



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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Report to the Commissioners 04/11/13

Emergency Response Activity

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) had two significant events in March.

On March 22, an unusual spring snow storm deposited up to six inches of snow in the area between Christianson Road and the Navy Outlying Field. This snowfall resulted in a number of vehicle accidents.

Early on March 27, CWIFR was dispatched to a landslide on Driftwood Way in the Ledgewood community. Initial reports were unclear as to the magnitude of the slide, but as events unfolded this response turned into a major incident involving evacuation of 34 homes. CWIFR worked closely with Island County Public Works, but retained responsibility as the lead agency through the first two operational periods before transitioning to a Unified Command with public works and then transfer of the incident entirely to Island County Public Works on March 29th. Deputy Chief Chad Michael did an excellent job working with Island County Public Works during this incident. In addition to the response activity, CWIFR managed public information and communications involving local, regional, and national media for the first several days of this incident.

	March		2013	
	Total	%	Total	%
Fire	2	1.89%	6	2.08%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat-No Fire	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Rescue & EMS	69	65.09%	206	71.53%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	5	4.72%	15	5.21%
Service Call	5	4.72%	15	5.21%
Good Intent (Canceled En-Route, Mistaken Alarm)	20	18.87%	35	12.15%
False Alarm/False Call	4	3.77%	9	3.13%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.00%	2	0.69%
Special Incident Type	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total Incidents	76		285	

In 68% of EMS Incidents, CWIFR arrived prior to Whidbey General Hospital EMS.

During the month of March, CWIFR experienced seven instances in which multiple calls for service were received concurrently (total of 16 incidents). As in most months, a majority of the concurrent incidents involved medical calls. However, one instance involved a call for wires down and another involved a minor fire incident.

Recruitment/Training

AIC CAPT Jerry Helm and Chief Hartin have been working on recruitment and training strategy for new volunteer members that will minimize the time between successful recruitment and initiation of new member training. This strategy will likely focus on several different types of volunteers including new categories of Community Safety Advocate (focused on Community Risk Reduction programs), Support Services (a non-combat volunteer supporting emergency operations), as well as volunteer Firefighters, EMTs and Firefighter/EMTs.

Weekly fire training has been shifted from the traditional Monday night to Tuesday night. This change eliminates the ongoing conflict between holidays and training activity and will increase availability of training to our members. In addition, AIC CAPT Helm has increased emergency medical training to every other week (from more or less twice monthly) to provide increased training opportunity for our members serving as EMTs.

Fire training is in the process of being designed around a six week training block addressing related skills. For example the current six week block develops member skills in pumping apparatus operation and is being conducted in conjunction with the CWIFR's first Apparatus Operator Academy for new part time and volunteer members. The Academy will lead to International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) certification as a Pumping Apparatus Operator and begin the process of qualification as a heavy apparatus operator for a number of our new part-time and volunteer members.

Fire & Rescue Training: Throughout the month of March, CWIFR members participated in a wide range of fire and rescue training sessions, including:

- Hydrant connection
- Water tender shuttle operations
- Fire behavior
- Gator operations and maintenance
- Master stream operations
- Limited access multiple company operations (long stretch with 3" hose)

EMS Training: In emergency medical training CWIFR members participated in the following training activities:

- Infectious disease training
- Medical run review/continuous quality improvement

Officer Development: LT Jen Porter attended the National Fire Academy resident course Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction.

Training and Recruitment Project Work: AIC CAPT Helm participated in the Island County Training Officers meeting, assisted with the Island County Recruit Academy, assisted with preparations for the upcoming CWIFR Apparatus Operator Academy, and continued work on conceptual design of a recruitment poster.

Community Risk Reduction/Community Engagement

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue was selected as one of 100 fire service agencies in the United States to serve as an advocate for Community Risk Reduction (CRR) and received a grant of 30 smoke detectors from the Vision 20/20 Project and the USA Branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE). As part of this project CWIFR will be conducting safety visits to at risk homes and installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as needed. In addition, Chief Hartin will serve on a Vision 20/20 task group to advocate for CRR in the American fire service.

Shift Activity

A Shift reports the following activity:

- 14.5 hours in-service training completed. Training included light apparatus operator, stretch bed hose deployment, master stream operations, CPR, abdominal injuries OTEP, trailer backing, and hose evolutions.
- Completed 1 hours of physical training
- 3 Fire & Life Safety Inspections (3 hours of inspection activity)
- Outside lights at Station 54 replaced
- Medical standby at the *Mussels in the Kettles* and *Cooking in the Kettles* bicycle events.

B Shift reports the following activity:

- 14 hours in-service training completed. Training focused light apparatus operator training, EMS on-line, master stream operations, and multi-company operations. AIC LT Majestic continued service as an instructor with the Island County Recruit Academy.
- Conducted a community CPR class
- Completed 6 hours of physical training

C Shift reports the following activity:

- 12 hours in-service training completed. Training focused on light and heavy apparatus operator, infectious diseases, gator operations, portable master stream operations, and stretch bed hose deployment.
- Completed 4.5 hours of physical training
- 11 Fire & Life Safety Inspections (6.75 hours of inspection activity)
- Hands Only CPR training delivered at Coupeville City Hall
- CPR/First Aid Class delivered at Coupeville Public Works
- Septic inspection completed at Station 53, completed painting of the classroom and storage closet, and installed keypad locks at Station 53.
- Step mill aerobic exercise machine purchased and installed at station 53.

Maintenance

Apparatus Maintenance: During the month of March, pump transmission fluid was changed on all front line engines. Fire Service Repairs will be changing pump transmission fluid once every quarter in order to help minimize the possibility of damage to the pump transmissions similar to what occurred previously on Engine 53. At the same time, the pump packing was adjusted on all front line engines.

Additionally, Fire Service Repairs completed repair work on Engine 51's tank fill, and the 2 ½" pre-connect outlet on Engine 51.

Fire Service Repairs also completed repair work to the brakes on Engine 53.

Contractor Jerry Beck completed an emergency repair on the mobile radio wiring system in 500. The main mobile radio stopped working approximately a week ago. While the radio system wiring was being inspected to investigate the problem, it was discovered that the main mobile radio was improperly wired, and significantly damaged the radio. The rear radio was substituted in as a replacement, and the main mobile radio has been sent out for repairs.

Facilities Maintenance: During the month of March the Station 53 Training Room Renovation work was brought to a close. Deputy Chief Michael would like to recognize Contractor Ralph Mundell, and J Lee Floors in Everett for all of their work and effort on the project.

Contractor Jerry Beck was contacted to conduct repair work on the parking lights at Station 54. It was noted that several lights in the parking area were not working. After inspecting each of the lights, Mr. Beck recommended that all of the lights be replaced at the station. The size of the fixture head is not large enough for the amount of heat being produced, and this has caused the malfunction of many of the lights. The decision was made to replace the remaining lights, as they will experience the same problem over time.

The \$10,000 CWIFR was holding for potential repairs to the training facility water system has been released. Dahlman Pump contacted CWIFR near the first part of March to inquire about the money. The owner of Dahlman Pump had committed to coming back to investigate a problem with the pressure in the system. The pressure in the system has been reset. However, Dahlman committed to keeping an eye on the air tank pressure. The air tank is still under warranty, and may need to be replaced. There were no other problems noted with the system.

Administration

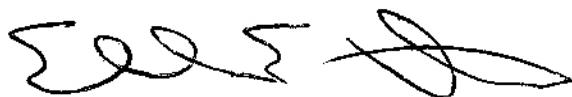
Chief Hartin and Deputy Chief Michael continued negotiations with Local 4299 International Association of Firefighters.

Chief Hartin, Board Chair Messner, and Commissioners Smith and Engle attended a strategic financial planning workshop in Ocean Shores.

External Activity

Chief Hartin attended the Commission on Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) conference in Henderson, NV (at his own expense). This conference included a number of excellent presentations on leadership and the process of fire department accreditation. Chief Hartin will be attending the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis April 23-27 and will deliver a presentation on Wind Influenced Fires in Private Dwellings. Chief Hartin's participation in this conference is funded by the FDIC.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Hartin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward E. Hartin, MS, EFO, MIFireE, CFO
Fire Chief