

OFFICER'S MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 2016
Station 63 – Birch Bay

Attendees: Chief Pernet, Captain Noonchester, Captain Davidson, Captain Johnson, Captain Schmidt and Captain Ward.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY AIRLIFT NW

Brian Prince, a flight nurse with Airlift NW, provided information regarding air lift transports, rapid response initiative and protocols. Airlift NW flies with two nurses with current certifications is advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, trauma, neonatal resuscitation and EMT.

The group also discussed:

- Contacting Airlift NW as soon as possible for the quickest response
- Officers must specifically request Airlift NW from dispatch
- Can cancel in route at no cost to the district or patient
- Airlift NW medics can be utilized as first responders
- GPS coordinates for landing (iPhones)
- Preplan landing areas
- Protocols
- Patient size, weight and width limitations

There was consensus that it will be beneficial for the training division to initiate an orientation with Airlift NW in the near future. Orientation will include specific criteria that would initiate an airlift request, radio communications and landing zone information.

In addition, Brian provided information on Air Care membership (*supplemental coverage for air transport*) at a reduced rate (\$48.00 per year) for North Whatcom members and their families. Further information is available on their website (www.airliftnw.org).

SAFETY

Captain Ward informed Chief Pernet that FireHouse had not generated incident reports for approximately five days around the Memorial Day holiday. A notification was routed through the extranet however, the issue was not rectified until the beginning of the following work week. Captain Schmidt noted that reports can be entered manually in emergency situations. Chief Pernet will review the protocols for these types of mishaps and report back to the group.

Captain Johnson reported a week long intermittent exhaust leak found in E63 (AP 511) due to a gasket issue. The apparatus was not taken out of service and crews were told to open the windows to control emissions. Chief Pernet stated that officers can take apparatus out of service if they feel uncomfortable however, the decision will need to be justified. Chief Pernet will follow up on the incident.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION / POLITICAL UPDATE

County EMS Levy

Chief Pernet provided information regarding the county wide EMS levy. The levy will be in addition to the current one tenth of one percent sales tax currently in place and the transport fees. The levy will focus on wholly funding the system from the ground up including room for expansion. Both District #4 and NWFR Fire Commissioners will be approving a resolution to support the County EMS Levy.

Chief Pernet noted that after receiving a letter of intent from the County to engage in an inter-local agreement or ordinance to protect the current District #4 levy, he supports the levy.

Strategic Plan Update

The Board of Fire Commissioners attended a planning workshop on Saturday, May 21, at Odell Station 61 to review, discuss and approve the district strategic plan. Copies of the plan have been delivered to each career station, administration building and Delta Station 68.

The individual committees will begin working on their action plans.

Chief Pernet stated that he appreciates everyone's participation and hard work on the plan.

Joint Board Meeting

NWFR and Fire District #4 had their annual joint board meeting on Thursday, April 21 to discuss the inter-local agreement and consolidation for services which expires December 31, 2016. If no action is pursued the inter-local agreement will automatically renew in five year increments. Chief Pernet noted that since learning additional information during the recent Washington State Fire Chief Conference, he is recommending a investigating a regional fire authority (RFA) rather than a merger. A RFA will set a better roadmap for districts to join the North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (NWFR) in the future.

OPERATIONS

City of Bellingham / SWFA Auto Aid Meeting

There was no comprehensive auto aid meeting held in May.

Lynden Fire Department (LFD) Auto Aid Agreement

The group reviewed the auto aid agreement between the NWFR and LFD:

- The LFD will respond to NWFRs area north of the City of Lynden.
- The LFD will be able to access the Britton Loop St 12 training grounds at no cost.
- The LFD can utilize Northwood St 72's back up equipment when needed.
- If both agencies arrive at the same time, the agency with jurisdiction will make the transport.
- Whether 69 or 75 are transporting, Lynden or NWFR will assist in covering each other's area until units are back in service. Whichever agency arrives first, starts patient care and has permission to transport - Patient Care is #1 Priority.

Chief Pernet reiterated that the agreement is based on “*what’s best for the patient.*” Captain were directed to have a discussion about the agreement with their lieutenants.

City of Blaine Fireworks

The City of Blaine had a public hearing to hear comments regarding the ban of fireworks within the City of Blaine on Monday, June 13. The ban on fireworks was approved in west Blaine and restricts the discharge of personal fireworks in the city however, it will not take effect until 2017. The ordinance does not ban the sale of fireworks within the city limits, nor does it include the professional fireworks show.

EMT CERTS Follow Up

Captain Noonchester verified that he has received official notification from the state that the two members who had not renewed their EMT certifications, have been reinstated.

Tender Response to Wildland Fires

Chief Pernet noted that he had recently turned down a request for tender support from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The request had no clear resource order and too many unanswered questions. Chief Pernet stated that the district may work with the DNR in the future as long as crews are prepared with training, gear and clear assignments. Chief Pernet plans on having a discussion with DNR or his concerns in the near future.

Chief Pernet reiterated that the district will continue to provide tenders for mutual aid to our neighboring districts.

Cascadia Rising Disaster Drill

Chief Pernet provided information regarding the county-wide disaster drill. Cascadia Rising was held on June 7-8 (36 hours). The drill was based on a nine point zero earthquake hitting the west coast affecting California up to British Columbia, Canada. Chief Pernet ran the fire branch of the drill at the EOC during the event. He noted that the drill provided opportunities for networking between agencies.

The group discussed the district’s unofficial protocol for an on duty disaster:

- Remove rigs from apparatus bays
- Assess station for damage
- Account for all on duty members
- Prioritize calls
- Provide windshield inspections for appropriate agencies

Trump Rally

The unexpected Trump Rally was held on Saturday, May 7 at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Lynden. All agencies worked well together with no major incidents reported. Chief Pernet estimated that the cost to the district was approximately \$11,000 which will not be reimbursed.

New Hire Post Academy

The new recruits are currently attending the Washington State North Bend Fire Academy. Captain Noonchester invited everyone to attend the graduation which will be held in Burien on Friday, July 22. On Monday, July 25, the probationary firefighters will be assigned to the training division for a two week mini NWFR academy (9 hour days) prior to being assigned to a shift.

The mini academy will include admin orientation, EMS driver ambulance training, scenarios, hands on training along with tours of the district, Dispatch as well as the Peace Health emergency room. It is expected that Captain Noonchester will send out a detailed schedule mid-July. In addition, the probationary binders have been updated to be more interactive and to include additional company officer evaluation check off sheets.

The probationary firefighter shifts will be selected based on feedback from the North Bend company officers, individual personalities and officer recommendations. Chief Pernet provided some criteria for selecting the shift placement which includes:

- No placements at Britton Loop Station 12
- Preference to place at Birch Bay Station 63

Captains will forward their meeting proposal to discuss placements to Chief Pernet. Items to discuss will include the probationary year assignment as well as other possible temporary / permanent shift movements. Chief Pernet noted that all decisions must be justified.

Captain Schmidt continues to complete the recruit firefighter timesheets and update Firehouse accordingly while they attend the academy.

Acting Lieutenants

There was discussion regarding placing the acting lieutenants on different shifts as soon as possible. One actor had previously been approved to move to C Shift which had been put on hold temporarily.

May Payroll

The group discussed the minor discrepancies that were noted during the May payroll review. Chief Hollander has built a new payroll report which will make payroll scrutiny easier.

Dispatch Changes

No new issues were brought forward regarding the recent dispatch changes:

- Station 12 smoke investigation: only 1 engine will respond
- Station 63 E6303: will not be toned out for Alphas
- BC Response: will not be toned out for Alphas or Bravos

911 Smoke Calls Follow Up

There have been no further calls at this time regarding the frequent fire/smoke investigation 911 calls after the caller had a conversation with Chief Hollander.

Brush Fire Preparedness – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The wildland gear has been brought out of storage and made available for use at each career station if the need arises. Captain Noonchester has included seasonal brush fire training in the second quarter training requirements.

July 4 Incident Action Plan (IAP) – Davidson

Captain Ward will forward the July 4 IAP to Captain Davidson who will be the on duty captain for the event. Chief Pernet noted that there will be full staffing (12) for the day. It is anticipated that some members will be on call beginning at 6:00 p.m. for possible tender response. Chief Pernet will check to see if apparatus is required to be on hand for the City of Blaine fireworks show.

Daily Check – Apparatus / Radio Accountability Procedure

Captain Davidson announced that apparatus inventory and the accompanying forms have been completed. The radio accountability policy needs only to be put in the proper format prior to Chief Pernet's review.

Equipment Update

- Ropes – policy in process
- Fuel for power units – There was discussion regarding who is responsible to mix the fuel. Captains Johnson and Ward will make sure the additive is properly mixed with the fuel.
- Chain saws – in process. Captain Ward has forwarded costs to Chief Pernet regarding upgrading district chain saws and blades. The goal is to make chain saws uniform district wide on a fiscally appropriate timetable.
- Helmet Fronts – in process.

Shift Shopping Directive

In process

Staff Vehicle Use Directive

In process

Ladder Testing / Hose Testing

Ladder testing has been scheduled for June 13-29. Dedicated testing dates include June 16, 21, 24, and 29. Additional days may also be scheduled. There was some discussion regarding building our own ladder testing equipment in the future.

Hose testing is scheduled to begin July 11. Three testing units will be available for testing.

Captain Davidson noted that six apparatus are down fifty foot hose sections in part to testing failure. Captain Johnson will investigate.

Upcoming Events

NW Washington Fair (Demo Derby): Chief Pernet directed Captain Johnson to find out what type and how many resources will be needed for the event. The district has opted to charge a fee for services this year and a contract will need to be signed. Last year the Lynden Fire Department borrowed a brush truck during the fair month.

City of Blaine 4th of July Parade: Volunteers from Odell Station 61 will be participating in the parade.

Birch Bay Discovery Days: August 27-28

Tractor Pull at Berthusen Park: August 3-6

Community events need to be added to district calendars well in advance so arrangements can be made ahead of time.

TRAINING

Britton Loop Station 12 Live Fire Training

Live fire rotation will be scheduled soon. Captains Davidson and Schmidt had the opportunity to assist with a recent training fires at the Station 12. The process seems to be working well.

Diversity Training

Diversity training has been scheduled and added to the training calendar. Captain Noonchester will be providing training to all shifts and the admin staff.

FIRE MARSHAL / LOGISTICS

I-Phone Update

Four iPhones with waterproof cases have been ordered for the company officers. Officers can expect protocol reminders about phone usage in the near future.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

A Shift – nothing to report

B Shift – nothing to report

C Shift – Captain Schmidt noted that Ladder 61 (AP 401) does not meet the NFPA requirements for ladders. Captain Johnson will assess the situation and provide Chief Pernet with additional information.

D Shift – nothing to report

Due to upcoming vacations, the next officer meeting scheduled for July 7, has been cancelled.