

**ALL OFFICER MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2022**  
**Birch Bay Station 63**

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

**FIRE CHIEF**

**Rumors**

Another member may be leaving the district.

**Polo Shirt**

Adding a name to the district polo shirt has not been authorized, nor is it part of the current uniform policy.

**Browning Down Stations**

Any questions regarding browning down stations or other operational concerns must be forwarded to the fire chief.

**Overtime**

With the current staffing shortage and peak vacation time fast approaching, filling any known overtime positions a month in advance is beneficial. It is expected that the July overtime will be filled in the near future. An email alerting members to the process will be sent out prior.

**Light Duty Options**

Management does have specific projects in mind for members expected to request light duty in the near future.

**Smith Rd. Station 13**

It is expected that DNR will lease Station 13 in the near future. Once they take up residence, DNR will be responsible for the lawn maintenance of the facility. Until then, the lawn requires some attention.

**District 21/4 Joint Workshop Meeting**

A joint workshop has been scheduled for Saturday, June 2, at Odell Station 61 @ 0800. Topics of discussion include the City of Bellingham annexations in District 4's area, future annexations, and operational issues.

With the upcoming potential annexations, District 4 will not be able to afford to operate, nor will it be feasible to form an RFA with NWFR. Bellingham will need to be part of these discussions and ultimately part of the solution.

District 4 Chairman Mark Lann and Chief Van der Veen plan to meet with the city of Bellingham Mayor to discuss a long-term solution on Wednesday, June 8.

**Division Chief of Operations**

A division chief of operations internal posting is expected to be announced in late August or early September. The position is expected to begin in November.

**July 4th Plan (D Shift, Ward)**

The DFM will be on duty and the liaison between the City of Blaine and the district during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays.

An additional BLS unit will be staffed out of Birch Bay Station 63. The district may staff 6302 or BR63, dependent upon what is needed. More information will be disseminated as the date draws near.

The chiefs plan to provide career stations with barbeque ribs.

#### SUPPORT SERVICES

##### **Facility and Apparatus Maintenance**

The Birch Bay Station 63 roof repair has been completed. The water gong is inoperable and will not be repaired. The old sprinkler system will eventually need to be replaced.

The upcoming required five-year sprinkler servicing has been scheduled.

The sprinkler heads will be replaced at Odell Station 61 in July. The FDC will need flushed at Northwood Station 72.

Recently there was an internet and Wi-Fi issue caused by Pogozone. The problem has been rectified.

##### **Hose Group**

Lieutenant Hofstad has agreed to head up the hose group. Others participating include Lieutenant Brown and firefighters Latham, Jackson, McDermott, and Stewart.

Before decisions are made, the group will review what the district currently uses, their effectiveness, and other options.

The group will look at:

- Tenders
- Engines
- Nozzles
- Preconnect
- Wildland
- Summer vs. winter

If changes are made, a sample rig will be outfitted and taken to individual stations for training and uniformity.

Captain Ahrenholz will send out an email to the group to begin planning meetings.

##### **Upgraded Phone System**

The upgraded phone system was switched on Thursday, June 2. There have been no issues reported thus far.

##### **Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB)**

There was a discussion regarding the upcoming WSRB rerate scheduled for July. Before the July visit, a representative has requested information, including data on apparatus, personnel certifications, engine, and tender inventory, and inspection and water reports.

With the information provided, WSRB will set our fire service rating, affecting our customers' insurance rating.

Further discussion included setting up our systems (OPIQ, Vector Solutions, Crewsense, ResQHub) to better track and align the requested information in an electronic format for the future.

### **Radio outages**

Information was provided regarding the recent communication problem with Dispatch. The H St radio stations have had connectivity issues, which are expected to be upgraded some time in the future. Please report any future communication issues with Dispatch to Chief Ward. FARS is currently looking at ways to fund a plan.

### **Operative IQ**

Chief Ward and others are testing a new program (Frontline). The program is more user-friendly and expected to simplify rig checks and better integrate other Operative IQ areas.

An SCBA maintenance component still needs to be added to Operative IQ.

The goal is to roll out the updated program and extensive training during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

### **SHIFTS**

The EMT recertification is in progress. The tracking component is complete. If you have not completed all the necessary training or have questions, please contact Captain Ahrenholz or Chief Ward.

The group agreed that a more user-friendly Vector Solutions report showing specific missing classes would be helpful. Currently, Captain Ahrenholz has been downloading each member's entire training files to search for missing courses, which is very labor-intensive.

There was further discussion regarding a training policy consisting of how to hold members accountable.

A lieutenant promotional process is expected to be posted shortly.

Next Captains Meeting: TBD

All Officer Meeting: TBD