



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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To: Board of Fire Commissioners
From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm
Date: September 12th, 2024
Subject: Chief's Report

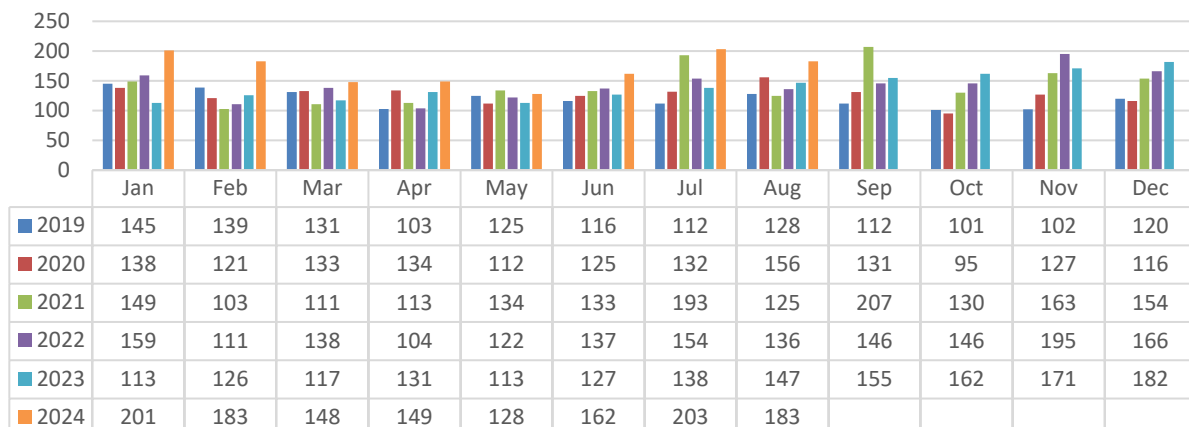
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **183 emergency calls** and had 63 **concurrent incidents** impacting **34% of total incidences**. This is now our 7th month this year that we have set a new 5-year record. If we continue on this pace, we will top **2000** calls this year. Over **300** calls more than any previous year.

Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	2
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	119
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	1
5 - Service Call	18
6 - Good Intent Call	29
7 - False Alarm & False Call	14
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	183

2024 Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

Anticipated finalization of construction anticipated by the end of the month.

Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings.

As reported last month, we have received our station construction grant from the state of Washington and have paid off the LTGO construction bond. We finalizing our state audit with SAO with exit interviews scheduled later this week.

Chief Helm attended an Auto/Mutual aid response zone planning meeting with South Whidbey EMS is efforts to identify areas that will make assisting each other easier and more beneficial to the communities we serve.

Chief Helm also met with the new Fire Chief for the city of Oak Harbor.

Training & Development

Administrative

Received confirmation from State Labor & Industries that we have received the \$25,000 grant as part of the FIIRE Program. This money will be put toward the purchase of an automatic, high-efficiency SCBA washer and decontamination machine. Attended the Island County EMS Council meeting on the 13th in lieu of Chief Helm. Appointed to the Council after the resignation of former Division Chief Jim Mirabile. Continued in the document disclosure and discovery process of the tort claim lawsuit. Began identifying needs and collecting information for the 2025 training budget. Significant items will be a new "Rescue Randy" manikin, an AED training device, funds for both Incident Safety Officer certification and Traffic Incident Management certification training.

Recruitment

Received and reviewed six applications for volunteer membership. Conducted panel interviews for five volunteer firefighter applicants. Four were advanced to the next steps in the application and orientation process. Continuing to revise the intake and review process for volunteer applicants. Also sent letters to six current volunteers for failure to meet the minimum attendance and point requirement. Goal is to reduce the number of inactive volunteers with ones that participate actively in our operations and activities. Attended both the Arts & Crafts Festival and the Race the Reserve public events, offered volunteer applications, and answered questions.

In-Service Training

Chief Meek and AO Stevens conducted an eight-hour class session on Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT) on 3rd. Conducted four "hands-on" training sessions on OTEP required spinal immobilization on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th. Conducted three training drills on the donning and use of our Scott SCBA on 12th, 13th, and 14th. Held three familiarization tours of the Law & Justice Buildings and the Annex Building at the County complex in Coupeville on 19th, 20, and 21st. Conducted three practical sessions on residential fire interior search and rescue techniques on 26th, 27th, and 28th.

Collaboration

Met with new Division Chief Alex Magallon of South Whidbey Fire & EMS to discuss several upcoming joint training and instructor-sharing opportunities between the Districts. Attended the orientation session for the

2024 Island County EMT Academy on the 30th. We have three volunteer recruits enrolled in the academy, being held by SWFE as usual.

Other:

Submitted a “Dangerous Weapons in the Workplace” policy to Chief Helm. The draft policy attempts to protect employees and members of the public from acts of violence while in the fire station, but also respects the rights of citizens to carry firearms. The policy conforms to the State RCW. Delivered the “Return to Work” training syllabus for an employee that had been on extended leave. The training task book included District policy updates, ambulance and stretcher operation, SCBA donning, CPR with the Lucas device, pumping and hose loads, and qualification on Marine 5. We will save the document and use it again if needed.

Operations

AIC Lt. Alex Majestic has returned to B-Shift and we want to welcome him back. Alex returned to us in mid to late August and began work with division chief Geiger to get caught up on training and new equipment.

We have posted on full-time testing opportunities on National Testing Network. We plan to conduct an assessment in October to establish a list for hiring 3-6 new full-time members.

Our licensed aid vehicles have been updated with the DOH. We removed two vehicles as licensed aid vehicles and added one vehicle for licensing, Chief Helms command unit.

Jake Keating and Division Chief Geiger staffed Race the Reserve and the Arts and Crafts Festival. I want to extend my sincere thank you to both of them. Race the reserve requires one standby medical person and having those two there contributed to this great events success. Race the Reserve benefits the 2025 CHS senior class.

Lt. Porter, FF Kellison, and I met with the CHWA to discuss the first ever fire safety week in downtown Coupeville. We floated around several ideas and we will be working on some mailers, some hands-on training and a possible fire drill with the Town of Coupeville.

The volunteer onboarding committee met to continue our discussion on volunteers. This has been an ongoing process to sharpen and streamline our onboarding process.

We will be transitioning to ESO for scheduling, medical and fire reports, asset management, hydrants, and inspections. Admin will be importing a variety of information into ESO to establish our foundation and then we will work with members within the organization to conduct training. The transition will save the department money, reduce the number of programs we utilize, and reduce members’ time writing reports. Luke Hillier has been an immense help with the onboarding process and will continue to assist administration throughout.

Events

Whidbey Island Cider Fest – September 28th

Fire Safety Week – October 7th-11th

Special OPS

Kellison taught boat Ops to Majestic for orientation.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

Volunteer gear turned in and cleaned.

Radios/Pagers

We received a call from Mike Voss with Skagit 911 and they are finalizing everything they need from Motorola for the programming of our new radios. Mike Voss and Skagit 911 deserve a ton of recognition for their efforts in getting this project off the ground. With these new radios and the help from Skagit 911 we are helping pave the way for many other agencies to improve their radio coverage.

Medical Supplies and CPR

R51 was assigned an AED to meet the needs of our volunteers at Station 51 for medical response. New glucometer kits were assembled and ready to be distributed to apparatus.

Reports

147 calls reviewed by Rhodes.

Other

Volunteers from Sta.51 and FF Lloyd continued working on inventory of E51 to ensure E51 is up-to-date. Ops division budget input.

Facilities

Station 51

Started sanding fascia panels and replace 1 panel.

Station 52

Nothing to report

Station 53

Requested bids for improving landscaping.

Station 54

Nothing to report

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

A shift completed 3/3 initial inspections.

B shift completed 2/3 initial inspections (3rd scheduled 9/6).

C shift completed 4/7 initial inspections (2 county buildings scheduled).

Yearly Inspection Progress

A shift completed 75/75 inspections. 100%

B shift completed 50/51 inspections. 98%

C shift completed 46/49 inspections. 94%

Home Safety Survey/Installations

Smoke alarm battery check at 701 S Main, #13.

DC Geiger completed a home safety survey in Greenbank.

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

Request for new business inspection at Goldie's, new business inspection at Whidbey Provisions.

FPW information organization, meeting with CHWA and Mayor of Coupeville August 16th

Coupeville Wharf sprinkler follow up. Natures Neat home daycare inspection performed. Coupe's Village alarm annual service follow up. Whidbey Health FDC follow up.

A shift inspected 12 hydrants.

B shift inspected 22 hydrants.

C shift inspected 4 hydrants.

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair and Maintenance

Unit 2101 (E-51) – Received it's 500hr service and NFPA 1911 inspection.

Misc small repairs and fleet management duties.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

Since 98% of CWIFR's fleet now takes Diesel Exhaust Fluid Mike has purchased a 55gal drum of Diesel Exhaust Fluid mounted on a drum dolly with an electric pump designed to pump DEF. This will be at St-53. Once

operational this will be more cost efficient and be easier for our members to fill the DEF tanks on the fleet's vehicles. We will continue to keep a couple of 2 ½ gal totes of DEF at the outlying stations for use if needed. FF/Mech Matros took a needed vacation for the second half of August and returned early September.