



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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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: October 10th, 2024
Subject: Chief's Report

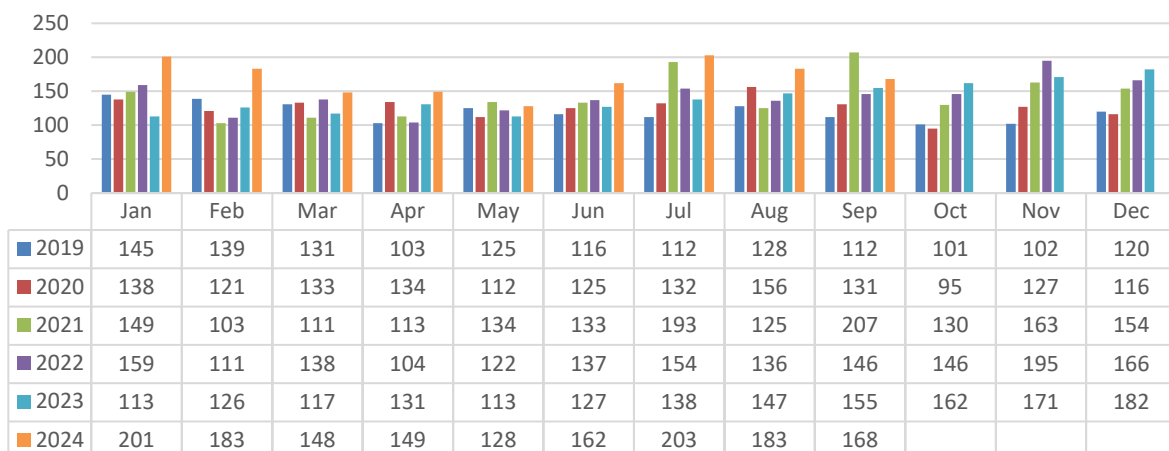
Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **168 emergency calls** and had **87 concurrent incidents** impacting **51% of total incidences**. 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	1
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	97
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	6
5 - Service Call	18
6 - Good Intent Call	41
7 - False Alarm & False Call	5
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	168

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.

A considerable amount of time was spent with SAO finalizing the 2024 state audit and developing the 2025 proposed district budget. Chief Helm met with EMS Director Chris Tumblin on multiple occasions regarding the BLS contract.

Training & Development

Administrative

Updated the grant request to State Labor & Industries for the SCBA equipment decontamination washer.

Attended the Island County EMS Council meeting on the 10th as the new District representative. Submitted the 2025 training division budget request to Chief Helm. Financial emphasis was placed on Incident Safety Officer training and the designation of a District Health & Safety Officer. Also increased funding for officer development training.

Recruitment

Presented an orientation session for three volunteer applicants. This orientation presentation is part of a committee effort to streamline and improve the intake and review process for new volunteers. We have two volunteers continuing in the Island County EMT Academy.

In-Service Training

Made three classroom presentations on the NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training standard the District has adopted on the 9th, 10th, and 11th. Intent was to educate our personnel on the origins and purpose of the standard as well as solicit interest in becoming an NFPA 1403 instructor. In my absence, Chief Meek conducted three “hands-on” training sessions on OTEP required airway and ventilation on 16th, 17, and 18th. Chief Meek also conducted three sessions on “Initial Scene Operations” on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th. On 26th the District hosted an 8-hour state certification class for EMT Evaluators. The class was taught by Mark Norman of Polaris Training Concepts. Seventeen students completed the class including seven of our own.

Collaboration

Attended the Island County Community Health Advisory Board 6th as the newest member. Met with the finance officer at Camano Fire District #1 on the 13th and shared some budget preparation materials.

Other:

Successfully completed the two-week “Management of Emergency Medical Services” course at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The course provided comprehensive lessons on strategic planning, personnel management, quality improvement, as well as several “emerging issues in EMS” presentations. (It is worth noting that the cost to the District was only \$650 for the meal ticket as FEMA pays the tuition, lodging, materials, and airfare for the course.)

Operations

The month of September was a busy and exciting month at CWIFR. We have a full-time testing process at the end of October, Rachel Stern and I became Stop-the-Bleed instructors, ESO onboarding has continued, we had a couple of community events we participated in and prepared for several events in October, we have several members signed up for Blue Card IC training and couple going to become certified with Chief Hartin, and I have been started updating workstations for ISO access and security.

The full-time testing process will occur October 29th and 30th. We have two internal candidates and eight external candidates for the testing process.

Rachel Stern and I certified as Stop-the-Bleed instructors and have been compiling supplies and equipment for our first instructional night on February 12th, 2025 at the Coupeville Library. We have other opportunities upcoming!

We have onboarded with ESO and are beginning the admin training and data migrations phase. Hopefully we will begin the testing phase in the next month!

We had great help from Jesse Carranza Jr. and Jesse Carranza III at the Cider Fest at Greenbank Farm.

Our volunteers and career members are currently engaged with Coupeville Elementary School in Fire Safety Week. This year’s theme is smoke detectors. We have also kicked off the first annual fire safety week with the Town of Coupeville. We have partnered with the Town and the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Society to provide educational handouts and some in-person trainings in the future.

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.

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.

Events

Torchlight Parade – October 26th

Fire Safety Week – October 7th-11th

Special OPS

FF Kellison and Burnett worked to install a new winch strap on M5.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

Nothing to report.

Radios/Pagers

Nothing to report.

Medical Supplies and CPR

Ordered medical supplies to restock/replace equipment

Jessy Hillier performed CPR class for two of our new volunteer members. Majestic and Hillier recertified as CPR instructors for the year 2024/2025

Reports

168 reports for calls as of 9/28.

Other

B shift finished hydrant inspections for the month of September. FF/AO Jeff Rhodes and FF Wolken assisted volunteer Bryson with on duty target specific training addressing ladders/hose deployment. FF Bryson had expressed interests in gaining more experience in some areas of need for his performance while pulling shifts. B shift invited FF Bryson and other volunteers to sign up for weekend days to better address any of their training specific concerns and needs.

Facilities

Station 51

Painted fascia at Station 51.

Station 52

Nothing to report

Station 53

Requested additional bids for improving landscaping.

Station 54

Requested bids for lawn care of all 3 stations

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly Inspection Progress

A shift completed 6/6 initial inspections for September.

B shift completed 2/6 initial inspections for September.

C shift completed 5/7 initial inspections for September.

Yearly Inspection Progress

A shift 100% (83/83)

B shift 89% (53/59)

C shift 96% (54/56)

Home Safety Survey/Installations

Smoke alarm troubleshooting at 266 Marine Drive

CRR Programs and other inspection activity

Inspection request scheduled for a VRBO at 914 Colburn Street in Coupeville

Inspection request and initial completed for a VRBO at 806 NW Alexander St. in Coupeville.

A shift inspected 13 hydrants.

B shift inspected 17 hydrants.

C shift inspected 10 hydrants.

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair and Maintenance

Unit 1101 (Admin Vehicle) – Received a scheduled PM service.

Unit 2101 (E-51) - Drivers window intermittently working. Diagnosed to a faulty relay.

Unit 0603 (T-51) – Undergoing PM maintenance and NFPA 1911 inspection.

Unit 0702 (T-54) – Intermittent electrical problem causing the Class One governor control on the pump panel to go off and on. Found that the ground lighting circuit was piggy backed off of the governor circuit causing an over load condition on the resettable circuit breaker. Isolated ground lighting circuit to its own dedicated circuit on a separate circuit breaker.

Unit 2001 (B-54) – Found during inspection that the pump engine choke was stuck in the closed position. Removed choke, and control cable. Lubed and adjusted choke control so that it operates properly now.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

NW Hydro performed our third-party pump testing on CWIFR's fleet. They were impressed with our trucks and mentioned that all trucks tested were very strong with no pumping issues. FF/Mech Matros attended the annual Washington Fire Mechanics Conference in Wenatchee from September 9th – 13th. There he took continuing education classes on fire apparatus. He also ended the week by taking two more EVT tests in which he passed.