



# 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)

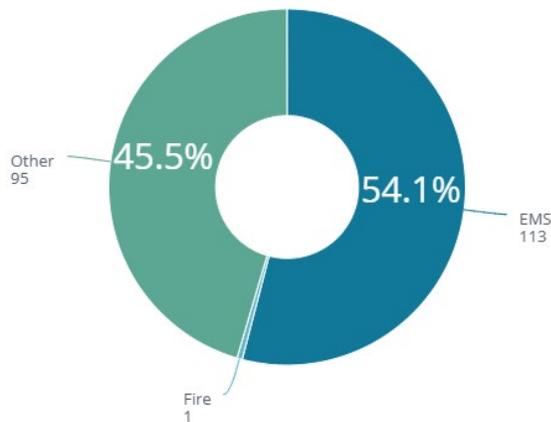
To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
 From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd  
 Date: February 12, 2026  
 Subject: Chief's Report

## Operational Activity

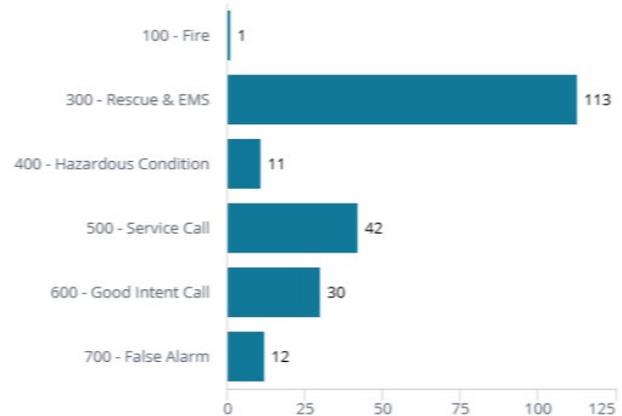
For January 2026, we had **149** emergency service calls. ***NOTE: Due to ESO reporting glitch, I am unable to determine overlapping calls for service or provide the graphs like normal. The graphs shown below are from December 2025. The graph on top of page 2 is accurate to date.***

### Frequency by Incident Type

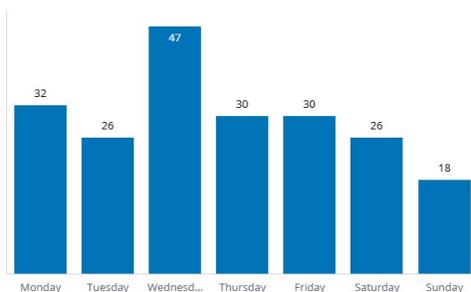
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



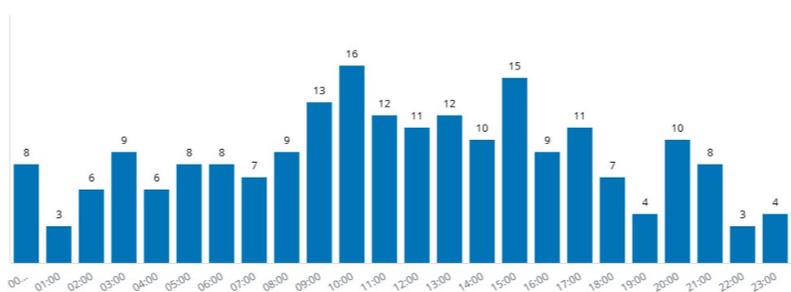
Count of Incidents by Incident Type



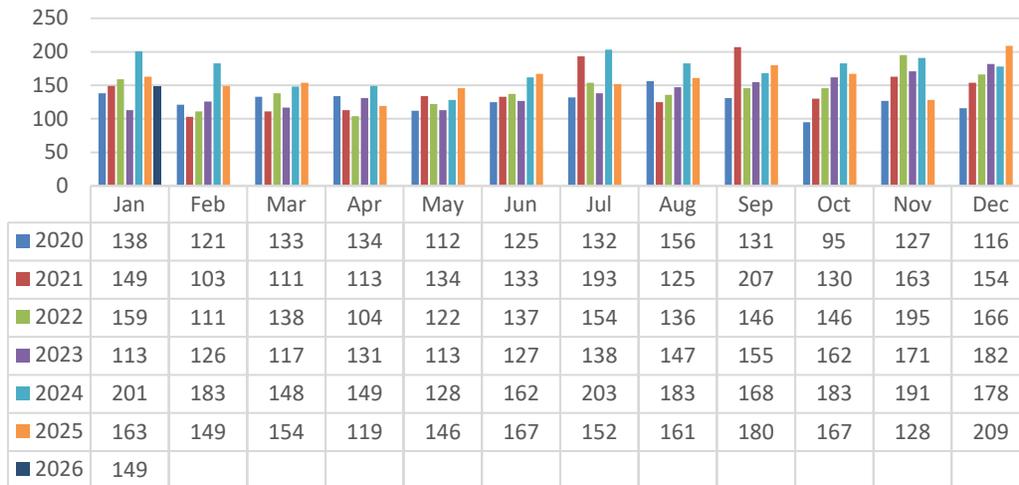
Incident Count by Day of Week



Incident Count by Hour of Day



2026 Incident Frequency by Month



**Other Administrative work**

Chief Helm attended the Island County EMS meeting. 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 volunteer firefighters. Completed the DRS exit interview. Chief Helm attended the ICOM Needs assessment presentation at Oak Harbor Fire. Chief Helm and LT Huff working with Whidbey Health on getting the roof replaced at station 51.

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

**Administrative**

BC Lloyd is currently reviewing and editing a draft Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) outlining volunteer participation, activity requirements, and organizational expectations. The initial draft was developed by volunteer FF Travis Dotson, and I am making revisions prior to submitting my formal recommendation.

The document clearly defines the roles and responsibilities associated with each volunteer classification, including Support Operations, EMTs, Firefighters, and Administrative Support positions.

**Recruitment**

All seven FF recruits have completed the Chief’s interview. Two of the seven have successfully passed the medical evaluation, and we are currently awaiting results for the remaining five.

Once all seven have successfully completed the medical portion, we will proceed with orientation and the administrative paperwork intake process.

**In-Service Training**

In January, we completed approximately 150 hours of training. Topics included:

- Apparatus operations training
- Scene size-up and radio report procedures
- Adult and pediatric CPR training
- Mayday and Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) procedures
- Quarterly SCBA training

- Officer's Choice–led training sessions

### **Collaboration**

BC Lloyd participated in a Train-the-Trainer program with South Whidbey Fire/EMS, focused on their new training facility /burn tower. The training covered proper use of the facility and best practices for delivering high-quality live fire training and fire behavior instruction.

The new burn tower includes both Class A (wood) and Class B (propane) burn rooms. In addition to live-fire capabilities, the facility can accommodate rope training, search-and-rescue evolutions, and a variety of other hands-on training opportunities.

Similar to our facility at Station 54, this training tower will be shared by South Whidbey Fire/EMS like we have shared our training facility. I completed this training alongside their two Battalion Chiefs and Career Lieutenants. I appreciate their partnership and generosity in sharing this resource, and I look forward to utilizing this additional location to provide diverse and unique training opportunities for our personnel.

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

### **Community Partnerships**

We continue working with WHEMS to begin the collaborative teaching of ACT classes on Whidbey Island. Additionally, we will train Island Transit employees on the proper use of ABC fire extinguishers in February and the Arcadia community in March or April.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, DC Meek attended a training session at Island Transit on active-shooter and bus-hijacking scenarios. This training, led by TSA, provided Island Transit with valuable feedback on how they can make organizational changes to address the possibility of these events. DC Meek provided details on what a response from fire would entail during events like these.

DC Meek attended the quarterly L&I FIIRE program meeting. This meeting discussed wildland firefighter hydration and nutrition, and the improvement of bunker gear for female firefighters.

### **Administrative**

- Five new computers were installed to replace five aging computers at Station 53.
- DC Meek continued work on a NERIS guide for the organization.
- DC Meek worked on the 2026 events calendar and engaged with multiple organizations on events in 2026.
- Programs were assigned/reassigned to career members. FF Oscar Wolken has taken over the PPE/Respiratory Protection program (previously BC Lloyd), and FF's Alex Majestic and Jared Frye have taken over the fire preplans program (previously DC Meek).

### **Notable January Events and Incidents**

- A503 was struck by a passing vehicle on 1/21/2026. Fortunately, A503 only received damage to the driver's side rear-view mirror. This incident could have been much worse, as our FF's reported the other driver crossed the center line. The other driver did report the incident.
- Annual Banquet—January 23

- Cathy Niiro retired, but has been seen enjoying her time in Maui!

### **Upcoming Events**

- Musselst—March 7/8
- Island Transit extinguisher training—February 25

### **Special Operations**

- No update

### **PPE/Respiratory Protection**

- FF Stavros met with LN Curtis to discuss changing the spec of our bunker gear and give feedback on minor issues we have been having with the 2025-purchased gear. FF McCallum has been selected to demo a set of gear with the new spec we will be ordering in 2026. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, FF met again with LN Curtis' PPE Care and Maintenance Team via Zoom to brainstorm how to implement his 2026 goal of integrating NFPA 1851 standards into the PPE program. A wash log for gear has been added to the Decon room as a first step toward this goal.
- Lloyd: Two packs sent to MES for repair.

### **Radios/Pagers**

- Nothing to report.

### **Medical CPR & ACT**

- We are scheduling a meeting with WHEMS to discuss the mutual goals for ACT classes and implementation of training for our community. We plan to go-live with ACT classes within the next couple of months.

### **Reports**

- Rhodes audited 143 NERIS reports.

### **Other**

- Nothing to report.

## **Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff**

### **Station 51**

- Repaired leaking toilet

### **Station 52**

- Nothing to report

### **Station 53**

- Paint touch-up inside the station
- Old SCBA washer was picked up

### **Station 54**

- Lt. Huff requested a quote to replace the broken window at 54 (\$414.75).

### **Other Facilities**

- Nothing to report

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

### Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 8/8 initial inspections. 3 re-inspections were also completed.
- B shift completed 7/10 initial inspections. 2 re-inspections were also completed.
- C shift completed 4/8 initial inspections.

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

- A shift 8/8 or 100%
- B shift 7/9 or 78%
- C shift 4/8 or 50%

### Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- A shift provided one CO alarm to a homeowner on Marine Drive in Coupeville

### Hydrants

Hydrant testing and inspection assignments are being created for each shift. FF Justin Burnett will be issuing the 2026 assignments soon.

### Additional CRR Activities

- LT Porter met with the Town building official regarding billing frequency, inspection issues, a complaint at 602 N Main Street, and the upcoming Mussel Festival. LT Porter and TOC Building official conducted a site visit to follow up on an inspection and complaint at 602 N Main Street. (Inn at Penn Cove/Thai Cuisine)
- LT Porter inspected the decommissioning of the type 1 Hood system at the Coupeville Wharf and recommended that the pull station also be disconnected.
- LT Porter followed up with the Port of Coupeville Greenbank regarding some required electrical safety and fire extinguishers needing to be serviced.
- LT Porter inspected one new VRBO that requested an inspection through our website.

## Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

### Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Suffered an Injector failure. It is currently at Frontier Ford for repair.

### Other Activity

- FF/Mech Matros was diagnosed with acute appendicitis and had surgery to resolve the issue in early January. He was recovering and on light duty throughout January.
- During the last week of January, he attended the Emergency Vehicle Technician Testing Validation Committee Conference. He worked with other Master EVT's and industry professionals to review, create, and validate the national testing processes for EVT certification.