

Central Whidbey Island Fire Rescue  
1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239


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2022 Santamobile


Santa will be back in Central Whidbey this December! *Our elves will be collecting non-perishable food items for the food bank during Santa’s travels through the district..*

Greening of Coupeville	12/3/22
Town of Coupeville (North of SR 20)	12/5/22
Town of Coupeville (South of SR 20 & Crocket Lake)	12/7/22
Parker Road, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington	12/12/22
Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive	12/13/22
Holmes Harbor, North Bluff	12/16/22
Lagoon Point, Dines Pont, Honeymoon Bay	12/19/22
Race Road ,Shangri La, Admirals Cove	12/21/22

Times for Santa’s visit and maps of his route will be posted on the district’s web site ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)) in November.



Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for late breaking updates and Santa news!



Calendar of Events

**November 10, 2022 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

**December 8, 2022 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

**January 12, 2023 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

**February 9, 2023 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 54

*Station 54 is located at 3253 Day Road in Greenbank, between Bakken Road and Christiansen Road.*



December 2024

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island

New Full Time Firefighters Hired!

In 2023, the district’s voters passed a levy lid lift to fund four more full time firefighters. The District has hired FF/EMT Oscar Wolken, FF/EMT Kyle Bryson, FF/EMT Jared Frye, and FF/EMT Adreas De Kostor. **Thank You!**

These four new firefighter will help meet us better meet the demand for service delivery for years to come. Please help us welcome these new firefighters to our CWIFR and Whidbey Island Family. As we worked to secure permits, things happened that were beyond our control. COVID hit, supply chains were impacted and there was significant turnover in the county planning department. Your tax dollars fund the fire district and we want to be transparent.

The priority for CWIFR is to save lives and property and my responsibility is to keep you informed as to how we’re doing it and the overall health of the organization.



Thank you,  
Chief Jerry Helm  
[ehartin@cwfire.org](mailto:ehartin@cwfire.org)



[www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)

Inside This Issue

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**CWIFR Headquarters**  
**Fire Station 53 (Under Construction)**  
1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239  
(360) 678-3602

Be Safe!

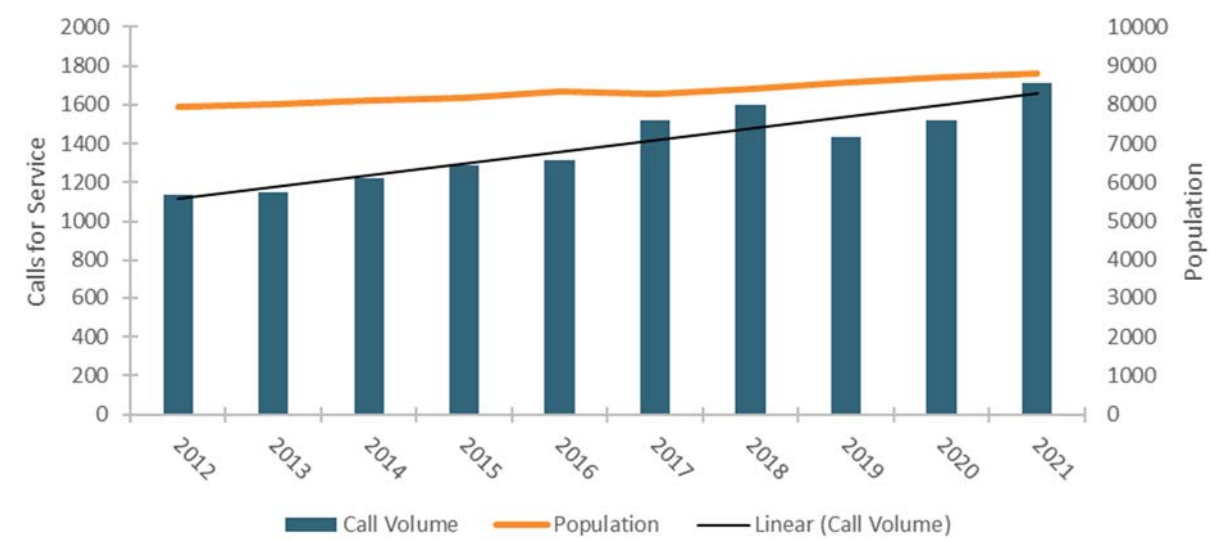
Regardless of the age of your home, Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue will check your smoke alarms, install smoke alarms if you do not have them, and help you develop a plan to minimize your risk from fire or injury by conducting a home safety survey.

You can request a home safety survey on the district's website ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)) by clicking on services or by telephone at (360) 678-3602. **Let us be there before you need us!**



Increasing Workload

The district’s service delivery workload continues to increase, experiencing a 58.50% increase in calls for service over the last 10 years. Over the same time, our population increased only 10.95%. So not only are the number of calls for service increasing, they are increasing faster than our population. This is not a new trend as over the history of the district call volume has consistently increased faster than our population. Much of this workload results from our partnership with WhidbeyHealth Emergency Medical Services (EMS), providing initial response to medical incidents and staffing a basic life support ambulance. However, a troubling statistic is a 115% increase in the number of fire responses over the same 10-year timeframe. While the total number of fire incidents is much smaller than emergency medical incidents, this shows that we cannot be complacent and still have work to do in reducing fire risk in our community.



Service Delivery During Construction of Station 53

For many years, the district’s full-time staff have operated from the Race Road fire station and the Coupeville and Greenbank fire stations have been staffed by volunteers. During construction of the new Station 53, the district’s full-time staff are operating from Station 51 in Coupeville and fleet maintenance and training staff are operating from Station 54 in Greenbank during the daytime. In addition, the district’s command duty officers (chief, deputy chief, and division chief) are providing additional initial response to trauma emergency medical calls south of Race Road where response times from Coupeville are longer (all of our command officers live in this area). Our mailing address and telephone numbers remain the same.

Home Oxygen Use

Over the last several years, the district has had several fire fatalities related to home oxygen use. Home oxygen therapy is extremely effective, but portable medical oxygen tanks and oxygen concentrators add an increased risk for fire in the home. That’s because fire needs oxygen to burn, and any material that catches fire will burn much more quickly due to the increased levels of pure oxygen. Please don’t smoke or cook and keep away from other ignition sources while using supplemental oxygen.

Please give us a call at (360) 678-3602 or schedule a home safety survey from our website ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)) to learn more about oxygen safety

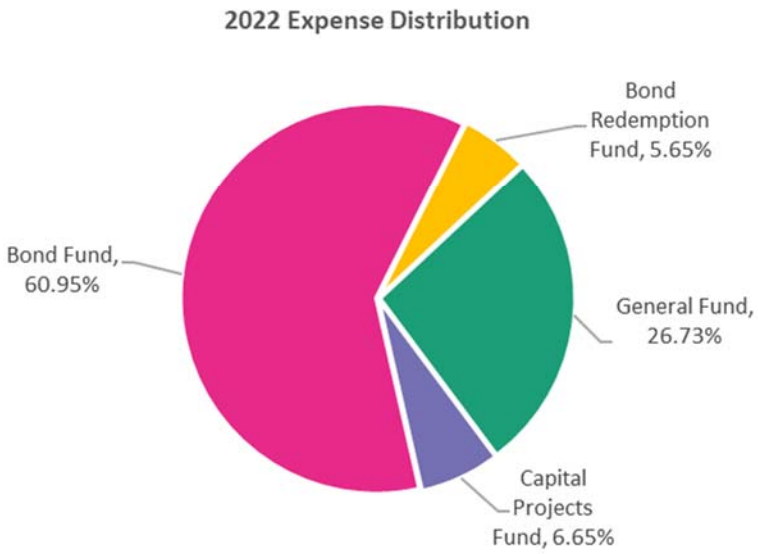
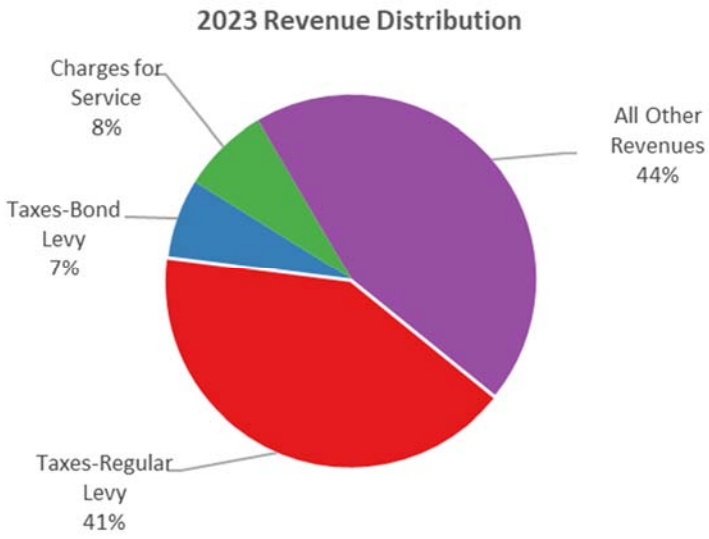


2023 Budget in Brief

The district’s expenses exceed revenue in 2023. However, this was anticipated and beginning fund balances are sufficient to continue current services. The district anticipates a 21.84% increase in assessed valuation (AV) which will lower the general levy rate to \$10.86/\$1,000 AV and maintain the bond levy rate at \$0.15/\$1,000 AV.

Beginning Balance	Proposed 2023
General Fund	\$3,773,183
Capital Fund	\$3,083,937
Bond Fund	\$4,091,888
Bond Redemption Fund	\$4,368
Compensated Absences Fund	\$105,816
Total Beginning Balance	\$11,059,192
Revenue	
General Levy (Property Tax)	\$2,555,248
Bond Levy (Property Tax)	\$426,500.00
Charges for Service	\$426,500.00
Other & Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,748,041.43
Total Revenue	\$6,156,289.39
Expenditures	
General Fund	\$2,961,971
Capital Fund	\$736,917
Bond Fund	\$6,753,700
Bond Redemption Fund	\$626,500
Compensated Absences Fund	\$50
Total Expenditure	\$11,079,138
Transfers from the General Fund	
To Contingency	\$10,825
To Capital Projects Fund	\$271,449
To Capital Bond Fund	\$0
To Bond Redemption Fund	\$200,000
To Compensated Absences Fund	\$24,009
To Grants Management Fund	\$0
Total Transfers	\$506,284

The 2023 district budget increases general fund expenditures by 4.66%. A more detailed budget in brief and the complete district budget can be downloaded from the district’s website ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)).



Government Finance Officers Association  
Distinguished Budget Presentation Award