



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: July 11th, 2024

Subject: Chief's Report

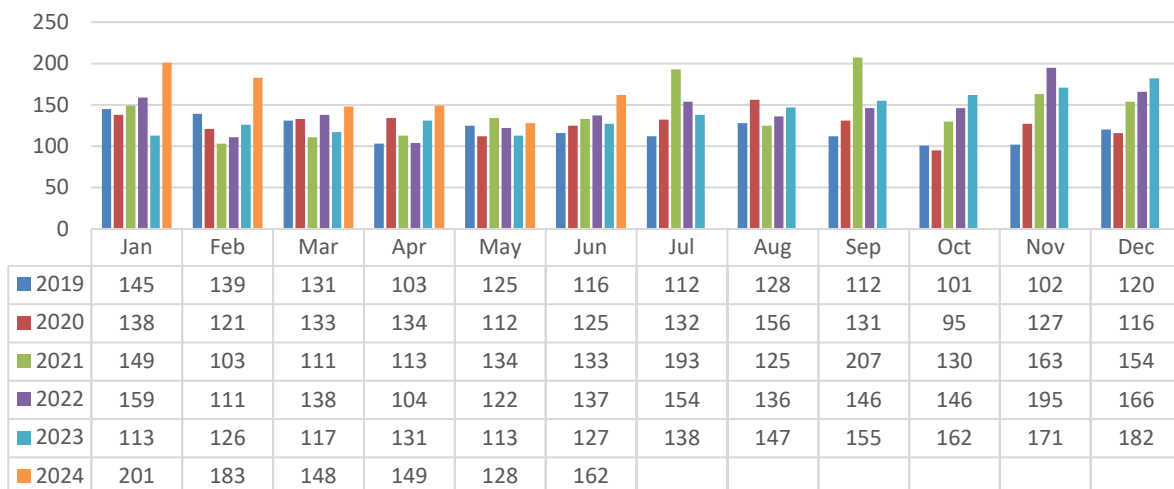
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **162 emergency calls** and had **64 concurrent incidents** impacting **39% of total incidences**.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	3
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	108
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	1
5 - Service Call	11
6 - Good Intent Call	30
7 - False Alarm & False Call	9
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	162

2024 Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

No update

Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings, and is continuing to work with the state department of commerce on obtaining our \$2.7 million dollar grant. We currently have a fully executed contract with the department of commerce. Chief Helm is working through getting logged into the invoicing system in order to request payment.

Attended a Zoom meeting with Motorola, ICOM, and Day wireless on upcoming upgrades to our radio system for our new radios.

Attended the Island County Fire Academy Graduation

Chief Helm worked heavily on a few policy updates, and legal consultation.

Training & Development

Administrative

Our Safety Improvement Plan was submitted to and accepted by the Washington State Labor & Industries Division FIIRE Program. We submitted the formal grant request for an automated, high-efficiency SCBA washer. The request is for \$25,000 for the washer that will be used in conjunction with our current turnout extractor. Met with the occupational injury prevention specialist from the FIIRE Program on June 10th to review our grant request prior to submittal on June 28th.

Facilitated the majority of the planning and execution of the 2024 Island County Fire Academy that was held on June 11th at the Coupeville High School. Seventeen recruit firefighters successfully completed the 300-hour, four-month academy, including three from our District. Our three recruits are now receiving post-graduation, District-specific training on specific subjects such as incident command, traffic control, wildland operations, safety and survival, community risk reduction, and our specific hose loads. They will also be taking the firefighter Candidate Physical Agility Test (CPAT) prior to becoming fully-qualified to respond to calls.

Attended the Island County EMS Council meeting on June 11th.

Reviewing policies from several other fire districts on “firearms in the fire station” at the direction of Chief Helm in pursuit of our own directive on the matter. Also assisting Chief Helm in the creation of a “drug, alcohol, and impaired employee” policy for the District which will include newly enacted revisions to Washington state law (RCW 69.50.455.)

Recruitment

Conducted panel interviews for two volunteer firefighter applicants. Both were advanced to the next steps in the application and orientation process.

Assisted with the “Hustle With Heros” 5K race on June 22nd in Coupeville. This was a joint fund-raising effort by all Whidbey Island public safety agencies with the proceeds benefiting the Whidbey Island

Boys & Girls Club. We staffed an information tent at the race, answered questions about the Fire District and fire safety, and made volunteer applications available.

In-Service Training

Held three classroom sessions on emergency vehicle driving laws and policies as required by WSRB and NFPA 1500, on June 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Classes emphasized driving safety and accident prevention by highlighting several case studies of fire apparatus and emergency vehicle accidents. This was the precursor to the mandatory refresher training for our Emergency

Vehicle Driver Training certification. The EVDT refresher classes were held the following week on June 10th and 12th.

The fire chaplains group hosted a “Meet the Chaplains Taco Night” on June 25th. The session was incorporated into a peer support and post-incident stress resources awareness drill. Similar sessions were held on June 24th and 26th for the on-duty crews (no tacos, though.)

The C-Shift duty crew attended a case review and crush-injury management training session taught by WhidbeyHealth EMS and Dr. Baciak at the hospital on June 13th.

Collaboration

Was interviewed by the County Community Health Advisory Board for possible membership on June 7th. I was asked to apply to provide the Board with a perspective on the delivery of Emergency Medical Services and the needs of under-represented and high-risk groups, such as elderly immobile, homeless, mentally ill, and those with substance abuse issues.

Other:

No update.

Operations

June was yet again another busy month for CWIFR. Personnel attended multiple community events, began hydrant testing and have continued to maintain exceptional levels of fire inspection completion.

We had a great turnout from all the fire districts for the 2024 fire academy graduation.

A big thank you to Travis Dotson and Jake Keating for their support at the CES Field Day and Jake Keating’s assistance at the Coupeville Library extinguisher training. Members also attended the Hustle for Heroes run at CES, a well-attended inaugural event, spearheaded by ICSO deputy Lauren Bates to benefit the Boys and Girls Club. DC Meek had the opportunity to attend Opioid Awareness Night at CHS. A detective and drug recognition expert from ICSO presented on opioids and opioids in Island County. The event was well attended by community members.

We completed our first round of Target Hazard training at the Coupeville Wharf with all of our shift members. A few volunteers also took part in the training.

Luke Hillier, Brent Stevens and I attended an online webinar on rural water supply operations.

All fire preplans have been updated and are in the process of distribution to our apparatus. This process allows our members to have better information to appropriately address issues on emergency responses and addresses a review of preplans requirement by the WSRB. In this process, several occupancy changes were made, several new occupancies were found and several new preplans were created.

DC Meek began working with the Coupeville Library to conduct monthly or quarterly training for community members at the library. The training topics discussed are extinguisher training, stop the bleed, child safety and CPR, disaster preparedness, fire prevention and boater safety. We hope to kick off the training this fall.

We want to recognize Justin Burnett's efforts with our hydrant testing program. Justin has been doing an exceptional job coordinating hydrant testing and inspection and working with our water system operators and owners.

Events

Touch a Truck at the Coupeville Library – July 17th

Ragnar Race – July 13th

Special OPS

M5's seat was repaired by Matros/Kellison. Awaiting training to be in service.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

2 SCBA packs returned from Seawestern (Warranty repair) and small issues addressed by FF Lloyd for 3 other packs. Lloyd recognized need to replace 6+ plus sets of bunker gear currently worn by members.

Radios/Pagers

No update.

Medical Supplies and CPR

New glucometers ordered to replace outdated ones and with lower cost consumables. New med bag ordered for A53/Tahoe for first aid and basic medical calls. Misc. medical supplies ordered.

Reports

Rhodes audited 160 calls for June

Other

Replacement pressure regulator ordered for hose tester. Inventory taken of tenders to update equipment and collecting required items to get back on tenders. Jumbo manifold gauge replaced on 2103.

Facilities

Station 51

Nothing to report

Station 52

Nothing to report

Station 53

Nothing to report

Station 54

Nothing to report

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

A shift completed 3/3 June initial inspections.

B shift completed 4/6 June initial inspections.

C shift completed 2/4 June initial inspections.

Yearly Inspection Progress

A shift YTD 63/63 or 100%

B shift YTD 37/39 or 95%

C shift YTD 35/37 or 95%

Home Safety Survey/Installations

Installed 7 address signs 6/23/24

Installed 6 address signs 6/24/24

FF Matros assisted with install of 2 CWIFR provided smoke alarm at 405 S Main Street

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

LT Porter assisted a community member to check 2 car seats

A shift inspected 24 hydrants

B shift inspected 9 hydrants.

C shift inspected 15 hydrants

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair and Maintenance

Unit 2303 (501) – Found coolant leak during P.M. service. A/C system is also not functioning with good performance. Sent vehicle to Oak Harbor Motors for A/C service and coolant leak repair.

Unit 2103 (E-53) – Failed Diesel Exhaust Fluid quality sensor. Contacted manufacture, complete DEF tank and module was next day aired to CWIFR. Removed and replaced DEF tank and module with updated part. Repair and tank assembly was covered under warranty.

Unit 1201 (R-51) – Replaced failed truck batteries.

M-5 – Assisted Kole Kellison with replacing a leaking internal driver's seat shock. Repair and parts were covered under warranty.

Unit 0701 (T-53) – Currently undergoing NFPA 1911 service and other repairs during P.M. service.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

FF/Mech Matros also took and passed three ASE recertification exams. He also took two EVT exams and is waiting on the results.