



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

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

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm

Date: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Subject: Chief's Report

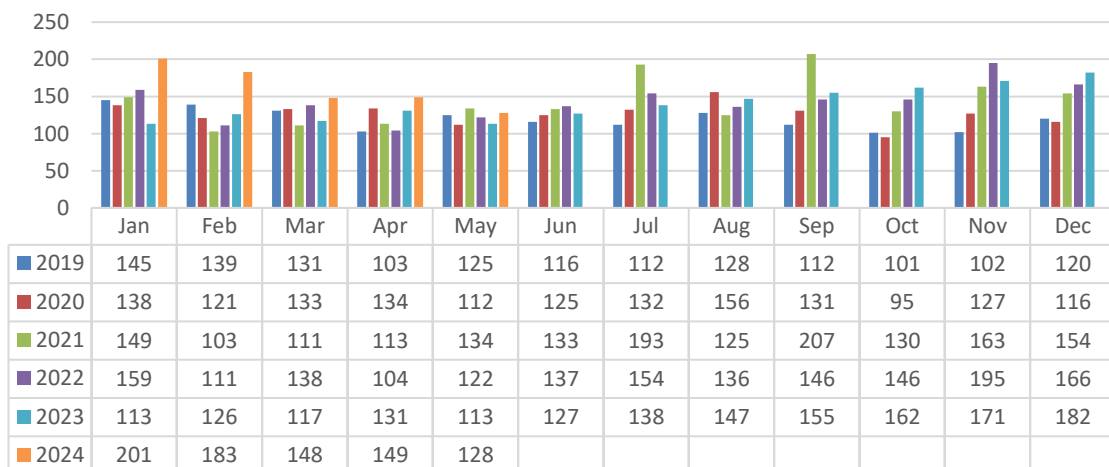
## Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **128 emergency calls** and had **32 concurrent incidents** impacting **25% of total incidences**.

### Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	1
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	89
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2
5 - Service Call	8
6 - Good Intent Call	21
7 - False Alarm & False Call	7
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

### 2024 Incident Frequency by Month



### **Station 53 Construction Project**

Majority of total project is completed and the final change order was signed. We ended up settling with Tiger Construction on a \$70,000 deduction in cost to cover the liquidated damages we incurred due to the delay in project completion. We are still waiting for the final invoice, but there was about \$105,000 left on the contract. With this \$70,000 deduct for liquidated damages, I anticipate the final payment to them being in the \$35,000 range.

Continuing to work through minor warranty items that pop up.

### **Other Administrative work**

Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings, and is continuing to work with the state department of commerce on obtaining our \$2.7 million dollar grant.

We completed virtual risk management walkthroughs with our insurance providers (McNeil and Co.) in all of our district facilities. They provided us with a report with 4 recommendations that I have 30 days to respond to. Currently 3 of the four are complete.

Participated as an evaluator in an officer promotional exam for the City of Anacortes.

Attended a town meeting regarding the proposed improvements to front street, and a rural town development/improvement walk of downtown Coupeville that was put on by the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association.

Finance Officer Niiro submitted the 2023 Annual Report to State Auditor's Office (SAO) on May 16, 2024. We were put on an audit every three years (2021,2021, 2023) schedule and are preparing for that to be completed in the next several months.

We were awarded the Distinguished Budget Award for the 2024 budget for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

### **Training & Development**

#### **Administrative**

Continuing to revise the volunteer recruiting, application, selection, and orientation process with the working group of myself, Sonja Lindenstein, Cathy Niiro, Chief Meek, Travis Dotson, and Justin Burnett. We have streamlined those steps in an effort to reduce costs and staff time while increasing our recruitment, training, and retention of qualified volunteers.

Completed and submitted the Safety Improvement Plan as required by the Labor & Industries FIIRE Program. Currently working on the grant application for \$25,000 for an automated, high-efficiency SCBA washer that will be used in conjunction with our current turnout extractor.

Assisted several members with locating and registering for upcoming professional development and certification courses such as fire investigator, fire inspector, fire instructor, National Fire Academy, and National EMT registration and reciprocity.

Met with County Medical Program Director Doctor Krystal Baciak to discuss several training and protocol issues. The Fire District will be presenting patient care and training sessions at future monthly OTEP in-services at the hospital. Our duty crews have been participating in those sessions the last few months.

### **Recruitment**

Held two District orientation and interviews sessions for two volunteer applicants.

We will be participating in the “Hustle with Heros” 5K race on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 an information tent at the race and will be answering questions and making volunteer applications available.

### **In-Service Training**

Conducted one “hands-on” training session on using foam on Class-A and Class-B flammable liquids and gas/propane fires on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Held three “hands-on” training sessions on SCBA emergency procedures and use of the RIT pack on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. Conducted three “hands-on” sessions on the use of the new pelvic fracture stabilization device and required skill sheets on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Facilitated the live-fire testing session for the Whidbey Island Fire Academy students on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Specifically, we provided the burn building at Station 54, a water tender and pump operator, and two safety officers (Mirabile and Geiger) as required by NFPA 1403.

Four of our personnel successfully completed a three-day marine academy delivered by Camano Island Fire Rescue. This training program included personal safety and survival, vessel handling, sea navigation, rescue techniques, and maintenance.

### **Collaboration**

As an EMS provider, we are participating in the Community Health Assessment Project through Island County Public Health Department. Goal of the project is to identify areas of improvement in public’s access to health care, how people get health-related information, and the barriers to good health in our county.

### **Other:**

Assisted the duty crew on the 20<sup>th</sup> with hose testing.

### **Operations**

May was a very busy month for community service projects and events.

The Hearts and Hammers event was attended by the majority of IAFF Local 4299 members and myself. We conducted roof cleaning, gutter cleaner, placement of Moss-out, and fence repair on a half dozen or so residences within our District.

The Penn Cove Water Fest was attended by a combination of career members and volunteers. The Water Fest did not have any incidents and this provided opportunity for some our volunteer members to get on the water training aboard M5.

We participated in the Memorial Day Parade in 505, E53, and E51. Multiple members, including Commissioner Hutchinson, joined us in the Parade.

We participated in the memorial procession for retired volunteer member Tom Chan. E54 escorted the family from the church in Langley to the cemetery in Coupeville.

Career and volunteer members participated in a Touch-a-Truck event at the CHS baseball field for BBBS of Island County.

Career and volunteer members participated in the CHS Community Resource Fair. We had several great contacts with students and community members and provided applications, donning of bunker gear, and allowed students to operate our spreaders and use our "Irons." There was great attendance during the student and community sessions of the event.

Crews completed our annual hose testing. A big thank you to all of our volunteers that signed up to assist the crews!

Approximately 1/3 of our preplans have been updated. Our hope is to have them all updated by the end of June to be in compliance with WSRB requirements and to have the best information possible for emergency response to our commercial occupancies.

The M5 SOG has been in a revision process for the last couple of months. The purpose of the revision is to address the properties of the new M5 and to provide greater safety our crews when responding. Revision should be complete by end of June 2024.

Our first target hazard training at an occupancy was conducted on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Coupeville Wharf. We had great contacts with the public and our crews got to stretch hose and make connections to FDC's and standpipes.

Coordinate equipment and supplies with AIC Lt. John Lloyd to continue the outfitting of R51.

A significant portion of my time was spent coordinating events for May and June, preplan revision, SOG revision and preparing target hazard training.

### **Events**

CES Field Day – June 11<sup>th</sup>

Opioid Awareness Night – June 11<sup>th</sup>

Coupeville Library Extinguisher Training – June 11<sup>th</sup>

Hustle With Heroes – June 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Special OPS**

M5 still waiting for seat replacement parts.

### **PPE/Respiratory Protection**

2 SCBA's sent out with SeaWestern for warranty repair, air leak/ checked valves replaced on SCBA compressor and still has a leak. MES to come out again for leak diag. PPE issued to Mark V. 2-3 sets of expired bunker gear to be kept for community events and other needs. PPE gloves ordered.

### **Radios/Pagers**

Issued pager to Mark Valencia, batteries replaced in 2 volunteer pagers

### **Medical Supplies and CPR**

R51 medical bag and equipment ordered so it can aid on medical calls. All expired AED batteries replaced on apparatus. Medical supplies for inventory ordered. Epi ordered for expiring inventory.

### **Reports**

128 calls in May, Rhodes reviewed 121 for completion.

### **Other**

Replacement pressure regulator ordered for hose tester. Inventory taken of tenders to update equipment and collecting required items to get back on tenders. Jumbo manifold gauge replaced on 2103.

### **Facilities**

#### **Station 51**

Scheduled carpet cleaning

Discontinued dumpster and recycle service at 51

#### **Station 52**

Clean up of fallen tree

#### **Station 53**

Collected Water testing samples for Tiger

Collected daily data on chlorination levels

Added plastic and can recycle dumpster

#### **Station 54**

Replaced Kubota fuel pump

## **Community Risk Reduction**

### **Monthly Inspection Progress**

A shift completed 6/6 initial inspections for May.

B shift completed 5/5 initial inspections for May.

C shift completed 5/8 initial inspections for May. Whidbey Health started but interrupted by an emergency call.

### **Yearly Inspection Progress**

A shift 100% completion (60/60)

B shift 100% completion (32/32)

C shift 85% completion (28/33)

### **Home Safety Survey/Installations**

Installed 1 10-year smoke alarm at Crockett Lake Drive.

Changed smoke alarm batteries off Burnham Place.

### **CRR Programs and other inspection activity**

Promotional supplies purchased for annual festivals.

Hose testing completed by shifts with the exception of 1401 still in progress

Honeymoon Lake hydrant testing

## **Fleet Maintenance Division**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

Unit 2002 (B-53) – NFPA 1911 Annual Inspection and Service

Unit 2001 (B-54) - NFPA 1911 Annual Inspection and Service

Unit 1402 (Chevy Tahoe) – Replaced failed right rear door lock solenoid.

Aid 503 – Installed in station exhaust system transponder.

Unit 2303 – (501) – Received scheduled PM service.

Unit 1501 – (505) – Received scheduled PM service.

Unit 1201- (R-51) – Replaced failed right side cap latching mechanism.

Unit 0603 – (T-51) – Received scheduled PM service.

Unit 0702 – (T-54) – Received unscheduled repair concerning an electrical issue involving the loss of power to the TPG governor control. Diagnosed to a faulty relay.

Unit 2103 – (E-53) – Replaced the auto air eject.

Unit 2103 – (E-53) – Replaced failed batteries.

**Other Fleet Maintenance Activity**

In addition to work on the fleet Matros has been continuing to move and organize CWIFR's parts inventory to station 53.