



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

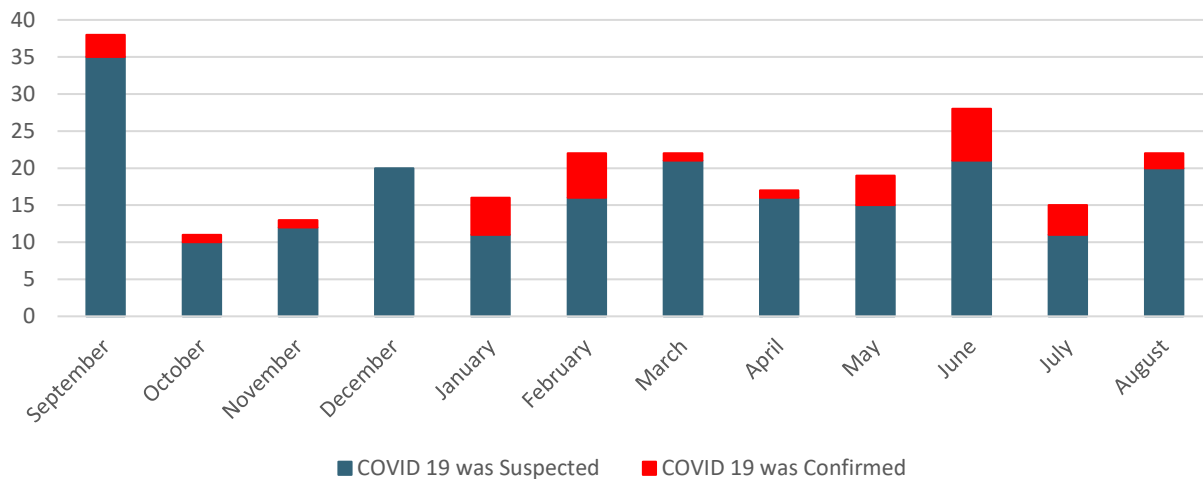
www.cwfire.org

To: Board of Fire Commissioners
From: Chief Ed Hartin/Deputy Chief Jerry Helm
Date: September 9, 2022
Subject: Chief's Report

COVID-19

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. May saw the highest number of incidents where COVID was a factor as well as the highest percentage of total calls where COVID was a factor since September 2021.

September 2021-August 2022 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



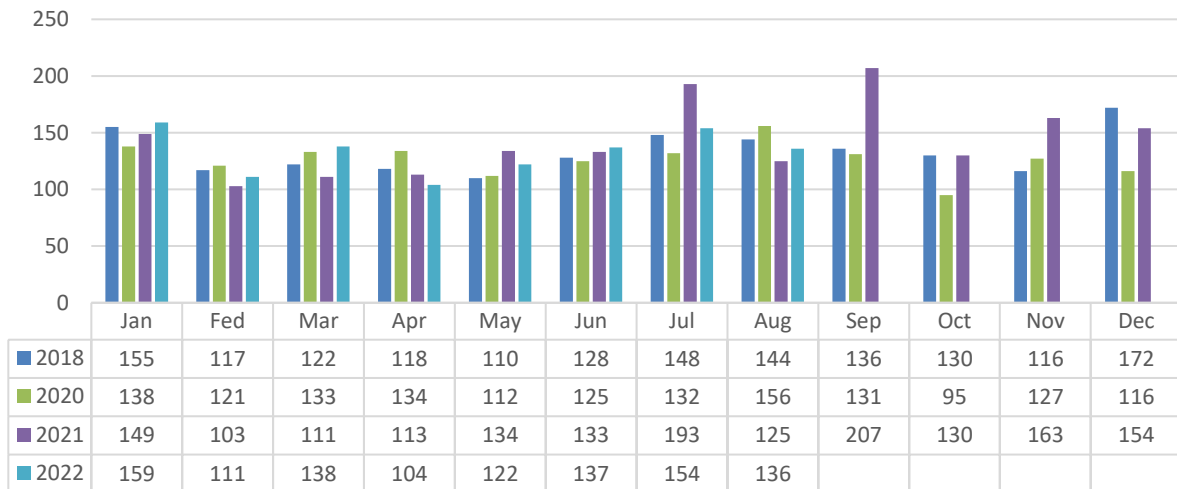
Operational Activity

During the month of August, 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	4
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	96
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2
5 - Service Call	16
6 - Good Intent Call	8
7 - False Alarm & False Call	9
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	135

Incident Frequency by Month



CWIFR participated in a large scale drill focused on a rotary wing aircraft incident at the US Navy Outlying Field in Coupeville along with the United States Navy, Naval Region Northwest Fire & Emergency Services, and WhidbeyHealth EMS.

Administrative Activity

Professional Development Division Chief: Division Chief Jim Mirabile started in-person work on August 31st wading into the midst of “Operation Bug Out” with the relocation of staff from Station 53 to Stations 51 and 54. Jim has successfully received reciprocity as a Washington Department of Health licensed emergency medical technician (EMT) and completed the Blue Card Incident Commander on-line training program. Jim is serving as command duty officer this week with Chiefs Helm and Hartin serving as his guide on the side until he is fully acclimated to our emergency response system Jim is scheduled to complete the three-day Blue Card simulation lab later this month (along with Firefighter Justin Burnett, and South Whidbey Fire/EMS Division Chief Joe Dilley).

Budget Development/Long Term Financial Plan: All divisions submitted their budgets narratives and expense estimates for 2023 complete and on-time and Chiefs Hartin and Helm along with Finance Officer Niiro are working to the proposed district budget within the framework of the district's long term financial plan.

As update of the long-term financial plan was delayed during the COVID pandemic, Chief Hartin is concurrently working to update the plan to address current and projected economic conditions. As Chief Mirabile gets fully up to speed as the district's professional development division chief and takes on in-service training in October, Chief Hartin will be able to shift from balancing the training officer's role with that of fire chief and make concerted progress on this component of integrated comprehensive planning.

Collective Bargaining: The district has reached tentative agreement with Local 4299, and this one-year collective bargaining agreement (expiring December 31, 2022) is being presented to the board for ratification at their regular September meeting. The district and the local have scheduled a training session on interest-based and collaborative bargaining with the Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC) for later this month. Chiefs Helm and Mirabile will be serving as the negotiating team for the district under the supervision of Chief Hartin. This provides a tremendous chief officer professional development opportunity for the deputy and division chiefs as well as building their working relationship with the local.

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: Discussion between the Island County Fire Chiefs (CWIFR was represented by LT Jen Porter) and Planning and Community Development Director Mary Engle have let to the county working to rebuild its capacity to perform fire inspections on a countywide basis. While this was not CWIFR's first choice, we agreed with the other districts that the best possible outcome is that the inspections are done and the fire code is enforced, regardless of who performs the work. CWIFR has continued to point out the operational and economic advantages of the county contracting with CWIFR for this service within the district. I will keep the board apprised as this progresses and at present we are still performing inspections for the county,

Inter-District Collaboration: The district currently has interlocal agreements with South Whidbey Fire/EMS for information technology services and a co-locate agreement for the district's reserve engine and computer server during construction of the new Station 53. Division Chiefs Mirabile (CWIFR) and Dilley (SWFE) have been directed by Chiefs Hartin and Walsh to develop an integrated training plan and schedule to allow our two districts to train as if we are a nine-station fire district (rather than separate entities) by January 1, 2023. Our two division chiefs have made considerable progress in this direction. Most recently SWFE experienced an unanticipated departure of its finance officer and reached out to CWIFR for assistance. With the assistance of Finance Officer Cathy Niiro, Chiefs Hartin and Walsh developed an interlocal agreement for CWIFR to provide temporary financial services to SWFE (anticipated duration of less than eight weeks) to maintain payroll and accounts payable services as well as identify potential efficiencies and future opportunities for cross training and collaboration. Discussion of integrated fleet maintenance services remains on the agenda for next steps in exploration of collaboration between CWIFR and SWFE. Hopefully we will have an update on this item for the board's regular meeting in October.

Station 53 Construction Project

The chief's monthly report will be adding a regular update on progress of the Station 53 project. We broke ground on September 1st and on the 6th we provided Tiger Construction with a notice to proceed and held a pre-construction meeting with Tiger, Island County Planning, Island County Public Works, and Carletti Architects. Asbestos abatement (small amount of asbestos in some building materials used in construction of the existing station) will be completed prior to demolition and the start of dirt work which should occur later this month.

Volunteer Rachael Sterns will be documenting demolition and construction progress with photography and video drone footage. We will be working with First Arriving (our web hosting service) to create a Station 53 construction page and posting on social media to allow the community to follow our progress.

Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI): Chief Hartin has served on the UL FSRI advisory board for eleven years, providing guidance for the institute's research efforts to improve firefighter and civilian safety from fire. At the 2022 annual advisory board meeting Chief Hartin along with several other board members were promoted to emeritus status. As such he will no longer be a regular member of the board, but will continue to be engaged with the institute and serve as a senior advisor to board members and staff.

International Visitor: CWIFR recently hosted Inspector (Battalion Chief) John McDonough and Firefighter Lucas Garden from New South Wales (Australia) Fire Rescue. Inspector McDonough and Chief Hartin have been friends and colleagues since the 2000s and have collaborated on many projects and have taught together around the world. Our sister district Laramie County Fire Authority (formerly Laramie County Fire District 2) received a grant that allowed them to bring John to the US for a week of training and he visited Whidbey Island as a follow on and delivered several in-service training sessions that were well attended by members from CWIFR and North Whidbey Fire and Rescue.

Division/Shift Reports

Due to Operation Bug Out report on division activity reports have been deferred until the board's regular October meeting.