

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11

Lummi Island Fire Department

3809 Legoe Bay Road * P.O. Box 130 * Lummi Island, WA 98262

Phone: (360) 758-2411 Fax: (360) 758-2041 www.lummiislandfire.com

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

2004 was a progressive year for the department. We received two Department of Natural Resources grants along and an unexpected seismic upgrade award. The fire apparatus replacement program that started in 1994 entered its home stretch. Our annual Open House was well attended and had a highlight visit by an Airlift Northwest helicopter.

In February we received a sub grant of \$15,000 from The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for FIREWISE activities. We mailed informational flyers and rented a chipper to dispose of the vegetation removed to reduce wildfire hazards around homes. Both Fire Danger signs were rebuilt using long-life materials. We obtained a very nice reader board for safety messages and department announcements. Through much planning and hard work the Scenic Estates community achieved a major accomplishment in receiving the FIREWISE community recognition. They were the second in Washington State to receive this prestigious award and the 39th of 52 in the entire country. DNR also awarded us with half the funds to purchase 10 new pagers urgently needed for our large increase in volunteers.

In 1987, we purchased an initial response vehicle, often called the Crash Truck. Its small size, four wheel drive, foam capabilities and two-man operation improved the speed with which volunteers could respond to calls and greatly improve their effectiveness once on scene. On June 8, 2004 the Board of Commissioners signed a contract for a new initial response truck to be delivered by the end of March 2005. The new truck has all the features of the 1989 model plus upgrades and new technologies to make our first response volunteers even more effective. We will convert the old truck to a utility vehicle to carry extra equipment and supplies to support calls when needed.

In August, The Washington State Military Department asked if we were still interested in receiving the funding for the seismic upgrade we applied for 2 years ago. We accepted. The upgrade involves strengthening the rafter connections to the walls and re-roofing. Since this will open up the building, we needed to start a critical facilities upgrade/improvement program. We held the first of many facility planning meetings and toured other stations in the county to get ideas. All improvements and changes must be adequate for both the department and the community for the next 30 to 40 years.

The Countywide EMS system continues to be a major concern for the Board of Commissioners and myself. Representatives from the fire service, Whatcom County, small cities and the hospital are meeting regularly to develop a system that will meet the needs of the county and maintain the quality EMS service we all expect. Progress is being made but a final plan has not been reached yet. It is very important that our community realize the great likelihood of increased EMS transportation cost. While most patient transports are done with ground units, air transport must be used sometimes. Some insurance carriers cover the full cost while others do not. We encourage everyone to research individual options.

The support of this community by passing the EMS Levy and by donations collected for the annual "Give Burns the Boot" drive truly instills a sense of pride in serving you. The EMS Levy allows us to continue developing the department to meet ever-increasing requirements. The Northwest Burn Foundation can continue providing assistance to the victims and families injured by burns. Fire Prevention week was very enjoyable for us. We visited the Beach School K-1s. A few weeks later they visited the station and had fun flocking the back yard with foam.

For many years the Fire Department has received donations of miscellaneous medical equipment ranging from crutches to wheelchairs. As the inventory grew, some older items went to the Station in Scenic Estates. Through the efforts of the Parish Nurses, all medical equipment available for loan has been cleaned and

stored in one convenient place. If you need something please contact Dorothy Hanson at 758-2484 or call the Station at 758-2411.

The first Household Hazardous Waste collection event proved to be a great idea. The amount of “bad stuff” removed from the island was very significant. I will be working with the county to provide that service again in the future.

Your three elected Commissioners do an excellent job of governing and looking ahead at upcoming issues. It is important to point out they do more than approve the budget and pay the bills. Each one spends as much time as possible getting involved with other district commissioners and addressing legislative issues and countywide problems. None of them elects to receive any pay for their meetings and together they spent 380 hours on department related activities.

There was a great response to the request for volunteers. Ten folks joined our ranks and have completed the firefighting part of their initial training. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is welcome to apply at any time. The membership dedicated a total of 1209 volunteer hours serving your community; 630 training, 212 performing weekly truck inspections and 367 on emergency responses. It is impossible to put an exact price on the value of our volunteers’ time but it would be accurate to say “a lot”. I am proud to list each of those dedicated unpaid professionals below.

Member	Training	Rank	Years	Occupation / Company
Mike Moye	Firefighter FR	Captain	30	Tree Cutter / Logger - Self Employed
John Granger	Firefighter / Nurse	Medical	27	Flight Nurse - Airlift Northwest
Joan Moye	Firefighter / FR	Safety	26	Tree Cutter / Logger - Self Employed
Jud Elkes	Firefighter / FR	Captain	24	Tooling Specialist - Wright Brothers
David Harmony	Support / EMT	Driver	23	Sales - Consolidated Electrical Distributors
Ernie Pearson	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	20	Operator - Whatcom Chief
Dave Barker	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	16	Environmental Tech. - Nooksack Salmon Enhancement
Judy Thomas	Support / EMT	Medical	16	Teacher - Ferndale School District
Duncan McLane	Firefighter EMT	Chief	15	Welder / Fabricator - Colonial Metal Works
Aaron Rupp	Firefighter FR	Firefighter	15	Fire Instructor / Financial Advisor - Waddell & Reed
John Mulhern	Firefighter EMT	Captain	12	Deckhand / Operator / Purser - Whatcom Chief
Curt Stocker	Firefighter FR	Asst. Chief	12	Home Inspector - C&S Home Inspections
Bob Busch	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	11	Engineer Retired
Todd Granger	Firefighter / FR	Firefighter	11	Commercial Fisherman
Vince Spucces	Firefighter FR	Firefighter	7	Technician - Culligan
Shawn Bass	Firefighter/ EMT	Firefighter	6	Self Employed
Mike Rawley	Support / IFA	Apprentice	6	Economic Development Director - The Lummi Nation
Jim Lane	Paramedic	Medical	5	Paramedic / Firefighter - Bellingham Fire
Tom Lutz	Support/ EMT	EMT	2	Contractor
Mark Cross	Support / EMT	EMT	1	Mortgage Broker - Security First Mortgage
Kent Dixon	Support / EMT	EMT	1	Carpenter
Joe Smith	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Equipment Operator Landscaper
Alucia Taylor	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Hair Stylist - Blessings Salon
Larry Roteman	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Retired - Electrical Engineer
Ed Scott	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Retired - United States Coast Guard
Wade VanderYacht	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Contractor - Self Employed
John Fincke	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Retired - US Army
Gary Poole	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Deckhand / Operator / Purser - Whatcom Chief
Mike Lish	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Electrician - Gateway Controls
Terry Terry	Support / IFA	Apprentice	First Year	Director/Producer - Terry Terry Productions

INCOME			
TAX REVENUE	Budget 2004	Actual 2004	Budget 2005
Fire - Levy	\$120,904.95	\$119,633.82	\$121,405.31
EMS - Levy	\$27,064.27	\$26,835.48	\$31,453.25
INVESTMENT INTEREST			
Fire Interest		\$4,897.29	
EMS Interest		\$459.12	
DONATIONS			
Memorials & Other		\$0.00	
MISC			
Burn Permits		\$825.00	
Grants		\$11,647.73	
Ferndale School		\$46.80	
Misc.		\$203.18	
TOTAL INCOME	\$147,969.22	\$164,548.42	\$152,858.56
EXPENSES			
LEGISLATIVE			
Legislative Services	\$9,940.00	\$7,705.67	\$8,850.00
FIRE CONTROL			
Administration	\$10,600.00	\$10,227.33	\$32,882.00
Operations & Suppression	\$31,310.00	\$19,597.44	\$35,000.00
Prevention	\$250.00	\$8,575.89	\$250.00
Fire Training	\$12,775.00	\$5,141.57	\$12,450.00
Fire Facilities	\$7,800.00	\$3,508.35	\$14,470.00
TOTAL FIRE	\$62,735.00	\$47,050.58	\$95,052.00
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES			
Administration	\$6,125.00	\$6,269.46	\$16,040.00
Operations & Ambulance	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Training	\$8,275.00	\$7,180.49	\$9,800.00
Facilities	\$6,925.00	\$1,976.66	\$6,535.00
Rescue & Emergency Aid	\$11,075.00	\$ 8,542.86	\$13,200.00
TOTAL EMS	\$32,400.00	\$23,969.47	\$45,575.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY			
Land	\$16,000.00	\$15,909.84	\$16,000.00
Other improvements	\$24,700.00	\$265.00	\$12,500.00
Machinery & Equipment	\$162,750.00	\$34,958.00	\$136,500.00
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$203,450.00	\$51,132.84	\$165,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$308,525.00	\$129,858.56	\$314,477.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES 12/31/04			
Cash Expense Account		\$43,609.26	
Expense Investment Account		\$252,453.35	
EMS Investment Account		\$21,953.08	
TOTAL CASH ASSETS		\$318,015.69	

60 Incidents in 2004

Fire	9	15.00%
Rescue & EMS	47	78.33%
Service Call	3	5.00%
False Alarm & False Call	1	1.67%

- Average Response Time: 10 minutes
- Incident Hours: 56.97
- Volunteer-Hours: 367 Hours

I thank each volunteer for your dedication and time spent training and helping friends and neighbors when their day has gone bad. Without you, this community would be in dire straits. A big thank you to the families of the volunteers, who put up with their absences on Thursday nights and when they are called to duty, be it in the early hours of the morning, holiday dinners or other inopportune times. If anyone is interested in joining your emergency response team now is a good time. You can call us or show up at 7:30 pm on one of the first three Thursday evenings of each month. I would also like to thank the businesses, organizations and individuals on the Island for the continued support as well as the various baked goods and donations. It means a lot.

Respectfully Submitted: Duncan McLane, Chief

LUMMI ISLAND COMMUNITY CLUB
PO Box 163
LUMMI ISLAND WA 98262-0163

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