



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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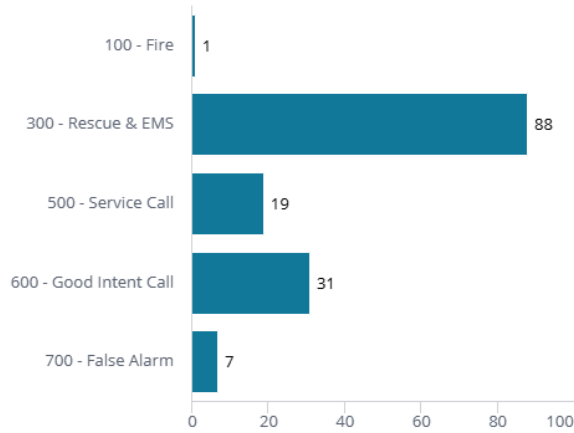
To: Board of Fire Commissioners
 From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd
 Date: June 12, 2025
 Subject: Chief's Report

Operational Activity

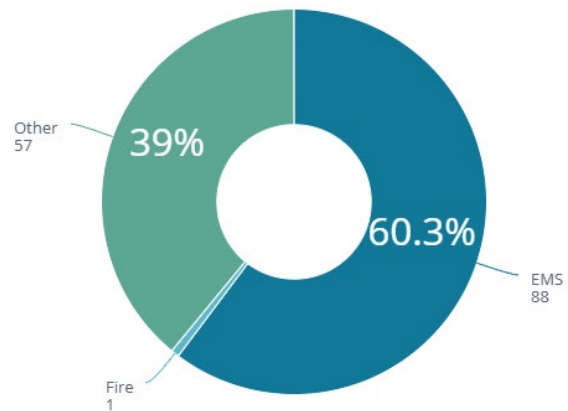
During the previous month, the district received **146 emergency calls** and had **21 concurrent incidents** impacting **14% of total incidences**. **39.7% Fire or Other response** and **60.3% EMS emergency response**.

Frequency by Incident Type

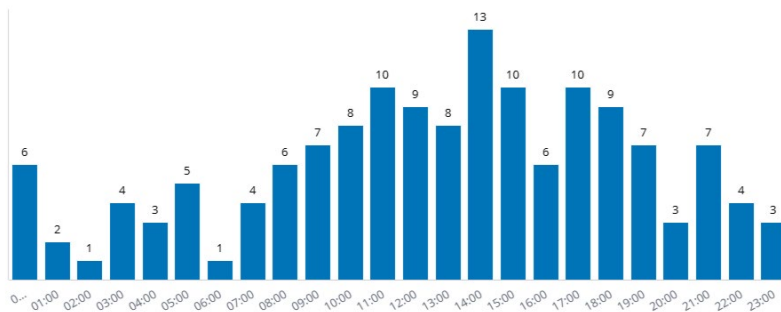
Count of Incidents by Incident Type



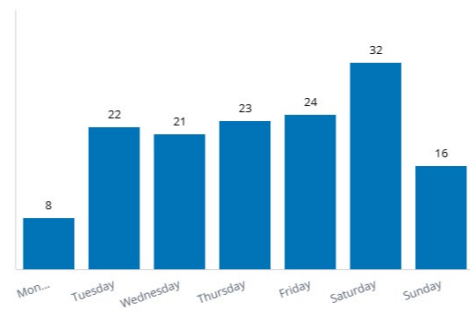
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



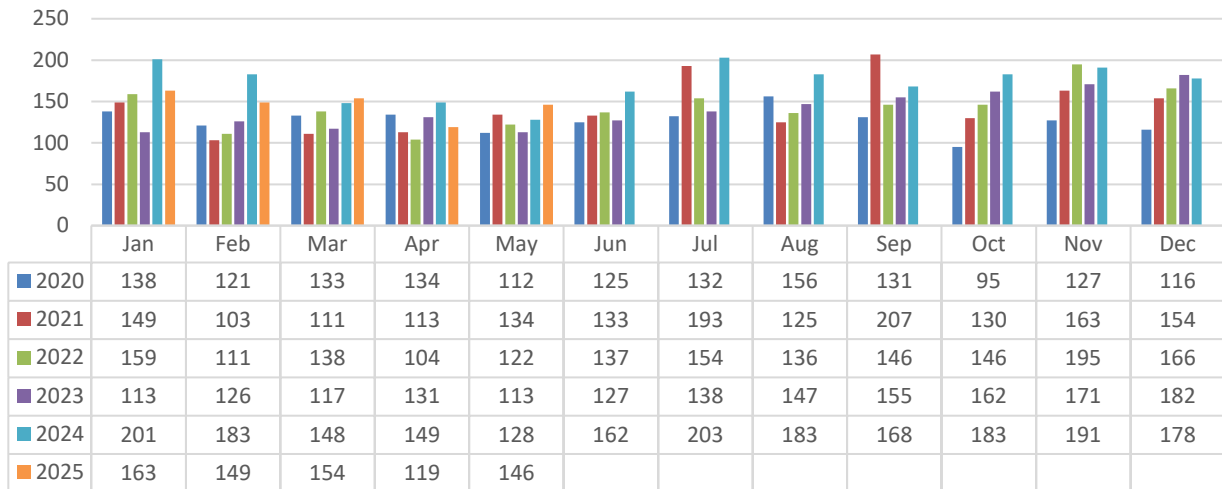
Incident Count by Hour of Day



Incident Count by Day of Week



2025 Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

We are still working through one last closeout with issue with Tiger Construction and Subs regarding the station gutters.

Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings. Chief Helm met multiple days with South Whidbey regarding collaboration efforts. Other Administrative work included: Conducted firefighter written retesting, attended the fire academy graduation, attended a joint meeting with law enforcement and fire for radio collaboration, conducted 2 station 51 visits for multiple kindergarten classes, conducted LTE/LMR radio patch testing with ICOM and Skagit 911, began 2025 budget development process, started construction of LT testing assessment and supporting documents, attended a Whidbey preparedness virtual conference hosted by Island County Department of Emergency Management, and presented in a zoom conference with the US department of Homeland Security on current PPE issues and case study data.

Training & Development

Administrative

I have officially began reviewing applications and meeting with potential volunteer candidates. Interviews are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks as we continue building capacity within our department.

Chief Magallon of South Whidbey and I have also initiated biweekly meetings focused on strengthening interagency collaboration. These sessions include coordinated training and strategic planning to enhance our collective operational readiness.

In June, our joint training exercise will involve simulated residential structure fires at the training tower. The scenario will incorporate smoke generation and manikin rescues, providing a realistic, hands-on environment for practicing fireground coordination and victim extraction. These exercises are essential in fostering effective teamwork and ensuring our crews are prepared for real-world emergency response.

Recruitment

We recently participated in the Hustle with Heroes event. Unfortunately, due to significant rainfall that morning, attendance was lower than expected.

During the event, we identified some issues with our current pop-up tent—specifically, the leg pins are failing, and the canopy is showing signs of wear. I will begin the process of pricing a new tent for use at future events and recruitment efforts. Additionally, I will be evaluating and looking our budget if it allows for other equipment that could better support our crews in setting up and participating in these events.

In-Service Training

In May, three new probationary firefighters joined our department. I conducted a comprehensive 12-day orientation program covering administrative procedures, fundamental firefighting skills, apparatus operations, area familiarization, and introductions to partnering agencies on the island. The orientation also included completion of the EMT protocol test, among other essential onboarding activities.

From May 14th to 16th, Firefighters Frye, Bryson, DeKoster, McCallum, Baily, Conijn, Kellison, and I attended a joint Marine Academy hosted by Camano Fire. This entry-level course qualifies personnel to serve onboard marine units and assist the coxswain in operational roles.

In total, over 550 hours of training were completed during the month, with a significant portion attributed to the orientation program and Marine Academy. The training topics covered included:

- SCBA Quarterly Training
- Hydrant Operations
- Hose Line Advancement
- OTEP Make-up Sessions
- Roll-up Drills
- Apparatus Operator Training
- EMS Training
- Engine Company Operations
- Marine Operations Training
- Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT) – Classroom and Practical Rodeo

Collaboration

Chief Magallon of South Whidbey and I continue to collaborate on initiatives for joint training, focusing on knowledge sharing and identifying opportunities to enhance operational efficiencies.

Battalion Chief McCoy of Camano and I have discussed implementing year-round marine training that incorporates realistic scenarios, including the use of man-overboard manikins and coordination with multiple marine units on the water.

Misty Sellgren from Whidbey Health administered EMT protocol examinations for three of our personnel. Additionally, she provided support addressing questions related to OTEP recertification and ongoing EMT training requirements.

Other

Operations

WSRB

We have provided the WSRB with all requested information for their rerating of our fire district. We should have a preliminary report back from them within a week. A huge thank you to all our personnel, water systems, Island County, and the Town of Coupeville for their efforts in providing information.

ACT (Antidote, CPR, Tourniquet) Class

Jessy Hillier, Steve Stavros, and Jesse Carranza joined me and WH medics Tim Fisher and Ren Waldron in getting certified to teach ACT in our community. We have a meeting scheduled to formalize the path forward and begin our marketing of the class to our communities.

Station 53 Facility Updates

Tiger Construction has completed warranty-related repairs and replacements at Station 53.

Community and Partner Acknowledgments

We had multiple events in May that were attended by members of our organization, including Hearts and Hammers' annual workday, the Penn Cove Water Festival, the Memorial Day Parade, the CHS Softball send-off, and the Hustle with Heroes fun run. We had excellent attendance at all events, and we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our members and the event coordinators.

We will be giving a presentation to the Whidbey Water Association on June 17. This presentation is to provide information on the importance of hydrant testing and the impacts that regular testing has.

Next Month's Events

- 06/10-CES Field Day
- 06/14-Gifts from the Hearts grand opening (We are gathering donations at Station 53)

Special Operations

Training: Six members have been trained as deckhands on Marine 5.

Collaboration: Participated in a meeting with TNC (The Nature Conservancy), WCLT (Whidbey Camano Land Trust), PRI (Pacific Rim Institute), and NPS (National Park Service) regarding upcoming prescribed fire operations.

Equipment:

- New rope rescue soft goods have been ordered and received.
- Heater on Marine 5 has been successfully repaired.

New flush ports added to engines on Marine 5

PPE/Respiratory Protection

- PPE: Issued second sets of bunker gear to 2 active volunteer firefighters. Began the PPE Inventory audit with Career Fire Fighters. This will ensure the Data entered into ESO is correct. PPE budget preparation.

- Respiratory protection: 2 SCBA packs are at SeaWestern for Repair/warranty work and another pack had batteries replaced.

Radios/Pagers

- Radio programming is in the final stages with Skagit 911 and we anticipate early next week for radio deployment. We will have to conduct some quick refresher training as there has been a considerable amount of time between when we did the initial training to present day.

Medical Supplies & CPR

- Public CPR class delivered on 5/17.
- Ordered multiple EMS supplies for re-stock and expiring items.
- Placed a computer for ease of use in medical inventory with a mobile desk for EMS equipment. This will allow all members to document in real time any supplies be removed from stock.

Reports

- 146 calls in May. Rhodes audited 130 NFIRS reports.

Other

- Light AO training – Conijn. Light AO Training and Completion /Heavy AO Training – Bryson.
- Hose testing, ladder testing, and nozzle testing completed by National Hose Testing.
- New mobile desk computer for ESO/EMS inventory.

Facilities

Station 51

- Had the roofing company identify the roof leak.
- Repaired the roof to stop the leak.
- Crawford doors came out to make repairs on two bay doors (they said all motors need to be replaced), and had Vander Griend repair them instead with no problems.
- Requested bids for roof replacement of station 51 for 2026

Station 52 – No updates.

Station 53

- Put up the gear rack in the bay
- Created intake ventilation for the PPE dryer
- Plumbed the drain for the SCBA washer
- Plumbed cold water supply for SCBA washer
- Did final set up on SCBA washer and PPE dryer with Circularair
- Vander Griend repaired the E53 bay door (not closing)
- Exit lights and emergency lights replaced under warranty

Station 54-No updates

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 10 initial inspections and 4 re-inspections for May.
- B shift completed 8 initial inspections and 3 re-inspections for May.
- C shift completed 5/8 initial inspections for May. Whidbey Health started but interrupted by an emergency call.

Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift 97% completion (41/42)
- B shift 96% completion (50/52)
- C shift 90% completion (29/32)

Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- C shift installed 2 new smoke detectors for a resident in Harbor Estates

Hydrants

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A-shift completed 15 of 15 assigned hydrant inspections in Coupeville.
- B-Shift completed 15 of 15 assigned hydrant inspections in Coupeville.
- C-Shift completed 15 of 15 assigned hydrant inspections in Coupeville.

Yearly Inspection progress (355 total)

- A-Shift 100% completion (15/15)
- B-Shift 100% completion (15/15)
- C-Shift 100% completion (15/15)

Additional CRR Activities

- Meeting with building official 5/2/25 regarding Island Prosthetics, Beaver Tales Coffee, and Vail Apartment. Walk-through of prosthetic business with the building official.
- Code research and fire testing of combustible dust in a B occupancy. Research sent to Town of Coupeville regarding a wharf celebration event in July.

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2101 (E-51) – Completed the 750hr Preventative Maintenance and NFPA 1911 inspection.
- Unit 1401 – Rebuilt primer actuator, removed and replaced priming pump and associated fittings, replaced corroded foam bypass hose, completed pump gear box service. Disconnected foam ground fill due to multiple foam pump failures and inability to get parts. Scheduled Cummins tech for service on the aftertreatment system. The truck received a new aftertreatment module, associated temperature sensors, and a new doser valve.
- Unit 1201 (R-51) – Received a new DEF tank assembly due to a DEF tank heater failure. Repair made by Jerry Smith Chevy due to factory programming needed on the aftertreatment module after the repair was made.
- Unit 0702 (T-54) – Removed, rebuilt, and replaced its sticking primer actuator.
- Unit 2002 (B-54) – Removed and replaced the foam injector check valve and the low water pressure cutout switch.
- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Replaced worn shift column bushing due to the shifter having too much play in it.
- Unit 2101 (E-51) – Repaired ground lighting due to wiring being pinched during side step installation by Rosenbauer.
- Unit 2001 (B-53) – Receiving scheduled preventative maintenance on the truck and pumping system with an NFPA 1911 inspection.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

- Attended a webinar on Parasitic Battery Drain put on by the ASE Foundation.
- Completed two EVT recertification tests.