



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

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

To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
From: Chief Ed Hartin  
Date: February 11, 2021  
Subject: Chief's Report

## COVID-19

During the month of January COVID-19 was a factor in 26 incidents (18.34% of the total number of incidents for the month). This was a decrease from December where COVID-19 was a factor in 17 incidents (14.78% 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 January, the district received 140 calls for service as illustrated below. The district had 54 incidents occurring concurrently with other incidents. A significant number of these calls occurred during a wind storm on January 13<sup>th</sup>. However, many other concurrent calls involved two or three simultaneous incidents during normal operations.

Incident type	January
1 - Fire	2
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	75
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	23
5 - Service Call	23
6 - Good Intent Call	10
7 - False Alarm & False Call	7
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	140

## Administrative Activity

**BIAS/Springbrook:** Finance Officer Cathy Niuro and Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Specialist Sonja Lindenstein worked with Springbrook (formerly BIAS) to transition the district finance and accounting system to a cloud-based solution. The software is extremely similar to that previously used by the district but has a number of improved reporting capabilities and is more secure. This transition is largely complete with some additional work by Springbrook to address the ability of the district to save and print reports (i.e., printer and network configuration).

**Assistance to Firefighters Grants:** AIC Deputy Chief Helm has completed 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,

**Occupational Safety and Health Compliance Assessment:** AIC Deputy Chief Helm has initiated the process of completing a comprehensive assessment of the district's compliance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-305, the safety standard for firefighters in Washington State. He is being assisted in this project by AIC CAPT Meek, LT Derik Vrable, AIC LT Majestic, FF John Lloyd, FF Jim Huff, FF Kole Kellison, and Probationary Firefighter Travis Dotson.

**New District Website:** While we had hoped for a "go live date" of February 1<sup>st</sup> additional work was needed to update the section on fire insurance ratings (based on the districts recent re-rating) and upload of pdf documents related to audit and financial reports. We are getting closer by the day!

**Deputy Chief Assessment Process:** As previously discussed with the board previously, the first step in filling the position of deputy chief is to determine if this position will be filled internally or if an external recruitment will be required. Chief Hartin has been using a multi-step process to make this determination. First, Acting Deputy Chief Helm has been tasked with several complex project assignments requiring internal and external collaboration as well as completion of an occupational safety and health audit that had been assigned to the former deputy chief. The second (concurrent) step was a panel interview with Chief Chad Michael (Kennewick Fire Department), Chief Jason Cauhey (Laramie County WY Fire District #2), and Battalion Chief Rob Fisher (Snohomish County Fire District 7) to externally validate his professional development, leadership, and readiness for the position of Deputy Chief. This overall assessment will be completed within the next 30 days.

## Operations

**Lucas Chest Compression System:** In just over 30 days the district raised the funds needed for purchase of the Lucas Chest Compression System and CodeStat software which will allow integration of data from the Lucas, Lifepak 1000 automatic external defibrillators, and Lifepak 15 monitor/defibrillators used by WhidbeyHealth in support of continued improvement of resuscitation.

**Records Management System Evaluation:** FF Jeff Rhodes has initiated a project to compare the districts current ImageTrend records management system with the ESO records management system being used by WhidbeyHealth (a recent change from ImageTrend). The hospital's decision to change records management systems has an impact on our members who must now complete duplicate reports. FF Rhodes is working with a project team comprised of LT Porter, FF Burnett, FF Slothower and Administrative Assistant Lindenstein to examine the impacts and advantages and disadvantages of continuing to use ImageTrend versus switching to

ESO (which is being used by a number of accredited agencies in the region). This working group has been tasked with completing a report inclusive of recommendations by February 28, 2021.

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

**Fire & Life Safety Inspections:** LT Jen Porter continued work on a strategy to address both physical and self-inspections in 2021 based on current and future issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Completion was delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 (received by Chief Hartin on February 9, 2021).

**Home Safety Surveys/Smoke Alarm:** Batteries were installed in multiple smoke alarms along with several homeowner purchased 10-year smoke alarms. LT Porter assisted with two emergency car seat safety checks.

### **Training**

**In-Service Training:** Training during the month of January included epinephrine injection, vehicle extrication, Blue Card incident management, electronic patient care reporting in ESO (new records management software used by WhidbeyHealth).

**Island County Recruit Academy:** Delivery of training for the 2021 Island County Recruit academy has commenced using a hybrid format with Zoom classroom training and in-person skills training while maintaining appropriate COVID-19 precautions.

### **Facilities**

**Station 53 Construction:** Island County has accepted the district's building permit application pending a new water sufficiency report (the prior one is a year old) and payment of the permit fee. Once a permit is issued, the district will be able to go out to bid. Carletti Architects is working on a timeline for groundbreaking in the second quarter.

### **Fleet Maintenance**

**Type One Engines:** In the month of January FF/Mech Matros focused most of his time on fleet procurements. He and AIC DC Helm have been continuing their work with Rosenbauer to ensure that the Type I trucks are being built to CWIFR's specifications. They will be traveling to Rosenbauer on February 15<sup>th</sup> to inspect the cab and chassis.

**Type Five Engines:** FF/Mech Matros has also been working with Mallory Fire to ensure that the brush trucks will meet our expectations. He and FF Stevens went to Mallory Fire and retrieved the brush truck on January 28<sup>th</sup>. FF/Mech Matros decided to hold it out of service so that it can be brought to Dodge for recall work in early February before placing it back in service.

**Fleet Service Truck:** FF/Mech Matros is also close to completing the procurement of a new service truck for the district as shown in the capital procurement schedule.