



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

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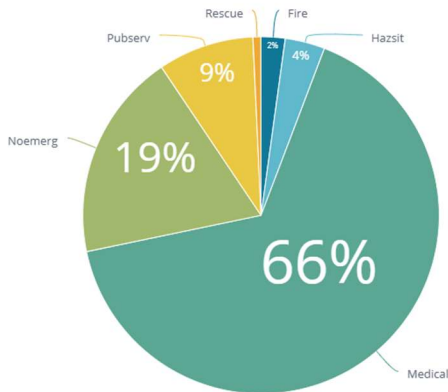
To: Board of Fire Commissioners
 From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd
 Date: April 9th, 2026
 Subject: Chief's Report

Operational Activity

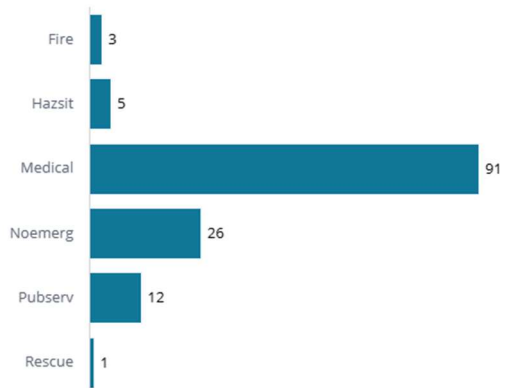
For the month of March 2026, we ran **138** emergency service calls, with **15** overlapping calls accounting for roughly 11% of the total.

March 2026 Frequency by Incident Type

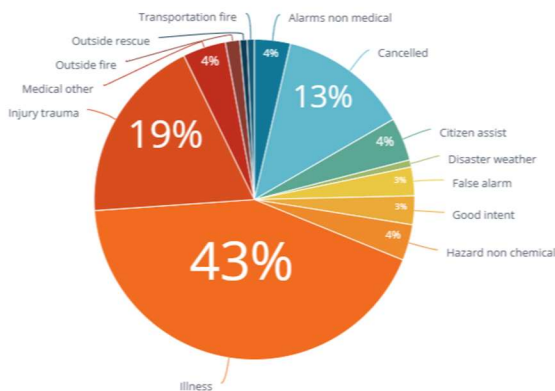
Primary Incident Type by Category



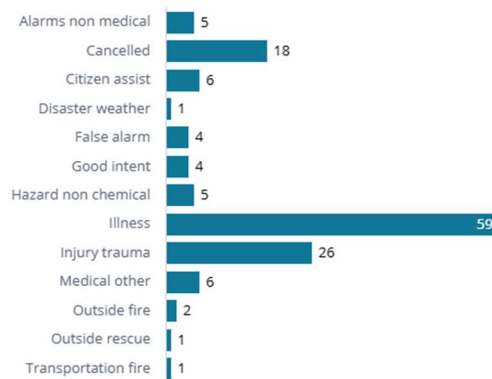
Count of Incidents by Incident Category



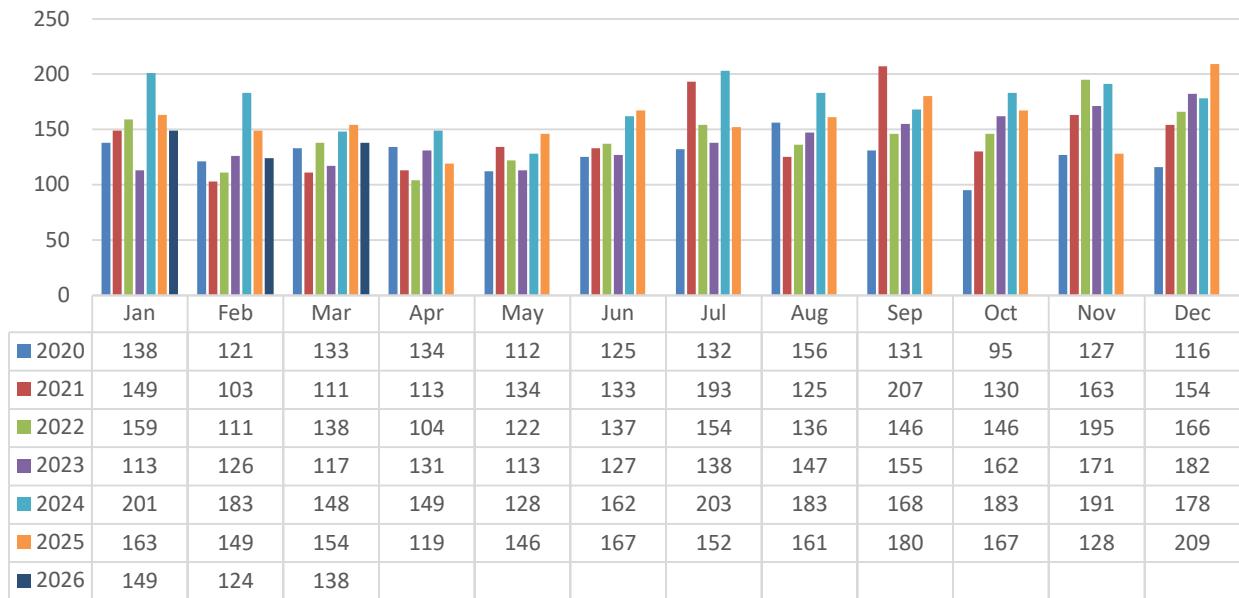
Primary Incident Types by Subcategory



Count of Incidents by Incident Type Subcategory



2026 Incident Frequency by Month



Other Administrative work

Chief Meek 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. Chiefs Helm and Meek met with ISO for our monthly planning for the continued 2025 server and Outlook updates. We will need new firewalls soon, as they are at the end of their serviceable life and no longer supported.

A majority of the month was spent preparing for and facilitating the Captain and Lieutenants' assessment center. A big thank you to Sonja and Sydney for their help, to all the outside evaluators who volunteered their time, and to the Center Point Church for using their facility. Administrative and line staff participated in the monthly staff meeting. This meeting is intended to keep lines of communication open and provide frequent project and task-level check-ins.

Chief Helm met with Whidbey Health EMS on BLS Contract language clarification. Following the Board's recommendation to sign the ILA with South County Fire for the ambulance trade, Chief Helm delivered and signed over the title for the pickup truck and took delivery of the ambulance.

Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd

Administrative

BC Lloyd prepared and finalized the IAP for the acquired structure training on Pennington Loop.

Additionally, Chief Magallon has selected a rope rescue company to provide a class that will be held locally. This training will give the department the opportunity to send 3–4 members to become certified in rope rescue, further enhancing our operational capabilities. This opportunity has been sent out to full-time members, and I anticipate a great deal of interest from our membership.

Recruitment

All seven volunteer applicants have completed the application process, and we are scheduling orientation in April. We also received three additional volunteer applications and will be scheduling interviews in April. Our goal is to complete this process prior to the start of the fire academy

In-Service Training

In March, personnel completed approximately 215 hours of training. Training topics included

- Water can operations
- Online training modules
- Apparatus training
- Monthly OTEPS: pediatric trauma
- EVDT driver yearly refresher training
- Officer's choice training
- EV/Hybrid training

Collaboration

SWFE and CWIFR are preparing for the Joint Fire Academy scheduled to begin May 4th. SWFE is also hosting a Supraglottic Airway (SGA) class on the 11th of this month. Any of our EMTs who require this training will be able to attend. This training is required for all Island EMTs to ensure they are authorized and prepared to place I-gel airways during CPR incidents.

Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek

Community Partnerships

- The District has completed coordination with the Teronda community on the hydrant adapter project. As previously identified, three hydrants in the neighborhood were equipped with Tacoma threads. Storz adapters have now been installed on all three hydrants, improving compatibility and ensuring a more reliable water supply for fire operations. We extend our appreciation to Christina Bauman and the Teronda community for their collaboration and support.
- The District continues to coordinate and promote the ACT class program, with two additional classes now scheduled. Social media outreach and program coordination led by Sydney Lang have been instrumental to the program's continued growth and success.
- District personnel attended the Coupeville Middle and High School (CMHS) Career Fair on March 27th. The event was well supported by both on-duty crews and administrative staff, resulting in strong engagement and numerous positive connections with students.

Administrative

- Through coordination with the OHFD, the District secured a five-year hose and ladder testing contract with Pacific Northwest Hydro. This agreement is projected to result in cost savings of several thousand dollars over the duration of the contract.
- We purchased Sanistride mats for apparatus bays to reduce the transfer of carcinogens and infectious contaminants into station living areas. This acquisition represents the final expenditure under the Washington State L&I FIIRE program.
- Initiated efforts to ensure water system compliance with Island County requirements. The district continues to work through periodic testing and regulatory processes necessary to achieve full compliance.

- Achieved compliance with the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) at the state level.
- Chief Helm and Deputy Chief Meek met with representatives from the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association (CHWA) and the Town of Coupeville (TOC) (Building Planner and Building Official) regarding the Front Street electrical fire. The team conducted a lighting assessment, documented deficiencies, and provided recommendations for future improvements. A report has been submitted to the Board of Commissioners, TOC Mayor Hughes, and the building official.
- Completed installation of Microsoft 365 across District computers, improving standardization, collaboration, and system capabilities.
- All Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT) instructors have been recertified. Additionally, an annual driver training refresher program has been standardized.
- Deputy Chief Meek delivered two EVDT refresher courses to District personnel.
- Delivered department-wide training on electric vehicle fires. Introduced F-500 EA (encapsulating agent) as the district's future suppression agent for Class A, B, and C fires, with full implementation anticipated by summer.

Notable March Events and Incidents

- The district would like to congratulate Firefighter Joe Conijn on successfully achieving fire engine operator qualification. We also recognize B-Shift for their dedication and efforts in supporting this accomplishment.
- Crews responded to and managed an electrical fire on Front Street.
- Lead Medic Robert May retired from Whidbey Health EMS on April 2nd following 35 years of distinguished service. The district extends its sincere appreciation for his lasting contributions to the Whidbey Island community. Robert exemplified excellence as a paramedic and was especially impactful as a leader in public education and community outreach.
- The district extends its gratitude to Chaplains Alan Berndt and Rob Hinkel. We had multiple opportunities to work with both individuals throughout March, and their continued generosity, support, and commitment to our personnel are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events

- Live fire training burn—April 18th
- Hearts and Hammers annual work party—May 2nd

Special Operations

- Nothing to report

PPE/Respiratory Protection

- Stavros- Inventoried all PPE to prepare for new bunker gear ordering. Working on a three/five-year ordering plan for Bunker Gear to try to reduce large one-time orders.
- Wolken- Completed hydrostatic testing for all SCBA bottles in district.

Radios/Pagers

- Nothing to report.

Medical CPR

- Nothing to report.

Reports

- Rhodes reviewed 146 NERIS for the month of March 2026.

Other

- Nothing to report.

Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff

Station 51

- Station 51's roof was replaced the week of March 16th.

Station 52

- Nothing to report

Station 53

- Repaired dishwasher that wouldn't drain
- Cleaned overhead filters
- Reset loose toilet and recaulked

Station 54

- Had Les Schwab repair a flat tire on the Kubota tractor.
- Cleaned station gutters

Other Facilities

- Nothing to report

Community Risk Reduction—Lt. Jen Porter

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 5/5 March inspections. 1 re-inspection
- B shift completed 4/6 March inspections.
- C shift completed 2/3 March inspections.

Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift 100%. (23/23)
- B shift 75%. (19/25)
- C shift 79% (15/19)

Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- A shift installed 5 CWIFR provided smoke alarms

Hydrants

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

Additional CRR Activities

- DC Meek and LT Porter researched plugs used for Front Street lighting and are working to put together a report based on findings.

Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

Repair & Maintenance

- E-53 (Unit 2103) – Replaced a faulty thermostat that was sticking closed and causing an overheating condition. During the repair, it was identified that a coolant recovery tank bracket and an upper fan shroud bracket were broken. The upper fan shroud and coolant recovery tank were replaced, and isolating rubber was installed at mounting points to reduce vibration and help prevent recurrence.
 - Installed a new auto drain on the bumper discharge due to a sticking valve.
 - Replaced the dry sweep compartment gate valve due to a broken handle.
- E-51 (Unit 2102) – Received a new officer's side crew door electric window regulator due to motor failure.
- R-51 (Unit 1201) – Decommissioned truck for trade with South County Fire.
- Training Trailer – Received work on the trailer lights.
- B-53 (Unit 2001) – Repaired the foam system.
- E-51 (Unit 2102) – Is receiving it's 1,000hr PM Service and NFPA 1911 Inspection.

Other Activity

- FF/Mech Matros completed his required quarterly EMS training.