



NAVY REGION NORTHWEST
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
NEWSLETTER



THE SIREN
Sept/Oct 2009

THE CHIEF'S DESK:

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to thank everyone for their effort in making FY09 a successful year. Although we had many hurdles and significant issues to deal with throughout FY09 I feel this department and its' members pushed through with pride and professionalism. I commend all of you. However, in preparation for FY10 many of you know we did not come out of FY09 untouched. Our program (Department) took another blow due to FY10 funding constraints within the Region, cross-staffing an ARFF unit at NASWI was decided upon based on the slowest level of risk. The good news is that is a temporary situation and we are anticipating recouping the personnel and re-staffing the ARFF unit in FY11. We have projected a second Engine Company to be staffed at Ault Field and the personnel will cross-staff the ARFF unit. The gain is identified as 11 personnel vice the 8 to staff an ARFF unit.

Another area that many have expressed an interest in is the Clothing Allowance. The Secretary of Navy has signed the Delegation Authority, Commander; Naval Installations Command (CNIC) will now provide the final guidance for the increase in uniform allocations which should be disseminated to the Regional Fire Chiefs within the next few weeks. I intend to implement based on guidance immediately. There will be a change to recently signed Uniform and Grooming Standards SOG which defines requirements based on the increase of the annual Uniform Allowance. Specifically, department personnel will be required to purchase their own winter coats. Station work boots will have to be approved through the Safety Office and meet the required ANSI standards. For your benefit, confirm the ANSI standards before you purchase your boots.

In closing, the program facilitators and personnel have taken great effort to keep us operational for the first six months of FY10. Funding is tight and we have to make due with our current equipment and QOL items. Please take pride in what you have in your stations and the equipment you respond with.

Thank you again for all that you do and have a great Holiday Season with your family and friends, Be Safe, Stay Safe.

DEPUTY CHIEF'S CORNER:

Staffing – Fire Inspector Ed White from Naval Station Everett is retiring, effective 30 October 2009. Best wishes and good luck to Ed as he enters a new and exciting chapter in his life! We are actively attempting to fill this position on a 40-hour work week. If anybody knows anybody that's interested, please contact the Deputy Chief.

Gerald Warren from NAVMAG Indian Island is retiring, effective 3 November 2009. Management staff wishes him best of luck in his "next life" as well!

Two other Fire fighter positions are vacant at Bremerton and Bangor respectively. Individuals have been selected and are in various stages of coming on-board.

Fire Department Programs:

Our FY 2010 Operating Budget is extremely tight this year and as such all programs should be operating in a “sustainment” mode vice “enhancement” mode. We will of course purchase needed equipment and supplies to stay mission ready and comply with safety laws, but we will not purchase equipment that is not absolutely necessary to “grow” and or otherwise enhance a program.

Minor Property Equipment:

Please assure all equipment that has been identified as Minor Property (MP) is maintained and tracked at each fire station. MP equipment items are audited periodically and require accurate record keeping. No MP equipment should be sent for DRMO unless approval has been sought and granted by the Deputy Chief. Also, if it becomes necessary to permanently move the MP equipment to another location, please insure approval is sought so the official records maintained by Financial Resources Management (FRM) can be updated.

OPERATIONS CHIEFS’ CUBICLES:

WEST SOUND

After the reassignments prior to the start of the new fiscal year we welcomed Mike Kazikiewicz, Dave Hathaway, Jason McNamee, and Weylin Brown, to Battalion 1 and 2. We would like to formally welcome Jason back to work after successfully completing his treatments due to his related illness. Thank you to everyone who supported Jason during his treatments.

We would like to wish Driver Operator Gerald Warren best of luck as he begins a new chapter of his life. Jerry is planning to retire November 3 after 32 years of dedicated service to the federal government.

Also we said farewell to Dennis Sheline who left suddenly for Naples once all of his documentation arrived, arrivederci Dennis and best of luck with your new position in Italy.

Fire Stations – Jackson Park Station 63 continues to live in temporary housing and the remodel project is still under review. While we wait for the scope of work to be compiled the emergency generator has finally been awarded with a completion date of January 8th 2010. This is the first of several projects that we hope to see completed this new fiscal year.

Station 79 SCBA compressor should finally be installed after the 25th of October when Naval Base Keyport will experience a power outage to install the new transformer to support an exterior gate and our compressor.

Station 62 is slated to receive a new exterior wall through a self-help project. The goal is replace the old exterior wall/windows to reduce heat transfer. Demolition/replacement is

planned for October although it may be delayed based on the delivery of the materials and weather conditions.

Station 61 is awaiting the arrival of self-help materials to complete a yard beautification project to restore the landscaping after the floods last year.

FIRE PROGRAMS –

Accreditation – By now everyone should have been exposed to the Vision training. Thank you to everyone involved in providing this training. As we continue to refine our process changes will be socialized through the program leads to ensure we are capturing the correct data. CFAI has released the 8th addition of the Fire and Emergency Services Self Assessment Manual (FESSAM). This will be the manual we will be using for reaccreditation in 2012. Once we receive the new manual changes/updates will be shared with all accreditation program personnel.

Apparatus – In an effort to standardize the decaling of our apparatus the apparatus program has identified the vehicles that need updating of their lettering. We will be pursuing this as a long-term goal due to limited funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

With the recent acquisitions within the wild land program we look forward to seeing the new type III brush trucks provide a greater capability to our department and surrounding communities during next years fire season.

WEST SOUND TRAINING



Continued mutual aid training was completed over the last few months. Battalion 1 provided some Hazardous Materials training to the city of Bremerton. Luke Sampson from Camber (the guardian sustainment contractor) provided some extensive monitoring training to Battalion 1 and 2.

In the Northwest portion of Battalion 2 Station 91 was supported by Station 61 to complete some High Angle Rescue training off the crane. Training was

completed over 4 days with Port Ludlow Fire and Rescue coming in late on the last day.

The following week Station 61 responded to a confined space rescue event on the Hood Canal Bridge to support the City of Poulsbo and PLFR.



Pictured - Captain Jeran McCormick (Left) and Battalion Chief Jack Woodard (Right) work with surrounding fire agencies on the Hood Canal Bridge Confined Space Recue on 30 September 2009.

EAST SOUND

SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE

This year Battalion 3 marked the 8th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks by holding a ceremony at the Command Building during morning colors. The event was attended by over 200 base personnel and our local Mutual Aid partners. During his invocation Navy Chaplain Lt. Peter Ott said, "It was a day of darkness when evil shook this very earth." The ceremony included remarks from Base Skipper Captain David and Battalion Chief Merrill, the Firefighter's Prayer read by FF James Burke, and the traditional "return to quarters" bell ringing by Captain Jason Hebb. After the ceremony North Whidbey Fire and Rescue and Oak Harbor Fire Department members joined Battalion 3 personnel back at the station for a breakfast and some "Brotherhood".



PBY RETURNS TO NASWI

September 18th marked the first time in over 60 years that a PBY Catalina had landed in Crescent Harbor at the Seaplane Base. The PBY is a World War II era aircraft that was used for antisubmarine warfare, search and rescue and protecting convoys. The PBY was on Seaplane Base for a week to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the PBY Memorial Foundation. Battalion 3 Firefighters and Oak Harbor Firefighters played a large part in the ceremony since this PBY serves as a firefighting plane in Eastern Washington and the close relation to the September 11th anniversary.



OAK HARBOR MCI DRILL:

On September 28th Engine 70 with a crew from B shift participated in a MCI drill in downtown Oak Harbor. This drill is the second of two drills that completes a Federal Grant for the Oak Harbor Police and Fire Departments that encourages small communities to train and prepare for a "Columbine Type" hostage situation. The members spent a large amount of time on scene in staging waiting for the PD to determine the threat and then deployed with the SWAT units to triage and move victims to a medical treatment area out of harms way.



FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE:

A five person team from Battalion 3 recently competed in the *Scott* Firefighter Combat Challenge at North Bend on the 11th of July. The team consisting of FF Ian Walton, FF Russell Smiglewski, FF Rick Arnett, FF Rob Berry and A/C Scott Steil competed in the team relay with a winning time of 1:58:27 which qualified the team for World Finals in Las Vegas in November. The team had started training in June and competed in their first race at Sedro-Wooley in which they finished with a time of 2:06:01. The Team is currently looking at ways to raise money to off set expenses for the trip to Worlds in November.



EMS

As you are all aware by now NRNW F&ES is under the guidance of one MPD, this is Dr. Smith-Poling and she has chosen the Northwest Region Protocols for us to follow. I will be getting to all of the stations to help provide training and answer any questions concerning these protocols. Also so you are aware these protocols can now be found on the shared drive under the EMS program, and all EMT's will be tested on them in the near future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jesse Berg and Steven Fether and welcome them to the EMS program. For those of you that are not aware Jesse has accepted the open position at station 71 and Steven has accepted the temporary position at station 61. The EMS program has also started a QA QI committee to review the MIR's from all battalions. If you have any questions concerning the QA QI committee contact Scott Berry at station 27.

BATTALION I:

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

We also wish Captain Sheline and his family (who will not be following him until next summer) the best of luck and God's speed during their oversea tour in Italy. We hope the next three years go by quickly.

BATTALION II:

A-Shift would like to welcome aboard Jason McNamee and Weylin Brown both from Battalion III. Jason is currently in EMT class till November.

TRAINING / SAFETY:

The Fireblast trainer is currently at Bangor and will be getting an upgrade soon to replace the air compressor with a nitrogen compressor. This new system will not only do the job of the air compressor, it will also provide nitrogen for the smoke machine. That means we will no longer have to purchase cylinders of nitrogen and swap them out every few days in order to use the smoke machine, and compressed nitrogen does not have the moisture that compressed air does so the propane valves should operate better with less of a chance of corrosion.

A new contract for propane is in the works and should be in place by the end of the month. Once the contract is done and all upgrades and maintenance are complete, I will put out the schedule for rotation of the trainer.

The new training computers are in and firefighters Cates and Wade are busy getting them set up with programming before they are sent out to the stations. These computers are stand alone lap tops and will be for training purposes only. They will be loaded with software that includes several CDC courses, training class outlines, all of our Action Training Systems materials, and various other training materials. These computers will be in the stations no later than the end of October.

Don't forget that in addition to the Fireblast training trailer, we also have a trailer filled with numerous top of the line hazmat training props, including two pressurized cylinder props, a chlorine ton container prop, a DOT306/ MC406 simulator, a rail car top prop, and various other props.

Along with these items we have recently acquired a four gas detector trainer that allows a student to make entry to an area and actually receive readings while the instructor monitors and controls the system.

There have been 31 IFSAC certifications awarded in the department so far this year. They range from Hazmat Awareness to fire officer IV. Congratulations to all. There are still 56 current enrollments in CDC courses for certification. Keep working and good luck.



