

OFFICER'S MEETING
Thursday, October 5, 2017
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chiefs Pernet, Noonchester and Hollander; Training Captain Jorgensen; Captains Johnson, Schmidt and Ward; Lieutenants Ahrenholz, Biery, Esser, McPhail, Nielsen, Riehl, ASmith, LSmith, and Zylstra

Firefighters Scott and Sanders attended the presentation along with Blaine police officers.

OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

First Responders and Autism

Meridian middle school teacher, Kimberly Green discussed autism and how first responders and law enforcement can better deal with community members who have autism. She also gave tips that members can utilize to engage with those patients more effectively.

Kimberly agreed to forward a list of resources that captains can use when trying to locate additional services for specific community members.

Captain Jorgensen will circulate the presentation to all crews.

This is the first step in a program to work more cohesively with Blaine law enforcement.

BRIEFING BY DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF PERNETT

The group welcomed Chief Pernet back from his leave. Chief Pernet expressed his gratitude for all the support he has received during the past few months. Chief Pernet requested patience while he acclimates himself; nonetheless he is excited to move the district forward.

SAFETY

Weather Changes

The group discussed how officers keep patients and crew exposures to a minimum during both particularly hot and cold weather.

Patients

- Cold packs / heat packs
- Thicker / additional blankets
- Remove from exposure quickly

Crews

- Layered clothing
- Change of clothing on rigs
- Boot maintenance (winterization)

To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning it was advised (*especially during winter months due to forced air or fireplace usage*) to utilize SBCAs to reduce exposure if carbon monoxide is suspected in confined spaces.

During the winter months the ground may not be totally frozen, allowing vehicles to become stuck in certain areas. Do not hesitate to park away from the questionable area and to call for help if needed.

No decision has been made regarding training crew members to utilize the district snow plow.

Power Lines

The group discussed ways to be safe around downed power lines which could be live:

- Park safe distance away
- Wait for PSE
- Approach cautiously
- Have patients stay in vehicle if possible or direct them to a safe location

It was also noted that dead power lines may still have power surges. Other areas of concern include water near the downed power lines as well as electric fences that power can travel through.

There is much yet to be learned about dealing with solar panels during a structure fire.

Occupancy Exposure

The group identified other dangers they may encounter when responding to an occupancy:

- Hoarders
- Chemicals
- Refrigeration in commercial structures
- Commercial grow ops including confusing layouts, plastic tents, stacked plants and makeshift walls
- Illegal ops that may have pirated electricity

Lt. Riehl discussed a recent response to a commercial group for an activated fire alarm. There was no Knox box to gain entry to determine how the alarm was activated, nor any emergency contact information. After approximately an hour the crew left the scene, fairly certain there was no danger. Chief Pernet noted that it is the district's responsibility to always check the status of a building that has an activated alarm. Law enforcement can always be contacted to secure the scene. Ultimately, officers must be able to justify their decision.

Chief Hollander and Lt. Riehl will contact the business to ensure that up to date emergency contact numbers are exchanged and a Knox box installed.

Chief Noonchester noted that good pre-fire planning includes getting to know the occupancies and owners in our response area to instill our intentions during an emergency. In addition, Chief Noonchester suggested that all commercial grow ops should have their emergency contact information updated yearly.

LOGISTICS

Birch Bay Station 63 Update

The carpet has been removed at Birch Bay Station 63 and will be replaced with new laminate flooring. The boiler has also been replaced.

Laurel Station 69

The district is waiting on a third bid prior to moving forward to replace the generator at Laurel Station 69. The generator will include an auto transfer switch and power the bay doors. The old generator will be relocated to Delta Station 68. It is anticipated that the projects will be completed by the end of the year.

9-11 Peace Arch Memorial Ceremony

Chief Hollander thanked all those who participated in the annual 9-11 Peace Arch Memorial Ceremony.

Marina Inspection Update

Lt. ASmith finalized the marina inspection forms while he was on light duty. Both the Semiahmoo Marina and Blaine Marina have been inspected. The two boathouses are separate entities. At the present time only the first boathouse has had sprinklers installed. The standpipe system at the Blaine Marina still needs to be tested.

Knox Keys at Birch Bay Village

All the Knox keys at Birch Bay Village have been updated.

Odell Station 61 Fax Lines

The fax lines at Odell Station 61 are in the process of being repaired.

Tegris Update

The district is in the process of utilizing Tegris, which is a fire safety system who sends out yearly inspection (hood, sprinkler, ECIP) reminders to commercial occupancies (approx. 600) in the City of Blaine. The occupancies will then need to contact the district to set up ECIP inspections. This program will not be an added cost to the district. Tegris also sends out reminders to those county businesses in our response area on behalf of the County Fire Marshal's office. The district hopes to be able to obtain pre-planning information on those county businesses in our response area in the future.

Britton Loop Station 12 Lawnmower

The district has purchased a new lawnmower for Britton Loop Station 12. Please contact Chief Hollander when the lawnmower has completed the first five hours of use for maintenance.

Britton Loop Station 12 Grounds

An arborist has confirmed that the birch trees located at Britton Loop Station 12 are dead/dying and cannot be saved. The district is waiting for a bid to remove and replace the trees.

Smith Rd. Station 13 Septic System

The septic system at Smith Rd. Station 13 failed due to a broken line. It has recently been repaired.

Burn Ban Lifted

With the recent burn ban lift the crews can expect to respond to an increased number of outdoor burning nuisance complaints. It was requested that all crews review Directive 17-002 Burning Activities, as a reminder of the district's expectations when dealing with a customer's burning complaints.

Pump and Hose Testing

Testing yet to be completed includes pump/hose testing on E61 and E69. Rack hose at Birch Bay Station 63 has not been completed. Pump testing on E13 needs to be redone. E12 failed its pressure test and the pump may need to be rebuilt in the future.

There was discussion regarding splitting up the spare hose at Northwood Station 72 between Britton Loop Station 12 and Laurel Station 69.

Chief Hollander and Lt. Esser will input the hose and appliance testing results into Firehouse when complete.

This year the shop and crews worked together to complete both hose and pump testing simultaneously. The process will be evaluated before moving forward.

There was additional discussion regarding the appliance testing results and how to report if an appliance has passed, failed or has a small leak but can still be utilized.

OPERATIONS

Battalion 76 (B76)

B76 is back on regular rotation with Chiefs Pernet, Noonchester and Hollander. The district was thankful for B41's battalion duty assistance while Chief Pernet was on leave. They proved to be a good resource.

2018 Master Calendar

The 2018 master calendar is on track and will be sent out by October 15. A new crew line up will also be distributed prior to vacation picks.

CrewSense

The group discussed the many ways CrewSense is utilized.

- Daily activities
- Notes
- Daily work schedule including trades and vacations
- Requesting trades or sick time

Information is transferred from the master calendar to Crewsense which then can be utilized by members offsite. The "*gold standard*" remains the master calendar.

The group discussed some inconsistencies/anomalies that have been recently detected, although perhaps not reported. Chief Pernet will discuss some of these issues with CrewSense to see if this is an anomaly, an error, or some type of glitch in the system.

Ultimately the group is satisfied with the program, noting that it is user-friendly and they hope to utilize other parts of the system in the future.

It was noted that anytime information is transferred from one program to another, errors can occur. It is important to refer to the master calendar for any discrepancies.

An issue that surfaced on multiple occasions was changing vacation or debit days on CrewSense, without communication to operations, which in turn does not mirror the master calendar. If changes need to happen they need to go through operations who will make the final decision based on reducing overtime and staff priorities. Moving forward, Chief Pernet reiterated that captains can take requests, investigate any hardships to the district and forward the information to the operations chief. Any changes made will be adjusted on the master calendar by the operations division.

Lynden Area Responses

The City of Lynden has begun the process of selecting a new fire chief who will most likely start by the end of the year. Chief Baar continues to assist with the City of Lynden's response area.

NEW TOOLS IN TOOL BOX

Holmatro Extrication Tools – have been loaded on Engine 61 (AP513) which mirrors both Engine 69 (AP 512) and 63 (AP511). Crews are urged to get comfortable with the equipment.

TRAINING

Quarterly Requirements

Fourth quarter training has been distributed and includes live fire and ice rescue awareness. Third quarter training is due. Captain Jorgensen distributed a training report which notes who has or hasn't completed specific training. Any discrepancies need to be reported to the training division. The training division will report to Chief Noonchester regarding third quarter completion at the end of the month.

Washington State Fire Training Academy

The three new recruit firefighters are doing well in the academy. They are finishing up their FF1 practical and live burn and will start their Hazmat and FF11 next week.

Whatcom County Recruit Academy (WCRA) Update

The district has four recruit firefighters attending the WCRA. The academy will not be conducting ladder training on the admin or firefighter buildings at Britton Loop Station 12.

District Wide Training Survey

Captain Jorgensen thanked those who completed the recent district-wide survey sent out by the training division. The survey will prove most helpful as the training division continues work on their future three year plan.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Downloads

Officers were reminded to fill out the online CPR reports as required. Mutual aids will be completed by the initial response agency however, NWFR will also report the call to the training division. If another agency / business uses their AED the district may not be able to download the information. The training division will investigate. The goal is for crews to be able to download the information for training purposes.

The training division is in the process of downloading recent AED reports to attach to reports to be utilized as a training tool.

BLS Protocol Update

Captain Jorgensen provided an update regarding the BLS protocols.

King Tubes refresher training needs to be completed in the near future. Some of the initial training was never documented with the state. As long as crews have had training in the past, they can continue to utilize the tubes.

New protocols regarding c-collars and vacu-splints will be distributed within the next two to three weeks.

The group noted that some of the district training mannequins are old and need to be replaced. Additional mannequins were requested to allow for trainings to be held at multiple stations more frequently. The training division will investigate borrowing mannequins from the EMS council.

SHIFTS

A – Nothing to report

B Shift – Nothing to Report

C Shift – There was discussion regarding adjusting the ladder compartment (aluminum shelf) in E61 (AP51) to better mirror E63 (AP511). Captain Ward will discuss the options with the shop and report his findings to operations.

Captain Schmidt discussed his recent issues with rigs being taken out of service due to being cross staffed and requested direction regarding whether to continue to cross staff rigs. Chief Pernet directed officers to continue to cross staff and further noted that officers may need to manually place rigs in quarters until the issues are resolved. Connectivity issues at Odell Station 61 were also noted.

It is imperative that we communicate and report ALL issues to the operations chief in a timely manner so they can be followed up the chain to dispatch. *“We need to force the system to work for us”*

D Shift – Captain Ward noted that he is aware the MDCs will be replaced as they fail however he questioned whether old terminals could have old programs removed to run faster until they can be replaced. Questions will be forwarded to the operations chief.

The chiefs continue to work with Prospect to update station orders and file blocks.

Tablets have been added to all first out ambulances. The goal is to have all engines upgraded by the end of the year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Pumpkin Party – The pumpkin party will be held on Monday, October 30 at Britton Loop Station 12 at 6:00 p.m. Jennie invited members and their families to attend and asked for assistance with setting up, decorating and clean up following the event.

Lt. LSmith noted that October 9-13 is Fire Prevention week. The district has booked the fire safety house for use at Blaine Primary School on Tuesday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 11. If needed, a make-up day has been set aside for Thursday, October 12. Crews will need to pick up the fire safety house on Monday, October 9.

The fire safety house may be moved to the Whatcom County Planning building located at Smith and Northwest Rd. If / when the move occurs, procedures will be distributed.

Former District 4 Fire Chief Don Chumley recently passed away. His service will be held on Monday October 9.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Pink breast cancer t-shirts bought by labor can be worn during the month of October.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 2