



NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Works to Improve Communication with Taxpayers

OAK HARBOR, WASH. — North Whidbey Fire and Rescue has been taking steps to improve communication with its taxpayers. Fire Chief John Clark says that this is something the agency has been working on prior to the pandemic.

“We’ve known for some time that we need to be more pro-active in reaching out to the families and businesses we serve,” said Chief Clark. “The pandemic has elevated this need so these projects have been timely.”

The fire district recently updated its website to make it more user-friendly for the public. It is also sending regular content to the local news media, and increased its presence on social media.

North Whidbey Fire and Rescue is also working to increase participation in its monthly Board of Fire Commissioner meetings. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Station 25 (2770 Heller Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277).

State and county regulations limit attendance to 20 people due to physical distancing requirements and masks must be worn. As a result, the fire district will continue to use Zoom for all regular Board meetings, and Facebook Live for special meetings.

Community members can find information on how to access the meetings on the fire district’s website at www.nwfr.org/board-meetings. Fire district employees also post signs at Station 25 and District Headquarters (770 NE Midway Blvd., Suite 201, Oak Harbor, WA 98277) that show the online format and access information. Lastly, meeting access information is shared widely through the fire district’s Facebook page [/northwhidbeyfire](https://www.facebook.com/northwhidbeyfire).

“This is about transparency,” said Chief Clark. “We want to make it as easy as possible for our community to participate in fire district business.”

Chief Clark also is looking for invitations from community organizations and home owner associations to share information about the fire district through a brief presentation. These events can be in person or a virtual format.

Do you have an idea as to how the fire district can improve communication with the community? Contact Chief Clark personally at (360) 675-1131 or chiefclark@nwfr.org.

“Every time we reach another person, it means that we’re doing a better job serving our community, preventing fires and saving lives,” he said.

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North Whidbey Fire and Rescue provides an emergency response to fires, medical calls, water and high angle rescue, and auto accidents. The agency serves 18,000 people over 55 square miles, which includes

the unincorporated area west of the City of Oak Harbor from Deception Pass Bridge (to the north) and Libbey Road in Coupeville (to the south). Highly-trained part-time paid and volunteer firefighters respond to an average of 2,400 calls per year.