

2014 Annual Report of Service Level Objectives (RCW52.33)



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Introduction

As required by the State of Washington the Board of Commissioners and Command Staff for Camano Island Fire & Rescue submit this annual report of service level objectives in compliance with RCW 52.33 also commonly known as HB1756. This legislation, first passed in 2005, mandates that every city fire department and fire district “set standards for addressing the reporting and accountability of substantially career fire departments, and to specify performance measures applicable to response time objectives of certain major services”. The data and conclusions within this report represent our best effort at analyzing and interpreting the emergency response data for Camano Island Fire & Rescue.

Definitions

- 1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring, manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous access, and drug therapy.
- 2) "Fire department" means a fire protection district or a regional fire protection service authority responsible for firefighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special operations in a specified geographic area. The department must be a substantially career fire department, and not a substantially volunteer fire department.
- 3) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling and extinguishing fires.
- 4) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and the fire spreads rapidly.
- 5) "Marine rescue and firefighting" means the firefighting actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using normal and emergency routes for egress.
- 6) "Response time" means the time immediately following the turnout time that begins when units are enroute to the emergency incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.
- 7) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment.
- 8) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units receive notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

Policy Statements

Island County Fire District #1 has existed as a Fire District within the State of Washington since 1945. Camano Island was served by three fire districts until 1992 at which time a merger of the districts occurred under the name Island County Fire District #1 (aka Camano Island Fire & Rescue (CIFR)). The fire district was organized under the tenants of Title 52 of the RCW, with the legal formation of the Fire District mandated by the commissioners – **Legal Authority**, Section 1.1 – 1.7.

CIFR serves a forty three (43) square mile island that is extremely diverse in its demographics. The island is twenty two (22) miles long, approximately six (6) miles across at the north end and less than one (1) mile across at the south end, and has more than 63 miles of coastal shoreline. Elevation ranges from sea level to five hundred and eighty one feet. Camano Island is considered rural with small suburban residential developments dispersed within a rural environment.

Services Provided by CIFR

- 1) Fire Suppression
- 2) First Response Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Services
- 3) First Response Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Services
- 4) Hazmat “Operations Level” Response
- 5) Technical Rescue Response
- 6) Marine Rescue Response
- 7) Public Education
- 8) Fire Prevention

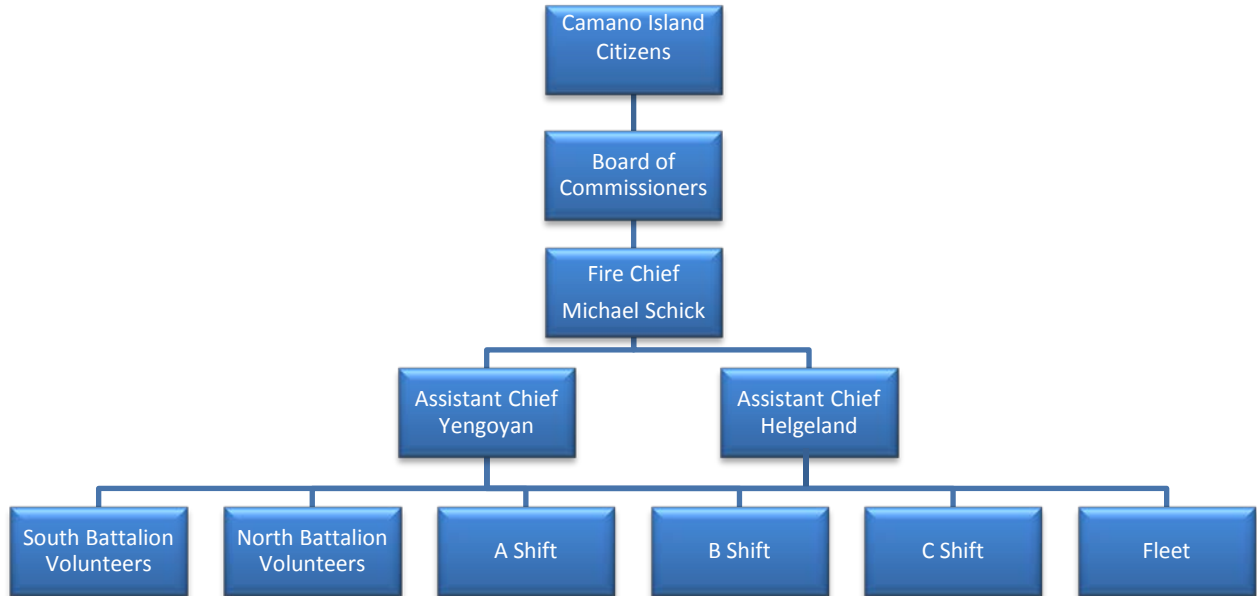
Fire Department Responses

Total CIFR responses for 2014 were broken down as follows:

Fire	51
EMS	1262
Hazardous Conditions	63
Service Call	261
Good Intent	75
False Alarm and False Call	61
Severe Weather	2
Special Incident	2

Command Structure

Camano Island Fire & Rescue operates under a chain-of-command which has been established by the five (5) member Board of Commissioners, who are elected to represent the public they serve. The chain-of-command, or organizational chart, looks like this:



Fire Department Staffing Levels

In 2014 Camano Island Fire & Rescue employed twenty one (21) career members, nine (9) part-time, and seventeen (17) volunteers. CIFR is actively recruiting additional volunteer firefighters and it is hoped that this number will increase in 2015. No other increase in employee numbers is anticipated. The total numbers by their assigned areas of responsibility are as follows:

Chief Officers	3
Career Full-time Firefighters	21
Career Part-time Firefighters	9
Volunteer Firefighters	17
Administrative Support	4
Mechanics	2
Total Staff	56

Response Standards

1) Turnout Time

Turnout Time Standard:

CIFR has adopted a turnout time standard of sixty (60) seconds 90% of the time for all calls.

Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2014:

CIFR met the turnout time objective 40% of the time. The fire department turnout time in 2014 was one hundred seventy four (174) seconds 90% of the time with an average turnout time of ninety four (94) seconds.

2) Arrival of 1st Arriving Engine Company at Fire Suppression Incident

Response Time Standard

CIFR has adopted a response/travel time standard of twelve (12) minutes for the first fire engine to arrive when responding to a fire suppression incident 85% of the time.

Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2014:

CIFR met the response time objective 80% of the time. The fire department response/travel time for the arrival of the first fire engine to fire suppression incidents was twelve (12) minutes and fifty eight (58) seconds 85% of the time with an average response/travel time of nine (9) minutes and forty nine (49) seconds.

3) Deployment of full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident

Response Time Standard for Full 1st Alarm Response:

CIFR has not adopted a response/travel time standard to deploy the first full alarm assignment for a fire suppression incident. The full first alarm assignment defined by CIFR is four (4) engines, two (2) tenders, one (1) rescue, one (1) medic unit, and one (1) command vehicle. To fill a first alarm assignment requires automatic aid from North County Regional Fire Authority. A response standard of eight (8) minutes 85 % of the time for the first arriving engine and tender to a fire suppression incident was adopted in lieu of a first alarm assignment.

Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2014:

CIFR met the response time objective 20% of the time. The Fire Department's first engine and tender response time to a fire suppression call was thirteen (13) minutes and fifty seven (57) seconds 85% of the time.

4) Arrival of First Responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident

Response Time Standard

CIFR has adopted a response/travel time standard of seven (7) minutes 85% of the time for the arrival of the first medical unit with Basic Life Support (2 Firefighter / Emergency Medical Technicians)

Actual Department Comparison for the year 2014

CIFR met the response time objective 48% of the time. The Fire Departments response time for the first arriving unit responding to an emergency medical incident was ten (10) minutes and thirty two (32) seconds 85% of the time.

5) Arrival of Advanced Life Support unit at an emergency medical incident

Response Time Standard

CIFR has adopted a response/travel time standard of twelve (12) minutes 85% of the time for the arrival of the first medical unit with Advanced Life Support (1 Firefighter / 1 Paramedic)

Actual Department Comparison for the year 2014

CIFR met the response time objective 69% of the time. The Fire Departments response time for the first arriving unit responding to an emergency medical incident was fifteen (15) minutes and twenty five (25) seconds 85% of the time.

Predictable Consequences

Response standards within the fire service are based on certain critical time factors, e.g., time to flash-over in a burning room, decrease in survival rates over time following a cardiac arrest without defibrillation, and a decrease in survival rates over time following severe traumatic

injuries prior to arrival at a trauma facility. While all fire departments must deal with these critical time points it is a fact that departments serving rural areas, such as CIFR, will not easily be able to meet national standards that larger municipal fire departments can. With our current staffing model, geographical constraints, and financial constraints it is unlikely that CIFR will be able to meet the response standards as previously established by the Board of Commissioners. An added burden is that the department is absolutely dependent on mutual aid from our neighboring district for first alarm and other resource dependent types of calls.

Plan of Action

First and foremost when analyzing response times it is imperative that accurate data be obtained. Unfortunately in the past variability in how response statistics were captured have introduced errors which, in many cases, are difficult to identify and correct. Consequently one of our top priorities is to standardize our reporting procedures by training officers and staff to use common data entry procedures for every incident. For example, all vehicles responding must have their response characterized as code (lights and siren) or non-code. This information was not always available in the past. Another common error was to incorrectly identify calls as to the type of incident. Reducing response times will require changes in the way we distribute our resources, both personnel and vehicles, since it is financially impractical to add to our career staffing levels at this time.

Action Items for 2015

- 1) Continue working with ICOM to ensure rapid dispatching of fire department resources
- 2) Standardize data input methodology
- 3) Determine the impact on response times of single EMS resources placed at St 1-3 or St 1-5 during day time hours
- 4) Expand volunteer shift program at outlying stations
- 5) Review and modify previously adopted response standards with comparisons to local, state, and national standards

A Final Word

On behalf of the CIFR Board of Commissioners I hope that you have found the enclosed information informative and helpful. The intent of this report is to meet our legal obligations under Washington State law but more importantly it allows us a vehicle to keep our citizens informed as to the performance of their fire department. We encourage comments or questions from our citizens on any of the material presented within this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Metz, Chair

Board of Commissioners

Michael Schick, EFO, Ph.D.

Fire Chief

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