



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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

To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm & Division Chief James Meek  
Date: January 9, 2025  
Subject: Chief's Report

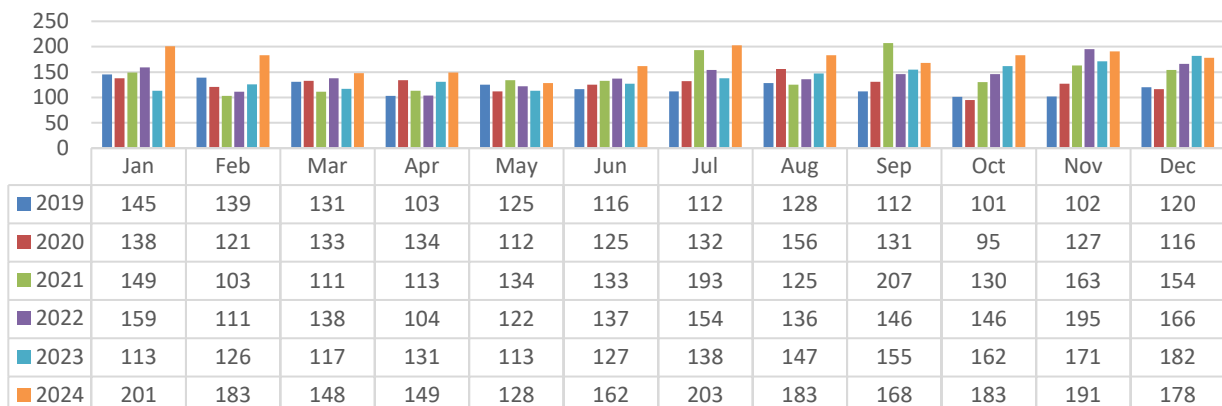
## Operational Activity

During the previous month, the district received **178 emergency calls** and had **62 concurrent incidents** impacting **34% of total incidences**. As of the end of 2024, we responded to 2077 emergency calls. This equates to 395 more calls than 2023 and 464 more calls than our past 5-year annual average.

### Frequency By Incident Type

Incident type	Frequency
1 - Fire	3
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	107
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	10
5 - Service Call	20
6 - Good Intent Call	31
7 - False Alarm & False Call	7
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
9 - Special Incident Type	0
Total	178

### 2024 Incident Frequency by Month



## **Station 53 Construction Project**

Received our final change order from Tiger Construction. We are still working through some small warrantee issues.

## **Other Administrative work**

Chief Helm attended the Island County Fire Chiefs, EMS council, and ICOM Fire Tac meetings. Working with Washington DOH for final steps in the process for our BLS license. Chief Helm attended the Northwest EMS Council meeting held at Skagit 911. Chief Helm attended a workshop with South County Fire & Rescue on mutual aid response and coordinated marine training. We received one application for the vacant training officer position.

## **Training & Development**

### **Administrative**

The 2025 training plan was created to reflect the change to a 48/96 shift schedule.

### **Recruitment**

Fire academy recruits are actively working on their pre-academy assignments. We will host our four fire academy recruits on January 17<sup>th</sup> to provide orientation on the fire academy and their bunker gear and SCBA.

### **In-Service Training**

In December, we received online electric vehicle training through Vector Solutions, roll-up drills at Camp Casey, EVDT training, and a two-week career FF orientation provided by FF John Lloyd for our new career members. Multiple shift members and volunteers assisted with the orientation training.

### **Collaboration**

DC Meek and FF Lloyd met with DC Magallon of SWFE to discuss the 2025 fire academy. We are currently reviewing the fire academy schedule for finalization.

We are looking to have Skagit 911 present training on our new radios in January. Chief Helm is coordinating this training.

### **Other:**

## **Operations**

Our new career members (Andreas De Koster, Kyle Bryson, and Jared Frye) started their shift rotation on January 1st, and all members have passed their EMT protocol tests. They are awaiting approval through our MPD to engage in EMS for our district.

We are excited to announce that we are now live with ESO! We sincerely thank Luke Hillier and all our members who contributed valuable feedback during the December ESO testing phase. Also, I would like to thank Misty Sellgren (WhidbeyEMS) for all her time and efforts in helping us set up the EHR portion of ESO.

While we continue to import non-critical information and address outstanding issues, we are pleased to report that we have successfully integrated into the program.

The Santa Mobile event was another outstanding success. Central Whidbey Fire residents generously delivered 2,800 lbs. of community food donations to Gifts from the Heart. As always, our community's dedication to supporting those in need was truly remarkable. Thank you to Justin Burnett, Debbie Jackson, Santa, and many volunteers who made the 2024 Santa Mobile a success.

Tiger Construction came to Station 53 on several occasions to address water issues with the gutters, cabinets, HVAC, and lighting issues. None of the issues are critical; they are simply problems our members have brought up and need addressing.

Finally, Jake Keating has completed his light apparatus qualification. Congratulations, Jake, and thank you to Travis Dotson and Jake for all their efforts in accomplishing this task!

### **Events**

Annual Banquet 1/24/25—Oak Harbor Yacht Club

Central Whidbey Cooperative Preschool Station Tour (February 14 or 15)

### **Significant Incidents**

12/19 Cardiac arrest.

12/14 Wind storm.

12/07 Residential fire (Wanamaker).

12/01 Commercial building fire at Ryan's House (outbuilding).

### **Special OPS**

All bunker gear was inventoried at Station 53.

Bunker gear and PPE were input into an ESO spreadsheet for asset management.

New helmets were ordered, delivered, and placed into the inventory.

### **PPE/Respiratory Protection**

FF Steve Stavros organized and inventoried PPE.

### **Radios/Pagers**

Received our new radios.

### **Medical Supplies and CPR**

Built inventory list to port/transfer into ESO, LT Majestic has been working with FF Luke Hillier on programming an efficient way to capture supplies used in the field for accurate inventory.

CPR instructor Jessy Hillier completed a CPR class on 11/18 and will conduct a CPR class in January for the academy recruits.

### **Reports**

Rhodes completed the review of 181 NFIRS reports for the month of December.

### **Other**

FF Wolken completed his task book on heavy A/O with the assistance from Volunteers Dotson and Keating. Both of whom received training on heavy A/O evolutions.

## **Facilities**

### **Station 51**

Nothing to report.

### **Station 52**

Nothing to report.

### **Station 53**

Tiger Continues addressing issues reported by members.

All HVAC filters were cleaned at Station 53.

### **Station 54**

Nothing to report.

## **Community Risk Reduction**

### **Monthly Inspection Progress**

A shift completed 2 re-inspections during December.

B shift completed 3 initial inspections during December.

C shift completed 3 initial inspections during December.

### **Yearly Inspection Progress**

A shift 100% completion of 2024 inspection assignment. (90/90)

B shift 100% completion of 2024 inspection assignment. (66/66)

C shift 100% completion of 2024 inspection assignment. (61/61)

### **Home Safety Survey/Installations**

Assisted homeowner with smoke alarm batteries at Long Ears Way.

Assisted homeowner with smoke alarm battery at Quail Run Lane.

### **CRR Programs and other inspection activity**

FF Burnett along with staff and volunteers spent many hours decorating and completing eight successful Santa mobile runs, also collecting lots of food bank donations.

LT Porter met with the Town of Coupeville building official. LT Porter completed an investigation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street fire. FF Lindenstien and LT Porter completed a dig-out of the fire on Wanamaker Road. LT Porter completed the initial inspection at Ryan's House following the shed fire.

Lt. Porter spent five hours inputting inspection information in to ESO for 2025 inspections.

## **Fleet Maintenance Division**

### **Repair and Maintenance**

Unit 0603 T-51 – Failed plastic T-Connector on cooling system caused massive coolant leak. Replaced OEM plastic T-Connector with brass connector in effort to avoid future failures.

Besides T-51 and multiple other small routine repairs on the fleet, December's work was primarily installing new portable radio chargers into CWIFR's fleet. These installs will continue into January.

### **Other Fleet Maintenance Activity**

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