

ALL OFFICER MEETING
Thursday, August 11, 2022
Birch Bay Station 63

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

FIRE CHIEF

Rumors

Chief stated there was no truth to a rumor that BFD would be taking over Britton Loop Station 12 by the end of the year.

District 4 Area Annexation

Chief Van der Veen proposed that he, Chief Hewett, and a District 4 commissioner organize several community “listening sessions” in D4’s response area to allow citizens to communicate their expectations of the fire district. In addition, the citizens would receive a unified message from both chiefs regarding their current levy rate and the risks of a further reduction of the levy rate. Other communication paths may include mailers or various social media platforms.

District Passenger Van

Chief Van der Veen acknowledged that BFD would rent the district’s large passenger van for \$100 daily.

The NWFR recruits (4) will be utilizing the Expedition to travel to and from the North Bend State Academy for the next three months.

There was some frustration regarding communication and preparing the Expedition at the last minute.

North Bend Expectation

All recruits are expected to pass all IFSAC testing requirements at the academy, regardless of any prior certifications.

It was noted that the previous academy administration may have played a part in the lack of communication. Training anticipates having a direct line of communication with the academy this time.

Onboarding

Chief Van der Veen acknowledged the considerable effort played by all those who assisted in the onboarding process of the recruits during the compressed time slot. An after-action discussion is expected to make future onboarding run more efficiently.

New Hires

The Lateral FF will be placed at B69 as a fourth before being assigned to a shift for his probationary year. Before being issued a state EMT license, he must pass an in-house National Registry reciprocity test.

There will be a discussion regarding where the four probationary firefighters will be placed as a fourth and what shift their probationary year will be spent. The locations will be revealed before staff vacation picks beginning October 15.

It is expected that the new hires will be cycled through all stations (*same shifts*) during their probationary year to allow them exposure to the department as a whole and individual leadership styles.

It was further noted that cycling the probationary firefighters would shorten the time other members will be displaced from their current assigned shift.

Debit Day Scheduling

The group agreed that the sooner a system is put in place for scheduling debit days, the better.

Light Duty Plan

There was a discussion regarding the benefit of having a light duty plan in place. There are specific projects in mind for the member beginning light duty on Monday, August 15.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Facility and Apparatus Maintenance

Due to recent construction causing water spikes that resulted in flooding issues at Semiahmoo St 62, it was requested that crews passing by the vicinity, when not in the middle of a transport, drop by Station 62 to check for any issues.

No exterior renovations are expected at Station 62 this year.

Smith Rd. St 13 is currently being occupied by DNR. Items not being utilized by DNR are being moved to the garage and will need to be relocated. The district will be completing some repairs and renovations to the building in the near future.

The hope is to hire a handyperson to repair minor issues around the district when needed.

It was requested to report any station or apparatus issues sooner rather than later.

A bid is expected to be submitted regarding brush and pond clearing around Britton Loop Station 12. An offer on pine tree removal at St 12 is also expected.

The shop is keeping busy with routine maintenance and recalls on A12 and the drop chain warranty on E69.

Pump testing is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Light duty personnel will assist in shuffling rigs when possible.

TRAINING

Training Expectations

There was discussion regarding the expectations and progression of the training department.

Upcoming PXT Classes

PXT training has been scheduled for September. Both classes are full. There was a discussion regarding providing coverage as needed.

Probationary Firefighter Education

Captain Ahrenholz offered to continue to assist with the probationary firefighter training program.

Instruction Opportunities

Other members passionate about heading up specific areas of training are encouraged to contact training.

SHIFTS

A Shift

Station Captain

There was a discussion regarding the results of the recent station captain experiment. The original intent was to give captains more station ownership. However, it was discovered that the satellite captain felt more disconnected about staying in the loop. Therefore, it is expected that the A shift captain will move back to Birch Bay Station 63 in the near future.

With the technology upgrades at each station, it is expected that captains and training will be able to connect through Teams with crews and improve communication between stations.

L61

Currently, Britton Loop Station 12 has been successfully utilizing L61 for training. There was a discussion regarding putting L61 in service at Station 12 on a trial basis.

The chiefs will discuss the operational aspects with BFD.

An equipment 'needs' list will also need to be sent to the chiefs.

MVC Guidelines

The group reviewed the draft MVC guidelines. Once completed with additional input from both the chiefs and captains, it will be added to the "best practices" document, the probationary manual, and utilized for training.

Medical Kits

It was requested that all medical kits be kept standardized as intended for consistency.

Image Trend

There was discussion regarding the lack of consistency when inputting NFIRS codes into Image Trend. A basic list of NFIRS codes was requested to be added to the "best practices" document. Captains will address any code issues with their crews.

There was additional discussion regarding the proper way to add mutual and auto-aid calls. Chief Van der Veen will investigate.

CQI issues continue.

Hose testing at 12/63

Hose testing will be completed at Britton Loop Station 12 and Birch Bay Station 63. Stockpiles hose can be located on pallets next to the trash receptacle at Birch Bay Station 63.

Bunker Gear Possible Relocation

There was a discussion regarding relocating the bunker gear surplus to Birch Bay Station 63. A decision will be made after further investigation.

Cpt. Smith will be taking over the bunker gear collateral duty.

Fire Extinguishers

FF Thompson has taken over the fire extinguisher collateral duty.

BShift

Public Education

There was a discussion regarding what public education will look like this year following COVID. Since the district continues to struggle with staffing, utilizing the fire safety house will be limited.

It was agreed that one curriculum would be utilized once pub ed resumes in schools. Cpt. McPhail will check with the Deputy Fire Marshal regarding a program for schools.

Cpt. McPhail will determine what pub ed supplies will be ordered for the upcoming year.

The district plans to participate with BFD and SWFA in the Family Safety Fair scheduled for Saturday, August 20, in Barkley Village. A district tender and brush rig will be brought to the Fair, however, two volunteers will also be needed to interact with the public.

Smoke detectors have been added to rigs to be disseminated to needy families. The district was able to ascertain the smoke detectors at a reduced cost. At this time, there are no additional spares.

Roof Prop

The roof prop at Birch Bay Station 63 needs some repairs. Cpt. McPhail will put together a lumber package.

Back up engine

The backup engine equipment needs have almost been achieved. However, it will need a pony roll, and an additional hose may need to be purchased when hose testing has been completed. The list will need to be sent to the chief for the 2023 budget.

DShift

Image Trend

It was requested that the user list be kept up to date.

Staffing Movement

It was requested that the captains be informed of which shifts probationary firefighters will be placed following the academy and before members who may be displaced choose their vacation picks.

Light Duty

Another member will begin light duty on Monday, August 15. The member will report to Chief Van der Veen.

Social Media

There was a discussion regarding how to keep the public updated with district information. One member has expressed an interest in taking over the district Facebook account as a collateral duty. The member is expected to discuss their request with HR.

Overtime Scheduling

The captains will continue to schedule overtime in advance as needed.

Member Last Day

Noah Silverman's last on-duty shift is August 28.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chief Van der Veen acknowledged and thanked members who continue to step up for overtime. The district has yet to brown down stations for lack of coverage.

Next Captains Meeting: September 1

All Officer Meeting: TBD