



***Watch Hill Fire District
Watch Hill, RI 02891***

March 26, 2020

To the Watch Hill Fire District Community:

The essential charge of the Watch Hill Fire District is to ensure the safety of the residents of our community. To that end, we need to keep our firefighters, both the paid staff and volunteers, as safe as possible.

Fire Chief Robert Peacock has issued explicit regulations to the District's firefighters to combat the spread of the corona virus in accordance with federal, state and local guidelines. They include limiting the number of people at the firehouse at any one-time, continual hand washing with soap or hand sanitizers, requiring the use of protective gloves and masks, enforcing social and physical distancing measures and continuous cleaning and disinfecting the station, tools and equipment. **That notwithstanding, our firefighters will continue to respond to any alarms or emergency situations.** At this time, the Department's response time and emergency service capability will NOT be compromised, and all necessary personnel will be deployed.

If our firefighters need to enter a home, additional preventive procedures will be in place for the benefit of both the residents and fire department personnel. Gloves will be worn by our personnel at all times within the home. Health and safety for all will be paramount.

For the present time, there are no restrictions on the use of Fire District property such as the parking lots and District-owned beach access. Although the District has no jurisdiction over this particular issue, gatherings of large groups – ten or more – are discouraged as they are potentially harmful to the community at large.

We will continue to work with Westerly's Town Manager and Police Chief to be in sync with any town edicts that could affect the District. To that point, the Town Manager and the Police Chief recently issued a Directive (copy attached) for those entering Westerly to adopt a 14-day self-quarantine program. The Watch Hill Fire District supports this Directive.

Like everyone else, we have no idea when the virus strictures will be lifted, so we do not know what restrictions may be in place over the next few months and for portions of the summer season. As the situation evolves, we will be back in touch with you. For any Fire District news, please check our website, www.watchhillfiredistrict.org. While this mailing serves its purpose, we want to be in contact with you as quickly and simply as possible via email. Please forward to whfiredistrict@gmail.com your e-mail address. Your email information will be used solely to contact you on crucial Fire District matters.

All of us need to minimize situations where our Fire Department will be required. Let us cooperate and work together to make the best of a very difficult and dangerous situation.

Kindest regards,

Randolph G. Abod,
Moderator