



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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[www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Chief Ed Hartin

Date: December 10, 2020

Subject: Chief's Report

## COVID-19

During the month of December COVID-19 was a factor in 17 incidents (14.78% of the total number of incidents for the month. This was a decrease from November where COVID-19 was a factor in 20 incidents (16.53% 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.

## Operational Activity

During the month of November, the district received 115 calls for service as illustrated below. The district experienced 22 instances in which calls were received concurrently for a total of 29 incidents affected, two instances involved three or more concurrent calls.

Incident type	December	2020 Total
1 - Fire	3	46
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	74	926
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	31
5 - Service Call	17	287
6 - Good Intent Call	9	100
7 - False Alarm & False Call	10	125
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	3
9 - Special Incident Type	0	1
Total	115	1519

## Administrative Activity

**Staffing and Reorganization:** Staffing Changes and Reorganization: Charlie Smith resigned as deputy chief effective December 31, 2020. CAPT Jerry Helm has been assigned as acting deputy chief from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2020. LT James Meek has been assigned as acting captain from January 1 2021 to March 31, 2021. Firefighter Alex Majestic will continue as acting lieutenant on B Shift. Along with these staffing changes the district has implemented a reorganization to maximize our bandwidth to accomplish critical work. Acting Deputy Chief Helm will be responsible for supervision of the training captain and firefighter mechanic, and volunteer officers along with serving as the district's health and safety officer. The fire chief will supervise the finance officer, deputy chief, and lieutenants assigned to each shift. This organizational structure will allow the deputy chief maintain capacity to perform critical staff work over the next three months including 1) development of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for fire station diesel exhaust extraction systems and personal protective equipment cleaning system, 2) developing a second regional AFG application for replacement of portable and mobile radios in conjunction with North Whidbey Fire and Rescue, and 3) completing a comprehensive assessment of the district's compliance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-305, the safety standard for firefighters in Washington State.

During the next three months, I will determine if the deputy chief's position will be filled internally or if it will be in the best interests of the district to conduct an open recruitment. Should this position be filled internally, this will then require promotional process for captain and lieutenant as well as filling a subsequent firefighter vacancy.

**Sick Leave Donation SOG:** Chief Hartin worked with the district's attorney Rich Davis to develop a sick leave donation SOG that provides comprehensive guidance for donation of sick leave between members. While permitted by the collective bargaining agreement, the district had no policy that addressed non-represented employees.

**Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB):** The district received notification from the WSRB that the public protection classification for areas of the district outside the Town of Coupeville (unincorporated Island County) had improved from six to five and the classification for the Town of Coupeville remained a four. It is important to note that we missed reaching a classification of four in the unincorporated areas of the district by an extremely small margin. This points to the potential for further improvement with our next rating (likely scheduled for 2025 unless requested earlier by the board and/or mayor of the Town of Coupeville). Analysis of grading in Coupeville and the unincorporated areas of the district is attached to this report.

**New District Website:** Pending upload of historical budget, financial, and meeting documents we anticipate the "go live" date for the district's new web site will be February 1, 2021.

## Operations

**Hydraulic Rescue Tools:** The district took delivery of a new hydraulic rescue tool system to replace tools that had reached (or exceeded) their useful life. This system uses battery powered tools rather than a gasoline engine powered hydraulic pump. State-of-the-art battery powered tools are lighter and more mobile while providing superior lifting, pushing, and cutting power.

**Lucas Chest Compression System:** The district has raised \$3,598 towards purchase of the Lucas Chest Compression System since kicking off its GoFundMe campaign in mid-December. \$2,355 has been raised through GoFundMe and the remainder has been raised through direct cash contributions. The Whidbey News

Times has recently published an article about this project (\$600 contributed to GoFundMe since this article was published on-line). As previously presented to the board, the second component of funding for this project will be one or more grants. Multiple grant sources have been identified and will be pursued as they open for new projects. The third component of funding will be to include this project in the 2020 revision to the capital project plan.

### **Community Risk Reduction (CRR)**

**Fire & Life Safety Inspections:** LT Jen Porter is working on a strategy to address both physical and self-inspections in 2021 based on current and future issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to worsening of the COVID-19 pandemic, physical inspections have again been suspended (likely into 2021). LT Porter has identified inspections that should be prioritized when physical inspection can resume.

**Home Safety Surveys/Smoke Alarm:** Seven hardwired smoke alarms (purchased by the home owner) installed and two car (emergency) car seat safety checks were completed using appropriate personal protective equipment.

**Santamobile:** During the month of December, the district provided critical assistance to Santa Claus in visiting Central Whidbey and used its new banners to promote working smoke alarms, closing your bedroom door before going to sleep (close before you doze), and having a home escape plan. During the Santamobile's rounds we collected 2,740 pounds of non-perishable food and a number of cash donations for the Gifts From the Heart Food Bank.

### **Training**

**In-Service Training:** Training during the month of December included self-contained breathing apparatus skills assessment and review of emergency procedures and use of air bags for lifting.

**Island County Recruit Academy:** CWIFR has five students in the upcoming recruit academy.

### **Facilities**

**Station 53 Construction:** LT Vrable continued work on the plan to maintain operational readiness and service delivery levels during construction of the new Station 53. Carletti Architects is in the process of preparing the remaining drawings for building permit submittal.

### **Fleet Maintenance**

**Pump Testing:** During the month of December Firefighter/Mechanic Matros completed pump testing for all engines and tenders with the assistance of Fire Service Repair, LLC. I would like to recognize the assistance provided by AO Brent Stevens and FF Robert Moore in the pump testing process.

**Preventative Maintenance and Repair:** Minor maintenance and repair projects were completed on district apparatus.

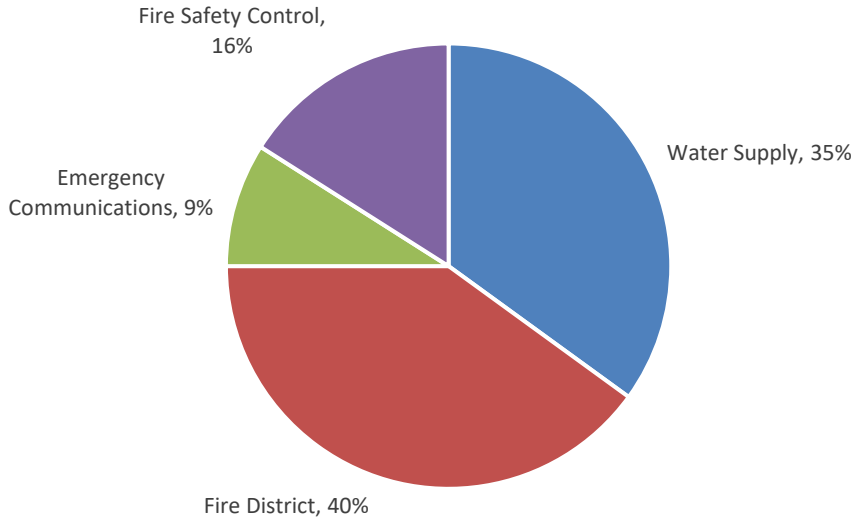
**Type Five Engines:** Warrantee repairs to Brush 54 are complete and we anticipate return of this apparatus within the next week. In addition to the warrantee repairs, additional storage baskets for the top of both type five engines were manufactured to aid in transport of additional equipment when deployed on statewide or interstate mobilization.

**Type One Engines:** The chassis have been completed and are in the process of being painted before moving to installation of the pump, foam system, and construction of the apparatus body.

### Summary of the Protection Class Ratings for the Town of Coupeville & Unincorporated Areas of the District

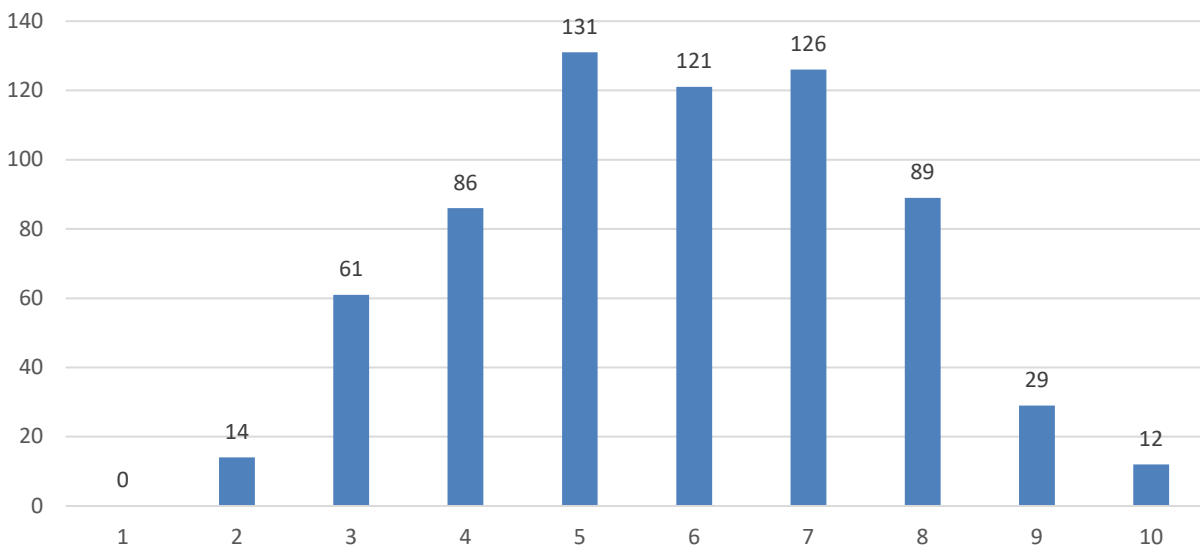
As illustrated in Figure 1, the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) considers four categories of information in determining a community's protection class rating.

Figure 1. Protection Class Rating Categories



The Town of Coupeville has a protection class rating of four and the remainder of the district has a rating of five for properties within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant or six for properties that are further away from a hydrant. The distribution of communities in Washington state by protection class is illustrated in Figure 2.

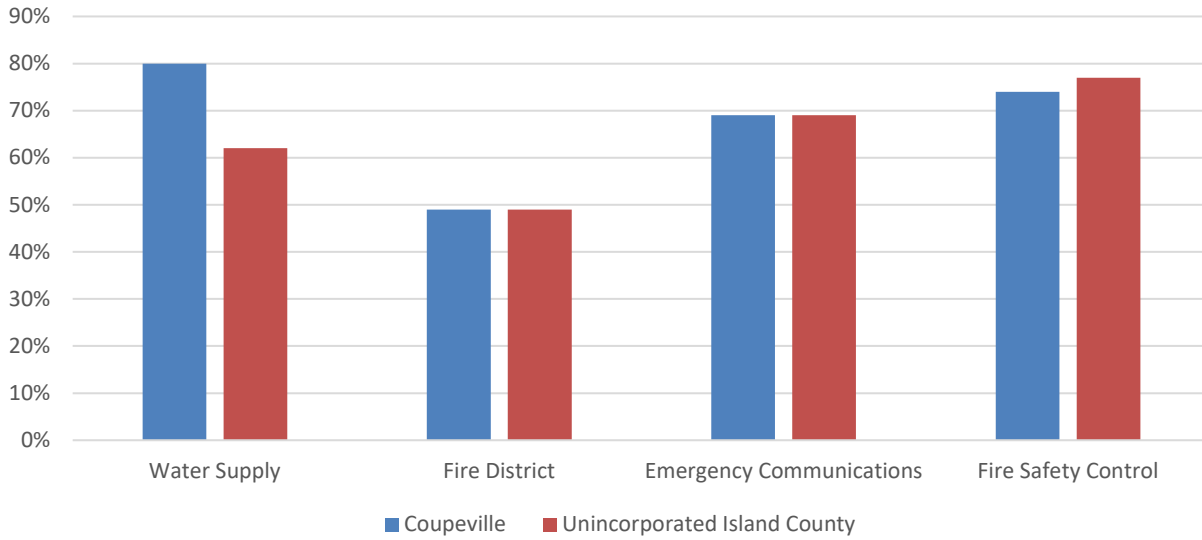
Figure 2. Number of Washington Communities by Protection Class



Some elements considered by WSRB in determining protection class are identical for the Town of Coupeville and the remainder of the district. These include the fire district and emergency communications. Water supply

and fire safety control vary between the town and unincorporated area of the county. Scoring of each category is illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3. WSRB Grading by Jurisdiction and Grading Category



The WSRB also provides a more detailed breakdown of scoring by grading category as illustrated in Figures 4-7.

Figure 4. Water Supply Grading

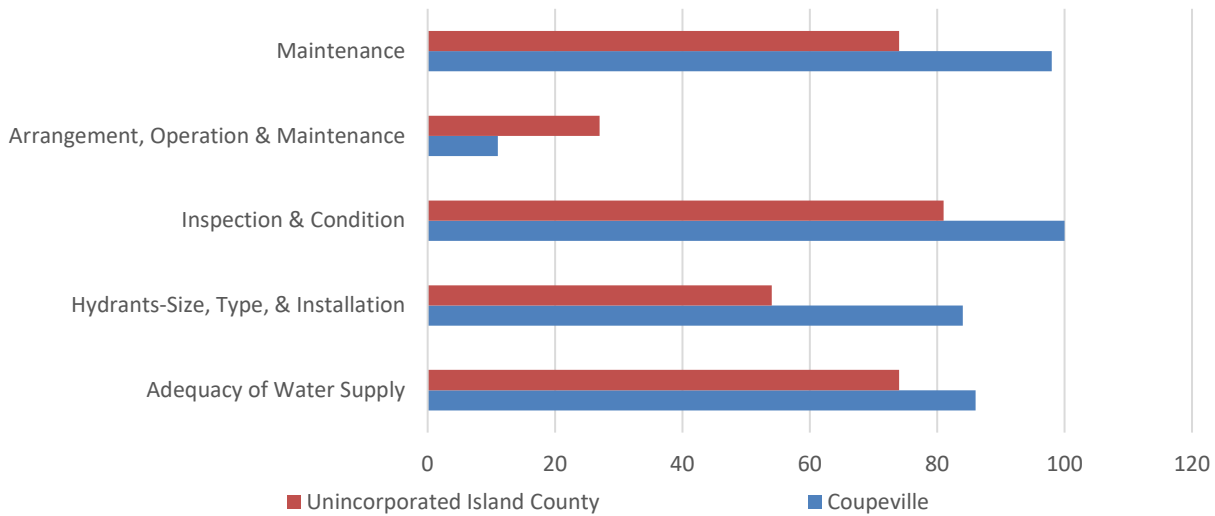


Figure 5. Fire District Grading

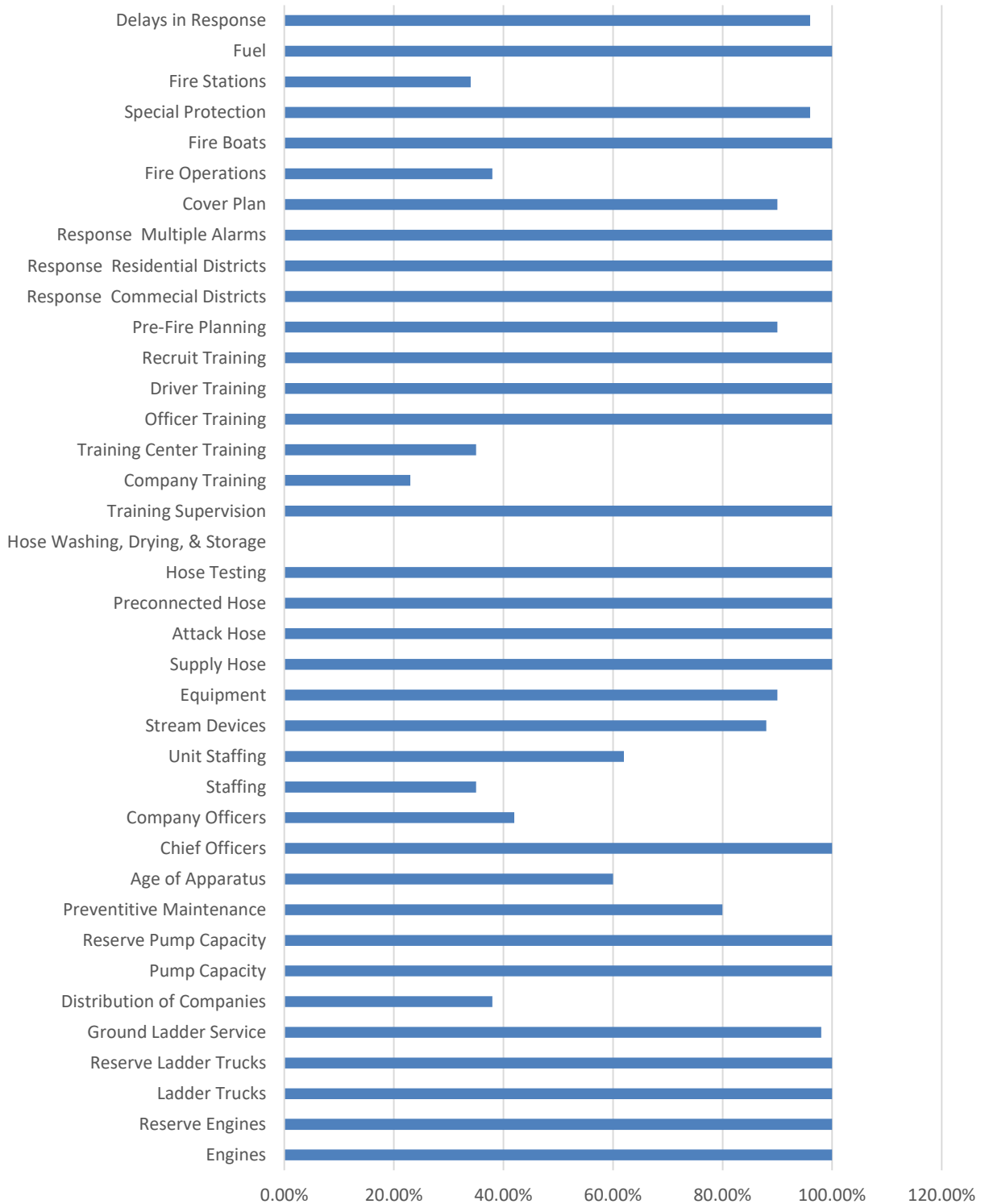


Figure 6. Emergency Communications Grading

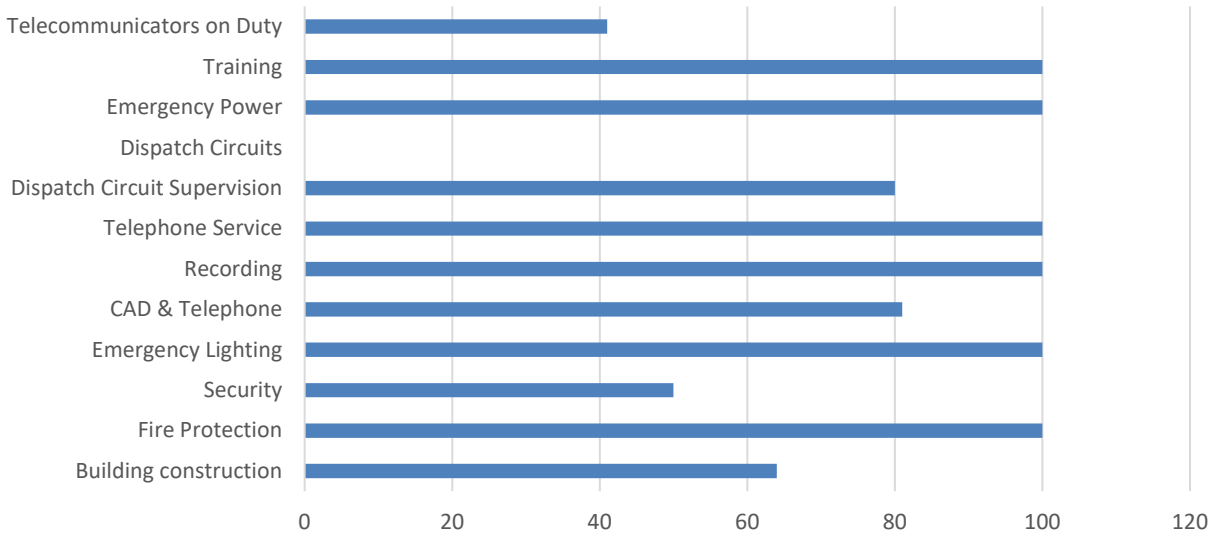


Figure 7. Fire Safety Grading

