

# North Whidbey Fire and Rescue



## 2023 Annual Report

**2023** was a year that truly tested our resilience. It feels like just yesterday that a virus took over our nation, forcing us to rethink the way we conduct the business of keeping others safe and helping them when they need us most. Even though it's not even a year since the pandemic was declared over (May 11, 2023), the business of responding to COVID patients is still a very real possibility. Yet, despite these challenges, North Whidbey Fire and Rescue (NWFR) has stood strong, adapting, and continuing to serve our community.

The efforts of the entire district are contained within this brief overview of the activities that took place during 2023. We are a very busy fire district serving around 20,000 citizens residing in the district, another 5,000 to 10,000 traveling through the district daily, and over three million visiting the Deception Pass Bridge and the Deception Pass State Park every year.

During the year, we were fortunate to receive two grants. One from FEMA under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program for Recruitment and Retention in the amount of \$594,762 over four years. Chief Clark had submitted this grant in 2021. The SAFER grant is for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters, who comprise the majority of our dedicated firefighters. This grant provides money for a Recruitment and Retention Coordinator we hired in June. We welcomed Maroua Gottih to that position. This grant also provides money for training and equipment needed for new firefighters over the four years. The other grant was from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for new Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs). Thanks to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, we received \$20,257.65 for sixteen TICs. Twelve handheld SEEK Attack Pros and four SEEK FirePRO's. These TICs replaced old and outdated cameras and added more to our apparatus that did not have TICs on them.

NWFR responded to 2436 calls for service in 2023, equating to just over six and a half calls a day. We provide emergency services related to incidents involving fires, medical, rescue, hazardous materials, marine, and a host of other emergent and non-emergent responses. We also provide fire prevention, investigation, and public education services to our community.

As Interim Fire Chief of North Whidbey Fire and Rescue, I am extremely proud of the solid foundation our organization has built over the past year. Our focus has been on implementing policies and procedures that support the organization's mission and vision. Along with policies and procedures, we are starting an extensive focus on training, including technical rescue, driver, and officer training. With a strong foundation built on a culture of trust and communication, we are confident we can meet future challenges head-on while maintaining public trust. I am inspired by the dedication I see throughout our organization and am reassured daily by the level of talent and leadership I see throughout the district. Our commitment to providing outstanding public safety remains steadfast and strong, and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of North Whidbey.

## Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for our community, promote public safety, and provide emergency services to protect and preserve life and property.

## Our Values

Integrity, Respect,  
Excellence, Duty

## Contact Us

770 NE Midway Blvd

Oak Harbor

Washington

98277

Monday – Friday

8:00am – 5:00pm

Phone 360-675-1131

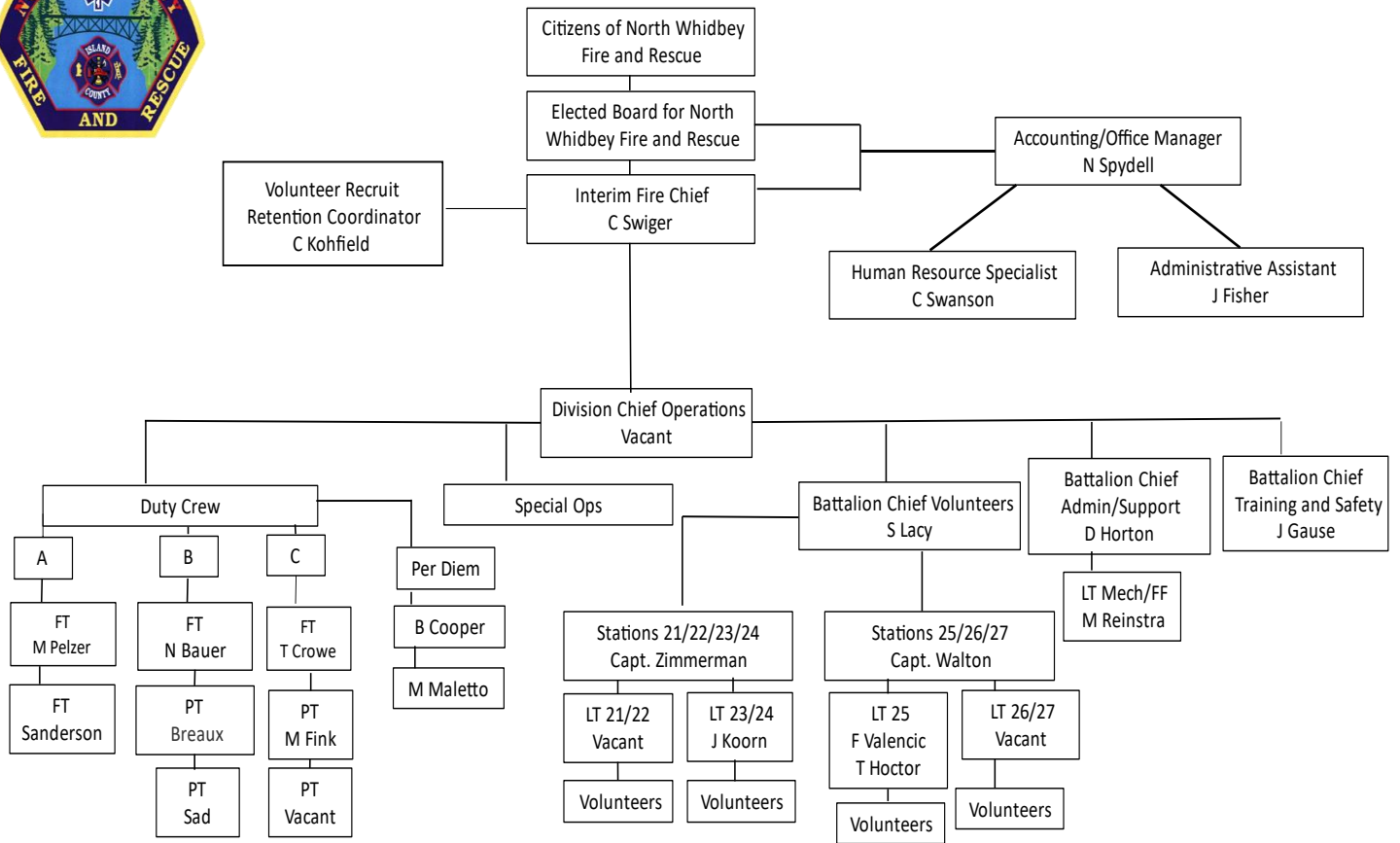
Email: [admin@nwfr.org](mailto:admin@nwfr.org)

[www.nwfr.org](http://www.nwfr.org)





## Organization Chart North Whidbey Fire and Rescue



Updated Mar 19, 2024



## North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Fire Commissioners



Registered district voters elect the Fire Commissioners of North Whidbey Fire and Rescue (NWFR) to serve individual six-year terms on their behalf.

NWFR commissioners serve as the district's executive branch, which provides fire protection and EMS services to the citizens of North Whidbey Island.

Their duties are limited to legislative and executive management of the district as prescribed under state law. Our fire commissioners approve policies, procedures, and all expenditures that govern and manage the district's activities. The board of fire commissioners is involved in short—and long-range planning to meet the goals and objectives for the protection of its residents.

The fire commissioners have a fiscal duty to the public. They will direct the administrative staff to implement policies and procedures that will allow for the efficient, safe, and fiscally responsible management of the public's assets and funds.

There is no one set of requirements to become a Washington State Fire Commissioner. Individuals who have a strong background in the fire service, a business, or a community leader with an interest in public service volunteer their valuable time in this important position. This elected position is primarily volunteer; however, commissioners are reimbursed a nominal fee, out-of-pocket expenses, and travel expenses as provided by state law.

## Finance

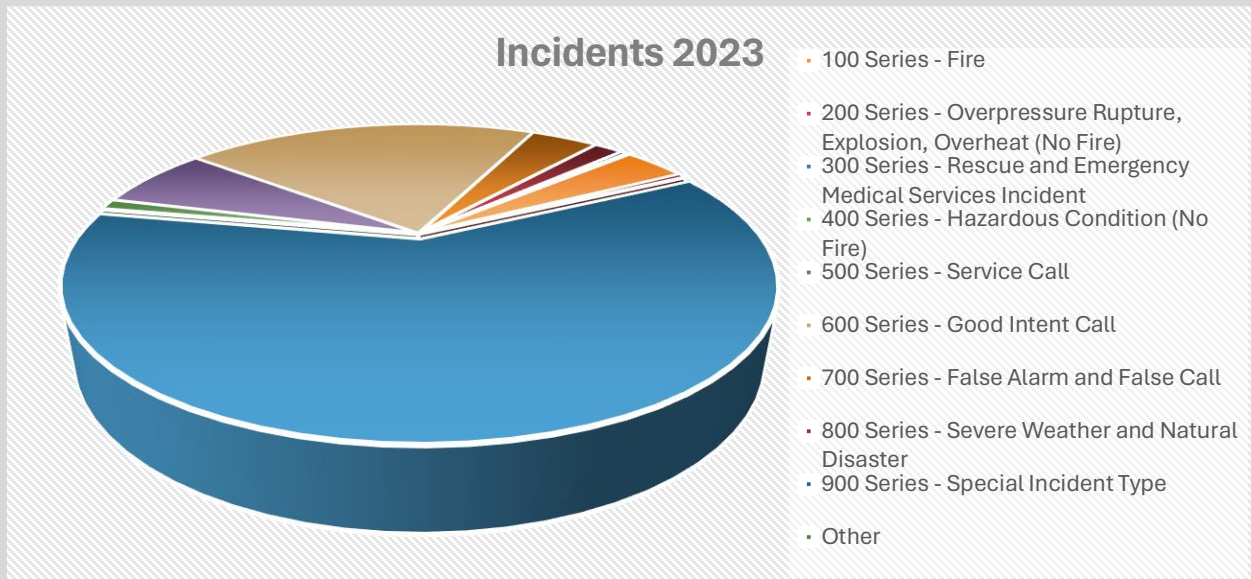
Island County Treasurer acts as an agent to collect property tax levied on behalf of the district. In 2023, the District's General Levy rate was .598764 per \$1,000 of assessed value, totaling \$2,194,798.39. North Whidbey Fire and Rescue also has other sources of funding, such as the Whidbey Health BLS contract, rent from the headquarters building, and the Recruit and Retention SAFER grant.

The district adopts an annual appropriated budget for the General Fund, which constitutes the legal authority for expenditures at that level. The budget is further appropriated at the district level, and annual appropriations for these funds will lapse at the end of the fiscal year. The 2023 expenditure budget totaled \$3,857,728, and the actual spent was \$2,425,174.

<b>FINANCIALS</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>
Personnel	\$ 1,499,628.00	\$ 1,071,115.04
Operating	\$ 928,210.00	\$ 754,057.79
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,323,290.00	\$ 585,290.75
SAFER Grant Expenditures	\$ 106,600.00	\$ 14,710.47
<b>Total Expenditures by Category</b>	<b>\$ 3,857,728.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,425,174.05</b>
Administration	\$ 871,615.00	\$ 566,404.78
Operations	\$ 2,802,713.00	\$ 1,809,111.35
Training	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 25,931.78
Public Education	\$ 13,800.00	\$ 9,015.67
SAFER Grant Expenditures	\$ 106,600.00	\$ 14,710.47
<b>Total Expenditures by Program</b>	<b>\$ 3,857,728.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,425,174.05</b>
Property Tax	\$ 2,155,472.00	\$ 2,194,798.39
Interest and Miscellaneous	\$ 66,600.00	\$ 60,443.67
Other Intergovernmental	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,423.79
State Contracts and Grants	\$ 26,250.00	\$ 38,789.46
Goods and Services	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 4,092.00
WGH BLS Contract	\$ 285,000.00	\$ 233,456.21
Rent Income	\$ 103,082.00	\$ 97,655.24
Local Grants/Contributions	\$ -	\$ 20,657.65
SAFER Grant Funding	\$ 106,600.00	\$ 1,004.62
<b>Total Sources of Funding</b>	<b>\$ 2,754,304.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,654,321.03</b>

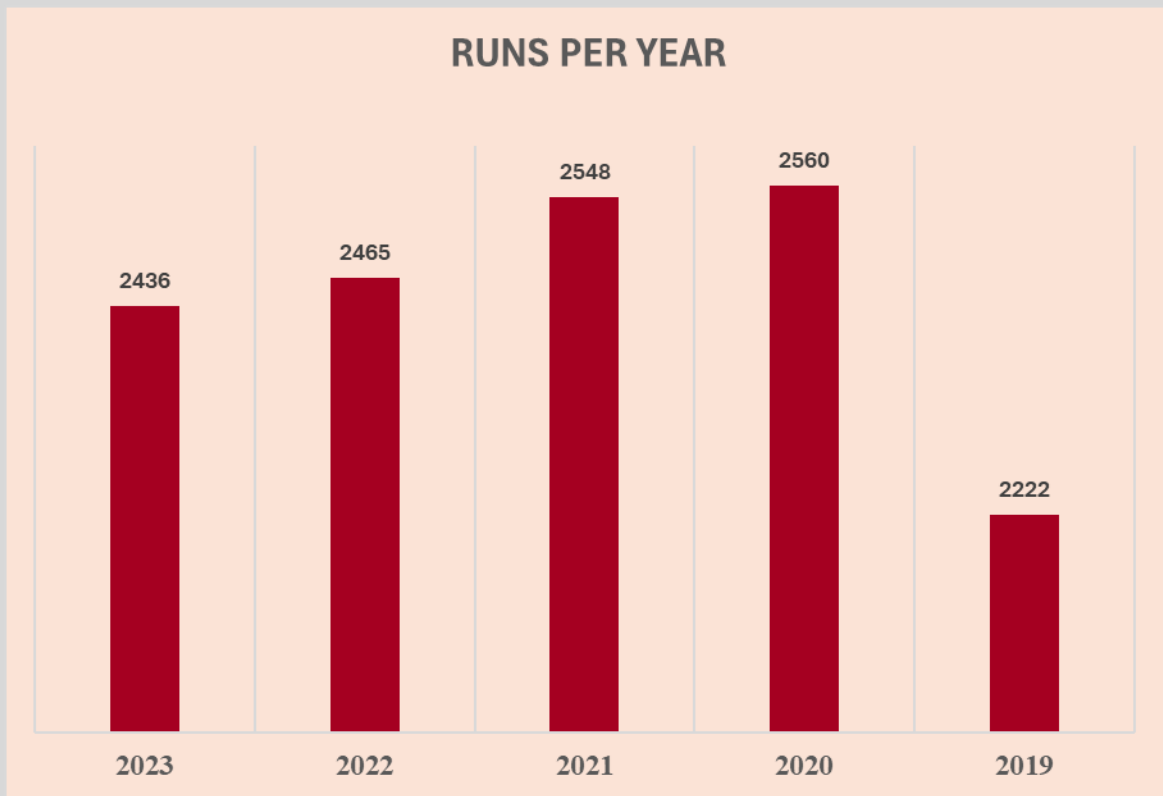
## 2023 Incident Count

Incident Type	Count	Percent
100 Series – Fire	90	3.69%
200 Series – Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	12	0.49%
300 Series – Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Incident	1,472	60.43%
400 Series – Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	28	1.15%
500 Series – Service Call	165	6.77%
600 Series – Good Intent Call	515	21.14%
700 Series – False Alarm and False Call	98	4.02%
800 Series – Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	42	1.72%
900 Series – Special Incident Type	9	0.37%
Other	5	0.21%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Incidents For the Last 5 Years

Year	Runs	Difference
2023	2436	-29
2022	2465	-83
2021	2548	-20
2020	2560	+338
2019	2222	



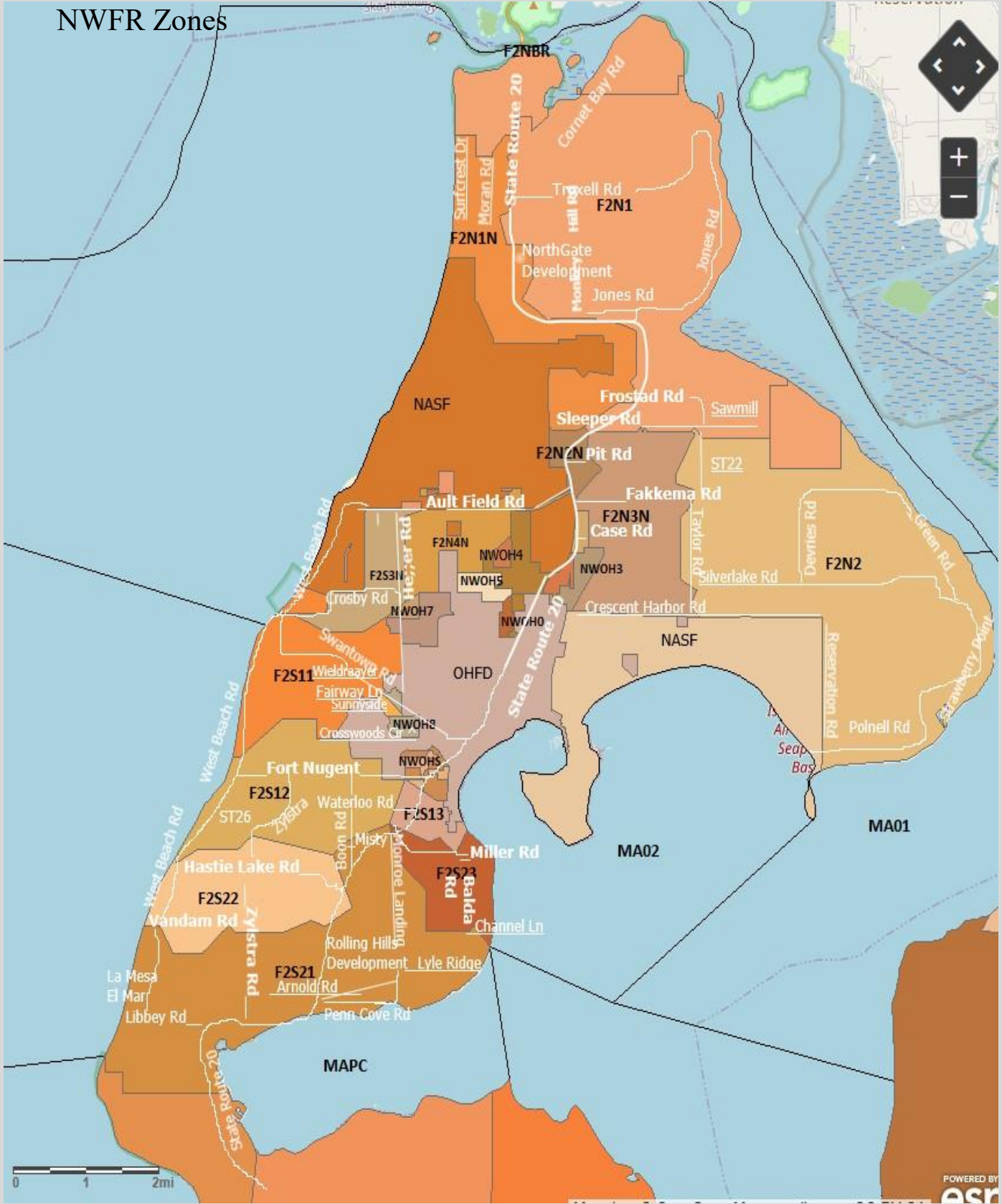


## Incidents Per Zone

Zone	Calls per zone
F2N1	319
F2N1N	174
F2N2	289
F2N2N	107
F2N3N	75
F2N4N	76
F2NBR	20
F2S11	156
F2S12	80
F2S13	8
F2S21	304
F2S22	94
F2S23	39
F2S3N	23
F51	24
F5127	2
FAMD2	3
MA01	6
MA02	1
MA03	3
MA04	3
MA05	1
MA07	0
MA08	8
MA09	1
MA10	2
MAPC	2
NASF	2
NWOH0	6
NWOH3	11
NWOH4	3
NWOH5	33
NWOH7	1
NWOH8	45
NWOHS	24
OHFD	26
OHNW1	4
OHNW2	10
OHNW4	2
OHNW6	28
OHNW9	1
OHNWS	13
SEAPL	3



# NWFR Zones



# North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Station Locations

## Station 21

395 W. Troxell Rd  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



## Station 22

3440 Taylor Rd  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



## Station 25

2720 Heller Rd  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



## Station 23

847 Silverlake Rd  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



## Station 24

1213 Old Polnell Rd  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



## Station 26

1817 Zylstra Rd  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



## Administration

770 NE Midway Blvd  
Ste 201  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
Phone: 360.675.1131  
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm



## Station 27

1160 Monroe Landing Rd  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



Map courtesy of  
Island County

# Training

Our members continued to train on and off duty. Monday nights are the normal training day for our volunteer firefighters. Vector Solutions is also utilized, a program used to track and assign training. This program allows us to stay compliant with the Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau and Washington State EMS OTEP training. We graduated 10 firefighters from the Island County Fire Academy and 2 from the Island County EMT Academy. Our training hours for 2023 were 7785.5.

CATEGORY	Total Training Hrs.
Admin	264.5
Cadet	166.5
Driver/Operator	87
E.L.F.	155.5
EMT Class	957
EVIP	291.5
FF	1165
Fire Academy	2671
HMA/O - Academy	580
Instructor I	66
Live Fire	99
MSAR	358.5
One Time Training	29
OTEP	669.5
Support	100
TRR	115.5
Wildland	10
	7785.5



# Specialized Teams

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue continues to provide a wide variety of services to our community, which few organizations our size can provide. Our Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) is ready to respond should an emergency arise on the water surrounding Whidbey Island. This team dedicates many hours of training each year to maintaining their high level of expertise, ensuring they can deliver services immediately to those in need. We also have many of our members certified in rope rescue. In conjunction with the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island fire department, we are able to respond to the cliffs surrounding North Whidbey.



## High School Cadet

This program is for those enrolled in high school and interested in pursuing a career in the fire service. The program allows young adults, ages 16 to 18, to explore a career in firefighting, emergency medical services, and rescue. Over the course of the year, the cadets attend regularly scheduled meetings and training sessions that our officers and firefighters teach in a classroom and through hands-on training. The training topics include but are not limited to, fire science, fire hose, search, forcible entry techniques, and CPR. Once the cadets age out and graduate high school, ideally, they can move on to become volunteer firefighters and eventually have a career in the fire service.



## Maintenance

Lt Rienstra oversees our maintenance for NWFR. Throughout 2023 Lt Reinstra had a busy year. Some of the work that was carried out. Brush 26 refurbishment was completed and put back in service. 56 Apparatus Work orders completed. All Motorola APX portable radios were programmed, MDC IDs were programmed, district personnel were trained on their use, and then they were put in service. Lt Rienstra also received 48 new Scott SCBAs, inventoried and trained personnel, and put them in service. Lt Rienstra also coordinated all NFPA inspections on the apparatus, fleet ladder testing, yearly station generator maintenance, MSAR boat maintenance, including trailers, and HQ yearly fire alarm inspection and reported to TEGIRS. All this while running calls during the day and off duty.



## Administration

It was a busy year for Human Resources (HR), with 35 personnel onboarded. Unfortunately, many of these have left due to varying reasons. Along with the onboarding, HR Reorganized and renumbered the district policies, making them all in the same format and accessible to all our employees via Vector/Target solutions. HR was involved with implementing First Due, ensuring all employee information was transferred to the system correctly. HR was also instrumental in the battalion chief of training assessment center. This involved coordinating over 15 people from 7 agencies to make the testing successful.

Finance worked hard in 2023 to ensure we got paid correctly and all accounts were paid properly. Along with those great responsibilities, she worked hard at getting us through the Washington State Accounting Office audit that took 7 months. During the audit, she had to correct 3 years of annual reports and notes to financial statements to get them in compliance with the state. The financial manager is also the Fire District's Board Secretary. During 2023, along with all her other duties, she prepared the board meeting agenda, meeting minutes, and meeting notices. In doing this she improved areas where the district was not in compliance with special meeting notices.

## Community Outreach

NWFR was involved in several events throughout 2023.



National Night out

Fourth of July Parade



Sierra Country Club parade

*“But aloud the praises and give the victor-crown. To our noble  
hearted Firemen, who fear not danger’s frown.”*

*– Fredric G. W. Fenn.*

