

CAPTAIN'S MEETING
Thursday, June 4, 2020
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chiefs Van der Veen, Rostov and Davidson; Captains, Ahrenholz, Schmidt and Ward.

FIRE CHIEF

Coronavirus

Chief Van der Veen reminded everyone to remain diligent with regards to cleaning stations and rig checks.

Via Kelly's email, cartridges will be replaced every 90 days or if they show O2 resistance. New cartridges are currently being circulated.

Kelly will continue to disseminate updated COVID 19 information as it becomes available.

Ben Russell is in charge of potential COVID 19 exposure crew follow up.

Chief Van der Veen will research possible COVID 19 surface transmissions.

There was a discussion regarding a recent Whatcom County Health Department directive that requested all responders to wear masks when out and about in public, representing the district. Chief Van der Veen will investigate and forward the directive.

It is expected that Kelly will be sending out a new hospital transfer flow chart information in the near future.

Grounds and Station Maintenance

Chief Van der Veen noted that the grounds maintenance at Semiahmoo Station 70 has improved.

Admin Hiring Freeze

Chief Van der Veen announced that due to the district's current budget deficit, the district will not be filling a maintenance or division chief of operations positions for the foreseeable future. Chief Van der Veen and former SWFA Fire Chief Ralston are working hard to gain a clearer understanding of the budget forecasts.

Mechanic John Lovatt will be reassigned two days per week to assist with station maintenance triage.

OPERATIONS

Station Captains

The group discussed the pros and cons of establishing station captains in the near future. The discussion included moral, pride and ownership, culture, consistent messages, increase accountability, and collaboration. It was further noted that this change may be the first step in developing battalion chief positions in the future.

Management will meet to discuss the station captain concept with Labor on Friday, June 5, 2020.

Another captain's meeting will be held on Friday, June 19, 0900 at Odell Station 61 for more in-depth discussion.

Training Captain Position

The training captain position will be posted. It was noted that a transparent process will be maintained for any and all positions being filled within the district. At this time any open firefighter positions are not expected to be filled, however, the district may decide to hire laterally in the future.

Chief Van der Veen requested that members remain patient and flexible for the foreseeable future as the district continues to grow.

Budget

Chief Van der Veen continues to meet with Dave Ralston to better understand the budget. Chief Van der Veen indicated that the district was over budget in 2019 and aware of the over-budget probability in 2020.

OPERATIONS

Lexipol Policies

Chief Van der Veen expects to introduce some new/updated policies to the NWFR Board on June 18, 2020, for a thirty-day review. The union has also been provided the draft policies.

Chief Van der Veen noted that the draft performance policy will hold company officers more accountable. There was also discussion regarding the multiple types of evaluations and how it is incumbent upon the district to provide performance evaluation training.

Aid Car Plexiglas

There was additional discussion regarding putting Plexiglas in ambulances for added safety. Captains Schmidt and Ward will continue to investigate.

Station inspections

There was a discussion regarding the need for consistent station inspections including an improved electronic request and notification process.

Rig Checks

There was a discussion regarding inconsistent apparatus checks. It is expected that the safety committee will review the concerns. In addition, rig check reminders will be disseminated.

Roof Leaks

A roofing company is expected to evaluate the roof leak at Odell Station 61.

It was noted that there is also a roof leak in the captain's quarters at Birch Bay Station 63 which will be investigated.

Timecards

Only admin, captains and possibly one alternate lieutenant per shift, will have the authority to alter timecards.

TRAINING

Chief Davidson is expected to discuss lieutenant access and Image Trend permissions with the company representative in the near future. Other Image Trend concerns should be forwarded to Chief Davidson.

The group discussed proper report narrative techniques. Chief Davidson reviewed some recent weakly written report narratives. It was noted that multiple public records requests are completed regularly and members need to be able to justify their notes in a court of law.

Chief Davidson will contact the district's attorney regarding providing additional report writing training.

Independence Day Festivities

The district acknowledged the potential for the Birch Bay area to be chaotic on July Fourth.

The district will put together a staffing plan for the holiday which will include one extra firefighter at each station. The Birch Bay Station will have one extra plus two to man an additional aid unit for a portion of the day.

Captain Ward is drafting the July 4th IEP.

Shifts

AShift

Hose testing is progressing. Surplus hose will be deposited at Wisner Lake Station 70.

The torc wrench at Odell Station 61 is missing.

CShift

There was discussion regarding providing some form of aerial and evip training for the ladder truck for members completing probation. It was agreed that officers at both Birch Bay Station 63 and Odell Station 61 also need a strong operational sense of the ladder. Chief Davidson and Captain Schmidt agreed to have further discussions.

DShift

New iPhone cases will be provided.

The brush rig at Birch Bay Station 63 will not be moved to Britton Loop Station 12. A hose reel will be added to the St12 brush rig.

There are some issues with the aerial headphones which may be due to the use of both old and newer headsets. The issue will be investigated.

Upcoming Captains Meeting:

Friday, June 19, 2020, 0900 Odell Station 61

Thursday, July 2, 2020, 0900 Odell Station 61