



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

www.cwfire.org

To: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd

Date: July 10, 2025

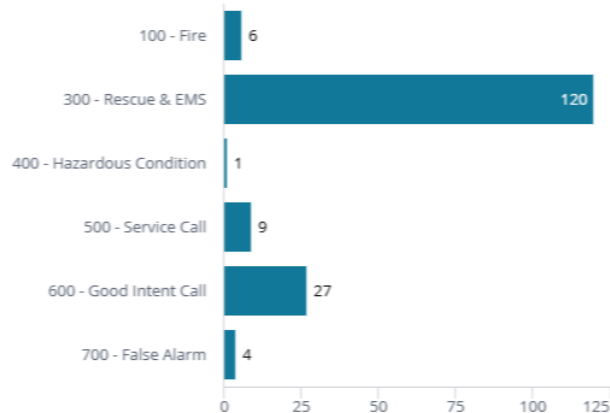
Subject: Chief's Report

Operational Activity

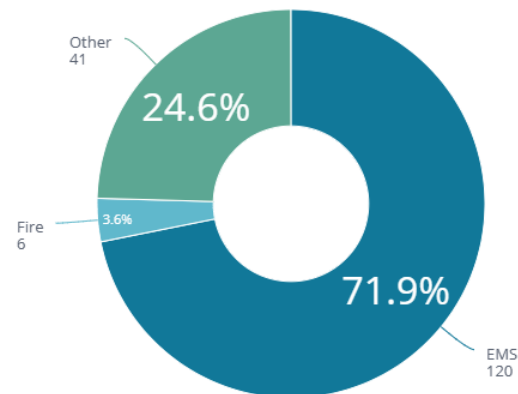
During the previous month, the district had its busiest June in over 5 years. This is our second consecutive month of setting a new 5-year high. In June, we received **167 emergency calls** for service. Of those, **36 were concurrent incidents**, impacting **22% of total incidents**. **3.6%** Fire response, **24.6%** Other response, and **71.9%** EMS emergency response.

Frequency by Incident Type

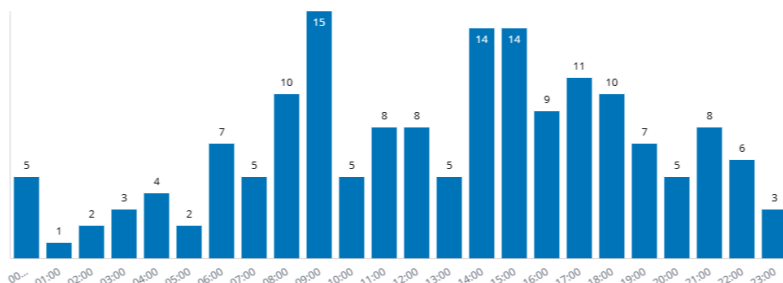
Count of Incidents by Incident Type



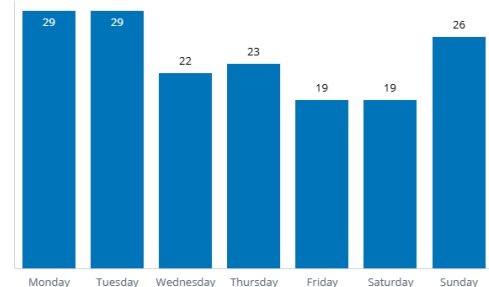
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



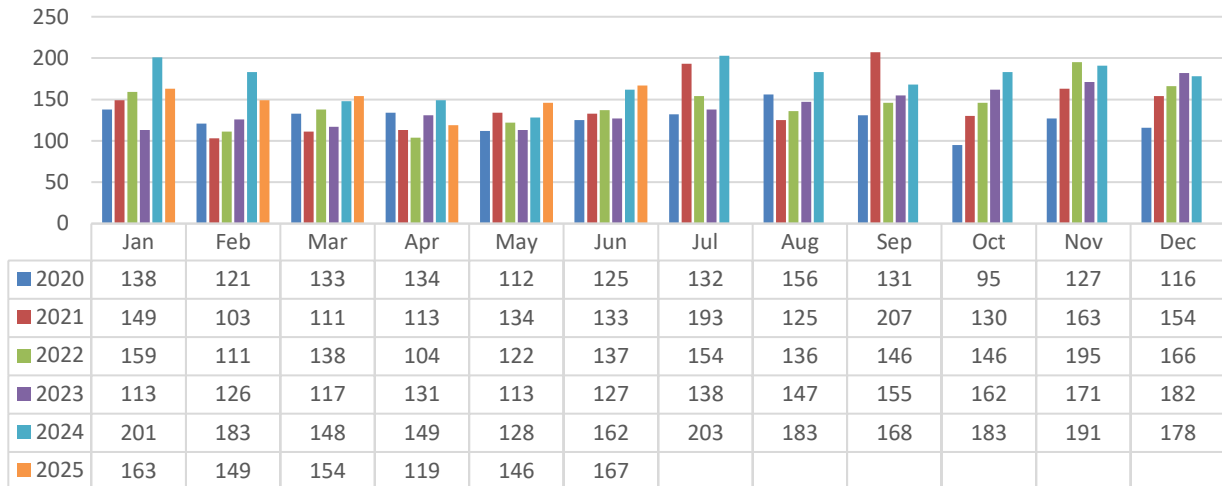
Incident Count by Hour of Day



Incident Count by Day of Week



2025 Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

We are still working through one last closeout with issues 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, began 2025 budget development process, continued construction of LT testing assessment and supporting documents, met with Tamera Patterson regarding county inspections, met with MPD Dr. Krystal Baciak regarding Lucas Device and I-gel implementation.

Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd

Administrative

Volunteer Interview Process: New interview questions are currently being finalized and will be ready for implementation during the July volunteer interviews.

Inter-Agency Training: Chief Magallon and I continue to collaborate on inter-agency training initiatives. In June, we conducted multi-company roll-up drills involving both career and volunteer personnel.

July Training Focus: Training sessions in July will emphasize delivering effective initial radio reports and developing primary incident command (#1 IC) skills for company officers.

Recruitment

Volunteer Applications: We currently have nine volunteer applications, most of which are in the initial review stage. I have met individually with the majority of these applicants to provide an overview of the organization, outline volunteer roles and responsibilities, and discuss expectations. The next phase for these candidates is the panel interview process, which I aim to schedule for mid-July. This step will help further assess their suitability to volunteer with CWIFR.

In-Service Training

In June, personnel completed a total of 238 hours of training.

EMT Recertification: Four EMTs submitted for recertification of their medical licenses. This process is the result of a three-year cycle of ongoing training, including hands-on skill evaluations, in-person instruction, and online coursework. Due to this recertification effort, June included substantial self-study time to support members in maintaining their certifications.

Individual and Company Training: Members were provided with multiple opportunities throughout the month to complete individual training or participate in company-level drills, ensuring flexibility while maintaining training standards.

June In-Service Training Topics Included:

- Multi-company roll-up drills
- Initial Incident Command (#1 IC) size-up
- Pumping, drafting, and relay operations
- Wildland attack line deployment
- Lucas Device training
- Online training

Collaboration

Inter-Agency Training with South Whidbey: We continue to collaborate regularly with South Whidbey Fire/EMS on monthly training topics. This ongoing partnership not only enhances operational consistency but also strengthens our shared commitment to providing high-quality service to the communities we serve.

Training with WhidbeyHealth EMS: I led multiple training sessions with Whidbey Health EMS, successfully instructing approximately 90% of their personnel on the use of the Lucas Device during CPR scenarios. These sessions ensured their team was fully prepared for the device to go into service on July 1st.

Other

Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek

WSRB Update

We have received preliminary notification from the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) that Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) will maintain its current Protection Class (PC) rating across the district. This is excellent news, particularly considering the organizational challenges and global disruptions

experienced over the past five years. We anticipate receiving formal confirmation and detailed feedback from WSRB in the coming weeks. While the results are encouraging, we acknowledge areas within the grading schedule that offer opportunities for improvement. CWIFR remains committed to addressing these areas and enhancing our PC rating during the next evaluation cycle.

FIIRE Program

CWIFR has submitted its annual Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) and grant application to the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. The SIP is a required component to maintain active participation in the Firefighter Injury and Illness Reduction (FIIRE) Program. This year's grant request totals approximately \$16,000 and includes funding for Binder Lifts, F500 Encapsulator Agent (a firefighting suppressant), Storm Sticks, and Sanistride Mats. These items support our ongoing efforts to reduce exposure to carcinogens and prevent musculoskeletal injuries among our personnel.

Community Partnerships

In June, CWIFR members participated in several community outreach events, including the grand opening of the new Gifts from the Heart food bank and Coupeville Elementary School's annual Field Day. We also presented to the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association on the topic of hydrant testing and inspection. Additional outreach included fire prevention discussions with the Cathedral Drive neighborhood association, collaboration on the planning for the Coupeville Wharf 120th anniversary celebration, and a meeting with YMCA Camp Casey leadership to gain insight on upcoming changes at the facility.

LUCAS Device Deployment

As of July 1, the LUCAS mechanical CPR device has been placed in service on unit A503. We extend our sincere appreciation to our Medical Program Director, Dr. Baciak; EMS Director Chris Tumblin; and the WhidbeyHealth and CWIFR personnel who contributed to the training and implementation process.

Upcoming Events – July

- July 11–12: Ragnar Race
- July 16: Touch-a-Truck at Coupeville Library

Special Operations

M5 had minor repairs conducted by Matros and Kellison.

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

- We are awaiting Skagit 911 programming of our new radios to place them in service. Anticipated to be completed by the end of the week.

Medical Supplies & CPR

- EMS inventory check completed.
- Completed CPR class 6/13/2025.
- Ordered EMS equipment to maintain PAR levels.
- Received quote for new AED to sync with LUCAS device, and a proposal to Chiefs Helm and Meek was submitted.

Reports

- 171 incidents in June. Rhodes audited 137 NFIRS reports

Other

- LN Curtis: TFT nozzle demonstration/Nozzle flow test

Facilities

Station 51-No updates.

Station 52 – No updates.

Station 53

- Hung shelves and plaques in entryway

Station 54

- Replaced bathroom faucet.
- Repaired bay hose spigot

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 9 initial inspections, 1 re-inspection.
- B shift completed 17 initial inspections, 3 re-inspections.
- C shift completed 2 initial inspection, 1 re-inspection.

Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift YTD 39/39 or 100%
- B shift YTD 38/38 or 100%
- C shift YTD 35/40 or 88%

Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- Installed 6 smoke/co alarms 6/25/25
- Changed batteries in 5 smoke alarms on Blockhouse Road 6/1/25

- Installed 2 CWIFR-provided smoke alarms off Byrd Drive
- Installed 1 CWIFR provided smoke alarm, moved one existing alarm, and changed batteries in 2 smoke alarms off Admirals drive

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 (30/30)
- B-Shift 100% completion (30/30)
- C-Shift 100% completion (30/30)

Additional CRR Activities

- Conducted 2 requests for VRBO inspections 6/1/25
- Conducted 2 VRBO requests 6/24/25

Fleet Maintenance Division

Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2001 (B-53) - Receiving its scheduled NFPA 1911 service and maintenance.
- Unit 0701 (T-53) - Receiving its scheduled NFPA 1911 service and maintenance.
- Unit 0701 (T-53) – Replaced the intake relief valve due to it becoming broken during training.
- Unit 2303 (501) - Received scheduled Preventive Maintenance and new tires due to serviceability wear.
- Unit 2501 (A-503) – Repaired a headlight issue.
- Unit 0603 (T-51) – Received a post-deployment inspection and repairs.
- Unit 1801 (505) – Received scheduled Preventive Maintenance.
- Unit 2103 (E-53) – Received repair to the line voltage system due to a manufacturing failure with wiring connectors inside a J-box.
- **Other Fleet Maintenance Activity**
- Attended Whidbey Health's Lucas training.