



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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To: Board of Fire Commissioners
From: Chief Ed Hartin
Date: October 14, 2021
Subject: Chief's Report

COVID-19

During the month of September COVID-19 was a factor in 40 incidents (19.42% of the total number of incidents for the month). The number of suspected and confirmed cases increased from 30 incidents in the month of August. The percentage of total incidents was slightly less than in August, due to a significant number of windstorm related incidents. September 2021 showed the number of EMS responses in which COVID-19 was a factor and the largest single month increase in COVID related responses since this statistic has been tracked.

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.

Operational Activity

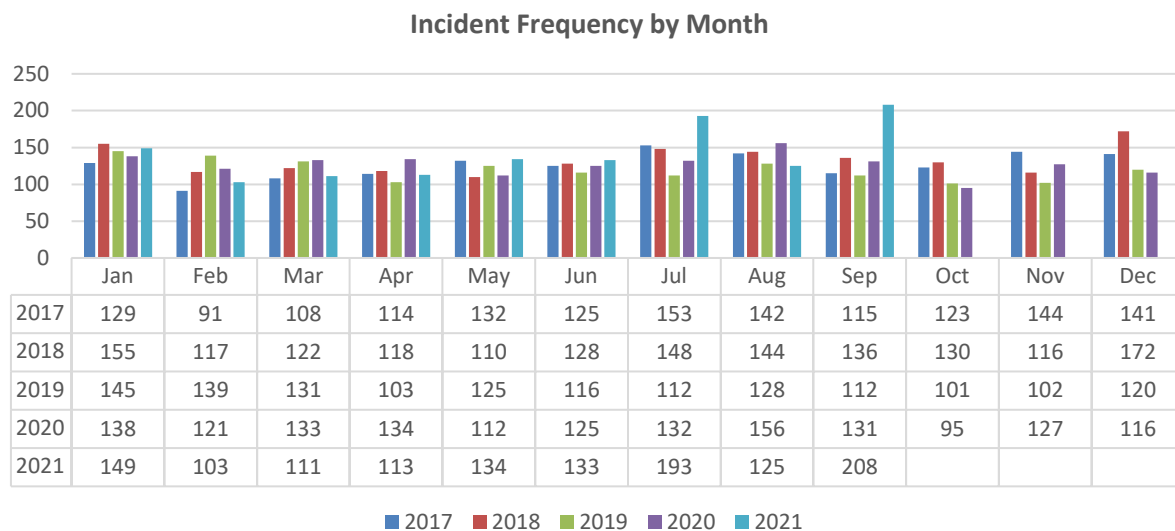
During the month of September, the district received 206 calls for service as illustrated below. The district had 20 instances of incidents occurring concurrently impacting a total of 45 incidents. Three instances of overlapping calls involved three or more incidents occurring concurrently (one of these involved six incidents).

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	11
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	1
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	118
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	9
5 - Service Call	34
6 - Good Intent Call	20
7 - False Alarm & False Call	10
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	206

CWIFR experienced an emergency incident involving our own personnel during the September wind storm. Deputy Chief Jerry Helm and Firefighter Dalton Martin were returning to Coupeville through Saratoga Passage following a marine incident when Marine 5 lost steering and ended up on the rocks and against a seawall at Hidden Beach. Marine 5 was severely damaged, but fortunately the crew was able to escape to land by jumping from the vessel to the seawall. The district implemented a facilitated learning analysis (FLA) to investigate this incident and identify lessons that can be learned. The FLA process was developed by the United States Forest Service to investigate and learn from wildland fire accidents. This effort is being led by Firefighter Travis Dodson who’s regular job is as an analyst with the National Wildfire Lessons Learned Center. Travis’s team includes Acting Captain James Meek, Firefighter Kolton Kellison, Division Chief Jim O’Connor (North Whidbey Fire & Rescue), Firefighter Neil Carson (Camano Island Fire & Rescue), Deputy Chief Terry Ney, and Captain Tom Gideon (South Whidbey Fire/EMS). The FLA report is due to be completed by the first week of November. Marine 5 has been transported to Safe Boat in Bremerton WA for assessment of the steering failure and survey to determine if it is repairable or will require replacement. A claim has been filed with the district’s insurance and an adjuster will be examining Marine 5 while it is at Safe Boat

CWIFR also responded to a significant trauma incident during the month of September, involving a major motor vehicle accident. Over the last several months the district has engaged in multiple vehicle extrication incidents in which our new Holmatro hydraulic rescue tools have proved to be extremely capable. Kudos to Acting Lieutenant Jim Huff and Firefighter Dalton Martin who performed most of this extrication work.

September 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

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award: The district received its eighth consecutive Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2021 Annual Budget and Budget in Brief. This award is the GFOA's highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and is based on assessment of how well the budget serves as 1) a policy document, 2) a financial plan, 3) an operations guide, and 4) a communications device. 38% of the total number of scores received by the three reviewers were (4) Outstanding, with all other ratings being (3) Satisfactory. The categories of long-range operating financial plan and department/fund relationship were rated (4) Outstanding by all three raters.

Part-Time Firefighter Recruitment: A recruitment effort is underway to fill the three vacant part-time firefighter positions.

Vaccination Mandate: All members with the exception of one member who is on extended sick leave are in compliance with Governor Inslee's vaccine mandate for health care workers. Two members have been granted religious exemptions and been granted reasonable accommodation that will provide for both their protection and that of other members.

2022 Budget: Development of the proposed 2022 district budget has been completed and will be submitted to the board at their regular meeting on October 14, 2021.

Grievance: The board of fire commissioners denied the step two grievance submitted by Local 4299 regarding demotion of Derik Vrable from Lieutenant to Firefighter. The local has 10 working days to determine if they wish to take this grievance to arbitration.

Operations

Wildland Mobilization: This has been an extremely busy year for all-hazards mobilization due to wildland fires.

Incident Name	WSP or EMAC	Apparatus	Deployed Personnel Revenue	Backfill Personnel Revenue	Apparatus Revenue	Incident Subtotal	Days Deployed
Cedar Hill Fire	WSP	Type 5 Engine	\$2,513.78	\$1,531.68	\$2,856.00	\$6,901.46	3.00
Silcott Fire	WSP	Type 5 Engine	\$2,325.36	\$919.92	\$2,856.00	\$6,101.28	3.00
Dry Gulch	WSP	Type 5 Engine	\$7,931.28	\$4,804.80	\$8,568.00	\$21,304.08	9.00
Bootleg (CA)	EMAC	Type2 Water Tender	\$19,293.84	\$5,787.84	\$23,550.00	\$48,631.68	15.00
Cedar Creek	WSP	(Camano) Type 6	\$1,032.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,032.31	4.00
Fox Complex (OR)	EMAC	Type2 Water Tender	\$8,857.15	\$2,902.32	\$7,140.00	\$18,899.47	6.00
Monument Fire (CA)	EMAC	Type2 Water Tender	\$13,896.77	\$6,762.96	\$10,710.00	\$31,369.73	10.00
Monument Fire (Extension)	EMAC	Type2 Water Tender	\$6,175.36	\$0.00	\$8,663.54	\$14,838.90	9.00
Caldor Fire (CA)	EMAC	Type2 Water Tender	\$15,149.62	\$1,356.96	\$21,109.29	\$37,615.87	18.00
Total			\$77,175.47	\$24,066.48	\$85,452.83	\$186,694.78	77.00

The Washington State Patrol (Fire Marshal's Office) as well as Oregon and California 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.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Fire and Life Safety Inspections: B shift completed two physical-inspections and one reinspection. Other inspection activity was limited due to high monthly call volume.

Home Safety Surveys: Two home safety surveys were completed with batteries replaced in seven smoke alarms, three new smoke alarms (purchased by homeowners) installed, and the location and status of existing carbon monoxide alarms checked.

Plan Review: Reviewed plans for installation of a new propane tank and type one (stove) hood at WhidbeyHealth Medical Center.

Public Education: Two fire extinguisher classes conducted for Island County employees.

Other Community Risk Reduction Activity: One car seat safety inspection.

Training

In-Service Training: September's training consisted of hazmat operations, cardiac arrest management, crew resource management with Eugene Reynolds of Life Flight, and setting up for tender shuttle

New Member Training: Orientation and training was conducted for new part-time FF/EMT Mason Jones

Emergency Vehicle Driver Instructor Certification: AIC Captain James Meek completed training for certification as an emergency vehicle driving instructor.

Apparatus Operator Training: FF Justin Burnet qualified as a water tender operator and FF Dalton Martin qualified as an engine operator.

Fire Academy: Training officers from North Whidbey Fire and Rescue, CWIFR, and South Whidbey Fire/EMS agreed to conduct a joint Firefighter Academy in 2022 (first time all three agencies will participate in a common academy in several years).

Facilities

Station 53 Construction: As reported by Tim Goodman, Carletti Architects continues in final consultation with the electrical and structural engineers in preparation to close out the items necessary for issuance of a building permit.

Fleet Maintenance

During the month of September FF/Mech Matros has been transitioning into more of his normal duties although he is still exercising caution to not create prolonged injury from his surgery. Administrative duties included keeping up to date on EMS training through Vector Solutions online training. Work on the new facility, communicating with Rosenbauer on the new Type I engines, along with standard fleet management work regarding scheduling, parts, and repair orders. Fleet work included many small routine repairs along with scheduled preventive servicing and some outside vendor work. Command Unit 1402 received a scheduled PM and a complete brake job due to worn pads and a sticking left rear brake caliper. Unit 2001 (B-53) was taken to Kar Mart Dodge for a Transmission and Powertrain software update per Dodge recall. B-54 will probably have to have the same update completed in the future. Unit 1401, (E-53) was taken to Freightliner NW for front brake work due to normal wear found on PM inspection. Unit 0702 (T-54) was inspected and placed back in service after returning from California's wildland deployment. It will be receiving its NFPA 1911 inspection in October in which many more repairs will be completed due to its deployment.

Type 1 Engines: The district's new type one engines will begin arriving at General Fire in Spokane for final prep prior to delivery. District staff will fly to Spokane in early November to perform a final inspection and bring the three new apparatus back to Central Whidbey!