$15,658.25 Assistance to Firefighter Grant from the Department of Homeland Security for 1) reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenditure and 2) expenses related to preparation for future pandemic response.

Operational Activity

During the month of August, the district received 156 calls for service as illustrated below. The district experienced 21 instances in which calls were received concurrently for a total of 43 incidents affected, four instances involved three or more concurrent calls.

Incident type	July
1 - Fire	5
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	92
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4
5 - Service Call	33
6 - Good Intent Call	12
7 - False Alarm & False Call	10
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	156

Administrative Activity

2021 Budget Development: All division managers have submitted their proposed budgets for 2021. Division budgets have been reviewed by the fire chief and deputy chief with recommendations for revision provided to the division managers. Work is currently underway to complete the proposed district budget for submittal to the board of fire commissioners on October 8, 2020.

Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB): The district is scheduled for a re-rating on October 5, 2020 and work continues to gather required information and prepare for this process.

Operations

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Evaluation: Firefighter Jim Huff, Respiratory Protection Program Manager coordinated presentations by Scott and MSA on their current SCBA and respiratory protection technology. Jim has also worked with South Whidbey Fire/EMS Deputy Chief John Beck on a common specification to ensure interoperability between agencies and will share this proposed specification with North Whidbey Fire and Rescue and the Oak Harbor Fire Department. The City of Oak Harbor is serving as the lead agency on a regional grant to fund SCBA replacement, but no word has been received from the Department of Homeland Security on the status of the grant.

Extrication Equipment Evaluation: The district's capital projects plan has also programmed replacement of hydraulic extrication equipment for 2020. LT James Meek has been conducting evaluations of multiple brands of equipment, hampered significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Holmatro demonstrated their equipment on August 19th completing the evaluation process. LT Meek will be working to develop specifications for purchase with anticipated completion by the end of the month.

Wildland Deployment: The district deployed a type five engine (Brush 54) as part of an Island/Snohomish County task force responding to the Palmer Fire in Okanogan County. This deployment was funded by the State Fire Marshal's Office with reimbursement for deployed staff and backfill as well as standard rate reimbursement for expenses and apparatus use.

Chief Hartin worked with attorney Richard Davis to develop an interlocal agreement for joint staffing of fire apparatus for state all hazards mobilization. At present this agreement is under consideration by North Whidbey Fire and Rescue and Camano Fire and Rescue. These agreements would allow us to participate in state mobilizations while minimizing the impact to each individual agency. This is particularly important if a type 1 engine is deployed with minimum staffing of four personnel or if multiple resources are needed for deployment.

CAPT Helm and LT Meek began work on a pre-wildland deployment checklist to ensure loading of key equipment not normally carried on district apparatus are loaded from the cache prior to response.

Late breaking news, Tender 54 with Firefighters Lloyd and Kellison have been deployed to the Cold Spring Canyon/Pearl Hill Fire in Okanogan and Douglas Counties.

Military Leave: Firefighter Dawson serves in the Airforce Reserve with the 304th Rescue Squadron and has been on deployment during the month of August (continuing through September). Firefighter Frank Giesing serves in the Navy as a P8 crew member and has been on deployment for the last several months.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Fire & Life Safety Inspections: The district has implemented a plan to resume fire & life safety inspections in the month of July with inspections focused on higher hazard occupancies and use of a self-inspect program for lower hazard occupancies. Self-inspection surveys were mailed to 68 low hazard occupancies with a current return rate of 67.6%. Physical inspections of higher hazard occupancies have resumed with a total of 43 inspections completed in August (A Shift-35, B Shift-7, and C Shift-1).

Hydrant Inspection and Testing: Chief Hartin developed a standard operating guideline for hydrant inspection and testing. In addition, Chief Hartin and Deputy Chief Smith have been working to compile a water systems reference manual containing key information for district tactical operations as well as meeting the needs of the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau.

LT Vrable has established a schedule to complete hydrant inspection and testing prior to the end of the month (barring unforeseen problems). On duty crews have started hydrant flow testing and are making good progress, despite malfunction of a pressure reducing valve in the Lagoon Point water system which resulted in broken pipes in multiple residences (not directly related to the hydrant testing process).

Home Safety Surveys: A Shift assisted four residents with replacement of smoke alarms or batteries and worked to resolve two nuisance alarm issues.

Training

In-Service Training: Training during the month of August included: tactical roll-up drills for structural firefighting, wildland firefighting, rope rescue, and cardiac arrest management. In addition, special operations training focused on launch and recovery of the rescue boat.

Apparatus Operator Training: Firefighters Casey and Martin have both qualified as light apparatus operators and have started training as heavy apparatus operators-engine.

Facilities

Station 53 Construction: All elements required by Island County planning have been completed and we are still awaiting issuance of a conditional use permit. Chief Hartin and LT Vrable will be meeting with Carletti Architects Design Team on September 24, 2020 to continue development of detailed building plans.

Fleet Maintenance

During the month of August Firefighter Mechanic Matros completed Unit 9602, (E-54's) NFA 1911 inspection and service and has begun T-53's 1911 inspection. Unit 1801, (501) had multiple safety recalls performed by Chevrolet. PM maintenance work was performed on Aid 503 by Midway Tire and Muffler per Whidbey Health.

During deployment of the Palmer Fire, the crew assigned to Brush 54 encountered several manufacturing defects on the apparatus (but were able to maintain it in-service for the duration of the deployment). Firefighter Mechanic Mike Matros has been working with Mallory (the apparatus manufacturer) to repair these defects and to proactively correct these problems on Brush 53.