



# 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)

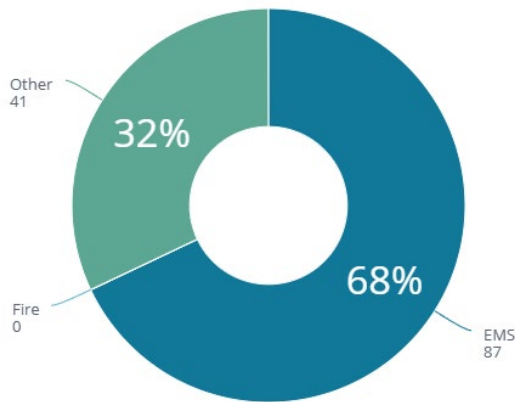
To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
 From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd  
 Date: December 11th, 2025  
 Subject: Chief's Report

## Operational Activity

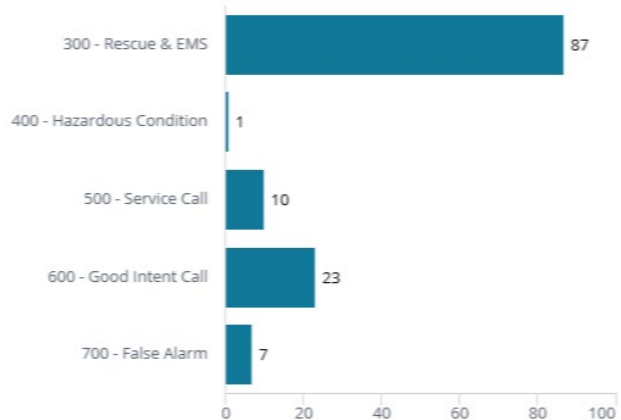
For the month of November 2025, we received **128 emergency service calls**. Of those, **19 overlapping incidents** impacted **15% of total incidents**. **0.0 %** Fire response, **32.0 %** Other response, and **68.0 %** EMS emergency response.

### Frequency by Incident Type

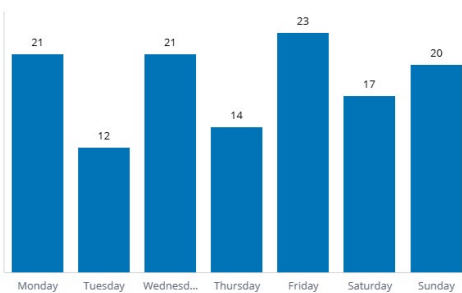
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



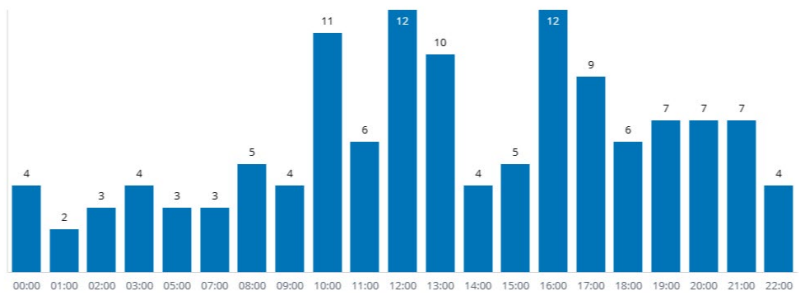
Count of Incidents by Incident Type



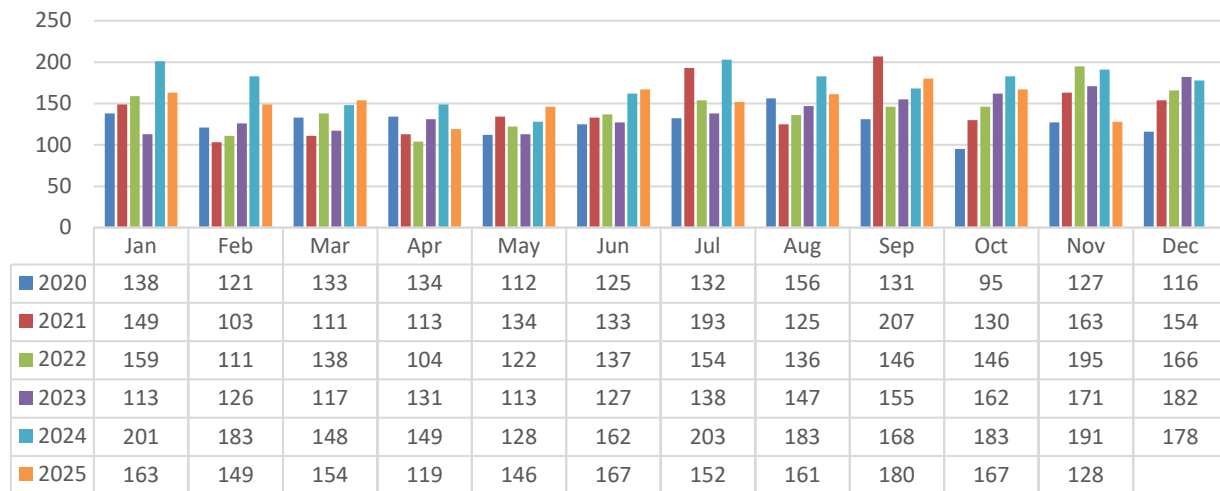
Incident Count by Day of Week



Incident Count by Hour of Day



2025 Incident Frequency by Month



**Station 53 Construction Project**

SCBA Washer back up and running.

**Other Administrative work**

Chief Helm attended the Island County EMS and Fire Tac meetings. Chief Helm met on multiple days with South Whidbey to discuss collaboration/efficiency efforts and leadership meetings. Chief Helm collaborated with South County Fire on borrowing fittings in an attempt to identify some unknown hydrant connections that we identified. Chief Helm spoke to the Coupeville Elementary Leadership club on community leadership characteristics and traits. Met with ISO for planning stages for the upcoming 2025 server and outlook updates. Visited the Bellingham Fire vehicle surplus offices to evaluate two ambulances they have for surplus. Cathy finalized the 2026 budget with the required documents and submitted it to the county. Met with the local multiple times on the 2026 shift schedule.

**Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd**

**Administrative**

We continue to collaborate with South Whidbey Fire/EMS on training and 24/7 coverage with the new joint Battalion Chief position in place.

The Apparatus Work Group is continuing to update the task books for all pumping apparatus. This group includes Lt. Huff, FF Burnett, FF De Koster, FF Dotson, and me.

Additionally, I am looking into the feasibility of utilizing an acquired structure for training purposes—specifically, the property formerly owned by the late former volunteer Don Allen.

**Recruitment**

**Volunteer Applications:** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

All 7 recruits have completed and passed their background checks. They will now take the FireTEAM test, which is a standardized entry-level assessment that includes human relations, mechanical aptitude, reading ability, and math components.

### **In-Service Training**

In November, our personnel completed a total of **612 hours of training**, representing a significant increase over our typical monthly training hours. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to **Firefighter Kellison**, who worked days from November 3rd–8th to lead and deliver marine training for the duty crews. The commitment, along with the hard work of the crews, greatly contributed to improving our operational proficiency. Additionally, Chief Ed Hartin provided Blue Card Incident Command training for six of our members to become qualified incident commanders. We greatly appreciate Chief Hartin's willingness to assist the department!

Additional training completed during the month included:

- Apparatus operations
- Online medical training
- Medical OTEP: Abdominal issues
- Basic MCI review
- Large animal rescue
- Salvage and overhaul
- Cold weather preparation
- Officer's choice training
- Blue Card Incident Command certification

### **Collaboration**

Craig Anderson from WHEMS and the Battalion Chiefs coordinated a multi-agency CPR skills session with multiple crews. This training will take place on December 3rd at Station 53. This is likely to become a recurring opportunity and will strengthen our skills through continued partnership focused on improving CPR performance and overall medical care.

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

### **Community Partnerships**

In November, the Operations Division made substantial progress across a wide range of initiatives. We continued to address BAT31 paging issues and processed multiple public records requests. At the same time, Justin Burnett and our crews did a phenomenal job preparing for Santa Mobile through impressive decorating and coordination. The division completed the 2026 ESO schedule, held ACT class meetings, and advanced

organizational planning. We also coordinated with the Pacific Rim Institute for their Santa event, conducted SCBA inspections, and facilitated procurement and distribution of the L&I FIIRE grant equipment—special thanks to Stavros and Majestic for their support. Additionally, we continued integration of the NERIS platform and assigned career members targeted tasks to build familiarity and competency with the new system.

#### **Notable November Events and Incidents**

- High angle rescue of dog and owner
- Multiple motor vehicle accidents

#### **Upcoming Events – December**

- Santa Mobile!

#### **Special Operations**

- No update

#### **PPE/Respiratory Protection**

- Stavros: Stavros completed a quarterly small items PPE inventory. Ordered and received 3 storm sticks (Decon Wash Devices) that were paid from a department won Grant.
- BC Lloyd replaced batteries in six packs and DC Meek performed SCBA tests on all packs for potential manufacturer defect. We are happy to report that we found zero packs with the possible issue presented by Scott.

#### **Radios/Pagers**

- No Update

#### **Medical CPR & ACT**

- We are getting close to kicking off ACT classes within the Central Whidbey, and soon, Whidbey Island area. Last parts are to get sign-ups on the website and network with local groups to garner interest. A huge thank you to Jessy Hillier for all her work managing this program.

#### **Reports**

- Rhodes audited 127 calls for November.

#### **Other**

- Nothing to report.

## **Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff**

#### **Station 51**

- Nothing to report

#### **Station 52**

- C-Shift cleaned the gutters and pressure washed the doors.
- Tree branches were limbed, but further work to remove trees is planned. The tree removal is to protect the station and minimize overgrowth.

**Station 53**

- Repaired washing machine door seal
- Installed TV in gym
- SCBA washer installed but now leaks

**Station 54**

- Nothing to report

**Other Facilities**

- Nothing to report

**Community Risk Reduction (CRR)—Lt. Jen Porter**

**Monthly Inspection Progress**

- A shift completed 3/5 initial inspections for November.
- B shift completed 5/8 initial inspections for November.
- C shift completed 0/6 initial inspections for November.
- Crews had difficulty completing inspections due to 2 weeks of blue card and marine training. December has no scheduled inspections and will be an opportunity to catch up.

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

- A shift completed 64/66 inspections or 97%
- B shift completed 71/77 inspections or 92%
- C shift completed 57/71 inspections or 80%

**Home Safety Surveys & Installations**

- C shift replaced 8 smoke alarm batteries at Pinecrest avenue.

**Hydrants**

***Monthly Inspection Progress***

- A shift completed November assignment.
- B shift-no report
- C shift-no report

***Yearly Inspection progress (355 total)***

- A-Shift 100% completion (82/82)
- B-Shift 91% completion (75/82)
- C-Shift 100% completion (86/86)

**Additional CRR Activities**

- We received a public records request for the Inverness fire investigation report and a records request for Beaver Tales fire inspections.

## Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

### Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 1501 – Scheduled P.M. service and rear brake service.
- Unit 1401 – Continued service and repairs.
- Unit's 2301, 2302, 2303 – Working with Rosenbauer and General Fire to attend to warranty items.
- Unit 1801 – Scheduled P.M. service.
- **Other Fleet Maintenance Activity**
- EMS online assignments.