

# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island



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

## Fire Engines Received and Station Progress!

In 2017, the district’s voters passed a bond measure to fund two important capital projects, renovation and expansion of Station 53 on Race Road and purchase of three type one fire engines to replace engines that were reaching the end of their useful life.

In 2021, the district took delivery of three Rosenbauer fire engines. **Thank You!**

As you may be aware, we have also experienced challenges with the station renovation on Race Road but the work is finally underway. We needed to earthquake-proof the station and add space for more emergency personnel. During design and engineering for this project, we learned that renovations would be more expensive than taking down the station and building on the same site .



As we worked to secure permits, things happened that were beyond our control. COVID hit, supply chains were impacted and there was significant turnover in the county planning department. Your tax dollars fund the fire district and we want to be transparent.

The current economy and supply chain issues have made the station project more expensive. CWFR is working to secure grants and commissioner approved bond to afford the difference. Commissioner approved bonds are funded through our regular fire levy. This would require a fire levy lid lift to \$1.18 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to maintain and improve service delivery and to pay the debt service on this commissioner approved bond. We will have this conversation with our community in the next few months.

I am frustrated both as your fire chief and a fellow taxpayer – and I’m right here to take the questions so let them fly. It’s uncertain times for our country and we’re managing it on a local level to maintain fire and life safety services. The priority for CWIFR is to save lives and property and my responsibility is to keep you informed as to how we’re doing it.

Thank you,  
Chief Ed Hartin  
[ehartin@cwfire.org](mailto:ehartin@cwfire.org)

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

## Be Safe!

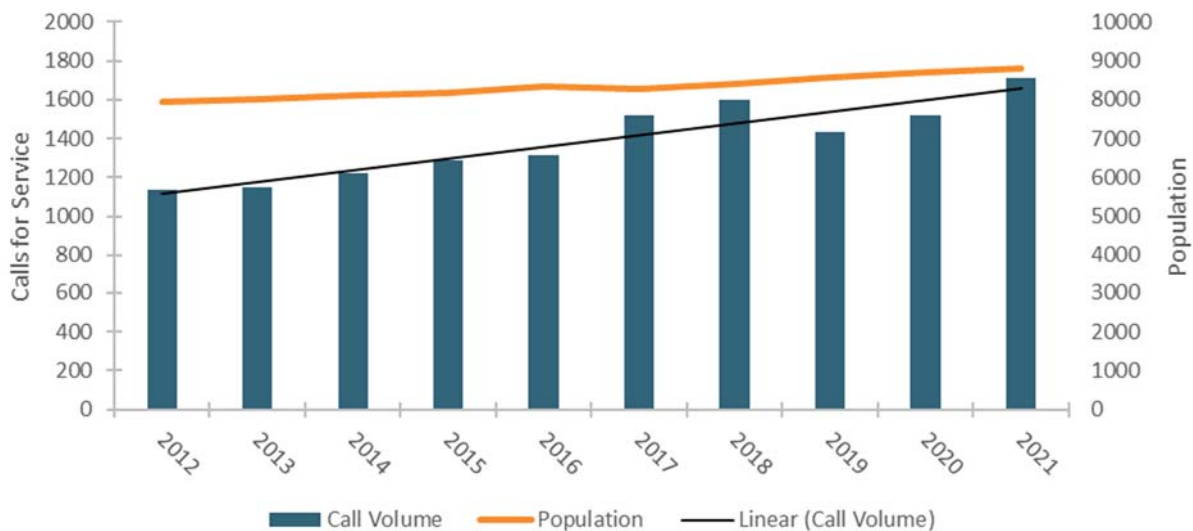
Regardless of the age of your home, Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue will check your smoke alarms, install smoke alarms if you do not have them, and help you develop a plan to minimize your risk from fire or injury by conducting a home safety survey.

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!**



## Increasing Workload

The district's service delivery workload continues to increase, experiencing a 58.50% increase in calls for service over the last 10 years. Over the same time, our population increased only 10.95%. So not only are the number of calls for service increasing, they are increasing faster than our population. This is not a new trend as over the history of the district call volume has consistently increased faster than our population. Much of this workload results from our partnership with WhidbeyHealth Emergency Medical Services (EMS), providing initial response to medical incidents and staffing a basic life support ambulance. However, a troubling statistic is a 115% increase in the number of fire responses over the same 10-year timeframe. While the total number of fire incidents is much smaller than emergency medical incidents, this shows that we cannot be complacent and still have work to do in reducing fire risk in our community.



## Service Delivery During Construction of Station 53

For many years, the district's full-time staff have operated from the Race Road fire station and the Coupeville and Greenbank fire stations have been staffed by volunteers. During construction of the new Station 53, the district's full-time staff are operating from Station 51 in Coupeville and fleet maintenance and training staff are operating from Station 54 in Greenbank during the daytime. In addition, the district's command duty officers (chief, deputy chief, and division chief) are providing additional initial response to trauma emergency medical calls south of Race Road where response times from Coupeville are longer (all of our command officers live in this area). Our mailing address and telephone numbers remain the same.

## Home Oxygen Use

Over the last several years, the district has had several fire fatalities related to home oxygen use. Home oxygen therapy is extremely effective, but portable medical oxygen tanks and oxygen concentrators add an increased risk for fire in the home. That's because fire needs oxygen to burn, and any material that catches fire will burn much more quickly due to the increased levels of pure oxygen. Please don't smoke or cook and keep away from other ignition sources while using supplemental oxygen.



Please give us a call at (360) 678-3602 or schedule a home safety survey from our website ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)) to learn more about oxygen safety

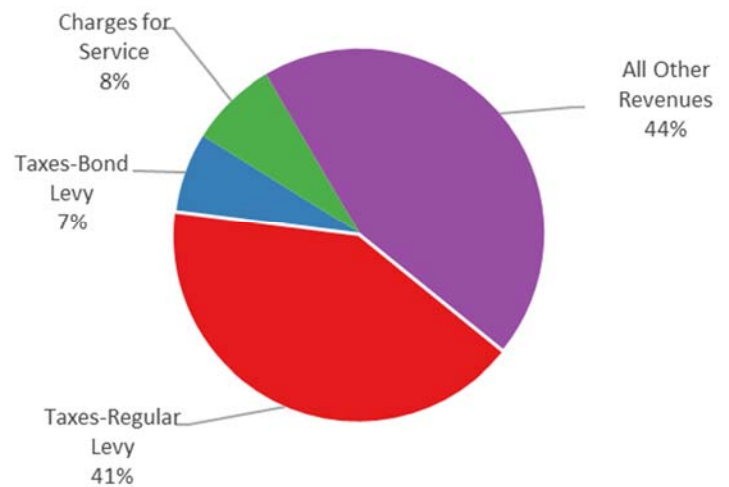
## 2023 Budget in Brief

The district's expenses exceed revenue in 2023. However, this was anticipated and beginning fund balances are sufficient to continue current services. The district anticipates a 21.84% increase in assessed valuation (AV) which will lower the general levy rate to \$10.86/\$1,000 AV and maintain the bond levy rate at \$0.15/\$1,000 AV.

Beginning Balance	Proposed 2023
General Fund	\$3,773,183
Capital Fund	\$3,083,937
Bond Fund	\$4,091,888
Bond Redemption Fund	\$4,368
Compensated Absences Fund	\$105,816
<b>Total Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$11,059,192</b>
Revenue	
General Levy (Property Tax)	\$2,555,248
Bond Levy (Property Tax)	\$426,500.00
Charges for Service	\$426,500.00
Other & Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,748,041.43
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,156,289.39</b>
Expenditures	
General Fund	\$2,961,971
Capital Fund	\$736,917
Bond Fund	\$6,753,700
Bond Redemption Fund	\$626,500
Compensated Absences Fund	\$50
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$11,079,138</b>
Transfers from the General Fund	
To Contingency	\$10,825
To Capital Projects Fund	\$271,449
To Capital Bond Fund	\$0
To Bond Redemption Fund	\$200,000
To Compensated Absences Fund	\$24,009
To Grants Management Fund	\$0
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$506,284</b>

The 2023 district budget increases general fund expenditures by 4.66%. A more detailed budget in brief and the complete district budget can be downloaded from the district's website ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)).

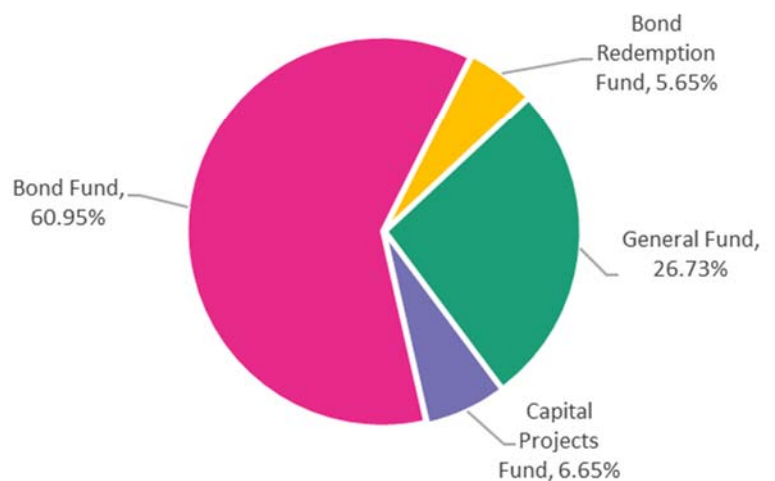
### 2023 Revenue Distribution



### Levy Rate



### 2022 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

## 2022 Santamobile

Santa will be back in Central Whidbey this December! *Our elves will be collecting non-perishable food items for the food bank during Santa's travels through the district..*

Greening of Coupeville	12/3/22
Town of Coupeville (North of SR 20)	12/5/22
Town of Coupeville (South of SR 20 & Crocket Lake)	12/7/22
Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington	12/12/22
Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive	12/13/22
Holmes Harbor, North Bluff	12/16/22
Lagoon Point, Dines Pont, Honeymoon Bay	12/19/22
Race Road ,Shangri La, Admirals Cove	12/21/22

Times for Santa's visit and maps of his route will be posted on the district's web site ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)) in November.



Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#)  
for late breaking updates and Santa news!



## Calendar of Events

**November 10, 2022 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

**December 8, 2022 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

**January 12, 2023 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

**February 9, 2023 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

*Station 54 is located at 3253 Day Road in Greenbank,  
between Bakken Road and Christiansen Road.*

