



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: July 11, 2019
Subject: Chief's Report

Operational Activity

The District had 116 calls for service in June with 757 calls year to date. The District experienced 10 instances in which calls were received concurrently for a total of 22 incidents affected. In the first six months of the year, the District has experienced a 0.5% increase in overall call volume. This increase is considerably lower than in prior years, likely due to the elimination of the District's providing interfacility ambulance transports for WhidbeyHealth and limiting split crews with WhidbeyHealth to multiple patient incidents and simultaneous calls within the District.

Lieutenant James Meek coordinated a demonstration of new extrication tools in anticipation of replacing the District's current inventory in 2020. Members used and evaluated new technology battery powered tools manufactured by Hurst (the manufacturer of the District's current tools) and will evaluate tools made by Holmatro later this summer.

Administrative Activity

The District has started the recruitment process for the Finance Officer position and has scheduled the assessment process for July 18, 2019. A start date of August 1, 2019 is anticipated.

The District received a new interlocal agreement from the Whidbey Island Hospital District (dba WhidbeyHealth) for provision of first response emergency medical services. This agreement provides revenue of \$0.035/\$1000 Assessed Valuation (AV) for 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 approximately \$134,721. This loss in revenue will require a reduction in staffing to maintain a structurally balanced budget.

As reported last month, the Station 53 project continues slow progress with Carletti Architects completing Island County's required Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit process.

Chief Hartin attended the International Fire Instructor's Workshop in Arnhem, Netherlands on June 14-22. He delivered a presentation on the District's tactical training program "Weekly 10-Minute Training" focused on learning from the experience of others. Travel was being paid by the Chief and accommodations were paid for by the Netherlands Fire Service.

Chief Hartin will be participating in a research project examining coordinated fire attack in garden style apartment buildings conducted by the Underwriters Laboratories Firefighter Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI) in Cobb County Georgia the week of July 21st. All expenses are being paid by UL FSRI. Chief Hartin will also be on Paid Time Off August 7th through 9th and attending the UL FSRI Advisory Board meeting on August 11th through 16th. All expenses are being paid by UL FSRI.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Fire & Life Safety Inspections: A Shift six past due inspections and none scheduled in the month of June, B Shift completed 6 of 6 inspections scheduled for the month of June (one requiring re-inspection), and C Shift completed one past due inspection and none of the inspections scheduled for the month of June. Deputy Chief Smith has not determined the cause of inspection backlog, nor has he taken effective steps to reduce inspection backlog and current inspection completion rate. Chief Hartin will be taking over responsibility for addressing this issue and ensuring completion of 2019 inspections prior to the end of the year.

Training

Training during the month of June included Wildland Refresher Training, Hazmat Awareness Refresher, Machinery Rescue, Apparatus Operator Training (Trailer Operations), Cardiac Arrest Management, Fireground Operations, and Extrication.

The Island County Recruit Academy started on May 20th and will run through September 14th. 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 3rd through 5th 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. Captain Helm also participated in a podcast interview regarding our experience with the new Rosenbauer helmets.

Facilities

Street lights at Station 54 have been replaced.

The District went back out to bid casting a broader net for contractors for purchase and installation of a backup power generator at Station 51. Bids for this project will be opened on July 11, 2019. WhidbeyHealth Facilities has been non-responsive to LT Vrable's request to discuss cost share for this project.

Fleet Maintenance

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

Multiple bids were received for construction of two Type 5 Engines on new Dodge 5500 four-wheel-drive chassis supplied by the District. Bids were in excess of budgeted funds due to unavailability of the chassis/cabs through the state bid process. However, there are sufficient funds in the Capital Projects Fund to

accommodate this increase. Transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund will require a slight increase over the next several years to make up for this increased cost.