

**ALL OFFICER'S MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 5, 2019**  
**Station 61 – Blaine**

Attendees: Chiefs Noonchester, Rostov and Van der Veen; Captains, Ahrenholz and Davidson; Lieutenants, Biery, Hofstad, McPhail, Nielsen, Riehl, ASmith and LSmith.

**PRESENTATION**

Grace Program Manager Malora Christensen, along with Addy Chute (Nurse Practitioner) and Tomi Flack (Intensive Case Manager for the County) provided information about the Grace Program.

The Whatcom GRACE (Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement) project is a community based effort to find solutions for individuals who are using crisis services and law enforcement in frequent, yet ineffective ways. The aim is to offer intensive, coordinated services to these “familiar faces”, whose needs span beyond any single agency. This program, in development, will create a system to improve communication, care management and supportive services, with a goal toward improving the health and wellness of these vulnerable residents.

Currently there are four case managers including one in the Bellingham Fire Department, one in the City of Bellingham police department and two in the County.

Up to eighty residents can participate in the program at one time, utilizing a multitude of resources and can be referred by first responders and law enforcement. The goal being to connect residents to the appropriate resources while supporting first responders. There is no time limit as to how long a resident may be involved with the program.

Malora noted that her role is to remain both flexible and responsive, making first responders' roles easier. In addition, good communication will allow everyone to be privy to outcomes.

Community Paramedics can also utilize Image Trend to track responses to “frequent flyers”. District crews can also see if a patient is currently enrolled in the program along with the care plan, through Image Trend, during a call.

Malora encouraged crews to continue to refer patients to Northwest Regional Council (NWRC) and Adult Protective Services (APS).

Pertinent Grace contact information will be inputted into the officers' phones as soon as possible.

**FIRE CHIEF**

**Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) Master Plan**

ESCI continues to review vast amounts of information provided by the district to develop a master plan. It is expected that ESCI will conduct site visits sometime at the end of October to gain additional insight from district and community members.

## **Annexation**

No updates on the District 4 area annexation have been identified at this time. The proposed annexation encompasses the Britton Loop station and training grounds which are in the City of Bellingham's UGA.

NWFR and District 4 Board of Fire Commissioners have yet to meet to evaluate the current consolidation and discuss options.

Even with the annexation, the district can and will operate out of the Britton Loop station.

Chief Noonchester will keep members apprised of any updates.

## **Paramedic Program**

Two members who have been accepted into the paramedic program are currently attending the anatomy and physiology (A&P) course. Classes for the paramedic program will begin in January 2020. Both members are doing well.

Communication between the district and Mike Hilley to fund the program and assist with backfilling through the County EMS levy, are ongoing.

## **2020 Budget**

Chief Noonchester has been meeting with division heads prior to an upcoming NWFR Board study session scheduled for Saturday, September 14 at Odell Station 61.

Any 2020 budget requests should be forwarded to Chief Noonchester for consideration.

## **Upcoming Public Events**

Chief Noonchester will be attending some upcoming public events. It was also requested that on duty crews be involved in the events. These are good opportunities for the district to show a positive presence within our community.

Birch Bay Berm Project: Friday, September 6. The event starts at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 6, on the shoreline in front of Birch Bay Community Park, at 7930 Birch Bay Drive.

Semiahmoo Resort Association Meeting: The event starts at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, at 8184 Horizon Dr.

Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce: The event starts at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, location TBD.

## **OPERATIONS**

### **9-11 Peace Arch Memorial**

Recently Chief Van der Veen forwarded an email from Chief Crosswhite regarding the 9-11 Peace Arch Memorial event. Everyone is invited to attend the upcoming event. It is expected that those attending will wear their class "A" uniforms.

### **Class “A” Uniforms**

There was a discussion regarding ordering additional badges (possibly class “A” coat badge), nameplates, etc. for class “A” uniforms. Chief Van der Veen will investigate.

### **Daily Operations Plan Calendar**

The Chiefs have requested that all daily station operations be added to the daily plan station calendars. Even though officers are putting information on their station calendars, it is not being seen by the Chiefs. It may be that some of the information is being added to a duplicate calendar. Chief Van der Veen will resend out calendar invitations to ensure that everyone is inputting information on the correct calendar(s).

Chief Rostov noted that if pre fire planning / inspections are added to the calendars, he can at times rearrange his day to attend the events and learn alongside the crews.

### **Joint Ops with Bellingham Fire Department (BFD)**

Recently Chief Van der Veen met with BFD to discuss operations during joint responses. It was agreed that a committee consisting of actual responders will be formed in the future, to discuss how to better work together on the fire ground.

There was discussion regarding how the district’s resources are depleted at times, specifically when multiple apparatus are requested to assist BFD.

Lt Riehl handed out BFD’s current apparatus placement standard as an FYI. This will enlighten members as to BFD’s current expectations. Changes are expected in the future.

### **Ops Chief Relocation**

Chief Van der Veen will be relocating his office from Britton Loop Station 12 to Birch Bay Station 63 in the near future. The chiefs will be better spread throughout the district and respond to calls in a timely manner, when needed.

### **Safety**

Chief Van der Veen reminded officers that there are many members who are completing a lot of overtime shifts. Along with hose testing, he wants to ensure members are getting adequate rest as needed.

As district apparatus continue to age, it is crucial to be more cognizant of morning rig checks. If there are rig concerns, take them out of service and have them checked out as soon as possible.

### **New Aid Unit**

The new TriVan aid unit is scheduled to arrive the end of September.

### **Engine Committee**

Cpt Davidson and Elliot continue to work on specs for the engine before presenting them to the apparatus committee for a final revision. This spec will not include CAFS.

Chief Noonchester is working an apparatus funding program for the future.

### **Capital Project Requests**

2020 Capital project requests / ideas need to be forwarded to the fire chief.

An AED update is in the works, although it is unclear how many will be ordered.

### **Flynn Road Bridge**

The Flynn Road wood bridge (7800 block) is rotten and has been given a five ton weight limit. Signs alerting the community have been posted. Please take this into account when planning your route in the future. Chief Van der Veen is seeking additional information and will keep everyone updated.

### **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)**

The purchase of SCBAs have been approved and gone out for bid however, the purchase has been delayed awaiting the completion of the master plan. Once ordered there will be a sixty day turnaround time. Lt Biery will be meeting with the chiefs next week to discuss the SCBA proposal.

### **Community Paramedics**

There are three community paramedics: CP1 (Bellingham), CP43 (Ben Russell) and CP 102 (East County). They work Monday thru Friday. Chief Van der Veen is investigating how the program works and how the district can utilize their services. Additional information will be forthcoming.

### **Marine 6**

Marine 5 (Marine unit) is now Marine 6. It will be utilized for salt water rescue. The Rescue Boat can be requested for fresh water rescue only.

### **Cintas**

There was discussion regarding the latest issues with Cintas. Chief Van der Veen continues to work on ongoing problems. The district is investigating whether to purchase uniforms and have members launder their own uniforms in the future. Further discussion is expected.

### **Firefighter Hiring Process**

Contact Cpt Jorgensen if you are interested in helping out with the upcoming firefighter hiring process. The positions will be posted for approximately six weeks and one of the requirements is IFSAC FF1.

### **TRAINING**

#### **EMS Online**

Cpt Jorgensen thanked all those who pushed through the EMS online fiasco and frustrations. Everyone has been recertified. Please remember that if the district moves away from EMS Online, everyone will need to be up to date before 2020 or it may jeopardized future recertifications.

## **Updated Training**

Some updated training have been placed onto Rescue Hub and Crew Sense.

- Forcible Entry
- Air Management
- BNSF Haz Mat (*Chief Van der Veen will resend the flyer*)

Please see CrewSense for rotations, information, etc.

## **Fourth Quarter Training**

Please remember that 4th quarter requirements will be coming out in October so please complete your 3rd quarter requirements this month.

## **Rescue Hub**

Marcia will be sending out an instructional video to all officers regarding inputting training into Rescue Hub. Please remember that each time you perform training with your crew, it needs to be entered into Rescue Hub.

## **Training Requests**

Encourage your crew members to attend outside trainings. Forward all 2020 trainings requests to Cpt Jorgensen via email.

## **PREVENTION**

### **Fire Investigation**

Chief Rostov is the City of Blaine fire investigator and should be requested through Dispatch as 7103, B76 or district fire investigator, on a structure fire. He can also be reached by text on his work phone.

Chief Rostov also requested to be contacted for fires located in the district's response area outside the city, so he can make the decision whether or not to respond. By responding, he will also be better able to notice and recognize trends.

A policy update is expected to formalize when to contact the fire marshal in the near future.

### **Pre Fire Walk On Site Planning**

Chief Rostov would like to be more involved in pre fire walk throughs, which will allow him to provide direction to the crews. Please post upcoming pre fire planning on your station calendar.

### **I am Responding**

Chief Rostov demonstrated the I am Responding software and encouraged all members to download the application onto their officer phones (*personal phones is also an option*) sooner rather than later. The software has the ability to provide more information than PulsePoint such as additional facts about the call, which staff vehicles are responding, where apparatus is located on a map, hydrant location and pre fire information. The information can also be shared with other neighboring districts responding as auto or mutual aid.

The hope is that Dispatch will be connected to the application in the near future.

### **Fire Prevention Plan / Path**

Chief Rostov shared his short and long term fire prevention program vision.

- Fire inspections throughout the district (software based)
  - Chief Rostov plans to provide fire inspection training to crews (16 hrs per year required) which will allow the district to receive additional WSRB credit.
  - Lt Nielsen will be attending the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD for basic inspection and plan review
- Pre fire mapping (software based)
- Operational permits (revenue)
- Construction plan reviews within the City of Blaine
- Review hydrant placement within the City of Blaine
- FDC placement (sprinkler / standpipe)
- Heavily involved with code amendments within the City of Blaine (drive change within the city)
- Public education to include multiple areas, including children and the elderly.
- Investigations (district wide)

Chief Rostov noted that the district has the ability to set the standard for fire prevention within the County for the future. Each member has the opportunity to become involved in the program. The more the district becomes involved and seen by the public, the more future funding the district can anticipate.

More discussion is expected.

### **A Shift**

#### Return to Work

FF Hancock is has returned to work. Welcome Back!

Hose testing is almost complete. Ladder and nozzle testing will begin in the near future.

Nozzles and ladders have been cleaned and maintenance provided however, testing has not yet begun.

### **B Shift**

Lt Hofstad thanked Laurel Station 69 crews for their patience while he worked out pager issues. He has currently uploaded specific (simpler) tone packages on pagers which will hopefully alleviate some of the recurring issues. The Swiss phones will slowly be eliminated.

Foam buckets have been added to apparatus. It was requested to order more for training purposes.

### **C Shift**

There is some confusion regarding the ambulance rendezvous point with Pt Roberts. Chief Van der Veen will investigate.

The new septic system at Laurel Station 69 is nearing completion.

FF Bruya along with Alpine Fire will be conducting fire extinguisher testing (stations and apparatus) throughout the district. The testing should take approximately ten days to complete.

It was requested that the district map books be updated. Chief Rostov is hopeful that updated map data can be imported into software, to compliment a printed version in the future.

### **D Shift**

Due to the low number of D shifters, specifically at Odell Station 61, Lt LSmith apologized for the slow turnaround time of medical orders and inventory supplies.

The new TICs have been distributed. It was noted that the charging cord needs to utilize the USB port in the front portion of the MDC. The TIC must also be seated in the cradle in order to charge. There was discussion regarding installing an additional USB charging port in the engine.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chief Noonchester announced that Tech Help will be ensuring that all stations have their own internet connection and will no longer be connected through Laurel Station 69. All four stations will be independent of each other with regards to internet services. The upcoming upgrade will cause stations to be down for up to two hours. Each station will be notified prior to the upgrade.

It was noted that the touchscreens need to have pins lined up with the MDC docking station to connect properly.

The district mechanics will be attending a conference the week of September 9.

Captain Meeting: Thursday, October 3 at Birch Bay Station 63

All Officer Meeting: Thursday, December 7 at Blaine Station 61