



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road  
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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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

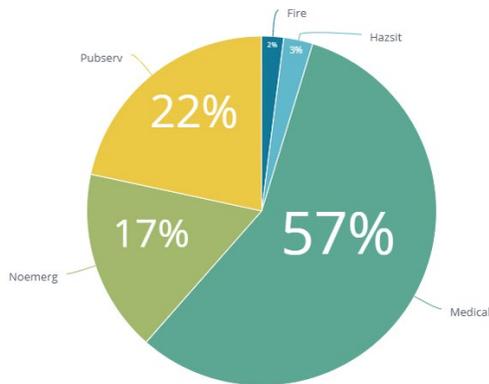
To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
 From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd  
 Date: March 12, 2026  
 Subject: Chief's Report

## Operational Activity

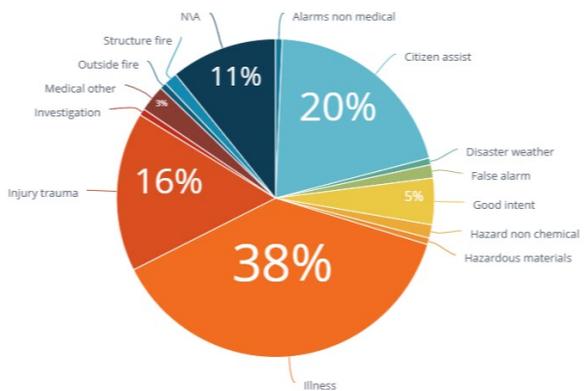
In January 2026, we had 149 emergency service calls, including 18 overlapping calls, accounting for roughly **12%** of the monthly calls. For the month of February 2026, we ran **124** emergency service calls, with **14** overlapping calls accounting for roughly 11% of the total.

### January 2026 Frequency by Incident Type

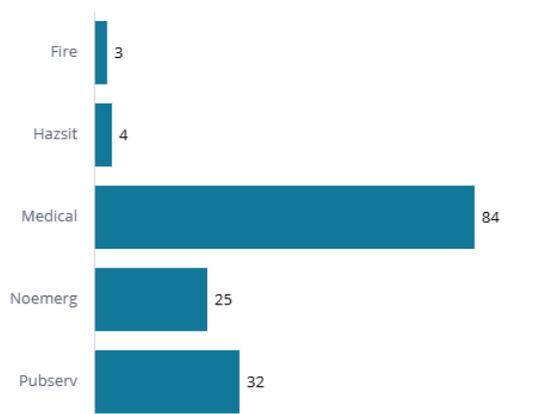
Primary Incident Type by Category



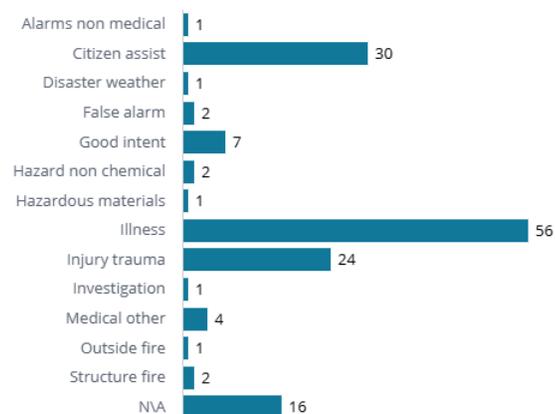
Primary Incident Types by Subcategory



Count of Incidents by Incident Category



Count of Incidents by Incident Type Subcategory





### **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, as well as leadership meetings. Met with ISO for our monthly planning for the upcoming 2025 server and Outlook updates. Chief Helm participated as an evaluator for South County Fire & Rescue in a two-day Battalion Chief assessment center. Chief Meek participated as an evaluator for North Whidbey's training chief hiring process. Chief Helm collaborated with WSDOT via Zoom to discuss future collaboration on a data-sharing project. Admin staff attended the ribbon-cutting for the South Whidbey Fire & EMS training center. Sonja successfully submitted the 2026 distinguished budget, which is currently under review. Chief Helm also hosted the first monthly staff meeting with all admin staff and on-duty crews. This meeting is intended to keep lines of communication open and provide frequent project and task-level check-ins.

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

#### **Administrative**

I am currently working on preparing the building and developing the Incident Action Plan for an acquired structure that we have secured on Pennington Loop. The property is located in Coupeville on a 10-acre lot.

The training was originally planned for late March; however, after further evaluation of the preparation required for this type of training, I determined that the timeline was overly optimistic. Acquired structure training requires significant preparation to ensure the building is properly prepared, all safety requirements are met, and the training plan is developed in accordance with applicable standards.

Because of this, the training has been tentatively moved to April. This additional time will allow us to properly address the complexities of this type of training and ensure the evolution is conducted safely and effectively for all participating personnel.

#### **Recruitment**

We have accepted six of the seven volunteer applicants and are currently awaiting the final results for the seventh applicant before sending out their acceptance letter. In addition, we have received two new volunteer applications and are anticipating a third in the near future.

#### **In-Service Training**

In February, personnel completed approximately 180 hours of training. Training topics included:

- Hydrant and pump operations
- Online training modules
- Apparatus training
- Monthly OTEPS: Childbirth and pre-hospital delivery
- Basic hose skills
- Officer's choice training
- *Healthy In / Healthy Out* presentation

### **Collaboration**

South Whidbey Fire/EMS (SWFE) and I have discussed the possibility of a Fire Academy beginning as early as May. Additionally, an EMT Academy is planned to start in September, with Skagit Valley College leading the class at the Whidbey Island Campus.

SWFE is also assisting with the acquired structure training and will have personnel participating. This provides an opportunity to train in a realistic environment and is an invaluable training tool for our firefighters.

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

### **Community Partnerships**

On February 21, CWIFR conducted its first ACT (Antidote, Compression, Tourniquet) class with community members who registered through our online portal. Following the class, and through ongoing outreach and marketing efforts by Administrative Assistant Lang, interest in the program has grown significantly. We currently have one organized community group scheduled and 27 individuals who have expressed interest in participating, with additional inquiries continuing to come in. Our long-term objective is to educate 1,000 community members over the next five years, and this initial response demonstrates strong progress toward that goal. We also continue to coordinate with Whidbey Health EMS to collaboratively deliver these trainings.

On February 25, CWIFR provided fire extinguisher training for Island Transit personnel. Approximately 20 employees participated in hands-on, live-fire training where they practiced using ABC fire extinguishers to control simulated fires. The training also included instruction on fire classifications and emerging hazards, including lithium-ion battery fires. We plan to conduct additional sessions to ensure all Island Transit personnel have the opportunity to receive this training.

CWIFR also continues to work with the Teronda West community to address hydrant system improvements. Teronda West has engaged a contractor to replace an out-of-service hydrant, and the hydrant adapters needed to improve compatibility with fire apparatus arrived today. These improvements will enhance fire protection capabilities within the community.

### **Administrative**

- A NERIS reporting guide has been completed and will be distributed to operational crews at both Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) and South Whidbey Fire/EMS (SWFE) to assist personnel with the transition to the new national reporting system.
- With the assistance of Administrative Assistant Lang, several sections of the CWIFR website were updated to improve visibility of the ACT (Active Community Training) program. The class has also been promoted through the department's Facebook page to increase community awareness and participation.
- ISOsource has begun the department's transition to Microsoft 365. The initial phase involves migrating email and Outlook services, and the transition has proceeded smoothly to date.
- CWIFR continues to receive numerous requests to participate in community events. DC Meek is coordinating with event organizers to determine staffing availability and ensure appropriate department representation.
- Staff have begun preparing grant applications for extrication equipment and roadside safety improvements, which would enhance responder safety and operational capabilities during roadway incidents.

### **Notable February Events and Incidents**

- We want to congratulate FFs Jordan McCallum and Ryan Bailey on their fire engine qualification and want to recognize A and C-shift for all of their work to qualify our members.
- CWIFR responded to multiple motor vehicle collisions in February. Fortunately, the incidents were minor or non-injury.

### **Upcoming Events**

- CMHS Career Fair—March 27<sup>th</sup>
- Earth Day Camp Casey—April 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Special Operations**

- Nothing to report

### **PPE/Respiratory Protection**

- FF Stavros sought bids for radio straps for the crews, and he is researching the feasibility of a flash hood swap program at CWIFR
- FF Wolken completed SCBA flow testing and compressor testing. These are annual requirements. Additionally, our SCBAs are currently receiving hydrostatic testing, a 5-year requirement.

### **Radios/Pagers**

- Nothing to report.

### **Medical CPR**

- EMS supplies were ordered.
- FF Majestic recertified as a CPR instructor.
- The monthly DOH naloxone report was submitted, and naloxone was inventoried.

### **Reports**

- Rhodes: Reviewed 64 NERIS for Feb 2026.

### **Other**

- Nothing to report.

## **Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff**

### **Station 51**

- Station 51's roof is scheduled for replacement the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Station 52**

- Nothing to report

### **Station 53**

- A soap dispenser, PA amplifier, and water filters were replaced.

### **Station 54**

- The window broken by a recent storm was replaced.

### **Other Facilities**

- Nothing to report

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

### **Monthly Inspection Progress**

- A shift completed 10/10 February inspections.
- B shift completed 3/8 February inspections.
- C shift completed 2/6 February inspections. 1 at Regency of Coupeville scheduled for 3/19

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

- A shift 18/18 or 100%
- B shift 12/17 or 71%
- C shift 7/14 of 50%

### **Home Safety Surveys & Installations**

- C shift installed a new CO alarm in Ledgewood and assisted with smoke alarm batteries in Admirals Cove.
- A shift installed 2 new CWIFR provided alarms off Russel Drive.

### **Hydrants**

FF Burnett is working to get hydrant assignments out to the shifts.

### **Additional CRR Activities**

- LT Porter met with Callen's Restaurant owner regarding Knox key access after a fire alarm. LT Porter is working to correct non-permitted magnetic installed locks at Regency of Coupeville and the Boys and Girls Club.

## **Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros**

### **Repair & Maintenance**

- Unit 1402 (Tahoe) – Had a check engine light and needed the mass airflow sensor replaced.
- Unit 2303 (501) – Windshield required replacement due to rock strike.
- Unit 2101 (E-54) - Right rear step required replacement due to a stump strike.
- Unit 2001 (B-54) – Foam incompatibility issue, emptied and flushed foam system.
- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Received new injector's on right bank of engine due to failure. Work was performed by Frontier Ford.

### **Other Activity**

- FF/Mech Matros has been continuing to work on his EMS online to stay current.