



# 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)

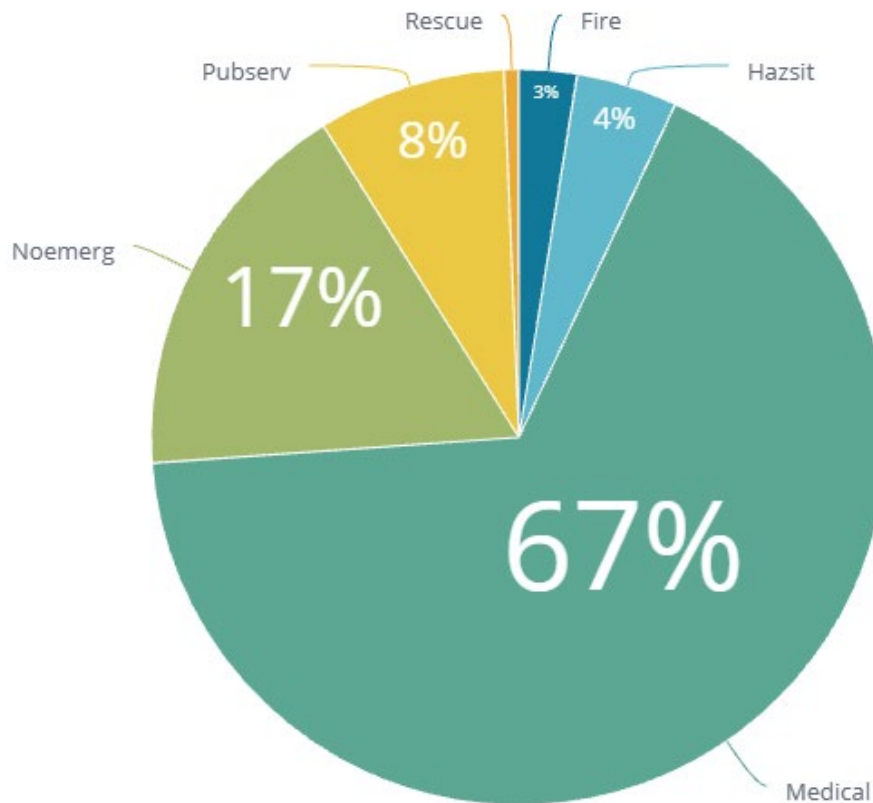
To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd  
Date: May 14, 2026  
Subject: Chief's Report

## Operational Activity

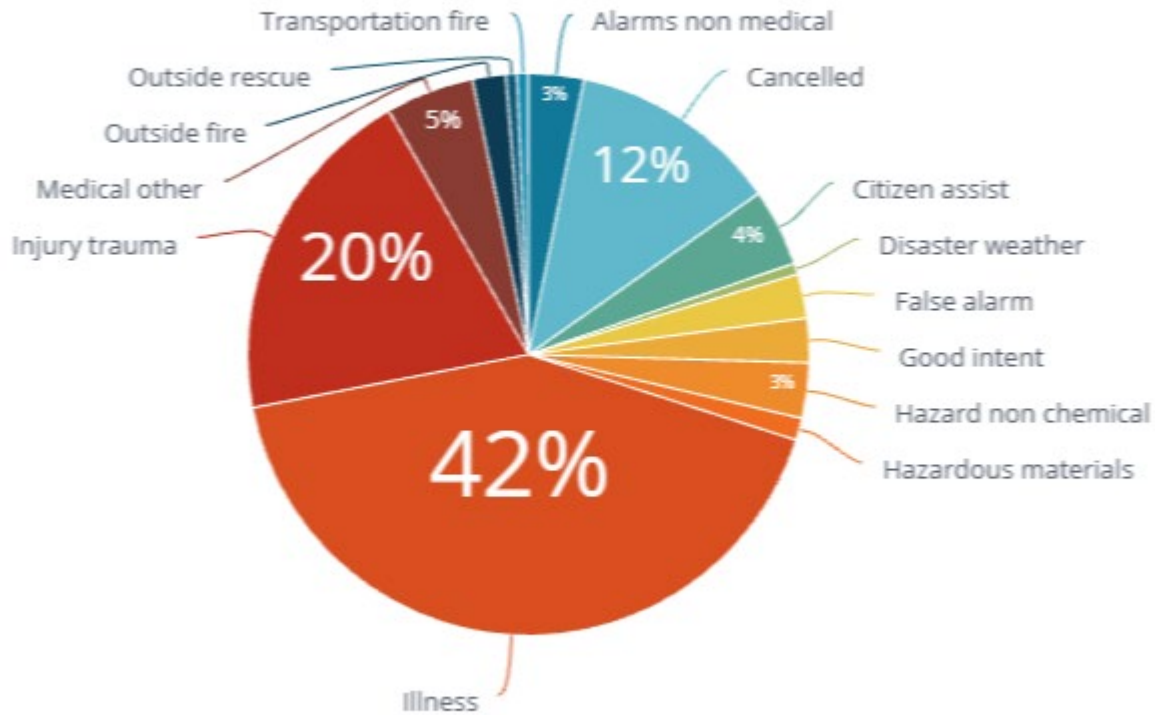
For the month of April 2026, we ran **125** emergency service calls, with **13** overlapping calls accounting for roughly 10% of the total.

### April 2026 Frequency by Incident Type

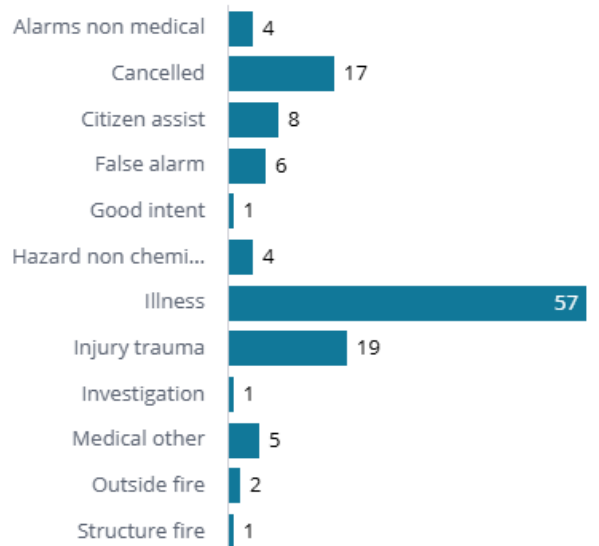
Primary Incident Type by Category



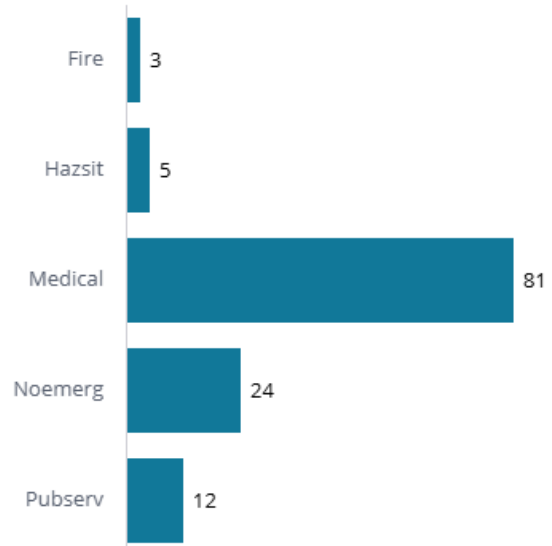
### Primary Incident Types by Subcategory



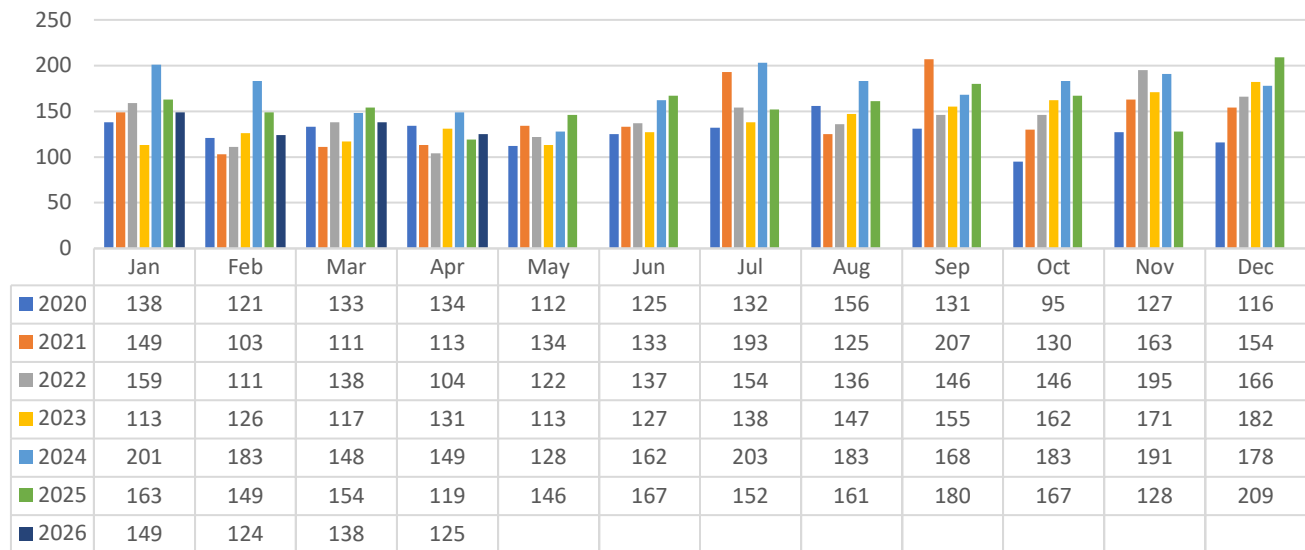
Count of Incidents by Incident Type Subcategory



Count of Incidents by Incident Category



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.

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 conducted multiple volunteer interviews for new members, and spent a considerable amount of time finishing the Draft Capital projects SOG and the Draft Capital Projects Plan for 2027-2037.

We received the Distinguished Budget Award for the District’s 2025 budget, marking the 12th consecutive year the District has earned the award.

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

**Administrative**

I sent an email to neighboring fire districts to gauge their interest in attending the **Code of Conduct Risk Reduction 1.0** class presented by the Career Survival Group, should we host the training at our department.

This course provides a structured framework designed to help identify, manage, and reduce risks associated with firefighter behavior, decision-making, and workplace culture. It emphasizes accountability, professionalism, and safety through clear standards of conduct, proactive training, and early intervention. The program aims to strengthen public trust, enhance operational safety, and foster a respectful and resilient fire service.

In addition, I enrolled one new volunteer in a hybrid online/in-person EMT class and ordered the necessary classroom materials and textbooks. I also issued SCBAs and, with the assistance of Firefighter Stavros and A-Shift, issued full PPE so the new volunteer is fully prepared to participate in fire academy activities.

Finally, I conducted orientation sessions for seven new volunteers. The remaining three new volunteers will receive their orientation upon completion of fire academy.

### **Recruitment**

We welcomed three new volunteers in April: Steven Belus, Aaron Stone, and Hawthorne Wolfe. They will all be attending the academy and were fast tracked through the process in April to ensure they did not have to wait an additional year for the next firefighter academy.

A huge shout out goes to the volunteers, Sydney, Sonja, and the members who assisted with interviews and onboarding to make this happen at such short notice. Their efforts helped ensure these new members could get started right away and begin their training with the current academy.

### **In-Service Training**

April in-service training topics included:

- Officer's Choice
- Battalion Chief's Choice
- Apparatus Operator Training
- PPE/SCBA Quarterlies
- Medical Blast and Electrical Injuries
- Ground Ladders

### **Collaboration**

Our department, in partnership with SWFE, currently has 14 recruits attending academy. The academy began on May 4th and is already underway. A big thank you goes to SWFE Company Officer Lieutenant Wilke, who will be anchoring the instructor cadre and will be present for most of the academy to help guide and support the recruits throughout the process.

In June, we will be collaborating with Camano Fire on our annual Marine Academy. This training is being made possible with assistance from Firefighter Kolton Kellison, who is transitioning to days to help facilitate the program. A big thank you also goes to Chad McCoy for organizing and coordinating the yearly Marine Academy. Joint marine academies are invaluable in developing operational skills in marine response while also allowing crews to train together on realistic scenarios and strengthen our working mutual aid relationships.

In July, we will also be sending 3–4 recruits to a Rope Rescue course hosted with SWFE. This training opportunity will further enhance our technical rescue capabilities while continuing to strengthen regional partnerships and mutual aid coordination. Firefighter Kellison will also likely be assisting with the Rope Rescue course, along with myself if time permits.

## Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek

### Community Partnerships

- C-Shift attended the annual Earth Day at Camp Casey event. Crews provided hose lines and a “fire house” for kids to spray water, as well as opportunities to “Touch-a-Truck”.
- CWIFR will be partnering with the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association again to present on fire prevention in October. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce has requested a focused presentation on electrical safety and hazards. The recent electrical fire in downtown Coupeville has provided an opportunity for further education, and we are excited to take steps to reduce fire risk in our district.

### Administrative

- L & I FIIRE Program—We completed all required documentation for the 2025 grant purchases. The 2026 Safety Improvement Plan and 2026 grant application for a Stryker gurney were completed and submitted.
- DC Meek worked with WHEMS, Systems West Design (SWD), and ESO to enable SWD to access incidents in our ESO platform. This access will allow WHEMS to properly bill for transports CWIFR conducts for WHEMS.
- We have taken the initial steps to establish a CQI program for major medical incidents. DC Meek has begun reviewing major medical incident reports in ESO. The purpose is to ensure that we document critical information and provide appropriate medical care.
- DC Meek has completed a draft program guide for our hose, appliance, and ladder testing program manager. The program manager is responsible for testing compliance and inventory. This is the first program guide created, with additional program guides to follow.
- NERIS fire reports guide was disseminated to crews for assistance in completing fire reports.
- We created gas detector field guides for use on our fire engines and conducted training with each shift to review our gas detectors and what each reading means. These guides will be distributed in May after additional feedback.
- Coordinated events for May.

### Notable April Events and Incidents

- Personnel had a near-miss incident at an MVC involving a vehicle vs. a power pole. DC Meek conducted interviews with personnel and has drafted an SOG on electrical hazards to address the incident and the actions taken. FF Travis Dotson has drafted a Rapid Lesson Sharing (RLS) report to review the incident and for dissemination to CWIFR and SWFE personnel. Additionally, we have scheduled electrical safety training with PSE in June and plan to make it a recurring training going forward.
- Small arson fire in a restroom at the Fort Casey boat launch. DC Meek interviewed personnel, met with state parks officials, and distributed “Watch for” information to all state parks on Whidbey.

### Upcoming Events

- FFs McCallum, Baily, and Conijn completed their year-long probation period on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We want to congratulate them on this accomplishment. Shift lieutenants reported that the three of them are great additions to our organization and they have blended well into each shift.
- May 1—CPR assessment at CHS
- May 2—Hearts and Hammers annual community work event
- May 9—Penn Cove Water Festival
- May 16—Coupeville Children’s Fair
- May 23—Memorial Day Parade

### **Special Operations**

- Nothing to report

### **PPE/Respiratory Protection**

- Stavros-Completed 10-year rotational Bunker Gear ordering schedule for Career firefighters. Had LN Curtis out to Station 53 to Measure Bunker Gear for 9 Firefighters. Issued three sets of bunker gear to new Volunteers.
- Wolken- Signed up for quarterly air testing for compressors, purchase of test kits to follow in later months.

### **Radios/Pagers**

- Nothing to report.

### **Medical CPR**

- McCallum new CPR instructor certified through HSI, Ordered EMS supplies (roll gauze, Gloves)

### **Reports**

Rhodes: Audited 126 NERIS reports

### **Other**

- Nothing to report.

## **Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff**

### **Station 51**

- Nothing to report.

### **Station 52**

- Nothing to report

### **Station 53**

- Corrected cooling issue with fire pump. (heat exchanger was flowing water behind the pump house at normal operating temperature)
- Discovered crack in the pavement made by utility workers, reported to DC Meek

### **Station 54**

- Clean station gutters
- Pressure wash moss off parking area and walkway.

### **Other Facilities**

- Nothing to report

## Community Risk Reduction—Lt. Jen Porter

### Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 4/5 initial inspections in April.
- B shift completed 4/10 initial inspections in April.
- C shift completed 2/3 initial inspections in April

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

- A shift 96% YTD. (27/28)
- B shift 65% YTD. (23/35)
- C shift 91% YTD. (20/22)

### Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- Assisted a homeowner in changing smoke alarm batteries (Mayer Street)
- 3 smoke/CO alarms installed (Seaview Ave.)
- Assisted homeowner in changing smoke alarm batteries and ordering new adapters for hardwired alarm replacement (Pheasant Run)

### Hydrants

- A shift completed 15/15 hydrant inspections.
- B shift completed 15/15 hydrant inspections.
- C shift completed 15/15 hydrant inspections

### Additional CRR Activities

- [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

## Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

### Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2102 (E-51) – Completed 1000hr preventative maintenance service and inspection, new batteries, and a failed auto-drain on the bumper line discharge.
- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Repaired a blown off charge air tube, headlight, and patient compartment lighting repairs.
- Unit 1402 (Chevy Tahoe) – Check engine light due to a faulty thermostat. Received a new thermostat and upper radiator hose. Received a scheduled P.M. service and new front brake rotors due to a pedal pulsation found during the test drive.
- Unit 1101 (Toyota Matrix) – Received and new battery and a scheduled P.M. and inspection.
- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Installed upgraded LED back-up lights for safety.
- Unit 1801 (505) – Received its scheduled P.M. maintenance and inspection then was sent to Frontier Chevy for repair to its glow plug system.