

**CAPTAIN'S MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 3, 2022**  
**Birch Bay Station 63**

Attendees: Fire Chief Van der Veen; Division Chief Ward; Captains Ahrenholz, Finley, and McPhail.

**FIRE CHIEF**

**Rumors**

With outside agencies in the process of hiring laterals, the district is aware that they may lose members. The district will continue to support those members who follow their dreams, even if that means choosing to go to another agency.

**Roadway Response**

A concern by a community member was voiced regarding safety on scene during MVAs. Currently there is no policy on roadway response, however, that is expected to be rectified in the near future, especially since it is referenced in the WAC, NFPA, and union documentation. Once complete, it is expected to be added to the second quarter training.

**Public Image**

There was discussion regarding the district and members' visibility within the community. There have been several instances that have resulted in calls by concerned citizens. Concerns include driving, specifically speeding and not utilizing turn signals. Chief Van der Veen suggested using the cruise control feature in the apparatus. The captains will discuss the concerns with their shifts.

**Future Planning**

One commissioner from District 4 and District 21 are expected to resume future planning meetings with Consultants Karen Reed and Bill Cushman later this month. In the meantime, the district plans to continue to provide information to the public regarding the needs of the districts.

**Shift Bid Process**

The group discussed the current vacancies in the department and the shift bid policy. The district will continue to fill vacancies via the contract, seniority, and the department needs.

**OPERATIONS**

**Facility and Apparatus Maintenance**

Aid car

The district continues to wait for the delivery of the new aid car.

Maintenance Shop

Chief Ward is now in charge of the shop and mechanic supervisor. The district will not be hiring another mechanic anytime in the near future.

Laurel St 69

The lighting update to ensure that the station is more secure is in process.

Birch Bay Station 63 Roof

The leaking corner has been repaired however, the drain area section of the roof will need to be replaced. Ceiling tile has been ordered.

### Birch Bay St 63 Tower

The tower will not be repaired at this time, as we continue to look for a contract that can do the needed restoration. There is documentation to allow training provided crews do not use water.

### **Helmet Numbers**

The district misunderstood the importance of the helmet number renumbering project. They have revised their initial plan to only modify a portion of the helmet numbers. It was decided to renumber all members' helmet numbers to coincide with seniority.

### **Hose Groups**

Members include Cpt. Schmidt, Lt. Hofstad, FFs' Brown, Lathan, McDermott and Stewart.

Cpts. Finley and Schmidt will work together with the goal of updating the current hose manual to ensure it is NWFR consistent. It was decided to pursue this project more diligently so members can train on hose package standards this summer.

### **CO Detectors**

The district needs better detectors in medical kits found on both aid and engines.  
The gas monitoring policy will also need to be updated.

### **TRAINING**

#### **The future of the consortium**

There was a discussion regarding the future of the training consortium.  
Captains favored being a part of the consortium and provided suggestions.

- NWFR needs to have a stronger voice
- Include District 7
- Training that supports both NWFR and BFD
- Joint ops manual that supports all agencies
- More MCOs with neighboring districts and like crews

The district will continue to move forward with participation in the training consortium.

#### **ECOs – coverage, county involvement**

There was discussion regarding future joint engine company operations and station coverage for those involved in the training.

It was noted that training participation is dependent on which BFD battalion chiefs are on for the day that determines NWFR crew involvement. The group agreed that the scenarios needed to be logical and valid to what may actually happen.

There was also concern for crews coming from the north and the probability of concurrent calls in their absence.

It is expected that MCO's will be offered regularly, and all shifts and stations will be involved.

#### **Training coverage**

A roving engine is a possibility for training coverage however, it will be used judiciously for live fire and MCO's with other agencies.

#### **Forcible Entry Class**

A forcible entry class is scheduled for the end of the first quarter or the beginning of the second quarter. FF Donnelly, Geleynse, DeJager, and Bruch will be in charge of the training. Each training is expected to last two hours and will be held at Delta Station 68. One station will rove to cover the station's area involved in the training.

Once a training class model has been determined, other in-house training classes can be developed.

Other district groups established for possible upcoming training or project development include:

- CPR
- Forcible Entry
- Extrication
- Rope
- EMS
- Fitness
- Search and Rescue
- Health and Wellness

Further discussion is expected.

### **Pump Class**

Four members are interested in attending the BFD / Van Dyken pump ops class. This class will not replace the NWFR pump class; instead, it is considered an enrichment class to build excitement around training opportunities.

Further discussion is expected regarding when probationary firefighter pump and driver training will be completed.

### **Training Enforcement and Scheduling**

The training captain plans to work with the shift captains to schedule training. The shift captains will ensure that training is completed, with the training captain providing any necessary follow-up.

### **Pre-Shift Training Program**

There was discussion regarding a timeline and guidelines regarding how probationary firefighters will transition from the North Bend Academy to working days, 24-hour shifts (as a 4<sup>th</sup>), to 24-hour shifts (regular staffing).

It was agreed that there needs to be a consistent matrix and clear criteria for the probationary firefighters to make the transition successfully. It is expected that the plan will include both a probie checkoff and stand-alone document.

More discussion is expected.

### **SHIFTS**

A Shift

### **SCBA<sub>s</sub>**

The SCBA policy needs to be updated.

### Shift Meeting on Teams

The recent Teams meeting platform held on A shift was well received.

### New BFD Recruit Class at St 12

With a new outside recruit class being held at Station 12, new and old issues have risen. The training captain will work with the BFD captain to ensure that all receive schooling on the "house rules" from day one.

### District Mail Run Plan

The chiefs and training captain intend to ensure that the mail is routinely disseminated to each station. Please text or call any of them if an item is time-sensitive.

### Training Screens

There was discussion regarding either adding an adjacent screen at each station or a ticker or split-screen at the bottom of the current screen that would include department or union news, training opportunities, and other important information.

Although all agreed that the idea had value, this project will require capital outlay. Further investigation and discussion will be completed prior to making a decision.

### Image Trend

With the recent coding issues and changes/updates that were not communicated, there is a need for Image Trend techs to revise the current manual.

During the recent Whatcom County Operation's Meeting, questions were asked regarding the importance of collecting the data and their intended use. Chief Ward will continue to investigate.

### BShift

#### Repeat Patient Documentation

There was discussion regarding when and how often to utilize the referral button on repeat patients who may need additional assistance. It was decided to continue to use the referral button and spell out each interaction with the patients in the note section.

The chiefs will investigate and clarify the preferred format.

There was further discussion regarding the need for an updated resource list and additional training for those patients needing additional assistance.

### CShift

Nothing to report.

### DShift

#### Monthly Medic Reviews

Cpt. Smith continues to investigate participating in monthly reviews with D7 medics.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2022