

WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11

Lummi Island Fire Department

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2018 ANNUAL REPORT

We stayed under 100 incidents for 2018 ending at 93. I want to thank the community for being alert to fires during the long burn ban and reminding visitors of the rules and regulations. The few fires we responded to in the District were within our capabilities. With assistance from Fire District 17's boat, we extinguished a good size beach fire on Lummi Rocks. The most memorable incident was a car that ended up on a 500-gallon propane tank, removing most of the fittings and safety devices when it came to a stop. After the area was isolated, the driver was treated, it took several hours to locate the propane company, develop a plan, and find the resources to remove the car. The tank was made safe and removed by the company. It took most of the day but with no injuries or big boom, we considered it a success.

Robert Sorenson turned in his gear after 10 years serving the community and Cadet Owen Moles moved off the island; we wish them both well. Gabel Bredy joined in January of 2018 and just completed his EMT class, we look forward to having a younger energetic member eager to learn the skills of the trade. More volunteers departing than arriving is another concern for the Commissioners that prompted the first stipend program in the department's history. It's a small monetary amount per training and call, nothing to live off but it could accumulate into some extra holiday funds.

With the number of volunteers dwindling and the rest of us aging, we invested in a device called a stair chair providing a safer way to move patients up and down stairs that are unable to walk. We also applied for a Federal grant to replace all of our turnout gear. The current gear was purchased 10 years ago on the same grant program and national standards advise it is time for replacement. A plan was in place to replace one of the staff vehicles in 2018 hoping to find one surplused from another agency. Unfortunately, nothing that fit our needs was available and time ran out with a significant mechanical repair required. The repair cost estimate was more than the vehicle's value so the Board decided to invest in one that would meet our needs and have a 15-20-year life expectancy. The current pumper purchased in 1997 is still reliable and performs the job well. However, it is developing some age-related aspects that raise concerns as the primary (and only) pumper we have for our volunteers and the citizens we serve. Planning has been ongoing for a few years and replacement specifications developed. With the Vehicle Replacement Fund, the Board approved the funding to begin the construction of a new pumper to be delivered in 2020.

Two items of concern are the District's 6-year EMS levy that will expire in 2021 and facility improvements. The District will research other revenue sources that could replace the 6-year levy as the County EMS levy limits what the District would have available. The current station has served the District well but with more staff present, storage areas at a premium, and a growing fleet there is need for improvements. One concept is a new operational station across the street and convert the existing one to administration, sleeping facilities, small kitchen and a non-bunker gear classroom available to the community. Comparing recent stations built or remodeled in the last 10 years, the cost is very intimidating at 4 – 5 million. This does not factor the island aspect or inflation. There has been little movement on the project but will stay on the "needs to be addressed list" so to speak.

After many years of a community-based committee, the Commissioners decided to establish a Disaster Preparedness Division to improve grant opportunities and provide some liability for the members. While the committee began with many members it has naturally refined to less than 10. The intent of the division is to provide individuals with the knowledge to protect themselves, their families, neighbors, and property when events and disasters cause a significant response delay in emergency services.

To comply with State record keeping laws the District now purchases and assigns each member an e-mail account for department communications. We also subscribed to a program that allows responders to use their phones to show if they are responding to a call. Knowing how many responders we have to handle an incident, aids in making the decision to request additional resources early. Members can also be instantly notified of unanticipated changes in operations such as equipment or apparatus failures.

Firefighting training focused on initial arrival and size up throughout the year. Several volunteers attended classes outside the District ranging from, Initial Arriving Strategy and Tactics, Command, Accountability and Officer Development. Medical topics included: Vulnerable Adults, Proper Lifting and Moving Techniques, Sepsis, and Cardiac Emergencies. Suicide among firefighters; the occurrence of the later is overtaking the number of cardiac deaths to members of the fire service. A few of us attended a class to learn how to identify signs, how to approach, listen and get help to responders that need it. Our very own Michael Lish was selected by the County Training Officers to lead the Fall Fire Academy, something I was proud he was selected for and able to do. The Commissioners attended their Fall conference which keeps them up to date on changes in the laws as well as Interlocal Agreements, Grant Management, Volunteer Pensions, Firefighter Wellness and Communication Systems.

The 2nd year of the County EMS Levy saw great accomplishments; Paramedic Class with students from both Bellingham and Fire District 7 and more cooperation between agencies in the field. A single patient reporting system for all fire agencies was selected and set up to start Jan 1 of this year. The need for consistent and complete data was an important aspect of the funding recommendations as it is important to identify trends, training needs, operational deficiencies and community health needs.

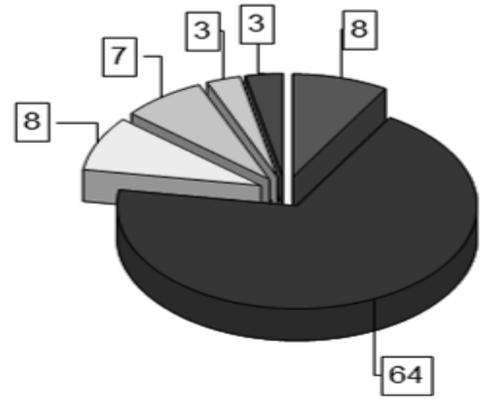
There were 461 individual hours spent on incidents, 138 hours inspecting the vehicles and equipment, and 1,183 hours of Fire and EMS training. Below are the dedicated professional men and women who respond to any type of incident at a moment's notice and spend the hours training and ensuring vehicles and equipment are in a state of readiness.

Member	Training	Rank	Years	Occupation / Company
John Granger	Firefighter RN	EMS Chief	41	Flight Nurse - Airlift Northwest
Duncan McLane	Firefighter EMT	Chief	29	Fire Chief - Whatcom County Fire District 11
John Mulhern	Firefighter EMT	Captain	25	Purser / Operator - Whatcom Chief
Gary Poole	Firefighter IFA	Captain	14	Operator - Whatcom Chief
Michael Lish	Firefighter EMT	Asst Chief	14	Training/Operations Officer - WCFD #11
Chris Immer	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	10	Pastor - Village Missions
Jette Baker	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	10	Co-Owner, Sail the San Juans Charter Company
Lisa Lish	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	10	Secretary - Whatcom County Fire District 11
Robert Auld	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	9	Retired Stockbroker - Merrill Lynch
Sam Bowman	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	9	Self Employed/Student Bellingham Tech
Robert Sorensen	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	8	LPN - Western Washington University
Dan Ohms	Firefighter Medic	Firefighter	5	Retired Paramedic / Firefighter - Bellingham Fire
Doug Cash	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	5	Purser / Operator - Whatcom Chief
Brittany Swaen	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	4	Registered Nurse - Northwest Endoscopy
Alissa Daschbach	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	3	Research Scientist - WWU
Cara Blake	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	3	Student - Saint John's University NY
Brian Thompson	Firefighter IFA	Firefighter	2	Attorney - United States Air Force
Gabel Bredy	Firefighter EMT	Firefighter	1	Deckhand / Purser - Whatcom Chief

Your Commissioners: Wendell Terry (2007 – 2021) Ed Scott (2010 – 2023) Bill Lee (2014 – 2019)
(Start - end of current term)

2018 Response Data

Fire	8	8.60%
Rescue & EMS	64	68.82%
Hazardous Conditions(No fire)	8	8.60%
Service Call	7	7.53%
Good Intent Call	3	3.23%
False Alarm	3	3.23%



Average Response Time from Dispatch to On Scene: 10.71 Minutes

Average Number of Responders: 5

The 17th Open House had another great turnout. This is a fun time for us to see the community and show what your hard-earned tax dollars support.

I am proud to be part of a team that responds at the highest level of performance and with the utmost professionalism. They never know what the next call will be; trauma, medical, fire, powerline, or motor vehicle incident to name a few.

Special mention to the families of our volunteers, without their support, our members would not be able to give this community such service. And last but most certainly not least, the community at large; your generous donations, baked goods and cards of appreciation help all of us continue doing what we do and strive to improve the service we are providing you. THANK YOU!!

Respectfully Submitted: Duncan McLane, Chief

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