

2016

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



Michael Schick, Fire Chief

Camano Island Fire & Rescue

811 N Sunrise Blvd., Camano Island WA

[www.camanofire.com](http://www.camanofire.com)

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## Introduction

As required by the State of Washington, the Board of Fire Commissioners and Command Staff for Camano Island Fire & Rescue is pleased to 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 2016 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 the 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 primarily rural with small suburban residential developments dispersed within a rural environment. There is limited commercial property on the Island and we do not anticipate this changing at any point in the near future. The last few years have shown continuing new residential construction.

Current population estimates indicate that there were 15, 661 full time residents as of 2010, although the population swells on weekends and during the summer months. Of note is the fact that, for the full time residents, the average age exceeds fifty years (50).

### 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
- 6) Marine Rescue
- 7) Public Education
- 8) Fire Prevention

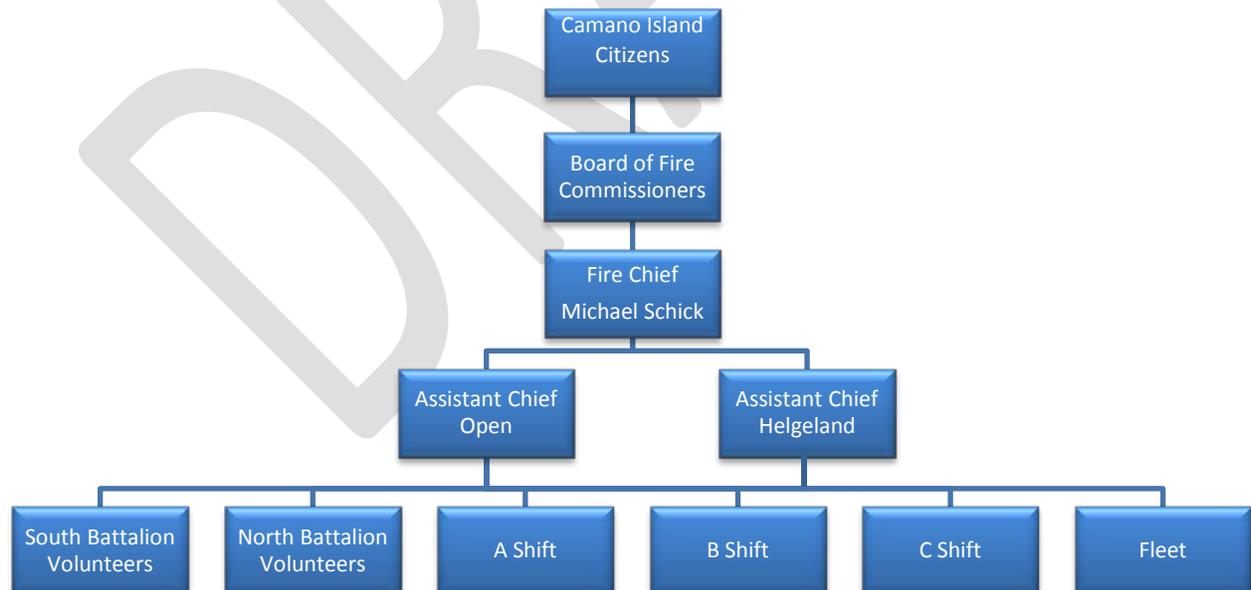
## Fire Department Responses

Total CIFR responses for 2016 were broken down as follows:

Fire	36
EMS	1270
Hazardous Conditions	30
Service Call	347
Good Intent	114
False Alarm and False Call	71
Severe Weather	3
Special Incident	9

## Command Structure

Camano Island Fire & Rescue operates under a chain-of-command which has been established by the five (5) member Board of Fire 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 2016 Camano Island Fire & Rescue employed twenty two (22) career members, nine (9) part-time, and twenty one (21) volunteers. CIFR is actively recruiting additional volunteer firefighters and it is expected that this number will increase in 2017. 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	22
Career Part-time Firefighters	9
Volunteer Firefighters	21
Administrative Support	4
Mechanics	2
Total Staff	61

## Response Standards

### 1) Turnout Time

#### Turnout Time Standard:

CIFR has adopted a turnout time standard of eighty (80) seconds 90% of the time for all calls.

#### Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2016:

CIFR met the turnout time objective 62% of the time. The fire department turnout time in 2016 was one hundred sixty nine (169) seconds 90% of the time with an average turnout time of eighty five (85) seconds.

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

#### Response Time Standard:

CIFR has adopted a response/travel time standard of eight (8) minutes for the first fire engine to arrive when responding to a fire suppression incident 90% of the time.

Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2016:

CIFR met the response time objective 35% of the time. The fire department response/travel time for the arrival of the first fire engine to fire suppression incidents was thirteen (13) minutes and four (4) seconds 90% 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 1<sup>st</sup> Alarm Response:

A first alarm fire suppression incident is considered to be a small structure (less than 2000 sq. ft.) with single room and contents involvement. The first full alarm assignment defined by Camano Island Fire and Rescue is two (2) engines, one (1) tender, one (1) Medic/Rescue, and one (1) Chief Officer. Camano Island Fire & Rescue has adopted a response/travel time standard of eight (8) minutes to deploy a first alarm response when responding to a fire suppression incident 90% of the time.

Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2016:

During 2016 there were seven incidents in which a full alarm assignment was requested and responded. This is less than the total number of reported incidents (36). Typically mutual aid units and CIFR units not on scene will be cancelled when conditions on scene do not warrant a full response, e.g., reported as a stove fire but fire is out prior to arrival of first CIFR unit. CIFR did not meet the response time objective for any of the seven calls. The Fire Department's average first alarm response response time to a fire suppression call was nineteen (19) minutes and fifty nine (59) seconds.

**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 six (6) minutes 90% of the time for the arrival of the first medical unit with Basic Life Support (2 Firefighter / Emergency Medical Technicians). This was calculated using the response time of the first arriving vehicle which has personnel with at least BLS training. At times the engine has a paramedic on board which is still tracked as a BLS unit.

Actual Department Comparison for the year 2016

CIFR met the response time objective 38% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the first arriving unit responding to an emergency medical incident was twelve (12) minutes and eleven (11) seconds 90% of the time. The average response time on a medical incident was seven (7) minutes and twenty seven (27) seconds.

**5) Arrival of Advanced Life Support unit at an emergency medical incident**Response Time Standard

CIFR has adopted a response/travel time standard of eight (8) minutes 90% of the time for the arrival of the first medical unit with Advanced Life Support (1 Firefighter / 1 Paramedic). This response time is calculated as the first medic unit to arrive on scene.

Actual Department Comparison for the year 2016

CIFR met the response time objective 36% of the time. The Fire Departments response time for the first arriving unit responding to an emergency medical incident was sixteen (16) minutes and fifty four (54) seconds 90% of the time. The average response time for the first medic unit on scene was ten (10) minutes and twenty (20) seconds.

**6) Arrival of First Marine Unit at a Marine Rescue**

CIFR has not adopted a response/travel time standard for marine rescue calls but has a goal of ten (10) minutes 90% of the time for the arrival of the first marine unit (Marine 1-2 or Marine 1-4).

Actual Department Comparison for the year 2016:

CIFR met the response time objective 25% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the first arriving marine unit responding to a marine rescue was twenty (20) minutes and fifty six (56) seconds 90% 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. 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 in 2016 was to standardize our reporting procedures by training officers and staff to use common data entry procedures for every incident. We are much more confident that the data collected for 2016 represents an accurate depiction of actual response times. Another common error was to incorrectly identify calls as to the type of incident. To correct this we have instituted multiple checks to ensure that calls are accurately labelled and we are confident that errors have been minimized, if not eliminated.

We still believe that 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. However, the department has planned to go forward with a request to our citizens to increase the fire levy to \$1.35/\$1,000 assessed property value from a current \$1.10. If approved, it is anticipated that the increase in revenue would be used to replace aging apparatus with the theme of smaller and faster response units and to add two day time responders who would staff during peak call times. We believe that these two changes will have a tremendous impact on response times on Camano Island.

## Action Items for 2017

- 1) Continue working with ICOM to ensure rapid dispatching of fire department resources
- 2) Expand volunteer shift program at outlying stations
- 3) Modify personnel staffing to ensure best response times

## A Final Word

On behalf of the CIFR Board of Fire 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,

Paul Williams, M.D.

Chair, Board of Fire Commissioners

Michael Schick, EFO, NRP, Ph.D.

Fire Chief

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