



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Chief Ed Hartin  
Deputy Chief Jerry Helm

Date: August 12, 2021

Subject: Chief's Report

## COVID-19

During the month of June COVID-19 was a factor in 14 incidents (7.18% of the total number of incidents for the month). The number of suspected cases increased slightly, but percentagewise the district saw a decrease from June COVID-19 was a factor in 13 incidents (8.39% 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. COVID-19 continues to be a concern, particularly with the prevalence of the delta variant. Data from the state department of health shows a downward trend in case rate over the 14-day period between June 24 and July 8. However, later data is not available and WhidbeyHealth ED has reported an increase on COVID-19 cases.

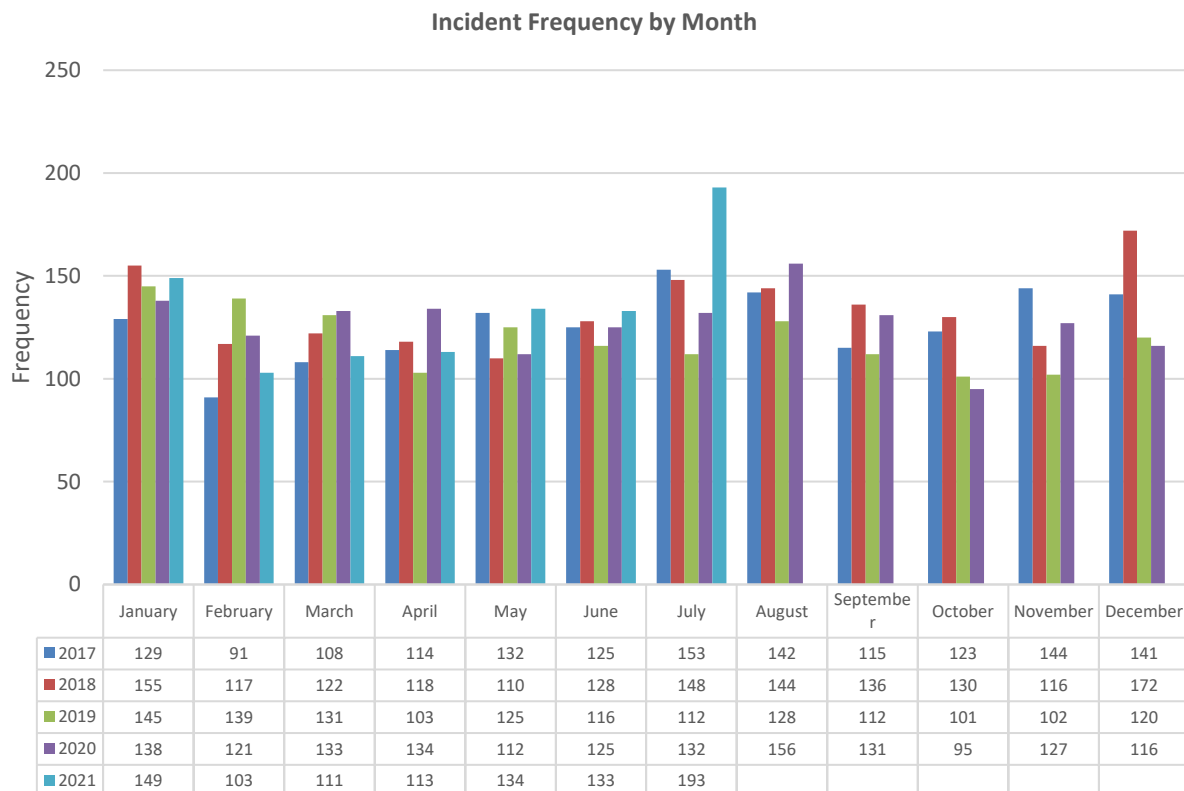
## Operational Activity

During the month of July, the district received 193 calls for service as illustrated below. The district had 22 instances of incidents occurring concurrently impacting a total of 47 incidents. Four instances of overlapping calls involved three or more incidents occurring concurrently.

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	13
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	113
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4
5 - Service Call	35
6 - Good Intent Call	20
7 - False Alarm & False Call	9
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	193

Significant incidents included a technical rescue at South Whidbey State Park that required a patient to be lifted by winch to the rescue helicopter and an approximate 10-acre brush fire on Patmore Road adjacent to the US Navy Outlying Field (OLF). This fire was caused by malfunction of a tractor mowing a hay field on US Navy property. This is a recurring type of incident at OLF and we will address this issue with the Navy.

July 2021 had the highest call volume of any month in district history (inclusive of months where call volume was impacted by natural hazards events such as snow or wind storms as illustrated by the following chart.



### Administrative Activity

**Part-Time/Full-Time Firefighter Recruitment:** The district has extended conditional offers to two part-time firefighter candidates; Chris Harris (CWIFR volunteer) and Mason Jones (external candidate). The district also is maintaining a pool of nine qualified full-time candidates and anticipates filling a full-time firefighter vacancy after completion of the promotional process scheduled for October of this year.

**Northwest Accreditation and Credentialing Consortium:** Chief Hartin participated in an on-line consortium coordinator meeting with Center for Public Safety Excellence Staff. This meeting covered a lot of ground but one topic of significant interest was implementation of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment Model. Chief Hartin served on the project team for revision of category four of the model dealing with finance.

**Collective Bargaining:** Chief Hartin and representatives of the Local 4299 International Association of Firefighters bargaining team and developed a total compensation spreadsheet for members with 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service. Bargaining is scheduled to continue later this month due to vacation scheduling.

## Operations

**Wildland Mobilization:** The district has deployed resources on four in-state mobilizations and one emergency management assistance compact (EMAC) mobilization to Oregon during the month of July (one mobilization started in June). In two of these incidents, CWIFR partnered with Camano Island Fire Rescue (CIFR) to jointly staff resources (a CWIFR Type 2 Water Tender and a CIFR Type 6 Engine).

Incident	Resource	Staffing	Days Deployed
Cedar Hill Fire	Type 5 Engine	2 CWIFR	3
Silcott Fire	Type 5 Engine	3 CWIFR	3
Dry Gulch Fire	Type 5 Engine	3 CWIFR	9
Bootleg Fire (OR)	Type 2 Water Tender	1 CWIFR & 1 CIFR	15
Cedar Creek	Type 6 Engine (CIFR)	1 CWIFR & 1 CIFR	4

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) and Oregon Emergency Management will reimburse the district for the staff and resources mobilized to these incidents as well as the staff required to cover vacancies created by the respective mobilizations. Current gross revenue from in-state and EMAC mobilizations is over \$77,000 (\$37,830 of which is reimbursement for district apparatus).

**Respiratory Protection:** New Scott self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) have been placed in service. These SCBA have increased air capacity and meet current occupational safety and health standards. In addition, the district will be adding additional rescue air supply breathing apparatus (i.e., rapid intervention team (RIT) packs to Engines 51, 53, and 54. The district has received ten powered air purifying respirators funded with an Assistance to Firefighters COVID Grant.

## Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

**Fire & Life Safety Inspections:** 3 physical fire and life safety inspections were completed in June. In addition, LT Porter completed two hours of administrative work on the inspection program. LT Porter witnessed the fire sprinkler test at 12 NW Front Street a renovated mixed use occupancy building.

**Fire Investigation:** LT Porter completed courtroom testimony practical skills for certification as a Fire Investigator I.

**Fire and Life Safety Consultation:** LT Porter worked with Camp Casey regarding their alarm system and Regency of Coupeville regarding their hood and fire alarm systems.

**Home Safety Surveys:** B Shift completed a total of two smoke alarm installations/smoke alarm battery changes.

**Other Community Risk Reduction Activity:** LT Porter presented “What we do, a CRR overview” to a Parkinson’s support group.

## Training

**In-Service Training:** Training during the month of July included medical assessment and treatment of strokes, mayday simulations, rapid intervention training.

**Instructor Training:** CAPT Meek and FF Slothower both obtained qualification IFSAC Firefighter Evaluators.

**EMT Academy:** Five members are attending the Island County EMT Academy.

### Facilities

**Facilities Division Transition:** AIC LT Jim Huff has assumed his duties as the facilities division manager and has started the process of assessing the current status of facilities maintenance and developing a plan to complete required preventative maintenance for 2021.

**Station 53 Construction:** STATUS OF PERMIT.

### Fleet Maintenance

During the month of July FF/Mech Matros was able to perform some preventative maintenance and repairs while still focusing most of his time on lighter duty operations due to recovery from his shoulder surgery. He is progressing on schedule and will continue with physical therapy until healed. Most notable shop work included inspections and services on the Brush trucks and Tender for a quick turnaround time for future deployments. Other small shop items to note were rebuilding E-512's master stream, small repairs on E-54, and replacing batteries on Unit 9501. Admin duties consisted of St-53 construction work, online training, 2022 budget, parts, and repair orders

**Type 1 Engines:** Rosenbauer reports that district's three new engines are for final inspection in August 15-20, 2021 with delivery anticipated by the end of September.