

CAPTAIN'S MEETING
Thursday, August 1, 2019
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chiefs Noonchester, Rostov and Van der Veen; Training Captain Jorgensen; Captains, Ahrenholz, Davidson and Schmidt.

FIRE CHIEF

Recent Fire Review

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NWFR is in the process of acquiring information regarding Will Anderson's preference regarding fire investigations and when and which fires to initiate contact from the fire marshal's office.

Dakota Creek Bridge Emergency Access Limitations

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Chief Noonchester has contacted the Department of Transportation and learned that the ninety year old bridge is slated to be repaired in twelve to fifteen years. He is in the process of attempting to have a variance granted for Ladder 63 access during emergencies.

Captain Schmidt stated that he had a copy of the original letter sent by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) granting the district permission for Ladder 63 to access the bridge during an emergency. Captain Schmidt will search for the correspondence and forward his findings to Chief Noonchester.

Following some investigation, Chief Noonchester sent forwarded an email from the WSDOT denying the request for the variance.

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Chief Van der Veen noted that with the deadline for the abbreviated anatomy and physiology (A&P) course class sign-up looming, the district candidates need to be chosen quickly. Classes for the paramedic program will begin in January 2020. It was noted that the current City of Bellingham Fire Department paramedic selection test/process will be utilized. The selection process will include a written EMS test, application, letter of interest, three peer assessments and concluding with an interview process.

Agencies and labor are working on interlocal agreements to move the process along and ensure clear expectations.

In the event the district is unable to meet the deadlines or an agreement is not met, there is a verbal agreement that the district will be provided two placeholders for the next paramedic class.

The district believes that it will be beneficial to have certified medics in the system before a 5th medic unit is approved in the future.

The officers will be kept up to date on the results of future meetings.

Annexation

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Chief Noonchester noted that his goal to ensure that people don't lose jobs.

Probationary Firefighter

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Directive 19-001 Daily Expectations/Goals/Objectives

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The purpose of the directive is to ensure that everyday priorities are getting accomplished, pending number of responses, weather, hose and other types of testing, overtime, etc. on a regular basis. It is up to the officers to use their leadership skills to prioritize their day. Publicizing the daily schedule is to be utilized as a communication tool and not meant to be punitive.

One issue that surfaced was documenting the daily plans on Google Calendar. It seems there may be multiple station calendars and limited permissions. There was also discussion regarding whether daily plans can be inputted onto CrewSense, ResQHub, or Google Docs in lieu of utilizing Google Calendar. Chief Van der Veen will continue to investigate.

Chief Rostov noted that if approximate times were added he could be more involved with training and/or pre fire planning in the future.

It is expected that Kelly will keep up with her certifications and in the near future will travel to stations on a weekly basis for training/coaching.

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Personal Identification

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The district will pay for career members to upgrade their driver's licenses to enhanced, and pay for the renewal of those who already possess an enhanced driver's license. The district continues to investigate the best time for members to visit the WSDOT to make the upgrade.

Chief Van der Veen requested that captains report which members currently have their enhanced driver's license.

More information is expected.

It was also noted that Pt. Roberts future transport rendezvous locations may change to check point Alpha in the future.

Department of Health Needle Exchange Program

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- Exchange of used needles from participants with sterile needles from WCHD and the Washington State Department of Health.
- Screening/Testing for HIV, Hepatitis C, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and Syphilis and access to treatment
- Access to a housing specialist
- Access to treatment

WCHD will ensure that the parking lot is kept in clean condition and free of litter, after each session. Crews may choose to lock the front door and park their personal vehicles in another area.

Captains noted that there were no issues reported during the first session.

There was further discussion regarding having a WCHD needle drop at all stations in the future. Please forward any feedback to Chief Van der Veen.

Probationary Firefighter Records

Chief Rostov noted that a scanned documents folder has been placed on the server allowing scanned documents from all district copy machines (*if capable*), to be located on the server. The folder will come in handy to store (*no additional printing*) probationary firefighter documentation which could be reviewed by authorized officers as necessary. Chiefs Van der Veen and Rostov will investigate.

Captain Jorgensen noted that the probationary firefighter documentation will be stored in ResQHub in the near future.

Grace Program

There was further discussion regarding the Grace Program that was initially introduced during the all officer meeting held on June 6, 2019. The program can be used as a vessel to assist hoarders and those individuals who may be neglecting themselves. Community paramedics are also a part of the program. Anyone interested in participating in the program can contact Chief Van der Veen.

TRAINING

EMS Online

Captain Jorgensen reported that EMS online may discontinue in 2020. It is unclear which program will be utilized in the future as multiple organizations have input. It is essential that all

EMS online training is completed by the end of the year so as not to risk losing vital recertification information.

In addition, members who have not kept up to date with their online training have already lost vital continuing education records. Captain Jorgensen has received a one-time permission to bypass the removal of the 2016 online training records. Captains need to ensure that their crews remain up to date with EMS training. Captains can have members provide a printout report of current EMS online training as a reference. Ultimately it is up to each member to ensure that their EMS training and recertification is complete and does not lapse.

It was also noted that the state will not accept practicals completed on the same day. Practical cannot be added by Captain Jorgensen until the online portions of the unit are complete.

Please contact Captain Jorgensen if you require additional assistance.

Probationary Testing

Captain Jorgensen stated three probationary firefighters have successfully completed their probationary year. Please continue to work with them.

Skills Assessment

Captain Jorgensen will need assistance from the captains to rotate crews thorough a practice scenario scheduled to be held at Britton Loop Station 12 the week of August 5, 2019. It was also noted that crews are in the midst of hose testing which may affect the training.

New Probationary Firefighters

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Pump Operations

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PREVENTION

Image Trend

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Pre Fire Planning

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Fire Scene Evidence Security

There was discussion regarding a new process to secure fire scenes which include eliminating gaps in collecting and securing evidence. If a long wait is expected and crews need to go back in service, volunteers could be utilized until an investigator arrives.

Utilizing fire scene tape early on in the investigation to keep evidence pristine was also discussed

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Questions and/or comments can be directed to Chief Rostov.

I am Responding

Chief Rostov reiterated that the system encompasses all agencies in the area and has the capability to include pre fire planning, mapping, hydrant and freeway turn arounds, dependent on the needs of the district. District emails and passwords have been inputted into the program. Members need to download the app and activate the program to receive messages and updates. The quicker members download the app the faster any issues can be identified and repaired.

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The captains agreed to meet and discuss how they want Image Trend training disseminated to the crews. The captains will relay their preference to Chief Van der Veen.

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Chief Van der Veen relayed information about a recent complaint. Due to the lack of information put into a report, it was difficult to follow up on the call and deal with the patient grievance. It is vital to add all pertinent information to calls.

Hose / Nozzle / Ladder Testing

Hose testing is in progress. Some issues continue to pose issues.

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Station Wall Maps

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Identification Card

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