



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: January 8th, 2026

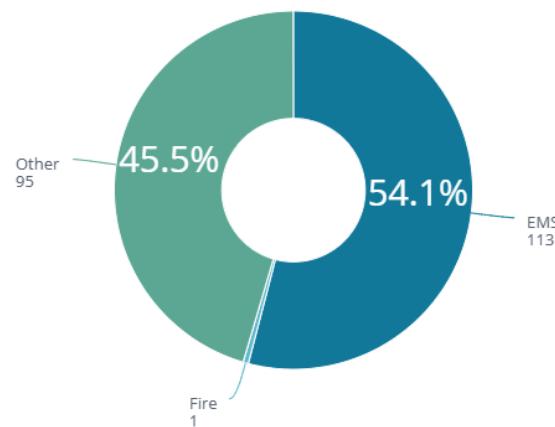
Subject: Chief's Report

Operational Activity

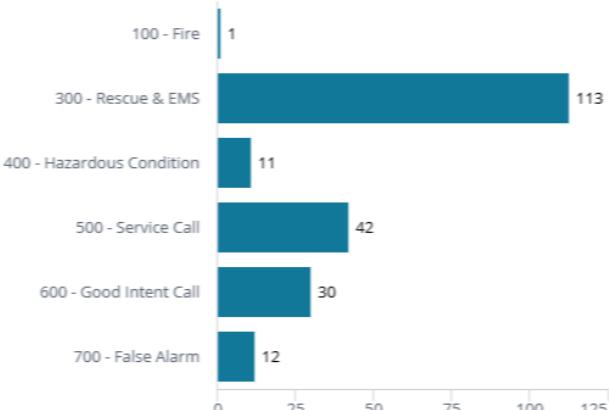
For December 2025, we had our busiest month in over 5 years, receiving **209 emergency service calls**. Of those, **46 overlapping incidents** impacted **22% of total incidents**. **0.0 %** Fire response, **32.0 %** Other response, and **68.0 %** EMS emergency response.

Frequency by Incident Type

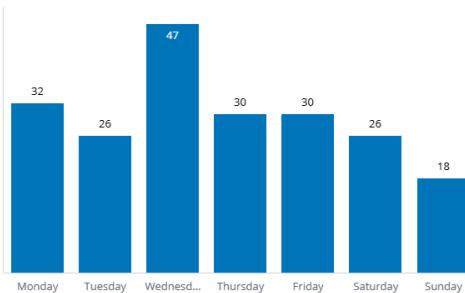
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



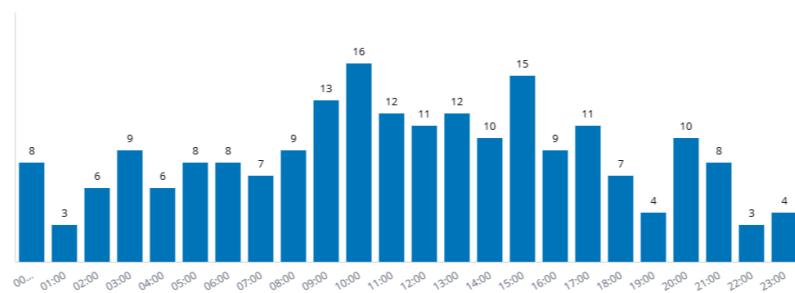
Count of Incidents by Incident Type

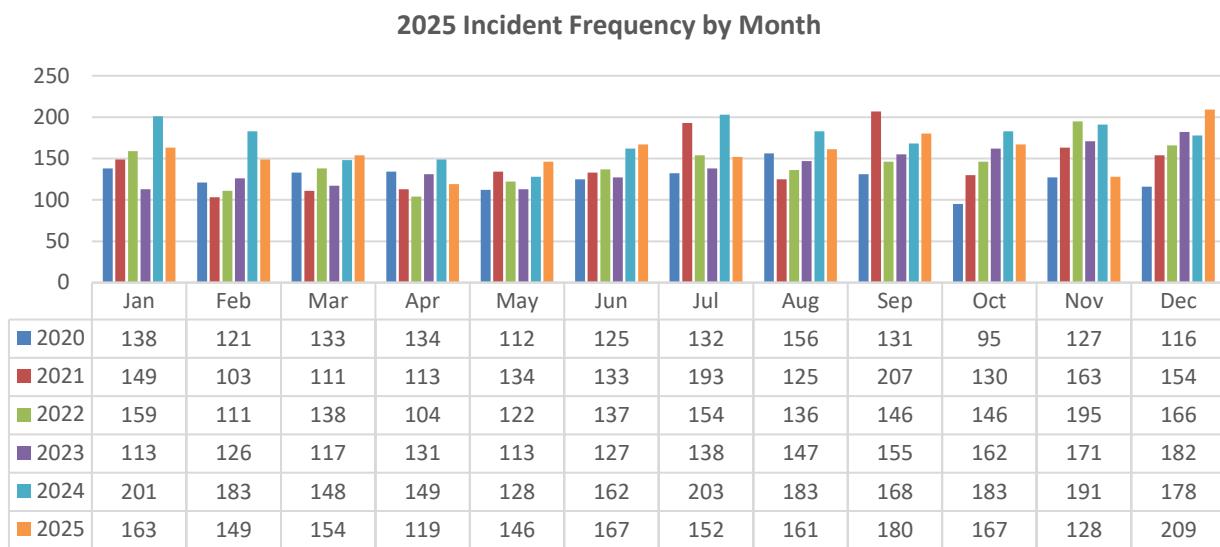


Incident Count by Day of Week



Incident Count by Hour of Day





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. Met with ISO for planning stages for the upcoming 2025 server and outlook updates. Interviewed multiple candidates for the administrative assistant position that Sonja will vacate at the end of the month. Held chiefs' interviews for the top three and offered the position to Sydney Lang, who we are excited to announce has accepted the offer and will start full-time with us on the 16th of this month. This will ensure adequate overlap before Cathy retires and Sonja moves into the finance officer position.

Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd

Administrative

We have adopted a new training schedule that integrates SWFE and CWIFR into a single, cohesive plan. One of the 24-hour shifts within each 48-hour cycle will be led by the Battalion Chief for each department. This approach is designed to improve crew cohesion and promote higher-quality, more consistent training.

Recruitment

All seven potential new volunteers have successfully passed the National Testing Fire Team Test and are now scheduling interviews with Chief Helm through Sonja. Following the Chief's interviews, candidates will proceed to medical evaluations, then onboarding and orientation.

In-Service Training

In December, our personnel completed 137 hours of training. This decrease in training hours reflects the additional time allocated to completing projects, end-of-year activities, and making up previously missed training sessions. Training topics covered during in-service sessions included:

- Apparatus operations
- Online medical training
- Medical Mega Code- with WHEMS
- Firefighter CPR
- Air Monitoring
- OTEP Altered Mental Status
- Engine Company Operations

- Officer's choice training
- Make-up Online training

Collaboration

South Whidbey Fire/EMS and our department continue to maintain a strong collaborative approach to training development. Additionally, I am exploring opportunities to conduct joint training with DNR, with an emphasis on radio communications during wildland fire incidents, and to further expand training opportunities with Craig Anderson and WhidbeyHealth EMS (WHEMS).

Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek

Community Partnerships

In December, the operations division continued work with the Teronda and Sherhill Vista communities in fire prevention. In Teronda, we identified a hydrant port issue on three hydrants and we are working with the community board to address this issue, and to increase our efficiency in the event of a fire. Additionally, we are working with Teronda to replace an OOS hydrant in their community.

The Santa Mobile was another overwhelming success! We had strong participation from community members, including the Coupeville ASB, multiple CWIFR volunteers, and many career members. I received the following message from a community member:

“I just want to say, Wow! What an experience! The Santa Mobile made an impact, and all of the kids were thrilled. Everyone was very friendly, and the elves chatted with all the kids. What a wonderful event for the community!”

A big thank you to all who helped make this event a success. This event would not have been the success it was with Santa and, of course, our Santa coordinator, Justin Burnett. Thank you both so much!

We had multiple members complete apparatus operator qualifications:

- Jared Frye—Heavy AO (Engine)
- Kye Bryson—Heavy AO (Engine)
- Andreas De Koster—Heavy AO (Engine)
- Luke Hillier—Light AO

Congratulations to all of them for accomplishing these qualifications!

Notable December Events and Incidents

- Wind storms—We had several impactful wind storms move through the area
- Multiple carbon monoxide incidents caused by generators during power outages. Fortunately, no significant health problems arose due to the presence of CO alarms.

Upcoming Events

Special Operations

- No update

PPE/Respiratory Protection

- Stavros 12/2025 -Created a Presentation on inspecting PPE gear that will be used for training in 2026. This will be part of a larger plan to implement a system to track, inspect, and wash all PPE annually.

Created a Training video on using the new (Grant Funded) Storm Stick Decon system. Storm Sticks were put into inventory for all Engines on 12/29/2025.

- Lloyd - Batteries replaced in 3 packs. 2 requiring service by SeaWestern and awaiting pickup.

Radios/Pagers

- No Update

Medical CPR & ACT

- Nothing to report.

Reports

- Rhodes audited 219 calls for December.

Other

- Nothing to report.

Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff

Station 51

- Nothing to report

Station 52

- Nothing to report

Station 53

- Bay door at Station 53 was damaged. The door has been temporarily repaired while we await the ordered parts.

Station 54

- Nothing to report

Other Facilities

- Nothing to report

Community Risk Reduction (CRR)—Lt. Jen Porter

Monthly Inspection Progress

- No assigned December initial inspections. Crews worked diligently to finish out our year with 100% completion of initial inspections.
- Re-inspections conducted by shifts for the year are as follows: A-25, B-35, C-13

Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift 61/61 or 100%
- B shift 66/66 or 100%
- C shift 68/68 or 100%

Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- C shift completed 3 home safety surveys.
- A shift completed 1 home safety survey on Gould Street.
- A shift assisted with smoke alarm troubleshooting on Baker View Place

Hydrants

Hydrant testing and inspection was a great success in 2025. We are still working with Island County to gain better traction with hydrant testing in multiple communities, but we are optimistic with the new franchisee language that requires “pressure testing results” to be provided to local fire departments. Additionally, system owners are being requested to work with local fire departments on cyclic hydrant maintenance.

Additional CRR Activities

- LT Porter completed the Inverness fire investigation report, and Sonja submitted it for the public records request. LT Porter consulted with the Town of Coupeville building official regarding driveway access off Parker Road.
- Assisted Sonja and DC Meek with records request for Beaver Tales Coffee.

Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 1401 – Continued P.M. service work. It will be completed in January.
- Unit 2303 – (501) - Replaced front mud flaps.
- Unit 2301 – Shop Truck – Installed front mud flaps.
- Units 2101, 2102, 2103 (Front Line Engines) – Confirmed and reset all pump pressure presets to CWIFR’s spec.
- Unit 2501 – (Aid 503) – Repaired blown turbo boost line.
- Unit 2102 – (E-51) – Driver’s seatbelt was not retracting all the way. Found that the seatbelt had been rolled over multiple times in the inside seat. Disassemble the seat and unfold the seatbelt. Reassembled the seat and belt; they now retract fully.
- Unit 2102 – (E-53) - Right rear door window was stuck half open. Diagnosed with a faulty window regulator motor. Motor is on order from the manufacturer.

Other Activity

- Online EMS Training.