

OFFICER'S MEETING
Thursday, November 2, 2017
Station 61 – Blaine

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

BRIEFING BY DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF PERNETT

Chief Pernet commended the officers and crews for all their hard work.

2018 Budget

Chief Pernet is in the process of reviewing the draft budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners have scheduled a budget study session to be held at Odell Station 61 on November 11. The Board and administration plan to review expenditures, revenues and future plans. It is anticipated that the 2018 Budget will be approved at the December 21, NWFR Board meeting.

Fire Commissioner Election

Three NWFR fire commissioners are running for re-election. Only Fire Commissioner Bosman is running against an opponent. District 4 Fire Commissioner Ness is not running. Anna Melillo Trenouth is running unopposed for the District 4 position.

Updated Policies

Chief Pernet noted that the recently approved social media policy was rescinded to allow Labor and Management to address some concerns. Once the policy has been updated it will be brought before the Board for approval.

Due to recent legislation allowing the district to charge a fee for electronic public records request, an updated policy will be brought before the NWFR Board for approval. The fees will allow the district to recoup some of the costs associated with larger public records requests.

SAFETY

Liability

Chief Noonchester commended the staff on their well written report narratives. Occasionally the district needs to review reports and with the additional detail, the task of relaying incident information to attorneys and requests for public records is much easier.

Family Contact

The district's goal is to get patients and family members into needed services as soon as possible when necessary. At times crews need to remain with the family who can be distraught and have many questions. Chief Noonchester urged crews to be mindful of how they respond to family members and to contact support officers and chiefs when needed.

OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

Size-Ups

There was discussion regarding how size-ups are relayed to battalion chiefs and dispatch.

- Chiefs rely on first arriving company officers for critical information
 - First eyes on scene
 - Listen to initial dispatch adjust if necessary
 - Provide scene information, updates, request additional units, on radio for all to hear

- Upon arrival
 - Size up
 - Establish IAP
 - Order resources early

- Provide Size up
 - AFA – assume a fire until proven otherwise
 - MVA
 - Residential smoke detector
 - Hazmat
 - Structure fire

- Recent missing elements on incidents
 - Size up
 - Water supply
 - Resources
 - Patient

MISCELLANEOUS

New Crosslays Ordered

Lt. Esser has ordered new 1.75 crosslays which will be replaced by the end of the year.

CAD Implementation

It is expected that the entire CAD implementation (AVL, routing maps, turn by turn directions) will be done in stages over the next one to two years. Chief Pernet noted that he is finding it difficult receiving current or updated information about the implementation progress.

LOGISTICS

Birch Bay Station 63 Update

The remodel of Birch Bay Station 63 is almost complete.

Laurel Station 69

The goal is to award the contract for the new generator for Laurel Station 69 sometime during the first week of November. The old generator will be relocated to Delta Station 68. It is anticipated that both projects will be completed by the end of the year.

Chief Hollander is working on installing a new dedicated telephone line at Laurel Station 69 to handle incoming faxes.

Pump and Hose Testing

Chief Hollander continues to work with FF Comp to input the hose, pump and appliance testing results into Firehouse.

District Snow Plow

Chief Hollander will be in charge of training any members interested in operating the district snow plow. Please contact him if you are interested.

Birch Bay Station 63 Pagers

The Birch Bay Station 63 pagers will be reprogrammed next week.

Tender 6102 Air Horn

The air horn on Tender 6102 is not working.

Engine 12 (AP517)

The issue with E12 is not the pump as previously thought but rather a leaking valve. The engine should be back in service by the weekend.

MDC Tablets

Even though the district was not awarded an AFG grant to replace the aging MDCs, the district will move forward with replacing all first out aid units. It is anticipated that all ambulance tablets including hardware will be completed by the end of the year.

Tenders Back Up Cameras and GPS

The backup cameras have been installed on tenders. GPS will be installed as soon as possible.

Ladder 61 (AP401)

Ladder 61 remains in service while Chief Hollander checks on the concern about metal shavings coming from the jacks.

OPERATIONS

Map Book

Chief Noonchester passed around a couple map books which will be tested around the district and may replace the district's current outdated map books. The map books are also available in pdf form. The cost to redo the current map books in-house is fairly expensive.

Additional map book suggestions included:

- Adding neighborhood maps
- Put maps into three ringed binders
- Isolate our district in lieu of all Whatcom County
- Include a magnifying glass page since the print is small
- Relocate index to front
- Add hydrant locations
- Match CAD grid in future (implementation of AVL / routing maps / turn by turn directions)

- Add block files

Please pass along any additional feedback to Chief Noonchester.

In addition Dale Rutgers suggested checking with the Bellingham Technical College to see if they are interested in tackling a map book project.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The district continues to review the draft PPE policy.

2018 Master Calendar

The 2018 vacation picks are going well and will be completed by November 15.

Flash Hoods

All members should have received a second flash hood. Please keep them clean and readily available for use.

Directive 17-002 Burning Activities

The group reviewed Directive 17-002 Burning Activities and were reminded to treat those calling in with burning complaints with respect.

Dispatch Issues

Chief Noonchester explained some current dispatch tone issues. Recently Birch Bay Station 63 was not toned out to a structure fire in their area that could have ended badly. Chiefs are investigating the cause of the exclusion with dispatch and expect to make the necessary adjustments. It was noted that officers can always add to a call if the response doesn't seem correct. Chief Noonchester requested to be contacted if any other issues or concerns arise.

NEW TOOLS IN TOOL BOX

Holmatro Extrication Tools – Holmatro tools are now in service. Some crews have trained with the tools but at this time none have used them on calls.

Ladder compartments – Captain Schmidt continues to work on mirroring the shelving in all engine ladder compartments.

Rescue Rope – Rescue rope will be put on first out engines ASAP. Captain Jorgensen noted that in the future the district plans to outfit engines with additional low angle rescue equipment. They are in the process of inventorying what equipment the district currently has and what is needed for the future. The goal is to have crews become qualified, capable and be able to sustain low angle rescue credentials.

TRAINING

New Career Firefighters

The three new recruit firefighters graduated from the Washington State Fire Academy on Friday, November 3 in Issaquah. They will spend the next two weeks with the training division before

starting shift work. Captain Jorgensen plans to meet with their company officers to review expectations.

The probationary year will focus on firefighter and EMT skills. They may have minimal training on driving in a safe environment. Pump training is expected later on in the year. Chief Pernet noted that officers with probationary firefighters will need to work with the training division directly.

There was additional discussion regarding what to do if stations are browned down when a probationary firefighter is on duty and not able to drive other than an aid unit. Operations will ensure that there is a qualified driver operator at each station. The staffing plan will remain the same.

Whatcom County Recruit Academy (WCRA) Update

The district has four recruit firefighters attending the WCRA. They will complete FF1 on Saturday, November 11 before moving on to hazmat training. All but one firefighter will attend EMT training. The district members who need to receive official hazmat certification are urged to contact Captain Jorgensen to attend the training.

New Tender Operator

Mike Peetoom is the newest tender operator. Dale Rutgers noted that he is doing well fitting in with the other tender operators. Dale requested that tender 63 be driven to some upcoming joint trainings at Delta Station 63.

Quarterly Requirements

A quarterly training spreadsheet was handed out for review. All third quarter training should be completed and turned in.

Airway Manikins

Airway manikins are available for use at both Britton Loop Station 12 and Birch Bay Station.

2017 BLS Protocols

Captain Jorgensen noted that a training priority is to review the 2017 BLS protocols to ascertain the recent changes. A sheet highlighting the changes may be distributed in the future.

IGEL Airways

There is no update regarding when the IGEL airways will be utilized. At this time the district will continue utilizing King Tubes.

BEFAST Exam

B – Balance

E – Eyes

F – Face

A – Arm or leg weakness

S – Speech

T – Time

The hospital is moving towards BEFAST exams as a supplement for future BLS protocols. The training division will be emailing out instructions in the near future.

ROUND THE TABLE

Cpt. Schmidt

- Vacation picks are going well
- Captains have moved into the new sleeping quarters
- Birch Bay Station 63 continues to be busy

Lt. ASmith

- Odell Station 61 crews are working well with new City of Blaine law enforcement officers.

Lt. Nielsen

- Portables were not working properly on a recent structure fire. While the chiefs are investigating the issue, Chief Pernet noted that it is vital to be able to talk with each other on the fire grounds and fire ground frequencies can always be switched to FIRE 3. Dispatch can hear usually hear FIRE 3 and the incident commander will monitor both FIRE 2 and FIRE 3. It was noted that it is better to switch in route if needed. It was suggested that crews train on FIRE 3 for familiarization.

Sand

- The Holiday Potluck is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Lt. Biery

- He is looking forward to the having a probationary firefighter on his crew.
- Chief Noonchester thanked Lt. Biery and FF Sanders for their hard work on ensuring that the SCBA program is running smoothly.

Lt. Ahrenholz

- He is looking forward to having a probationary firefighter on his crew.
- Requested information regarding where the district is with regards to the auto aid agreement with the City of Bellingham. Chief Pernet noted that although at times CAD is dispatching as if agreements are already in place, auto aid talks have been postponed. At this time a draft agreement is being reviewed by the City of Bellingham's legal division which includes discussion on how possible annexations may affect the agreement.

Lt. Paige

- Kuddos to FF Ross for his diligent work with Cintas and keeping up the district's uniform standard. Lt. Paige reminded members to put old and/or damaged uniforms in the repair bin so they can be upgraded.

- There was discussion regarding monitoring E4's area while they are covering our calls. Both Chiefs agreed that dispatch will need to be notified when the district was covering E4's area and where any staging was taking place. Chief Noonchester also noted that training with the Bellingham Fire Department was a good first step to an auto aid agreement.

Dale Rutgers

- The tender group does not mind staging at Delta Station 68 and contacting B76 to see if a tender response is required during a call.
- Law enforcement routinely train their canines at Delta Station 68. Dale noted that they have found dog hair and scratches as a result of the training and requested that they train outside.
- The back-up camera is working well.
- The tender group would like to train with career staff more routinely.

Lt. McPhail

- He is looking forward to having a probationary firefighter on his crew.
- Reported that there was a house bell issue at Laurel Station 69 in which they received Everson calls. Chief Noonchester requested to be contacted next time an issue arises.
- Laurel Station 69 recently participated in some good training at Britton Loop Station 12

Cpt. Johnson

- The hose testing equipment has been relocated to Haynie Station 64. An additional hose tester will be purchased in 2018. It was announced that it was too problematic to combine hose and pump testing in the future. The out of service LDH hose will be moved from Delta Station 68 to Wisner Lake Station 70.

Chief Pernet

- Chief Pernet noted that annual medical exams are part of a WAC requirement that benefits both the district and the member. Normally the district only receives a fit for duty / not fit for duty and SCBA notification for its members. Chief Pernet noted that recently some additional (*non hippa*) information was forwarded from Care Medical. The anomaly has been addressed and corrected. The district also plans to review and update Care Medical's patient waiver forms as it applies to the district. Any issues should be forwarded up the chain of command.

Lt. Nelson

- Assistance is needed to load / unload items at the Cost Cutter parking lot for the upcoming Thanksgiving Baskets Program. The program provides area families in need with the fixings to prepare a Thanksgiving meal. The event is expected to feed 265 families. Please contact Lt. Nelson if you would like to help.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 7