



June 2022

Dear Fellow Resident,

Hello! Enclosed is background information and an important survey regarding your North Whidbey Fire & Rescue (NWFR). It was prepared by the NWFR Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

The CAC is interested in what the North Whidbey County residents think about NWFR and its services. The survey (last 2 pages of this document) includes 10 questions - all are yes-or-no answers. It would be very useful if you would complete the survey online by August 26, 2022, or you may also drop off or mail the survey at the NWFR District Offices: 770 NE Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Thank you for your time, consideration, and feedback.

Respectfully,

*Stephen R Schwalbe*

Stephen R Schwalbe, PhD  
Chair, NWFR Citizens Advisory Committee

***CAC Members: Steven Schwable, Chairman; Patricia Cole; Cathy Lemon; John McClaine  
Richard Rivers; Teri Jo Summers-Reiger; Richard Svendsen***

# North Whidbey Fire & Rescue (NWFR)

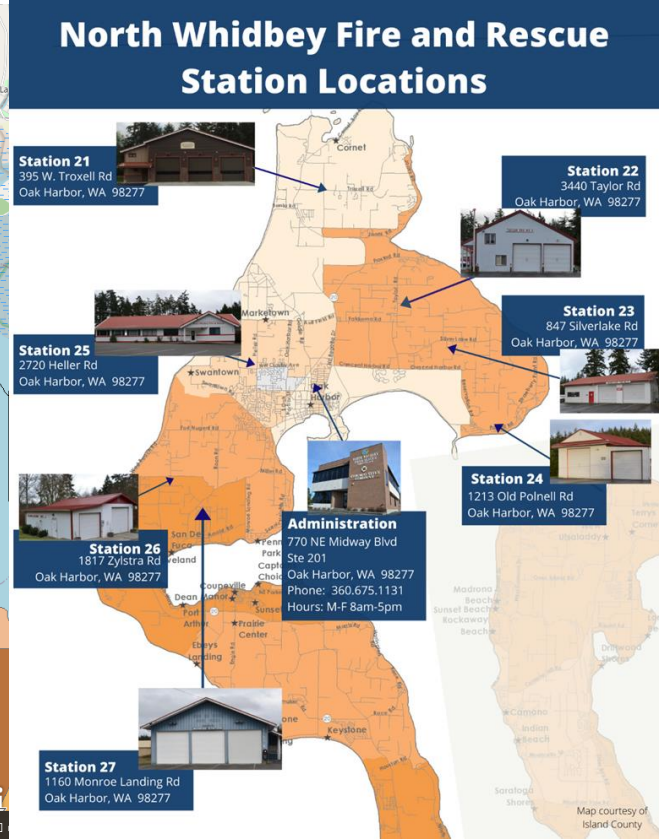
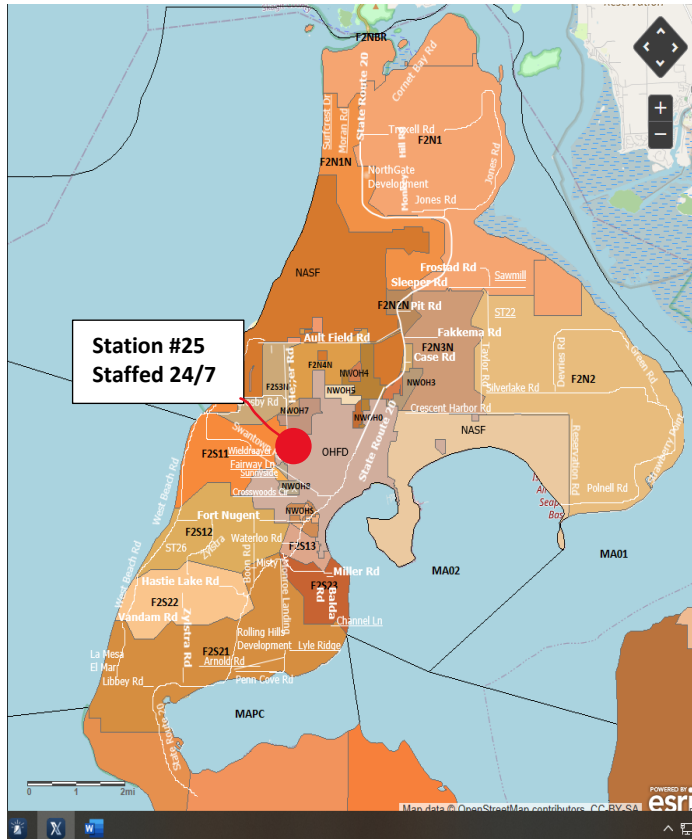
## Mission Statement

The mission of North Whidbey Fire & Rescue is to enhance the quality of life for our community, promote public safety, and provide emergency services to protect and preserve life and property.

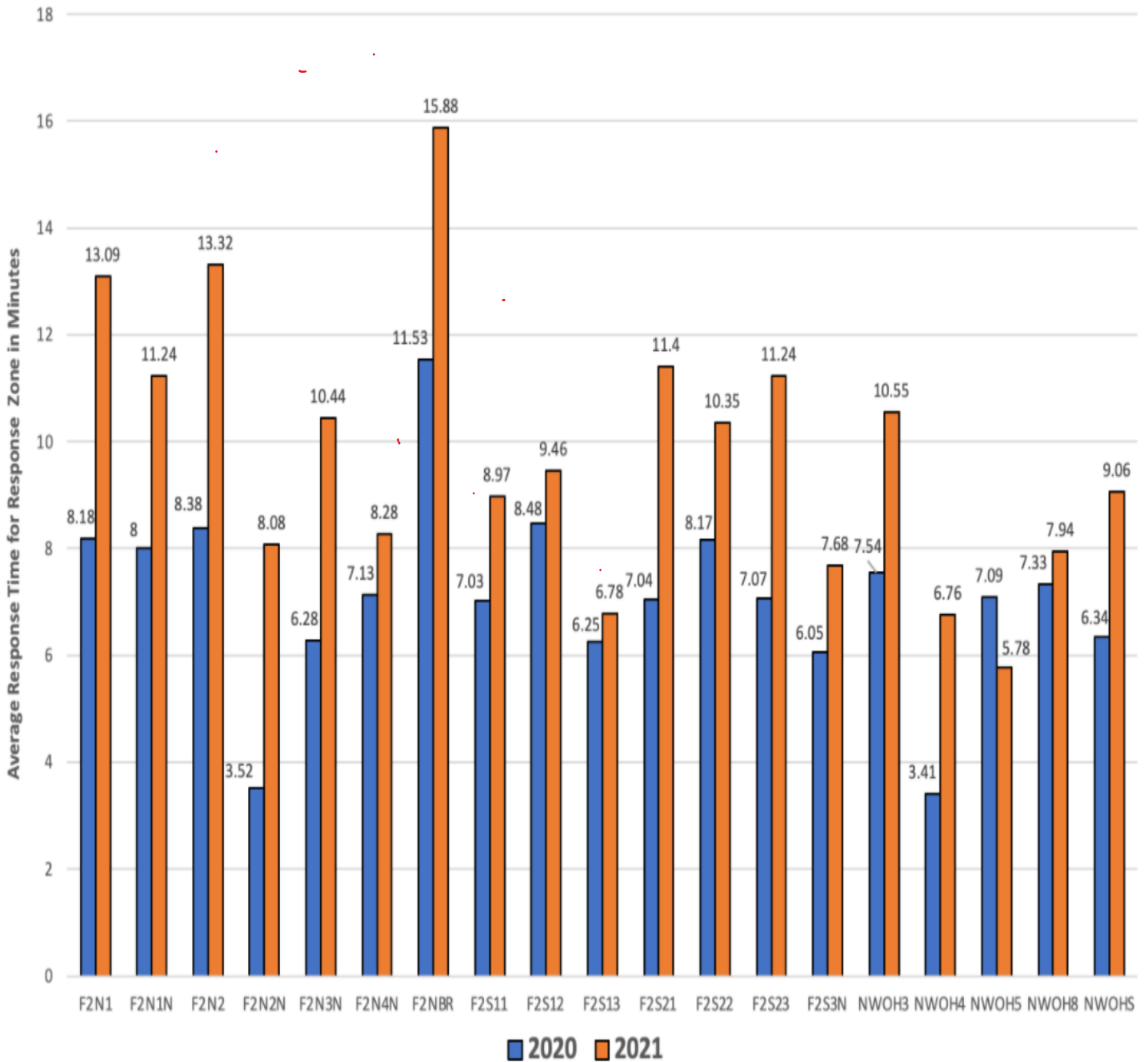
- Combination Department:
  - Staffing: full-time (7), part-time (8), and volunteer firefighters (37)
  - Total staffing: 52
- Services Provided (to include all unincorporated areas)
  - Fire Suppression & Wildland Fire
  - Emergency Medical Service
  - Auto Accidents
  - Marine Search & Rescue
- Seven (7) Fire Stations:
  - One (1) full-time-staffed (Station #25 on Heller)
    - Prior to 2021, NWFR had 2 staffed stations
    - “Full-time-staffed” is a minimum crew of at least 2 certified firefighter/EMTs on duty 24/7
  - Six (6) non-staffed (volunteer only)
- Respond to 2,500+ calls annually
  - Around 68% are **medical** emergencies
- Fire District Levy Comparison (2022 Rates):
  - North Whidbey District #2 - \$0.718 / \$1,000
  - Central Whidbey District #3 - \$0.930 / \$1,000
  - South Whidbey District #5 - \$1.032 / \$1,000
- Independent Fire District:
  - Not affiliated or funded by City of Oak Harbor or Island County
  - Funded by \$0.77 Property Tax (levy in 2021)
  - Recent Levy Lift funds only equipment
  - Mutual Aid Agreements with:
    - City of Oak Harbor
    - Naval Air Station Whidbey Island
    - Island County: All Fire Districts
    - Skagit County: Fire District 6 (Mt. Erie) & Anacortes

**Fire Chief: John Clark – [chiefclark@nwfr.org](mailto:chiefclark@nwfr.org)**  
**770 NE Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277**  
**360.675.1131 ● [www.nwfr.org](http://www.nwfr.org)**

# NWFR Response Zone Map



## Average Response Times by Response Zones



*The above response times are for fire related calls only (Structure fires, car fires, motor vehicle accidents, etc.). Response times for Emergency Medical calls (heart attack, stroke, general illness) may be somewhat less than the above times due to the current placement of Whidbey Health ambulances/staff at NWFR station on Taylor Rd. and Monroe Landing Rd.*

# CAC Fire Survey 2022

You may take the survey on-line @ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LQ2S5B6> or by completing the survey below and dropping off or mailing to the NWFR District Office.

1) Have you ever had first-hand experience with NWFR, such as a house call, vehicle accident, or community support?

Yes                      No

2) Did you know that the **Oak Harbor Fire Department** only provides service within the city limits of Oak Harbor and that **North Whidbey Fire & Rescue** (NWFR) provides services to all unincorporated areas of North Whidbey Island (except NAS Whidbey)?

Yes                      No

3) Should NWFR realign its 7 fire stations to provide the comparable station coverage of similar fire districts in terms of area covered and population?

(for example: Clark County- 4 stations / Pierce County- 6 stations / Yakima County- 4 stations)

Yes                      No

4) The ONLY NWFR full-time-staffed Fire Station (#25 on Heller Road) does not meet NWFR needs (i.e., it is located within the Oak Harbor City limits, and has inadequate space for crew quarters and equipment storage). Should NWFR consider replacing it?

Yes                      No

5) Using the information on charts provided to you, do NWFR's current response times meet your expectation for fire and emergency response services?

Yes                      No

6) Should NWFR hire more paid firefighters to accommodate the shortage of volunteer firefighters?

Yes                      No

7) Should NWFR return to two staffed fire stations (instead of one)?

Yes                      No

8) Are you willing to increase funding to NWFR to improve response times and potentially improve your fire insurance rating?

Yes

No

9) Should NWFR expand Citizen **Training** to include other programs such as Wildfire Awareness and Prevention or Earthquake Preparedness?

Yes

No

10) Should NWFR expand Citizen **Safety** to include other programs such as In House Safety Assessments or Fall Protection?

Yes

No

***If you have additional questions or comments, please direct them to NWFR Fire Chief John Clark at the email address on the enclosed fact sheet.***