

SUBSTITUTE

HOUSE

BILL

1756

2012

Camano Island Fire and Rescue is a combination department compiled of twenty-eight (28) career line personnel, eight (8) part-time personnel, and twenty-three (23) volunteer personnel.

Data shown in this report reflects both career responses, part-time and volunteer responses to the best that our data currently allows. Camano Island Fire and Rescue has identified restrictions in the data collection process regarding both the Dispatch Center data and internal District software that restricts the District's ability to capture specific unit information in all circumstances. The District has set a goal of working with the Dispatch Center and is looking to refine its software options to capture data in more specificity to achieve more detailed reports. This enhancement will require cost outlays for software and programming as well as policy changes at the Dispatch Center level.

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 2012 were broken down as follows:

- Fire Responses: 33
- Medical/Rescue Responses: 1023
- Hazardous Conditions: 28
- Service Call Responses: 232
- Good Intent Call: 61
- False Alarm: 74

- **Total Responses: 1451**

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, appears below:

The total numbers of employees by their assigned areas of responsibility for the year 2012 are as follows:

Number of employees:

• Commissioners	5
• Chief Officers	3
• Volunteer Battalion Chiefs	2
• Emergency Managers	1
• Career Captains	2
• Career Lieutenants	4
• Career Paramedic Lieutenants	2
• Career Paramedics	7
• Career Firefighters	13
• Part-Time FF/EMT	8
• Volunteer Captains	1
• Volunteer Lieutenants	2
• Volunteer FF/EMT	18
• Administration Staff	4
• Mechanics	2
• Support Staff (Support 104)	8
• TOTAL STAFF	30 career and 52 other = 82

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 has adopted a turnout time goal 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 2012:

The overall average for turnout time was one minute, thirty-eight seconds (1:38).

2) Arrival of 1st 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 2012:

Camano Island Fire and Rescue's overall response/travel time for the first fire engine to arrive when responding to a fire suppression incident was nine minutes and forty-eight seconds (9:48). Response times are affected due to long distances traveled from station to emergency scene and the area from which resources respond.

It should be noted that nine of the District's Fire Suppression calls in 2012 received a Tender as the first arriving Fire Suppression Unit on scene, staffed with one to two employees.

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 the 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 tender/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 2012:

The overall average response time for full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident was eleven minutes and twenty-five seconds (11:25).

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 2012:

Camano Island Fire and Rescue's overall average response/travel time for the first emergency unit with a minimum of two (2) Emergency Medical Technicians was nine minutes and fifty-five seconds (9:55). Response times are affected 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 2012:

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 fifty-six seconds (9:56).

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 goals 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. 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 **2012