

# **WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11**

## **Lummi Island Fire Department**

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

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## **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

For the first time since being established in 1960, the Fire Station has a generator capable of providing 100% back up power. This project was significantly funded through a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Foundation grant that was submitted by LICA. Other equipment improvements Lummi Island Fire made during 2015 include: In late March our big loud siren stopped working. Mike Moyer was able to lift it off the pole with his bucket truck so we could assess the problem. Two small parts had worn out which is not uncommon for a 70 year old electric motor. After many hours of research, original replacement parts were located in Wisconsin. In addition to the new parts, additional funds were spent to preserve it with paint and powder coat in hopes it will last another seventy or more years. In August, our grant request for \$8,900 was awarded by FEMA to purchase and install Mobile Data Tablets in three of our response vehicles. This allows us access to critical real time information from Dispatch, weather sites, electronic mapping, and the ability to use web based communications when the need arises.

We had three members leave the department in 2015; Tom Lutz, Laura Camarillo and David Jones. All three made a difference to the community during their time on the team and we wish them well in the future. Two new members were accepted in 2015; Cara Blake and Alissa Daschbach. It is important to note Cara joined right after the Cadet Program she helped start in 2013. Doug Cash, Brittany Swaen and Patti Bolyard completed an intensive three month EMT class in the spring and received their certifications from The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and WA Department of Health. 2015 was a historic year for the District as it transitioned from an all-volunteer department to a combination one with the Chief and Assistant Chief becoming full time salaried positions. Michael Lish was appointed to the Assistant Chief position and is in charge of operations and training.

Fire training focused on ladders, hoses, water supply and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Initial arrival skills were practiced and honed including apparatus placement, how to read the building and what the smoke is telling you. Emergency maydays and self-rescue skills were also a focus for the year. Our Medical training included CPR, pharmacology, shock treatment, cardiovascular emergencies, legal issues and diabetic emergencies. Interagency training was incorporated throughout the year with employees from Airlift Northwest, Fire District 7 and 8 coming to our trainings and helping us become better responders. In June we had a great exercise with Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Search and Rescue. Both agencies learned a lot about each other's capabilities and limitations as well as the amazing power of their helicopter.

The new Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport system is working very well with the county medic unit provided by Fire District 7 (Ferndale) being our primary provider. In April, I was asked to be on a workgroup to provide future funding recommendations for the ALS transport system that serves the County. The 2005 plan outlined six years of funding and operations but here we are, 11 years later. While the six years has stretched almost two fold, it has not been without operational and funding challenges, which have had negative effects to implementing the service levels recommended in the plan. It has been an educational experience serving on this workgroup and more information will be provided to the community as the work is moved forward and decisions are made by elected officials.

The district received another clean audit report from The Washington State Auditor's office with a few recommendations to improve our financial operation. With the voter approved increase in tax revenue for District 11, the Board developed new financial guidelines for themselves and boards of the future as Commissioners and Chiefs inevitably come and go. This is a testament to their commitment to a transparent government and to ensure the funds are spent where they were intended to. The fire levy increase provides a small stipend to the weekend and holiday battalion shifts. The battalion program ensures there is at least one person available to respond 24 hours a day and is working well. It has reduced the non-emergent, all personnel callouts by having someone available for small situations when we are not at the station. Sam Bowman, Chris Immer and Lisa Lish went through extra training to become eligible for the program. The **24 hour duty officer contact number is 360-739-0358**, and is for NON-emergent situations only.

2015 saw the highest call load of 81 responses since the district was formed in 1960. Despite being the driest summer on record, (contributing to the biggest wildfire in our state's history), there were no wildfires on the island. There is no doubt your vigilance resulted in a "no fires" season. It makes me pause and appreciate the attentiveness of this community during such dangerous conditions. The first wind storm of the fall season came much earlier than normal hitting hard on August 29. It was the largest in 10 years to hit Skagit and Whatcom Counties along with Whidbey Island. The unusual summer storm was also the third largest for PSE in the last decade. The power was out for 2 days on the Island while some county areas waited 3 – 4 days. The new generator worked flawlessly keeping us in full operation, taking comfort in not having to worry about running out of fuel in the middle of the night.

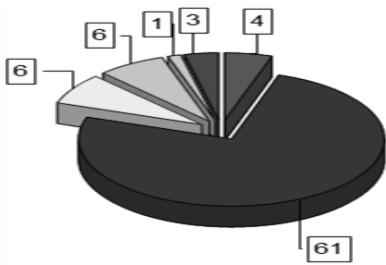
There were 1,143 individual hours spent on training in 2015 including fire, medical, trauma, command, control and apparatus driving. In addition to the hours of training, responding to calls accounted for 455 hours and another 240 hours were spent inspecting the equipment and vehicles to ensure they are ready to respond to you in your time of need. Below is a list of the dedicated professionals that train and respond to any type of incident at a moment's notice. This community is very fortunate to have these community minded volunteers at their disposal and I am very proud to be part of their team.

Member	Training	Rank	Years	Occupation / Company
John Granger	Firefighter EMT	EMS Chief	38	Flight Nurse - Airlift Northwest
Duncan McLane	Firefighter EMT	Chief	26	Fire Chief - WCFD #11
John Mulhern	Firefighter EMT	Captain	23	Purser / Operator - Whatcom Chief
Curt Stocker	Firefighter IFA	Captain	23	Driver - Heston Hauling
Michael Lish	Firefighter EMT	Asst. Chief	11	Assistant Chief - WCFD #11
Gary Poole	Firefighter IFA	Captain	9	Purser / Operator - Whatcom Chief
Lisa Lish	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	9	Secretary - WCFD #11
Chris Immer	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	8	Pastor - Village Missions
Robert Auld	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	7	Stockbroker - Merrill Lynch
Sam Bowman	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	7	Volunteer EMT/Firefighter
Jette Baker	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	7	Co-Owner - Sail the San Juans Charter
Robert Sorensen	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	6	Student - BTC RN PGM
Dan Ohms	Firefighter/Paramedic	Firefighter	3	Retired Paramedic/Firefighter- Bellingham Fire
Zach Little	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	3	Machinery Operator- Natures Path
Doug Cash	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	3	Carpenter - Sexton Construction
Patti Bolyard	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	2	Pharmaceutical Technician - Walgreen's
Brittany Swaen	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	2	Student - BTC RN PGM
Cara Blake	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	1	Student - Saint Paul's Academy
Alissa Daschbach	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	1	Research Scientist - WWU

## 2015 FINANCIALS

	<b>INCOME</b>		
<u>TAX REVENUE</u>	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2016</b>
Fire - Levy	\$338,568.00	\$333,660.00	\$341,953.00
EMS - Levy	\$32,173.00	\$31,789.00	\$94,406.00
Timber Harvest Tax		\$834.00	
<u>OTHER REVENUE</u>			
Interest		\$1,063.00	
Burn Permits		\$275.00	
Memorials, Grants & Other		\$3,942.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$370,741.00</b>	<b>\$371,563.00</b>	<b>\$436,359.00</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Legislative Services	\$13,655.00	\$14,322.00	\$14,637.00
<u>FIRE CONTROL</u>			
Administration	\$114,893.00	\$124,084.00	\$119,957.00
Suppression	\$38,806.00	\$20,642.00	\$40,517.00
Prevention	\$525.00	\$460.00	\$525.00
Training	\$21,490.00	\$17,645.00	\$24,235.00
Facilities	\$7,455.00	\$6,892.00	\$7,430.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$11,350.00	\$6,481.00	\$11,550.00
<b>TOTAL FIRE</b>	<b>\$194,519.00</b>	<b>\$176,204.00</b>	<b>\$204,214.00</b>
<u>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</u>			
Administration	\$41,081.00	\$43,512.00	\$43,392.00
Rescue & Emergency Aid	\$20,787.00	\$19,126.00	\$21,335.00
Prevention	\$100.00	\$280.00	\$230.00
Training	\$16,633.00	\$13,370.00	\$15,893.00
Facilities	\$3,720.00	\$3,485.00	\$3,720.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$4,175.00	\$2,380.00	\$4,175.00
<b>TOTAL EMS</b>	<b>\$86,496.00</b>	<b>\$82,153.00</b>	<b>\$88,745.00</b>
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>			
Improvements	\$2,100.00	\$755.00	\$6,850.00
Equipment	\$12,600.00	\$35,858.00	\$9,100.00
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$14,700.00</b>	<b>\$36,613.00</b>	<b>\$15,950.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$309,370.00</b>	<b>\$309,292.00</b>	<b>\$323,546.00</b>
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES 01/01/15</b>			
EXPENSE		\$165,508.00	
RESERVE		\$121,381.00	
FACILITIES		\$17,167.00	
APPARATUS		\$4,385.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$308,441.00</b>	

## 2015 Response Data



Fire	4	4.94%
Rescue & EMS	61	75.31%
Hazardous Conditions(No fire)	6	7.41%
Service Call	6	7.41%
Good Intent Call	1	1.23%
False Alarm & False Call	<u>3</u>	3.70%

**Grand Total: 81**

On behalf of the volunteers and staff, I would like to thank the residents, voters, taxpayers, organizations, and businesses for all their support. The cards, donations and baked goods are much appreciated. The support drives us to continue improving the service we provide where we can.

The families of the volunteer's sacrifice a lot during the initial training followed by the ongoing Thursday and occasional Saturday trainings. The unpredictable calls can disrupt a romantic evening, holiday meal, or a good nights' sleep. Without the support of the families, this department would just be a building with emergency vehicles.

The volunteers give your department life through their dedication and commitment. They make sure the apparatus are ready to respond, keep their training and skills up, get to the scene safely, put the water and foam on the fire, determine if a patient is sick or not sick, perform CPR, bandage wounds, transport patients, wait for PSE, write reports, and get ready for the next call to do it all over again.

Respectfully Submitted: Duncan McLane, Chief

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POSTAL CUSTOMER  
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