



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

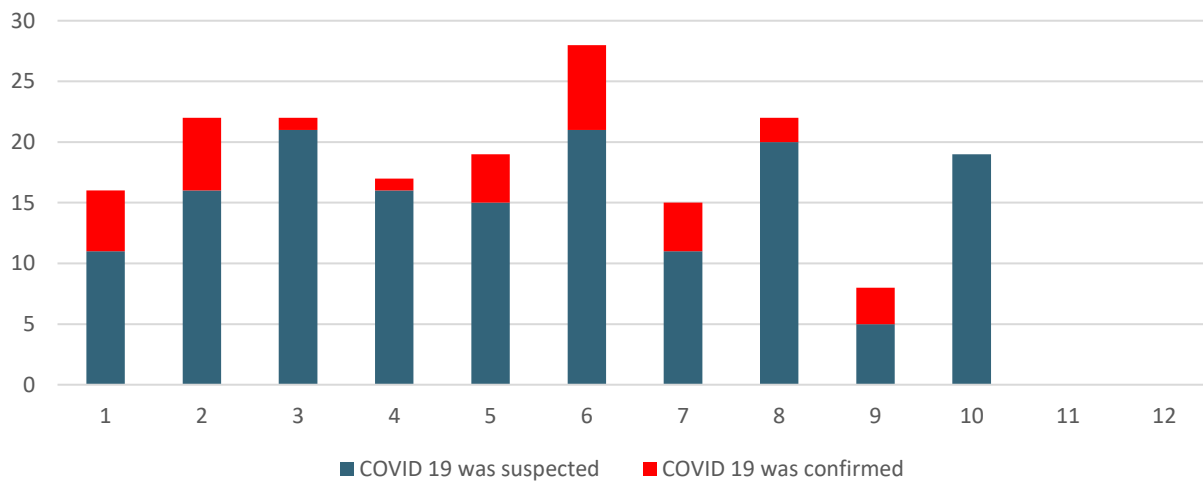
[www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)

To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
From: Deputy Chief Jerry Helm/Chief Ed Hartin  
Date: November 10, 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. (Special Note: zero recorded this month.)

2022 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



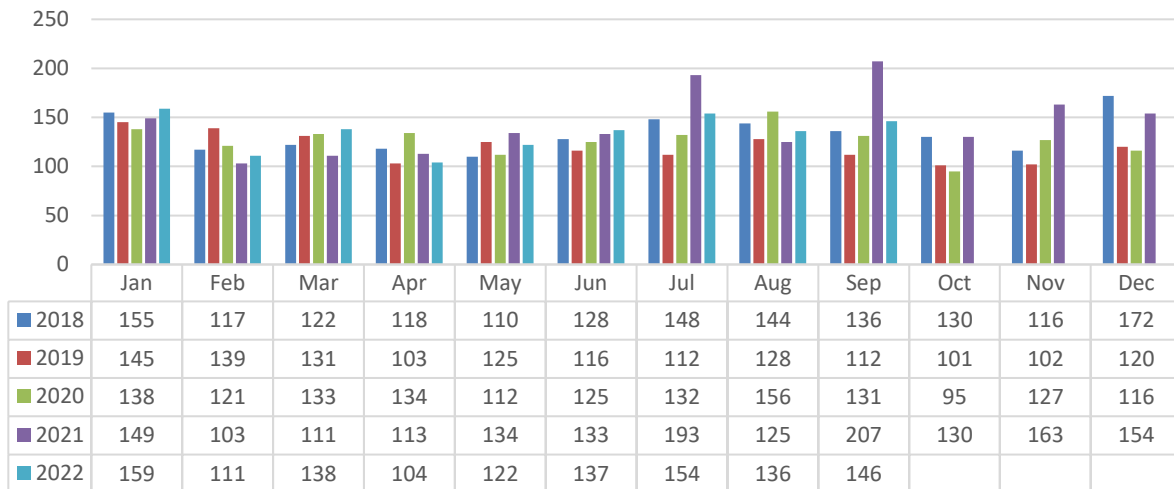
## Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received 146 calls for service as illustrated below. The district had 28 concurrent incidents (simultaneous calls). In four instances there was an overlap of three or more incidents. We anticipate next months report being unusually high due to the extremely busy wind storm we had last weekend.

### Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	3
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	95
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	3
5 - Service Call	19
6 - Good Intent Call	16
7 - False Alarm & False Call	9
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1
9 - Special Incident Type	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>

Incident Frequency by Month



### Administrative Activity

**Budget Development/Long Term Financial Plan:** The district’s 2023 proposed district budget has been completed, was submitted to the board for review at their regular October meeting and will be acted on for adoption at the board’s regular November meeting. A summary of the major components of the district’s long term financial plan were included in the budget, and work continues on a complete revision of the long-term financial plan.

As an update, the long-term financial plan was delayed during the COVID pandemic, Chief Hartin is currently working to update the plan to address current and projected economic conditions.

**Collective Bargaining:** The district and the local electively participated in a training session on collaborative bargaining with the Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC). Chiefs Helm and Mirabile will be serving as the negotiating team for the district. The district will be reaching out to the local in November to schedule initial negotiations to include first establishing and updating the list of comparable agencies, ideally before the end of the year.

**Winter Storm Prep:** Chief Helm attended a pre-winter storm planning meeting hosted by Island County Emergency management. This meeting was attended by Island Transit, South Whidbey Fire & EMS, North Whidbey Fire & Rescue, Camano Island Fire & Rescue, Island County Public Works, and Puget Sound Energy. The meeting focused on interoperability during weather related incidents, collaboration, communication, and included introduction to WebEOC platform to facilitate collaborative resource deployment. WebEOC is not an entirely new concept, but more emphasis is being placed on its use and implementation throughout the partnering agencies in the county this year as it was underutilized in the past.

**Inter-District Collaboration:** Chief and Hartin presented a collaborative draft resolution to the board of fire commissioners in October and Chief Walsh will be presenting the same resolution to his board this week as a starting point for discussion regarding a mutual commitment to exploration, evaluation, and implementation of collaborative efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency. This resolution would provide a formal commitment at the governance level to continue the work that has been done to this point and extend our efforts to improve service to our communities.

Cathy Niiro and Sonja Lindenstien just wrapped up their mutual-aid assignment to assist with accounts payable and other administrative duties at South Whidbey Fire & Rescue. This opportunity help build trust and collaboration between both organizations and hopefully will lead to more opportunities in the future.

**Newsletter:** The district's fall newsletter has been sent to the mail house for printing and distribution, with the Station 53 project being the front-page article. Chief Hartin is working with Liz Loomis to ensure that this article addressed the key messages regarding delay in this project and resulting cost increase.

**LTGO Bond:** The district has received a copy of the schedule of events and Distribution List for the upcoming Limited Tax General Obligation Bond financing from Jim Nelson with D.A. Davidson. They will be sending an RFP Term Sheet and District information to approximately 35 banks on November 18, with anticipated proposal to the board of fire commissioners at your regular meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2023. If accepted and adopted by the board, anticipated closing date/wiring of funds is scheduled for January 19, 2023.

**Chief Retirement/Vacancy:** The district has received a copy of a proposal from GMP consultants for recruitment and advertising for the anticipated vacancy of fire chief as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. Greg Prothman (GMP Consultants) is the firm that was used by CWIFR in its last fire chief recruitment, in the last recruitment drive for the ICOM director as well as many other departments across the state. I have attached a copy for your review.

### Station 53 Construction Project

**Demolition and Land Clearing:** In the last weeks of October, land clearing operations were completed along with foundation dig-out for foundation footings. Foundation footings are scheduled to be poured by the second week of November. (With the exception of the bunk house which will now be used as a live fire training/experiment opportunity for CWIFR members on November 19<sup>th</sup> or November 20<sup>th</sup> depending on staffing and schedule alignment with Tiger Construction). Chief Helm continues to meet with the architect and Construction manages on a bi-weekly basis to ensure the project keeps moving forward.

**Public Communication:** We are 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. The initial plan was to have a live update page on our website by the end of October, but this was unable to be completed. As

a back-up, Chief Helm has been taking weekly pictures and posting project updates on our Facebook page to keep public update on progression.

## Operations

**Standard Inventory:** LT James Meek continues work on the standard type one engine inventory and has now delegated some tasks to other B shift members in an attempt to wrap this project up soon. The goal is not only to ensure all type one engines are identical, but also match the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) rating requirements for standard type one equipment lists. Work continues on cribbing packs and wedges, but some plywood and bundled packs of cribbing have been assembled for distribution. This is one of the few remaining components of ensuring a standardized equipment inventory across the district's type one engines (as the rescue engine, Engine 53 carries additional equipment for technical rescue operations including low/high angle and vehicle extrication).

**QA/CQI:** Firefighter Jeff Rhodes audited 146 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) incident reports and selected electronic patient care reports.

**Equipment:** Purchased and replaced some helmet shields on apparatus to replace old and missing ones.

**New Marine Vessel update:** Preconstruction and plans finalization meeting was conducted in person at IMS (aka. Lifeproof Boats) in Bremerton Washington on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Jerry Helm and marine rescue coordinator manager Kole Kellison. Most of the parts and materials have been ordered and should be starting production very shortly with anticipated delivery in late April, early May 2023.

## Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

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

- A shift completed 5 inspections
- B shift 6 physical inspections
- C shift completed 1 initial and 1 re-inspect

**Hydrant Testing and Inspection:** A shift completed some flow and hydrant inspections. B shift completed all assigned hydrant flow and inspections of Coupeville hydrants, and conducted inspection of Bon-Aire community hydrants. C shift performed 35 hydrant inspections and 13 Flow tests.

**Home Safety Surveys:** C shift Installed a smoke detector for a resident on Smugglers Cove Rd.

## Professional Development

**Recruitment:** Firefighter Burnett continues his excellent job in recruitment and maintaining contact for new volunteers as they move forward through the recruitment process. New members are regularly attending In-Service training each week. The Professional Development Divisions for CWIFR and SWFE are continuing to coordinate the next Fire Academy (2023).

**In-Service Training:** October in-service training focused on fundamental skills across a range of disciplines with training in rope rescue, hose-line operations (attack and supply) to include a joint training with SWFE on Tender Operations, HAZMAT training, and cardiac arrest refresher. On-line and in-service training further supported leadership training to include valuable discussions regarding communication pitfalls.

TECH RESCUE –October entailed refining rope rescue operations with the goal of enhancing rope rescue response for the district. Enhanced capabilities will be in service by the end of 2022.

TARGET SOLUTIONS – Continues to evolve as a more effective means of capturing all training, but particularly as a tool to document WSRB qualified training for use during the next WSRB evaluation.

**Blue Card Sim Lab:** Chief Hartin led a successful three-day Blue Card Command sim lab for CWIFR and SWFE members. Three new certified members emerged from the class (Two from CWIFR and one from SWFE). Several other members gained valuable CE credit.

**Collaboration:** The Division Chiefs for both CWIFR and SWFE successfully participated in the Blue Card Sim Lab. Also, both Division Chiefs hammered out a guidance document (SOG) for Island County EMS Council that provides structure to financially support Island County Fire and Rescue agencies who wish to offer additional EMS training (outside the scope of normal in-service type training).

**Other:** Professional Development Division is working through the logistics to bring a Peer Support Program to CWIFR. Training dates are tentatively scheduled as Dec. 1-2. Training will come from Vickie Taylor, LCSW, an advisor to the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation, and director of the Resilience Center in Prince William County. Neighboring public safety agencies have been invited to participate.

## Facilities

**Relocation:** Bugs still continue to be worked out now that we are fully moved out of station 53. Specifically, internet speeds and reliability at station 51, along with the phone system associated with remote locations outside of district facilities. Coordination and fixing these bugs have proven to be a struggle, but a new proposal is on its way shortly for a new collaborative IT service contract.

**Repair and Maintenance:** Bay heaters at station 51 have failed and the heat exchanger is currently dumping CO into the bays. Lt. Huff is working to prepare a repair proposal to address this issue. C shift repaired a leaking water pipe for Station 51. Special note and recognition to c shift as well for coordinated efforts with Whidbey Health maintenance division to assist with building maintenance and repairs.

## Fleet Maintenance

**Type One Engines:** During the month of October fleet work consisted of Preventative Maintenance inspections and warranty work on the Rosenbauer trucks. Unit 2103 (Thor), is in for its 250hr inspection and service. Unit 2102 (Valkyrie), received its 250hr service and inspection with no notable discrepancies. Unit 2102 (Valkyrie) received a new officer's side mirror due to damage from the apparatus bay door way.

Warranty work consisted of Cummins working on Unit 2102 (Valkyrie) for a check light indicating a misfire. Nothing conclusive was found. Rosenbauer's technician performed multiple warranty items on the three new Type I trucks. The majority of the work consisted of repairing coolant leaks on the trucks. We will continue to work with Rosenbauer on our list of warranty items.

**Preventative Maintenance & Repair:** Unit 9501 (shop truck) received front brake work due to a fault in aftermarket parts. Unit's 0702 (T-54) and Unit 1402 (Chevy Tahoe) received their respective P.M. maintenance. Unit 1801 (501) finally received a new auto eject to replace the accident damaged piece. The new auto-eject had been on backorder. Unit 1402 (Chevy Tahoe) received two new radio antennas to replace broken ones.

All three first-out fire engines, along with the three command units had new Microsoft Surface MDC computers and Air-gain cellular data antennas installed for in-vehicle dispatch information. Work continues on a case-by-case basis to ensure they are configured properly for optimal use and readiness.