



**NAVY REGION NORTHWEST
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
NEWSLETTER**



THE SIREN

July/Aug 2009

THE CHIEF'S DESK:

The FY10 funding constraints have hit us in full force. I proposed several mitigation options to our \$1M funding shortfall. Yes, I did offer up the closure of fire stations throughout the Region, Cross-Staff all EMS Transport and both ARFF units. Each of the mitigations was accompanied by a lengthy detail of the impacts this would have to our customers and Mutual Aid partners. The option finally selected and voted upon by the Regional Executive Steering Committee and having the least amount of impact was to Cross-Staff one of the ARFF units at NAS Whidbey Island with the crew from the Ladder Truck. I was detailed in my presentation and verbiage to ensure the appropriate level of additional risk to our customers was understood. The Regional Executive Director, N3 Operations Director Mr. Lehman, Deputy Chief Kramer, representatives from Human Resources, and me met with the personnel at NAS Whidbey Island and briefed the cause and affect of the FY10 funding shortfall. The reality is that we will be realigning the staffing in the department by reducing 8 billets. In preparation for this move we have gapped billets, identified future vacancies, socialized interest in personnel willing to voluntarily move to the vacant positions within the department, and additionally socialized the interest of personnel willing to accept a SIP/VERA and retire early. I have a meeting next week Tuesday, 4 Aug to discuss our way ahead and plan this out to meet the 30 September deadline.

We are still not out of the woods for FY10. I have had to make significant reductions in the Life Cycle Management of our equipment, training, travel, and supplies to help off-set the remaining non-labor funding shortfall. All the department internal programs answered the call by projecting their first six months into FY10 program needs to remain compliant and operational. We will conduct a buy ahead based on the purchase requests submitted using FY09 remaining funds. Those are in process now.

On one last note; funding will be available for PPE, station boots etc., don't let anyone tell you different. If you need it, you get it.

DEPUTY CHIEF'S CORNER:

SOG Committee – The SOG Committee is making significant progress in reviewing new and existing policies. If you are interested in being an SOG Committee member, please contact your Battalion Chief. The SOG Committee is always looking for new members and personnel who have a keen eye and a meticulous nature for reviewing policies and procedures.

Staffing – Our Fire Prevention Branch is now 100% staffed for the first time in a long time. New fire inspectors are Erlend Frederickson who is assigned to Bremerton and Luis Rivera who is assigned to NBK-Bangor. Congratulations to you both and best of luck in your new positions!

Welcome aboard to Fire fighter Steve Mack (assigned to Bremerton) and Mark Miller (assigned to NAVMAG). Both of these new fire fighters began work on 20 July. While both employees were hired from the East Coast, they both have family here in Washington. Welcome home to you both and best of luck to you in your new careers here at NRNW!

Our Firefighters in action:

Keyport Fire:

A fire that began involving two vehicles on Keyport had the potential for spreading to two nearby buildings. The vehicles were parked in close proximity to the base gymnasium and an office building/barracks. At approximately 0300 on 24 July, a firefighter (Stan Rich) from Station 79 awoke to loud noises/explosions. After he determined there was a “glow” coming from the vicinity of the two buildings, he quickly awakened the other crew members and they self-dispatched to this incident. The crew quickly extinguished the fire before it nearly impinged upon the two buildings. WAY TO GO STATION 79 CREW!! SPECIAL KUDOS TO FF STAN RICH FOR BEING ALERT AND NOTIFYING THE OTHER FIREFIGHTERS!!



Bremerton Fire:

Many of you by now have probably seen the news footage of the Arnold's Furniture Store Fire that occurred at Bremerton on the 27th of July. Over (15) fire engines were deployed, including a strike team from neighboring Pierce County. An Engine Company, Ladder Company and Duty Chief were deployed from Jackson Park and NBK-Bremerton to assist in attacking the blaze. Crews were on-scene for over 13 hours. GREAT JOB!! See below picture of our aerial ladder truck from NBK Bremerton in action:



OPERATIONS CHIEFS' CUBICLES:

WEST SOUND

Summer is upon us and over the last two months we have had some changes in our staffing. We would like to say congratulations to Jesse Berg and Steve Fether for their recent promotions into the ILS program. We would like to welcome Steve Mack to Station 27 and Mark Miller to Station 91. Welcome aboard and congratulations to our newly promoted personnel.

Fire Stations – Station 28 is the proud owners of newly remodeled kitchen thanks to the combined efforts of the station personnel and the Sea Bee's. Thank you to all involved for your patience and hard work while this project was completed.

Station 79 is receiving a new roof and some electrical upgrades to allow for the use of their SCBA compressor.

STANDARDS OF COVERAGE – We have completed the update of the Standards of Coverage and would like to thank the personnel at Station 71 for their support in completing this document. The document is currently being reviewed by the Deputy Chief prior to being finalized.

FIRE PROGRAMS –

Accreditation – The Risk Assessment Software migration is complete and all of our RHAVE data has been uploaded into Vision. The fire prevention staff will be providing training to the crews starting in August to start the Risk Assessment update process. The first year is going to be the most labor intensive although once this is complete our Risk Assessment will be constantly up to date.

Apparatus – The tender and brush truck arrived in May and with the efforts of the apparatus and communications personnel the radios and newly acquired equipment expedited the in-service dates of these apparatus.



We had some specific training from Peirce to demonstrate the capabilities of our new apparatus. Tender 61 and Brush 70 are now in service, while Brush 79 is waiting the funding of the wild land program. We are currently working with the City of Poulsbo to acquire abundant equipment from their program while we wait for approval of our funding.

WEST SOUND TRAINING

Recent meetings with East Jefferson Fire and Rescue have allowed for some joint training opportunities. The first of several planned training events was Airlift Northwest and the US Coast Guard. Personnel from “B” shift received training on the capabilities and shut down procedures of both aircraft.



Station 61/62 personnel showing off the Brush 79 at Kitsap County's Kids day, (pictured L to R FF Simmons, FF Fether, Capt Whitmore and FF McCrea).



Station 91 personnel L to R, DO Gordon, FF Zambor, and FF Dunlap.

Additional training is scheduled in July and August on the Fire Blast to include Port Ludlow Fire Department.

Personnel from Station's 61, 62 and 79 participated in combined training with City of Poulsbo, North Kitsap on a structure that was demolished in late June. This was a great opportunity for the various agencies to work together in a residential structure. The training included search and rescue, ventilation operations and emergency rescue techniques. Thanks to the City of Poulsbo for the invitation and opportunity to participate.



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.

HAZMAT

Battalion 3 is now proud the owner of the IPP Guardian Gear which provides them with the capabilities to respond to CBRNE events. The crews have been busy with training and inventories of the new equipment. Thank you to all who have participated in this process to receive this new equipment and make the program successful.

BATTALION I:

A-Shift would like to take this opportunity to welcome Firefighter Steven Mack aboard. Steven has been in the Federal Fire Service for 8 years. He is currently not married, has 2 boys (11 and 9 years old), and his hobbies are sports and music. In his short time here we have learned that he is dangerous on the softball field.

B-Shift Battalion Chief Martini is currently on sick leave due to complications from surgery. He is resting comfortably at home and with any luck he will be back to work in August. Chief Martini would like to thank everyone for the calls and support including the balloons he received while at Madigan.

The Battalion 1 softball team made the playoffs for the regional softball league. They were eliminated in the semi-finals.

Station 27 placed a new Aid unit in service displayed above.

Station 28's kitchen remodel was completed and the crews have been enjoying more space and some new appliances.

A traffic revision was completed in front of Station 28 in an effort to reduce congestion that blocks access to and from the station. So far the changes have not yielded great results, but safety and the base police are working with us to enforce the new signage.

BATTALION II:



Station 61 "B" Shift participating in Kids Day events with Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue

OPERATIONS CHIEFS' CUBICLES:

EAST SOUND



FIREFIGHTER JASON MCNAMEE

As most of you know FF Jason McNamee has been battling oral cancer and is just completing his radiation and chemo-therapy. As long as everything checks out okay, Jason will be back to work by October. This will give Jason plenty of time to heal and to gain his strength back. Jason has been dealing well with the treatment with mild nausea and weakness. During the

4th of July parade, Jason his wife Samantha and daughter Rebecca rode on Ladder 71 with the Commodore from Wing 10 Captain Ken Seliga and his wife. They were joined by Whidbey 35, the new ARFF truck, for the 2 mile parade through downtown Oak Harbor. Jason appreciates all of the leave donations, the support from the Local F-282 and the positive thoughts and prayers from all the members of NRNW F & ES.



VANCOUVER B.C. FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND AND THE 4TH



The 4th of July weekend was celebrated in style here at Station 71 with the parade in the morning and a huge BBQ in the afternoon with the Vancouver B.C. Fire Department's Marching Band.

Our "North of the Border" Brothers and Sisters came down to march in the parade in Oak Harbor on the 4th with no financial assistance from the City. Prior to their trip down the Band contacted the Base Public Affairs Office and inquired about any assistance the Base could offer. They were directed to the Fire Department for assistance and the members of Station 71 jumped into action. They VFD members and their families were treated to both a spaghetti feed on the evening of the 3rd and a BBQ on the evening of the 4th. The Band was grateful for the kind hospitality the likes they reportedly had never received in some 25 years of performing.



Thanks to all for making the weekend a huge success.



OAK HARBOR DUI AWARENESS:

On June 4th just prior to summer break the Oak Harbor High School hosted a DUI awareness event for some 367 students. Navy Region Northwest F&ES personnel participated in the event at Oak Harbor High School with the crews demonstrating victim removal from a wrecked auto using the jaws. Participants in the event included: the Oak Harbor Fire Department, Oak Harbor Police Department, NRNW Battalion 3 Engine 70, and a Whidbey General Medic Unit. This event serves as an annual reminder to the students of Oak Harbor of the dangers of drinking and driving and what the irreversible results may be. This is also a great demonstration of the interoperability of the Navy F&ES Forces with the mutual aid partners.





FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE:

Firefighters from NRNW F&ES recently competed in the SCOTT International Firefighter Combat Challenge at North Bend on the 11th of July. The 5 member team comprised of Firefighters Ian Walton, Russell Smiglewski, Rick Arnett, Team Captain Rob Berry and A/C Scott Steil competed in the team relay with a time of 1:58:27 which qualified them for the World Finals later this year in Las Vegas. The team had started training in June and competed in their first competition in Sedro-Wooley in which they finished with a time of 2:06:01. They are currently pursuing avenues to raise funds to offset costs for the trip to Vegas in November while continuing to train with a goal to get under 1:40 prior to Worlds.

TRAINING / SAFETY:

The questions I get the most these days are, when do we get the Fireblast at our installation, and how can I get computer access to do my CDC course. The Fireblast is currently located at station 71. It has been repaired and upgraded and is ready to go; however, some issues have come to light and the use of the trainer is on hold until a new SOG can be put into place to give direction and spell out the requirements for its safe and efficient operation. Once the SOG is finalized and approved (I hope this will be soon) training will resume. It will remain at Whidbey Island for two weeks from the time it comes back into service and then move to Bangor for a period of three weeks. Two weeks of that time will be for training and one week for Firefighter Parypa and myself to make some minor upgrades to the unit. From there it will go to NBK-Bremerton, then Indian Island, and Everett. I will put out a schedule with dates as soon as we are up and running again.



Many of you have enrolled in on line CDC courses, only to find out you can not get access to the server to do your courses. I have given a CD-Rom to each station with all of the on line courses on it. You should be able to do your course on department computers from the disk without down loading. If you want to borrow the disk and down load the courses to your personal computer, you can do that. Also, N6 has purchased 11 laptop training computers for us that will have those courses and much more on them. I anticipate those computers being available to you in the stations by early July. If you are enrolled in an online course and have not been able to access it, and your time is running out, contact me and we can get another 4 month extension on your course. Please do not ask for the extension until you are getting close to your deadline for completion.

Another training opportunity that is coming our way soon is a Fire Inspector I class from MFRI. It is set up for you to attend on your off duty time and your tuition is paid. Those who successfully complete the course will receive IFSAC certification. There is also a Pierce driver operator pumper class coming July 8 and 9. We have 6 slots for this class and the current plan is to have one driver from each shift/battalion attend and then go back and teach.

FIRE PREVENTION DESK:

We would like to welcome Luis Rivera to the fire prevention team. He is working out of the prevention office at station 61. His area of direct responsibility is lower base Bangor and most buildings off thresher west of Trigger Ave.

In addition to Rivera we would like to extend a welcome to Erlend Frederickson who has transferred from the SW Region to join the fire prevention team here. Inspector Frederickson had 22 years of service in the Navy prior to joining SW Region where he has been an Inspector for 5 years. We are lucky to have another knowledgeable inspector at our disposal. Frederickson prefers to go by Fred, so when you see him extend a warm welcome. He will be taking over the duties of Inspector Nold who will be officially at Keyport in the near future.



Kids Day at Kitsap County Fairgrounds was fun and eventful. We clearly see the value of such events and the training the public receives. There is absolutely no questions to who has used this extinguisher trainer in past fire safety events, the knowledge retained is evident. Once again the Prevention Branch sends a huge thank you to our brothers and sisters on the other side of the house for your support with our ongoing fire prevention efforts.

Our static displays of equipment and Emergency response vehicles drew the attention of fair goers and other fire agencies as well. On static display were Engine 61, HazMat 61, the new brush truck and tender.



We have safety and health fair expo's coming up and the big one, Fire Prevention Week which is October 4th through 10th this year. This years FPW slogan is: "STAY FIRE SMART! DON'T GET BURNED. The FPW handouts, stickers, magnets, posters etc. are here and the prevention staff will begin getting the posters and literature out 30 days prior to October 4th, an advanced thank you for your participation during this year's fire prevention week. We will have the event and location schedule out by the end of August.

The very pro-active approach by some engine companies during weekend fire prevention education trips out to the Navy Exchange has been an outstanding public relations benefit. Please contact the fire inspectors at your location if any fire prevention materials are needed for these or any other events engine companies participate in or organize.

Like other program budgets, Prevention is feeling the FY-10 cuts and has projected ahead in an attempt to secure additional supplies in the FY-09 budget in order to get us further through the year in 2010. We have some new and different items scheduled to arrive soon that have been personalized for our department. When they arrive some sample packs will be sent out to the stations and prevention office.