

Clallam Fire District 2

Fire House News

Chief's Report - March 2011



Chief Bugher

Call Volume

The District responded to 70 calls during the month for a year-to-date total of 134 calls. Station 21 responded 44 times and Station 22 responded 26 times. The District provided Mutual Aid 5 times for a year-to-date total of 6. The District received Mutual Aid 0 times. The District responded to Olympic National Part 1 time for a year to date total of 2 and to the Lower Elwha Reservation 7 times for a year-to-date total of 15 calls. There were 0 transports from Station 22 for a year-to-date total of .0 and 1 transport from Station 21 for a year-to-date total of 1.

Stations and Equipment

As reported previously, Engine 22 experienced a pump malfunction during a structure fire recently. The problem was identified resulting in a retraining issue for all personnel. That training has been complete.

A new protocol for the use of EPI Pens has been implemented. Replacing the single dose auto injectors, personnel will now draw the required dosage and administer via syringe. Vials and syringes have now been placed on board the duty squads and the Medic units. The volunteers have been briefed and except for 6 personnel have completed the required training. The remaining personnel will be trained individually by EMS Captain Gunn.

The CCFD2.PAFD Communications project is moving along. The repeated located at the WSP Detachment has been turned on for testing purposes. The vendor is programming a router that will be installed at the Dispatch Center. The router will allow the repeaters at the WSP and Stripped Peak sites to talk to each other. Volunteer Tom Mitchell has completed the programming of most of the portable and mobile radios. It is still anticipated

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We Need Your Input!

Clallam County Fire District 2 is at a crossroad and we need your input. With rising costs, fewer volunteers, and an increased demand for services, Fire District 2 Commissioners are seeking input from you, our customers, regarding what your expectations are for service, from us, your fire department.

By working in partnership with our community members, we want to develop a working plan of action for Fire District 2's future and how our citizens are served. We will be using several methods to gather this important input from you.

- **Online Survey** – We have developed a short series of questions about the services we provide and how you rank their importance. This survey can be accessed by visiting our web site: www.clallamfire2.org
- **Town Hall Meetings** – Several meetings will be held where Fire District 2 members will present information and seek feedback from the community. Below are the locations and time these meeting will be held.

Wednesday April 27th - 7:00 p.m.

**Mt Pleasant Grange
2432 Mt. Pleasant Road**

Thursday April 28th - 7:00 p.m.

**Dry Creek Grange
3520 West Edgewood Drive**

Saturday, April 30th - 9:00 a.m.

**Black Diamond Community Club
1942 Black Diamond Road**

Log on to www.clallamfire2.org and take our survey - We want to hear from you!

Chief's Report Continued

that the updated system should be ready to go live within the next thirty days or so.

The District has been notified that our request for funds to purchase and install Mobile Data Terminals in the Command and Squads has been approved. At the State level and is awaiting approval by the Federal Emergency management Agency in Washington, D. C. It is expected that work on this project will commence sometime in the spring.

New batteries have been ordered for all of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Some batteries have been prematurely failing. The manufacturer has been notified and has advised that there may be a problem with the power units on the SCBA. Lt. Nick Gear will date and install the batteries and monitor in order to detect any premature failings. Those units that fail will have the power units replaced under warranty by the manufacturer.

Operations

The circular metal cutting saw that was previously purchased and tested on Rescue 21 has met standards. A second saw has been ordered and will be placed on Rescue 22. These saws are used in vehicle extrications and cut without or with minimal sparking thereby reducing the potential of igniting a secondary fire and improving patient and firefighter safety.

Training

The Recruits completed two days of Search and Rescue and Burn to Learn at the Washington State Fire Academy in Bend, Washington. A total of 13 Recruits and 5 instructors made the

trip and successfully completed the training. The next step is the passing of the Firefighter I written examination and the successful completion of the Firefighter I Practical... Both the written and practical examinations will be held locally.

The administration of the Firefighter I practical has required the presence of certified evaluators from other agencies to evaluate the students. This has always been a logistical problem in that the District or PAFD cannot evaluate our own personnel. The evaluation normally requires around 5 to 6 evaluators who give up a Saturday to travel to Port Angeles to perform the testing. Captain Bogues has approached a number of or retired firefighters who are no longer associated with either the District or PAFD to complete the evaluator training and conduct the required testing. It is our intention that this approach will provide a pool of evaluators that can be drawn from as needed and also allows for retirees to maintain some type of connection with their brother and sister firefighters and provide a valuable service.

Public Education

Once again the Volunteer program operated a booth at the KNOP Home Show February 26 & 27 at the Port Angeles High School. Lt. Patti Reifenthal designed and set up a very informative booth. Volunteers Julie Sexton, Dan Huff, Joe McFarland, Susan Decker, Earl Noonan, Kevin Thompson, Jan Dedrickson, Howard Parker, Derrick Adamire and Patti Reifenthal.

The following individuals are no longer with the Fire Department: Michael Jensen who resigned for personal reasons. We wish Michael well.

Merger Update

In November of 2007, the Port Angeles City Council and the Clallam County Fire District Two Board of Commissioners passed resolutions establishing an ad hoc committee to explore the feasibility of a full consolidation between the Port Angeles Fire Department and Clallam County Fire District #2. The committee included three members of the Port Angeles City Council, three Fire District 2 Commissioners, and community members, representatives from the firefighters union and the volunteers, as well as the fire chiefs of the two departments.

Committee members met on a regular basis over a two year period where they received an enormous amount of information related to all aspects of the operation, administration and support functions of both departments. In addition, members were presented with overviews of the various consolidation options that are available, as well as financial, legal and operational considerations.

In June of 2010, the committee presented its findings to the Port Angeles City Council and the Fire District 2 Commissioners with a recommendation to form a Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee. Both elected bodies moved to form the Planning Committee and proceed to the next step. The Planning Committee, by statute, must have equal representation from both jurisdictions. The Planning Committee is made up of 3 members of the Port Angeles City Council, Mayor Dan DeGuilo, Brooke Nelson and Patrick Downey. District 2 is represented by David Whitney, Commissioner and Planning Committee Chairperson, and Commissioners Richard Ruud and Thomas Martin.

During the March 24, 2011 Planning Committee meeting, the Committee made the decision to gather additional information related to the financial impacts that a merger would have on both the City of Port Angeles and Fire District 2. The committee will reconvene on June 2, 2011 to consider the updated information.

2010 In Review

Who We Are

District 2 covers some 85 square miles from Deer Park on the east side to Lake Crescent to the west, and from Olympic National Park on the south to the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the north. The District currently operates 4 stations and has some 54 volunteers. The volunteers are trained to national and international standards both for fire suppression and emergency medical skills. District 2 is very proud of its volunteers who give so much to the community and who must constantly train year round. All new members must successfully complete the Firefighter Recruit Academy (248 hours) and the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course (180 hours). In addition, our Volunteers drill every Monday evening for 2 hours year round along with other specialized training on weekends. Fire District/City volunteers represent a cross-section of the population we serve including college students, business owners, parents, grandparents, men, and women.

What We Do

Fire District 2 responded to 904 calls for service during the year. Of that number 714, or 80%, were emergency medical calls and 190 were for fire and other services. The District responded to four vehicle fires, 34 vehicle accidents, 18 false alarms, and 19 non-emergency service calls. The District also provided mutual aid nearly 40 times to neighboring agencies, District 4 in Joyce, Olympic National Park, and the City of Port Angeles.

The year 2010 was an unusual year only in that calls for assistance actually dropped for the first time in many years. Whether or not current economic conditions contributed to this phenomenon is subject to discussion. Unfortunately, people who lost their medical insurance due to lay off or lost jobs may be reluctant to call 911 for emergencies because they fear they will get a large bill they are not able to pay. District 2 has never refused to assist someone who is unable to pay.

We provide public education to the citizens of our community in numerous ways. Our personnel teach many classes throughout the year including first aid, CPR, fire extinguishers, Fire Wise and others. In addition, District and City Volunteers carry out the



fire prevention and safety message locally at the Clallam County Fair, Home Show, Kids Fest and Safety Fair, the Sparky Program and other activities.



Fire District 2 manages the land clearing and residential burning programs within the boundaries of the District. Annually some 150 permits are issued.

How We Are Funded

Fire District 2 is funded primarily by property taxes. Currently, that rate is 61 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. For example, the owner of a home valued at \$200,000 would pay \$122 per year for fire protection services. The total budget in 2010 was \$777,858 funded by \$682,000 in property taxes, grants and other funds. The budget is broken down into six categories as follows: Administration - \$258,000, Fire Suppression - \$321,600, Facilities - \$44,500, Fire Prevention - \$3,000, Training - \$41,000, and Emergency Medical Services - \$109,500 (these figures have been rounded off).

Improvements

Radio communications is a vital element in emergency agencies. Good, clear communications are essential when our emergency responders are dispatched to an emergency. Our local communications system has been inadequate for many years. During many incidents our first responder cannot be heard by dispatch. This can be a potentially very dangerous situation for both the responder and the public.

Two years ago District 2 and the City of Port Angeles banded together to have a communications plan developed. That plan was completed and, through a series of grants, new portable and mobile radios were purchased. In addition, two new repeaters have been installed along with an additional receiver. Equipment updates have also been installed at the dispatch center. This equipment is undergoing testing and, once accepted, will significantly improve fire emergency communications throughout the City and District 2. The communications plan calls for additional repeaters and receivers to be installed in 2011 provided funding is approved.

Clallam County Fire District 2
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We Want Your Input!



**Clallam County Fire District 2
needs to plan for the future.**

**We are asking our community to
participate in the development
of this plan by letting us
know what your priorities and
expectations are regarding the
service we provide.**

**Please take a moment and log
onto our web site:**

**www.clallamfire2.org
and take the short survey.**