

ALL OFFICER MEETING
Thursday, December 5, 2019
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chiefs Van der Veen and Rostov; Captains, Ahrenholz, Davidson, Jorgensen, Schmidt, and Ward; Lieutenants Hofstad, Nelson, Nielsen, Riehl, Shipp, ASmith, LSmith and Zylstra; Rehab Volunteer Dale Rutgers.

PRESENTATION

Community Paramedic Program (2015) City - County (2019) 3 months

Community Paramedics Ben Russell (County) and Aaron Wolven (City of B'ham) presented an overview of the Community Paramedic Program to better collaborate and communicate with fire service organizations.

This program consists of three teams of two for the entire County. These teams are part of a larger twenty-person team from a variety of agencies that meet weekly to discuss issues and come up with viable solutions.

This program offers intensive, coordinated services to the “familiar faces” whose needs span beyond any single agency. Patients are provided with a variety of options and resources.

Goal:

- Reduce 911 calls
- Reduce ED visits
- Improve patient health and outcome

There was discussion regarding which type of clients will be accepted into the program:

- The program must be able to address their issues
- A high user of the 9-11 system suspected

There was discussion regarding some of the issues with Image Trend:

- Data disappears
- Continue to identify issues and work on solutions
 - Cannot put space after the patient's name when typed into the program to search for repeat patient.
- Multiple entries of the same patient

The repeat patient button was identified to utilize to identify those “familiar faces.” A brief video was presented to identify how to utilize the repeat patient button. It was noted that if the name and birthdate were not inputted accurately another patient file would be created. Image Trend can also be utilized to contact community paramedics via email.

There was a discussion regarding what the program may look like in the future.

- Law enforcement (work in progress)
- Shots for mental health may be given by community paramedics if approved / (initially prescribed by a physician)
- Develop an easy playbook for EMTs with scenarios for lower needs patients
 - Provide more education regarding options to utilize
- Become a stronger team together

Ben Russell is available Tuesday through Friday while Aaron Wolven is available Monday through Thursday. You can also contact Aaron Wolven (CP102) at 360-739-9811.

FIRE CHIEF

2020 Budget

Chief Van der Veen noted that the 2020 budget continues to be a work in progress. It is expected to be approved by the NWFR Board of Fire Commissioners during the Thursday, December 19, 2019 meeting. Some additional district needs have been identified that will most likely lead to budget amendments moving through 2020.

Retired SWFA Fire Chief Dave Ralston and Ferndale Fire Chief Larry Hoffman have graciously agreed to assist with creating a user-friendly financial plan for the future.

Training Consortium

Chief Van der Veen stated that the training consortium continues to move forward, although at a slower pace. It is expected that a program will be put into place during the first quarter of 2020. The ultimate goal is to provide quality, uninterrupted training at Britton Loop Station 12.

Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) Master Plan

The technical review of the district's master plan has been completed. ESCI will provide a completed plan sometime in December. It is anticipated that they will provide a presentation to review the outcome. Some of their initial recommendations include:

- Selling stations (expensive to keep the lights on continual maintenance)
 - May impact WSRB to some extent
- Admin to St 62 not happening (possibly sell station)
- Selling apparatus – 4 aid cars to surplus FC Meeting
- How to grade fleet – apparatus replacement plan for entire future
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Overall a district master plan will prove to be a good planning tool however, it was noted that there will be a cost that will need to be implemented into the budget.

Tender 61 Incident

Chief Van der Veen noted that a tender accident occurred Monday, December 2, 2019. Normal department procedures were followed. An email was sent out following the incident. Engine 68 was moved to take to the place of Tender 61.

District Pagers

There was a brief discussion regarding utilizing district-owned Kenwood pagers in the future. Lt Hofstad will connect with his contact for assistance. The tender pagers have yet to be reprogrammed.

Master Calendar

The 2020 master calendar has been created. Kelly Freeman is working on adding the personnel vacation picks which will then be audited by the captains. The captains will assign the personnel debit days.

NWFR Board of Fire Commissioners Work Session

A work session has been scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2019, at 0900 at Odell Station 61 to approve the CBA and discuss a fire chief plan for the future.

OPERATIONS

Ladder Program

Chiefs Van der Veen and Rostov are currently working on a ladder program for the district. They have met on various occasions to work on this multi-phase program which is expected to take up to five years to be running as envisioned.

The goal is to be able to respond to the community as needed while keeping crew safety in the forefront. The program may also help with succession and retention while drawing new members from the outside.

In addition, the program can be offered to all agencies within the county which may generate some revenue.

The process will include:

- Staffing – identify those who desire to work on the ladder and relocate personnel as needed
- Training – outside trainers come to the district
- Rescue Systems 1
- Rope Rescue
- Technical rescue
- Vehicle extrication
- Rescue disciplines
- Tools, equipment including apparatus
- Budget consideration
- Purchase equipment/apparatus

There continue to be many details that still need to be addressed. The chiefs expect to have further discussions with the captains at a later date.

Response Schedule

Chief Van der Veen noted that Dispatch has changed some district responses.

- Ladder trucks will be dispatched to all fires residential and commercial
- Ladder trucks will be dispatched to all rollovers

Chief Van der Veen noted that he has been meeting with Prospect to redo the 1-5 fire blocks.

Responses on the freeway (I-5) will include:

- District I-5 south to Grandview – no U-turns on freeway
- District 7 – North to Birch Bay Lynden Rd.
- Two engines or two engines and a ladder truck.
- L63 and E63 will respond to all I-5 calls
- A42 will respond if needed
- Possibly L61

It was noted that in an effort to be able to maintain coverage within our response area, the district can request mutual aid sooner rather than later.

Chief Rostov noted that the district will respond as mutual aid with the requested apparatus however, within our district, flexibility, and utilization of the officer's knowledge and expertise are expected.

Dakota Creek Bridge

Only aid units and command vehicles are allowed to cross the Dakota Creek Bridge. The bridge is not slated for repairs for twenty years. Commissioner involvement may shorten the timeline.

Railway Early Warning System

There was discussion regarding having some type of method to inform officers if a portion of the railway is being utilized before responding to a call. Chief Van der Veen is investigating.

New Firefighter Positions

There are five open firefighter positions. Ten applicants have moved on to the chief interviews which will be completed on Thursday, December 5, 2019. Chief Bill Hewitt and labor representative Kenneth Cunningham also participated in the process.

TRAINING

ALS/BLS Interface – ALS/BLS Protocols

Captain Jorgensen noted that additional training is expected within all departments.

It was noted that current BLS protocols need to be followed however, combined ALS/BLS may be realized in the future.

There was a discussion regarding the ALS quality of service. Medic 45 and BFD are beginning to train together more frequently which will help to improve future assistance from all units.

Heads Up CPR – Code Calls

Captain Jorgensen noted that he expects to see a shift to Heads up CPR in the future which seems to be getting favorable results. For now, there was a direction to follow the current BLS protocols and utilize the rescue pump.

2020 Training Schedule

Captain Jorgensen noted that he is redesigning the 2020 training schedule. Further discussions with the captains are expected following this meeting.

Law Enforcement Communication on Calls

Captain Jorgensen noted that there is a crisis management individual in training within the City of Blaine that may act as a liaison or offer assistance between law enforcement and district crews when needed. Both agencies are requesting more communication on calls in a timely manner.

EMS Online/EMS Connect

Everyone needs to ensure that all EMT course work on EMS online is completed for 2017, 2018 and 2019 by the end of 2019. This will be important as Whatcom County agencies will be going to another provider (EMS Connect) at the end of this year. At the end of the year, the training division intends to download and store the information however, it will not be able to be transferred to EMS Connect.

It was noted that some of the emails sent by EMS Online are ending up in email spam. Please check your spam folders.

Stryker Power Gurney Feedback

There was a discussion regarding the medic's use of power gurneys and their compatibility with NWFR's gurneys.

Feedback included:

- No training provided
- Utilization will be easier on member's backs
- Gurneys linked to the base making the load heavier – possibly beyond the aid unit's capabilities
- Expensive
- Crash test rated – safer for all

It was noted that it may be included on the next EMS levy due to the expense of the gurney. All medic units will be outfitted with the power gurneys and it was suggested to meet up with medics to receive some gurney training.

PREVENTION

I Am Responding (IAR)

Chief Rostov noted that there is currently no update on IAR. He continues to wait on Dispatch for movement.

Investigator Positions

Chief Rostov provided some background information regarding the need for additional investigators at structure fires.

Currently, the county is down to one fire inspector which cuts down on the availability of the inspector when needed. The county has hired two new individuals who are in training and it is unclear when they will have the required and necessary expertise to respond.

The district is offering the opportunity for two members to be trained to conduct fire investigator work. The process will consist of at least a letter of interest, resume, and interview. The district is currently working on a process and job description.

It is expected that the fire investigator will be a collateral duty. The fire investigators will be on call and report off duty (overtime). The hope is to always have two investigators work together on a scene.

More information is expected in the near future.

Deputy Fire Marshal

Chief Rostov noted that the deputy fire marshal position will be similar in that it will be considered a collateral duty. The deputy fire marshal will be in charge of inspections when Chief Rostov is on vacation or in need of additional assistance. Other duties may include code enforcement, inspections, operational and construction permits as well as high-level plan reviews.

There will also be a testing process for this position.

It was noted that one person can apply for both positions.

Public Education

Chief Rostov listed some community public education he hopes to implement/continue/improve in the future.

- CPR (Lt LSmith and FF Warne)
 - Double amount of classes
 - Reach out to business
- First Aid

- Babysitter training
- Fire extinguisher
- CPR (FF Warne)

Lt LSmith is working on building out lesson plans and curriculum. Those interested in teaching need to contact Chief Rostov.

A Shift

An in-depth guideline for Image Trend has been created will be sent out to the officers in the near future. The guideline will help with consistency.

B Shift

Cpt. Davidson presented the draft standard of operation best practices for review. Cpt. Davidson will send the finalized and completed guide to Jennie to post on the website. It was noted that this is a living document that can be altered/improved as the district grows/changes.

C Shift

Nothing to report.

D Shift

Cpt. Ward is in the process of realigning L63 to more closely mirror the engines. This is a work in progress that will take some time to complete.

Other

The offer to swap a Bellingham ladder for a district engine is still in process. The next step will be getting the shops together for considerations.

The district has yet to receive Knox box keys for access to Bellingham area buildings. Some liability issues need to be considered and discussed between agencies.

Events

Coats for Kids – contact Lt LSmith

Lynden Lighted Parade – Saturday, December 6, 2019

Behind the Badge Fundraiser/Spaghetti Dinner – Saturday, December 6, 2019

Santa Run – Saturday, December 6, 2019 – contact FF Comp

Vacation

Chief Van der Veen will be on vacation from Tuesday, December 10, 2019, through Friday, December 13, 2019.

Captain Meeting: Thursday, January 2 at Birch Bay Station 63

All Officer Meeting: Thursday, March 5 at Odell Station 61