



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

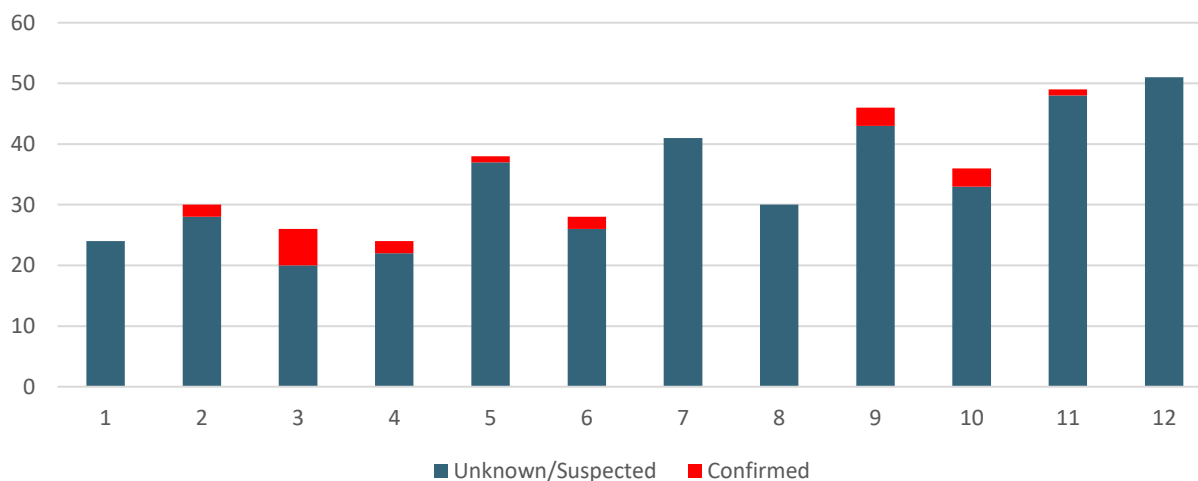
Date: January 11th, 2024

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 December, there were **51 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 0 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2023 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



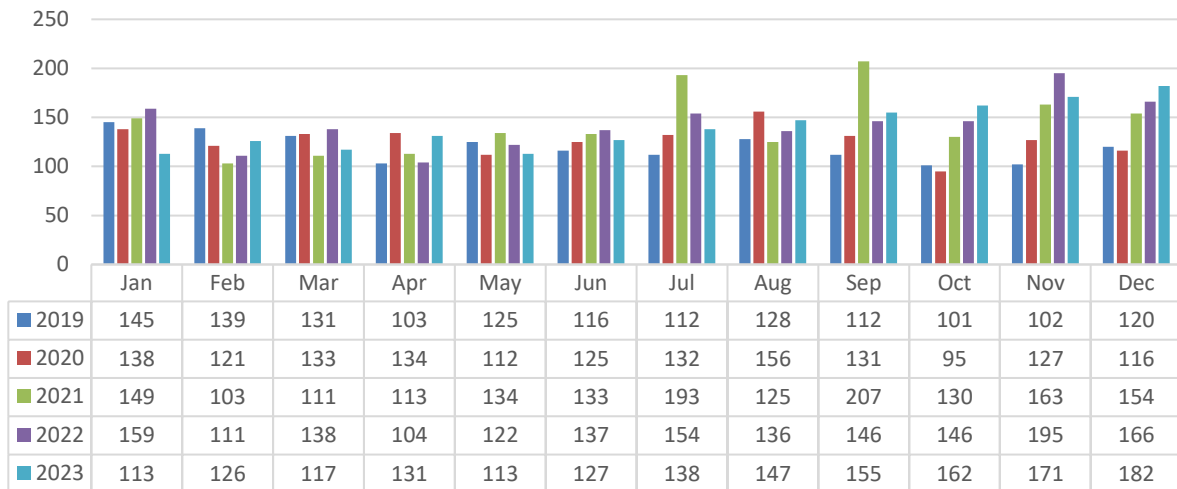
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **182 emergency calls**. The district had **66 concurrent incidents**, impacting **36% of total incidences**. This brings us to **1682 total emergency responses for 2023**. This continues to strain our current staffing level and impacted response times.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	0
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	126
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	1
5 - Service Call	19
6 - Good Intent Call	26
7 - False Alarm & False Call	9
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	182

Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

Construction is scheduled to be completed in the next few weeks and the end is getting closer.

Landscaping and sprinkler system installation is nearing completion

We are moving furniture in to areas the contractor has cleared for us including day room, bedrooms, and offices. We have bumped the dedication ceremony from February 3 to March 9th to give us time to get in and settled.

Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended multiple onsite construction meetings for station 53. Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings. Volunteer Jim Mirabile wrapped up with the EMS council on revamping the EMS bylaws and Fire Academy syllabus.

Training & Development

Administrative

Received admission into the Washington State Labor & Industries “Firefighter Injury & Illness Reduction” (FIIRE) Program. The FIIRE Program is a safety initiative designed to reduce the incidence of firefighter occupational injuries and illnesses through training, proactive risk management, and implementation of national best practices. Participation in the program has three benefits to the district:

1. Lower insurance rates
2. Grant funding for safety and decontamination equipment
3. Training resources for injury and illness prevention

Continued planning for the logistics of moving into Station 53 and the dedication ceremony for the grand opening event. Ordered the tables and chairs for the new classroom.

Began investigation into alleged physical and sexual harassment complaint between two volunteer recruits.

Recruitment

Met with two volunteer applicants and one current volunteer recruit for training and education planning.

In-Service Training

Instructed classroom sessions on OTEP-required airway management and supraglottic sub-certification, Narcan drug administration, classes on hazardous atmospheres and the practical use of our gas monitors, and a “hands-on” drill on vehicle extrication with our power tools.

Held two make-up drill sessions for volunteers needing EMT recertification skills demonstrations, including patient assessment and Narcan administration.

Collaboration

Continued planning with local and county public safety agencies for a tabletop active-shooter drill at the Coupeville High School on January 16th. This planning is intended to finalize the county response plan and MCI protocol for an upcoming full-scale drill either at the high school or County complex.

Other

Met with former Deputy Chief Jim Mirabile and Division Chief Joe Dilley on the upcoming Whidbey Island Fire Academy currently scheduled for March 2024. We have eight volunteers tentatively scheduled for participation.

Participated in two “Santa mobile” and Christmas parade activities.

Responded to nine (11) 911 calls as either Chief 504 or Chief 500.

Operations

Special OPS

PPE/Respiratory Protection

1. FF John Lloyd and DC Meek met with Sarah Orellano, a grant writing expert, to pursue funding for additional equipment etc. for the fire district.

Radios/Pagers

Medical Supplies and CPR

We received EMS backorder of AED batteries, we also received recalled AED pads for the public access AED at 54. We replaced expired and missing EMS equipment for Command 505,504.

Reports

Jeff Rhodes QI 214 NFIRS. Our crews were exceptionally busy in the month of December, no storms were involved in this call volume.

Other

I wanted to take the opportunity to recognize FF's Justin Burnett and Kole Kellison for their efforts on a recent interfacility transport from Whidbey Health. By doing their job and evaluating the patient prior to transport, they were able to catch a life-threatening problem with their patient and possibly saved the patient's life. I do not want to go into further detail do to HIPPA, however, we do want to recognize that they provided excellent service and upheld the standards of Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue.

Facilities

Station 51

Supplies for Station 51 were ordered.

A rebuild kit was ordered for the leaking hose bib in the bay.

The power cord for A503 was rebuilt.

Station 52

Station 53

Station 54

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

1. No assigned inspections for December.
2. B shift completed 11 initial inspections during December.
3. C shift completed 4 initial inspections during December.

Yearly Inspection Progress

1. A shift inspections totals YTD: 82/87 (94%) Of the 5 not completed, one is scheduled for Jan 4th.
2. B shift inspections totals YTD: 56/71 (79%) B shift was unable to schedule or access 15 inspections.
3. C shift inspections totals YTD: 59/64 (92%) C shift unable to schedule or access 5 inspections.

Home Safety Survey/Installations

1. Home safety survey Kineth Point, installed 5 CWIFR provided alarms
2. Home safety survey Marine Dr., installed 4 CWIFR provided alarms, replaced CO detector batteries.
3. Home safety survey Pinecrest, changed batteries in 8 smoke alarms and the batteries in 3 CO alarms.
4. Home safety survey NE Haller, replaced two hardwired smoke alarms.

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

Santa mobile successfully completed with the hard work of many volunteers and special shout out to Justin Burnett and Debbie Jackson who invested large amounts of time to preparing for the Santa Mobile this year. We would also like to recognize the following members and their families for their participation and work on this year's Santa Mobile:

Travis Dotson, Robert Moore, Brent Stevens, Josh Harrell, Ken Lindenstien, Dawn Meredith, Blake Byrum, Starla Seal, William Drumwright, Steve Richmond, Jake Keating, Tina Lyness, and Peter Roy. Over half of our volunteers participated in this year's event!

Justin Burnett taught volunteer orientation class 12/29/2023- 4 hours

LT Porter and FF Kellison completed boaters' safety course; FF Burnett has already been complete.

Fleet Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance

Unit 2304 (New boat tow vehicle) – Upfitted vehicle with two-way radio.

Unit 2301 (Shop Truck) – Continued upfitting truck.

Unit 2001 (B-54) – Received fuel filter replacement and inspection per scheduled P.M. service.

Unit 1801 (Command Unit) – Installed amber lights on the rear side of light bar in order to provide safer traffic mitigation on scene.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

During the month of December FF/Mech Matros has also been onboarding the three new vehicles into the fleet. This is a time-consuming process as all P.M. maintenance schedules must be created and all vehicle information must be inputted into our software. The front-end workload is high but pays off during the life of the vehicle so that all maintenance can be tracked. He also took and passed his Island County EMT protocols test.