



# 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/Deputy Chief Jerry Helm  
Date: August 11, 2022  
Subject: Chief's Report

## Operation Bug Out

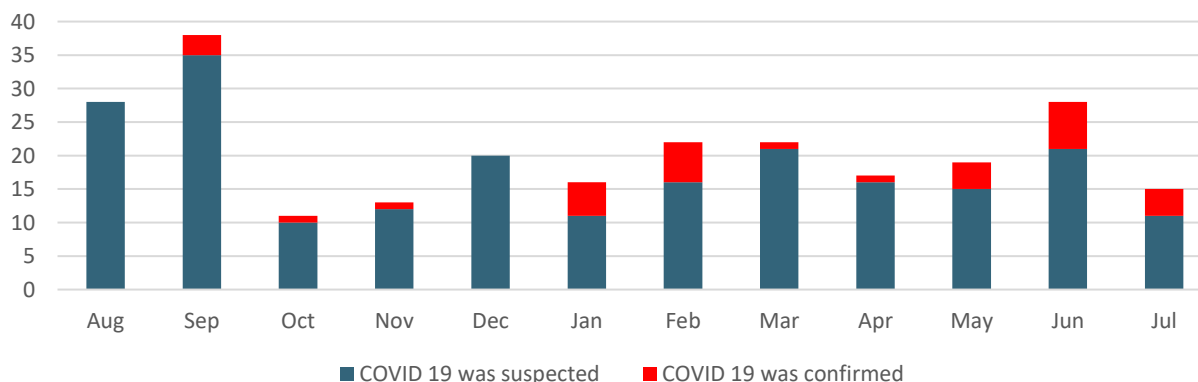
Conditional use permit, check; building permit, check; bids for construction, check. Signed contact with Tiger Construction, check. Scheduled start of demolition and construction, check. Time to bug out! Starting the weekend of August 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be putting the full court press on moving out of Station 53 with targeted date for relocation by September 5<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Chief Jerry Helm will be the incident commander for the move and will coordinate relocation of on-duty staff to Station 51 and training and fleet maintenance (at least for now) to Station 54. Deputy Chief Helm and Chief Hartin will alternate between working from home and at Station 54 to maximize available space for training at Station 54. Once Deputy Chief Helm nails down the move schedule and related logistics it will be all hands on deck to get this move done within the available time.

## COVID-19

During the month of July COVID-19 was a factor in 15 incidents (9.75% of the total number of incidents for the month). In June COVID-19 was a factor in 28 incidents (21.00% 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 and emergence of the omicron variants .

As illustrated below, COVID-19 has had an ongoing impact on incident operations, but the frequency with which our members have encountered this disease has fluctuated through the preceding year.

July 2021-June 2022 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



## Operational Activity

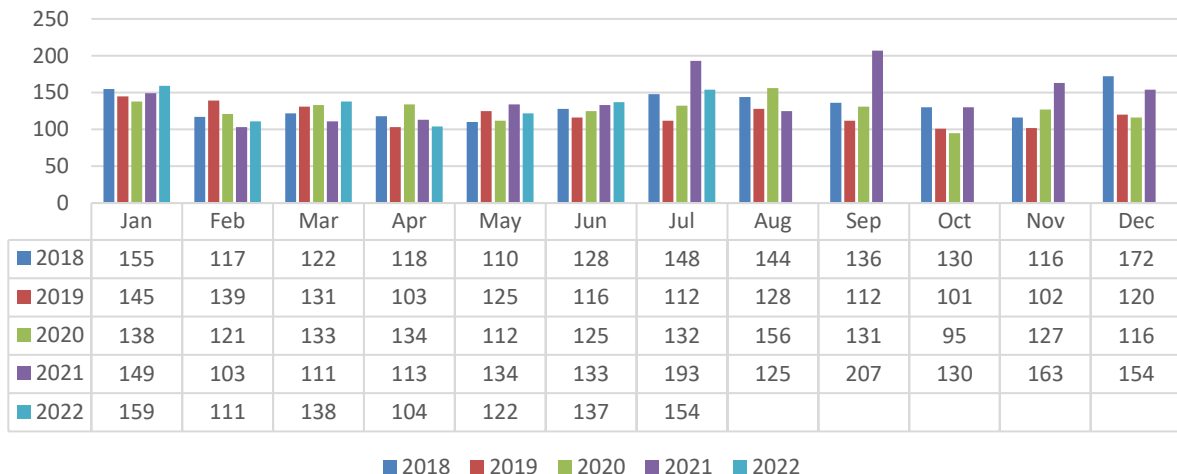
**REVISE WHEN REPORTS ARE COMPLETE**

During the month of June, the district received 134 calls for service as illustrated below. The district had 41 concurrent incidents (simultaneous calls). In 14 instances there was an overlap of three or more incidents.

### Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	5
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	94
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4
5 - Service Call	20
6 - Good Intent Call	19
7 - False Alarm & False Call	12
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>

### Incident Frequency by Month



## Administrative Activity

**Staffing:** Firefighter Jesse Caravan has transitioned from volunteer to part-time status and the district has hired Cooper Ullmann as a part-time firefighter (we share Cooper with South Whidbey Fire/EMS where he is a volunteer firefighter).

**Professional Development Division Chief:** Division Chief Jim Mirabile, completed his budget development assignment and recertified as an emergency medical technician with the National Registry of EMTs (a key component in gaining reciprocity with the Washington Department of Health). Chief Mirabile anticipates completion of Blue Card Incident Commander on-line training prior to arriving on Whidbey Island on August 29, 2022.

**Collective Bargaining:** The district reached agreement with Local 4299 International Association of Firefighters on a one-year contract (January 2022 to December 2022). Upon ratification of this agreement by the district and the local we will commence negotiations on a multi-year (typically three year) agreement. Deputy Chief Helm and Division Chief Mirabile will be the negotiating team for the district with Chief Helm serving as the lead negotiator. The district will be working with the local to have the Public Employee Relations Commission conduct a training session on interest-based bargaining prior to the start of these negotiations to aid Chief Mirabile and new members of the local's bargaining team in getting up to speed with Washington labor law and the concept of interest based bargaining.

**Master Mutual Aid Agreement:** There has been no progress in renewing the long-expired master mutual aid agreement between the fire districts, cities, towns, Island Transit, and Island County. The Island County Fire Chiefs Association continues to try to bring this project to closure.

**Island County Fire Inspections Interlocal Agreement:** The chiefs of the fire districts within Island County have continued efforts to revise the existing fire inspections interlocal agreement. Most recently Chief Hartin facilitated a meeting of the chiefs to identify areas of alignment between the districts and potential alignment with the Island County Planning and Community Development Department. The chiefs will be meeting with Mary Engle this week to discuss next steps and how to move revision of this agreement forward. As Chief Hartin will be off the island, Lieutenant Jen Porter, Community Risk Reduction Manager will represent the district at this meeting.

**Inter-District Collaboration:** Chief Hartin and SWFE Chief Nick Walsh have been having ongoing communication regarding increased collaboration and cooperation between the districts. Division Chief Mirabile and Division Chief Dilley (South Whidbey Fire/EMS) have had virtual meetings to begin the process of developing an integrated training schedule and program for our two districts with targeted implementation of a pilot program in 2023. Chiefs Hartin & Walsh have continued discussion and plan to meet with the staff of both districts later this month to discuss integrated fleet maintenance.

## Operations

**Standard Inventory:** Lieutenant James Meek completed standardized inventory for the district's type five engines for the upcoming wildland fire season and anticipates completion of standard type one engine inventory by the end of September. However, this may be impacted by Operation Bug Out.

**QA/CQI:** Firefighter Jeff Rhodes audited 142 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and emergency medical patient care reports.

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus:** Warranty inspection, maintenance, and flow testing was conducted on all district SCBA.

## Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

**Fire Code Inspections:** During the month the following fire code inspections were completed:

- A shift completed four physical inspections with four of four July inspections completed. For the year-to-date A shift has completed sixty seven of seventy two annual inspections (thirty-seven of which are at Camp Casey) for a 93% completion rate.

- B shift completed seven physical inspections with five of five July initial inspections completed. For the year-to-date B Shift has completed thirty five of forty-two inspections for an 83% completion rate.
- C shift completed one physical inspection with one of five June inspections completed. For the year-to-date C shift has completed twenty eight of thirty six annual inspections for an 78% completion rate.

**Public Education and Engagement:** B Shift conducted AED/CPR/1<sup>st</sup> aid refresher training for the Docents at Admiralty Head Lighthouse (15 persons) and provided a station tour for Ebey Academy. Firefighter Burnett coordinated and participated in a “Touch a Truck” and “Senior Services Anniversary” events

**Home Safety Surveys/Smoke Alarm Installations:** B Shift installed one smoke alarm and C Shift installed 4 smoke alarms and changed batteries in four smoke alarms.

**Public Information:** FF Burnett prepared a press release with fire safety information for a critical burn incident resulting in a fatality. While at the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI) Technical Panel Summit and Advisory Board meeting in Philadelphia, UL FSRI public communications staff commented that the press coverage and information presented regarding this incident was exceptional.

**Fire Code Enforcement Coordination:** LT Porter researched code information for a mental health holding room in the Whidbey Health emergency room and conducted a site visit and follow up to ensure compliance with the Regency Type I Hood system and Knox box replacement

### Professional Development

**In-Service Training:** In-service training focused on fundamental skills across a range of disciplines with training in Hose deployment and door entry, vehicle stabilization, relay operations, leadership, wildland progressive hoselay, pediatric respiratory compromise, Blue Card strip mall simulations, rope rescue, and fire inspector continuing education focused on fire alarm systems.

**Recruitment:** Firefighter Burnett has been doing an excellent job in recruitment and maintaining contact for new volunteers as they move forward through the recruitment process. Deputy Chief Jerry Helm, Firefighter Justin Burnett and Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Specialist Sonja Lindenstein met and developed improved systems for tracking and coordinating potential member recruitment and onboarding processes.

Excellent work by FF Burnett scheduling and conducting four volunteer interviews and continuing to work with many new and potential members to coordinate recruitment and retention.

**Part-Time Firefighter Training & Orientation:** Firefighter Kolton Kellison conducted training and orientation for Firefighter Jesse Caravan and Firefighter Cooper Ullmann as part of their on-boarding process as part-time firefighters.

**Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention Program:** Lieutenant Meek and Apparatus Operator Brent Stevens conducted two EVIP courses inclusive of low-speed maneuvering (cone course) for volunteer and part-time members. The EVIP course is a required component of apparatus operator qualification.

**Blue Card Training and Certification:** Lieutenant Jen Porter completed Blue Card incident commander recertification. An initial certification lab is scheduled for members from CWIFR, South Whidbey Fire/EMS, and North Whidbey Fire and Rescue.

## Facilities

**Station 53 Construction:** After the board's decision to award a contract to Tiger Construction for the Station 53 construction project, Deputy Chief Helm and Chief Hartin worked with Carletti Architects and the Chmelik, Sitkin, & Davis to finalize the contract for this project. Demolition and construction is scheduled to start on September 6, 2022. Chief Helm will work with the board to schedule a groundbreaking ceremony.

**Station 53 Move Out:** Operation Bug Out will be conducted starting approximately August 20, 2022 as previously noted. During the month of July, Deputy Chief Helm and Lieutenant Jim Huff facilitated movement of the breathing air compressor to Station 54. In addition, Lieutenant Huff purchased portable air conditioners for Station 51.

**Station Maintenance:** Lieutenant Jim Huff reports the following Station maintenance for the month of June: cleaned gutters, remounted the radio antenna, relocated the power/air hose for E54, and repaired women's toilet at station 54. Relocated the power/air hose for E51

**Grounds Maintenance:** All new lawn maintenance equipment has been delivered and in-service. Distribution of grounds maintenance equipment at each station will result in increased efficiency as staff will not need to move equipment from station to station.

**Diesel Exhaust Extraction Systems:** The district conducted a bid process for procurement of diesel exhaust extraction systems for each station. This project is funded in large part by an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Bids were evaluated and a recommendation for award will be provided to the board at their regular July meeting.

**Station 53 Hydrant Repair:** Firefighter Kellison repaired the station 53 hydrant- fabricating a pin to return the sprinkler system to service within one day of it going out of service. This has been a recurrent problem and the hydrant will be replaced as part of the new station construction.

## Fleet Maintenance

**Type One Engines:** During the month of July FF/Mech Matros has been continuing to coordinate, manage and work with Rosenbauer and Cummins warranty technicians to work through issues and crew concerns as they come up on the new Type I Rosenbauer engines. He will continue working with Rosenbauer's technician as parts cycle in and their technician is available. He has a running warranty list that is updated and sent to all parties involved so they are aware of concerns or issues as they arise.

**Preventative Maintenance:** Preventative Maintenance activity during the month included:

- Scheduled preventative maintenance was performed on Apparatus 1101 (Toyota Matrix).
- Fuel filters on Apparatus 2101 (E-54) to stay ahead of the issues that came up on its sister apparatus during the past couple of months. The three Rosenbauer type one engines will now be on a 250hr fuel filter preventative maintenance service based on the recommendation from Cummins Technicians.
- Apparatus 2002 (B-54) received its annual NFPA 1911 service.
- Apparatus 0702 (T-54) received its scheduled preventative maintenance. During its service he attempted to replace the leaking block heater. While this job is normally a few hours, the block heater

on this truck was stuck in the engine block. After spending a day trying to free it with no success, he sent the truck to Mt. Vernon Freightliner for correct repair.