



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

www.cwfire.org

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Chief Ed Hartin

Date: May 14, 2020

Subject: Chief's Report

REVISE

COVID-19

Planning, operations, and logistics related to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to have a significant impact on the district. Multiple potential or confirmed COVID-19 patients have been transported by district personnel in conjunction with WhidbeyHealth EMS over the last month. In addition, several district staff have been sick and tested for COVID-19 (all negative). This week district staff assisted Island County Public Health in a large-scale testing event focused on testing first responders and a sample of the general public for COVID-19 (test results pending). Chief Hartin continues to serve as the Emergency Support Function 4 – Fire and EMS lead with the Island County Emergency Coordination Center and public health Incident Management Team. CAPT Jerry Helm continues to assist the Island County Public Health PIO production of graphics, videos, and collaborative social media communication.

Operational Activity

During the month of April, the district received 128 calls for service as illustrated below. The District experienced 21 instances in which calls were received concurrently for a total of 35 incidents affected, five instances involved three or more concurrent calls.

Incident type	April
1 - Fire	0
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	76
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	0
5 - Service Call	33
6 - Good Intent Call	7
7 - False Alarm & False Call	11
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	1
Total	128

While the district did not have any fire activity in April, the same has not been true for our neighbors with CWIFR companies responding to two residential fires in South Whidbey and one residential fire in North Whidbey in April and the first few weeks of May.

Administrative Activity

HIPAA Standard Operating Guideline: Chief Hartin continued development of a standard operating guideline addressing security of protected health information as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

Grants: CAPT Helm has been working on an update of our access to grants through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and a grant application for a supplemental Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) related to COVID-19 personal protective equipment and an additional DHS grant for other related COVID-19 expenses.

Operations

Coordinated Quality Improvement (CQI): LT James Meek, Firefighter/EMTs Alex Majestic and Jeff Rhodes, and Chiefs Hartin and Smith continued development of a Patient Care Documentation Handbook (adapted from a document provided by Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue) to improve documentation and emergency medical services data quality. Work continued with revision of the district's electronic patient care report to streamline documentation and improve data quality. In addition, Chief Hartin completed development and delivered a training program focused on the narrative component of patient care reports.

Marine Program: Marine 5 underwent repair and annual service, with axles, brakes, and bunks (supporting the boat on the trailer) replaced by Master Marine. The axle and brake repair were unanticipated and in excess of budgeted funds. This expense will be addressed in a subsequent budget adjustment.

Structural Firefighting SOGs: Chief Hartin has been collaborating with Deputy Chief John Shaffer of the Washington Township/Avon (IN) Fire Department on development of a comprehensive standard operating guideline on structural firefighting search and rescue operations. This SOG will provide tactical and task level guidance for district members in these critical fireground activities.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Fire & Life Safety Inspections: The district did no fire & life safety inspections in the month of April due to restrictions on public activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Work is underway to develop a plan to resume fire & life safety inspections later in the year with inspections focused on higher hazard occupancies and use of a self-inspect program for lower hazard occupancies. The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau has indicated that they will not consider lack of inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic as a negative factor in our next re-rating.

Home Safety Surveys & Smoke Alarm Installation: A shift installed two hardwired smoke alarms, replaced expired hardwired smoke alarms and B Shift installed two smoke alarms.

Plans Review: LT Jen Porter has been working with the Town of Coupeville to provide feedback on plans for a new County building that will be roughly 66,000 square feet. Current feedback topics include: Distributed Antenna System (DAS), Fire Protection Systems, and adequate Fire Apparatus Access.

Hydrant Inspection and Testing: LT Vrable is in the process of reconciling the last five years of test data to identify gaps that need to be addressed in anticipation of re-rating by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau later this year.

Training

In-Service Training: In-service training during the month of April was focused on pandemic response procedures and earlier this month, training was conducted for all shift personnel on the new Type 5 (Brush) Engines. All large group training has been postponed.

Collaborative On-Line Training: CWIFR has been collaborating with Laramie County (WY) Fire District 2 (our sister district) and Washington Township/Avon (IN) Fire Department, and Poudre (CO) Fire Authority on conducting joint training via the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

Apparatus Operator Qualification: Firefighter/EMT Keith Dawson has qualified as a light apparatus operator.

Facilities

Station 52: LT Vrable discovered a broken valve (no leak, but inoperable) in the water line supplying Station 52. This presented a significant puzzle as the district does not have a well on this property and there was no current record of where the water supply for the station was coming from. A bit of historical research in old district documents by Chief Hartin discovered that the station is supplied by the Widarama Water Association at no cost under an agreement dating to the construction of the station in 1985. LT Vrable repaired the valve in coordination with Widarama Water Association and King Water.

Surplus: LT Vrable has been coordinating a sealed bid auction to dispose of district assets previously declared surplus by the board of fire commissioners.

FMP Credentialing: LT Vrable has completed all requisite coursework and exams for credentialing as a Facilities Management Professional (FMP) through the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA).

Fleet Maintenance

Type 5 Engines: Work has been underway to outfit the district's new Type 5 (Brush) Engines. Mounting hardware has been fabricated and all equipment has been tested for fit. As soon as licensing has been completed, equipment will be transferred and the apparatus placed in service (anticipated date of June 1, 2020).

Type 1 Engines: Firefighter/Mechanic Matros and CAPT Helm participated in a pre-construction conference with Rosenbauer to finalize construction specifications for the three Type 1 Engines being purchased by the district.