

CAPTAIN'S MEETING
Thursday, October 3, 2019
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chiefs Noonchester and Rostov; Captains, Ahrenholz, and Schmidt.

FIRE CHIEF

Training Consortium

A preliminary meeting was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, with NWFR Chief Noonchester, BFD Chief Hewett and SWFA Topel, to discuss the possibility of forming a training consortium in the future. The group hopes to travel to other agencies who already have a successful program in place.

Since many neighboring agencies already respond together on major events, the concept may include housing the consortium at Britton Loop Station 12 with the idea of having multiple agencies train together consistently. The consortium will focus on commonalities.

Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) Master Plan

ESCI will conduct site visits on October 28-30. They will be meeting with various members, commissioners, admin, volunteers as well as the public. They also plan to meet with the Bellingham Planning Commission to discuss future annexations and how that may impact the district. The plan will ultimately allow the district to make some good decisions moving forward.

Capital Requests

The deadline for the 2020 capital projects was September 30, 2019. Chief Noonchester has received multiple capital requests and will be reviewing them before any decisions are made.

2020 Budget Sessions

Another Board study work session will be held to review the budget on Saturday, November 9, 2019. It is expected that a draft 2020 budget will be approved during the November 21, 2019 NWFR Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

OPERATIONS

Cross Staffing

Chief Rostov noted that the district is not taking full advantage of cross staffing. Dispatch can cross-staff up to five apparatus, which can eliminate some of the response issues. It is important to cross-staff vehicles.

As the tender group utilizes I Am Responding more, officers will be able to see when a tender volunteer is responding and to which station.

More discussion is expected.

Hazmat and Firefighter II Training

The district will be offering IFSAC certified training in Hazmat and FFII. These certifications are prerequisites for taking other Fire Officer courses. The district will support members by paying for the cost of the course as well as covering the overtime. All members are encouraged to take advantage of the training.

A print out will be provided to the captains regarding their current crew certifications. All ongoing training should be documented.

“The goal is to enhance NWFR’s level of service and continue to raise the bar.”

Enhanced Driver’s License

Some members have yet to take advantage of the district's offer to pay for enhanced driver's licenses. The district has offered members to renew or upgrade their driver's licenses while on duty and to reimburse the cost of the upgrade. Members are asked to turn in their receipts for reimbursement.

Birch Bay Station 63 Staffing

There was discussion regarding having lieutenants cover captains at Birch Bay Station 63 who are unprepared to perform essential captain duties including calling for overtime, initiating callbacks, and responding in the ladder truck.

There was additional discussion regarding rotating crews to ensure firefighters, lieutenants and actors are comfortable on the ladder truck if stationed at Birch Bay Station 63. At this time there is no formalized ladder truck training which should include drive time, identifying hazardous targets and emergency procedures.

Captains will work on rotating crews to provide ladder training opportunities (drive, set, pump, and climb) to enable crews to be better prepared to respond out of Birch Bay Station 63.

In addition, the training division will search for outside ladder training.

Apparatus

The district will go out for bid to purchase two additional aid units. GEMT funds will be utilized.

TRAINING

Rescue Hub

Marcia has been assigned to meet with all the crews/stations and ensure all personnel are comfortable with entering training into the Rescue Hub Training Program.

Some issues were uncovered regarding adding crews to Adhoc training entered by the officers that Marcia is currently investigating. There was also a discussion regarding having some prebuilt training categories entered into Rescue Hub for consistency.

4th Quarter Training

There are new requirements for 4th quarter training that is critical to be completed including tests, quizzes, and taskbooks.

New Firefighter Hiring Process

Thank you for those who have stepped up and offered to help with the hiring process. Once our three new hires get on board, a task-book will be assigned to them through Rescue Hub, minimizing the need for sending in paperwork. At this time there are between 40-50 qualified applicants. The process will include speed, panel and chiefs interviews. The new hires will attend the North Bend Academy in January and it is expected that they will be on duty in May.

Training Input Requested

Any input for 2020 training should be forwarded to Captain Jorgensen to discuss.

PREVENTION

Out of Town

Chief Rostov will be out of town the week of October 21st to attend a fire prevention institute. He will be available by phone/text.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week begins Sunday, October 6th. Crews across the district will be providing some sort of public education to schools, both public and private through fourth grade, as well as childcare centers. Schedules will be posted on CrewSense.

There was discussion regarding obtaining smoke detectors from business partners or grants to have in district apparatus. The smoke detectors can be distributed to the public as needed.

I Am Responding (IAR)

Chief Rostov demonstrated the IAR notice preferences. The application can be manipulated under “my settings”, “incident settings”, “do not disturb” notifications. Members are encouraged to contact Chief Rostov for additional training.

The group noted that Pulse Point notifies members before IAR. It was noted that the lag time is most likely due to CAD and will not change.

A Shift

Nothing to report

B Shift

Hose testing is complete although the data has yet to be analyzed. A fair amount of hose has failed (LDH, 5”, 3) which has been relocated to Wisner Lake Station 70 for surplus.

Light Duty Darren has been managing the ladder testing. It is unclear what the issues are with the ladders currently located at Wisner Lake Station 70. The goal is to identify which ladders can be repaired and which will be surplus. There will be additional discussion to ensure that all ladders are completing routine maintenance consistently.

A Shift will continue to work on a nozzle testing process.

C Shift

There was discussion regarding Image Trend guidelines of how to consistently enter medical vs non-medical (i.e. lift assists) calls. Chief Rostov noted that the district could face liability if crews responded to a non-medical call where no care was given or vitals taken and were re-dispatched for a more serious response later. Chief Rostov reiterated the importance of completing an informative narrative and having the officers are reviewing the reports. The hope is to have consistency between all officers. An instruction manual on the code criteria was requested. Any Image Trend issues with the program or tablets should be forwarded to the chiefs.

D Shift

New AEDs have arrived to take the place of the old and unsupported AEDs. The AEDs were purchased with GEMT monies. An email will be sent out with a link to the owner's manual and some training, in the near future.

Captain Ward is back and currently on light duty. Welcome back ☺

Other

The annual Pumpkin Party is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2019, from 6-8 p.m. to be held at Britton Loop Station 12. Everyone, including family, is invited to attend to carve pumpkins and decorate cookies.

Captain Meeting: Thursday, November 7 at Birch Bay Station 63

All Officer Meeting: Thursday, December 5 at Blaine Station 61