

March 25, 2020

Revised April 3, 2020



# MONTHLY REPORT

February 2020

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***SAN JUAN ISLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES***

## **Mission Statement-**

Our mission is to serve our community before, during, and after an emergency

## **Vision Statement-**

Our vision is to exceed the expectations of our unique island community

## **Department Stats-**

- 77 runs for February – 152 runs January 1 through current reporting period.
- 11 fewer calls than during the same period in 2019 = 7% decrease.
- Average number of responders per call = 3.4 for Feb.
- Island Air = 20, Airlift NW = 8, Navy= 0, Coast Guard = 0
- Monthly Average Chute Time (time of page until resource rolling) = 2:44
- Monthly Average Response Times continue to be within suburban benchmarks
  - Overall - Average response time 8:10 with 96% of calls under 20:00 (benchmark for suburban area) and 68% under 10:00 (urban benchmark)
  - In Town – 54 calls – Average response time 7:15 with 74% under 10:00 and 68% under 8:00
  - Mid-Island – 15 calls - Average response time 9:46 with 100% of calls under 20:00 and 67% under 10:00
  - North end – 3 calls - Average response time 16:11 with 100% of calls under 20:00 and 0% under 10:00
  - South end – 2 calls – Average response time 14:38 with 100% of calls under 20:00 and 0% under 10:00
  - Outer Island – no calls
    - Note that these are raw times, not adjusted for staging or extended wait times for ALNW arrival, or simultaneous calls
    - Benchmark times are per North Region EMS & Trauma Care Council standards which comply with State RCWs and WACs

## **Financial Review- as of February 2020**

2020 BUDGET Consolidated Overall COMPARISONS – 17% into this year

San Juan County Financial documentation included

- REVENUE = \$83,130; Cumulative – Jan. – Feb. = \$139,030; 5.2% of budget projections
- EXPENSES = \$180,259; Cumulative – Jan. – Feb. = \$394,414; 13.1% of budget projections
- GEMT = \$11,765; Cumulative – Jan. – Feb. = \$27,475; 8.7% of budget projections
- CASH & RESERVES = \$1,535,860; 7 ½ months of average expenses

## **Community-**

There have been several CPR and First Aid classes for the community during February. Also, the SOLO Wilderness First Responder class and the refresher class at Camp Orkila on Orcas were completed. Currently, we have suspended classes in lieu of social distancing and the Covid-19 situation. The American Heart Association has offered a grace period for those whose certifications are expiring. The on-line versions of classes are available and we are continuing

to schedule individual appointments so that individuals can complete the hands-on portion and become certified.

## **IAFF LOCAL #3219-**

No report

### **Operations-**

We are currently exploring work from home options for administrative staff in response to the Covid-19 situation but can also maintain adequate distance between staff members while at the Station. We have also closed the Station to the public in order to limit exposure to our responders.

The Auditor's team has completed their evaluation. The exit interview was conducted on March 19 via skype / phone conference. In attendance along with the Auditor's team were Commissioners Lindstrum and Clary, Superintendent Hutchins, Executive Assistant Vogel and myself. I am pleased to report that no findings were issued. Findings are the most serious types of issues that represent material deficiencies. There were two Management Letters issued. The Management Letters "communicate control deficiencies, non-compliance or abuse with a less-than-material effect on the financial statements or other items significant to our audit objectives". One letter was regarding inventory control of theft sensitive assets and the other was in reference to the financial statement preparation. The Auditors also conveyed that they saw improvement from past practice and were encouraged by the steps already in process to remedy the situations. A copy of the full report in draft form was provided to me, Superintendent Hutchins and the Commissioners. The final report should be published by the end of the month. The Auditors will return for a financial audit in November and then again for a full financial and accountability audit in 2021.

The County EMS and Trauma Council did not meet during this reporting period but did meet early in March. I was not able to attend being under the weather and I look forward to Commissioner Seitz's report.

Regarding the status of the contract / ILA with the County Dispatch Center. Chief Collins of Fire District 3 has brought the concerns of San Juan Island EMS, San Juan Fire and Rescue and Orcas Island Fire and Rescue to the attention of the County Manager. Apparently, the Mr. Thomas was unaware of any issues and is currently looking into the situation.

Work continues on development of a responder wellness program in conjunction with San Juan Fire and Dr. Corsa to better insure that EMTs and Firefighters stay healthy and strong.

24-hour EMT shifting  
Nothing to report

Medical Protocols  
Nothing to report.

### **Staff Training**

EMS conducting both regularly scheduled trainings. We currently plan to hold our monthly run reviews with a remote option in order to better comply with social distancing. I plan to report on the effectiveness next month.

## **Community Paramedicine-**

The Community Paramedicine program continues smoothly. Development of specific metrics continues to be developed but has been delayed due to my involvement with the County for the Covid-19 situation. The North Sound Accountable Communities of Health (NS ACH) will be conducting site assessments remotely and have delayed the progress reporting a month, this also due to the Covid-19 situation. Generally, the NS ACH releases funds after this reporting period.

## **EMS – Fire Integration**

The Integration Steering Committee (ISC) met twice in February. Topics included updates on the Petition status of the Outer Islands currently within the boundaries of the Hospital District but not in the Fire District and their quest to be included, budget analysis and Town Annexation into the Fire District. A list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding Town Annexation has been developed and a good deal of time was spent editing a final product.

Currently, the Town Annexation issue has been delayed as the April election has been canceled by the Governor due to the Covid-19 situation. Consequently, that issue is in a holding pattern, but plans are to move forward with an August election.

Work continues on integrating operations including dispatch protocols, deployment and planning.

## **Civil Investigative Demand-**

Nothing to report – no word from the Attorney General's Office in response to our reply.

## **Covid-19 Situation-**

The global pandemic has both San Juan County and San Juan Island EMS planning, preparing and modifying our operations in order to deal with the situation. Dr. Corsa has developed guidelines for our response which are periodically modified as more information becomes available. At this time, SJI EMS has adequate supplies of masks, gloves, gowns and goggles which serve as personal protective equipment (PPE). We were able to place orders just ahead of the curve and have a stock of older masks that were purchased through the old Interisland Medical Center. The County has also secured supplies of expired masks that can be used if current stocks run out and can be distributed to EMS, the Hospital and clinics alike. Currently, we have not experienced an unusual number of calls with patients exhibiting Covid-like / flu-like symptoms. We have modified one ambulance with the aim of expedient decontamination in mind. There have been only a handful of calls where full PPE is required and the process for full turn around to "back in service" status is getting quicker. Dispatchers have protocols that alert EMS to the need for full PPE before arrival on the scene.

Superintendent Hutchins and I back each other up with the assistance of our executive assistants for the administrative duties. Operationally, we rely on our medics, staff EMTs and Lieutenants for on scene control.

At the County level an Emergency Operations Center has been established with a full complement based on the National Incident Management Strategy. Kyle Dodd, a Lt. with San Juan Island Fire and Rescue and an EMT serves as the Incident Commander. Kyle Davies, a medic with San Juan EMS and member of the Board of Health serves as the Safety Officer as part of the Command Staff. I am involved as the EMS Branch Director under the Operations Section and coordinate the response on the County level for all the EMS agencies. Adam Greene, Firefighter / EMT serves with the Logistics Section and Nathan Butler works with the Public Information Officer. The County is working on contingency planning regarding resupply for EMS, the Hospital and clinics. As well as transport options for care of patients at mainland

facilities. A surveillance team has been set up to monitor patients currently experiencing mild symptoms along with those that they have had contact with. Currently there are 6 confirmed case in the County with 39 tests pending results and 133 negative results. Work is also occurring developing plans in the eventuality that the mainland Hospitals and PIMC reach capacity. No specifics at this time.

San Juan Island EMS has changed our response model to better suit the situation. We are asking our volunteer EMT to limit their response to routine calls. We have scheduled an additional person to man the station with the regular full-time staff EMT to facilitate the ambulance response while protecting the bulk of our volunteers, keeping them and their families health and to provide depth if any of the full time staff become ill and need to isolate. We are tracking time spent that is specific and unique to the Covid-19 response and submitting that time to the County incident team. It appears likely, that these specific costs will be recoverable from State and Federal funds as a result of the Emergency declarations.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Kuetzing, EMT, WEMT  
Interim Chief  
San Juan Island EMS