



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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www.cwfire.org

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm

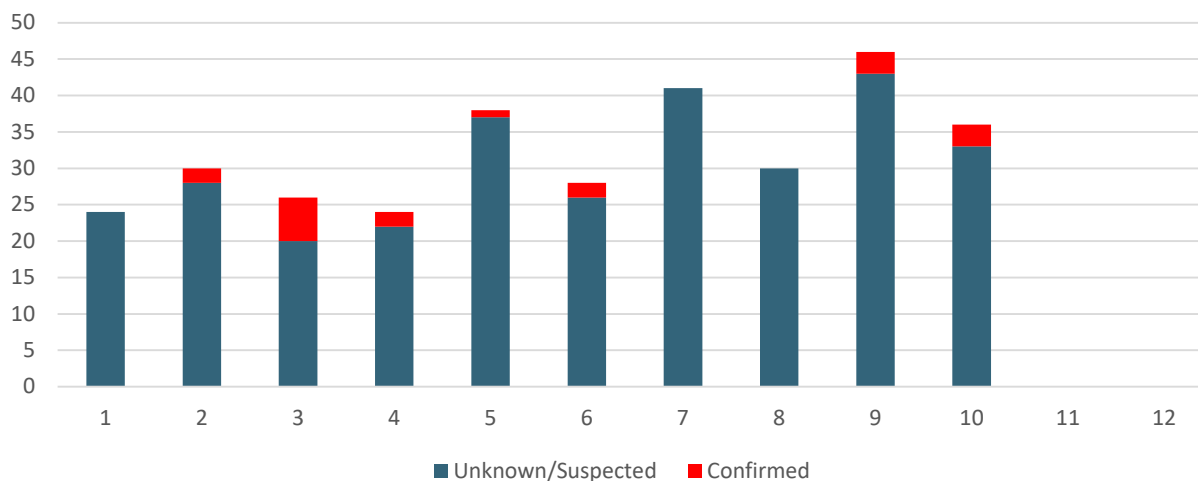
Date: November 9th 2023

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 October, there were **33 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 3 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2023 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



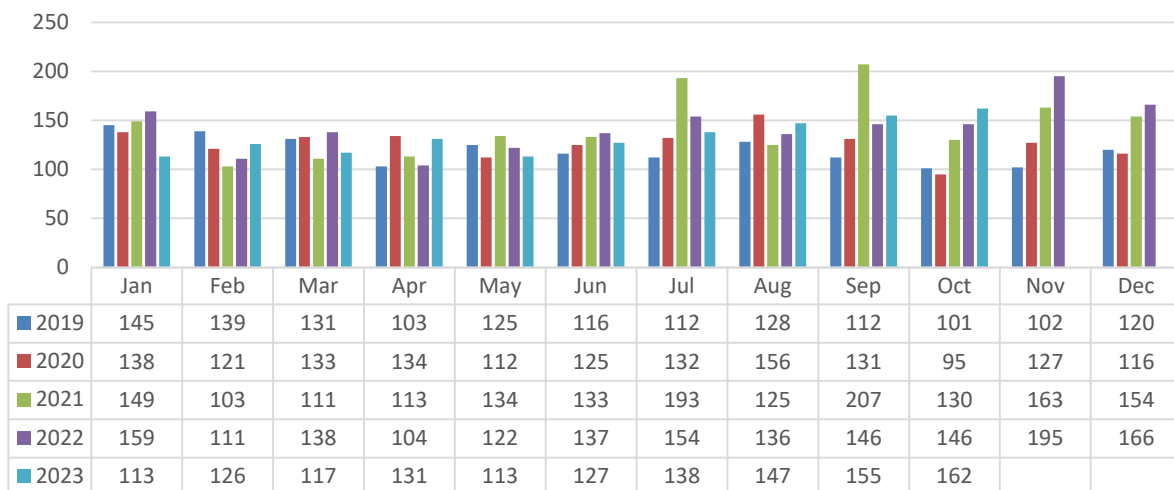
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district had its 2nd busiest September in 5 years. We received **162 emergency calls** detailed below. The district **had 80 concurrent** incidents, **impacting 49% of total incidences.** This continues to strain our current staffing level and impacted response times for nearly half of our calls last month.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	5
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	111
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2
5 - Service Call	13
6 - Good Intent Call	23
7 - False Alarm & False Call	8
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	162

Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

Construction is nearing an end in sight. The contractor has provided us a date of November 15th 2023 for Temporary Occupancy of the apparatus bays. This will allow us to move apparatus currently sitting outside before we are endangering of a freezing pump. A 3-week punch list period will follow this time, and now places the final completion date as Tuesday December 5th 2023. This gives us some of December and the month of January to move in and settle in. We are in the process of planning a dedication ceremony of Saturday February 3rd 2024.

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 Chamber of commerce and Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association. Volunteer Jim Mirabile continues work with the 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 the WFC conference with the commissioners. Held multiple community levy presentation Q&A sessions.

Training & Development

Administrative

Attended labor-management negotiations meeting with Chiefs Helm and Meek and L-4299. Administered (proctored) the on-line Island County BLS protocol test to Oak Harbor Fire Department (three sessions) and South Whidbey Fire & EMS (also three sessions.)

Recruitment

Met with DC Joe Dilley regarding the progress of our six volunteer recruits in the Island County EMT Academy being held at SWFE Station 36. Developing volunteer recruitment and orientation plans with FF Travis Dotson and DC Meek.

In-Service Training

Instructed classroom sessions on building construction, Island County BLS protocols, and practical hands-on drill on water tender and dump tank operations. Personnel continued with self-study towards Washington State Boaters Education certification. Began preparing for protocol testing by distributing practice exams to all EMT's, including the Narcan administration skill station.

Collaboration

Continued planning the hands-on "full scale" active shooter/MCI drill that is planned for Coupeville High School in January. A multi-agency table-top simulation will be conducted on November 14 with ICSO.

Other

Attended both question and answer events with Chief Helm related to the levy lid lift effort, the Cider Festival, and Torchlight Parade PR events. Acted as traffic safety officer at the multi-agency prescribed burn on Engle Road. FF Kolton Kellison, with the guidance of FF Travis Dotson, were able to get this burn completed on short notice and provide a great training opportunity for members in several agencies. Huge effort on their part!!!

Operations

Special OPS

1. Warranty was conducted on M5 and a spare trailer brake was left with CWIFR in case of future issues with the trailer brake.
2. Additional supplies and equipment were ordered to outfit M5 in preparation for apparatus training, training set to begin in January of 2024.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

1. Four sets of PPE were issued to volunteers

Radios/Pagers

1. Five new pagers were ordered and received by CWIFR.
2. Ten Pagers were sent out for maintenance.

Medical Supplies and CPR

1. Miscellaneous medical supplies and new pulse oximetry equipment was ordered.
2. Four new students were enrolled and are completing the CPR certification process in our new blended CPR class.

Reports

1. 199 NFIRS reports were audited for the month of October.

Facilities

Station 51

1. Crews spent a significant portion of time readying Station 51 for the levy presentation to the public by Chief Helm on 10/28. Windows were cleaned, bay floors polished, mowing, weedeating, and removal of yard debris.

Station 52

Station 53

Station 54

1. Station 54 was cleaned up for Chief Helm's levy presentation on 10/19.
2. New wireless access points were installed at Stations 51/54 by ISO, allowing for better WI-FI.

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

1. A shift monthly inspections total= 2/4
2. B shift monthly inspections total= 2/8
3. C shift monthly inspections total= 10/13

Yearly Inspection Progress

1. A shift inspections totals YTD:
2. B shift inspections totals YTD:
3. C shift inspections totals YTD:

Home Safety Survey/Installations

1. Seven address signs delivered and installed.

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

1. Fire Prevention Week was conducted at Coupeville Elementary School. The theme this year was "Cooking Safety Starts With You." A mix of volunteers and career staff conducted fire safety talks focused on preventing kitchen fires, extinguished fires in our "fire house" with a hose line off B53, and conducted fire extinguisher training.
2. Town of Coupeville hydrant testing was conducted by a mix of volunteers and career members. A big thank you to our volunteers, they handled a large portion of all of the hydrant inspections for the Town.
3. Lt. Porter traveled to the Fire Prevention Institute Conference, continuing her education in fire investigation.
4. Fire engine tours were given on 10/21.
5. Crews responded and investigated the bathroom fire behind the Coupeville Library. OHFD was called to test for ignitable liquids and collected samples. The Coupeville Marshals office is handling all of the collected samples. Chief Meek was the command duty officer for the incident and wants to recognize A-shift and Lt. Porter for their change of location (originally dispatched as a commercial fire at the Coupeville Library), scene-size up, early cancellation of units from multiple agencies, and quick extinguishment of the fire.
6. A-shift responded to a vehicle fire on Albion St near a residence. A-shift did an exceptional job of extinguishing the fire quickly before it could spread to surrounding structures.
7. Crews also responded to another vehicle fire on 9th Street. Fortunately, the vehicle wasn't closer to the residence as crews were already dispatched on a medical and the command duty officers were able to slow the vehicle fire with a garden hose, fire extinguisher, and finally an engine was brought by Chief Geiger to allow for fire control.
8. Lt. Jim Huff returned to full-duty after an extended recovery from knee surgery. We're happy to report Lt. Huff is doing well and we are truly happy to see Jim back on the line and EMS/fire services to the community.
9. Chief Meek and volunteers Travis Dotson, Starla Seal and family attended the annual Torchlight Parade on Front Street. There was a great turnout from community members and a bunch of kids that had a fantastic time getting candy from vendors and dancing to music at the live music stage.
10. Chief Meek has taken over event coordination (Water Festival, Arts and Crafts Festival, parades) and has begun working with career staff and volunteers to continue and improve our presence at community events and to take some of the workload off of career staff.
11. Chief Meek, along with Lead Medic May, have worked with Central Whidbey Little League to acquire an AED for Rhododendron Park. CWIFR and WH EMS collaborated to purchase the AED and we will conduct training on the AED in the spring prior to spring sports with coaches. A big thank you to Rob May for his continued dedication to community risk reduction in this effort to provide Rhody Park with an AED.
12. Front St. Grille was assisted in handling a matter with their insurance and questions regarding their sprinkler system. CWIFR was able to resolve the issue.
13. Multiple interviews were conducted by crews and chiefs to bring on several new volunteer applicants in the month of October. FF Justin Burnett has continued his efforts in volunteer recruitment to

increase our volunteer numbers to a level we haven't seen in several years. Quite simply, Justin is doing great work!

14. The Santa Mobile is off and running and the schedule has been publicly posted. Multiple members have signed up to promote this awesome event and we are looking forward to the Greening of Coupeville in December and sleighing Santa around for our community.

Fleet Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

1. Unit 1402 (501) – Battery was replaced and a PM service conducted.
2. Unit 2001 (B-54) – Master solenoid was replaced due to a warn part.
3. Unit 2301 (Fleet Service) – Diagnosed and repaired the rear turn signals that were working opposite of each other.
4. Unit 1101 (Matrix) – Scheduled PM service.
5. Unit 2002 (B-53) – Received new batteries.
6. Unit 1501 (505) – Scheduled PM service and new tires.
7. Unit 1201 (R-53) – Received repair at Chevy for a check engine light concerning the engine cooling system.
8. Unit 1801 (504) – Scheduled PM Service.
9. South Whidbey Unit 1204 (E-31) – Repairs to the air system – Will continue into November.

Mike Matros has been a very busy mechanic in October and has done a great job in assisting SWFE with vehicle issues while still maintaining our apparatus.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

During the month of October FF/Mech Matros attended RTA's fleet software user's conference for ongoing training and information on the state of the fleet industry. He also coordinated with National Hose Testing to complete our annual ladder testing for the districts ladders. FF/Mech Matros has also been studying for the EMS protocol's test to maintain his EMT certification.