

OFFICER'S MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 2018
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chiefs Pernet, Noonchester and Hollander; Training Captain Jorgensen; Captains Johnson, and Schmidt; Lieutenants Ahrenholz, Biery, Esser, Hofstad, McPhail, Nelson, Nielsen, Paige, Riehl, ASmith, LSmith, Van der Veen and Zylstra; Volunteer Dale Rutgers.

BRIEFING BY DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF PERNETT

Chief Pernet wished everyone a Happy New Year. He is looking forward to 2018.

Review December Board Meeting

Chief Pernet provided information regarding the recent NWFR Board meeting held on Thursday, December 21, 2017, which consisted of a budget presentation, public hearing and the 2018 budget approval. Two re-elected commissioners, two volunteers and a tender operator were all sworn in during the meeting.

Chief Pernet provided information to the Board regarding the current Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) audit which has been ongoing for the past year. The initial rating was not favorable and after further investigation it was discovered that the WSRB had some inaccurate information. The two agencies have been sharing data which the district has used to develop an improvement plan for the future. The district is hopeful that the new rates will remain the same in D21, D4 and the City of Blaine response area.

After some discussion the Board made the decision to reschedule future Board meetings for the third Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The time adjustment works better for staff who can attend the meetings during their normal work day. In the future the district will be taping the meetings and streaming them over the internet. All recorded meetings will ultimately be saved on the district website.

2018 DISTRICT PROJECTS

Software Changes

Chief Pernet reviewed some of the district's upcoming projects and changes expected in 2018. The district will be implementing a new financial software program (BIAS) in the near future. The program will work with the current scheduling software (Crew Sense) with the goal of eliminating redundancies and unnecessary errors. The program is specific to governmental agencies, is cloud based and offers good support services. In addition, Bias is compatible with other software the district uses including Crewsense. Once all preliminary work is complete, the program is estimated to "go live" in February.

The district intends to expand its use of Crewsense, utilizing the payroll and overtime portions of the program in the near future. It is expected that the district will still utilize paper timesheets until any kinks can be worked out (6 months).

Regional Interlocal Agreement

County fire districts/departments agreed to purchase a new records management system (Image Trend) to assist with electronic patient care reporting in the future. No startup date has been determined. The district along with D1, D4, D5, D7, D8, D11, D14, D16, D17, D18, D19, Bellingham Fire Department, Lynden Fire Department and South Whatcom Fire Authority will be asked to sign an interlocal agreement for first response emergency medical services with Whatcom County to replace the original agreement signed in 1984.

AFG Grant

The district has formed a grant committee and will work with D7, D4 and South Whatcom Fire Authority on a regional AFG Grant for SCBAs and components.

Volunteer Resident Program

A volunteer resident program will be developed and housed at Semiahmoo Station 62. The goal is to have a program in place by August, 2018. The station will need updates in order to house the program. It is expected that Chief Hollander will also maintain a satellite office at the station. Chief Pernet noted that with more growth and higher end homes being developed in Semiahmoo Station 62's response area, a medical response from that station is vital to the area.

Strategic Plan

Chief Pernet noted that the Board requested the district refocus on the strategic plan and initiatives including facility and apparatus replacement.

FARS

The FARS committee and County Executive have formed a subcommittee to work on revamping the area communication system. They will also explore funding alternatives for the project. Chief Noonchester is part of the subcommittee.

Captain and Lieutenants Promotional Lists

The training and operation division are in the process of developing an officer certification course and a promotional process and list for both captains and lieutenants.

District Policies

During the past last year the district has been working on developing and updating policies on improving operations. Policy work will continue in 2018.

Lynden Fire Chief

Chad Baar will act as interim fire chief for the Lynden Fire Department (LFD) for approximately the next six months while they continue their search for a new fire chief. Both the LFD and NWFR will follow their current response agreement. After some additional training it is anticipated the Chad Baar will participate in the B76 rotation.

SAFETY

Power Lines

Chief Noonchester thanked all the members who took part in the recent emergency call back on Friday, December 29.

The group discussed how they currently handle a downed power line scene.

- Secure the scene until PSE arrives and shuts off power
- Maintain a safe distance; currents are very unpredictable
- Utilize PA system to communicate if needed
 - Stay calm and explain our limitations to upset homeowners
 - If vehicle is trapped under power lines have passengers stay in car until power turned off
- Utilize chiefs, law enforcement and/or border patrol if your response unit needs to be made available for other calls.

Lieutenant McPhail reviewed his recent encounter of a downed powerline that was energizing a galvanized metal fence.

Dale Rutgers requested information regarding what units the tender group should take if the tender was taken by the on duty crew. Tender operators were advised to not utilize the second out aid unit since career callbacks may need them to respond to additional calls. The direction was for volunteers to respond to the station on standby and wait for communication regarding the needs of the district.

LOGISTICS

Mobile Data Computers (MDC) Replacement Update

Chief Hollander noted that all first out ambulances have been equipped with the new tablets. It is anticipated that all first out engines will be equipped by the end of the first quarter. The CAD devices will eventually include turn by turn directions (GPS).

Tender Back Up Cameras and GPS

Backup cameras have been installed on several tenders. GPS will be installed as soon as possible on select units.

T63 (AP 201) Pump Seal Update

The pump seal on T63 has been repaired.

Missing House Tones

Chief Hollander requested immediate notification if any glitches are discovered with house tones. It was also suggested to keep a more detailed log book at each station to document issues and/or concerns.

Laurel Station 69 Washer and Generator Update

The new generator has been installed at Laurel Station 69. It is working with the exception of the automatic switch, which is expected the week of January 8.

Delta Station 68 will receive Laurel Station 69's manual generator once it has been inspected by the shop.

Station Alarms

Dale Rutgers raised a concern regarding the burglar alarm codes at Delta Station 68 and Haynie Station 65 and whether they are needed. The chiefs will discuss the concern and make a decision.

Versaterm

The new tablets being installed contain Windows 10 which apparently is not communicating well with Versaterm. The district is working with the City of Bellingham and Tech Help to address the issue. Please report any issues directly to Chief Hollander.

MDC Update

There was discussion regarding the MDC performance, specifically at Odell Station 61. It was suggested to reboot the system and then wait to log back on to Versaterm. It was also suggested to refresh the page manually. Chief Hollander continues to work on any reported issues. Again, it is important to communicate all issues with Chief Hollander via email. Eventually all MDCs will be replaced.

OPERATIONS

Fire Ground Operations V-Fire 3

Prospect should now redirect all structure fires to V-Fire 3 automatically. Chief Noonchester requested feedback regarding the change. It was reported that if all parties are not on the fire ground there may be communication problems however, dispatch should be able to relay any needed information.

Dispatch will be hiring two additional dispatchers in 2018 to work prime hours from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Station Orders and Fire Blocks

No issues were noted regarding the recent changes to station orders and fire blocks.

Odell Station 61 Station volunteers were concerned that they were not called in during the recent structure fire. It was noted that dispatch will tone out staffed units first. Crews can always request additional resources if needed.

The district is working on a volunteer dispatch system in the future.

Cross Manning

All career stations will remain in cross manned status. If stations are taken out of cross manned status the "back in quarters" button will not work properly. A call must be made to dispatch to re-cross man the station.

Map Book Discussion

Chief Noonchester continues to work with the manufacturer regarding a new map book for the district. Concerns of the prototype map book were initially raised by the crews at Laurel Station

69 who tested the book. Concerns included small print, not water resistant, flimsy, pages cannot be replaced, doesn't include the majority of current addresses, no hydrants or water sources and does not utilize the same grid pattern as Dispatch. Chief Noonchester will keep everyone updated on the progress.

Crew Sense and 2018 Master Calendar

Captains and some lieutenants are in the process of entering crew information including vacation and debit days into Crewsense. The addition of the three new career firefighters is expected to alleviate overtime.

Hose Testing 2018

An additional tester will be purchased in 2018, allowing each career station to house a hose tester. Cpt Johnson, Lt Esser and FF Comp continue to work on a plan to streamline the testing process which will include an in-depth inventory. It was noted that hose, ladder and pump testing will be performed separately in 2018. Career stations will also be assigned volunteer station apparatus that will require hose testing. Any input/suggestions should be forwarded to Lt Esser.

Pre-Fire Planning 2018

The district is gathering data and putting the final touches on the prefire plan program. Each career station will be responsible for those target hazards in their response area. It is hoped that the information will eventually be added into Image Trend and utilized at structure fires. It is important that our customers are educated about the benefits of the program. The district may also be able to input previously collected data into Image Trend.

Training regarding how to conduct inspections is expected in the future.

Knox Box

There was a concern brought up regarding old dial Knox boxes. Please notify Chief Hollander if you locate any dial Knox boxes and he will swap them out.

Gross Decon Bunker Gear

A committee has been working on a directive and district policy that includes wearing SCBAs during any type of overhaul. Once completed, the policy will go before the Board for approval.

AFG Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) 2018 Committee

A new committee has been formed to assist with the open AFG grant.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Stats

Chief Noonchester reviewed U.S fire statistics from Fema. These statistics along with additional information can be found at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/#tab-4>.

Trends

Fires – 19.1% ↓
Deaths – 3.0% ↓
Injuries – 8.0% ↓

Causes of residential fires in 2015

Cooking – 50.8%

Heating – 10.8%

Electrical malfunction – 6.4%

Unintentional, careless – 6.4%

Nonresidential building fire causes in 2015

Cooking – 29.5%

Unintentional, careless – 10.4%

Intentional – 9.4%

Training Delinquency Form

An official district training delinquency form to notify members of missing training is being developed.

NEW TOOLS IN TOOL BOX

1.75 Hose for Cross-Lays

The new hose has been tested and is in service. Although it has been inventoried, it has not yet been entered into Firehouse.

Ballistic Gear

Some members took part of the active shooter training held at Britton Loop Station 12 in 2017. It is anticipated that a county wide policy to determine the district's response will be developed. Since members' safety is of utmost importance to the district, vests and helmets for each career station will be purchased through reserve funds, most likely during the first quarter of 2018. It is also expected that the district will provide additional training and develop a directive and/or policy.

SPo2/Co Detector

Cpt Johnson provided a brief overview regarding the purchase of Co detectors. Since the particular devices are very expensive (\$5,700 each) A shift will continue to research alternatives.

TRAINING

OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

Lt Paige presented a video "*The Three Pillars of Leadership*" on Fire X Talks.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj-2WTkqRO4&feature=youtu.be>

The Three Pillars of Leadership include:

1. Trust – Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.
2. Love & Care
 - Love – Warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion
 - Care – The provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance and protection of someone or something.

3. Professional competence – The habitual and judicious use of communication, knowledge, technical skills, clinical reasoning, emotions, values

Lt. Paige provided a handout for officers to use as a discussion tool regarding crew and officer expectations. Lt. Paige further noted that the handout will be a good opportunity to begin meaningful conversation as a crew.

Chief Pernet that the crew / officer expectation list is a good tool that he has utilized and found very beneficial in the past.

Live Fire Training

Captain Jorgensen noted that live fire training went well. C Shift has yet to complete the training. Officers were pleased with the format, rotation and lessons learned.

Quarterly Requirements

First quarter requirements have been dispersed. Some fourth quarter training has yet to be turned in. Captain Jorgensen reminded officers to document all completed training in Fire House.

EMT Recertification

Twenty-nine EMT certifications will expire in 2018. It is critical that everyone keep up on training and EMS Online entries. Those who fail to recertify, will be allowed a grace period however, they will not be able to provide patient care. Officers need to follow up on the process with their crews. To alleviate delays, members need to ensure they login and have the correct password in advance.

Patient Updates

Captain Jorgensen noted that members requesting updates on patients need to be patient as the request must go through multiple channels. Captain Jorgensen announced he will now be a part of the chain so updates may be received more quickly.

New Medical Director

Dr. Emily Junck has been hired as the new medical director, replacing Dr. Marvin Wayne. Possible changes to the EMS program are expected in the future. There was a request made regarding arranging a “meet and greet” with the new director in the near future. Captain Jorgensen will make the inquiries.

Burn Tower Operator Class

Burn tower operator classes will be offered on April 3, April 17 and May 1. Interested members should contact the training division if interested in attending any of the classes.

Firefighter 2 Academy

It is anticipated that a state certified FF2 academy will be offered in May.

Officer 1 Academy

A state certified Officer 1 academy is in the works.

Volunteer / Tender / Rehab Update

Luke Haran, Ian Kjera, Spencer Morgan and Kyle Wheeler graduated from the Whatcom County Recruit Academy in December. Ian and Kyle will be receiving their EMT education while Spencer, who already possesses his EMT certification, will be pulling shifts in the near future. Luke Haran accepted a position with the Seattle Fire Department and has resigned from the district.

Mike Peetoom has joined the district as a tender operator and is currently completing his driver training.

Lyndsey Cunningham has recently joined the rehab group and will be receiving her driver training in the near future.

Probationary Firefighters

Captain Johnson requested clarification regarding what the expectations are of the probationary firefighters when they are assigned to other shifts for overtime or debit days. It was noted that any questions should be directed to that probationary firefighter's company officer. Captain Jorgensen stated officers should also be referring to the probationary firefighter's manual.

A Shift – nothing to report

B Shift – nothing to report

C Shift – Lt. ASmith voiced a concern regarding a recent incident where he was not notified by dispatch that an individual or address had been flagged for possible violence. Any response to a flagged individual or address should always include police assistance. It seems the Blaine Police Department was also unaware at the time of the call that the individual was flagged. This may have been in part due to the fact that the individual had only just relocated to the area and a new police officer was recently hired. Chief Hollander will verify that the individual along with his address is flagged.

D Shift – nothing to report

ROUND THE TABLE

Hannegan Bridge Response Plan

Chief Pernet provided information regarding another suicide attempt at the Hannegan Bridge by the same individual. Although the individual jumped off the bridge, the person managed to swim to shore and was transported by crews. The location has been tagged as a target hazard and a response plan was set in place however, the incident happened too quickly for the planned response.

Class "A" Uniform Ensemble

The district has budgeted to complete the class “A” uniform ensemble and will be purchasing hats and gloves in the near future.

Polar Bear Plunge

Chief Hollander noted that crews did a good job of assisting with the recent Polar Bear Plunge held in Birch Bay on January 1. The Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce also expressed their appreciation for the assistance.

March to the Arch

Chief Hollander reported that on Saturday December 9 Noah Barnes, an 11 year old with type 1 diabetes arrived at the Peace Arch in Blaine after walking 4,200 miles from Key West Florida. He started his journey in January. Chief Hollander and law enforcement escorted Noah from the outskirts of Blaine and the Odell Station 61 crew welcomed Noah to the Peach Arch.

Career Fair

Lt. LSmith announced that she will be representing the district alongside Bellingham Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service at an upcoming career fair scheduled for February 13, from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Blaine School District. The event is held every two years. District presentation materials have been upgraded including photos, and a banner which can be utilized to promote the district at other public education events.

FIT Testing

Lt Biery reviewed the anticipated FIT testing schedule. It was requested that FF Sanders who will be conducting the testing, be assigned to Britton Loop Station 12 on his debit days scheduled for Jan. 10 and Feb. 10. All the testing equipment is located at Britton Loop Station 12 and if moved may be compromised. It was also requested that A shift ensure that all rip packs located at Birch Bay Station 63 are sent to Britton Loop Station 12 for flow testing. The goal is to have the FIT testing completed by end of the first quarter. Hydro testing of cylinders which will have a one week turn around, will be ongoing throughout August.

Benevolent Fund

Lt. LSmith reminded the group about benevolent donation information that was provided along with employee’s payroll. Please consider donating to the benevolent fund as one hundred percent of the monies support employees and other fire service members as needed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 1