



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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## Report to the Commissioners 01/09/14

### Emergency Response Activity

	December		2013		Change from 2012	
	Total	%	Total	%	Number	%
Fire	0	0.00%	23	2.01%	0	0.00%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat-No Fire	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	-3	-100.00%
Rescue & EMS	59	62.07%	763	66.52%	130	20.54%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	5	5.75%	56	4.88%	8	15.69%
Service Call	6	3.45%	74	6.45%	28	72.09%
Good Intent (Canceled En-Route, Mistaken Alarm)	19	20.69%	144	12.55%	-4	-2.70%
False Alarm/False Call	8	8.05%	80	6.97%	55	-9.09%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	0.00%	7	0.61%	-15	-68.18%
Special Incident Type	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>97</b>		<b>1147</b>		<b>130</b>	<b>12.91%</b>

In December medical responses, CWIFR arrived prior to Whidbey General Hospital EMS 50.00% of the time. Overall in 2013, CWIFR arrived first on 73.9% of all medical responses within the District.

During the month of December, CWIFR experienced five instances in which multiple calls for emergency service were received concurrently (total of 10 incidents). All of these incidents were calls for emergency medical services.

CWIFR saw a 12.9% increase in calls for service in 2013. This is a substantial increase over the average annual increase in call volume of 5.69% experienced between 1996 and 2012. While changes in a single year may be the result of random variation, the increase in medical responses is likely to have been impacted by our aging population (which may also have impacted the increase in service calls). Based on potential for these demographic changes to continue, an accelerating increase in medical response call volume should likely be anticipated.

### Recruitment/Training

**Recruitment:** In December, five volunteer applications are in the final stages of the recruitment process (3 Firefighter Candidates and 2 EMT Candidates). We anticipate that these individuals will be ready to start training in the First Quarter of 2014..

A Part-Time Recruitment is underway with new Part-Time Firefighters starting work by the end of the first quarter. We presently have three Part-Time Firefighter Vacancies. FF Dillon Rogers has been assigned as the project manager for this recruitment process and has worked with Chief Hartin and AIC

CAPT Helm to revise and update the assessment center component of the recruitment process. The assessment center has been expanded to incorporate a citizen interaction activity in addition to technical skills. This process will also establish a pool of qualified candidates to fill subsequent vacancies that may occur throughout the year.

- Values based panel Interviews will be conducted on January 20 & 21, 2014
- Basic Skills Assessment (Firefighter I and EMT-B) will be conducted on January 23, 2014
- Executive Interviews will be conducted January 27, 2014
- Projected Start Date for New Part-Time Firefighters March 1, 2015

**Fire & Rescue Training:** Throughout the month of December, 12 hours of in-service training were delivered on a variety of topics including:

- Saws and Tools
- Ladders
- Scavenger Hunt (Area Familiarization) Orientation

Due to the holidays in December and January, a majority of training was conducted on an in-station basis. The major initiative during the month was an integrated full-time, part-time, and volunteer scavenger hunt focusing on the following aspects of District familiarization:

- Streets and Addressing
- Building Construction
- Water Supply
- Fire Protection Systems

**EMS Training:** Throughout the month of December, 2 hours of training were delivered EMS OTEP Practical Skills.

**Prop Construction:** AIC CAPT Jerry Helm and FF/MECH Mike Matros completed construction of a forcible entry door prop to allow our members to develop skill in conventional forcible entry. Construction of this prop on an in-house basis allowed higher quality and lower cost than a commercial prop. Training in conventional forcible entry (using this prop) is scheduled for later this month.

Professional Development: AIC CAPT Helm applied for two, back-to-back Command and Control (incident management) resident classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In addition, he started work on his portfolio as part of the Center for Public Safety Excellence Fire Officer Designation Program. In addition, AIC LT Alex Majestic applied for an EMS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) resident class at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

### Community Risk Reduction

**CRR Coalition:** Throughout the month of December, Deputy Chief Michael spent time exploring the feasibility of hiring Michael Weller as the Facilitator for the Whidbey Island Risk Reduction Coalition Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue has been working to create. Deputy Chief Michael had previously reached agreement with Vision 20/20 Program Manager Jim Crawford to serve as the Facilitator, but Mr.

Crawford had another obligation that prevented him from being available for the dates that were agreed upon.

Deputy Chief Michael and Mr. Weller have reached agreement on the fees for service, and will be working to create a work agreement that will map out the deliverables that CWIFR and partnering agencies can expect. Mr. Weller brings over thirty years of experience in community risk reduction programs and coalition building. Meetings are scheduled with Mr. Weller and partnering agencies for March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Emergency Disaster Plan:** Throughout the month of December, Deputy Chief Michael spent time interviewing Emergency Management personnel in King County, San Juan County, and Island County to discuss risk assessments. The work was done as research for Deputy Chief Michael's third year Executive Fire Officer Applied Research Paper. However, information obtained during the interviews will also be helpful in completing CWIFR's standard of cover.

### Health and Wellness

**Medical Physicals:** Beginning in July of 2013, Chief Michael started meeting with Whidbey Community Physicians to explore the feasibility of having NFPA 1582 pre-employment and annual physicals conducted at Whidbey Community Physicians. Creating the ability to have pre-employment physicals completed on Whidbey Island would significantly reduce the time and effort required by volunteer and part-time applicants to work through the pre-employment elements of CWIFR's hiring process. Additionally, it would also likely improve the possibility that existing members (career, volunteer, and part-time members) would take advantage of the opportunity to participate in an annual physical. Unfortunately, the process stalled out due to lack of attention by the staff at Whidbey General Hospital that deals with contracts.

Early in December, Chief Michael approached Dr. Fisher at North Island Medical to explore the feasibility of having NFPA 1582 pre-employment and annual physicals conducted by the North Island Medical Staff. Deputy Chief Michael will continue to work with Dr. Fisher in an effort to obtain a proposal for service from North Island Medical.

At the beginning of December, Whidbey General Hospital shared that they were still interested in conducting pre-employment and annual physicals for CWIFR. Deputy Chief Michael shared that there was one other vendor that was now being considered. Chief Michael will be evaluating proposals from both organizations to determine which one best meets the needs of the District.

### Shift Activity

A Shift reports the following activity:

- 20 hours of in-service training completed. EMS On-Line, Apparatus Operator, Area Familiarization, Firefighter Line of Duty Death and Near Miss Case Studies
- Completed 4 hours of physical training
- 3 Fire and Life Safety Re-Inspections Completed
- Completed the 2014 Santamobile!

B Shift reports the following activity:

- 20 hours in-service training completed. Training focused on Apparatus Operator, Tool Maintenance Procedures, and Area Familiarization.
- Completed 3 hours of physical training
- 5 Fire & Life Safety Inspections
- Participated in the Greening of Coupeville Parade

C Shift reports the following activity:

- 12.5 hours in-service training completed. Training focused on Apparatus Operator, EMS On-Line, Area Familiarization, and Forcible Entry.
- 4 Fire & Life Safety Inspections
- Completed 7 hours of physical training
- Monthly CPR Class

### Facilities Maintenance

**Station 53:** During the month of December, the District discovered that water pressure in the building was dramatically reduced. Upon further investigation, it was uncovered that there was a significant hole in the pipe that attached to the pump at the bottom of the well, and the pump was not properly working. Additionally the wiring for the pump shorted out and stopped working. Installation of the new pump, new piping and new wiring has now been completed. While the ditch was open for the new wiring, one additional conduit for wiring was put in place. A backup conduit for water was also put in place in case it is needed in the future.

Evergreen Security was called out during the month of December to address several key pad problems on the exterior doors at Station 53. All problems have been repaired, and all doors are now working properly.

**Station 54:** Sheetrock repair completed in the bath room and hallway at Station 54 with replacement of flooring anticipated in the first quarter of 2014.

### Apparatus Maintenance

**Repairs:** During the month of December the last of the repairs that were found in the annual NFPA 1911 inspections were completed on Engine 54. Repairs were also made to a roof ladder and extension ladder. A upholster has been scheduled to come in and look at repairing the seats on Engine 51. The seats are badly worn and do not meet the requirements of NFPA 1911.

- Replaced the power steering reservoir on Engine 54 due to a cracked fitting on the lower portion of the reservoir.
- A spare roof ladder and extension ladder which had failed annual testing were repaired by Fire Service Repair.
- The foam system on Brush 53 was repaired due to corrosion deterioration of hose causing a leak in the foam system between the tank and pump. The pump exhaust priming system was also replaced due to corrosion. Brush 53 also receive a steering alignment at Les Schwab due to the steering wheel that was not centered.
- New tires were installed on Command Unit 500 due wear beyond the serviceable limit.

**Professional Development:** FF/MECH Mike Matros has been preparing for his next two ASE tests, on braking systems and the other on steering and suspension. These two tests are the next steps in achieving EVT I certification. Mike will also be starting EMT class on January 14<sup>th</sup>. During the class, Mike will adjust his work hours to complete EMT training without incurring overtime cost. This schedule

### Administration

**Facilities Study:** District staff has completed a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for Facilities Planning. The RFQ (attached) was advertised at the end of November with a submission deadline of February 7, 2014. We have had considerable interest and have provided District facilities tours to a number of potential consultants.

**IT Service:** District staff has completed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for provision of IT services for the District. Proposals are due by February 6, 2014 with a recommendation to the Board on selection of a provider by the regular monthly Board meeting on February 12, 2014.

**2013 Accreditation Criteria Progress Report:** District Executive Staff have completed the annual review of progress towards meeting the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) criteria for accreditation as specified in our Strategic Plan. While the District has not made a formal commitment to pursue accreditation, we have identified meeting these criteria as performance measures tied to several of our strategic goals.

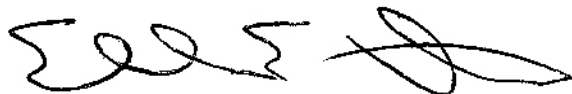
The greatest areas of improvement in 2013 were in the categories of Governance and Administration, Goals and Objectives, and Financial Resources (improvement in over 40% of all criteria in these categories). In the category of Governance and Administration the District is now 92% compliant with all criteria in this category with 50% compliance with the Critical Criteria (anticipate full compliance in 2014). A detailed progress report is attached.

An exponential increase in improvement is anticipated in 2014 due to scheduled completion of the District's Standard of Coverage and more closely coupling the District's Strategic Plan (Goals and Initiatives), Accreditation Criteria, Budget Process, and Business Planning.

### External Activity

Chief Hartin has been asked to present at the Resuscitation Academy being held in Bellingham, WA on January 29, 2014. This presentation will focus on how CWIFR implemented the recommendations of the Academy within our District and worked with other agencies to implement improved resuscitation practices on an island-wide basis. Chief Hartin has also been asked to present CWIFR's concept of a Tactical Playbook (standardized fireground tactics) for the Command Staff at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Fifth Tuesday Tactics Seminar in April. Chief Hartin will be on leave February 3-7 and 14-24, 2014 conducting fire behavior training in North Vancouver, BC and Janesville, WI.

Submitted by:



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