



# 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: Chief Ed Hartin  
Date: June 13, 2019  
Subject: Chief's Report

## Operational Activity

The District had 123 calls for service in April with 640 calls year to date. The District experienced 11 instances in which calls were received concurrently for a total of 23 incidents affected.

**Annual Hose Testing:** All fire hose is pressure tested on an annual basis in compliance with national standards and the requirements of the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau. This process generally takes the on-duty crews just over a week to complete. I would like to give special recognition to AIC LT Robert Moore and AO-FTO Ed Pratt who each volunteered a significant amount of time to assist in this process.

## Administrative Activity

The District has completed recruitment for the Part-Time Office Assistant position and has offered the position to Sonja Lindenstein. She will be starting the first week of July.

The District has started the recruitment process for the Finance Officer position and has scheduled the assessment process for July 9-11, 2019. A meet and greet will be held on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> with panel interviews on the 10<sup>th</sup> and executive interviews on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A start date of August 1, 2019 is anticipated.

The District received notice from WhidbeyHealth that they will be ending the interlocal agreement with the District for staffing of a BLS Ambulance effective December 31, 2019. This change will result in loss of \$201,495 in revenue related to this agreement. The hospital has indicated that they would be willing to pay the District \$0.035/\$1000 Assessed Valuation (AV) to continue response to medical emergencies with fire district apparatus. This new agreement would provide the District approximately \$66,774 based on current AV, resulting in an overall reduction in revenue of \$134,721. This loss in revenue will require a reduction in staffing to maintain a structurally balanced budget. Options to accomplish the necessary reduction in expense while maintaining the highest level of service possible were presented to the Board in May and will be reviewed at the Board's regular June meeting.

Chief Hartin was on Paid Time Off (PTO) to deliver three training programs for the Washington State Firefighters Association at their annual fire school in Wenatchee on May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> (on PTO from May 16 through 20). Chief Hartin also represented the District and serving on a panel discussing voter approved bonds and bond rating at the Washington Fire Chief's Association along with Chief Bud Backer, East Pierce Fire Rescue; Chief Steve Brooks, Lacey Fire District; and Senior Vice President Jim Nelson of DA Davidson Bond Underwriters. Chief Hartin was asked to participate in this panel discussion due to the District's success with a

voter approved bond in 2017 and achievement of a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's. This panel has also been requested to present at the Washington Fire Commissioners Association (WFCA) Annual Conference.

Chief Hartin and Commissioner Messner attended the WFCA Saturday Seminar in Chelan, WA which included an excellent presentation on development of an effective strategic public communications strategy by Liz Loomis.

Chief Hartin will be attending the International Fire Instructor's Workshop in Arnhem, Netherlands on June 14-22. He will be delivering a presentation on the District's tactical training program "Weekly 10-Minute Training" that focuses on learning from the experience of others. Travel and accommodations are being paid by the Chief.

The Station 53 project continues slow progress with Carletti Architects completing Island County's required Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit process. Additional detail will be provided during the Board's regular June meeting.

### **Community Risk Reduction (CRR)**

***Fire & Life Safety Inspections:*** A Shift completed 0 of 6 initial inspections, B Shift completed 3 of 7 initial inspections, and C Shift completed 2 of 8 initial inspections for the month of April. Deputy Chief Smith advised that this was due to hose testing conducted during the month of May. However, we continue to work on compliance with the inspection schedule by all shifts..

***Coupeville Building Official:*** LT Porter has initiated regular meetings with the Coupeville Building Official to address new construction and fire code compliance issues within the town.

***Geographic Information Systems (GIS):*** Chief Hartin worked with GIS Specialist Jessica Larson to develop GIS mapping for non-motorized trails in the Greenbank forest (county property north of Greenbank Farm and west of Harbor Estates).

### **Training**

Training during the month of May included Live Fire Training, Collapse Rescue Training, Rope Rescue Training, Apparatus Operator Training, Blue Card IC Simulations, Online Blue Card modules, EMS OTEP Pediatrics, and Class B Foam.

The Island County Recruit Academy started on May 20<sup>th</sup> and will run through September 14<sup>th</sup>. The District has one member attending the academy. Two other new members could not meet the current schedule and will attend the next academy (training as support services members until that time).

Four CWIFR members completed the Island County Marine Rescue Academy on June 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Firehouse Magazine published an article by Chief Ed Hartin and Captain Jerry Helm on the District experience in field testing and selection of the Rosenbauer Titan helmet as standard issue for the District's Firefighters, EMTs and support services members.

## **Facilities**

Replacement gutters have been installed at Station 54. The original gutters suffered from corrosion and had developed leaks in several areas. This project replaced all gutters and downspouts at this station.

While the electrical contractor initially selected for repair of the street lights at Station 54 was non-responsive. Lieutenant Derik Vrable selected an alternate vendor for this project and it is scheduled to start on June 14, 2019.

A single bid was received for purchase and installation of the backup power generator for Station 51 and was well in excess of budgeted funds, largely due to the work needed for installation. After considerable discussion, the District will go back out to bid casting a broader net for contractors to complete this project.

WhidbeyHealth Facilities has been non-responsive to LT Vrabel's request to discuss cost share for this project.

As reported last month, the District's Kubota tractor used for grounds maintenance experienced a hydraulic system failure and was in the shop for repair. The tractor has been repaired and is back in service.

## **Fleet Maintenance**

During the month of May, Firefighter/ Mechanic Mike Matros continued a major effort into catching up with preventative maintenance.

Bids have been requested for construction of two Type 5 (Brush) Engines on Dodge 5500 chassis supplied by the District. There has been considerable interest in this project and bids will be opened on June 19, 2019.