



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: November 13th, 2025

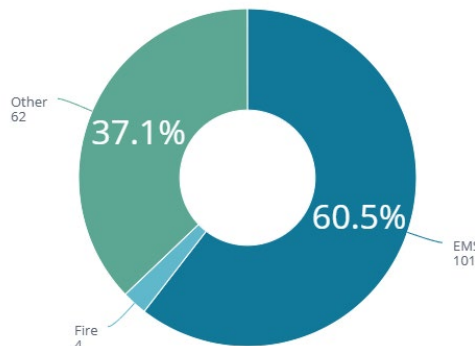
Subject: Chief's Report

Operational Activity

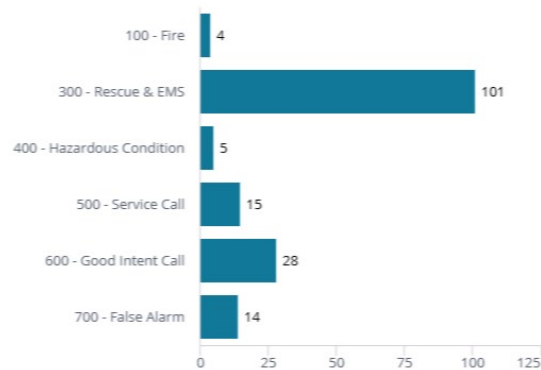
For the month of October 2025, we received **167 emergency service calls**. Of those, **30 overlapping incidents** impacted **17% of total incidents**. **2.4%** Fire response, **37.1%** Other response, and **60.5%** EMS emergency response.

Frequency by Incident Type

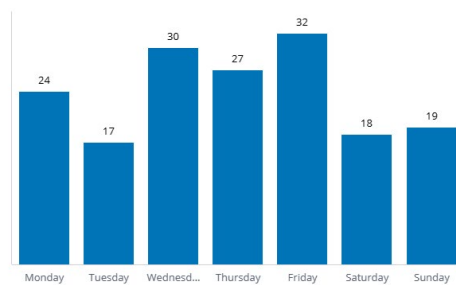
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



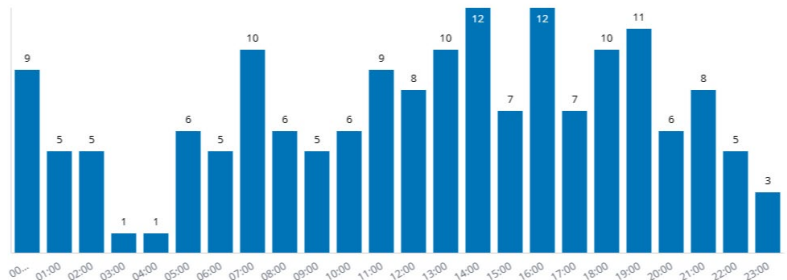
Count of Incidents by Incident Type



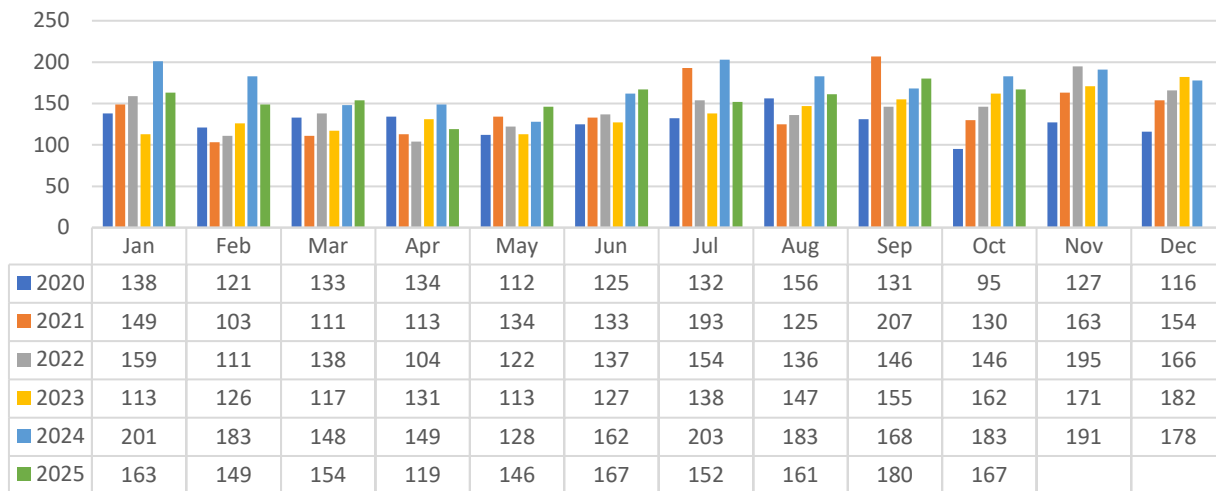
Incident Count by Day of Week



Incident Count by Hour of Day



2025 Incident Frequency by Month



Station 53 Construction Project

There are no new updates for Station 53, as our new SCBA washer, which was replaced under warranty, is awaiting installation.

Other Administrative work

Chief Helm attended the monthly EMS Council and Fire Tac meeting. Chief Helm met multiple days with South Whidbey regarding collaboration efforts and leadership meeting collaborations. Chief Helm, finance officer Cathy Niiro, and commissioners Engle and Mesner attended the Washington Fire Commissioners conference. October also saw a considerable amount of time finalizing and preparing the 2026 proposed district budget. Chief Helm also assisted the Oak Harbor Fire Department as an assessor for their anticipated Deputy Chief hiring. Deputy Chief Meek assisted North Whidbey Fire with their Battalion Chief hiring process. Also, Chief Helm hosted the public budget hearing open house on October 29th at Station 53.

Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd

Administrative

We continue to collaborate with South Whidbey Fire/EMS on training with new the joint Battalion Chief position in place. Chief Magallon is leading the development of the training schedule, while Chief Burbank, the crews, and I are overseeing and administering the training. We are making steady progress toward establishing a strong training program.

Recruitment

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

We have conducted 7 new volunteer interviews. All 7 passed the initial interview process and we will now conduct background checks. Once this is completed, we will continue the process and if all goes well will hopefully have 7 new members for the new year.

In-Service Training

In October our personnel completed a total of 243.5 hours of training. Training topics covered during in service sessions included.

- Apparatus operations
- Online medical training
- Medical OTEP Sepsis
- Suicide Prevention
- Forcible Entry
- Standpipe operations
- PPE and SCBA quarterlies
- Officers' choice training
- Inverness Way after-action-review

Collaboration

South Whidbey Fire/EMS and our department continue to work collaboratively on training development. We are in the early stages of planning a Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI) drill scheduled for early next year. The exercise will likely focus on triage operations and response procedures for large-scale events such as a major storm or earthquake. We also anticipate involving additional partner agencies from across Island County to enhance interagency coordination and preparedness.

Other

Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek

Community Partnerships

October marked Fire Prevention Month nationwide, and Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) received multiple requests from local organizations for fire prevention presentations and outreach. Throughout the month, CWIFR personnel conducted or participated in the following community engagements:

- **Town of Coupeville** – Roll-up drill and fire prevention presentation
- **Teronda Community** – Hydrant testing and inspection presentation
- **Coupeville Methodist Church** – Fire prevention presentation
- **Island Transit** – Fire prevention and lithium-ion battery fire safety discussion
- **Sherhill Vista Community** – Continued discussions on fire prevention and preparedness

CWIFR also proudly represented the community during the annual Torchlight Parade, with participation from Travis Dotson, Jesse Carranza, and Finance Officer Cathy Niir. In addition, B-Shift attended the Trunk or Treat event at Living Hope Church on Halloween. The crew did an exceptional job decorating A503 and helping provide a safe, memorable evening for local families.

CWIFR continues to collaborate with Island County on developing proposed language for the *Testing Protocols for Water and Sewer Franchises*. The goal is to ensure that all hydrants within our service area are tested and inspected in accordance with Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) standards.

CWIFR has also been coordinating closely with the State Fire Marshal's Office to maintain compliance and ensure on-schedule progress toward the nationwide transition from NFIRS to NERIS, effective January 1, 2026. Personnel training will take place throughout November and December, and Deputy Chief Meek is preparing a comprehensive *NERIS Guide* to support this transition.

Finally, Deputy Chief Meek participated as an evaluator for NWFR's Battalion Chief Assessment Center.

Notable September Events and Incidents

Upcoming Events – October

- Santa Mobile
- 12/07/2026-Greening of Coupeville Parade and Tree Lighting

Special Operations

- No update

PPE/Respiratory Protection

- Stavros: Acquired three quotes for a grant-funded decontamination system. Submitted purchase order.
- Lloyd: 3 SCBA batteries changed and SCBA compressor air test performed.

Radios/Pagers

- No Update

Medical Supplies & CPR

- Ordered and replaced AED pads for the Public Access Defibrillator in the training room. Ordered supplies for expiring EPI, AED pads, and Glucose.
- Jessy Hillier provided public CPR training in the monthly class.
- Acquired quotes for lift devices for purchase from a grant.

Reports

- Rhodes audited 130 out of 167 calls for October 2025

Other

- Nothing to report.

Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff

Station 51

- Nothing to report

Station 52

- Nothing to report

Station 53

- Repaired A/C condensation leak in Fleet Maintenance office
- Received new SCBA washer
- Repaired A503 bay door
- Repaired hallway drywall near bedrooms

Station 54

- Nothing to report

Other Facilities

- Nothing to report

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)—Lt. Jen Porter

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 1 of 2 initial inspections for October. Unable to schedule the Greenbank progressive club. A shift completed 4 re-inspections.
- B shift completed 5 of 7 initial inspections for October. B shift completed 1 re-inspect.
- C shift completed 2 of 6 inspections for October.

Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift YTD 98% of initial inspections (60/61)
- B shift YTD 96% of initial inspections (66/69)
- C shift YTD 88% of initial inspections (57/65)

Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- A shift assisted a homeowner with ordering the correct smoke alarm and will help install it when it arrives.
- Crews assisted with faulty smoke alarm on Main Street.

Hydrants

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A-shift completed 7 hydrant inspections.
- B-Shift completed 0 hydrant inspections and 0 flow tests.
- C- Shift completed 6 hydrant inspections and 3 flow tests.

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

- Crews conducted Fire Safety Week, reaching approximately 450 elementary students, speaking about this year's theme: "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."
- LT Porter completed one fire investigation from Fort Casey fire. One investigation in progress from Inverness Way.

Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2103 (E-51) Completed the 1,000-hr. service and inspection.

- Unit 2101 (E-53) Emergency repair due to accident damage from a stump for the left rear cab step and left pull-out step to be operational. Further repairs will be made with new parts.
- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) Received repairs to the air conditioning system, rear brakes, engine oil fill tube, turbo charge tube, windshield, and tire replacement due to wear.
- Unit 1101 (Matrix) Received repairs at Mainstreet Collision and from Whidbey Sign Company due to a deer strike.
- Unit 1401 NFPA 1911 service and inspection are ongoing and will be completed during November.
- Unit 2303 (505) Received regular scheduled P.M. service.
- Unit 0702 (T-54) Received service to repair the #1 discharge valve that was leaking under vacuum.
- Unit 1501 (502) Received scheduled P.M. service and minor repairs.

Other Fleet Maintenance Activity

- Pacific NW Hydro performed annual pump testing on the fleet.