

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11

Lummi Island Fire Department

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2011 ANNUAL REPORT

We received two grant award notices to start 2011 on a good note. The first was for \$24,958.00 from FEMA to replace our old and obsolete supply hose with lightweight, larger diameter hose. This was a big project because the new hose had different fittings so we had to change out all island supply points and all apparatus ports to which they might be connected. Our operations became more streamlined by limiting different types of connections and ensuring they are compatible with our mutual aid apparatus. The second award was for \$5,371.00 from The Department of Natural Resources to purchase a new radio and pagers for the Whatcom Chief and crew. This allows us to fully meet the Federal Communications Commission mandate that all public safety agencies switch to narrowband frequencies by January 1, 2013. The first part of 2011 also focused on firming up our contingency plans for the possible closure of Gooseberry Point ferry terminal. It was a huge relief when Whatcom County reached an agreement with the tribe.

Thursday trainings continued to focus on the basic firefighting operations and our new large diameter hose. I was sick in bed when the pager went off announcing flames showing at the Islander Store. This was one of those calls I never wanted to hear and to be sick in bed was not easy. I could only hope that enough members would respond and their training had been inclusive and thorough enough to meet this ultimate test. I cannot describe how proud I was, and will always be, of our volunteers that day. For the past several years, we had been fortunate to have a great EMS instruction team provide our medical and trauma training. Unfortunately, competition between families, jobs and instructing became too great and they had to stop. Luckily, Fire District 7 (Ferndale) had 5 new Paramedics interested in filling the void. They started last fall and everyone is enjoying the new instructors. We are continuing with them in 2012 and anticipate it getting better as time goes on.

Bobbie Hutchins brought some new and needed energy to the Disaster Preparedness Committee. They accomplished many things in 2011 including having Red Cross identify additional potential shelter locations, organize training for kitchen operators, and conduct a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class. Additional efforts enhanced the Map Your Neighborhood program which resulted in a larger network. In addition, an alternate communications network began to be created with much help from Chuck Keiper. This will allow communication within our community should land lines and cell phones become inoperable. The Parish nurses purchased a cargo container to provide drier storage for their equipment and placed it behind the fire station. This allows better access and is closer to water to clean equipment when it is returned.

At the end of 2010, Whatcom County provided notice to the City of Bellingham to terminate the existing inter-local agreement which provides ALS (Advanced Life Support) transport services to Whatcom County. This started a 3-year countdown clock to the time Bellingham would stop providing ALS transport service to Whatcom County unless a new agreement can be reached. The major impacting aspects are politics, funding, trust and labor groups. Commissioner Busch and I have been part of the planning group that has met almost every month to attempt to develop a workable solution for the County and Bellingham. We are hopeful that the

new Executive and Mayor will bring fresh leadership that can help get EMS in all of Whatcom County back on a steady keel.

Beside monthly meetings, your Fire Commissioners also attend the County Fire Commissioners Association and West Region (Sandy Point, Ferndale, Marietta and Lummi Island Fire Departments) meetings. They also attend County Council meetings when there are issues that affect fire and emergency services on the Island. At the annual budget meeting the board unanimously agreed for the seventh year in a row not to file for the 1% tax increase allowed by law.

In 2011, the volunteers dedicated over 2,712 hours serving you; 457 hours on emergency responses, 1,700 hours on-going training, 159 hours initial training and 396 hours on weekly truck inspections. They spend many more undocumented hours putting the equipment and apparatus back in service and writing reports after calls. Below is list of the unpaid professionals who dedicated their time to your community in 2011. Please note the years of service for each and the group's wide range of professions. Many other departments in the county have members who serve only 3-5 years before moving on. I appreciate and feel very lucky to have true community-based responders. Following the membership list, I am pleased to provide a snapshot of the 2011 financial activity, the 2012 budget, fund account balances at the end of 2011, and the emergency response data from 2011.

Member	Training	Rank	Years	Occupation / Company
John Granger	Firefighter RN	Medical	34	Flight Nurse - Airlift Northwest
Ernie Pearson	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	26	Operator - Whatcom Chief
Duncan McLane	Firefighter EMT	Chief	22	Welder / Fabricator - Colonial Metal Works
John Mulhern	Firefighter EMT	Captain	19	Deckhand / Purser / Operator - Whatcom Chief
Curt Stocker	Firefighter FR	Asst. Chief	19	Home Inspector - C&S Home Inspections
Bob Busch	Firefighter FR	Firefighter	18	Engineer Retired
Jim Lane	Paramedic	Medical	12	Paramedic / Firefighter - Bellingham Fire
Tom Lutz	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	9	Contractor
Mark Cross	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	7	Mortgage Broker - Security First Mortgage
Larry Roteman	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	7	Retired - Electrical Engineer
Mike Lish	Firefighter EMT	Lieutenant	7	Electrician - Gateway Controls
Gary Poole	Firefighter IFA	Lieutenant	6	Deckhand / Purser / Operator - Whatcom Chief
Robert Kahn	Physician	Medical	5	Safety Physician - Genentech
Lisa Lish	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	4	Purchasing Agent - Gateway Controls
Scott Blanchard	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	4	Builder - Self Employed
Chris Immer	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	4	Pastor - Village Missions
Robert Auld	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	3	Stockbroker
Sam Bowman	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	3	Student - Western Washington University
Jette Baker	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	3	Co-Owner, Sail the San Juans Charter Company
Becca Swaen	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	2	RN / Account Manager - Walgreens OptionCare
Laura Camarillo	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	2	Lead RN - NW Endoscopy
Robert Sorensen	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	2	Student - Bellingham Technical College
Patrick Slimane	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	2	Student - Skagit Valley Collage

INCOME			
TAX REVENUE	Budget 2011	Actual 2011	Budget 2012
Fire - Levy	\$ 137,520.08	\$ 139,439.69	\$ 139,490.08
EMS - Levy	\$ 36,181.21	\$ 36,489.50	\$ 35,639.57
INTEREST			
Expense		\$ 2,136.82	
Reserve		\$ 35.56	
Facilities		\$ 81.78	
Apparatus		\$ 41.78	
DONATIONS & MISC			
Memorials & Other		\$ 750.90	
Burn Permits		\$ 325.00	
Ferndale School District		\$ 101.92	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 173,701.29	\$ 179,402.95	\$ 175,129.65
EXPENSES			
Legislative Services	\$ 12,875.00	\$ 9,155.97	\$ 12,843.00
FIRE CONTROL			
Administration	\$ 50,150.00	\$ 46,927.68	\$ 52,264.00
Suppression	\$ 35,085.00	\$ 23,447.94	\$ 33,761.00
Prevention	\$ 250.00	\$ 186.39	\$ 400.00
Training	\$ 9,505.00	\$ 5,209.63	\$ 14,010.00
Facilities	\$ 6,745.00	\$ 6,451.77	\$ 6,775.00
TOTAL FIRE	\$ 101,735.00	\$ 82,223.41	\$ 107,210.00
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES			
Administration	\$ 29,200.00	\$ 25,412.37	\$ 30,148.00
Training	\$ 8,825.00	\$ 7,810.73	\$ 12,395.00
Facilities	\$ 3,320.00	\$ 3,029.54	\$ 3,802.00
Rescue & Emergency Aid	\$ 13,580.00	\$ 12,306.96	\$ 14,852.00
TOTAL EMS	\$ 54,925.00	\$ 48,559.60	\$ 61,197.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY			
Land	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 15,909.84	\$ 16,000.00
Improvements	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,304.55	\$ 1,300.00
Equipment	\$ 12,150.00	\$ 11,098.26	\$ 29,600.00
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$ 30,750.00	\$ 29,312.65	\$ 46,900.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 200,285.00	\$ 169,251.63	\$ 228,150.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES 12/31/11			
EXPENSE		\$ 264,994.80	
RESERVE		\$ 32.92	
FACILITIES		\$ 9,210.53	
APPARATUS		\$ 4,221.92	
TOTAL		\$ 278,460.17	

2011 Response Data

Type	Total	Percent
Fire	2	3.85%
Rescue & EMS	37	71.15%
Hazardous Conditions(No fire)	4	7.69%
Good Intent Call	8	15.38%
False Alarm & False Call	1	1.92%
Grand Total:	52	

Average Response Time **9.63** Minutes

The dedication that the volunteers give this community is truly an inspiration. Mere words cannot express my appreciation for all the time they spend preparing for and responding to our community, but it will have to suffice; THANK YOU volunteer firefighters! And thank you to the families of the volunteers that put up with the Thursday night and occasional Saturday trainings and when they are called to duty, be it in the middle of the night, holiday dinners or other inopportune times. Your support is very important to our success.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank the businesses, organizations and individuals on the Island for their continued support including the various baked goods, cards and donations. It really means a lot. We are always looking for anyone interested in making a difference in someone's life by joining the emergency response team. Please call us or show up at 7:00 pm on one of the first four Thursday evenings of each month.

Respectfully Submitted: Duncan McLane, Chief

WHATCOM COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
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POSTAL CUSTOMER
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