



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

www.cwfire.org

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

COVID-19

During the month of February COVID-19 was a factor in 19 incidents (16.81% of the total number of incidents for the month). This was a decrease from January where COVID-19 was a factor in 26 incidents (18.34% 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 February, the district received 103 calls for service as illustrated below. The district had 25 incidents occurring concurrently with other incidents.

Incident type	February
1 - Fire	2
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	61
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	7
5 - Service Call	16
6 - Good Intent Call	4
7 - False Alarm & False Call	13
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	103

Administrative Activity

Occupational Safety and Health Compliance Assessment: AIC Deputy Chief Helm has completed more than 50% of a comprehensive assessment of the district's compliance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-305, the safety standard for firefighters in Washington State and is on target to complete this project before the end of March. 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: The new district web site is live! We are currently working through the process of ensuring that we can make updates to content and upload documents to provide timely public access.

Assistance to Firefighters Grants: AIC Deputy Chief Helm completed 1) development of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for fire station diesel exhaust extraction systems and personal protective equipment cleaning system, 2) a second regional AFG application for replacement of portable and mobile radios in conjunction with North Whidbey Fire and Rescue. In addition, he has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modify our current COVID grants to allow purchase of powered air purifying respirators to provide improved respiratory protection during medical responses.

Deputy Chief Assessment Process: Based on assessment of Captain Helm's performance as acting deputy chief and external validation of his professional development, leadership, and readiness for the position of deputy chief through a comprehensive panel interview with external assessors, I have determined that it is in the best interest of the district to fill the position of deputy chief internally. As such I intend to promote Captain Jerry Helm to deputy chief effective April 1, 2021. The district extends thanks to the following external assessors who assisted in this process: 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). Deputy Chief Helm will be officially sworn in to his new position at the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners on April 8, 2021.

EMS Contingency Planning: Whidbey Island fire agencies work closely with WhidbeyHealth EMS in delivery of emergency medical services to the community. Recent financial challenges faced by WhidbeyHealth have raised concern and the need for contingency planning to ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of the community. All of the agencies concerned have committed to engaging in a contingency planning process to address any potential concerns and issues related to EMS delivery. The contingency planning process will begin on March 16, 2021.

Operations

BLS Ambulance: District staff identified multiple significant leaks in the onboard oxygen system of the WhidbeyHealth ambulance that had been assigned as AID503. Acting Deputy Chief Helm worked with Lead Paramedics Tumblin and Franzen to get this issue corrected by replacing the ambulance with a newer one.

Lucas Chest Compression System: The district has taken delivery of the Lucas 3 Chest Compression System and has begun the process of training our members in its use. We are working closely with Dr. Krystal Baciak in development of a protocol for use of this device and hope to have it in service within the next 60 days.

Records Management System Evaluation: FF Jeff Rhodes has completed a project to compare the district's current ImageTrend records management system with the ESO records management system being used by WhidbeyHealth (a recent change from ImageTrend). FF Rhodes was assisted by a project team comprised of LT

Porter, FF Burnett, FF Slothower and Administrative Assistant Lindenstone 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). The working group has recommended shifting from ImageTrend to ESO despite an increase in cost due to increases in efficiency. Chief Hartin will meet with the working group to discuss their recommendations, evaluate budgetary and workload impacts of implementation in the current year versus delaying implementation until January 2022.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Division Goals and Objectives: LT Porter provided Chief Hartin an outline of community risk reduction goals for fire investigation and plans review. Work is ongoing to improve these facets of our community risk reduction program.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections: LT Jen Porter completed a strategy to address 2021 fire code compliance through both physical and self-inspections. The district's general order addressing operations during the COVID-19 pandemic has been updated to permit physical inspections and home safety surveys provided that appropriate personal protective equipment is used.

Plans Review: Preliminary consultation provided regarding code requirements and fire suppression systems for conversion of the former Kingdom Hall at the intersection of SR 20 and Morris Road from a place of worship to a homeless shelter.

Training

In-Service Training: Training during the month of February included Blue Card incident management, advanced airway management, confined space awareness, COVID vaccination administration, as well as hose deployment and hydrants, roll up drills with size-up and 360-degree reconnaissance and hose deployment.

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

Fire Code/Inspections Training: Community Risk Reduction Manager LT Jen Porter conducted a 2021 fire code update for all of the district's certified fire code inspectors. The district has also implemented an on-line training program provided by the Washington State Fire Marshal's Association to provide continuing education necessary for inspectors to maintain their certification.

Wildland Fire Training: Acting Deputy Chief Helm completed S290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior and S131 Firefighter Type 1 training offered by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. In addition, he has completed approximately 80% of the task book required for qualification as a Firefighter Type 1. This qualification will allow the district to conduct internal training for Firefighter Type 2 (minimum qualification for wildland deployment).

Regional Firefighter Certification Testing: As a state certified test control officer (TCO) Acting Deputy Chief Helm has set up a regional test for firefighter certification integrating recruit academies being conducted by North Whidbey Fire and Rescue and Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue/South Whidbey Fire-EMS.

Facilities

Station 53 Construction: LT Vrable has completed a plan for relocation of district apparatus and personnel during construction of the new facilities at Station 53. On-duty staff will be relocated to Station 51 along with Engine 53, AID503, Brush 53, Rescue 53 and Marine 5. AID503, Rescue 53, and Marine 5 will be located outside the apparatus room. The Training and Recruitment Captain, Firefighter/Mechanic, and Deputy Chief along with Tender 53 will be relocated to Station 54 (providing daytime staffing at that station). Engine 542 and Rescue 51 will be relocated to Station 52 for storage. Storage for the district's reserve engine is being negotiated with one of our neighboring districts. This plan is based on the district's call distribution and that the smallest number of calls occurs in FMZ 54 at night and on weekends (approximately 10% of total calls). Additional work will be undertaken to increase off-duty and callback response from Station 54 during the evening and weekend hours. Administrative staff (Chief, Finance Officer, and Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Specialist) will be working remotely and meeting several times per week at Station 51 or Station 54.

Fleet Maintenance

Type One Engines: In the month of February FF/ Mechanic Matros and Acting Deputy Chief Helm traveled to Rosenbauer to complete a cab and chassis inspection prior to completion of the pump installation and apparatus body construction.

Type Five Engines: Warranty work (Mallory) and recall repair (Dodge) have been completed and Brush 53 and 54 are both in-service well in advance of the 2021 wildland fire season.

Fleet Service Truck: FF/Mech Matros has completed the procurement of a new fleet maintenance service truck pending approval by the board for purchase through Washington State contract. The original cost exceeded budgeted funds and Acting Deputy Chief Helm worked with FF/Mechanic Matros to refine the specifications and bring this project in under budget.

Fleet Maintenance Staffing and Workload Analysis: Deputy Chief Helm and Firefighter/Mechanic Mike Matros have started the process of quantifying the district's current fleet maintenance workload and scheduling of fleet maintenance activity as a key element in process improvement.