

**SUBSTITUTE**

**HOUSE**

**BILL**

**1756**

**2011**

**Please note that Substitute House Bill 1756 pertains only to career staff and tracks only career staff responses and does not include volunteer or part time employees.**

**Camano Island Fire and Rescue is not just a career staffed department. Camano Island Fire and Rescue is a combination department compiled of thirty two (32) career line personnel, twenty eight (28) part time personnel, and thirty eight (38) volunteer personnel.**

**Data shown in this report reflects career responses. For the future Camano Island Fire and Rescue would like to track not only career but volunteer responses as well.**

## POLICY STATEMENTS

Camano Island Fire and Rescue has existed as a Fire District within the State of Washington since April 14, 1945. 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.

Camano Island Fire and Rescue provides service to 43 square miles in rural Washington State within Island County.

The Services provided by Camano Island Fire and Rescue include:

- a) Fire Suppression
- b) First Response Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Services
- c) First Response Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Services
- d) Hazmat “Awareness Level” Response
- e) Technical Rescue Response
- f) Marine Rescue Response
- g) Public Education
- h) Fire Prevention
- i) Support (Chaplain) Services

Total Emergency Responses for 2011 were broken down as follows:

- Fire Responses: 58
- Medical/Rescue Responses: 1104
- Hazardous Conditions: 44
- Service Call Responses: 217
- Good Intent Call: 56
- False Alarm: 65
  
- **Total Responses: 1544**

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

**The total numbers of employees by their assigned areas of responsibility for the year 2011 are as follows:**

**Number of employees:**

• <b>Commissioners</b>	<b>5</b>
• <b>Chief Officers</b>	<b>4</b>
• <b>Emergency Managers</b>	<b>1</b>
• <b>Career Captains</b>	<b>3</b>
• <b>Career Lieutenants</b>	<b>5</b>
• <b>Career Paramedics</b>	<b>11</b>
• <b>Career Firefighters</b>	<b>13</b>
• <b>Administration Staff</b>	<b>4</b>
• <b>Mechanic</b>	<b>2</b>
• <b>Part-Time FF/EMT</b>	<b>28</b>
• <b>Volunteer FF/EMT</b>	<b>38</b>
• <b>Support Staff (Support 99, 104)</b>	<b>15</b>
• <b>TOTAL STAFF</b>	<b>32 career and 97 other</b>

The functions performed by Camano Island Fire and Rescue include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Emergency response to fires and medical aid emergencies by career and volunteer staff
- b) Emergency response to motor vehicle accidents within the district.
- c) Mutual aid emergency responses when requested by neighboring jurisdictions
- d) Public Education classes in local elementary schools
- e) Public Education tours in Fire stations
- f) Coordination with local Emergency management personnel from Island County
- g) Emergency response to marine rescues
- h) Emergency response to high angle rope rescues

## **RESPONSE STANDARDS**

### **1) Turnout time**

Turnout time defined as: when units acknowledge notification of the event to the beginning point of response (wheels rolling).

#### **Turnout Time Standard:**

Camano Island Fire and Rescue will adopt a turnout time standard of sixty (60) seconds 90% of the time when planned facility improvements and associated staffing enhancements are put in place.

#### **Actual Department Comparison for the year 2011:**

The overall average for turnout time was one minute. (1:00).

### **2) Arrival of 1<sup>st</sup> Engine Company at Fire Suppression Incident**

#### **Response Time Standard:**

Given the current facilities and staffing resources, the District accepts a travel response standard of 12 minutes for the first arriving engine. It is Camano Island Fire and Rescue's goal, as stated in the Long Range Facilities Feasibility Study, to have the first NFPA rated fire engine with three (3) qualified firefighters respond within eight (8) minutes 85% of the time.

#### **Actual Department Comparison for the year 2011:**

Camano Island Fire and Rescue met the department's standard of the first engine response time. The overall response/travel time for the first fire engine to arrive when responding to a fire suppression incident was nine minutes and nine seconds (9:09). Response times exceed the department's "goal" due to long distances traveled from station to emergency scene and the area from which resources respond.

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

Full first alarm defined by Camano Island Fire and Rescue includes four (4) engines, two (2) tenders, one (1) rescue, one (1) medic unit, and one (1) command vehicle.

#### Response Time Standard:

Given the current facilities and staffing resources, Camano Island Fire and Rescue has elected for full first alarm response time goal to be the same as the response time goal for first arriving Engine Company and first arriving tender. Camano Island Fire and Rescue's goal, as stated in the Long Range Facilities Feasibility Study, is to have the first NFPA rated fire engine with three (3) qualified firefighters respond within eight (8) minutes 85% of the time. Camano Island Fire and Rescue has adopted this thought process due to the fact that the entire island is covered by only one dedicated engine, one dedicated medic unit and one cross staffed engine/EMS unit, therefore all other apparatus that would make up the full first alarm response is supplemented by volunteers or mutual aid.

#### Actual Department Comparison for the year 2011:

The overall average response time for full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident was eight minutes and eighteen seconds (8:18).

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

First Responder or higher can be defined as a BLS unit or Engine.

#### Response Time Standard:

It is Camano Island Fire and Rescue's goal, as stated in the Long Range Facilities Feasibility Study, to have Basic Life Support (2 Firefighter / Emergency Medical Technicians) respond within seven (7) minutes 85% of the time. (Long term goal of under five (5) minutes)

#### Actual Department Comparison for the year 2011:

Camano Island Fire and Rescue met the department's standard of Basic Life Support. The overall average response/travel time for the first emergency unit with a minimum of two (2) Emergency Medical Technicians was eight minutes and twenty-seven seconds (8:27). Response times exceed the department's "goal" due to long distances traveled from station to emergency scene and the area from which resources respond.

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

Advanced Life Support defined as minimum of one Paramedic and one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on an ALS unit as defined by the State of Washington.

Response Time Standard:

It is Camano Island Fire and Rescue's goal, as stated in the Long Range Facilities Feasibility Study, to have Advanced Life Support (1 Paramedic and 1 Emergency Medical Technician) respond within twelve (12) minutes 85% of the time.

Actual Department Comparison for the year 2011:

Camano Island Fire and Rescue met the department's goal of Advanced Life Support. The overall average response/travel time for an Advanced Life Support unit was nine minutes and eleven seconds (9:11).

## **PREDICTABLE RESULTS**

Camano Island Fire and Rescue 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 covers more than 63 miles of coastal shoreline. Elevation ranges from sea level to five hundred and eighty one (581) feet. Camano Island is considered rural with small suburban residential developments dispersed within the rural environment. It is expected that some response times will be over the goals set forth in this policy. Due to long distance responses and limited career stations, some areas of the island will experience greater response/travel times no matter what time of day or day of the week. Response/travel times will also increase due to inclement weather, traffic, and units already assigned to a previous call.

Prior to passage of SHB 1756, the Board of Commissioners for Camano Island Fire and Rescue established a number of emergency response “goals” that the Board felt were either attainable or would be attainable in the future, following completion of the District’s Strategic Facilities Plan objectives. The Board was also well aware that there is a difference between a “goal” and a “standard.” With the massive population growth on Camano Island in recent years, the fire department must necessarily grow along with those increases if it is to eventually attain the response goals stated by the Board of Commissioners. The Board also recognized that establishing “standards” that are easily reached at this time would be meaningless compared with goals to be reached in the future. Therefore, while the provisions of SHB 1756 require “standards” to be met 90% of the time, CIFR determined that it would not water-down its response goals simply to assure that standards could be met. The Board of Commissioners specifically intends that the “standards” referred to throughout this report are instead “goals” which are to be attained in the future, and not established levels of service to be met at this time.



## **PLAN OF ACTION**

To meet the response time objectives for items 1 – 5, Camano Island Fire and Rescue will evaluate its response data to determine if relocating resources, improving reliability or other organizational changes may improve our ability to accomplish our response goals. In the future Camano Island Fire and Rescue will look to better its data collection process to differentiate between Camano and Stanwood calls. Camano Island Fire and Rescue will develop a staffing plan that will consider volunteer recruiting and retention programs as well as an increase of career staffing. All increases will require budget support and any plan will be developed with all stakeholders input and presented to the elected officials.

\*\*All information, statistics, turnout times, response/travel times compiled from data retrieved from Fire House, year **2011**