



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

[www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)

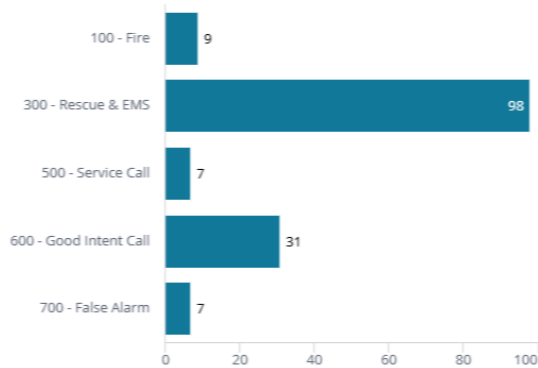
To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
 From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd  
 Date: August 14th, 2025  
 Subject: Chief's Report

## Operational Activity

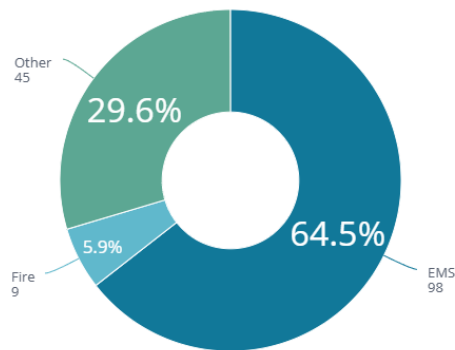
For the month of July 2025, we received **152 emergency service calls**. Of those, **25 overlapping incidents** impacted **16% of total incidents**. **5.9%** Fire response, **29.6%** Other response, and **64.5%** EMS emergency response.

## Frequency by Incident Type

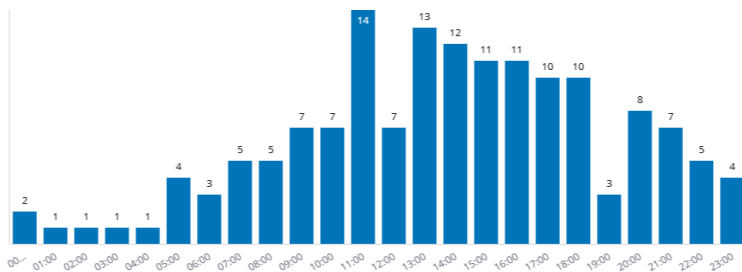
Count of Incidents by Incident Type



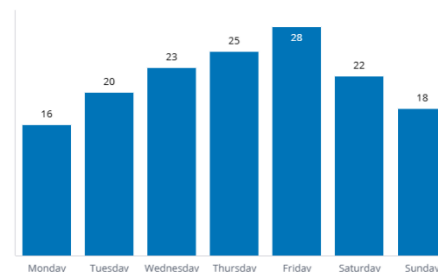
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



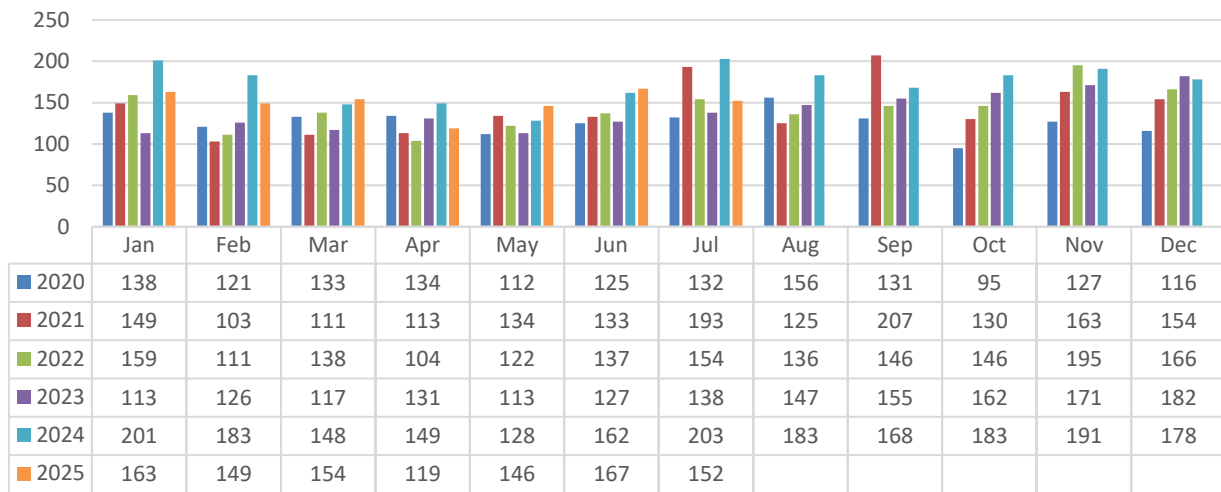
Incident Count by Hour of Day



Incident Count by Day of Week



2025 Incident Frequency by Month



**Station 53 Construction Project**

Gutters have been addressed with the latest fix attempt, and we are monitoring for performance. The SCBA washer has had a catastrophic malfunction and is being replaced with a new machine under warranty. Tiger Construction will be visiting to analyze fascia board performance. An extended warranty was given on this product as part of a specification/product change made during construction.

**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, continued 2025 budget development process, construction of LT testing assessment and supporting documents, hosted an all-hands meeting on central/south BC collaboration trial, new radios in the service on apparatus, attended DEM lead wildfire awareness presentation, presented to Admirals Cove Water District regarding hydrant inspections and testing, attended hospital drill deploying MCI tent. An agreement is in the works with T-Mobile in exchange for hooking their cell tower up to the backup generator for Station 53. A load study was conducted by an electrical engineering firm, and it was determined that there is capacity on our generator for the addition of the tower. The terms are still being negotiated, but I am anticipating some cost offset/sharing for fuel and annual maintenance agreements. Chief Helm also received the Finance Officer/Board Secretary Cathy Niros' official retirement notice, effective January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd

### **Administrative**

I met with Chief Magallon to discuss key action items necessary to ensure a smooth transition into the Joint Battalion Chief roles next month. As part of the transition, he will spend a day shadowing and becoming familiar with our district, and I plan to do the same before the end of the month.

Additionally, I am finalizing the updated interview questions for volunteer candidates. We have completely revised the panel interview format, and several members have reviewed the new questions. They are currently being integrated into the new grading form. This process has involved multiple members from all levels of the organization, and I am very grateful for their assistance. Although it has taken longer than I would like, it will ultimately benefit our volunteer interviews for years to come.

We are also in the final stages of drafting the updated Volunteer SOG, which is expected to be completed before next month's meeting.

### **Recruitment**

**Volunteer Applications:** We received a limited number of volunteer applications in July, which is not unexpected given the typical increase in personal commitments during the summer months. However, we are looking forward to conducting interviews with the current applicants in the coming weeks.

### **In-Service Training**

In July, personnel completed a total of 252 hours of training.

Training topics covered during in-service sessions included:

- Forcible Entry
- Apparatus Operator Training
- Initial Radio Reports (in coordination with South Whidbey Fire/EMS)
- IGel and LUCAS Device Refresher Training
- Marine Operations (with Camano Fire)
- Supply Line Operations
- Special Operations: Structural Collapse Response
- Island Transit Hybrid Bus Fire Simulations

These sessions supported both individual skill development and inter-agency coordination efforts.

### **Collaboration**

I met with staff from Island Transit to discuss a simulated response for a hybrid bus fire. The simulation included emergency protocols for Island Transit personnel, while CWIFR provided a simulated fire response using an engine and tender. Following the exercise, Island Transit fleet mechanics conducted a walk-around of the hybrid bus to familiarize our crews with key features, including emergency shut-offs, suppression systems, and other operational components critical during an emergency response.

Additionally, I met with Craig Anderson, who recently joined Whidbey Health EMS as their new Training Officer. We conducted an after-action review of a recent CPR incident where the LUCAS device was deployed. Craig provided a detailed analysis of the code and reviewed it in depth with me and C Shift.

Our agency continues to collaborate with South Whidbey Fire/EMS on monthly joint training sessions, as scheduling permits. We are also preparing for the upcoming training transition in early September, which Chief Magallon will lead.

### **Other**

## **Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek**

### **FIIRE Program**

In July, CWIFR received notification that we have been awarded over \$12,000 from the L&I FIIRE Program to purchase binder lifts (patient lifting devices), Storm Sticks (on-scene decon), and Sanistride Mats (antimicrobial mats). This equipment will aid in preventing member injury and exposure to carcinogens. We should have this equipment purchased and in place in 2025.

### **Community Partnerships**

We continue working with the Sherhill Vista HOA on improving fire prevention and fire department response in their area. In July, the community created a drop tank location to address water supply issues within the region, and we will be conducting a mock drill this Friday to confirm that the changes are effective.

Since our hydrant presentation to the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association in June, we have engaged with multiple water system representatives, answering questions and providing feedback and direction on hydrant testing and inspection. Additionally, we have been working with Island County to modify the requirements for water system franchisees, ensuring that our hydrants undergo testing and inspections to meet functionality and WSRB standards.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be conducting a drill in downtown Coupeville to simulate a fire at Vail Wine and a presentation on fire prevention, and a Q&A session. Volunteers from Station 51 will be utilized for the exercise. This drill is for Fire Safety Week in the Town of Coupeville and is spearheaded by Jesse Levesque and the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association.

### **ESO and ImageTrend**

We have finally transitioned completely from ImageTrend. This transition encompassed the transfer of years of EMS and NFIRS reports, fire inspections, the development of our EMS and fire environment, the creation of personal profiles, scheduling, apparatus inspection checklists, and numerous other components. FF Luke Hillier, Lt. Jen Porter, and administrative assistant Sonja Lindenstein were instrumental in this transition, and I want to extend a personal thank you to all of them for their continued work and support over the last year.

### **Upcoming Events – August**

- August 5<sup>th</sup>: National Night Out
- August 11 & 12: Arts and Crafts Festival

### **Special Operations**

- M5 repair by Kellison
- FF Kellison has created a new M5 task book that multiple parties are now reviewing.
- Kellison participated in a planning meeting for prescribed fires.

### **PPE/Respiratory Protection**

- 2026 budget planning
- Ordered structure gloves, leather gloves, wildland headlamps, Streamlight flashlights, passport collectors for vehicles, and leather passport tags for helmets. Issued wildland Fire gear/Coveralls. Issued bunker gear.
- Respiratory Protection: Batteries replaced in one SCBA pack. 2 packs waiting to be returned by Seawestern from repair.

### **Radios/Pagers**

- Our new radios are in service on apparatus throughout the CWIFR district!

### **Medical Supplies & CPR**

- Ordered new EMS equipment for BC Lloyd and restock of I-Gels. Implemented I-Gels on all EMS licensed rigs.

### **Reports**

- Rhodes audited 153 NFIRS report for the month of July.

### **Other**

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## **Facilities**

### **Station 51**

- Rebuilt toilet flush valves
- Repaired bay door bottom seals

**Station 52** – No updates.

### **Station 53**

- Cleaned filters for air handlers

### **Station 54**

- Replaced bay door receivers and remotes for brush and engine bays

## Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

### Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 6/6 initial inspections for July. 1 re-inspection completed
- B shift completed 7/7 initial inspections for July. 2 re-inspections completed
- C shift completed 5/6 initial inspections for July. 1 re-inspection completed

### Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift YTD: 100% (44/44)
- B shift YTD: 100% (53/53)
- C shift YTD: 93% (37/40)

### Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- Batteries changed in 5 smoke alarms off Lovejoy

### 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 (45/45)
- B-Shift 100% completion (45/45)
- C-Shift 100% completion (45/45)

### Additional CRR Activities

- Hydrant marked OOS at Coupeville Elementary School. Notified the Town of Coupeville and Coupeville schools.
- 5 hours inspection, managing data input/tegris verification.
- Pre-planning for 120<sup>th</sup> Wharf Celebration.

## Fleet Maintenance Division

### Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2001 (B-53) – Fabricated new engine mount for pump engine that was found during P.M. service.
- Unit 1101 (Admin Vehicle) – Received scheduled P.M. service.
- Unit 1201 (R-51) - Received scheduled P.M. service.

- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Received A/C service and repair from Precision Tire and Automotive.
- Unit 1402 (Admin Vehicle) – Diag and Repair for a check engine light concerning a rich condition.
- Kubota Tractor – Repaired missing and broken deck wheel.
- Unit 2301 (Fleet Truck) - Received scheduled P.M. service.

**Other Fleet Maintenance Activity**

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