



Station 53 Construction Project

We are still working through minor warranty work and closeout with Tiger Construction and Subs

Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings. Chief Helm met multiple days with South Whidbey regarding collaboration efforts.

Assisted Oak Harbor Fire with assessment center, conducted closeout interviews with the wildland team that was deployed to California, attended a virtual demonstration for Vector solutions scheduling platform.

Cathy completed work on 2024 end of year report, and held a staff meeting for all full-time employees.

Training & Development

Administrative

Firefighter/EMT Travis Dotson and Battalion Chief Lloyd are making significant progress on the proposed draft of SOG 1.2.5 Volunteer Personnel. This SOG outline requirements for Volunteers activity levels, ranks and roles, compensation, working conditions and training. Volunteer applications are being received and reviewed by Battalion Chief Lloyd and interviews should start again late May or early June.

Recruitment

We will be participating in the “Hustle With Heroes” 5K race on May 31st in Coupeville. This is a joint fund-raising effort by all Whidbey Island public safety agencies with the race proceeds benefiting the Whidbey Island Boys & Girls Club. We will be staffing a information tent at the race and will be answering questions and making volunteer applications available.

In-Service Training

We completed more than 250 hours of training this month. Subjects included-

- SCBA quarterlies
- Taking Hydrants
- Progressing hose lines
- OTEP Make-ups
- Yearly red card wildland refresher
- Rope rescue training
- Apparatus operator training
- EMS chest trauma
- Various EMS training
- Engine company operations

Collaboration

The 2025 Island County Fire Academy is complete with the graduation yesterday. Chief Magallon from South Whidbey Fire/EMS and I will begin planning interagency training when time allows and hopefully start that in June. Interagency training strengthens abilities when working together and gives us additional knowledge from outside our agency and different perspective.

Other

The Marine Academy will be held from May 14th through May 16th. All six probationary firefighters will participate, supported by Firefighter Kellison and Battalion Chief Lloyd. This joint academy, conducted in partnership with Camano Fire, marks the initial step toward marine qualification and operational readiness for boat deployment. The timing is ideal, preceding the peak of the busy water activity season.

Operations

WSRB Site Visit and Follow-Up

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue welcomed representatives from the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) on April 9th as part of our routine five-year rating review. Chief Helm and Deputy Chief Meek provided supplemental information during the visit, after which the WSRB issued a list of follow-up action items for CWIFR to complete before finalizing the rating. Most of these items pertain to water system data. We are working with multiple water system providers to collect and submit the required information. Chief Helm and Deputy Chief Meek are scheduled to meet with the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association on June 17, 2025, to discuss hydrant testing and inspection coordination.

Safety Committee Launch

On April 17th, Firefighter Justin Burnett, EMT Mark Valencia, and I held the inaugural meeting of CWIFR's new Safety Committee. This initial session focused on understanding the committee's purpose and beginning to develop initiatives to foster a healthier and safer environment for all personnel. The committee is reviewing project proposals for a potential grant submission through the L&I FIIRE Program to reduce carcinogen exposure and musculoskeletal injuries.

SCBA Washer Installation

CWIFR has received the new SCBA washer, which was purchased through a combination of L&I FIIRE Program grant funds and department resources. Installation is underway, and we anticipate that the SCBA washer and the PPE dryer will be operational by June 2025.

NERIS Onboarding

All required documentation has been submitted to the Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal for onboarding into the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). We are currently awaiting feedback and further instructions.

Station 53 Facility Updates

We continue to collaborate with Tiger Construction to address minor outstanding issues at Station 53. Over the past month, Tiger has replaced several emergency exit signs, repaired malfunctioning light switches, and is addressing a few remaining items.

Community and Partner Acknowledgments

- A sincere thank you to **Jessica Larson** from the Whidbey Camano Land Trust for providing a comprehensive GIS file of our hydrant locations to support our WSRB documentation efforts.
- Appreciation to **Travis Dotson, Luke Hillier, and Jake Keating** for their support at Camp Casey's Earth Day event.

- Gratitude to **B-shift and numerous career members** who participated in the annual Hearts and Hammers workday on May 3rd in Central Whidbey. Your involvement in this important community project is greatly appreciated.

Events

- 5/3—Hearts and Hammers annual work day
- 5/10—Water Festival
- 5/14—ACT certification class
- 5/17—NET drill (Coupeville)
- 5/27—Department photos
- 5/31—Hustle with Heroes fun run

Special Operations

- A new cold water exposure kit has been added to M5. This equipment increases our capabilities with hypothermic patients, enabling increased warming efforts while in transport on M5.
- The annual RT-130 wildland refresher course for wildland firefighters was completed. Two new members received their Red Card. We are waiting on the latest FT hires to schedule a field day.
- Replacement software and helmets ordered for rope rescue. 10-year life span replacement.

PPE/Respiratory Protection

- Scheduled LN Curtis to arrive on April 1st to take custom measurements of six firefighters (including the new hires) for new bunker Gear.
- Received eight new sets of bunker pants. Logged them into ESO and issued them to the appropriate firefighter(s).
- Received bids for new bunker gear, hanging tags, and bunker boots. Submitted for approval and ordered all gear.
- Old PPE transferred to Skagit Valley Community College.
- Organized PPE Room.
- Issued gear to the three new firefighters who started on May 1st.
- Ordered loaner gear for FF McCallum from LN Curtis.
- Two SCBAs sent in for repair.

Radios/Pagers

- SWFE has loaned us two radios to outfit M5 and 505.
- No update from Skagit 911 or ICOM on the new portables.

Medical Supplies & CPR

- EMS supplies were inventoried on 4/9.

Reports

- Calls Completed: 154 calls completed as of March 31th.

Other

- 31 hrs. of company training.
- Station 53 clean up for WSRB meeting on 4/9.
- Installed batteries on 5 smoke alarms 4/10/2025.

Facilities

Station 51

- Hired roofing company to locate the leak at 51. Found warped roof vent letting in driving rain.
- It was also discovered that Station 51 will need a new roof soon. Exploring getting quotes and will develop a plan and timeline as soon as we get an idea on the pricing category we end up at.

Station 52 – No updates.

Station 53

- Final water test recording with Facet NW
- Installed LED line lights in 3 bays
- Ducting installed for PPE dryer
- Electrical run for PPE dryer
- PPE washer installed
- Painted the hallway of Station 53
- Serviced push mower for 53

Station 54-No updates

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 4/5 initial inspections for April. 2 re-inspections completed.
- B shift completed 13/15 initial inspections for April. 2 re-inspections completed.
- C shift completed 2/6 initial inspections for April.

Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift YTD 31/33 or 94%
- B shift YTD 40/42 or 95%
- C shift YTD 25/30 or 83%

Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- 5 smoke alarm batteries changed at Cathedral Place.
- Installed 5 address signs.

Additional CRR Activities

- A shift painted the hallway wall and hung maps.
- LT Porter met with Town of Coupeville Building Official Scott Austin. Some topics discussed are the type 1 hood system at the Coupeville wharf, kitchen problems at Regency of Coupeville, and a new business replacing Gordon's.
- C shift conducted road clearance and turn around verification for Witte Way HOA.

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 0701 (T-53) – Rebuilt primer actuating valve due to corrosion and leakage. Removed and rebuilt the pump overheat valve due to leakage.
- Unit 2102 (E-54) – Minor P.M. Maintenance
- Unit 1401 – Completed pump panel reconfiguration and valve controller installation. Calibrated new valves, rebuilt primer actuating valve, fabricated and installed custom rollers for crosslay trays to slide over. Replaced two cracked Class One discharge gauges. Cummins NW Tech repaired the aftertreatment system.
- Unit 2101 (E-51) – Receiving its 750hr preventative maintenance cycle and NFPA 1911 inspection.
- Unit 1201 (R-51) – Aftertreatment issues will be resolved in early May.
- Unit 1801 (505) – Received batteries. Batteries are not holding a charge.
- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Received two new alternators, new belts, new tensioner pulley, new valve cover and oil fill tube, and a full P.M. service.