



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Acting Fire Chief Jerry Helm

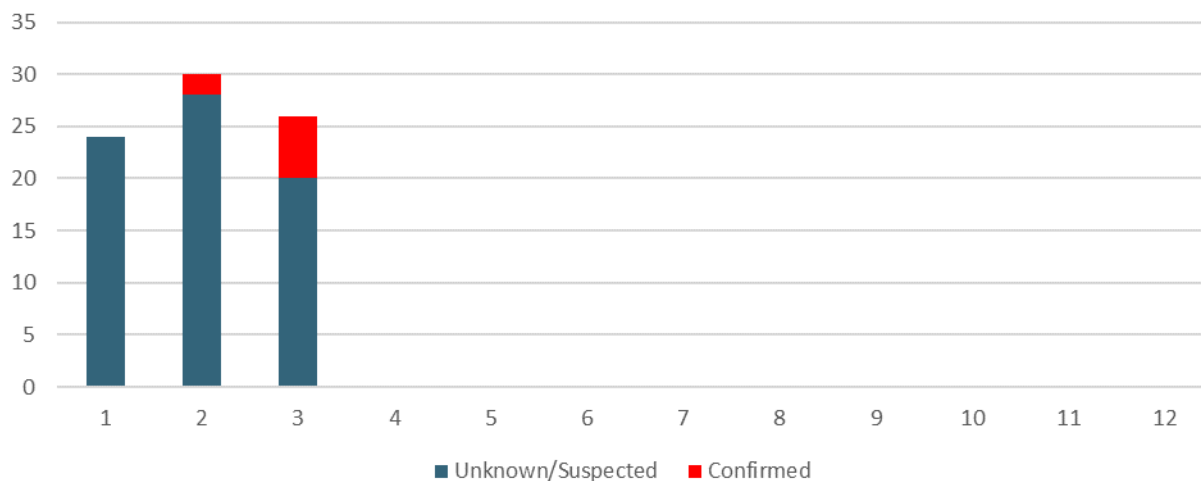
Date: April 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

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 encounter it continue to fluctuate through the year. During the month of March, there were **20 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 6 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2023 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



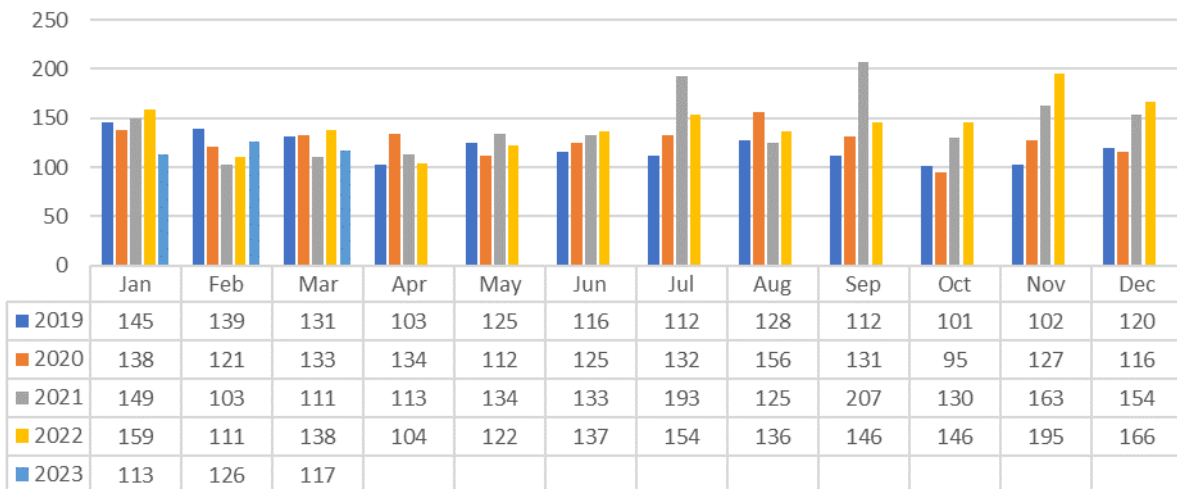
## Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **117 calls** for service as illustrated below. The district **had 29 concurrent incidents, five times of 3 or more concurrent calls, impacting 24.7% of total incidences.**

### Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	1
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	80
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	0
5 - Service Call	12
6 - Good Intent Call	16
7 - False Alarm & False Call	8
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>

### Incident Frequency by Month



### Station 53 Construction Project

All first-floor walls have been sheeted. All trusses are up with exception of the apparatus bays. Sheeting over living quarters is being installed now while an issue with the apparatus bay trusses is addressed. Power and fiber to the ICOM tower have been lowered and are now out of the way for the remaining grading. Pump house, and dumpster enclosure foundations are now poured. Site is now being prepped for the cast in place water storage tower and catch basins.

### Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended 3 onsite construction meetings for station 53. Monthly planning meeting with Liz Loomis and the public communications team. Chief Helm presented to the Greenbank Progressive club on the state of the district and staffing challenges. Attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings. Chief Helm was elected vice president of the Fire Chiefs council and Chief Mirabile was elected vice president of the EMS council. Contract Negotiations with IAFF local 4299 started with review of the comparable agencies, and framework for negotiation proceedings. Two comparable agencies need to be replaced and both labor and management are working to find the two potential replacements. Chief Helm also attended a planning meeting for the Coupeville Arts and Craft festival committee as they are getting ready to

submit for their permit. Met with the group about the fireworks ban and they would like to come to your May meeting to give you their presentation. Cathy and Chief Helm met with Carletti to finalize carpet, tile, and paint samples for the new station at their office in Mt. Vernon. Chief Helm also met with the Island County Sherriff to discuss improving on scene field operations and collaboration. I also met with EMS director Tumblin and Lead Medic Chad Franson on the possibility of co-staffing their Kubota off-road UTV. While it is in our long-term financial plan to replace our gator this year, I wanted to explore the options of a shared vehicle before we went ahead bought a new one. I believe there could be some benefits to both organizations in cross staffing one UTV versus having two in the district, one owned by each agency.

## Operations

### **Asset Management:**

- Asset management has been completed with the assistance of all the shifts. There is still some entry left to do and some cleaning up of the excel spreadsheets.

### **Apparatus Inventory:**

- Continued purchases to standardize apparatus.

### **Special OPS:**

IMS continues work on our replacement marine unit. Boat is currently awaiting delivery of the motors.

### **PPE/Respiratory Protection:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Medical Supplies and CPR**

- Nothing to report.

### **Reports:**

- FF Rhodes has conducted review of 115+ NFIRS/EMS reports.

### **Radio/Pagers:**

- Nothing to report.

## Community Risk Reduction

### **Inspections:**

- A shift completed 31 inspections during March (21 at Camp Casey, 10 additional)
- B shift completed 4 initial inspections and 2 re-inspections during March
- C shift completed 7 initial inspections and 1 re-inspection during March

### **Annual Inspection progress:**

- A shift: 80% of to date assigned inspections completed (40/50)
- B shift: 81.8% of to date assigned inspections completed (9/11)
- C shift: 36.8% of to date assigned inspections completed (7/19)

### **CRR Programs and other activity:**

- LT Porter participated in Island Safe Kids car seat check event

- 3 home safety surveys conducted
- LT Porter participated in monthly Region 3 taskforce meeting (includes Skagit, Whatcom, San Juan, and Island Counties)
- Scheduled Island County building official meeting/walk through 4/19
- Public Information has increased CWIFR activity on social media. This activity bolsters the community awareness of our operations.

***Collaboration:***

- Lt Porter is collaborating with Vol. Rachel Stern and Oak Harbor Fire Investigators to finalize the Salmon Street fire investigation.

**Professional Development**

***Recruitment:***

**Fire Academy:** The Professional Development Divisions for CWIFR, SWFE, and NWFR continue to conduct the 2023 fire academy. Sessions have rotated between districts. The academy concludes on June 3<sup>rd</sup> with graduation on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Chief:** The Professional Development Division has successfully prepared the necessary information required by the recruitment consultant for the Fire Chief recruitment process. The process is ongoing and moving into the selection phase.

**Volunteers:** New and incumbent members continue to regularly attend In-Service training each week. The future challenges associated with Professional Development, and the district in general, will be retaining the quality volunteers that we've attracted. During March, CWIFR administration held a volunteer membership meeting. The meeting was a relative success. The district plans to expand on that momentum.

***In-Service Training:***

- March in-service training included refining skills across a range of disciplines involving training in attack hose line deployment, collapse rescue capabilities, EMS: trauma patient assessment, on-line Blue-Card continuing education, and on-line training regarding the new foam carried in CWIFR. These topics demonstrate the vast scope of modern fire and rescue service delivery.

***Collaboration:***

- SWFE and CWIFR continue to explore methods to collaborate between the two organizations in creative ways. These discussions are ongoing as we collectively seek ways to create efficiencies for both organizations. Currently, this involves EMS training through a county wide EMS Ongoing Training and Evaluation Program (OTEP).

***Other:***

- The Professional Development Division would again like to thank Firefighter Travis Dotson for providing valuable insight to Firefighter Burnett and DC Mirabile regarding new volunteer orientation training package. The Professional Development Division expects to roll out inaugural orientation training in April.

## Facilities

### **Station 51**

- Nothing to report.

### **Station 52**

- Nothing to report.

### **Station 53**

- See construction notes from Chief Helm

### **Station 54**

- Water system is back in service and fully functional.
- E54 line repainted.

#### **Station 54 women's restroom toilet:**

Removed leaking women's toilet at station 54 and found a crack in the bottom of the bowl. This toilet was replaced in August. The malfunctioning toilet has been replaced under warranty by Kohler. It arrived at Station 54, was installed, and began leaking again. Has now been reinstalled and a possible leaky wax ring corrected.

## Fleet Maintenance

### **Maintenance Challenges:**

- During the month of March FF/Mech Matros was busy coordinating, scheduling, and working with Rosenbauer's warranty technician on warranty repairs as they arose on the three new type 1 engines. This will be a continuing process as parts are still slow to arrive. The fuel line for Unit 0603 (T-51) arrived and Matros has completed the repair and is now working on the annual NFPA 1911 inspection and service on the apparatus.

### **Apparatus Items / Repairs:**

- *Unit 1201 (R-53)* –Diagnosis of a possible charging system problem. Vehicle is operating as intended. Replaced batteries due to age on batteries.
- *Unit 2002 (B-53)* - Exhaust tip installation to align with new in station exhaust systems.
- *Unit 1801 (505)* – Diagnose check engine light and loss of power problem. Sensor in engine after-treatment system is at fault. The sensor just arrived and will be installed shortly.
- Replaced all the transponders on the apparatus for the in-station exhaust systems with updated transponders per the manufacture.
- *Unit 2001 (B-54)* - Replace the low water pressure switch on the pump to updated switch from manufacturer.
- *Unit 9402 (R-51)* – No crank / no start. Diagnosed to a faulty fusible link in starting/charging system. Removed and replaced the section of fusible link wire and apparatus operates as intended. Apparatus has been advertised for sealed bid auction.
- *Unit 0603 (T-53)* – Replaced cracked fuel line and working on inspection and service.