



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road  
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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

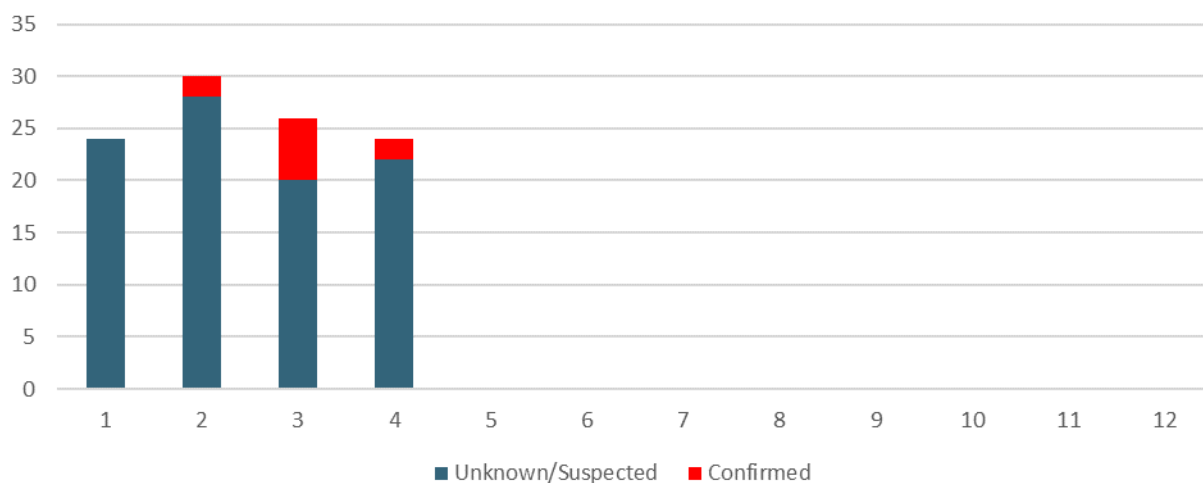
Date: May 11<sup>th</sup> 2023

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 April, there were **22 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 4 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2023 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



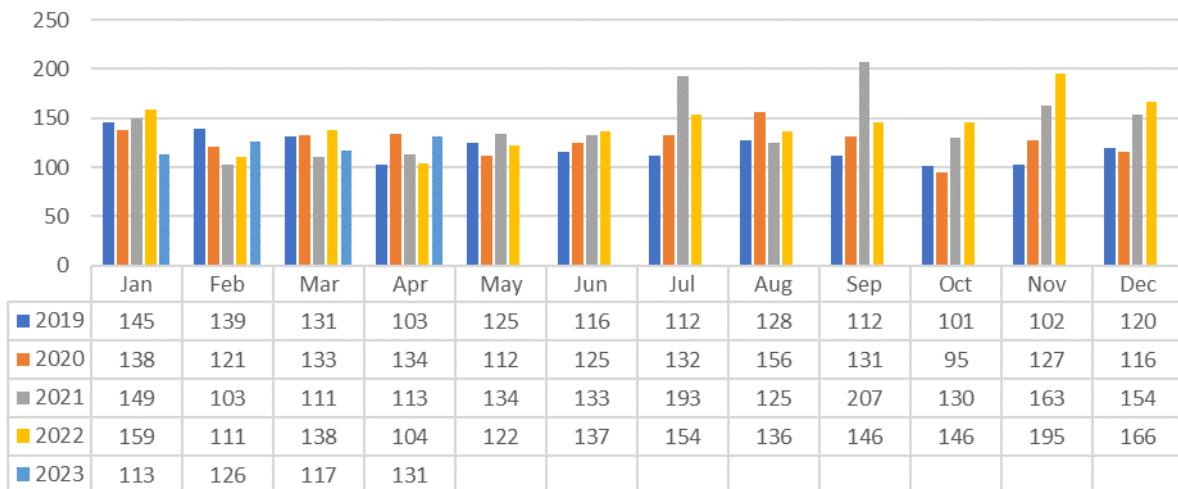
## Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **131 calls** for service as illustrated below. The district **had 36 concurrent** incidents, **impacting 27.5% of total incidences.** Concurrent calls continues to strain our current level of staffing and impact response times.

### Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	1
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	74
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2
5 - Service Call	20
6 - Good Intent Call	24
7 - False Alarm & False Call	10
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	131

### Incident Frequency by Month



### Station 53 Construction Project

All trusses are up and sheeting of the roof has started. Roofers are anticipated to be on site by Friday to begin underlayment and metal roof installation. Brick masons have completed the dumpster enclosure and nearly completed the walls for the pump house as well as the first row of cement block around the base of the main station. One of our volunteer firefighters, Ken Lindenstein was hired by the contractor and is one of the lead masons on the project. Kudos to Ken for his excellent work on the project to date. Construction of the water tank has also started with the cast in place concrete beginning to be poured in multiple lifts. Electrical and plumbing contractor has begun rough in work, and windows and door frames are on site. Anticipated being “dried” in within a week or so.

### Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended 2 onsite construction meetings for station 53. Monthly planning meeting with Liz Loomis and the public communications team. Chief Helm presented to the Coupeville Lions Club, as well as the Lagoon Point community on the state of the district, water system, and response to the fatal fire on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022. Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings. Contract Negotiations with IAFF local 4299 were intentionally paused to allow time for both the district and the local to

gather information and complete other projects. We are still on track to meet our goal to ratify a new contract by the end of the year. Chief Helm also attended a planning meeting for the Coupeville Water festival committee. Met with Carletti Architects in Mt. Vernon office to finalize flooring and paint samples, thanks to Cathy for the assistance. Met with Commissioner Bacon, Building Official Mary Engle, and County Administrator Michael Jones regarding the permitting process for station 53 and the possibility of American Rescue Plan funds to help with fire station construction cost increases. Chief Helm was then notified that the districts Local Community Project state grant was awarded in the amount of \$2.75 million dollars. This money will be used to pay off the councilmanic bond that was obtained to pay for COVID impacted construction cost increases. This will save the taxpayers and the district nearly \$210,000 dollars a year. Chief Helm also entered into an agreement with Astound to provide fiber internet to Station 51 as well as the Station 53 once its completed. The difference between what we were paying now and the new fiber service was roughly \$50. I am also working with Whidbey Health for a potential share of the new internet services to Station 51.

## Operations

### ***Asset Management:***

- With the assistance of many parties, assets have been tagged and all equipment has been added to the asset tracking spreadsheet.

### ***Apparatus Inventory:***

- Swivel pulleys (reported previously as a recall) are back on E53.

### ***Special OPS:***

- IMS continues work on our LifeProof marine unit. Currently, the vendor is waiting for the out-board motors.

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

- SCBA compressor air sample completed

### ***Medical Supplies and CPR***

- One CPR class taught during the month of April.

### ***Reports:***

- FF Rhodes has conducted review of 131 NFIRS reports for the month of April.
- FF Rhodes dedicated a significant amount of time to get ImageTrend updated and compliant with NEMSIS for transfer of data.

### ***Radio/Pagers:***

- Repairs underway for E53 mobile radio. The radio began malfunctioning by sending emergency alert to ICOM. This is significantly disruptive. The radio was swapped out temporarily.

## Community Risk Reduction

### ***Inspections:***

- A shift completed 2 inspections during April
- B shift completed 11 inspections during April
- C shift completed 2 inspections during April

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

- Two home safety surveys completed during April
  - Home safety survey and install of 5 hardwired smoke alarms at Hawthorne Place
  - Home safety survey and smoke alarm battery change at Marine Drive
- Three car seat checks performed during April
- Public Information has increased CWIFR activity on social media. This activity bolsters the community awareness of our operations.

***Collaboration:***

- Inspections included those at Fort Casey Inn with Island County building official Tamra Patterson

**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 at 6PM on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the performing arts center located at Coupeville High School.

**Fire Chief:** The Professional Development Division assisted with the reception and interviews for the finalists in the CWIFR Fire Chief recruitment process.

**Volunteers:** The professional development division in collaboration with members Rachel Stern, Travis Dotson, and Justin Burnett are developing a volunteer orientation program to help on-board new members more seamlessly.

***In-Service Training:***

- April in-service training included refining skills across a range of disciplines involving training in pump operations, rope rescue operations, EMS: pediatric trauma, on-line ten-minute training, and on-line training to meet the annual requirement for portable fire extinguisher use.

***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 is currently assisting with a rewrite of the bi-laws for the Island County EMS Council.
- Professional Development facilitated two members, Lt. Meek and FF Lloyd, attendance and completion of IFSAC Fire Officer II held at SWFE.
- Chief Mirabile attended and completed the National Fire Academy class: Health and Safety Program Manager during April.

## Facilities

### **Station 51**

- Bunkroom lights replaced
- Performed weed management

### **Station 52**

- Nothing to report.

### **Station 53**

- See construction notes from Chief Helm

### **Station 54**

- Diagnosed bay heater as faulty. The current plan will replace the heaters at 54 with the refurbished heaters from 51.
- Possible barter opportunity in the works with Island County for the old generator from Station 53.

## Fleet Maintenance

### **Maintenance:**

- During the month of April FF/Mech Matros was busy coordinating, scheduling, and working with Rosenbauer, General Fire, and U.S. Fire Corp. on warranty repairs. We are working on a plan to deliver each engine one at a time to U.S. Fire's shop in Sumner so that all current warranty work can be completed at one time instead of having their warranty tech come here periodically to work on the apparatus. We are hoping to start this process shortly after Memorial Day.

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

- Unit 0603 (T-51) – Fuel system repairs and NFPA 1911 Inspection and service has been completed. Recalibrated water tank level gauge.
- Unit 1801 (505) - Preventive Maintenance service and check engine light-causing drivability problems. #5 exhaust sensor in the aftertreatment system was faulty. Replaced the sensor and recalibrated. Vehicle is repaired.
- Unit 1201 (R-53) – Scheduled Preventive Maintenance service.
- Unit 1801 (501) – Scheduled Preventive Maintenance service.
- Exhaust tips were installed on the Tender's to complete the installation of the in-house exhaust evacuation system.
- Unit 0701 (T-53) – The in-cab parking brake actuator was leaking air. Replaced the valve with a new valve.
- Attempted diagnosis of intermittent radio transmissions from Unit 2103 (E-53) with no success. Added problem to warranty item list for Rosenbauer to diagnose and repair.