

OFFICER'S MEETING
Thursday, June 1, 2017
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chief Pernet, Chief Hollander, Chief Noonchester, Training Captain Jorgensen, Captains Davidson, Johnson and Ward, Lieutenants Ahrenholz, Biery, Esser, McPhail, Nielsen, Paige, Riehl, LSmith and Zylstra.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION / POLITICAL UPDATE

Joint Fire Commissioner Meeting

The joint D4 and NWFR Fire Commissioner Meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2017. Both Boards will discuss the inter-local contract for services agreement and the direction they want to go moving forward.

Auto Aid Meetings

Monthly auto aid meetings with the Bellingham Fire Department are ongoing. All parties are exploring what a future agreement may look like. Chief Noonchester and union rep Chuck Shipp are participating in the meetings.

Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB)

The district continues the wait to hear from the WSRB who began the re-rate process in February. The auditor has recently collected additional data from both the City of Blaine and neighboring water districts so results are expected in the near future.

State Auditor

Both D4 and D21 have submitted their yearly comprehensive financial report to the auditor. The state auditor uses the information during the two year audits.

Contract Negotiations

Contract negotiations are ongoing. The next mediation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13.

Possible Bellingham Annexation

Chief Pernet received verbal notification that the City of Bellingham is considering annexing an area north of Trickle Creek and west of Britton Loop. If the City of Bellingham moves forward with a possible annexation or future annexations, a meetings to consider impacts to the district may be warranted.

SAFETY

Hearing Conservation Policy

Chief Noonchester and Captain Davidson continue to collaborate on a hearing conservation policy. Chief Noonchester noted that those in the fire service cannot always protect their hearing due to the nature of the job. The policy due out in July is expected to address those concerns. In addition, proper hearing protection will be made available at each station.

Captain Davidson announced that new ear plugs have been designed specifically for firefighters and police officers that include noise cancellation which can be worn during incidents.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

It is expected that light duty firefighters will be utilized to update the MSDS forms for hazardous materials.

Hydration

Chief Noonchester noted that it is crucial that crews stay hydrated to prevent exhaustion during the upcoming hot dry season.

Captain Davidson acknowledged Rehab 70 for participating in the recent air management course.

Rehab 70

There was discussion regarding having the rehab unit automatically dispatched on all working structure fires. The district continues to work with Dispatch in changing how the rehab unit is dispatched. Recently Rehab 70 assisted on the Hannegan Rd. fire where they remained for seven hours. Their effort was greatly appreciated. It is a command decision to call rehab however officers can prompt the incident commander to utilize the unit if they see a need.

Currently the rehab staff do not have pagers and can only be notified by phone.

A recent firefighter exhaustion incident prompted a discussions regarding having medics dispatched to working structure fires for firefighter safety. Rehab 70 is trained on how to observe and monitor firefighters for exhaustion and hydration issues. It is up to firefighters to alert their officer regarding a potential health concern on the fire grounds. If an issue does arise, medics can be requested. Dependent on the medic's evaluation, a firefighter can be reassigned although a verification from medics would be optimal. Chiefs will follow up on having medics verify their findings directly to the officer in the future.

For everyone's (FF/community) safety, it is the officer's duty to have a dialogue with their crew members to verify that members are emotionally and physically fit to focus on our job.

FACILITIES / MAINTANENCE /

H St Repeater

Both Stations 61 and 63 have been struggling with house tones. Supposedly the issue had been corrected and dispatch should be utilizing the H St repeater, however there continues to be issues with switching repeater sites and not receiving calls regardless of how the pager is programmed. Chief Hollander is investigating the concern.

Pagers may not broadcast properly and portable radios may need to be used in rigs and stations as a temporary solution.

Please note: Report all issues to Chief Hollander as they happen.

Long term, the County is considering switching radio frequencies to Simulcasting. At this time there is no funding for the expensive venture.

Versaterm

There was a lengthy discussion regarding various Versaterm issues.

The Cross Staffing function can be utilized but a call must be made to Prospect regarding which station / apparatus is cross staffed. It will remain in place until Prospect is notified otherwise. The cross staffing function will determine how that station is dispatched.

If your apparatus MDT is in RS (radio service) mode your cross staffed units will not be dispatched to other calls. You need to remember to push AV (available) when you get back to the station.

A major Versaterm upgrade will cause all computers in the County to be upgraded, beginning Monday, June 5. The update should improve the global positioning system (GPS). It may take up to one year to work out all the issues.

Since additional questions have surfaced since the initial training, it was requested that all issues/concerns be forwarded to Chief Hollander for use in future training.

Firehouse

There has been multiple issues with how Versaterm downloads information into Firehouse including response times. The issues have been corrected. Chief Noonchester advised the officers to go back into Firehouse and verify that past response times are correct.

Mobile Data Computers (MDC)

The district is in the process of replacing MDCs as necessary. Although the district has applied for an AFG grant to upgrade apparatus computer monitors, they must remain sensitive to the budget.

D4 Gates

It was reported that Squalicum Mt. Road has opticoms on their gates and change their access codes regularly. At this time opticoms are not on all rigs. The current code is 98226 and they are adding 0152 to all their gates.

Chief Hollander will follow up with the Whatcom County Fire Marshal. In the interim, please contact Chief Hollander with any gate issues.

Knox Box

A master inventory list of all keys has been completed. Larger boxes which will hold the necessary five keys will be installed in rigs. "Light duty" personnel will be used to inspect the status of keys in all apparatus. There was discussion regarding if some apparatus will house Lynden keys or key cards for the border crossings. Chief Hollander will investigate and provide a follow-up.

Ladder 61 (AP401)

Ladder 61 has been repaired although there may still be an issue with some fine cracks as well as a possible hydraulic leak. While Chief Hollander investigates the rig remains out of service.

Ladder 63 (AP402)

Ladder 63's drifting issue has been repaired and is now back in service.

Washer Extractors and Drying Cabinets

Chief Hollander provided an update on the status of the washer extractors and drying cabinets. All the electric and plumbing have been completed and the district is awaiting the arrival of the merchandise.

Station Emergency Phones

All emergency 911 phones have been installed at each fire station. It is expected that some type of sign will be installed at some stations alerting the community as to where the phones are located.

City of Blaine and Birch Bay Emergency Sirens

The All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) emergency sirens have been installed. The sirens are capable of both voice and tone alerts. The sirens can be controlled by state officials, emergency services personnel and the fire district (BB Station 63). Siren testing will be done at noon on the first Monday of every month. A dedication ceremony will be held on June 5.

Hose Testing

Firefighter Comp has been working on a more efficient way to record hose testing in Google Docs. The goal is to have an app on officer cell phones to document information. Once complete the information can be uploaded to Firehouse in batches. Lt. Esser recognized FF Comp for his effort.

Ladder Testing

The ladder equipment needed for testing will be available mid-June.

Sprinkler Alarm Testing

The district sprinkler alarm testing is complete. A more intense five year certification will be completed in 2018.

District 4 Surplus Items

There was discussion regarding selling D4 surplus items on the Washington State surplus site. D4 surplus items are currently being stored at North Shore Station #11. The items were originally surplus prior to the consolidation in 2011. Chief Hollander will investigate.

OPERATIONS

Officer Development

Chief Noonchester provided information about a two year Officer Development Program available at the National Fire Academy (NFA). This is a good program for those interested in

becoming company officers or mid-level managers. Prerequisites for the program can be found on the NFA's website and can be taken online. Contact Chief Noonchester if interested.

Move-Ups

Chief Noonchester acknowledged that officers are doing a good job of initiating move-ups to other stations when beneficial to the district.

Collateral Duties

The collateral duties list has recently been updated and resent. For the time being, bunker gear will remain housed at Britton Loop Station 12. FF Cunningham will continue to place orders while Lt. Ahrenholz will be in charge of inventory and surplus. Cpt. Davidson will continue to oversee the program.

Shift Assignments

Updated shift assignments have been completed. B12 and B61 have swapped stations.

July Fourth Events / Staffing

Chief Noonchester will be involved with the July Fourth IEP in Birch Bay and Blaine. The IEP will remain the same as last year.

Chief Hollander noted that he is investigating a fireworks stand storage unit complaint. In addition, he reiterated that the City of Blaine will allow purchasing and lighting off fireworks on a reduced schedule. It is expected that Chief Hollander will send out a memo with specific dates and times regarding fireworks permissibility.

Fire Response Lists (FRLs) Changes

Chief Noonchester appreciates everyone's patience while the district works through the FRL changes. The district has been meeting with Prospect to adjust the block files which may take some time to work through. At this time there have been no major changes. Chief Noonchester will forward a list of changes when appropriate. Alert Chief Noonchester of any issues or concerns. In the interim, officers have the ability to change or add to response lists as necessary.

Summer Months

The group reviewed the various events that add to the already demanding summer months:

- Vacations
- Lynden Fair
- Tractor Pull – reduced number of days scheduled
- Public education
- Lawn mowing
- Training
- Events

Since so much movement is anticipated, it is crucial that there is communication regarding where the crew is located throughout the day during those events.

Career Firefighter Testing

The district plans to hire three full time career firefighters. The deadline to complete the testing portion and CPAT through Public Safety Testing is June 9. The remainder of the process including oral boards and chief's interviews will be completed sometime in June. It is anticipated that new hires will attend the North Bend Academy in August.

Electronic Changes

Chief Noonchester discussed future electronic changes expected including electronic patient care reporting (EPCR) which may be funded by the EMS County levy. At this time the concept remains in the planning phase.

The district is considering replacing FireManager and Firehouse with more streamlined systems that are more efficient and accurate and will integrate and communicate with other programs and tie into payroll. The district will be evaluating software and will involve stakeholders from all areas of the district.

NEW TOOLS IN TOOL BOX

High Rise Nozzles– The high rise nozzles have been placed on apparatus.

TRAINING

Officer Development

Capt. Johnson discussed an article, "*Continuously Increase Productivity by Embracing the Optimization Mentality*". The article discussed how to improve leadership and performance through independent thinking and motivating yourself to take action.

- Keep an open mind
- Stimulate your mind
- Seek advice from superiors
- Never be satisfied

Second Quarter Ending

Second quarter is ending June 30 so officers need to meet with crews to ensure they have completed the required training.

Third Quarter Training

Although third quarter training has the same requirements, the training is lighter due to the busy summer months agenda.

Air Management

Air Management will be complete once final members finish their rescheduled assessment.

Water Rescue Training

Water Rescue training has been scheduled for June 5 – 8. Laurel Station 69 and Britton Loop Station 12 will be training together at Smith Rd. Station 13.

Forcible Entry

Forcible Entry training has been scheduled for June 27-30.

Pulse Point

For those interested, the Pulse Point app is back into service and available to use as an additional tool. Contact Captain Jorgensen with if you discover any discrepancies with the program.

Patient Follow-Ups

Additional information on patients can be requested from the hospital. You need to include the incident number along with the significance of the request.

Autopsy Request

Members may request to be present during an autopsy provided enough notice is provided. More weight will be given to members who provided patient care. It was agreed that at times autopsies can provide a good learning experience. Autopsies are video tapped and Cpt. Jorgensen will check on whether they can be requested.

Volunteer Recruitment

The district has received thirty-three volunteer interest forms. After an initial informational meeting those interested will turn in applications and following background checks will be invited to participate in a written exam scheduled for June 24. Those qualifying will proceed to an oral interview.

Britton Loop Training Grounds

Captain Jorgensen requested feedback regarding the Britton Loop training ground scheduling and training experience. Some officers failed to see the email regarding their scheduled training ground time and missed the opportunity. Although the training division does input training dates and times into various calendars, it is up to officers to check their emails when on shift regularly and add training dates and times to their own calendars.

Multi-Company Officer (MCO) training with the Bellingham Fire Department (BFD) is expected to continue monthly following the completion of the BFD academy. It was noted that additional joint tender training is essential.

Training Props

The training division continues to work on procuring additional training props. Cpt. Jorgensen requested suggestions regarding what to do with existing props.

BLS Evaluator Training

Currently the district has thirty-three BLS evaluators. In order to keep the BLS evaluator status, those members are required to complete refresher training every three years. The training division has been working with the state who have agreed to allow the district to provide refresher training. Refresher training will be provided July 17-20 and will encompass all shifts. This course is not open to other agencies.

Incident Safety Officer (ISO) Class

Cpt. Davidson will be providing instruction during ISO training scheduled for June 24-25. At this time there are six in-house members confirmed, three interested and twenty-three outside firefighters registered for the class.

Britton Loop Burn Tower Training

Another burn tower training class may be scheduled in the future.

SHIFTS

A Shift – The SAFE Kids Safety Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 3 and will be held at Barkley Square. The district participates in the yearly event, specifically Britton Loop Station 12 who will have additional staffing (short list, volunteer) to assist with the event. The Friday, June 2 shift will ensure that the fire safety house is working properly. It may be possible to move the fire safety house to the location prior to the event.

B Shift – There was discussion regarding relocating Tender 63 to Delta Station 68. No changes will be made.

C Shift – Nothing to report.

D Shift – Nothing to report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Lt. Riehl noted that a chapter of the American Heritage Girls made a surprise visit to Laurel Station 69. After tours of the station and apparatus the group presented the crew with a gift basket full of homemade goodies, some of which nourished crews at a recent fire.

Tech Help recently delivered pizzas to each career station to show their appreciation.

Chief Noonchester commented on the various thank you notes from the community regarding our fantastic service.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 6