



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: August 8th, 2024
Subject: Chief's Report

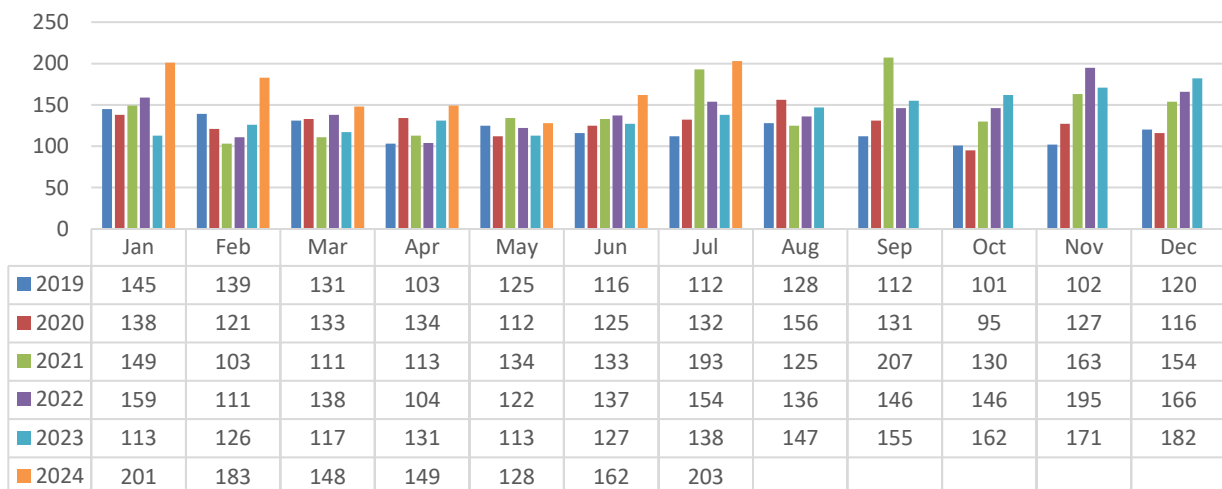
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **203 emergency calls** and had 92 **concurrent incidents** impacting **45% of total incidences**.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	2
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	149
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2
5 - Service Call	8
6 - Good Intent Call	33
7 - False Alarm & False Call	9
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	203

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.

We have received our 2.7 million dollar grant from the state and are currently finalizing the payoff of the LTGO construction bond. Chief Helm worked heavily on a few policy updates, and legal consultation.

We have started our state audit with SAO. Cathy has delivered boxes of paperwork to Bellingham, as well as Chief Helm and Cathy completed initial interviews.

Training & Development

Administrative

Met with MPD Dr. Baciak on July 2nd at Station 51 to discuss several training, testing, and protocol issues. Also reviewing and revising the Island County death in the field protocol with Dr. Baciak and Coroner Shantel Porter. Attended the Island County EMS Council meeting on July 9th. Began planning and preparation for the 2025 budget submission. I was accepted into the two-week *Management of Emergency Medical Services* class at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. I will be attending September 15th through the 22nd. All expenses (airfare, lodging, tuition, and books) are paid by FEMA with the exception of the \$600 meal ticket.

Recruitment

Received and reviewed five applications for volunteer membership. Conducted panel interviews for two volunteer firefighter applicants. Both were advanced to the next steps in the application and orientation process. Presented one orientation session to four volunteer applicants on July 10th with Lindenstein and Niuro also attending.

In-Service Training

Conducted three "hands-on" training sessions on brush unit operations including drafting from a static source and progressive hoseline deployment on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Held three classroom sessions with skill stations on the administration of Epinephrine and Narcan on July 8th, 9th, and 10th for OTEP training. Conducted three joint training sessions at the Navy Outlying Landing field with Navy Fire on July 15th and 17th. Purpose was to become familiar with the ARFF apparatus at the OLF and how we would most like supply and support them in the event of a crash and fire. The same drill was conducted on the 16th with the inclusion of the Navy Search & Rescue helicopter flight demonstration, landing and engine shutdown. Our personnel then toured the aircraft and were instructed how to load patients into the helicopter, support the flight crew, and how to shut off fuel and the engines in the event of a crash. Held two orientation sessions at the WhidbeyHealth LifeFlight helipad on helicopter safety, patient loading, and engine shutdown procedures. Held three classroom and practical training sessions on positive pressure ventilation at structure fires on July 29th, 30th, and 31st.

Collaboration

Met with training managers at Island Transit on July 9th to discuss and plan a future joint drill that will cover emergency procedures to be used with their vehicle fleet, as well as a scenario-based evaluation of their supervisors responding to a transportation (bus) incident. Planned and coordinated the upcoming Whidbey Island EMT Academy with Chief Dilley of South Whidbey Fire & EMS. Academy is tentatively scheduled for September 2nd through December 11th. Participated in a second panel interview via Zoom for appointment to

the Island County Community Health Advisory Board. Working with Camano Fire & Rescue on an updated OTEP training and hours-tracking worksheet.

Other:

Developed a “Return to Work” syllabus for employees that have been inactive for six months or longer. The curriculum includes EMS protocol updates and skill sheets, driving policy review, apparatus inventories, stretcher operation of Aid 503, SCBA donning, Marine 5 orientation and operation, and mandatory compliances classes.

Operations

I was traveling around the state of Oregon for a good portion of July, but had the opportunity to do some event coordination for the month of August. We will be sending one EMT to assist Race the Reserve and Chief Helm and I participated in the 1st annual National Night Out in Langley yesterday, head by Langley’s Police Chief Wassier.

I will be attending a Stop the Bleed workshop in September to become a Stop the Bleed instructor. I will also be participating in a Webinar in September to prepare for next year’s WSRB rating. In October, I will begin attending Southern Columbia University’s master’s degree program and begin a master’s degree in emergency services management.

AO Stevens and I collaborated on an emergency vehicle driver training class on August 3rd with three volunteer members. This class is one of the initial steps towards getting our members qualified as apparatus operators.

In July, members attended the Touch-A-Truck event at the Coupeville Library. This year’s event was another big success with a great turnout from the community. We also assisted the CWLL by sending one volunteer to assist with Ragnar setup at the Langley Fairgrounds. This event is a fundraiser for CWLL that brings in a couple thousand dollars to support youth athletics.

Events

National Night Out—August 6th

Race the Reserve and the Arts and Crafts Festival—August 10th

Whidbey Island Cider Fest (September)

Special OPS

M5 has been placed in service.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

Gear returned by 2 volunteers. One cleaned and put in inventory, one removed from inventory due to being past life span expiration.

Radios/Pagers

Our new Motorola radios are almost ready for pick up following programing and are nearing installation. These radios should provide better radio service with their ability to utilize the cellular network.

Medical Supplies and CPR

Misc. medical supplies ordered.

Reports

FF Rhodes reviewed 200 NFIRS reports for the month of July.

Other

Lt. Huff ordered new O2 sensor for our gas detector.

Calibration gas was ordered for the gas detectors.

Facilities

Station 51

Huff began planning the fascia repair and repainting at Station 51.

Station 52

Nothing to report

Station 53

Air handler at 53 was found off, solving the fan issue in restrooms. Air handler filters were cleaned.

Tiger Construction advised of possible water leak in the landscaping at 53.

Ordered LED line projector for bay floors.

Station 54

Nothing to report

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

A shift completed 5/5 initial inspections for July.

B shift completed 6/6 initial inspections for July.

C shift completed 5/6 initial inspections for July

Yearly Inspection Progress

A shift YTD: 100% (72/72)

B shift YTD: 98% (44/45)

C shift YTD: 98% (40/41)

Home Safety Survey/Installations

Nothing to report.

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

Hydrant repaired on Parker road found during annual hydrant inspections. Hydrant oos at Gould/6th also found during hydrant inspections. Town of Coupeville has been notified and will repair asap (has been repaired)

3 Inspection at Inn at Penn Cove to satisfy short term rental annual inspection requirement.

2 hours inspection managing data input/tegris verification.

A shift inspected 18 hydrants in Lagoon Point and Town of Coupeville.

B shift inspected 16 hydrants in Ledgwood/Bon Air.

C shift inspected 19 hydrants in the Town of Coupeville

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair and Maintenance

Unit 2101 (E-51) – Currently undergoing its 500 hr service and NFPA 1911 Inspection.

Unit 0701 (T-53) – Completed its NFPA 1911 inspection and P.M. service and repairs.

Unit 1201 (R-51) – Repaired shore power charging/maintaining system, mobile radio power down time, and replaced starter batteries.

Unit 0603 (T-51) – Currently undergoing its NFPA 1911 Inspection and P.M. service.

Unit 1801 (502) – Received P.M. service, front brake rotors due to warpage, diagnosed and repaired non functioning lighting in canopy.

Unit's 2001, 2002 (B-53, B-54) – Replaced all missing drip rail edge caps on roll up compartment doors.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

FF/Mech Matros passed his two EVT Exams taken in June and also passed another ASE recertification exam in July.

