

# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

*News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island*



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

## All Hazards Mobilization

Wildland fires are a growing threat in the Western United States. The wildland fire season has been getting longer and areas such as western Washington that have not typically seen severe fires have been significantly impacted. With our temperate and relatively moist climate, Whidbey Island has been less impacted than other areas, but this is likely to change.



All communities have the potential for incidents that far exceed the resource capability of local response agencies. The Washington State Patrol Fire Marshal's Office manages a program to mobilize statewide resources to major incidents such as wildland fires and earthquakes. When statewide resources are insufficient to meet the demand, out of state resources can be mobilized through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which provides for interstate mutual aid.

Participation in all-hazards mobilization benefits the district by providing our members with wildland firefighting and large incident experience which improves our ability to serve the community. In addition mobilization agreements provide revenue not only to pay the members who are mobilized, but also backfill to maintain district coverages, and payment for use of district apparatus. For example all-hazards mobilization to wildland fires in Okanogan, Chelan, and Thurston counties in 2020 generated \$70,000 in revenue for the district (approximately 50% of which was for personnel expenses and 50% was for the use of district apparatus).



The district has also implemented an innovative joint staffing program with North Whidbey Fire and Rescue (NWFR) and Camano Island Fire and Rescue. Under these agreements, apparatus can be jointly staffed by multiple agencies. This limits the staffing impact of mobilization and improves cooperation and coordination between agencies. Our first deployment with NWFR (left) was to the Bordeaux Fire in Thurston County.

### Inside This Issue

- All Hazards Mobilization
- Chief's Fireside Chat
- Budget in Brief
- 2020 Santamobile
- Calendar of Events

**CWIFR Headquarters**  
**Fire Station 53**  
**1164 Race Road**  
**Coupeville, WA 98239**  
**(360) 678-3602**

## Be Safe!

Regardless of the age of your home, Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue will check your smoke alarms, install smoke alarms if you do not have them, and help you develop a plan to minimize your risk from fire or injury by conducting a home safety survey.

You can request a home safety survey on the district's website ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)) by clicking on services or by telephone at (360) 678-3602. **Let us be there before you need us!**



## Chief's Fireside Chat

2020 has been a challenging year for our community.

### COVID-19

Early in the year we were faced with multiple challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and district staff worked closely with our partners at WhidbeyHealth and Island County to meet demand for emergency medical services while keeping our members safe. We worked closely with the Island County Incident Management Team to provide a coordinated fire and emergency medical services (EMS) response and to assist in effective public communication regarding pandemic precautions. The district was fortunate to obtain a \$15,658 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Department of Homeland Security for COVID related expenses. This grant reimbursed the district for purchase of personal protective equipment and provided funding for further expenses related to pandemic response.

The district's community risk reduction efforts were significantly curtailed during the initial stages of the pandemic. Fire and life safety inspections for local businesses were postponed and we limited our home safety survey program to addressing homes without working smoke alarms. However, as we have moved through the phases of the Safe Start reopening plan, we have resumed all community risk reduction programs. In an effort to address fire inspection backlog and minimize impact on our business community we have worked with the Town of Coupeville and Island County to implement a self-inspection program for lower hazard business occupancies while restarting in-person inspections for occupancies in higher hazard categories.

### Capital Bond Projects Update

In 2017, the district's voters approved a bond measure for the renovation and expansion of Station 53 on Race Road and the purchase of three type one (structural) fire engines to replace those at the end of their life-cycle. Midway through 2020, the district placed an order with Rosenbauer America for three engines and construction is underway with anticipated delivery in the third quarter of 2021. The district determined that it's more cost effective to replace the existing fire station, rather than expanding the existing building and attempting to bring it up to current seismic code. Island County required that the district go through a time consuming and arduous planning process to obtain a conditional use permit prior to issuance of a building permit. This process is nearly complete and we hope to break ground in April of 2021 with completion of the new station by April of 2022.

### Coordinated Quality Improvement

The district has developed a coordinated quality improvement program to improve the quality of emergency medical care provided by our emergency medical technicians. In August we received approval of this program from the Washington State Department of Health making CWIFR one of the few fire service agencies in the state with an approved program.

### Interagency Cooperation

In addition to joint staffing for all-hazards mobilization mentioned on page one, the district's Blue Card Command Training Center will provide several three-day simulation labs for staff from CWIFR, NWFR, and South Whidbey Fire/EMS. This joint training will significantly enhance our interoperability and effectiveness of automatic and mutual aid.

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at (360) 678-3602 or send me an e-mail at [ehartin@cwfire.org](mailto:ehartin@cwfire.org).

Sincerely,

Chief Ed Hartin

## 2021 Budget in Brief

The district's expenses exceed revenue in 2021. However, this was anticipated and beginning fund balances are sufficient to continue current service levels.

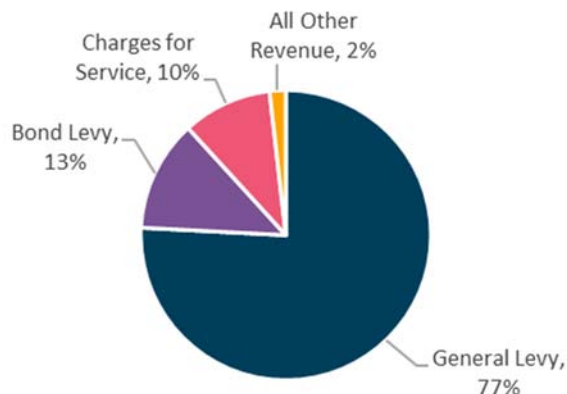
The district anticipates a 5.86% increase in assessed valuation (AV) which will lower the general levy rate to \$1.09/\$1,000 AV and the bond levy rate to \$0.18/\$1,000 AV.

The 2021 district budget increases general fund expenditures by 3.65% in large part due to increased staffing.

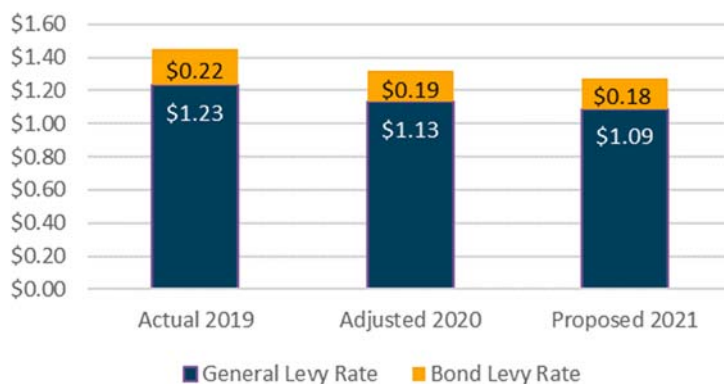
Beginning Balance	
General Fund	\$3,161,433
Capital Fund	\$1,792,816
Bond Fund	\$6,728,981
Debt Service Fund	\$2,343
Compensated Absences Fund	\$71,895
Total Beginning Balance	\$11,757,469
Revenue Stream	
General Levy (Property Tax)	\$2,455,509
Bond Levy (Property Tax)	\$401,250
Charges for Service	\$323,000
Other Revenue	\$58,323
Total Revenue	\$3,179,759.01
Expenditures	
General Fund	\$2,727,995
Capital Fund	\$564,592
Bond Fund	\$5,021,266
Debt Service Fund	\$401,250
Compensated Absences Fund	\$36
Total Expenditure	\$8,715,139
Transfers from the General Fund	
Capital Fund	\$241,216
Compensated Absences Fund	\$31,837
Total Transfers	\$273,053

The district's complete budget document can be downloaded from the district's website ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)).

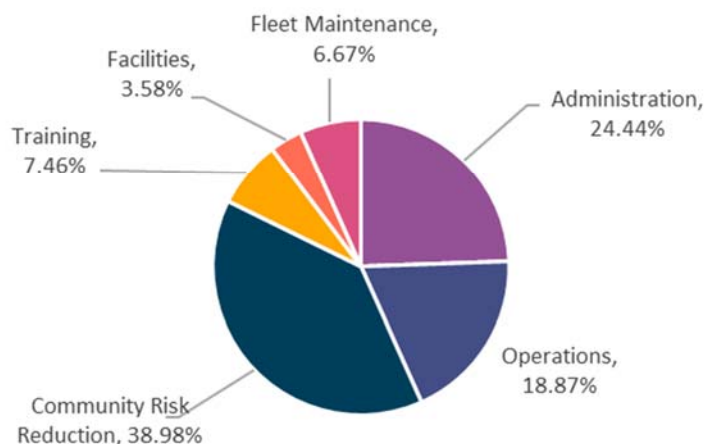
### 2021 Revenue Distribution



### Property Tax Levy Rates



### 2021 General Fund Expense Distribution



**Government Finance Officers Association  
Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

Central Whidbey Island Fire Rescue  
1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit 1327  
Seattle WA

## 2020 Santamobile

Santa will visit Central Whidbey this December! However, we will be taking special care that he does not catch COVID-19. We ask that you mask up and do not gather in large groups to greet Santa. Our elves will be masked up and collecting non-perishable food items for the food bank during Santa's visit.

Town of Coupeville (North of SR 20)	12/7/20
Town of Coupeville (South of SR 20 & Crocket Lake	12/9/20
Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington	12/11/20
Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive	12/14/20
Holmes Harbor, North Bluff	12/16/20
Lagoon Point, Dines Pont, Honeymoon Bay	12/18/20
Race Road Shangri La, Admirals Cove	12/21/20

Check out our Facebook page for Santa's route and follow us on Twitter for any late breaking changes.



## Calendar of Events

**November 12, 2020 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 53

**November 28, 2020 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

**December 10, 2020 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 53

**January 14, 2021 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 53

**January 30, 2021 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

**February 11, 2021 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 53

**February 26, 2021 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

**March 11, 2021 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 53

**March 27, 2021 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

Station 53 is located at 1164 Race Road in Coupeville,