



Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

Professionalism • Integrity • Compassion • Excellence

(360) 678-3602

www.cwfire.org

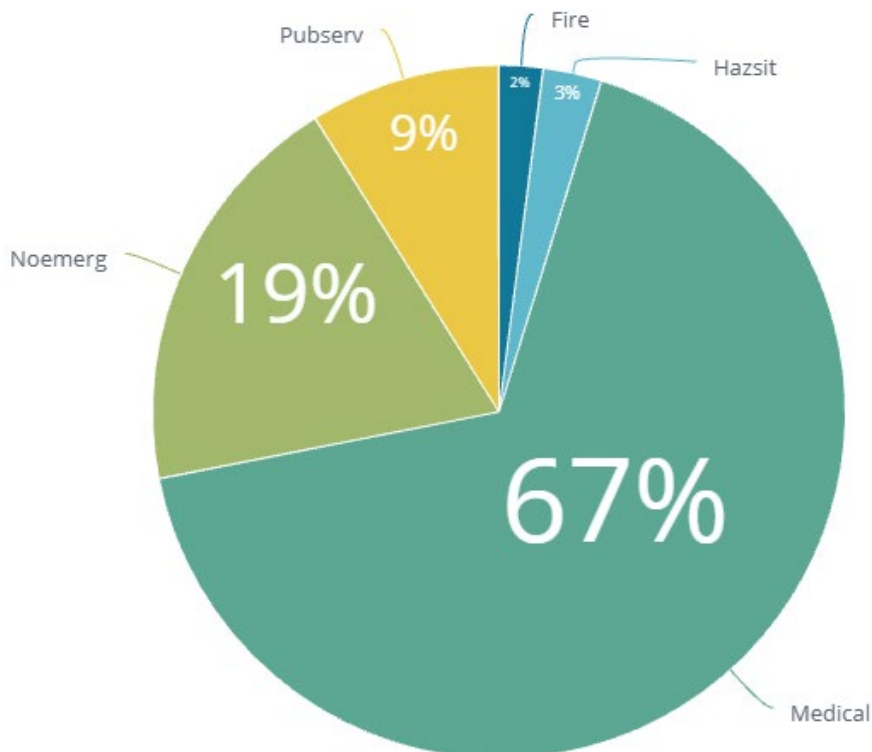
To: Board of Fire Commissioners
From: Fire Chief Jerry Helm, Deputy Chief James Meek, Battalion Chief John Lloyd
Date: June 11, 2026
Subject: Chief's Report

Operational Activity

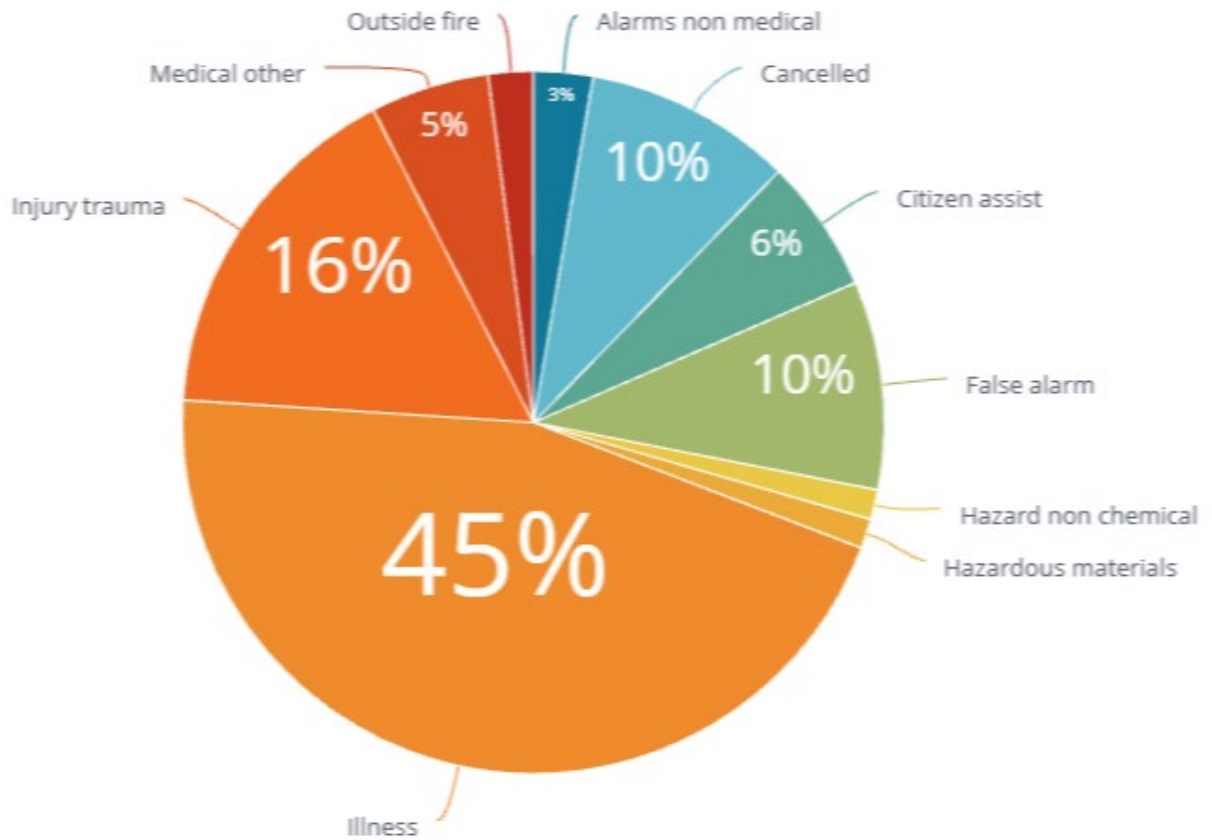
For the month of May 2026, we ran **146** emergency service calls, with **15** overlapping calls accounting for roughly 10% of the total.

April 2026 Frequency by Incident Type

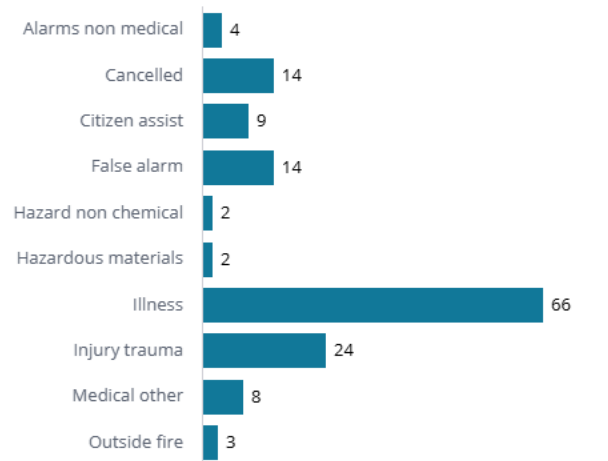
Primary Incident Type by Category



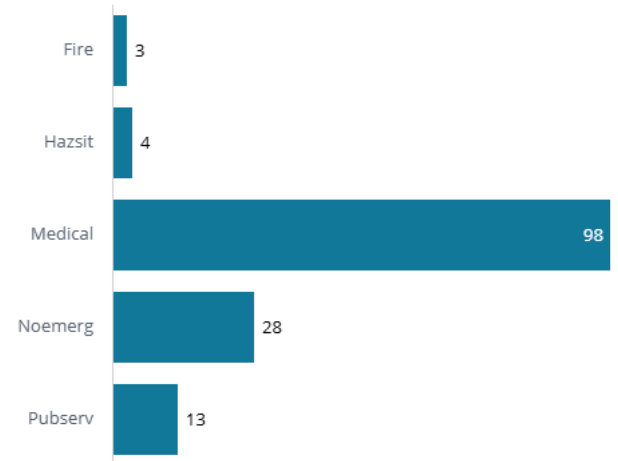
Primary Incident Types by Subcategory



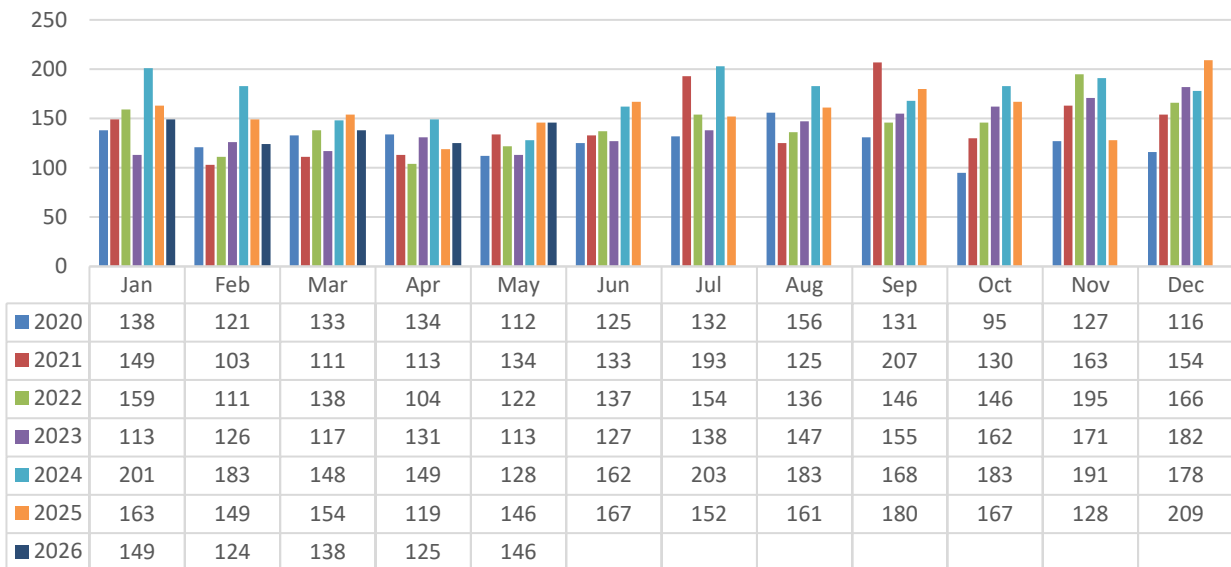
Count of Incidents by Incident Type Subcategory



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 with South Whidbey on multiple days 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 considerable time completing 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.

The 2025 Annual Report is complete and submitted by Sonja ahead of schedule.

The District received a \$5,000 donation from PSE for wildfire prevention!

Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd

Administrative

I enrolled 14 fire academy students in the state's written examinations for the Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Hazardous Materials Operations certifications. These tests will take place over the coming months and serve as the knowledge-based portion required for IFSAC certification.

Additionally, I submitted applications for three full-time employees to complete the written and Practical examinations for Instructor I certification, and for one full-time employee to complete the Instructor II written examination.

Recruitment

We continue to receive monthly interest from prospective members wanting to join CWIFR. In May, I received one new application and spoke with an individual who had connected with Steve Stavros and spoke highly of our organization and Steve. They indicated they will be applying shortly.

In-Service Training

In May, crews completed 316 hours of training. Kudos to the entire department for their commitment to putting in the hours and continually improving their skills to better serve the community.

In-service training topics included:

- Online Training
- Tender Operations
- Apparatus Operator Training
- Officer's Choice
- OTEP – Bleeding and Shock
- Search and Rescue
- Marine Training

Collaboration

We continue to collaborate with SWFE on the Fire Academy, and based on discussions between Lt. Wilke from SWFE and me, the partnership remains strong.

Three members will be attending the Marine Academy/Coxswain Training on Camano and nearby waters during the week of June 8th. Thank you to Chad McCoy with Camano Fire for hosting this training opportunity, as well as our own Kolton Kellison, who leads our marine program and will be instructing future coxswains, Firefighters Bryson and DeKoster.

SWFE and our department continue to coordinate the joint Battalion Chief program and training initiatives. Additionally, discussions were held at a Chiefs meeting on developing quarterly training schedules to further improve training outcomes and provide greater flexibility.

Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek

Community Partnerships

- CWIFR met with the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association on this year's fire prevention training and presentation. We discussed the presentation, but also provided information and guidance on the reinstallation of holiday lighting in downtown Coupeville.
- Chief Helm, Lt. Porter, and I met with a concerned group of citizens to discuss CWIFR's preparedness for a Growler crash in Central Whidbey. We provided multiple CWIFR documents and responses from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to address concerns and educate the group on the National Incident Management System-Incident Command System (NIMS-ICS). We will continue to provide information and hope to have further discussions. This conversation led to a discussion of community

preparedness, and we hope to continue discussing how we might implement a community “Prepares” campaign in Central Whidbey.

- We are working with Island County GIS to create new map books for our apparatus. Our current versions are over 20 years old, and in the event of a major incident that cuts off computer access, we will have these on hand to guide crews to locations.

Administrative

- All major documents (grant application and safety improvement plan) were submitted and accepted by L&I FIIRE.
- As a result of a “near miss” involving power lines, Travis Dotson created a Rapid Lesson Sharing document that has been distributed to all department personnel, and we have created an Electrical Hazards SOG to address the incident. Additionally, we are coordinating with PSE to provide electrical training for department members.
- We have begun creating fire preplan training documents that are sent out to department members. These documents provide an opportunity to discuss strategy and tactics for simulated fires in residential and commercial occupancies in our district. We hope to provide 1-2 simulated training documents per month.
- Coordinated events for June.

Notable May Events and Incidents

- Crews attended the Penn Cove Water Festival, Memorial Day Parade, Hearts and Hammers annual workday, CPR assessments, and Hustle with Heroes in the month of May.
- Congratulations to FF Travis Dotson for completing his Fire Inspector 1 certification.

Upcoming Events

- June 9 – CES Field Day
- June 10 – CMHS Physicals

Special Operations

- Nothing to report

PPE/Respiratory Protection

- Wolken completed an air quality test for our station compressor and submitted the test for quarterly results.
- Stavros issued gear to all new fire academy recruits. Finalized and submitted the bunker gear order to LN Curtis. We received new helmet shields and are awaiting mounting brackets for installation on 30 Helmets.

Radios/Pagers

- Nothing to report.

Medical/CPR

- Nothing to report.

Reports

- Nothing to report.

Other

- Nothing to report.

Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff

Station 51

- Nothing to report.

Station 52

- Nothing to report

Station 53

- Cracks in pavement and curb at Station 53 due to work conducted by Whidbey Telecom were reported to the company, and they sent out technicians to survey the damage.

Station 54

- Pressure-washed parking and sidewalks
- Donated the old fire pump to the high school mechanics class

Other Facilities

- Nothing to report

Community Risk Reduction—Lt. Jen Porter

Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 7/7 initial inspections, 2 re-inspections.
- B shift completed 2/6 initial inspections.
- C shift completed 3/4 initial inspections.

Yearly Inspection Progress (Year-to-Date)

- A shift 100% completion (35/35)
- B shift 63% completion (25/40)
- C shift 100% completion (32/32)

Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- A shift installed 6 address signs.
- A shift installed 5 hardwired smoke alarms purchased by the homeowner.

Hydrants

A shift completed 15 hydrant inspections.

Additional CRR Activities

- LT Porter followed up with Boys and Girls Club and Regency of Coupeville, working to integrate the mag lock on the main entry door with their fire alarm system.
- LT Porter researched LED fires following a fire on NE 6th Street caused by an LED bulb with an incorrect ballast.

Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2501 (Aid 503) – Received repairs to the RF headlight wiring and patient compartment wiring to the dome light cluster. Also received a new upper radiator hose due to a leak.
- Unit 1801 (505) – Received scheduled P.M. work and went to Chevy for scheduled drivetrain service.
- Unit 2301 (Fleet Service) – Received scheduled P.M. work.
- Unit 2303 (501) - Received scheduled P.M. work.
- Unit 1402 (Tahoe) - Received scheduled P.M. work.
- Unit 2102 (E-51) – Received a new thermostat and coolant recovery tank due to cracking found during its 1000-hour inspection and maintenance P.M. Also received a new D.E.F. tank due to module failure inside the D.E.F. tank.