



NAVY REGION NORTHWEST
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
NEWSLETTER



THE SIREN
Nov/Dec 2009

THE CHIEF'S DESK:

2010 has rolled in with some good news. The Uniform Allowance notice from CNIC has been signed and distributed. Not only will personnel receive the additional \$400.00 for FY10 but, will receive the same amount to compensate for FY09, totaling \$800.00. With that in mind, I ask that each of you review the Uniform SOG to fully understand what you are required to purchase. Although you have three years, please remember the department will no longer be responsible for supplying station work boots and winter coats. This is now your responsibility. Your station work boots have to be approved by the Safety Office to ensure they meet ANSI standards. The Continuing Resolution (CR) has been lifted since the defense bill was passed and signed. This means we can purchase equipment and supplies. We will only purchase required items to keep the department operational. We cannot afford any internal program growth. With that in mind I want to once again thank each of the programs for planning ahead and maintaining our capabilities this far into FY10.

Please be Safe and have a Happy New Year.

DEPUTY CHIEF'S CORNER:

Staffing – Welcome aboard to Patrick French! He is assigned to NBK-Bremerton on “A” Shift. Best of luck in your new position at Battalion I.

Candidates have been selected to fill-in for positions at Bremerton, Bangor and Indian Island. On-board dates have not yet been established but expect the new employees to start work before the end of February 2010.

ASSESSMENT CENTER for LEAD Position at NAVMAG Indian Island, Assessment center is scheduled for 13 January and 15 January for the Chief's Interview. Good luck to all candidates.

Firefighter/ILS position at NASWI, Interested personnel should submit their resume's in CHART to the open-continuous announcement. We hope to fill this projected vacancy in February/March 2010 timeframe.

Assistant Chief of Prevention, Interested personnel should also submit their resume's to the open continuous announcement. This position will be a temporary promotional opportunity.

OPERATIONS CHIEFS' CUBICLES:

WEST SOUND

As this year calendar year comes to close I would like to take sometime to thank everyone for their continued hard work. We have some exciting projects that are scheduled into the New Year that will be described below.

We were able to recognize some of our firefighters for their life saving efforts with awards with two separate events. One was held at station 61 where the following personnel were recognized; Inspector Luis Rivera, FF EMT Larry Graves, EMT IV Tech Bobby Morse, Captain Jeran McCormick, and Matt McCrea. The Second was held at station 27



On December 14th NRNW Fire & Emergency Services FF EMT Matt Krok, Nathan Sharp, Captain Phil Baumgras and FF EMT-I Mike Foreman were presented with CNIC Life Saving Awards by Naval Base Kitsap Commanding Officer Captain Mark J. Olson.

Fire Stations – Jackson Park Station 63 is moving along on as scheduled for the remodel and emergency generator installation. The emergency generator has been delivered and is the process of being installed. We had our first of many planning meetings with NAVFAC regarding the remodel project. We have asked the remodeled station to meet the Unified Facilities Criteria for Fire Stations. This project has the attention and backing to the NBK-CO and we are looking forward to seeing the initial drawings that should be completed in February or March.

Station 62 apparatus bay expansion has made the list for projects to be completed under the economic recovery act. This project will expand the apparatus bay to accommodate the new Quint scheduled to arrive in the fall of 2010. The scope of work has not been started although we will continue to keep you all informed to the progress of this project through this forum.

FIRE PROGRAMS –

Accreditation – We are currently working to complete the Annual Compliance Report which is due in February. Part of this process is updating our Strategic Plan and Standard of Response Coverage documents. When these documents are finalized they will be made

accessible for everyone to review. We encourage you to take some time to read this information even if you are not directly involved in the Accreditation program. This information should be available shortly after the New Year on the CNIC Gateway.

Apparatus – Our department is slated to receive 5 new front line apparatus and multiple support apparatus this next calendar year. The first support apparatus to arrive will be Station 71's Water/Foam tender which should arrive in January. Next are two engines that are slated to be completed in Feb/Mar and will be sent to Station 61 and 63. We are scheduled to receive two more engines in the fall and these units will go to Station 27 and 70. The arrival of the first two apparatus will give us time to evaluate the fit to our ever shrinking apparatus bays or should we say our ever expanding apparatus. Finally station 62 is slated to receive a new 75' Quint in October of next year.



Information Technology – As space on the server and our email accounts continues to shrink to stream line document sharing and communication we are starting to use the CNIC Gateway for more and more information storage. We are planning to move the location of our SOG's and other information for all to view. If you have not had the opportunity view the Gateway take a moment to click the hyper link to view our ever changing site. <https://cnicgateway.cnic.navy.mil/ws/nw/N3/N30/default.aspx> If you have trouble accessing the site you may need to adjust your trusted sites settings to include *navy.mil sites. Each battalion IT facilitator should be able to assist with any issues.

EAST SOUND

IPP Guardian implementation at NSE and NASWI

This year Battalion 3 concluded the implementation of the year long Installation Protection Program with two full scale exercise drills at NASWI and NSE in October. Naval Station Everett commenced there drill on October 21st as crews from Station 29 responded to a simulated chlorine tank leak at the Gas Station and requested the Snohomish County Hazardous Response Team for mutual aid to assist. The incident was successfully mitigated with 10 patients being decontaminated and sent to local hospitals and a joint entry team of Everett Fire Department and Station 29 personnel were able to secure the leak. The Station 29 personnel were able to demonstrate a high level of hands-on knowledge of the new equipment that this program delivered to NSE. On October 28th the crews at Stations 71 and 70 responded to a simulated Sarin attack outside of one of the barracks on Ault Field. This response was further implemented with a mutual aid engine company from the City of Oak

Harbor with 4 Hazardous Materials Operations level Firefighters to assist with decontamination. The incident was a successful demonstration of the seamless response brought on by months of joint training and hard work that was achieved by the crews from both Departments. The crews from Battalion 3, once again, successfully deployed and demonstrated a high degree of hands-on knowledge and practical application of all of the new equipment that Guardian provided to the Region which will enhance any response to a WMD/CBRN incident.



Welcome back home – Crews from Sea Plane Base fire station happily return to station 70 after an eight month restoration project. The half million dollar project on the historic fire station - intact with slide pole - began in April as crews were re assigned to two unoccupied Navy historic homes in the housing area that just so happened to have a hill top 360 degree view of the entire Island to include breath taking views of Mount Baker. Once PW addressed a few minor plumbing and heating issues the crews settled down and personalized the units to comfortably suit there needs. Below NW McGrath contract supervisor John Hodges, NASWI Commander Captain David and Regional Fire Chief John Arruda perform the official ribbon cutting ceremony with an interesting twist. This was the first major renovation since the inception of the fire station back in 1943.



Program Updates:

Ladders - Special thanks go out to Battalion Chief Jerry Daniels and his program facilitators Fire Captains Daylon Sweeney, Troy Whitmore and D/O Matt Wright and FF Shawn Lord for their successful oversight to ensure coordination of the contract services were carried out at five fire stations over two days testing over 1200 feet of ground services ladders. Firefighters can continue to safely perform there duties thanks to the efforts of these gentleman.

SCBA/Compressors – Hard work from the members of this program continue to shine across the region as two new fully contained SCBA cylinder fill containment stations came on line at fire stations 29 and 79. These units boost the latest in safety and efficiency features and comply fully with OSHA and NFPA standards. Inspection and testing of our breathing air compressors will soon be under way as these contract services provided by Seawestern begin on January 22nd. Seawestern compressor technicians will be making there rounds servicing the six air compressors throughout the region. Special thanks to Fire Captain Glenn Samples and his facilitators; Fire Captains Wayne Barlage, Troy Whitmore and D/O

Matt Wright for their tireless efforts on the care and feeding of this labor intense - high OSHA/NFPA compliance required program.

Wildland: All wildland equipment has arrived and is currently being assigned to the B-79. B-70 is scheduled to receive its equipment by the end of January. Chief Spaulding is putting the final touches on the training plan for this program – more to follow once those details are worked out.

RESCUE: Inspection and Testing for the departments hydraulic rescue equipment will be conducted again this year by Diamondback Fire & Rescue out of Wenatchee Washington – B/C Jack Woodard is coordinating this service and will advise dates/locations once established.

This year marks a turning point in the departments rescue program as three members from NRNW F&ES also members of the Kitsap county USAR team prepare for certification to become a FEMA recognized/certified state deployable type II USAR team, officially known as - Washington State-Region 2-Taskforce 1 (WA-R2-TF1). The team's goal is final coming into view after two years of hard work in concert with fire departments throughout Kitsap County. The team's first goal was met in 2009 with the activation of the Kitsap County Technical Rescue Team.

The Kitsap county Technical Advisory Group or TAG committee finalized the 2010 training calendar for the Kitsap County USAR Team. This calendar identifies two critical drills, one in September that will consist of a 16 hour sustaining operations drill for the Kitsap county team and a 24 hour sustainment drill in January 2011 that will include the Type 2 Team out of Spokane also seeking certification and the Type 1 Team from Seattle.

Fire Captain Jeran McCormick manages the NRNW F&ES rescue program and is one of three Rescue Group Leaders on the Kitsap county USAR team - along with D/O Ed Baze and FF Mark Zielinski, these men have devoted countless hours to not only the departments rescue program but to the Kitsap county USAR team as well. Chief Arruda praised the efforts of these three gentlemen and is fully committed to support their efforts as this USAR team will also respond to our Naval Installations if ever needed.



So Long Brother...

On October 1, 2009 after 22 years of dedicated fire service Fire Fighter Ron Vandervegt decided to hang up the bunker gear, wipe off the smell of smoke and jet fuel to start a new venture of completing his house hold to do list. The caution tape tells it all as Ron's batteries were in desperate need of changing but he had just enough energy to give us one more smile and let us know he was happily finished. On September 13, 2009 Ron's wife Carol held a retirement party with family, friends and special guests and of course his fellow firefighters who provided a few mementos and a couple of gag gifts. Ron plans to continue with volunteering at Skagit County District #2 and says he already misses the crews but he is adapting to new routines. Ron asked that we send out a big thank you for all the years of support and numerous memories some of which cannot be mentioned in this article as Ron definitively stated. From all of your fellow firefighters at NASWI and NRNWF&ES we wish Ron and his wife Carol our sincere best wishes.



EMS

I am very impressed in the steps forward that the EMS program has taken over the last year, and I look forward to continuing our growth in the program over the next year.

As we start the New Year first allow me to make all personnel aware that as of January 1, 2010 all EMS personnel will be moved to National EMT status. This means that the personnel with IV and supraglottic airway certifications will carry an endorsement on their current card. If there are any questions concerning certifications feel free in contacting the EMS Chief in his office.

So you are all aware the pilot programs are at the DOH waiting for a start date, approval has already been granted. This will mean a change in the current way we perform CPR, adding tourniquets to our supplies, and working with administering EPI via draw up and an IM injection. Training for all will take place once the start date is released.

BATTALION I:

A-Shift would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

A-Shift would like to welcome Firefighter French to the Department. Pat started in the Shipyard as a Ship fitter in 2008. He has been a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT with Port Ludlow Fire and Rescue since 2007. He has worked in construction for several years and built Japanese style timber frames. Pat also worked at western towboat where he delivered freight to Alaska for a few years.

BATTALION II:

During the month of December personnel from Station 79 B-Shift delivered Santa for the tree lighting ceremony on December 1st. On the 15th of the month they were asked to assist with a boy who had experienced a traumatic event in his life. The Family Counseling Center contacted the fire department and asked if they could help out the family. The boy and his mother came into Station 79 and received a tour of the station and the apparatus to help him not be so anxious around emergency vehicles and personnel. The crew from Aid 61 also came over to assist it the tour of the apparatus.

This month we also got Brush 79 completely equipped and ready for response. The brush truck for Boardman Oregon also arrived this month and will be getting ready to be put in service by the second week in January.

Station 61 conducted the third annual Santa Run on the 12th and 13th of December. The crews took Santa along with Sparky through all of the housing areas and handed out candy canes with lots of Christmas music and cheer. Seeing the faces on these kids gives you the true feeling of Christmas.



Santa and Sparky ride on Engine 61 while Firefighter Chris Simmons distributes candy.

TRAINING / SAFETY:

Well it has been a struggle and it's not over yet, but we are making progress on the issue of the training computers. As you know, we have been trying for a few years now to get reliable access to some of the excellent electronic training media that is available these days. We finally succeeded in acquiring eleven stand alone laptop computers in early September, only to find out there were programming problems with them. At this point most of the problems have been worked out and we are waiting on new operating software that will allow us to run several training programs that require power point to run. Right now my goal is to have the computers in the stations and fully operational by the end of January (yes, I know I said that about December, and November, but hey! We are making progress, and I just might get it right this time). At any rate, when its all done you will have access to all the CDC courses offered electronically, IFSTA lesson plans and power point presentations for FF I & II,

Hydraulics , and RIT, and the Action Training Systems classes for FF I & II, Driver Operator, and eventually the entire rescue series..

The upgrades on the Fireblast live fire trainer are complete and the propane contract should be finalized in the next week. The new schedule is done and it will move to NAVMAG on 8 January. This year's rotation will be NAVMAG, PSNS, NASWI, Everett, and Bangor. In most cases it will rotate every two weeks and will have full propane tanks when it arrives at its next destination. Each time it arrives you will have one full set of tanks for both shifts to use in a two week period and the new upgrade will insure that you will be able to use the smoke machine without running out of nitrogen.

We are also working on a live fire training opportunity at Fort Lawton Seattle for everyone. We will have several houses to use and plan to use six of them for live fires. I expect that training to start sometime in late February.

Other upcoming training on the near horizon includes red card training that we hope to start soon and complete before the next wild land fire season, and ICS 300 training for the Fire Captains and Battalion Chiefs (it's going to be a busy spring).

FIRE PREVENTION DESK:

As many of you know the prevention branch is short one inspector at NSE. I have identified a candidate, Barry Kerth and HR has offered him the position which he accepted. We should see Barry on board soon, he is scheduled to complete his physical early in January. I do not have an expected on board date however it should be soon. Barry comes to us from Kittitas County where he was a Deputy Fire Marshall, prior to that he was a Kittitas County Plans Examiner. Inspector Sprouse will be his sponsor representative.

The fire prevention branch along with suppression has had a busy couple months. I know validating extinguishers is not to be overly glorified however the dollar amount saved which will come directly from your efforts will be glorified. In the west sound alone, initial numbers indicate 391 duplicated records. After I assemble the number of vehicle extinguishers we are being charged for, I anticipate the contract modification which is in the works, will not be needed in full and possibly not at all, saving the department thousands of dollars. In addition to the overage identified in west sound, north sound has identified nearly 2000 extinguishers in the field. This is roughly 1000 short of our contract numbers which indicate 3000 extinguishers. To ensure your extra efforts are realized by others a Lean Six Sigma (LSS) project is slated to be initialized as soon as process improvement managers are back from the holiday break.

Many of you are not aware I have had interviews and job offers elsewhere which I did not accept. I have accepted a tentative offer at Guantanamo Bay. I would like to make it clear the reasons for tentatively accepting a fire inspectors position at Guantanamo Bay is for a multitude of reasons. First and foremost are my children's (8th and 9th graders) current educational benefits and the likelihood of getting a mortgage paid off to better afford future college tuition. An additional huge factor is getting out of the NW gloom which I have been in since birth. That and personal family situations have made the offer at Guantanamo Bay very appealing. This is tentative pending medical clearances which should be answered very shortly.

With that, I know many of you have seen a recent perspective announcement for the position of Fire Prevention Chief. I encourage all who have their required certifications to apply. With the soon to be death of NSPS and the position reverting back to the old GS 11/1 pay grade it may be financially reasonable for some to accept.