



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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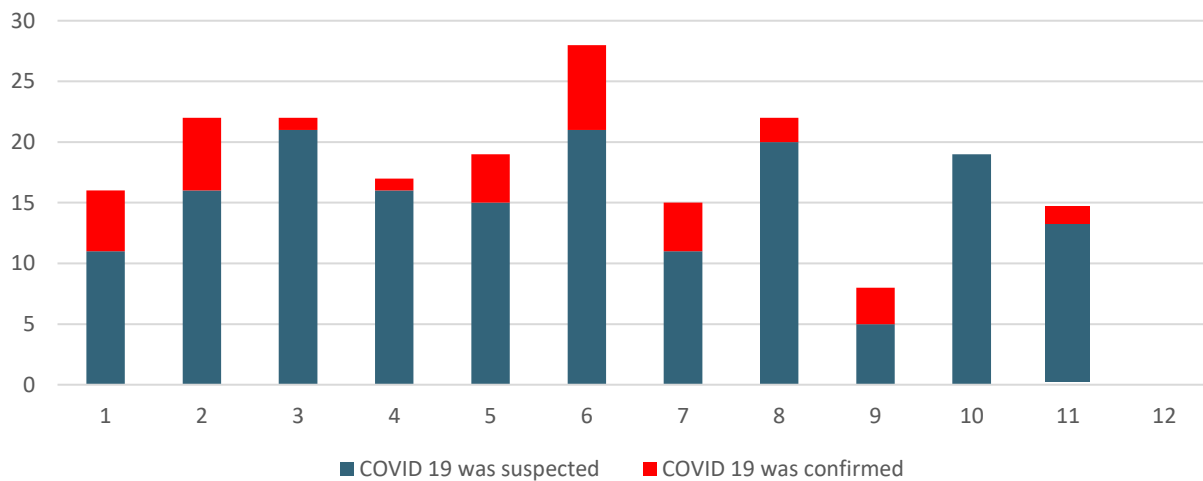
www.cwfire.org

To: Board of Fire Commissioners
From: Deputy Chief Jerry Helm
Date: December 8th, 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. During the month of November, there were 12 incidents where COVID-19 was suspected and 2 with COVID-19 confirmed.

2022 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



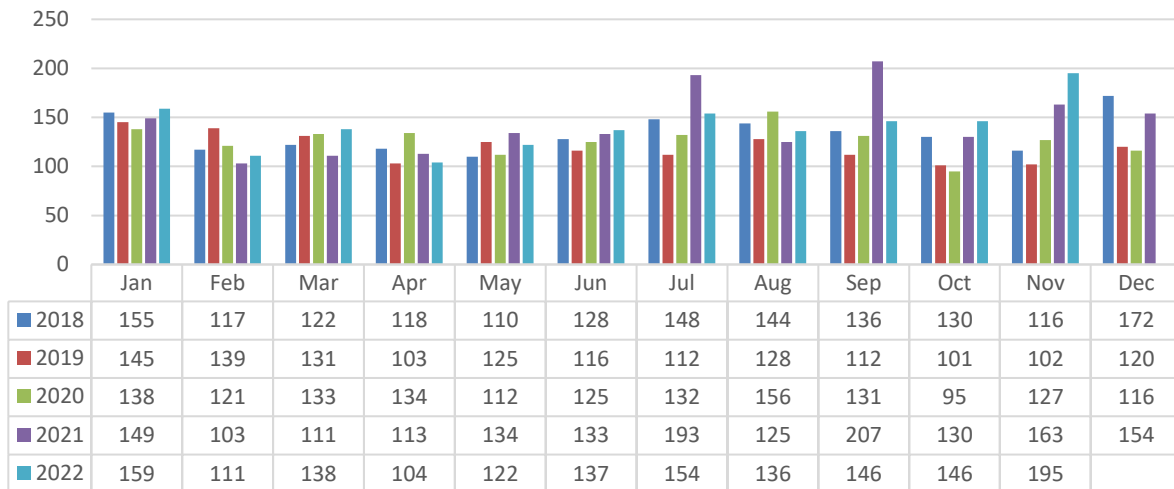
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received 195 calls for service as illustrated below. The district had 79 concurrent incidents (simultaneous calls). Half of the 79 overlapping incidences happened in one 24-hour window due to the severe wind storm in the beginning of the month. This windstorm presented us with some significant challenges as the district was cut into two separate areas and call volume peaked one time as high as 16 calls for service at once.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	4
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	107
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	24
5 - Service Call	28
6 - Good Intent Call	18
7 - False Alarm & False Call	12
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	2
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	195

Incident Frequency by Month



Administrative Activity

Long Term Financial/Capital Projects Plan: The long-term financial plan was updated by Chief Hartin and reviewed by staff. Chief Hartin has also completed this month the review and updating of the capital projects plan.

Other: Division Chief Mirabile completed a draft SOG for the Island County EMS Council on training program requests, grant funding, and funding pass through (agencies pay for the class, but the council serves as treasurer). The council has performed these functions for many years, but the process was not documented. Met with representatives from Sane Fireworks regarding fireworks regulations in Island County and our experience with fireworks related incidents. Division Chief Mirabile and Chief Hartin met with Island County Medical Program Director Dr. Krystal Baciak and WhidbeyHealth EMS Director Chris Tumblin regarding cardiac arrest data, baseline measures of performance, and what is needed prior to implementation of the Lucas Chest Compression System pilot project. Lots of discussion, but little progress. We are waiting on resolution of technical and process issues from WhidbeyHealth EMS.

Collective Bargaining: The District has reached out to the local for contact negotiations and proposed an extension of the current contract that would run from December 31st 2022 to December 31st 2023. This would allow the district and the local more time to prepare and plan for a multi-year deal next year. This would also provide us with a more solid idea of where the district is at financially as we would know the results of the proposed November 2023 levy lift. More to follow on this as the district and local agreed to meet on Friday December 9th. We potentially we will need a special meeting between Friday and the end of the year to sign and ratify any agreed contract changes.

LTGO Bond: Work continues with Jim Nelson to solidify the proposed LTGO bond. Cathy has been busy answering questions that are coming in from various banks as they prepare proposals. Mostly centering around the reasons for the cost increase, future borrowing plans, and past financial statements that we submitted to the state auditor.

Jim will be providing a summary of all the bank proposals tomorrow morning. He urges that the District should select the bank with the lowest net borrowing cost on (tomorrow) Friday December 9th so that the selected bank can begin their credit approval process to keep the financing on schedule. I will be reaching out to each of you tomorrow as soon as we have this information from Jim.

Agency Collaboration: Deputy Chief Helm and his wife attended a “Team Whidbey” - Winter Open House Reception on Base. This event was jointly hosted by Rear Admiral Mark Sucato, Commander, Navy Region Northwest and Captain and Mrs. Eric Hanks, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. This meeting was attended by various community leaders and was a good networking connection for future projects with the Navy as well as other community organizations.

The district also received a letter of mutual aid and cooperation support from Tulalip Fire allowing Central Whidbey to purchase radios from the Day Wireless purchasing contract. This will provide us more purchasing power and larger discounts on radios that are slated to be replaced in the near future.

Station 53 Construction Project

Foundation: Footings and stem walls have passed inspection and have been poured. Stripping of forms, backfilling, and slab prep have begun.

Electricity: The district was informed that in order to get three phase power to the station location, there will be a substantial fee coming to run three phase power from the highway up to the site. At this time, we are unaware of the cost estimate, but it will be probably be substantial as many power poles will need to be replaced coming up the hill to the station location. More to follow on this as we learn more.

Public Communication: We now have a Station 53 construction project page on our web page. We will continue to update this and the social media pages as progress continues.

Operations

Standard Inventory: Work continues on the standard inventory project with completion of the written engine standard policy and completion of the cribbing packs.

QA/CQI: Firefighter Jeff Rhodes audited 194 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) incident reports and selected electronic patient care reports.

Equipment: Still waiting on some tools for the tool boxes as part of the standardization project.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

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

- A shift completed 0 physical inspections
- B shift 2 physical inspections
- C shift completed 1 physical inspections

Home Safety Surveys: CO alarm changed at Olympic View Drive, approximately 20 smoke alarm batteries changed.

Santa Prep: Considerable prep was completed to ensure the Santa mobile was ready for this year's routes.

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. The planning process has started for running another part time hiring process. The district anticipates the loss of many in the near future with full time job offers coming to those out seeking full time employment. Firefighter Burnett and Div. Chief Mirabile are collaboratively working on streamlining the new member process. New members are regularly attending In-Service training each week. The Professional Development Divisions for CWIFR and SWFE are coordinating the next Fire Academy (for 2023). Initial discussions suggest a possible February start date.

In-Service Training: November in-service training included refining skills across a range of disciplines involving training in rope rescue with patient packaging, joint training with SWFE during live fire training (bunkhouse) which included exterior-offensive tactics, HAZMAT training, unit operations through ride-a-longs by Div. Chief Mirabile, and on-line training targeting the growing electric vehicle industry. On-line and in-service training further supported leadership training to include valuable discussions regarding communication pitfalls.

Live Fire Training - Bunkhouse: CWIFR capitalized on the opportunity that presented itself to use the old bunkhouse at Station 53 for live fire training. Due to the extensive resources required to prepare the building for interior firefighting, the decision was made to focus on exterior tactics instead. Substantial footage was acquired during the evolutions for further use. Knowledge, skills, and abilities were enhanced during the training.

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: Peer Support training concluded on December 2nd after two valuable days for all of the attendees. Participants included, ICSO, Island County Chaplains, members from CWIFR and SWFE. Training was delivered by Vickie Taylor, LCSW, an advisor to the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation, and director of the Resilience Center in Prince William County, VA. The curriculum, in part, comes from the First Responder Center for Excellence, a national entity designed to enhance the health, safety, and well-being of first responders.

Facilities

Repair and Maintenance: In house repair of crew quarters heater at 51, Replaced door seal on 51 rear man door. Station 51 bay door came off track and got damaged when it came crashing down. Crawford Doors did a temporary repair until it can have two lower panels replaced. Scba compressor capital quotes requested from vendors.

Fleet Maintenance

Type One Engines: During the month of November fleet work consisted of finally being able to start on the retrofit project of Unit 1401 (Leonidas). All the parts have finally arrived, and a plan has been put in place for the updated valves and controllers to be installed. Matros has already removed the old controller's and installed all the new cross-lay valves. He will be working on and off this project as he has time to fit it in his schedule.

Preventative Maintenance & Repair: There were many other smaller repairs done to the fleet including repairs done to the new trucks from responding in the windstorm. Unit 0603 (T-51) needed to have the parking brake actuator mounting bracket replaced. This required extensive work in which involved dismantling the dash of the truck.

Winter Storm Prep/Surplus of Apparatus: In preparation for the first snow of the season, C shift verified all rigs had correct tire chains. Equipment that was on the old R51 was removed in preparation for sale of this apparatus. This unit was deemed surplus a while ago and crews will be working to advertise the sale and determine the minimum acceptable bid.