

Fire Chief's Report to Board of Commissioners
March 20, 2025

- **Safety**
 1. **No injuries or accidents since your last meeting.**
 2. OSHA 300 log to be updated and posted by end of February. Missed the goal on this. Will completed March.
- **Customer Service (emergent and non-emergent)**
 - a. 31 incidents since your last meeting
 - i. Two structure fires
 - ii. One hazardous materials incident (minor)
 - iii. Two MVC's (vehicle crashes)
 - iv. Medical incidents.
- **Administration:**
 1. Open position hiring: Advertisement period ends March 31st. The announcement can be found on Daily Dispatch
 2. Preparing firefighter/EMT job description, recruitment flyer and advertising dates. Forecasted hiring timeline June/July 2025.
 3. Attended WS City Council meeting on March 5th. WKRFA update.
 4. March 8th. 2024 awards dinner. Wonderful attendance! Special thanks to Jennifer for coordinating and communicating with a very busy group of people.

Congratulations go to the following for their dedication to our rapidly changing organization during 2024:

 - b. Rookie of the Year: Ben Schneider
 - c. Officer of the Year: Captain Jess Wardwell
 - d. Customer Service Award for 2024: Tom Crumpacker
 - e. Firefighter of the Year: Karl Swanson
 5. 1535 SR 141 debt collection is completed. The district received payment for services rendered. Structure fire response.
 6. WKRFA IT bid reviewed by legal counsel. Our Administrative Manager's bid packet was approved by legal counsel before issued and reviewed once again after a complaint generated about the process.
 7. 3/13. Participated in Wildfire Tabletop exercise planning. Training is set for April 9th in Husum at Station 31 and April 10th at the Klickitat County Fairgrounds in Goldendale. Will be participating on both dates/locations. US Fire Administration official exercise. Results from the tabletop will be returned to our county via a written summary of actions and recommendations to help prepare for wildland fires.
 8. Saturday May 3rd. Fire On the Mountain ½ marathon is scheduled. Firefighter Association activity with all hands-on deck to assist. Roz Plumb's volunteer project. Please attend if available. Starting point: Station 31 in Husum. Final finish Station 30 in White Salmon.
 9. Saturday May 3rd another WILDFIRE COMMUNITY MEETING is planned for Station 30 (White Salmon). Collaborating with the City of White Salmon to hold another community meeting with an emphasis on prevention, preparedness and awareness. Community awareness; Resources available to property owners for small landowner projects, best practices for fuels mitigation surrounding homes, businesses and structures and property owner responsibilities to become part of the overall community solution to our known risks of wildfire in multiple areas of the region. Bluff areas that include SR 141A bluff. Interface areas with homes, businesses and other structures, transportation risks and private landowner burning safety. A brief, but important focus will be given to community knowledge regarding negative effects of evacuations and their impacts.

10. Website transition in process (IT/Roz). Members assigned to provide Roz with updated station and apparatus photos for the website.
11. WKRFA apparel order was delivered and issued by Jennifer to members. More of this project meets the eyes. Thank you to Jennifer McLean for organizing everyone's sizes, and ensuring we are controlling issuance to our members.
12. Lease agreement – Need to follow up to ensure both entities have signed originals on file.
13. Bulk Water Use Agreement: Worked with COWS Public Works to agree with a draft for council/board to consider. Currently moving through City of White Salmon legal review. Once completed, we will send it to the Board for review and approval process.
14. Traveled to Goldendale to transfer titles to all WKRFA vehicles. Plates will be changed next week. Roz and/or I will update our insurance company and EMS license information. Again, more to the project than meets the eye. 😊 ~ \$1K unanticipated expense. Will absorb into operating budget.
15. Conducted a site visit to Under Canvass on Oak Ridge Road. Reviewed their site emergency plans per their conditional use permit. Recommended a few changes for them to address. I am not complete with the process, and they are required to have it fully complete and signed off prior to opening which is scheduled for May of 2025. Finalized site map will be updated and placed in SW Fire's preplans.
16. Met with two property owners to discuss wildfire prevention recommendations. One needed Knox Box finalized.
17. Attended White Salmon Valley School District Emergency Operations/Planning Committee meeting. Internal school district process. E911, law enforcement and SWFR are actively involved and participating with the school district as they improve their plans. Standard Response Protocol adopted by ESD 112 is part of this planning. <https://iloveguys.org/The-Standard-Response-Protocol.html>
18. Jennifer has completed EMAC billing for the January fire assignment in California.
19. Will begin to develop a long-term plan (to include budgeting) for WKRFA rebranding of apparatus, and stations. The initial plan is to slowly implement with a focused goal to have complete within a reasonable time. I am happy to receive input from all team members on this topic 😊. The FIRST vehicle needing new decals happens to the Command 300 issued to me. Both decals are coming apart.

- **Operations:**

(*** forgive the red numeral numbers. Formatting and Word is winning today's tussle 😊)

1. Attempting to coordinate acquisitions and permissions to conduct two live-fire training sessions. One structure along SR 141 @ Mile Post 7 and another in proximity to White Salmon
2. Six firefighters are doing very well with the current firefighter academy. All SWFR personnel continue to be active and perform very well. The result will be 6 more 'certified' personnel who can perform interior firefighting duties. HUGE part of our overall goals! I continue to be actively involved in direct instruction of a few modules. Firefighter Mike Renault has been even more active and committed to the program's success. Chief Spratt and FF Deo from Bingen Fire Department have also participated in each hands-on skills session. Message: SWFR will meet and/or exceed our need to improve our numbers of qualified firefighters while becoming one of the key agencies participating in instructional delivery of firefighters.
3. One new EMT and two others well into their training at Columbia Gorge Community College. 1200 + plus hour commitment – EACH PERSON.
4. Fleet maintenance begins the week of March 17th. Minor repairs needed for Engine 30-01, Brush 32 and Brush 31. DOT inspections will be completed as normal.

- 5. Updated scale weighing for the entire fleet is on my radar (DOT requirement). Will contact James Dean Construction to see if we can utilize their certified scales. Potential cost.....but I hope not.
 - 6. Hose and ladder testing for Station 30 and 31 is scheduled for the second week in May.
 - 7. Engine 34 is nearly complete with equipment loading.
 - 8. Water tenders chained up for the season.
 - 9. Station 34 water tank drained
 - 10. Station 32 water tank – insulation placed around the valves.
 - 11. 2025 Annual FIT Testing commenced. 90% complete.
 - 12. Snowden fire tanks to be filled and flushed soon. Will work the valves to ensure each are useable. Station 34 fire water storage trailer will be filled by the end of the month.
 - 13. Station's 31, 32 and 34 all need significant vegetation management (spraying and/or weed burning) this year. I'm happy to receive help from anyone to accomplish this before grass and weeds begin to overwhelm the grounds. We do not budget for vegetation management on district property, but we do need to set an example in the community. In addition to protecting our structures from the effects of a wildland fire in their respective areas.
- **Personnel:**
 - 1. Nothing substantial to report in addition to the awards banquet.
- **Training Report:**
 - 1. Apparatus inspections completed for March
 - 2. EMS long board / patient packaging from elevated positions, KED training, High performance CPR refresher.
 - 3. Search and Rescue drill at Station 31.
 - 4. First aid/CPR refresher complete. Thanks to Captain Gilmer
 - 5. Offensive fire attack/hose deployment drill
 - 6. Misc. Driver training
- **Upcoming:**
 - 1. Wildland training is moving near.
 - 2. Annual wildland Red Card recertification (RT130) upcoming.

Community Events:

- 1. Continued meeting with White Salmon Valley School District Emergency Planning Committee.
- 2. Fire on the Mountain .5K Marathon on May 3rd.
- 3. Springtime fire department pancake breakfasts are upcoming – planning needed.
- 4. Wildfire Community Meeting – May 3rd. Station 30 at 15:00 hours.

Personal Activities and Achievements:

- 1. Vacation planned April 17th – April 29th

Respectfully submitted:

Wesley W. Long
3/14/2025