



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: Fire Chief Jerry Helm

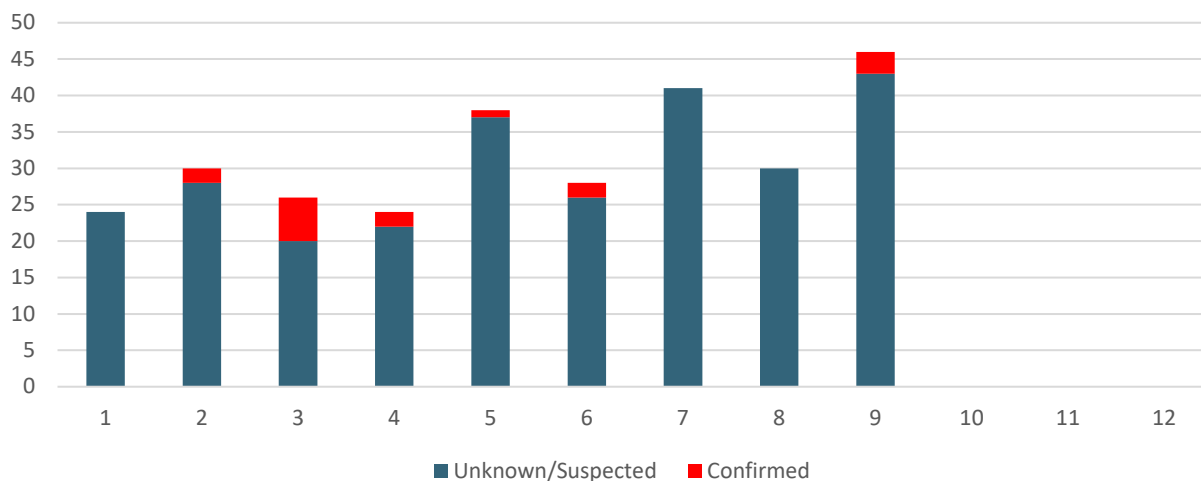
Date: October 12th 2023

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 September, there were **43 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 3 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2023 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district had its 2nd busiest September in 5 years. We received **155 emergency calls** detailed below. The district **had 54 concurrent** incidents, **impacting 35% of total incidences.** Although we are back to our typical percentage of concurrent calls, this continues to strain our current staffing level and impact response times for a large proportion of our calls. The crew and Myself thank you for placing the ballot measure to hire 4 more firefighter on the November 7th 2023 general election ballot.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	3
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	94
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2
5 - Service Call	19
6 - Good Intent Call	22
7 - False Alarm & False Call	15
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	155

Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

Construction is finally seeing an end in sight. The contractor has provided us a Substantial completion date of November 11th 2023, with a following 3-week punch list period. This now places the final completion date as Tuesday December 5th 2023. The last remaining major tasks involve trim work, floor coverings, final electrical connections, landscaping and paving. Curbing and sidewalk work is ongoing, along with the water system building plumbing. PSE/Potelco is on site installing the new power poles and work associated with the three-phase power project. This should last roughly 2.5-3 weeks and is accounted for in the master construction schedule.

Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended multiple 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. Levy and fire department presentation to Rotary Club. Volunteer Jim Mirabile continues work with EMS council on revamping the EMS bylaws. Contract negotiations with IAFF local 4299 continued with substantial movement and tentative agreement on multiple articles. We are still on track to meet our goal to ratify a new contract by the end of the year. Chief Helm attended and spoke at a county

commissioner meeting related to wildfire risk in Island County. Held an all-department meeting and shared news with everyone on station construction and other department activity. At this meeting, we also updated our department pictures and sent them to Whidbey News Group for their annual recognition article. I would also like to recognize Volunteer Travis Dotson for taking the self-initiative and producing a how to video on hydrant testing and inspection for use by our members. This video will be a valuable tool to help teach other for years to come. Chief Helm met with EMS director Chris Tumblin and multiple lead medics and together co-wrote the new proposed interlocal agreement extension that will be presented to you for consideration later tonight. Chief Helm also spent considerable time getting the proposed 2024 Budget in Brief document ready for your review later tonight as well.

Training & Development

Administrative

Attended labor-management negotiations meeting with Chiefs Helm and Meek and L-4299. Coordinated the testing and proctoring agreement for BLS Protocol testing with OHFD, WH-EMS, and Dr. Baciak.

Recruitment

Currently there are six volunteer recruits in the Island County EMT Academy which began October 3, 2023. Met with DC Meek and FF Burnett to coordinate and streamline the intake and review process for new volunteer applicants.

In-Service Training

Instructed final session of the new Island County BLS protocols, including skills stations. Began preparing for protocol testing by distributing practice exams to all EMT's. Other subjects presented were live-fire portable fire extinguishers, spinal immobilization (OTEP)

Collaboration

Attended two multi-agency active-shooter tabletop exercises with ICSO, WH-EMS, Island County Emergency Management, I-COM, and Oak Harbor Fire at Station 81. Participants used the draft policy "Violent Incidents Joint Operations Protocol" and the NIMS incident command model. A future hands-on "full scale" drill is being planned for Coupeville High School.

Other

Completed two-day Emergency Vehicle Drivers Training (EVDT) instructors' class with FF's Kellison, Burnett, and Dotson provided by VFIS.

Operations

Special OPS

1. M5 acquired from the manufacturer and now resides at Station 51. Issues with the EZ-Loader trailer brakes have been addressed by EZ-Loader as well as the Chevy truck being identified and sent to the

Chevy Service Shop for diagnostics as a possible contributor to the braking problem. Crews will continue to monitor function of brakes.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

1. Ordered and received new support services helmets for volunteers (wildland helmets).
2. 40 safety vests ordered and received for POV responders at the request of DC Meek.
3. 6 jumpsuits were sent in for repairs and have returned.
4. Porta count gas detector will be sent out this month for calibration.
5. SCBA compressor test kits to be ordered when porta count is sent out.

Radio/Pagers

1. Received pager batteries.

Medical Supplies and CPR

1. Completed our first blended CPR class (participants do online CPR training and then come in for practical skills evaluation).
2. Ordered and replaced expiring items (glucose test strips, airway adjuncts)
3. Ordered battery for Philips Public Access AED at Station 54.
4. Completed a recall on the AED pads on the Station 54 Philips AED.

Reports

1. 155 NFIRS reports were reviewed for the month of September.

Other

1. OPS division budget submittal was completed.
2. New standardized form created for the monthly division reports. Allows division managers to complete a monthly report located on the server (easier access and greater consistency in monthly reports).
3. On 09/26, an all-hands meeting was hosted by Chief Helm and member pictures were taken for Whidbey Newsgroups annual "Salute to Firefighters" newspaper article.
4. Small and attractive assets excel spreadsheet updated to include the purchased Stihl blowers, apparatus 2301 (Mechanic vehicle), and apparatus 2302 (M5).
5. Revised National Testing Network (NTN) employment posting for FT FF and posted on NTN for creation of a candidate eligibility list for potential new employees if the November ballot measure passes.

Facilities

Station 51

1. Fiber cable was pulled at Station 51 and installed.

Station 52

Station 53

1. Astound Broadband notified that fiber is ready to be pulled at Station 53.

Station 54

1. Finished install of bay heaters
2. Replaced bathroom faucet
3. Diagnosed and fixed issue with water heater
4. Purchased new leaf blowers to replace blowers that were stolen
5. Septic alarm, float in drain field reset. Will continue to monitor for issues.

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

1. A shift monthly inspections total= 2/8 inspections (CES/CMS/CHS are scheduled)
2. B shift monthly inspections total= 0/5
3. C shift monthly inspections total= 5/5

Yearly Inspection Progress

1. A shift inspections totals YTD: 69/81 or 85%
2. B shift inspections totals YTD: 34/57 or 60%
3. C shift inspections totals YTD: 47/53 or 89%

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

1. Two home safety surveys completed at 1966 Good Beach Lane with one install of a smoke alarm.
2. Six address signs installed.
3. Coupeville Elementary School contacted to coordinate Fire Safety Week activities.
4. Completed request for short term rental inspection at 303 NE Front St.
5. Met with Town of Coupeville Building Official on 9/27
6. Admin inspection/Tegris work
7. Created report listing County businesses for Island County Fire Inspector (Chris)

Fleet Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

1. Unit 0701 (T54), NFPA 1911 completed.
2. Unit 1201, diagnosed a bad trailer brake module. Vehicle scheduled to go to Chevy for replacement and programming.
3. Unit 1401 (E512), four out of five of the new controllers and valves are online and functioning. The fifth needs more diagnosing to get it to communicate properly.
4. Met with Humphrey Signs to procure the graphics for CWIFR's new boat and fleet services truck.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

1. During the month of September, FF/Mech Matros attended the annual Washington Fire Mechanics Conference in Wenatchee for ongoing training and testing. Recertification testing was conducted in electrical and fire pumps at the conference.

