



# 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: July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Subject: Chief's Report

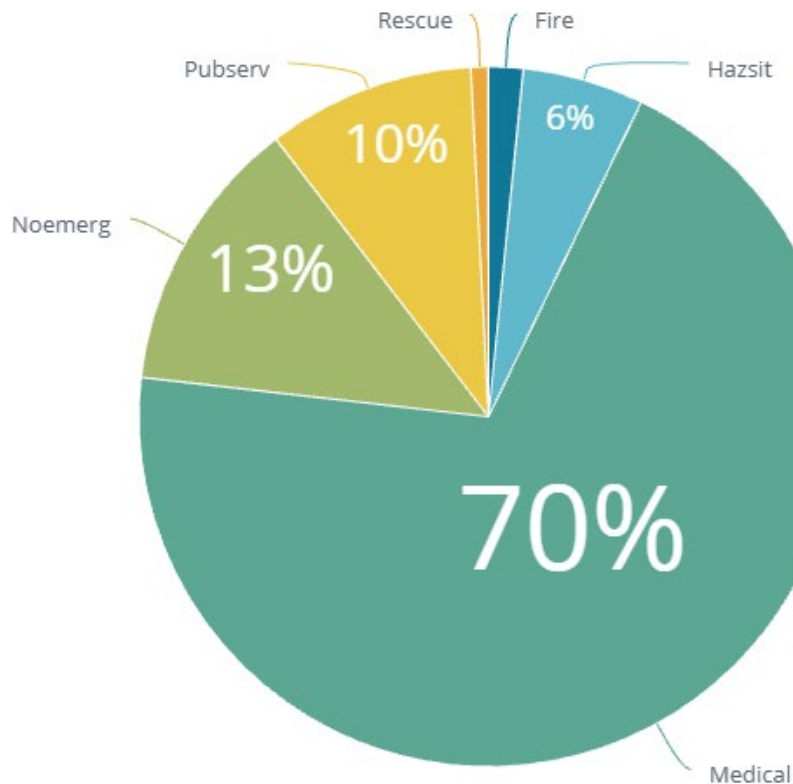
## Operational Activity

For the month of June 2026, we ran **125** emergency service calls, (**87 EMS calls, 2 Fire Calls, 36 Other, 1 Aid Given**) with **16** overlapping calls accounting for roughly **13%** of the total.

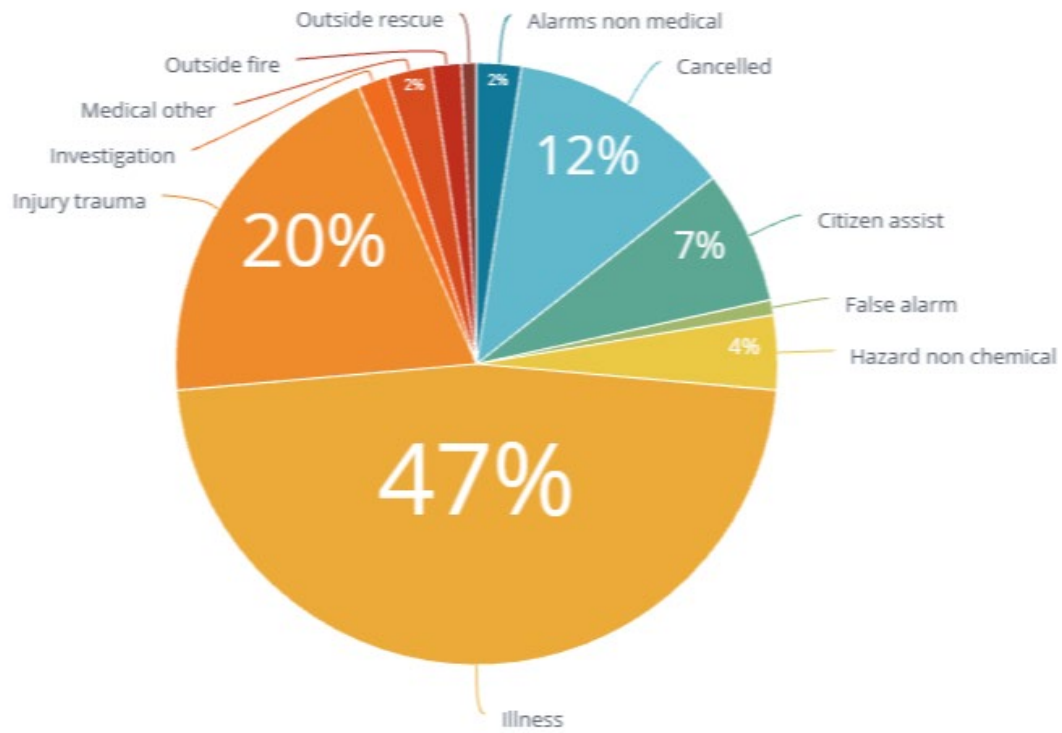
**Kyle Bryson** is this month's top responder with 25 incidents. Congratulations Kyle, Keep up the good work.

## June 2026 Frequency by Incident Type

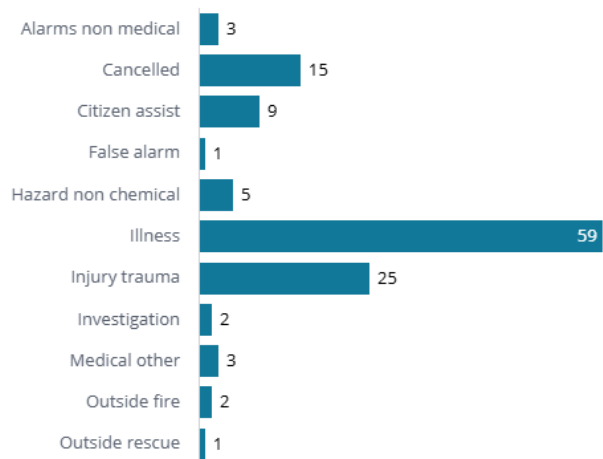
Primary Incident Type by Category



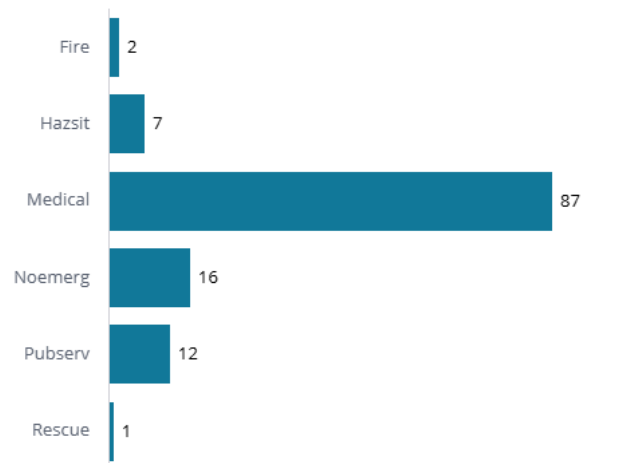
Primary Incident Types by Subcategory



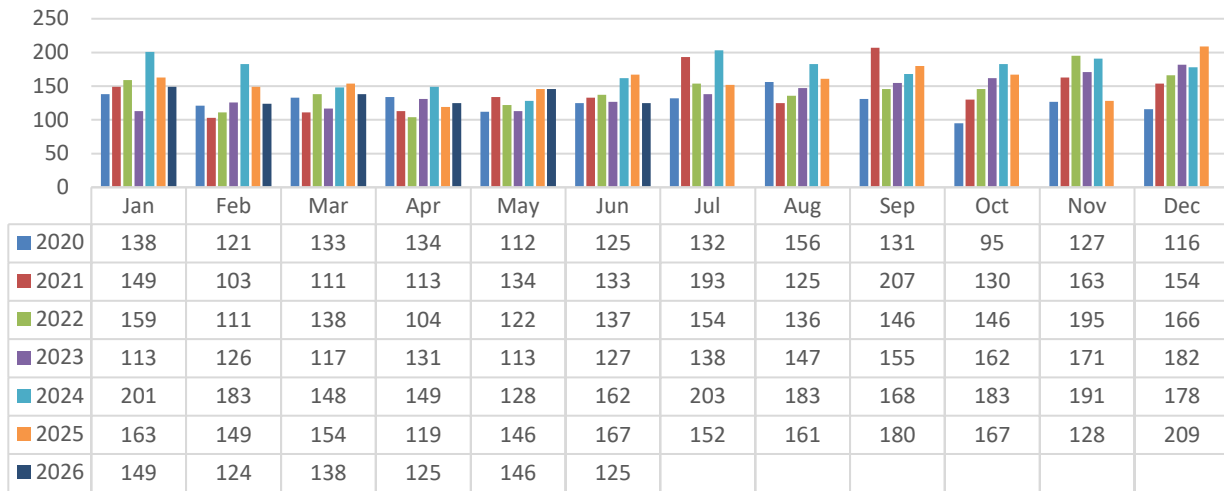
Count of Incidents by Incident Type Subcategory



Count of Incidents by Incident Category



2026 Incident Frequency by Month



**Other Administrative work**

Chief Meek and I attended the monthly 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 and joint labor-management meeting. The district did not have specific topics for discussion for labor-management, but reviewed several items raised by the local. Both meetings help keep communication open and provide regular project- and task-level check-ins.

Contract Negotiations with IAFF local 4299 have begun with identification and agreement on a new comparable that will replace one lost due to a merger into a larger organization.

Chief Helm attended Oak Harbor Fire new station 82 ribbon cutting and participated in weekly DEM planning session for anticipated upcoming FIFA world cup challenges to Island County.

2027 budget development has started with updates to division narratives, 2026 accomplishments, and 2027 goals bring the first round of edits sent out for division feedback.

Strategic planning updates continue with a healthy list of community members who have stepped up to help shape our future. Thank you to all who submitted a request to help, we will be reaching out to you shortly to schedule our first planning session. To date we are targeting July 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> for the first session.

The district was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Chief Helm met with Motorola and Day Wireless for product support and introduction to new area manager for Motorola.

## Training & Development – Battalion Chief John Lloyd

### **Administrative**

Battalion Chief Lloyd coordinated and scheduled five written IFSAC certification examinations and one practical examination through the State certification system. He also proctored 14 Firefighter I written certification exams for members of the Fire Academy and is currently awaiting the official results.

Additionally, Chief Lloyd is working with Lieutenant Kalahiki, a Test Control Officer (TCO) with South Whidbey Fire/EMS, to schedule the Instructor II practical examination, which is anticipated to take place in August.

### **Recruitment**

We continue to receive applications for volunteer positions. Three additional volunteer applicants should be scheduled for interviews in July.

### **In-Service Training**

In June, crews completed **289 hours of training**. Thank you to everyone for your continued commitment to training and professional development.

In-service training topics included:

- Online Training
- Decontamination Operations
- Apparatus Operator Training
- Officer's Choice
- OTEP – Spinal Emergencies
- Simulated Call Response and Tactical Decision-Making
- Marine Operations Training

### **Collaboration**

CWIFR and South Whidbey Fire/EMS continue to partner on the joint Volunteer Fire Academy. Firefighter I certification testing is expected to be completed by mid-July, after which recruits will begin the Firefighter II and Hazardous Materials portions of their training.

We also continue our partnership with Camano Fire on the Joint Marine Academy. Firefighter Kellison assisted as an instructor, while Firefighters Bryson and DeKoster attended to further develop their marine operations skills and continue working toward qualification as coxswains.

## Operations – Deputy Chief James Meek

### Community Partnerships

- On June 4<sup>th</sup>, CWIFR personnel attended a multi-station EMS training coordinated by Whidbey Health EMS Training Supervisor Craig Anderson. This training incorporated extrication, crush injuries, gunshot wounds, and active shooter response.
- CWIFR met with a concerned group of citizens to continue addressing concerns about a Growler crash in the CWIFR district. These discussions are building a better understanding of fire department response in our district and the neighboring districts with community leaders. In addition, these discussions have evolved into the development of a “Prepares” program in Central Whidbey. We hope to find community leaders and volunteers who could head important preparedness groups that would activate in the event of a significant incident, such as an earthquake.
- CWIFR met with CHWA to discuss the annual “Fire Safety Week” training in downtown Coupeville. This year’s training will be a roll-up drill at the Wharf. Crews will be provided with a simulated fire and will need to address critical tasks for this preplanned commercial structure.

In addition, we will be providing PowerPoint training on electrical hazards. The electrical hazards training is in response to the holiday lighting fire on Front Street earlier this year.

- Jessy Hillier and Jesse Carranza conducted ACT training at Station 53.

### Administrative

- CWIFR conducted a quarterly safety committee meeting to discuss the recent power line near miss and the development of processes for a safer CWIFR.
- We have begun work on a CWIFR standard of cover. This process will involve revising a previous draft and adding additional district information. Our goal is to have this document completed in 2026.
- Coordinated events for July.

### Notable May Events and Incidents

- 06/24—CWIFR and SWFE crews responded to a house fire on Smuggler’s Cove Rd. Early in the incident, an explosion occurred that injured three responders. A debrief was conducted the following day, and CWIFR and SWFE are creating an AAR to discuss the incident. All fire and EMS agencies on Whidbey responded to the incident. We want to extend a sincere thank you to all of those who responded, to the community for their overwhelming support, and to the Camano and Everett fire departments for their compassion and support for members who were transported to the hospital.
- Crews attended Field Day at CES and supported CMHS physicals. A big thank you to Steve Stavros, Kyle Bryson, and Ashley Taylor for their support at these events.

### Upcoming Events

- July 15 – Coupeville Library Touch a Truck
- August – CMHS Physicals

### Special Operations

- Nothing to report

### PPE/Respiratory Protection

FF Wolken had the compressor serviced, an air sample was taken after service, and more service was scheduled due to ongoing issues. Two bottles received new gauges, and another was scheduled for service due to a leak. An additional pack is scheduled for service due to water in the PASS device.

FF Stavros ordered new gloves/flash hoods. We received new helmet shields, and Stavros organized backer plate installation instructions for all on-duty firefighters and volunteers. Stavros swapped all the new recruits' bunker gear with non-expired bunker gear for the live-fire event. In addition, Stavros organized and inventoried the PPE room and boxed all expired gear in preparation for donation to South America.

#### **Radios/Pagers**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Medical/CPR**

- Ordered EMS supplies for stock check, placed an order for a new AED for A-503 that links with the LUCAS device on scene.

#### **Reports**

- Rhodes: 125 NERIS reports audited.

#### **Other**

- Nothing to report.

### **Facilities—Lt. Jim Huff**

#### **Station 51**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Station 52**

- Nothing to report

#### **Station 53**

- The Station 53 generator was serviced, and a block heater was replaced.
- A/C filters were cleaned and reinstalled.

#### **Station 54**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Other Facilities**

- Nothing to report

## Community Risk Reduction—Lt. Jen Porter

### Monthly Inspection Progress

- A shift completed 5/5 initial inspections, 1 re-inspection.
- B shift completed 0/7 initial inspections, 2 re-inspections.
- C shift completed 3/3 initial inspections.

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

- A shift YTD 100% or 40/40
- B shift YTD 53% or 25/47
- C shift YTD 100% or 35 of 35

### Home Safety Surveys & Installations

- Smoke alarm check of Cedar Hollow to advise regarding expired smoke alarms.

### Hydrants

#### Monthly Progress

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

#### Yearly progress

- A shift 100% completion 45/45
- B shift 100% completion 45/45
- C shift 100% completion 46/46

### Additional CRR Activities

- New Knox key placed at Salty Von's Waterfront 6/12/2026
- Fire alarm final inspection at Coupeville Library witnessed by FF Majestic/LT Porter/FF DeKoster
- Lt Porter and FF McCallum participated in a driveway pre-plan meeting with neighbors off Peters Road in Greenbank. The single-lane road is over 1.3 miles off SR 525.
- FF De Koster has coordinated with Pacific Northwest Hydro and the shifts to organize our annual hose testing in July.

## Fleet Maintenance Division—FF/Mechanic Mike Matros

### Repair & Maintenance

- Unit 2102 (E-51) – The Diesel Exhaust Fluid coolant valve was replaced per the manufacturer's recommendation due to the DEF tank and module failure and replacement.
- Unit 2301 (Maintenance Truck) – A fifty-foot diesel reel was installed to aid in refueling more efficiently.
- Unit 0702 (T-54) – Received its annual NFPA 1911 inspection and P.M. The #2 and #3 discharge valves were also rebuilt due to leakage.