



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

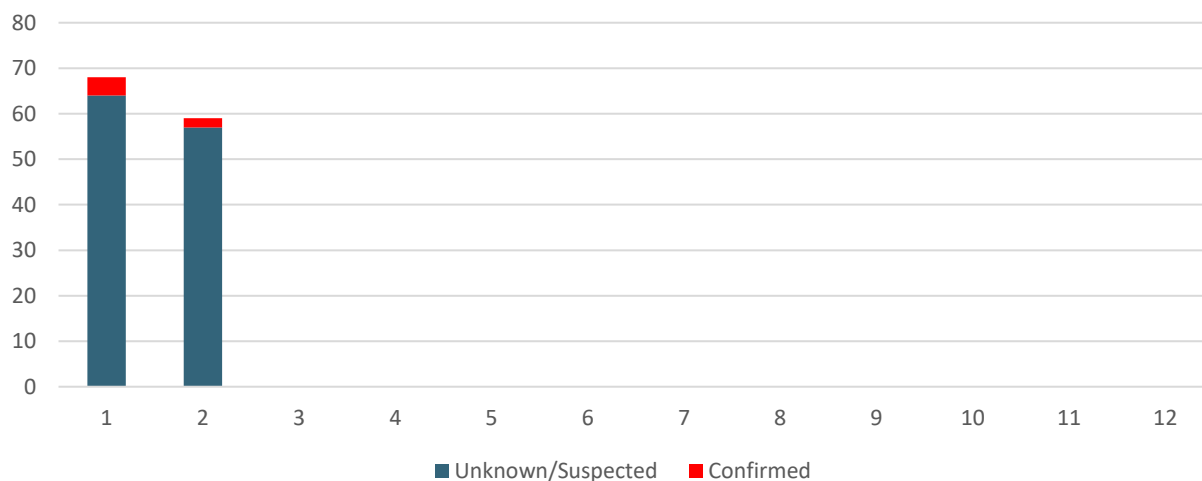
Date: March 14th, 2024

Subject: Chief's Report

COVID-19

As illustrated below, COVID-19 continues to impact on incident operations, but the frequency with which our members encounter it continue to fluctuate through the year. During the month of **February**, there were **57 incidents where COVID-19 was unknown/suspected and 2 with COVID-19 confirmed.**

2024 Responses Where COVID was a Factor



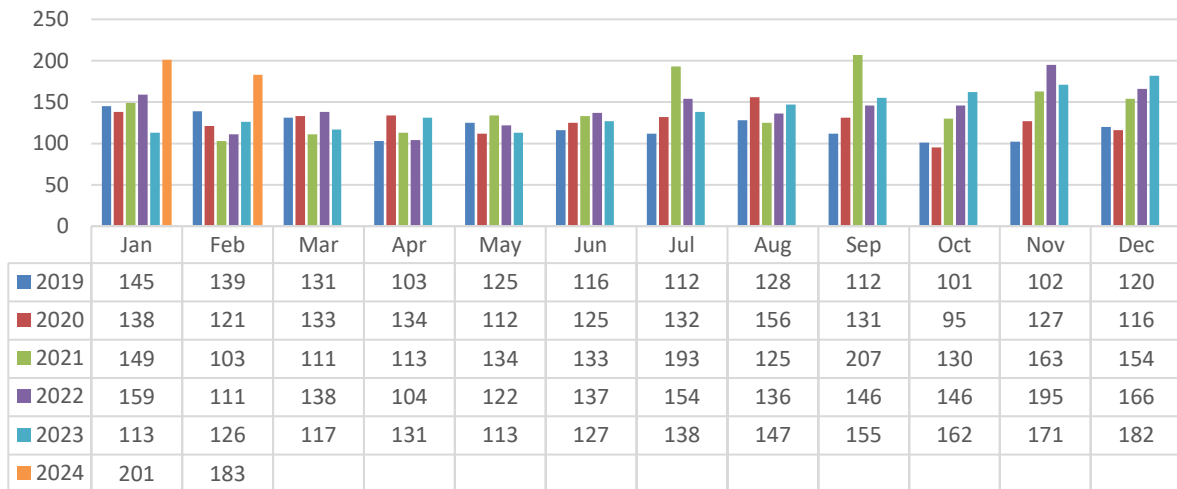
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **183 emergency calls. This was our busiest February on record.** This month concurrent calls continued to impact response times. The district had **82 concurrent incidents, impacting 44% of total incidences.** We are addressing staffing starting this month by holding the first full time testing process to fill the positions approved by the voters in the November 2023 levy.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	1
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	119
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	1
5 - Service Call	33
6 - Good Intent Call	14
7 - False Alarm & False Call	8
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	7
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	183

2024 Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

Substantial construction is completed and we have Temporary Occupancy. Waiting for Final Occupancy once paperwork has been processed through the county and all subcontractors submit as built drawings and operational manuals. I hope to have the crews beginning to move in starting Monday of next week once the final issues with the hot water and oven are taken care of.

Other Administrative work

Substantial time was spent planning and prepping for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Special thanks go to Cathy, Division Chief Geiger and Division Chief Meek for the handling the logistical nightmare of housing over 200 people for the event.

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. Transitioning the division chiefs to be the agency representative as some of these meetings.

Chief Helm is continuing to work with the state department of commerce on obtaining our \$2.7 million dollar grant. Had a Zoom meeting with the state on the process, and I have reached out to Jim Nelson to clarify repayment path and to clear any potential unforeseen hurdles once the money is transferred to us.

Training & Development

Administrative

Continued writing the Vulnerability Assessment Program (VAP) and Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) as the first steps for participation in the Washington State Labor & Industries "Firefighter Injury & Illness Reduction" (FIIRE) Program.

Finalized several details for the dedication ceremony for the grand opening event planned for March 9th.

Assisted with assessment and testing of full-time firefighter candidates, February 26th—28th.

Recruitment

Interviewed one volunteer recruit applicant on February 7th.

In-Service Training

Conducted one "hands-on" drill session on scenario-based operation of the Lucas CPR device in preparation for use in the field; one classroom session on firefighter injury and illness prevention presented by Washington Labor & Industries, and two classroom presentations on initial scene operations and incident command.

Collaboration

On February 8th met with the training officers of North Whidbey and South Whidbey to finalize the schedule and other details of the 2024 Whidbey Island Fire Academy. We currently have three (3) volunteer recruits enrolled.

On February 16th Chief Helm and I assisted South Whidbey Fire with their division chief assessment center. On February 17th attended the memorial service for North Whidbey Fire Commissioner T.J. LaMont in Oak Harbor.

Operations

Whidbey Health and CWIFR have continued work on partnering to provide an AED to Rhododendron Park. The AED is planned for installation at March 22nd. Within that partnership, CWIFR and Whidbey EMS are assisting CWLL with medical training on concussions, AED/CPR, and managing injuries on the 22nd of March.

We have had a large amount of engagement from our career and volunteer members in a few projects:

Station 54 cleanup (burn tower)

Getting station 53 ready for move-in and for the dedication ceremony.

Full time testing process

CWIFR hosted six candidates for full-time testing. We had great engagement from volunteers, career members and a multitude of evaluators from many fire departments throughout the Puget sound to conduct the full-time testing process. A big thank you to Paine Field, Bellingham Fire, Tulalip Fire, Camano Fire, and other entities.

In February we began our first installments of preplanned occupancy trainings. These training are focused on our high hazard occupancies (Regency, Cambey, Whidbey Health, Coupeville Schools). We conduct Blue Card sizeups, strategy and tactics, and assign companies at simulated fires in these occupancies. We then do a site visit and review the occupancy to discuss our tactics further and to become more familiar with the occupancy. So far, it has been a lot of fun with great engagement from our members and I believe a lot of learning is taking place.

The LUCAS device has been setup for QA with Whidbey Health and the LUCAS should be ready to use in the month of March.

Special OPS

M-5 Training - M5 had an issue with the power steering pump, FF Kellison ordered and received new parts. The issue has been resolved and we intend to continue marine training throughout the month of March and into April.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

FF Lloyd, Issued new fire recruits PPE

Ordered work gloves, bunker boots and misc. items.

Yearly flow tests completed on all SCBA's

The yearly SCBA compressor service was completed

Organized PPE at 53

Ordered SCBA lanyards for firefighting masks.

C shift conducted an inventory of all SCBA bottles and SCBA packs for asset management.

Radios/Pagers

We received the charging stations for our new radios.

Medical Supplies and CPR

B shift organized and inventoried medical supplies for the new bins at station 53. Supplies were ordered for inventory and expiring medical supplies.

Reports

FF Rhodes audited approximately 180 NFIRS reports.

Other

Facilities

Station 51

Station 52

Station 53

Supplies were ordered for Station 53.

Furniture assembled at Station 53.

Station 54

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

A shift completed 5/5 initial inspections.

B shift completed 1/1 initial inspections.

C shift completed 5/7 initial inspections.

A few more inspections were also completed by crews after the report from the CRR division.

Yearly Inspection Progress

A shift YTD 90% (9/10)

B shift YTD 80% (8/10)

C shift YTD 82% (9/11)

Home Safety Survey/Installations

Assisted homeowner at honeymoon lake with 4 hardwired smoke alarms

Assisted homeowner in installing 4 battery smoke alarms, 2 provided by CWIFR

Installed and delivered 11 address signs 2/3/2024

Installed 2 address signs 2/20/24

Installed 2 address signs 2/27/24

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

FF Burnett coordinated several days of hydrant inspections with volunteer help

LT Porter conducted 2 county inspections with county fire inspector 1/2024, meeting with county fire inspector 2/6/2024

LT Porter conducted 3 car seat checks

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair and Maintenance

Unit 1501 (505) – Added two amber light modules to the rear of the main light bar to help with traffic mitigation.

Unit 1801 (504) – Received scheduled P.M. Service.

Unit 1402 (Tahoe) – Received scheduled P.M. Service

Unit 2102 (E-54) – Received 500hr service and NFPA 1911 inspection

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

Other minor quick repairs to the fleet were made as needed. Completed the on-boarding process for the new vehicles in the fleet including the Durango, and GMC truck used for towing Marine 5. Additional work includes moving to the new station and administrative duties to manage the fleet.