



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

www.cwfire.org

Report to the Commissioners 9/10/15

Emergency Response Activity

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue responded to 162 calls for service during the month of August making it the fourth month this year with over 100 responses and the highest number of responses in any month this year. The District experienced an unusual (for summer) wind storm on August 29th that resulted in 29 responses within a 24-hour period. In this same time period, CWIFR experienced 23 instances in which multiple calls for emergency service were received concurrently (total of 62 incidents). Reports on incident types and frequency are attached. The concurrency report for the month of August currently contains some erroneous data and is in the process of being corrected. This report will be forwarded to the Board as soon as it is corrected.

Average response time during the month of August was 9 minutes and 57 seconds. In this same time period, the 80th Percentile response time was 14 minutes and 15 seconds. This means that 80% of the time CWIFR arrived at emergency incidents in less than 14 minutes and 15 seconds. This higher 80th Percentile response time is likely due to multiple, concurrent responses during the storm. This data does not yet provide a true picture of performance as it does not reflect the synergistic relationship between Whidbey General Hospital EMS and CWIFR as calls where WGH EMS arrived first were not included in this response time analysis.

Operations

Brush Fire Responses: CWIFR responded to a significant driftwood fire at Keystone and SR20. The call came in at 0230 and crews were released around 0600. The fire was deep in the driftwood piles near the beach with a size of approximately 25' x 50'. Accessibility was very difficult for the crews and long hose lays were required, along with lots of hard manual labor. The crews succeeded with complete extinguishment by containing the fire to its original footprint and not allowing any further spread, which was a real threat. The potential for the pile to burn for days was a real possibility from the initial response.

Windstorm Responses: CWIFR units responded to numerous calls for assistance during the windstorm of 8/29/15. Twenty-nine (29) calls were recorded for the 24 hour period, with the bulk being between 10:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Most of the call volume involved fallen power lines and fallen trees. Chief Smith assigned our units to respond as single unit resources while other units stood by at fire stations awaiting the next call for service. CWIFR units were staffed by career, part-time, and volunteer members at Station 53, as well as the outlying stations in Coupeville and Greenbank with volunteer crews. The stations stayed up staffed and busy for approximately 10 hours.

One tree down call reported during the windstorm was associated with a 75' - 100' tree that broke off at about 10' – 12' above the base, falling directly across the rear roofline of the residence below. All parties were able to escape the home uninjured after the tree had fallen. Resulting damage included the structural rear of the home, as well as power lines, the propane system, and water lines.

ICOM Concerns: Deputy Chief Smith initiated contact with ICOM representatives regarding several recent concerns involving response radio traffic. We are aware that ICOM is having difficulty during this time due to crew shortages and new hire training issues.

Inaugural Island EMS Chiefs Meeting: Chief Smith met informally with chief officers from our neighboring agencies (SWF and NWF) for introductions and to discuss EMS related topics. All of the Chiefs are “new” to the Island (less than 1 year) and are initiating a regular coffee meeting to stay informed, with the intent of keeping our respective agencies moving in a similar and productive direction.

Public Assistance: CWIFR received a phone call from a woman requesting assistance moving her campsite. She was from Oregon and was stranded in the area after a driving mishap placed her car out of commission at a local auto repair shop. She had been camping for a week, but decided to head home. Chief Smith, with some much appreciated assistance from Firefighter Brandon Skeith, spent time packing up her campsite and transferring her and her belongings to her car located at the repair shop. She was then going to catch buses into Skagit and transfer to the train for the final leg home. Chief Smith and FF Skeith spent some extra effort in making her vital gear more travel friendly for her trip.

Chief Smith also had an opportunity to give assistance to an elderly couple from Renton who was involved in a multi-car MVA on SR20 in front of the waste transfer property. The couple’s SUV was rear-ended at moderately high speed, thereby incapacitating it. Once the Trooper investigation was complete, the couple had arranged for a rental car in Oak Harbor. Chief Smith was able to gather the couple and their belongings for a trip into the Enterprise dealer in Oak Harbor. The couple gave many thanks.

Operational Rope Rescue Planning: Chief Smith and Firefighter Greg Behan have been working collectively on establishing a training plan and purchasing specialty equipment in order to facilitate low-angle rope rescue evolutions by CWIFR crews. Training is planned for the end of the year, while equipment, training plans, and research of other Island teams are currently taking place.

Special Event Operations

Arts & Crafts Festival Standby: Chief Smith coordinated with Arts & Crafts leadership as well as area public safety partners (CMO & WGH EMS) in the weeks prior to the festival. CWIFR crews were staged at the event for the two days. Chief Smith briefed and worked with the crews, which represented all legs of the stool, by giving tours of potential high risk areas as well as a pre-planning walk-around of the venter areas. Chief Smith also sent coordination emails to our neighboring agencies regarding pre-planned approaches to this festival in the event of a major incident. Crews were on scene to educate the public on fire and fall safety, as well as to answer any questions from them. Crews responded from their staging area to a variety of EMS calls in coordination with WGH EMS crews. The Gator was also staged and utilized to gain easier access to patients when appropriate. The new E53 was on display the second day, while E51 was staged on the first day with volunteers and part-time members.

Community Risk Reduction

WI prevent Coalition: Chief Smith attended and took minutes for a WI prevent meeting in August. The community risk reduction coalition is targeting Island wide partners and resources to continue the mission of reducing falls within our Island community.

Knox Box Requests/Updates: Chief Smith coordinated numerous KnoxBox requests and updates from private citizens as well as new businesses (WAIF). Some requests were for new boxes and some for updates of current boxes. This process included Chief Smith's coordination with ICOM to integrate gate codes, etc. into ICOM's CAD (computer) system that allows them to pass the info to the responding crews when they are dispatched.

Pre-Planning: Chief Smith participated in pre-plan visits of apartment complexes and the impact of festival street closures on access and other fire protection and EMS during the Arts and Crafts Festival. Chief Smith county facilities personnel for their annual fire drill events at the County Complex. CWIFR crews took part in conducting the drills and watched the exit strategies of the building workers. Chief Smith and the crews also reviewed mechanical and fire protection systems within the County Complex.

Hydrant Inspection and Testing: Hydrant inspection and testing has been put into high gear to complete inspection of all hydrants and flow testing of hydrants that have not had a flow test in the last four years. The target is to complete this work prior to October, when the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau will be in the District for a re-rating.

Recruitment/Training

Recruitment: Two inquiries of interest in serving as a volunteer were received through the District web site and were forwarded to North Whidbey Fire Rescue and South Whidbey Fire/EMS (SWFE) as these individuals did not live within the District.

Joint Training: CWIFR and SWFE have embarked on an exciting new venture. Both Districts have selected the same on-line Learning Management System and will be implementing joint fire and EMS training in 2016 with a common base curriculum. On-line training will be identical and many practical skills sessions will be integrated so that if a member was unable to attend training with his or her own agency there would be an opportunity to attend with the other participating agency.

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

- Horizontal Standpipe (Hose Deployment)
- Phoenix Serious Injury Case Study
- Apparatus Backing

Blue Card: Deputy Chief Smith is nearing the completion of the online training program for Blue Card certification. Chief Smith and Captain Helm will complete the Blue Card Certification process by participating in a three-day simulation lab in Olympia later in September. Full-time members on-shift have started the Blue Card on-line training with a target of completing the first three modules by the end of September and finishing the entire program by March 2016. This training and certification program focuses on best practices regarding the Incident Command System (ICS) and will help to keep

our crews safe and in control during emergency incidents. Additional face-to-face training in these concepts is being provided to all members and we have already seen a significant improvement in the effectiveness of emergency incident communications, organization, and operations.

EMS Training: Throughout the month of August, four hours of EMS training were completed including orientation to the District's new on-line Learning Management System (LMS) and a make-up practical skills session for the EMS ongoing training and evaluation program.

Education: Chief Smith has started the fall term of his online Bachelor's Degree program at Waldorf College. After completion of this course, he has three classes remaining.

Shift Activity

A Shift reports the following activity:

- 18 hours of in-service training completed including Blue Card, apparatus operator training, initial company operations, backing safety, and hydrant testing/inspection procedures.
- 5 Fire and Life Safety inspections completed
- 45 Hydrants Inspected
- Assisted with the Coupeville High School athletic medical screening program
- Assisted with the Arts and Crafts Festival

B Shift reports the following activity:

- 16 hours in-service training completed including Blue Card, forcible entry, Firefighter 2, and apparatus operator skills.
- Completed 2 hours of physical training
- 1 Fire and Life Safety inspection completed
- 55 Hydrants Inspected
- Assisted with the Arts and Crafts Festival

C Shift reports the following activity:

- In-service training completed including Blue Card and apparatus operator skills.
- 48 Hydrants Inspected
- 4 Fire and Life Safety inspections completed
- Considerable progress was made with the refurbishment of the new rescue boat

Apparatus Maintenance

During the month of August fleet maintenance consisted of various repairs and services to our vehicles and equipment. FF/Mechanic Matros has been continuing the annual 1911 apparatus preventive maintenance inspections. Apparatus pump testing has been scheduled for October 20th. He has also been working with True North Emergency Equipment in order to work through some warranty repairs

that have come up with Engine/Rescue 53. The district has taken delivery of the new command vehicle in accordance with the vehicle and apparatus replacement program.

Repairs & Service: During the month of August, the following repairs and service were completed:

- 501 – Performed normal P.M. service
- E-51 – Completed the 1911 annual inspection, and repaired issues found during inspection.
- E-54 – Adjusted pump packing, repaired headlights.
- B-54 – Removed fire pump and sent out for rebuild.
- M-5 – Diagnosed and repair slow cranking problem
- E-51 – Chainsaw repair.

Training & Qualification: FF/Mechanic Matros is currently completing the Firefighter II training program and will be attending the Washington Fire Mechanics Conference in September.

Administration

Budget: Chief Smith has worked with the various program and project managers to assist in the development of their respective working budgets. Chief Smith continues to learn this budgeting process as well with much help and direction from the Fire Chief.

WGH Planning Meetings: Chief Smith was asked to attend a WGH road planning meeting with the WGH CEO. This allowed him to be updated on recent developments that affected the District with regards to road pathways and access around Station 51. This allowed Chief Smith to stand in for Chief Hartin at the Special Commissioners meeting related to the same topic.

Budget: The District's 2016 Budget Process continues with Division Budgets being finalized and compiled into the Fire Chief's Proposed Budget that will be submitted to the Board in October.

External Activity

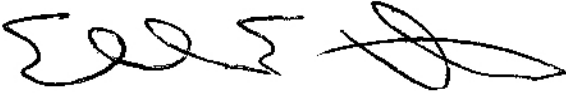
External Presentations: Chief Hartin attended an Institution of Fire Engineers USA Branch council meeting in Chicago on August 8, 2015. Expenses were paid by the IFE and the Chief. Chief Hartin and Local 4299 Vice President Helm presented a labor relations case study titled "How to Win by Being in the Third Place" at Fire Rescue International (the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Conference) in Atlanta, GA on August 26-28, 2015. Airfare was paid by the District, Lodging was paid by the Chief, and Conference fee was paid by the IAFC).

Community Health Assessment Focus Group: Through associations with the WI prevent Coalition, Chief Smith was asked by the Island County Health Department Director of Healthy Communities, Laura Luginbill, to participate in a focus group that supported the upcoming Community Health Assessment project that they are working on. These surveys and focus groups will help the ICHD to plan for the future needs of our Island community.

Chief Koorn Retirement: Chief Smith, along with Chief Hartin and other representatives of CWIFR attended the retirement of North Whidbey Fire District Fire Chief Marv Koorn.

Upcoming External Activity: Chief Hartin will be in Brussels, Belgium attending the Annual International Fire Instructors Workshop and presenting on CWIFR's integration of tactical and writing skills training, titled First Due Questions. Chief Hartin's expenses are being paid by the Workshop. Chief Hartin will also be on personal time off for two weeks following the conference and will remain in Belgium to co-teach two Fire Behavior training programs with Chief Officers from Brussels, and New South Wales, Australia.

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, FIFireE, CFO
Fire Chief



Annual Fire Situation Report
Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue
From 01/01/2015 To 08/31/2015
Report Printed On: 09/09/2015

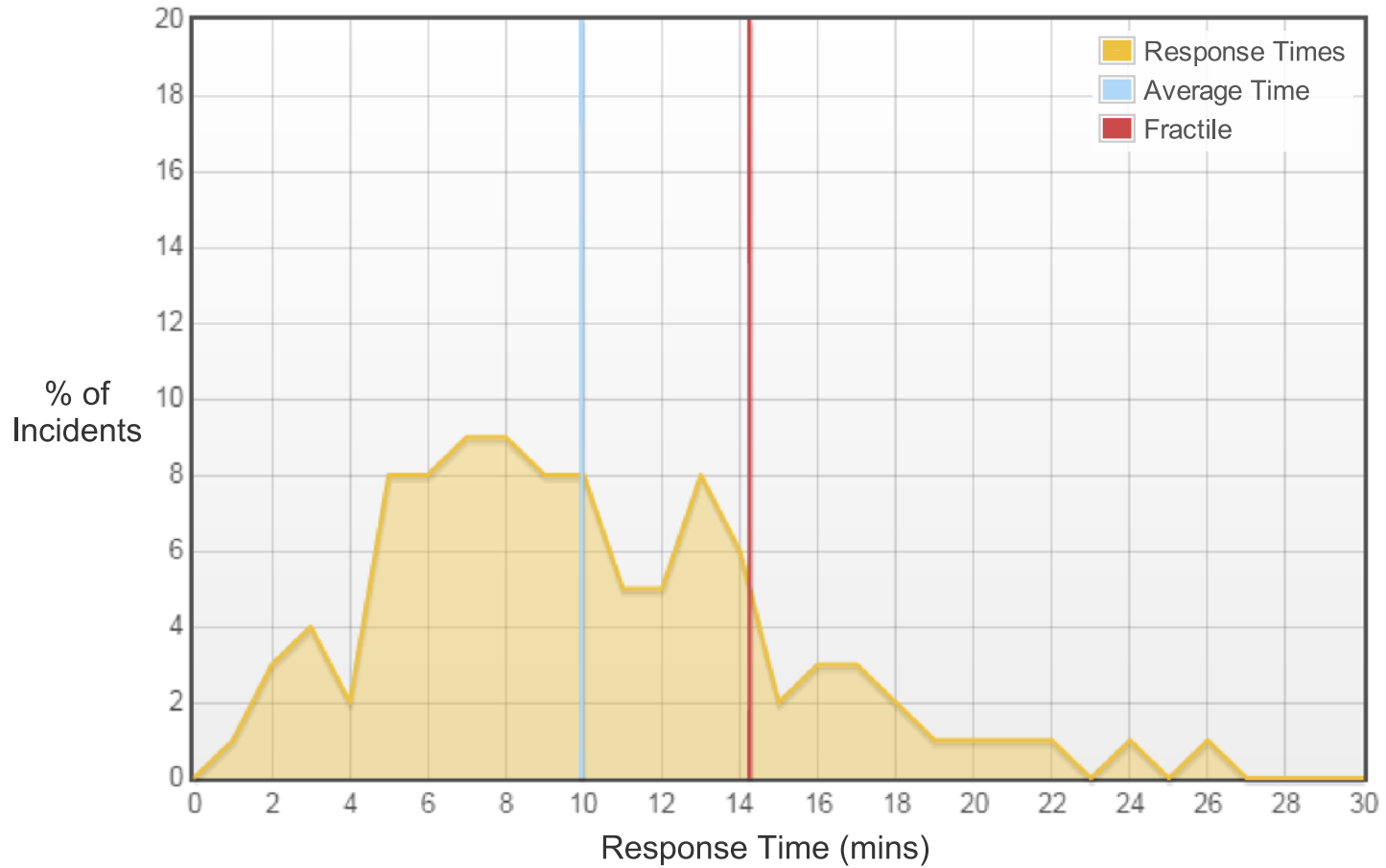
General Class	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Total by Type
*NA (NA)						9			9
Accident, potential accident (46)	1								1
Animal problem or rescue (54)								2	2
Bomb scare (72)	1								1
Combustible/flammable spills & leaks (41)		1			1	1			3
Controlled burning (63)	2		1	1	1	1			6
Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up (57)	2				1	2		4	9
Dispatched and cancelled en route (61)	24	20	12	10	21	15	9	15	126
Electrical wiring/equipment problem (44)	1	1	1	1		1		10	15
Emergency medical service (EMS) Incident (32)	43	37	31	48	17	57	56	65	354
Extrication, rescue (35)							2		2
False alarm and false call, other (70)							1	3	4
Fire, other (10)						1	1		2
Good intent call, other (60)		1	1	1	1		2	1	7
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat (67)		2							2
Malicious, mischievous false alarm (71)	1								1
Medical assist (31)	22	19	26	27	17	13	10	12	146
Mobile property (vehicle) fire (13)			1				1	1	3
Natural vegetation fire (14)	1			1	4	5	7	6	24
Outside rubbish fire (15)					2	1	1		4
Public service assistance (55)	3	5	1	1	2	5	7	10	34
Rescue, emergency medical call (EMS), other (30)	1		1						2
Search for lost person (34)						1	1		2
Service call, other (50)							1		1
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster (8)	1							8	9
Smoke, odor problem (53)			2			2	1		5
Special type of incident, other (90)	1		1				1		3
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke (65)				1				1	2
Structure Fire (11)	1	3	1	2		1	2		10
System or detector malfunction (73)		1	1				1	1	4
Unauthorized burning (56)						1			1
Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire) (74)	7	6	6	4	4	4	6	14	51
Water or ice-related rescue (36)	1			2	1	2	5	5	16
Water problem (52)					2				2
Wrong location, no emergency found (62)		1				2		4	7
Total	113	97	86	99	74	124	115	162	870

Search Criteria

Dates: From 01/01/2015 To 08/31/2015 (mm/dd/yyyy)

Service: Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

Fractile Response Times Report for Apparatus Times	
Date Range	08/01/2015 to 08/31/2015
Time Frame	"Dispatch Time" to "Arrival Time"
Total # of Incidents Fitting Criteria	95 (144 apparatus records)
80% Fractile Response Time	14 min 15 sec
Highest Response Time	26 min 17 sec
Lowest Response Time	0 min 56 sec
Average Response Time	9 min 57 sec
Service(s)	Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue
Incident Type(s)	All
Response Mode(s) to Scene	Emergency



 [Report Description](#)