



# 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: Fire Chief Jerry Helm

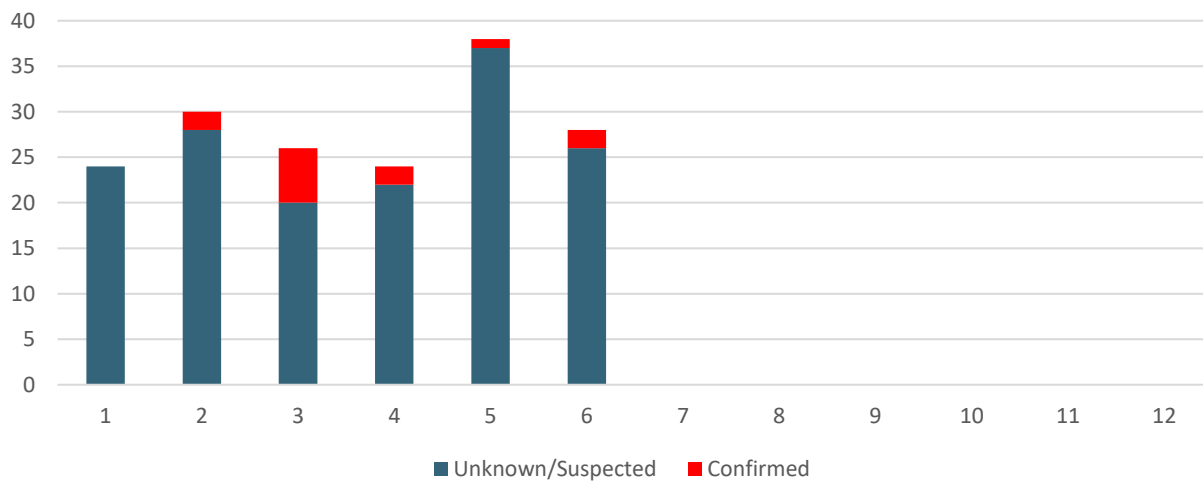
Date: July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

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 June, there were **26 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 2 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2023 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



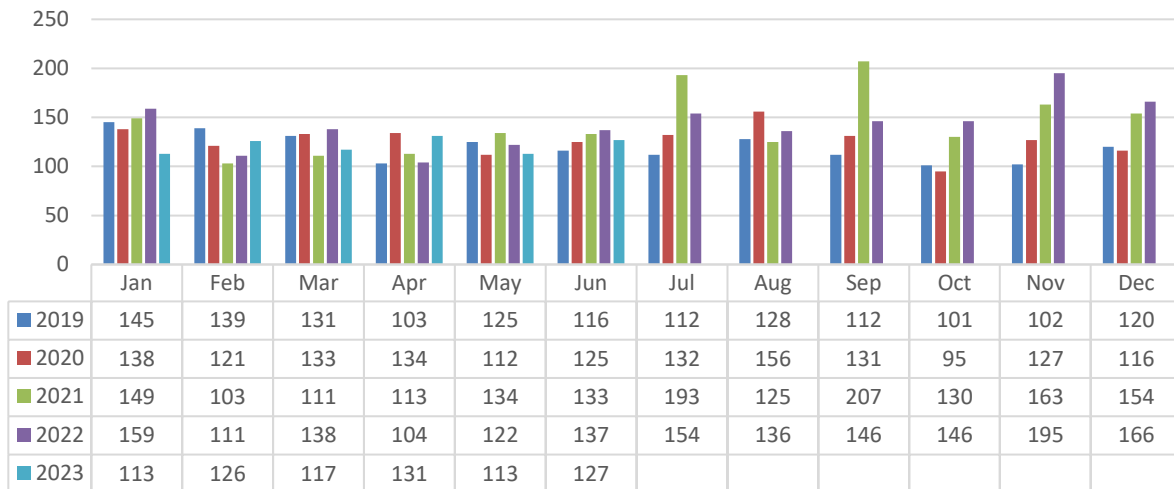
## Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **127 calls** for service as illustrated below. The district **had 32 concurrent** incidents, **impacting 25% 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	11
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	74
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4
5 - Service Call	17
6 - Good Intent Call	15
7 - False Alarm & False Call	6
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	127

### Incident Frequency by Month



### Station 53 Construction Project

Construction is moving along nicely. Sheetrock and insulation are now going in along with the roof being nearly completed. Sprinkler systems and HVAC installation is ongoing as well, with electrical and plumbing nearing completion. Grading, sidewalks, and curbing work has started and really starting to give shape to the exterior landscaping.

### 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 to resume talks with the local as soon as AIC Lt. Majestic is back from vacation next week. Chief Helm met with Chief Walsh to discuss collaboration on vehicle maintenance. Chief Helm, Chief Mirabile, and Finance Officer attended the 2023 Fire Academy graduation. Kudos to Cathy and Jim for their time and effort on this project. Chief Helm met with an Astound representative on site to evaluate the scope of work to replace the internet lines at station 51 with fiber and to

install fiber at the new station 53. Chief Helm attended a meeting with Tiger Construction, DB solutions, and Carletti Architects to discuss the Nederman Exhaust issue and progress is being made on this front. Cathy completed levy certification paper work and submitted to Island County.

## Training and Development

### **Recruitment:**

**Fire Academy:** To date, one of the four members attending the fire academy has obtained all certifications required to operate as a firefighter with CWIFR.

**Volunteers:** The professional development division in collaboration with members Rachel Stern, Travis Dotson, and Justin Burnett deployed a volunteer orientation program to help on-board new members more seamlessly. The inaugural event was held on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The program is aimed at getting the new volunteers up and running in a more expeditious manner. Several new members attended. Further development of the program is ongoing in preparation for the next delivery on July 23.

**Division Chief:** CWIFR is in the process of seeking a new Division Chief to fill the current vacancy.

### **In-Service Training:**

- The highlight of June in-service training included a presentation for all CWIFR members by Whidbey Sun and Wind on the hazards of solar 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 also included an in-depth presentation by ICSO Sargent Chris Peabody on active shooter procedures. This lecture will be followed up with practical skill training at a later date and in conjunction with Coupeville School District. Other training included mandatory reporting requirements for EMS providers and an on-line program on the hazards of lithium-ion batteries.

### **Collaboration:**

- Island County EMS Council is deploying new county-wide EMS protocols and has purchased an app for members to access the protocols on their smart devices. A county-wide OTEP schedule is in the works for deployment next year. The EMS Council bylaws update is still progressing.

### **Other:**

- EVIP class conducted for six members on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Operations

### **Asset Management:**

- The program is currently up-to-date.

### **Apparatus Inventory:**

- Nothing new to report.

### **Special OPS:**

- Lt. Meek and FF Rhodes completed recertification for their wildland Red Cards

- Marine 5 now has its motors installed with inspection and delivery expected next week.

***PPE/Respiratory Protection:***

- New recruits issued gear.
- SCBA
  - SCBA batteries ordered for yearly replacement
  - SCBA pack sent in for repairs
- PPE
  - PPE extractor quotes received for new station
  - Jump suit quote received
  - 8 jump suits sent in for repair

***Radio/Pagers:***

- Nothing new to report.

***Medical Supplies and CPR***

- AIC Lt. Majestic assisted our new CPR instructor, Jessy Caselden, in teaching her first class for CWIFR.

***Reports:***

- FF Rhodes has conducted review of 123 NFIRS reports for the month of May.

***Other:***

- IAFF Local 4299 is collaborating with Whidbey EMS and Is. Co. Parks to get an AED purchased and placed at Rhododendron Park.
- Repaired hose tester pump seal

**Facilities**

***Station 51***

- Replaced battery back-up ballast in bay light of 51

***Station 54***

- Old generator and fire pump from Station 53 will be auctioned in the near future.

***Station 52***

- Nothing to report.

***Station 53***

- See construction notes from Chief Helm

**Community Risk Reduction**

***Inspections:***

- A-shift inspections complete during June: 18 initials
- B-shift inspections complete during June: 9 initial, 2 re-inspections

- C-shift inspections complete during June: 3 initial, 3 re-inspections

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

- Completed fire investigations for: Rainbow Lane fire in the floor, Coupeville Library bathroom fire
- Fire investigations in progress for: Terry Road mobile home / car fire
- LT Porter met with Town building official and Coupeville Marshall 6/14 regarding multiple bathroom fires in Coupeville/Greenbank. 3 successful bathroom fires, 1 attempted fire

***Collaboration:***

- Nothing to report this month.

**Fleet Maintenance**

***Maintenance:***

- During the month of June FF/Mech Matros attended fire / EMS training, coordinated warranty work on the Rosenbauer trucks with U.S. Fire LLC, and performed preventative maintenance and repairs on CWIFR's fleet. Unit 2103 (Thor) was the first truck to go to U.S. Fire shop in Sumner WA in early June for cab fabrication due to the cabs settling and rubbing on the exhaust tube. Rosenbauer had made temporary repairs to the trucks 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 truck is in their shop. The second truck, Unit 2102 (Valkyrie), was swapped out with Thor at U.S. Fire on June 29<sup>th</sup> for its scheduled work.

***Apparatus Items / Repairs:***

- Unit 2001 – (B-54) – Completed NFPA 1911 inspection and scheduled PM fire pump service.
- Unit 2103 – (Thor) – NFPA 1911 inspection and 500hr service.
- Unit 1101 – (Matrix) – Completed preventative maintenance service.
- Unit 2102 – (Valkyrie) – Repaired minor items found in inspection.
- Unit 1502 – (505) – Completed preventative maintenance service.