



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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www.cwfire.org

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Acting Fire Chief Jerry Helm

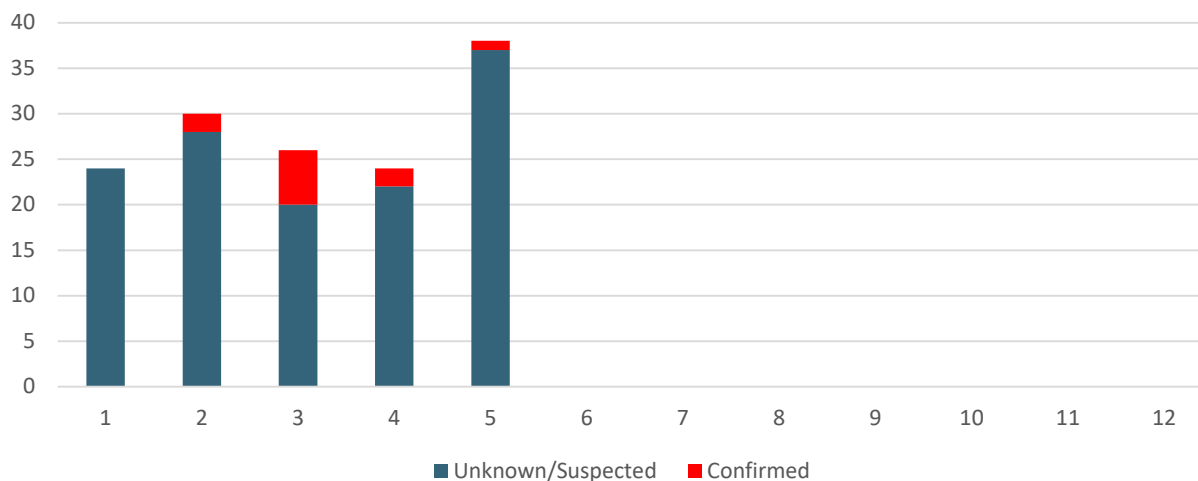
Date: June 8th 2023

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 May, there were **37 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 1 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2023 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



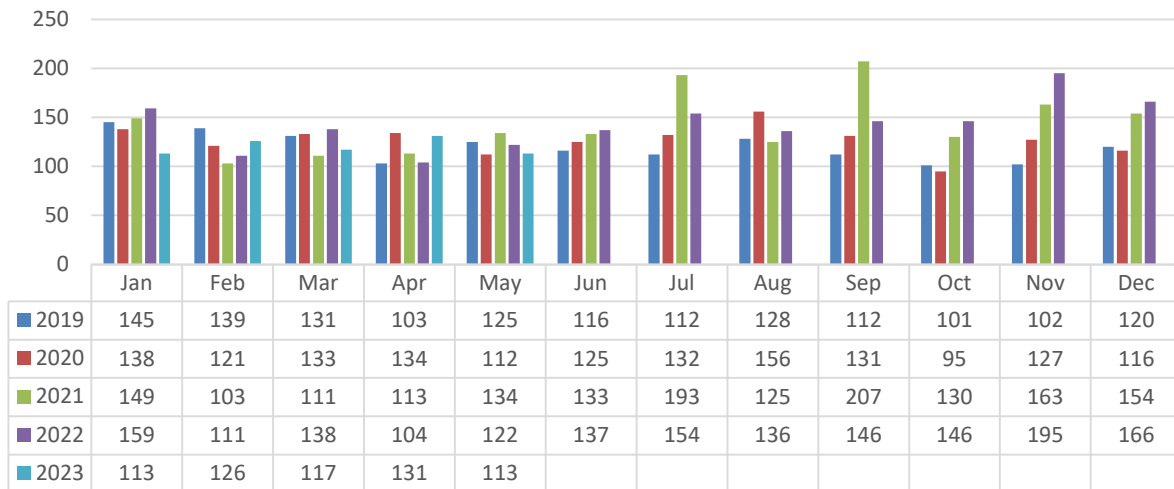
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **113 calls** for service as illustrated below. The district **had 26 concurrent** incidents, **impacting 23% of total incidences.** Concurrent calls continue to strain our current level of staffing and impact response times.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	2
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	83
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2
5 - Service Call	10
6 - Good Intent Call	13
7 - False Alarm & False Call	3
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	113

Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

Rough framing is now 95% complete, and station is wrapped in WRB. Windows are being installed now, with electrical and plumbing nearing rough in completion. Metal roof installation began Tuesday, Water tower is complete, and roof framing for pump house scheduled to begin shortly. Station is expected to be “dried-in” by next week. Insulation and sheet rock expected to begin within two weeks. Discussion still ongoing with Tiger construction in relation to the Nederman Exhaust system, working on a compromise with the contractor to reflect a credit for a portion of this work. PSE is anticipated to begin three phase power upgrades to Race Road by July, as the contractor will need to begin hooking up the station to utilities by then.

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 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. Planning with the local now when to begin talks again. Chief Helm coordinated and participated with FF Travis Dotson in a Boys and Girls Club “Touch a Truck” event.

Chief Helm presented to the Reserve a presentation to their volunteers on summer safety concerns at the Ebey House. County advised us they were no longer interested in our generator in exchange for some asphalt behind station 51. Will be moving forward with the sale of the generator and fire pump as planned. Chief Helm met with EMS director Chris Tumblin and it was determined that it would be best to negotiate the BLS contract opener with the new hospital CEO. I have sent an email requesting a date and time to begin this process for next year, but haven't heard anything back yet. Completed video inviting people to this meeting with commissioner Hutchinson that is now posted and live on social media and our webpage.

Cathy completed the 2022 SAO annual state report filing, as well as being notified we received the distinguished budget award from GFOA again for 2023. Chief Helm wrote the proposed levy resolution language and got it through legal review by Rich Davis. Jeff Rhodes has done a ton of work to coordinate a proposal from ESO for record keeping. The potential move will streamline some efficiencies with other agencies as well as eliminate our crews from having to fill out two reports for every transport we do for Whidbey Health. More to follow on this, but potential we will be able to consolidate many platforms we currently use into one, and maybe save a little money at the same time.

Professional Development

Recruitment:

Fire Academy: The Professional Development Divisions for CWIFR, SWFE, and NWFR successfully conducted the 2023 fire academy. The academy concluded on June 3rd with graduation on June 7th at the performing arts center located at Coupeville High School.

Volunteers: The professional development division in collaboration with members Rachel Stern, Travis Dotson, and Justin Burnett are deploying a volunteer orientation program to help on-board new members more seamlessly. The inaugural event will be held on June 17th. The program is aimed at getting the new volunteers up and running in a more expeditious manner.

In-Service Training:

- The highlight of May in-service training included a presentation for all CWIFR members by PSE on the hazards of high-voltage electrical equipment and its associated emergencies. The presentation provided some very useful insight for all to include updates to the building code aimed at firefighter safety. In addition, in-service training included pump operations related to the fog nails (which were discussed as a viable option on a fire with NWFR during the month), additional EMS evaluations, and various on-line components.

Collaboration:

- CWIFR, SWFE, and Camano Island Fire held a work session to further collaboration and cooperation with Island County EMS Council. This work should yield a county-wide OTEP schedule and updated council bylaws.

Other:

- Station 54 hosted a Wildland Firefighting refresher thanks to Firefighter Travis Dotson.
- A CPR / First Aid class was held at Station 54 and instructed by AIC Lieutenant Alex Majestic.
- A make-up fire academy session on vehicle fires allowed several incumbent members to practice their skills.

Operations

Asset Management:

- The program is currently up-to-date.

Apparatus Inventory:

- New scabbards were purchased for the chain saws.

Special OPS:

- Wildland refresher training conducted for members of NWFR and CWIFR
- No update on status of the new M5, still waiting for motors.

PPE/Respiratory Protection:

- Two new volunteers outfitted with gear.

Radio/Pagers:

- Nothing new to report.

Medical Supplies and CPR

- One CPR class taught during the month of May.

Reports:

- FF Rhodes has conducted review of 119 NFIRS reports for the month of May.
- On the horizon, NFIRS will become NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) through a contract from the US Fire administration to Underwriters Laboratories. The system will be developed to more modernize data collection and use for the modern fire and rescue service.

Other:

- A Heavy Apparatus / Operator cone course was conducted for FF/EMT Stavros with successful completion.
- R51 sold in closed bid sale (combined effort, Lt. Huff, Firefighter Lloyd and B shift for removing decals, cleaning rig, etc.)
- Annual hose testing began at the end of May for all CWIFR fire hose

Facilities

Station 51

- Nothing to report

Station 54

- Diagnosed bay heater as faulty. The current plan will replace the heaters at 54 with the refurbished heaters from 51.
- Identified repairs necessary for electrical outlet by training area and valve replacements for propane prop.

Station 52

- Nothing to report.

Station 53

- See construction notes from Chief Helm

Community Risk Reduction**Inspections:**

- A shift 0/7 May inspections complete
- B shift 5/6 May inspections complete
- C shift 3/8 May inspections complete

CRR Programs and other activity:

- Final system inspection at new Boys and Girls Club completed
- LT Porter participated as an evaluator for 5 candidates in the burn cell portion of fire investigation program.
- LT Porter and Volunteer Rachael Stern completed hypothesis foam testing at 3253 Day Road (Station 54) for 109 Salmon
- Various inspections and public engagement to include:
 - Residential sprinkler inspection at Burnham Place in Coupeville
 - Home safety survey and smoke alarm battery change and assistance on Inverness Way
 - Installed 4 new CWIFR provided smoke alarms at Olympic View Drive
- Fire Engine tour at Coupeville Elementary

Fleet Maintenance**Maintenance:**

- May included the scheduling of work on the Rosenbauer engines. They will be going to U.S. Fire LLC shop in Sumner WA for cab fabrication due to the cabs settling and rubbing on the exhaust tubes. Rosenbauer had made temporary repairs to the engines by adding shims on the cab latches until engineering could design a solution. Once the cab fabrication is complete the shims will come out. U.S. Fire will also be addressing smaller warranty items while each engine is in their shop. The first engine is scheduled to go to Sumner on June 6th and will be swapped out sequentially with another engine as they finish up on each until all three have been through their shop.

Apparatus Items / Repairs:

- Unit 0603 - (T-51) – Completed NFPA 1911 inspection and service
- Unit 0702 - (T-54) – Electrical Problems related to a faulty alternator. Removed and replaced alternator.
- Unit 1402 - (501) – Sent vehicle to Jerry Smith Chevrolet for A/C work, (failed a/c condenser). Vehicle also had a failed passenger presence module, (airbag system), in which dealer replaced and programmed.
- Unit 2002 – (B-53) – Received recall work from Rairdon's Dodge of Bellingham concerning the rear brake lines.

- Unit 1801 – Diagnosed a low coolant warning to a faulty coolant sensor. Replacement of sensor and surge tank will be deferred until work load lightens.
- Unit 2001 – (B-54) – NFPA 1911 inspection and fire pump service.
- R51 – completed sale.