



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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

To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm  
Date: November 14, 2024  
Subject: Chief's Report

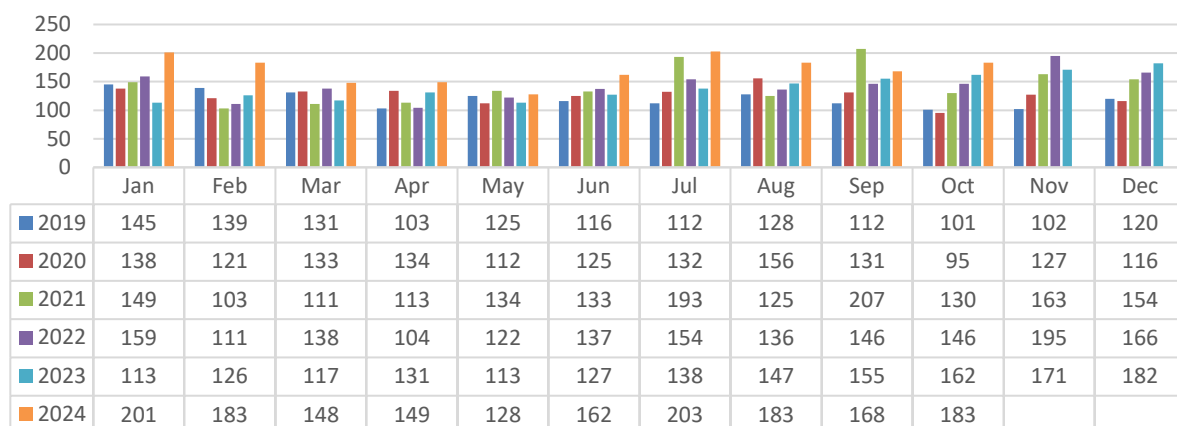
## Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **183 emergency calls** and had **80 concurrent incidents** impacting **43% of total incidences**. This month we have exceeded last year's total call numbers with two months left in the year. 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         | 107        |
| 4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)                       | 2          |
| 5 - Service Call  | 26         |
| 6 - Good Intent Call                                    | 37         |
| 7 - False Alarm & False Call                            | 10         |
| 8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster                   | 0          |
| 9 - Special Incident Type                               | 0          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>183</b> |

### 2024 Incident Frequency by Month



## **Station 53 Construction Project**

Still waiting for final change order from Tiger Construction. We are working through some small warrantee issues.

## **Other Administrative work**

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

I met with EMS Director Chris Tumblin on multiple occasions regarding the BLS contract.

Finalized an interlocal agreement for the use of the ambulance from South County Fire & EMS, filled out our state BLS transport license application that was approved unanimously at the local EMS council meeting.

Held chiefs' interviews for the potential new full time fire fighters and we have made conditional offers to three of them to begin orientation in December. Chief Helm, Finance officer Cathy Niiro and the

commissioners attended the WFCA conference in Spokane Washington. And Chief Helm and Finance Officer Cathy Niiro have spent considerable time wrapping up the Proposed 2025 district Budget.

## **Training & Development**

### **Administrative**

Attended the Island County EMS Council meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. In that meeting, we discussed the purchase and implementation of the new i-Gel rescue airways county-wide. Began planning a training schedule that accommodates both career and volunteer personnel in preparation of the 48/96 shift schedule change next year. The format will change from a monthly training calendar to a quarterly-based schedule.

### **Recruitment**

Attended a Saturday session at the Island County EMT Academy at Station 31 in Freeland. We have two volunteer recruits successfully participating in the Academy. Chief Meek and myself met with one of our volunteers on the 17<sup>th</sup> who requested we change her status from Operations to Support. With the assistance of six outside evaluators, we conducted a two-day assessment center for the full-time entry-level firefighter positions on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Testing process included an oral interview panel, demonstration of firefighter and EMT skills, and a situational role-play problem-solving scenario. The process resulted in an eligibility list of four firefighters for possible employment with the Fire District.

### **In-Service Training**

Held three "hands-on" training sessions on the use and value of deck gun attack on certain structure fires on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, taught an hour-long session with Sgt. Chris Garden of ICSO on first responder safety at hostile and dangerous incidents titled "Survive the Streets." Conducted three "hands-on" training sessions on OTEP-required patient assessment on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Presented three sessions on the use of the DOT Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guidebook on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. The drill included three scenario-based evaluations using the ERG.

### **Collaboration**

Met with Division Chief Alex Magallon from South Whidbey Fire & EMS on the 30<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for the 2025 Whidbey Island Fire Academy. This will be a joint venture between just Central and South Whidbey Fire Districts, as North Whidbey Fire & Rescue is going to be putting on their own fire academy next year.

### Other:

Continuing to work with Dr. Baciak and Coroner Shantel Porter on updating the county “Death at Scene” protocol and corresponding in-service training class for our personnel. Chief Meek and I assisted ICSO with a complaint of possible domestic violence regarding an intentional release of propane inside a residence. We performed a home-safety survey at the residence and wrote a follow-up report that was forwarded to the Sheriff’s Office.

## Operations

CWIFR held a full-time testing process on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to report that all four candidates that went through the process did well. Chief Helm is now making final decisions on who to hire in December. Chief Geiger did a fantastic job setting up the testing process and we had multiple members assist in interview and evaluations over the two-day testing period. A huge thank you to all of the external evaluators that assisted with the evaluations. The evaluators were from Oak Harbor, Skykomish, Paine Field, Snohomish, and Anacortes fire departments

We continued the configurations and importing of data into ESO throughout the month of October. We have completed the online and in-person admin trainings and are progressing into the field trainings for personnel. We are waiting on the contract to go through Whidbey Health to unlock the electronic health record portion of ESO so that we can configure that. Looks like the contract should be signed shortly. Whidbey Health (Misty Sellgren) has been amazing and has been our POC for communication and assistance. A huge thank you to FF Luke Hiller, Lt. Jen Porter, FF Justin Burnett, FF Jeff Rhodes for their assistance this month with ESO.

Crews (volunteer and career) attended Fire Safety Week at Coupeville Elementary School (CES) from October 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. We ran a different format this year where crews went to the classes as opposed to an outside of the classroom format. I will be reaching out to CES for feedback on the new format.

CWIFR attended the Torchlight Parade on October 26<sup>th</sup>. We had a table setup at this year’s event and had a great turnout from our on-duty crew, volunteers, and our very own Cathy Niiro and husband Cedric. It was a great event with a great turnout from the community!

ICSO and CWIFR worked with Cambey to start the process of installing a lockbox on Cambey for access to the facility. The lockbox will have keys to Cambey and provide access to Whidbey Health and ICSO in the event of an emergency. CWIFR has a Knox Box on the facility.

Rachel Stern and I continue to standardize our Stop the Bleed program and will be teaching a class at the Holmes Harbor Gun Club this Saturday. We have purchased additional supplies and plan to open these classes up to other communities in 2025. Rachel has been exceptional in organizing, coordinating, and gathering information for the program. A huge thank you to Rachel!

AIC Lt. Majestic has completed all requirement for Lieutenant. Congratulations to Alex on completing his AA in fire science.

FF's Dotson, Stavros, and Wolken attended a Blue Card sim lab with Chief Ed Hartin and completed their Blue Card IC certifications! Big congratulations to them and a thank you to Chief Hartin for his support.

**Events**

Greening of Coupeville

Santa Mobile

**Special OPS**

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**PPE/Respiratory Protection**

Nothing to report.

**Radios/Pagers**

Nothing to report.

**Medical Supplies and CPR**

Ordered supplies (safety glasses, hyfin chest seals, pulse ox for Chief officer apparatus, Gloves)

Jessy Hillier completed CPR class for the month of October.

**Reports**

205 reports were reviewed (NFIRS/EMS) as of 10/29/2024, estimate will be around 220 for the month.

**Other**

B shift swapped E-51 with E-53 for maintenance. FF Wolken completed Blue Card IC sim lab for his completed certification. Volunteer FF Jake Keating assisted B shift with hydrant testing on multiple days. A big thank you to FF Keating for his continued dedication and support. Assisted volunteer Kyle Bryson with in service training, FF Bryson also assisted with hydrant testing so a big thank you to him as well for his dedication and support.

**Facilities**

**Station 51**

Nothing to report

**Station 52**

Nothing to report

**Station 53**

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### **Station 54**

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## **Community Risk Reduction**

### **Monthly Inspection Progress**

A shift completed 2 of 2 initial inspections for October.

B shift completed 8 of 8 initial inspections for October.

C shift completed 4 of 6 inspections for October.

### **Yearly Inspection Progress**

A shift YTD 100% of initial inspections (86/86)

B shift YTD 95% of initial inspections (63/66)

C shift YTD 95% of initial inspections (58/61)

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

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

Visit to Molka Xete for new space to be opened, requesting appliance approval under type II hood.

Site visit to Haller house to discuss emergency lighting options.

A shift flow tested 12 hydrants

B shift flow tested 14 hydrants

C shift flow tested 11 hydrants

## **Fleet Maintenance Division**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

Unit 0603 (T-51) PM Service and replaced air governor due to it not coming up to specified cut out pressure. Sent apparatus to Freightliner NW for repair of multiple air leaks found during PM inspection.

Unit 2303 (501) PM Service and inspection.

Unit 1101 (Admin Vehicle) Vehicle had a no crank / no start condition. Diagnosis was inconclusive. Nothing found.

Unit 9501 (Surplused Shop Truck) Old batteries worn out. Replaced batteries so that vehicle can be stripped and surplused.

Unit 2102 (E-51) Received its 250hr PM service and inspection. Unit will be going to Main Street Collision for structural body repair in early November. All repair costs will be covered by Rosenbauer under there warranty.

**Other Fleet Maintenance Activity**

National Hose Testing performed our third-party annual ladder testing process. All ladders passed with the except of one old training roof ladder. FF/Mech Matros also took another ambulance EVT test mid-October. He is still awaiting his results.