



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: October 8, 2020
Subject: Chief's Report

COVID-19

During the month of August, COVID-19 was a factor in 16 incidents (12.31% of the total number of incidents for the month). This is a significant increase from July in which COVID-19 was a factor in 28 incidents (17.95% 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 reimbursement of \$7,616.00 for COVID-19 related expenses as part of the \$15,658.25 Assistance to Firefighter Grant from the Department of Homeland Security received for 1) reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenditure and 2) expenses related to preparation for future pandemic response.

Operational Activity

During the month of September, the district received 130 calls for service as illustrated below. Excluding concurrency with state all-hazards mobilization, the district experienced 14 instances in which calls were received concurrently for a total of 29 incidents affected, four instances involved three or more concurrent calls.

Incident type	July
1 - Fire	3
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	70
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4
5 - Service Call	32
6 - Good Intent Call	12
7 - False Alarm & False Call	11
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	130

Administrative Activity

2021 Budget Development: District staff completed the proposed district budget for submittal to the board of fire commissioners on October 8, 2020.

Long Term Financial Plan: The first draft of the 2020 revision to the district's long-term financial plan was completed concurrently with the budget and is currently undergoing its first editorial review.

Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB): The district completed an on-site meeting with WSRB staff for re-rating on October 5, 2020 and work continues to complete a punch list of additional information requested related to fire inspections and water systems.

GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award: The district received its seventh consecutive distinguished budget presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association for its 2020 adopted budget. The district will submit its 2021 budget to the GFOA for evaluation and consideration for this award.

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 have determined that the preferred SCBA is the Scott X3 which is similar to the district's existing SCBA (minimizing training time for CWIFR). We are working with neighboring agencies to determine any variations in specification for near term SCBA purchase. Captain Jerry Helm has determined that Scott SCBA are available through the Sourcewell joint purchasing consortium (the same group used for purchase of the district's three type one engines currently under construction by Rosenbauer).

The City of Oak Harbor was serving as the lead agency on a regional grant to fund SCBA replacement, and has recently advised that the Department of Homeland Security notified them that we have not received the grant.

Extrication Equipment Evaluation: The district's capital projects plan has also programmed replacement of hydraulic extrication equipment for 2020. LT Meek will be working to have specifications complete and bidding (or joint purchase documentation) completed to allow authorization by the board for purchase in November.

Wildland Deployment: Tender 54 with Firefighters Lloyd and Kellison were deployed to the Cold Spring Canyon/Pearl Hill Fire in Okanogan and Douglas Counties and Engine 512 with Captain Jerry Helm, Firefighter Justin Burnett and two personnel from North Whidbey Fire and Rescue were deployed to the Bordeaux Fire in Thurston and Pierce Counties.

CAPT Helm completed all components of an interlocal agreement with the Washington Military Department (Washington Department of Emergency Management) for emergency management assistance compact (EMAC) deployment for interstate mutual aid. On a related note, Chief Hartin worked with attorney Richard Davis to develop an interlocal agreement for joint staffing of fire apparatus for EMAC (interstate) mobilization. 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. At present, this agreement is under consideration and anticipated to be approved by North Whidbey Fire and Rescue and Camano Island Fire Department. Execution

of this agreement is awaiting authorization by the board for the fire chief to sign automatic and mutual aid agreements (WA DEM requires a formal delegation of authority for this purpose).

Departures/Transitions: Firefighter Kelly Casey has resigned to accept a position with the Anchorage, AK 911 center as a dispatcher. The district will be conducting a recruitment process over the next several months to fill this part-time position and establish a pool of qualified candidates.

Acting Lieutenant Robert Moor has decided to return to firefighter status at his own request and continues to provide excellent service at Station 54.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Fire & Life Safety Inspections: Self-inspection surveys were mailed to 68 low hazard occupancies with a current return rate of 76.5%. A significant number of self-inspection forms have been returned due to incorrect addresses or change in occupancy. Physical inspections of higher hazard occupancies have resumed with a total of four inspections and two re-inspections completed in August (A Shift-four inspections and two re-inspections, B Shift-zero, and C Shift-zero). The number of inspections conducted this month were reduced due to hydrant flow testing workload.

Hydrant Inspection and Testing: The district completed hydrant flow testing in early October and will be providing this data to the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau as well as individual water systems. As reported last month, a malfunction of a pressure reducing valve in the Lagoon Point water system resulted in broken pipes in multiple residences (not directly related to the hydrant testing process). The water system operator has advised the Lagoon Point Water Commissioners that he believes that the broken pipes were the result of a water hammer created by the CWIFR personnel during hydrant testing and failed to advise the water commissioners of the pressure reducing valve malfunction. This may result in claims against CWIFR. I will be drafting a letter to the water district board of commissioners providing additional detail on this incident and explaining why it is unlikely that our personnel created a water hammer and the potential impact of the system overpressure resulting from the pressure reducing valve malfunction.

Other CRR Activity: One car seat safety inspection and one home day care courtesy inspection were completed.

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.

Blue Card: Chief Hartin conducted Blue Card incident commander evaluations as part of the recertification process for South Whidbey Fire/EMS Deputy Chief Jon Beck and Lieutenant Alex McMahon and for Firefighter Robert Moore.

Kennewick Officer Development: Chief Hartin provided two officer development workshop sessions for the Kennewick Fire Department at the request of Chief Chad Michael (former Deputy Chief with CWIFR) in exchange for two officer development workshop sessions for CWIFR later in the year or early 2021.

Wildland Training: Wildland Firefighter type one task books have been issued to Chief Hartin, Captain Helm, Firefighter/EMTs Kellison, and Majestic. Captain Helm, Firefighter/EMT Kellison, Firefighter Lindenstein, and Wildland Firefighter Dodson (as an evaluator for firefighter type one task book completion) participated in prescribed burns at Pacific Rim Institute and Admiralty Inlet Preserve.

Facilities

Station 53 Construction: All elements required by Island County planning had been completed, but now may be required to complete a wetland assessment (not originally required) and we are still awaiting issuance of a conditional use permit. Chief Hartin met with Carletti Architects Design Team on September 24, 2020 to continue development of detailed building plans.

Fleet Maintenance

During the month of September FF/Mechanic Matros performed multiple repairs to the fleet along with normal preventive maintenance. He has coordinated the repairs of Units 2001 and 2002 (B53 & B54) with Mallory Fire Manufacturing. He transported B54 to Mallory where it is undergoing the needed repairs and modifications. He will swap B54 with B53 when Mallory has completed their work so that the same work can be done on B53. Unit 1402, (502) had engine work performed by Jerry Smith Chevrolet due to stuck lifters in the Active Fuel Management System. Annual ladder testing was performed by National Hose Testing Inc. Along with day to day administrative and parts procurement data was organized for the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau.