



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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To: Board of Fire Commissioners
From: Chief Ed Hartin
Date: March 14, 2019
Subject: Chief's Report

Information Technology (IT)

Work continues to recover from the November 2018 cyber-attack and server failure. Ategan (our IT provider) has resolved integration of the Spillman computer aided dispatch (CAD) system and the ImageTrend records management system (RMS). Remaining work involves testing the current backup system to ensure functionality, updating the interface used to access the printer/copier from individual computers and providing information necessary to describe our hardware and software computing environment.

The Administrative Division is exploring options to address the District's ongoing IT service needs inclusive of hardware and software service, technology planning, and continuity of operations planning.

Operational Activity

The month of February was another busy response month with 142 calls, many related to the onslaught of snow storms and bad weather. The District experienced 11 instances in which calls were received concurrently for a total of 29 incidents affected, many of those associated with the snow fall.

Valentine's Day evening had CWIFR units responding to a fire in a residence on Rosewood Ct. Units arrived to find a couch on fire in the living room, which was quickly extinguished by fire crews. The resident had tried to extinguish it prior to our arrival, but was unsuccessful in putting it out completely. She did a great job closing the front door upon exiting, which limited the flow path and allowed our crews to finish the job effectively. All legs of the stool were represented and good work was done by all.

Administrative Activity

Chief Hartin and Commissioner Steve Hutchinson have worked with North Whidbey Fire and Rescue to develop an draft Interlocal Agreement for staffing of BLS Ambulances for WhidbeyHealth. This draft and a letter indicating that we will reduce service (no split crews to supplement ALS staffing and no non-emergency transfers) on March 18, 2019 if agreement has not been reached has been hand carried to Roger Myers, WhidbeyHealth EMS Manager. No response has been received to date.

Chief Ed Hartin and Finance Officer Kim Harpe have updated the Districts inventory of capital/small and attractive assets in preparation for our 2019 financial and accountability audit.

Community Risk Reduction

Lieutenant Jen Porter reports that CWIFR crews conducted three home safety surveys during the month of February, as well as installed eight hard-wired smoke alarms and three 10-year battery smoke alarms. Crews also recorded completing 20 commercial business inspections. New recording tools are being implemented to monitor progress with initial inspections and re-inspections. Crews are currently being trained and familiarized with the newer process of data collection, so it is anticipated that future reporting by crews will yield more usable data in the future.

Firefighter Dillon Rogers has utilized a tool within the lamResponding phone alerting app that all members have access to, to add the locations of hydrants, FDCs and KnoxBoxes within the District. This tool/app will now allow the responding members to see hydrant locations on the same map they utilize to route to the scene.

Training

Training during the month of February included respiratory emergencies, live fire training, technical rescue collapse training, Blue card residential online modules, rope rescue training, attack lines over ladders, pharmacology, vehicle extrication, and forcible entry. Captain Helm continued to work to implement the I-Pad based apparatus inspection application to streamline apparatus inspections with expansion to facilities, equipment & small tools, and PPE managers. This allows not only quick reporting to the mechanic for vehicle issues, but is a direct line to project managers for any PPE issues, fire station maintenance, or equipment issues. This system is currently being pilot tested at all of the District's stations and is also available to members on their individual phones. Captain Helm participated in the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) review process at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This was done to help give us a better understanding of the grant process in hopes of improving our chances of being awarded an AFG grant. Expenses for this are all reimbursed by FEMA.

Captain Helm taught multiple EMT classes for the Island County EMT Academy. He also represented CWIFR as well as the pipe band at one retirement ceremony for Everett Fire Department as well as a swearing in and promotional ceremony for Tulalip Bay Fire Department. All expenses for these events were sponsored by the respective agencies.

Captain Helm attended an on-campus college course in Portland, Oregon to further work on his higher educational advancement as well as participated in the monthly Board of Directors conference call for the International Association of Fire Chiefs Company Officers Section.

Facilities

In conjunction with recently publishing the facilities janitorial schedule, Lieutenant Derik Vrable worked with the volunteer officers to order and stock the needed equipment and supplies for Stations 51 and 54, supporting the ease of care and maintenance of the facilities by all members.

Lieutenant Vrable also completed the task of obtaining the capacity needs assessment for the generator installation project at Station 51. He also has received bids to replace the deteriorating gutters at 54 as well as preliminary bids for replacing the parking lot streetlights there.

Fleet Maintenance

During the month of February, Firefighter/ Mechanic Mike Matros continued work to restore the fleet maintenance database and is still putting a major effort into catching up with preventative maintenance.