

Camas - Washougal Fire Department



Mayors, Councils, and Citizens of Camas & Washougal:

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2016 Annual Report for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department (CWFD). The purpose of this report is to keep our elected officials and community members updated on the activities of their fire department and emergency medical services. The department and its members were faced with a myriad of challenges in 2016, but thru the perseverance and dedication of our members we managed to maintain our mission of providing the best level of service possible to our community.

One of the biggest projects we worked on in 2016 was an ongoing effort to bring CWFD in to closer partnership with our neighbors at East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR). In 2011, the Washougal and Camas Fire departments began a trial merger in an

effort to improve efficiencies and reduce costs through elimination of duplication of effort. This effort provided for many improvements to the level of service enjoyed by the citizens of East Clark County, including a paramedic transport unit being located in the Washougal fire station. In November of 2016, CWFD and ECFR embarked on a new partnership when elected officials on both sides approved a one year consolidation of their fire department administrations. This agreement allowed for the CWFD fire chief to simultaneously serve as the ECFR fire chief. It will allow ECFR to save money by avoiding hiring another full time fire chief. CWFD will benefit by having some salary costs reimbursed by ECFR in recognition of the hours their fire chief will spend tending to District business. Despite the complex nature of the arrangement, the true winners are our citizens that we are all sworn to pro-

fect. The partnership between ECFR and CWFD now protects our communities with the coordinated efforts of 8 fire stations, over 60 career personnel, and numerous volunteer and part-time firefighters.

As emergency calls increase for most departments nationwide, agencies have begun to explore service mergers or other partnerships as a way to maintain or improve levels of service in an atmosphere of tight operational budgets. Such partnerships can take on many forms. The Camas and Washougal merger was implemented as a 10 year contract for service. The administrative sharing arrangement between ECFR and CWFD was enacted through an interlocal agreement that must be re-evaluated and renewed (if the parties so choose) after one year. While different in scope and structure, the intent is the same: to maintain levels of service, to harness efficiencies, and to save money where possible. This in turn leads to direct benefits for our communities through reduction or elimination of duplication of effort, cost avoidance, and perhaps even a decrease in expenditures. We will continue to explore methods by which our agencies can work more closely in partnership in 2017.

While there were successes in 2016, such as the new CWFD/ECFR partnership, the department experienced several challenges that stressed our financial and operational resources. Several personnel were on extended leave throughout the year due to on-the-job injuries. Additionally, the department was faced with the resignation of four of our firefighter/paramedics within a relatively short period of time. While the department always strives to maintain an active hiring list, paramedic vacancies are particularly onerous to deal with. Given our location, most new paramedics the department hires come from Oregon. Washington and Oregon do not have direct reciprocity for paramedics. Thus, when we hire a paramedic from Oregon, it can literally take *months* for their paramedic certification to transfer to Washington. During this period of time they are also sent off to the Washington State Fire Academy for three months of recruit training. The net effect of these hiring and training requirements is that it typically takes 6-8 months from the time we hire a paramedic before we can actually utilize them as a para-

medic. This combination of numerous work injuries and lengthy paramedic vacancies caused the department to significantly overspend its budgeted overtime funds for 2016. Due to minimum staffing requirements, the department was faced with two unappealing options: pay overtime to hire back the necessary staff, or close down fire stations. With no other alternatives available, and with the inherent difficulty in estimating overtime funding in public safety, the department's overtime ended the year some \$75,000 over budget (based on the fall omnibus) or \$385,555 over budget (based on the originally adopted budget). We will continue to explore methods by which we may be able to minimize such fiscal impacts in the future.

CWFD is the only fire department in Clark County to provide ambulance response and transport services. The experience and professionalism of our paramedic staff has led the department to be included in several prehospital medical studies over the years. One of them, the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC) study, found that Camas and Washougal were two of the safest communities in the United States for cardiac arrest survival. That's a significant testament to the dedication of our staff and the services they provide.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the fire chief of our growing communities for nearly 6 years. I would like to extend a "thank you" to our elected officials, city administrators, and our citizens, for their continued support.



Nick Swinhart, EFO, CFO
Fire Chief

Camas-Washougal Fire Department
East County Fire and Rescue

Washington Fire Chiefs Board of Directors

Ambulance Revenue			
	Invoiced	Collected	Percentage
2012	\$1,776,823	\$977,997	55%
2013	\$1,764,714	\$964,693	55%
2014	\$1,873,619	\$993,911	53%
2015	\$1,982,009	\$1,037,886	52%
2016	\$2,308,062	\$1,169,438	51%

Ambulance Billing

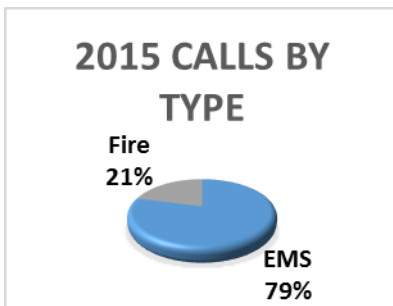
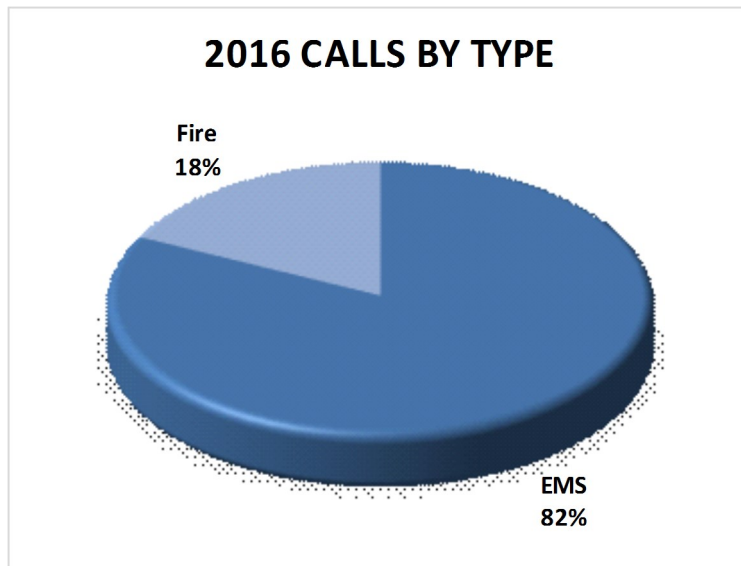
Ambulance billing is handled in-house at the city's finance department by Ameer Rasmussen. Nationally, ambulance revenues have varied drastically over the years due to changes in federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. When call volume and transports go up, the reasonable inference is that revenues should go up as well. While revenues will often trend upwards with increasing call volumes, write-offs increase at an even more substantial rate. One question we get frequently is, "why not just be more aggressive with collections?" Unfortunately we are forbidden by federal law, as are all ambulance providers, to bill a patient above and beyond what Medicare or Medicaid determine is their allowable rate. Since the majority of our patients are covered by one of these federal programs, over 90% of our write-offs signify money that can never be recovered. This is the reason why there are such stark differences between the "invoiced" amount and the "collected" amount in the table above. At the same time, it is important to understand exactly what the term "write off" means in the ambulance billing industry. If the department bills a Medicare patient \$800 for care and transport, but Medicare determines that the allowable amount is only \$300, then the remaining \$500 is deemed uncollectable by federal law. This type of write off represents the vast majority of uncollectable ambulance bills for the department. What a write off is not is money that was allocated in our revenues or expenditures budget that was somehow "lost."

Ambulance billing is getting more complex every year, and we appreciate the continued work by the staff in our Finance Department to keep up with the latest changes. We are optimistic about upcoming programs like "GEMT," which may help the department increase its overall net collectible bills. Our staff will stay on top of such programs, and other opportunities to improve our billing efficiency.

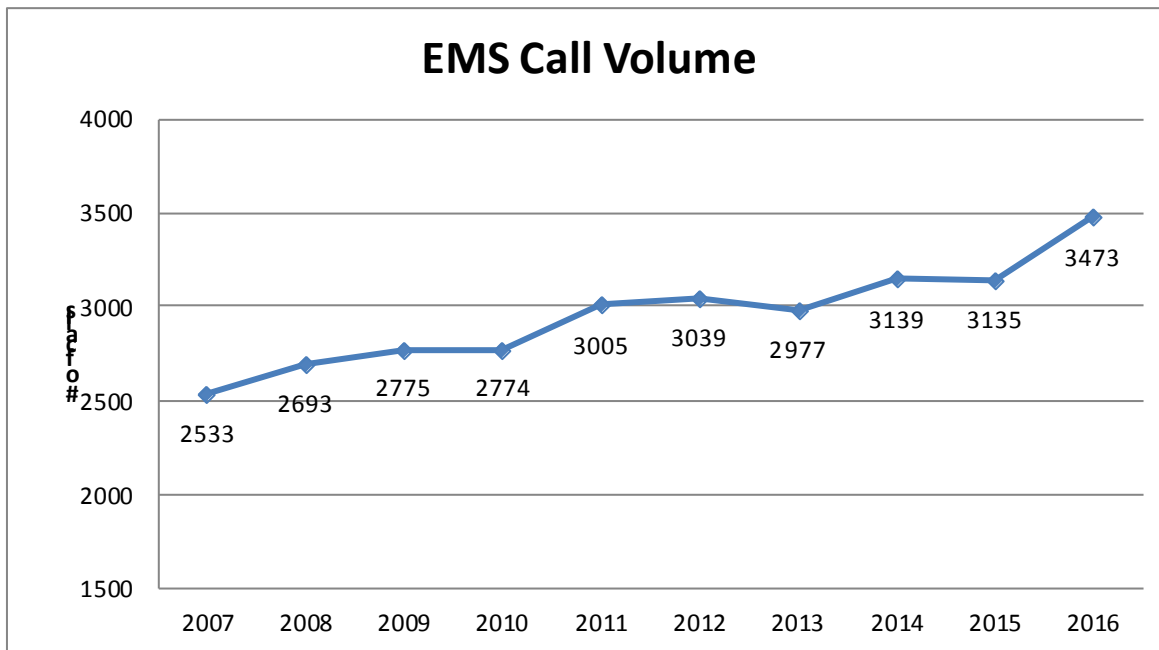
2016 Emergency Services Report

2016 Total Call Composition:

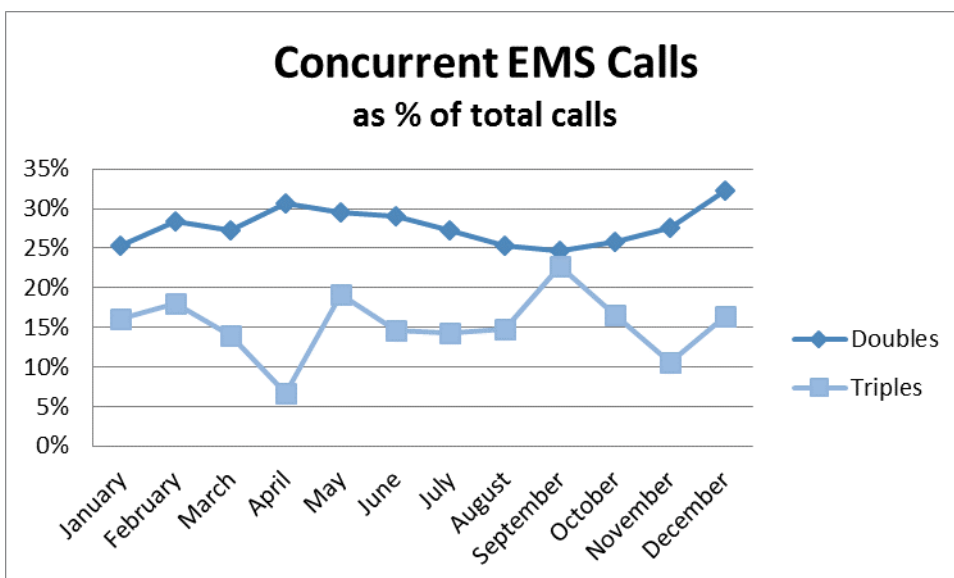
The majority of requests for service of the CWFD are EMS in nature. This is not exclusive to CWFD, it mirrors Fire Department statistics nationally. In 2015, the northwest experienced a particularly long, dry summer which skewed the ratio a few points, but in 2016, we returned to our traditional ratio of EMS calls being over 80% of our call volume.



2016 EMS Total Call Volume:

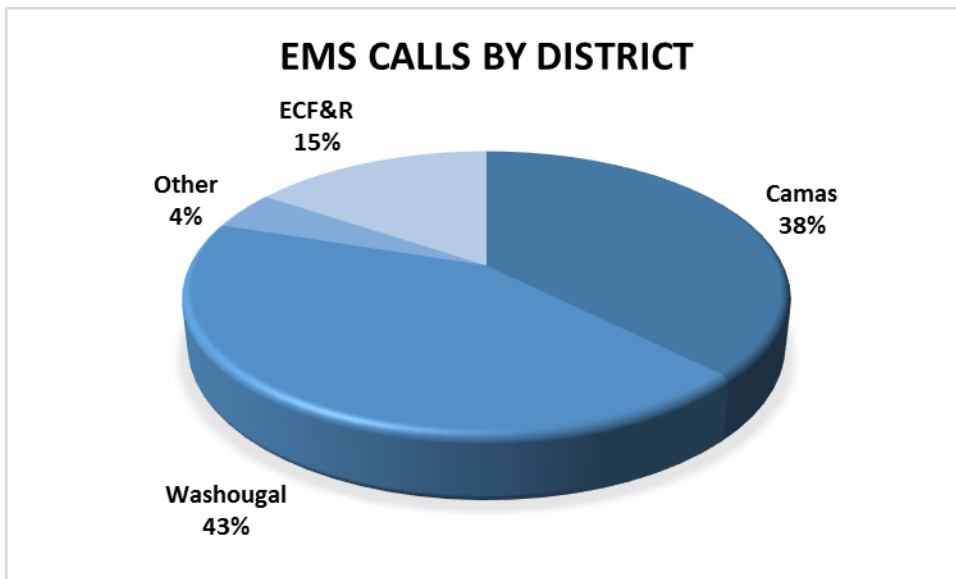


For the last ten years, EMS call volume has been incrementally increasing. 2016 saw the greatest increase during this tenure. Since 2007, EMS call volume has risen by 37%, yet over 10% of that growth fell in 2016. The 10% increase in call volume was for the entire response area; However, each respective response area (City of Camas, City of Washougal, ECFR, and the other neighboring jurisdictions) all individually increased. We have seen similar though not as aggressive single year increases, as in 2011, that were not necessarily indicative of the rate of change moving forward. However, we closely monitor this to insure that we have the resources available to accommodate the growing volume of EMS calls.



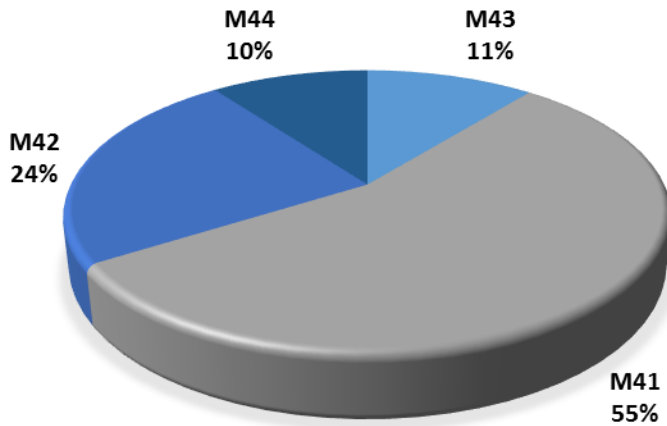
CWFD maintains four ambulances within our service area. Concurrent EMS calls are constantly monitored to assess adequate ambulance availability and distribution for our service area and call volume. In 2016, 48% of our call volume required more than one ambulance to respond concurrently to separate calls. Of these, two ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 28% of our call volume. Three ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 15% of our call volume. Four ambulances (not depicted in above chart) ran concurrent calls on an average of 4% of our call volume. It should be noted that sometimes multiple ambulances are required at a single event, for example, a motor vehicle accident with multiple patients requiring transport. In this case, one call is generated but more than one ambulance is deployed. These calls are not represented in the above graph due to the difficulty in parsing them from the database. However, the incidence of these calls is low enough to be not statistically relevant when looking at the total annual EMS call volume.

2016 Calls by District:



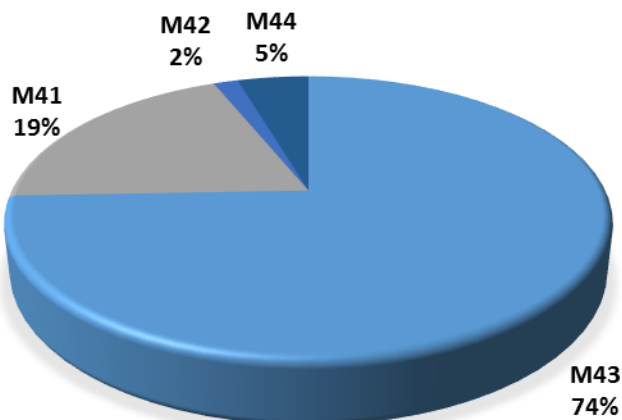
CWFD provides ambulance transport primarily for the cities of Camas and Washougal and the fire district of East County Fire and Rescue. This is facilitated through written agreement between the stated entities. EMS services are also provided to the City of Vancouver, EMS District 2, North Country EMS, and Skamania County through mutual aid agreements. 96% of EMS calls were within the boundaries of Camas, Washougal and ECFR, while 4% of calls were mutual aid calls outside of this service area.

CAMAS CALLS BY MEDIC UNIT



The City of Camas is primarily served by the two stations found within its city limits: Station 41 and Station 42. Station 41 houses M41, which maintains constant, dedicated ambulance staffing; and M44 which is cross-staffed with E41. Station 42 houses M42 which at minimum staffing is cross-staffed with E42, and at full staffing, has dedicated staffing for both M42 and E42. In 2016, Station 42 was fully staffed 7 days out of the year. For EMS calls that originated in the City of Camas, 90% were responded to by ambulances residing in the City of Camas, from either Station 41 or Station 42.

WASHOUGAL CALLS BY MEDIC UNIT



The City of Washougal is primarily served by Station 43 which resides in the Washougal City limits. Station 43 houses M43, which maintains constant, dedicated ambulance staffing. For EMS calls that originated in the City of Washougal, 74% were responded to by an ambulance stationed within the City of Washougal.



In terms of call outcome, 70% of EMS calls terminated in ambulance transport to a hospital. 26% were patient refusals. Less than 1% were non-emergency scheduled transports either to a hospital, clinic or hospice facility. The remaining 4% (other) were treat and releases, no medical necessity, public assists, or transport through private means.

2016 in Review:

In 2016, medical equipment supply costs rose by an average of 6%, pharmaceuticals supplies rose by an average of 15%. These cost increases were mitigated through constant vigilance in inventory control, management and minimizing waste. Another significant challenge has been navigating an escalating national issue of pharmaceutical drug shortages. This has resulted in market forces driving up the cost of drugs, while requiring a considerable amount of additional effort toward expanding our network of suppliers in order to keep our EMS system properly outfitted. There seems to be no immediate solution to this national issue. As a department, we have weathered this storm better than most other County agencies, in that we are not beholden to exclusive supply contracts; however, the downstream consequence is that it takes a substantial amount of administrative hours to maintain a competent compliment of EMS supplies and interventional drugs.

In December, CWFD took possession of a 2016 Ford F-350 4WD ambulance from Braun NW. The new ambulance replaces a 2001 ambulance that had served as a reserve unit for routine maintenance and repair of mechanical issues associated with our four duty ambulances. The four wheel drive is essential to navigating the snow and ice conditions often encountered with our proximity to the gorge, and our response into the upper elevations of East County. Steep roadways within the cities of Camas and Washougal also contribute to the value of our 4WD ambulances. Three of our four duty ambulances are now 4WD. For the first time in the history of the Camas (now Camas-Washougal) Fire Department, we have a fleet of like ambulances. The continuity of like ambulances makes transitioning from one ambulance to another easier on personnel and eliminates 'relearning' of the internal workspace of each apparatus each day.

CWFD has fully implemented the conclusions and recommendations of an international cardiac arrest study, of which Camas was an integral part. The research study was funded through the Resuscitation Outcome Consortium (ROC) and the National Institute of Health. The study began in June of 2012 and was completed in October of 2015. The goal of the study was to correlate pre-hospital cardiac arrest management, strategies and protocols with hospital survival outcome data. The results of the study was released in April of 2016; however, CWFD had seen a rise in the percentage of patients surviving cardiac arrest in our response area every year since the onset of the study. Since 2015, 35% of the cardiac arrest patients where resuscitation was initiated in the field were resuscitated prior to arriving at the hospital. 26% of cardiac arrest patients where resuscitation was initiated in the field survived to discharge from the hospital.

Participation in pre-hospital EMS studies is an ongoing priority for CWFD. It is through these studies that we are able to determine which medical interventions are the most advantageous to our patients and keeps CWFD on the forefront of medical innovation and 'best practices'.

2016 introduced some significant changes and evolution of our EMS protocols and interventions. A continual effort is made to keep pace with current trends in pre-hospital care management and incorporate constantly evolving best practices into our patient care. An advantage of our size and structure, being fire station based, is that we can retool and modify our patient care practices very quickly in terms of inventory, training, and implementation. Change is the bane of larger agencies and agencies where personnel and equipment never share a fixed location, as in system status systems.

Goals for 2017:

- Find funding for, and begin replacement of fatigued gurneys.
- Begin transition to a more cost effective, user friendly, engine/medic MDC system.
- Expand, upgrade or replace Fire/RMS to a WEMSiS compliant MIR system.
- Evolve paramedic field training program to more efficiently accommodate influx of new employees.
- Resurrect and expand community CPR/first-aid program.
- Expand EMS role in assisting law enforcement with processing of DUI's.

Cliff Free

Division Chief of EMS



2016 Fire Marshal's Office Report

It's a pleasure to submit the Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) Annual Report for 2016. The year 2016 was a busy one in our office which included the successful accomplishment of two long-term goals:

Residential Fire Sprinkler Ordinance: A milestone was reached in the City of Camas on April 18th, 2016 when the city council voted unanimously to approve an ordinance that requires all new single and two family homes and townhomes in Camas to install residential fire sprinkler systems. The work to accomplish this goal has been ongoing for the last fifteen years, with the groundwork being set by previous Fire Marshals and their staffs. No prevention strategy has as much documented life safety effectiveness as fire sprinklers and Camas is now one of only seven municipalities in the state of Washington to have such a sprinkler ordinance. The approval of this ordinance ensures that Camas has greatly increased the safety of both residents and firefighters.

Unified Fire Code: As part of the Inter-local Agreement between the cities of Camas and Washougal, our office was given the task to merge the city's respective fire codes. The FMO worked diligently with both city councils for the last three years, taking the best of each city's codes to create an updated and unified code, officially completing the task in December. Having a unified fire code has benefited not only the Fire Department, but also local contractors who appreciate the consistency in the codes and of course, most importantly, it has helped us to better serve our customers.

The commitment that went into accomplishing these two long term goals exemplifies our motto of continually "Working for a Safer Community". This commitment was also evident in the many other activities and accomplishments we experienced throughout 2016.

2016 FMO in Review

THE 3 E's

The primary goal of the FMO is to save lives and property by reducing the occurrence of fires within our jurisdictions through what we call *the three E's of Fire Prevention*: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering.

Education

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department (CWFD) is committed to ensuring that we have the safest possible community through public education and prevention programs. In 2016 the FMO staff, along with on-duty firefighters and volunteer firefighters, enjoyed many opportunities to provide fire and life safety education to our citizens of all ages. It was our privilege to connect with our citizens in meaningful ways, including our many classroom visits, station tours, and our participation in numerous community events.

The FMO not only participates in these scheduled events, but we also have the opportunity to connect with and educate the public every day. Many citizens stop in or call with questions regarding permits, code violations, outdoor burning, life safety issues, hazard conditions, code development and legislation, residential fire sprinklers, fireworks, tall grass hazards, fire department access, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide to name a few. We genuinely enjoy engaging with the community through the public education facet of our work. In 2017 as in every year, we will continue to place a high priority on connecting with the citizens we serve.

Enforcement

The FMO enforces the fire code through routine fire and life safety inspections, hazardous materials inspections, and fire investigations.

- *Fire and Life Safety Inspections*

The FMO conducts annual and bi-annual fire and life safety inspections at local businesses with no charge to the occupants. In most cases of violation, building owners are allowed thirty days to make corrections which are reviewed upon re-inspection. When serious fire code violations are discovered we require that those be corrected on the spot. Rather than assessing penalties and fines for violations, our philosophy is to focus on fire prevention through the education of our local building owners/businesses.

- *Hazardous Material Inspections*

The communities of Camas and Washougal have many diverse industries; some of these industries have processes that are considered hazardous by definition. The storage, handling and manufacturing of products in these types of businesses must meet stricter standards and it is the responsibility of the FMO to enforce these standards.

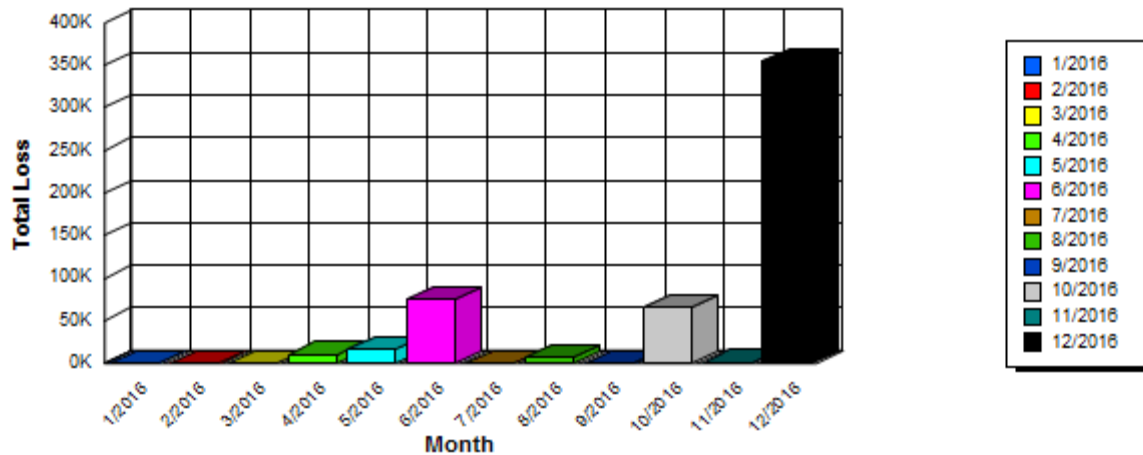
- *Fire Investigations*

One of the primary functions of the FMO is the investigation of the origin and cause of the fires within our jurisdictions. In conjunction with this task, we also provide assistance to fire victims by helping them connect with other emergency agencies such as the Red Cross, and we help with facilitating the rehabilitation process with insurance companies and building security companies.

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department responded to and investigated a wide array of fires in 2016, including the following significant fires:

Significant Fires in Camas and Washougal in 2016

Date	City	Street	Type	Cause	Property Loss	Content Loss
05/02/2016	Camas	3210 NW Hood Ct.	Residential	Electrical	\$15k	\$0
06/17/2016	Washougal	4358 Elderberry	Residential Patio	Smoker's Care- lessness	\$15k	\$0
06/28/2016	Washougal	4501 Addy St.	Residential Patio	Cooking	\$32k	\$25k
10/28/2016	Camas	535 NW Elm St.	Residential Bedroom	Smoker's Care- lessness	\$55k	\$10k
12/17/2016	Camas	5509 NW Parker	Hydro-tank	Static Electricity	\$355k	\$0

2016 Total Fire Loss by Month**Engineering**

In 2016 the FMO continued to work with architects, civil engineers, builders and developers to create a safer community as follows:

- We attended pre-application meetings with developers to ensure that potential new projects allow for plenty of available water to fight fires and that all new developments include fire apparatus access roads.
- We issued permits and conducted plan reviews for fire code compliance for new construction, building alterations/change in use, and for the installation, or alteration of fire and life safety systems.
- We issued permits for the maintenance, storage, use or handling of hazardous materials, and for the installation and use of equipment used in connection with such activities.

2016 Commercial Project Reviews of Note

Numerous commercial projects were approved, started, and/or completed in 2016:

- The Port of Camas-Washougal added a 31,000 sq. ft. manufacturing building, which is close to completion.
- The Washougal School District's new Excelsior High School and new Transportation Facility Building are both nearing completion.
- Lake Road in Camas saw quite a bit of activity. At the Dwyer Creek building several tenant improvement projects were finalized. In addition, 2 manufacturing facility projects (12,000 and 23,000 sq. ft.) along that road were also finalized.
- The Camas School District's new Project Based Learning (PBL) Middle School (which took over part of the existing business office owned by Sharp Electronics) was completed. Two additional schools for the district are currently under design review.

As we look ahead to 2017, our work related to construction looks to be even busier than last year. In addition to the two new schools in Camas, there are numerous commercial projects in the initial review phases in both cities. We are excited about the new projects and look forward to the many challenges that lie ahead.

Fire Permits, Inspections and Fees 2016

2016 was an extremely busy year with new construction in both cities. Many of the new buildings and tenant improvements required the installation of fire alarms and fire sprinklers. In total, the FMO processed 374 fire permits (252 of those for residential sprinklers) and we performed over 950 inspections (including construction/permit inspections and fire and life safety code related inspections).

FMO Permit Fees in 2016: \$55,359

Fire Impact Fees

New growth and development in our cities creates additional demand for public fire safety facilities. Fire impact fees are collected to help recover a portion of the costs incurred for these new facilities. In 2016 fees collected were:

- Camas Fire Impact Fees: \$104,068
- Washougal Fire Impact Fees: \$64,093

Confidence Testing – Compliance System

The International Fire Code (IFC) requires building owners to maintain their building's fire protection systems in good working condition at all times and to ensure that these systems are tested on a regular basis. This periodic testing of fire protection is called *confidence testing*. Semi-annual, annual and five-year confidence tests are to be conducted by certified technicians and the confidence test reports they generate, including problems found and any corrections made, are required to be submitted to our office.

According to one national survey, between 30% and 50% of all fire and life safety systems go without mandatory inspection, testing, and maintenance as required by the building and fire codes. It is imperative that Camas and Washougal building owners stay current with testing, but our task of tracking that compliance presents a challenge, due in part to sheer volume. To date there are over 200 buildings with a combined 317 systems in our database and that number continues to grow.

In 2016 the Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office continued to build our *Confidence Testing Database / Notification System* in an effort to improve our tracking efficiency and the level of compliance in our cities. Approximately 180 non-compliance notices were sent out last year and the response from our business community and the testing companies has been positive. This confidence testing compliance system continues to bring more awareness and compliance from business owners. In 2017 we will continue to work with the businesses and service providers towards our goal of 100% compliance.

Camas Connect Continues to Streamline our Processes

Of the 950 inspections performed in 2016, just over 700 were fire permit inspections. In the past, all 700+ of those inspections would have been called in via our inspection request phone line and the information then transcribed by our office. But through our continued effort to educate local contractors on the use of Camas Connect (our new on-line inspection request option) 252 of those 700 inspection requests were received through Camas Connect. This helped alleviate excess time spent transcribing that information, and allowed for improved accuracy and understanding of the requests.

As more and more contractors become familiar with, and use Camas Connect we expect to see continued improvements in our workflow. In 2017 we plan to use the system in other facets of our work as we strive to continually improve our service to our contractors and citizens.

Looking Ahead

In closing, it has been a privilege to serve as Fire Marshal for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department. Our team, comprised of a Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal and an Administrative Assistant, are dedicated to protecting the lives of citizens, businesses and visitors by providing the highest quality inspections, training and investigations as possible in our jurisdictions. We have, and will continue to strive to provide excellent service to the customers we serve.

Ron Schumacher

Division Chief/Fire Marshal



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE ALARMS PERFORM AS INTENDED
– WHEN YOU NEED THEM THE MOST

- **TEST** smoke alarms monthly
- Change the **BATTERIES** every year
- Beware of **CHIRPING** smoke alarms – it's time to replace the batteries
- Replace older smoke alarms – **REPLACE** alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Know the **SOUND** of the smoke alarm and what to do if the alarm goes off



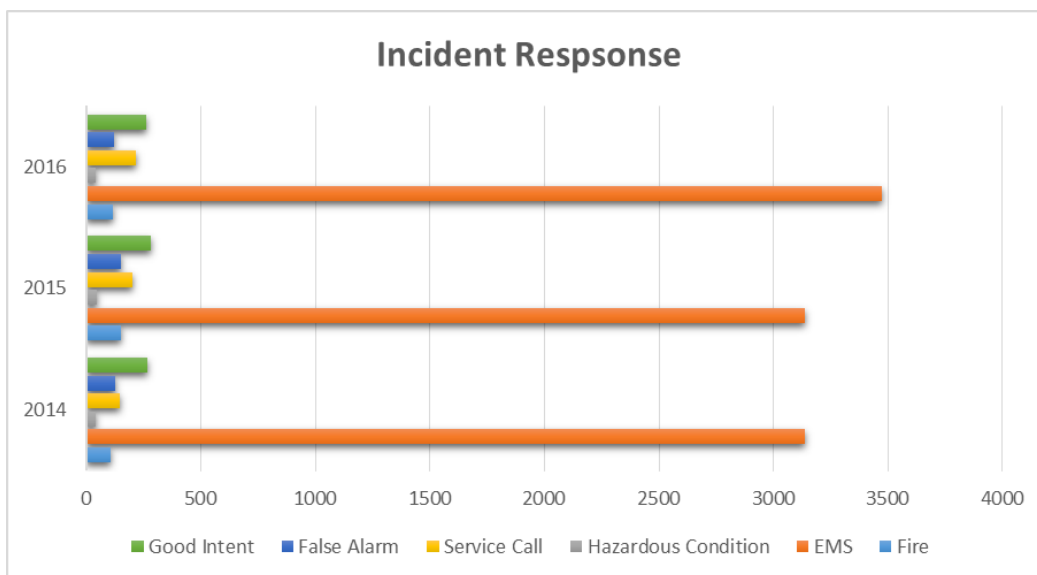
REMEMBER, ONLY WORKING SMOKE
ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

2016 Fire Department Operations Report

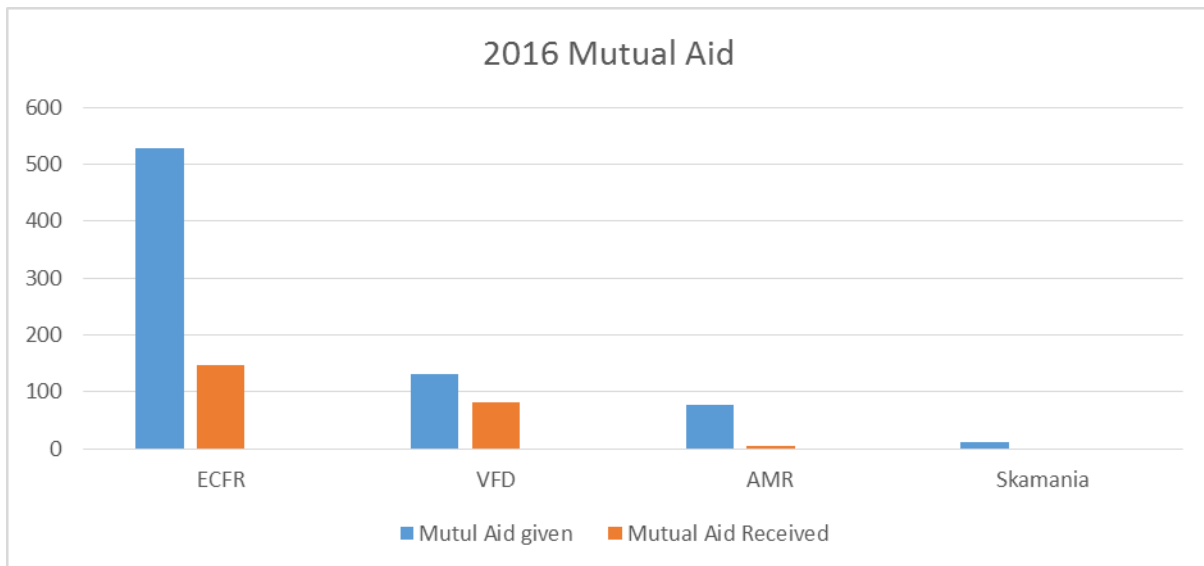
CWFD operations are all inclusive of our personnel, apparatus and fire stations used to respond to all hazard emergencies throughout Camas & Washougal and our surrounding mutual aid neighboring departments. Operations is the nuts and bolts of what we do and how we do it, the following report details the number of calls that CWFD responded to, as well as the breakdown of the types of calls that we responded to. It also will show the number of times we provided or received mutual aid from our neighboring fire departments and private ambulance company.

CWFD responded to 4227 calls in 2016, compared to 3962 calls in 2015. This represents a 6.7% increase in call volume for 2016. The total call volume in 2014 was 3826, which represents a 10.5% increase in call volume since the merger took place with the Washougal Fire Department. The department has handled this increased call volume without additional staffing or utilizing callback of personnel.

The chart below is a breakdown of our incident responses by type of incident. As you can see the majority of our call volume is EMS (emergency medical service) this is typical throughout the country and constitutes approximately 80% of our call volume. Also, as represented by the chart, the call volume for the other categories has remained fairly constant. One category in particular to look at is the green bar that represents 'good intent' calls. These are calls typically generated by citizens who are passing by something of concern or that see or smell something from their home or business. Frequently these calls are phoned in by cell phone users who have not or cannot investigate on their own. These are generally things like steam mistaken for smoke, cars, etc., smoke from BBQ's or approved fire pits, various smells that are not a natural gas odor, or someone sleeping in their car. While we do respond to all 911 calls, these are typically calls that could be avoided by citizens taking the time to check out the source before calling 911, as long as they feel safe doing so. This step would avoid taking a fire engine or ambulance out of service to follow up on these innocuous incidents.



In 2016 we provided or received mutual aid from our neighboring fire departments 983 times. Mutual aid is an agreement between all fire agencies in Clark County to provide assistance to one another during high call volume or events that require more resources than any one department has available. As an ambulance provider we also have a mutual aid agreement with American Medical Response (AMR), the private ambulance company that provides EMS transport service for most of Clark County. As you can see by the graph below we generally provide more mutual aid that we receive. The mutual aid to ECFR is higher because we have an EMS agreement in place to provide ambulance service in their jurisdiction.



In December of 2016 we took possession of a new Pierce Enforcer fire engine from Hughes Fire Equipment. The apparatus committee took two trips back to Appleton Wisconsin to review and inspect the build process. We are very happy with new engine and look forward to having it placed in service early in 2017. The new engine will be replacing our 2003 engine that will go into reserve status at Station 42.



Apparatus and station maintenance are also a component of our overall operations. Keeping apparatus performing at their peak is essential for emergency operations. With the arrival of our newest engine we have upgraded our pumper fleet significantly and should have fewer repair costs overall. We have had issues with our aging Brush rigs and will need to start replacing them as soon as possible. Our annual cost for maintaining our fire engines in 2016 was \$25,500.

Keeping our ambulances maintained is even more difficult than our engines because we put nearly 30,000 miles on each ambulance every year. Our ambulance fleet has been updated with 4 wheel drive ambulances; we still need one more to have our entire fleet with 4 wheel drive. This transition to 4 wheel drive vehicles has been extremely helpful in providing service to our rural areas and during inclement weather.

Station maintenance and repairs are an ongoing annual process. We always have things that need to be repaired and/or replaced in our stations (just as a homeowner would), only with expensive specialized equipment.

In 2016 we applied for a federal grant along with our neighboring fire departments to replace our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's); our current inventory is nearing the end of its lifespan of 15 years. These are obviously a very important piece of our safety equipment and is close to a \$300,000 price tag for our dept. We are hoping to be successful in getting the grant for the entire county to increase interoperability across all departments. We should get notification in the spring of 2017.

As you can see by the graphs and charts, our call volume and mutual aid responses continue to increase each year. Along with emergency response our personnel are busy training, maintaining apparatus and equipment, as well as numerous other responsibilities associated with keeping operations seamless and efficient so that we are providing the citizens of Camas-Washougal the best response possible.

Submitted by,

Mark Ervin

Battalion Chief



2016 Training Report

Training for the department is divided into medical and fire training components. Division Chief Cliff Free manages our medical training. The mandated training is a combination of monthly and annual requirements. Above the mandated training, Chief Free regularly provides advanced training in various skills, topics, and techniques. These training sessions are provided to our career Paramedics and EMT/IV Techs. Captain Chris Richardson provides the majority of the EMS training for our volunteer firefighting staff based on monthly curriculum from the state's "Ongoing Training and Evaluation Program".

This year our shift Captains and Battalion Chiefs played a larger role in delivering our fire training to department staff. In my role as Administrative Battalion Chief, I develop the topics and information to be covered and disseminate among the officers for completion. Materials may include: videos, PowerPoints, simulations, hands on materials, and competency based skill sheets.

The department continued to collaborate with neighboring departments in fire based Multi-Company Operations drills. Some of the topics covered in these drills included vehicle stabilization and extrication on motor vehicle accident, rope rescue, and several fire ground trainings at future training burn sights.

We continued working monthly on Blue Card incident management. Fire departments county-wide transitioned to this system in 2015. Blue card is a nationally recognized scene management system and is found to be more intuitive and concise for use on scene. Crews practice with computer generated scenarios with pictures of buildings from our response area in order to keep skills fresh on possible scenarios.

Our Volunteer Firefighters had a successful year training as well. They participated in several Multi-Company Operations drills with the career staff at both the training burn sights and the drill tower. As we transition the volunteer program to our newly implemented "shift volunteer", we are focusing their training towards responding with the duty crews as part of an engine company.

Last year the department entered into the Washington State Fire Fighters Joint Apprenticeship and Training Council. This ensures that all our new hires will go through the 12 week Fire Recruit Academy in North Bend. These employees will receive IFSAC certification in Haz-Mat Operations and training to the Firefighter 1 & 2 levels. Last year we had four new employees go through this training with great success. Continued participation will ensure new employees will receive a consistent and strong baseline for starting their career.



The final highlight to the 2016 training year was the utilization of three donated homes for training burns. Crews ran multi-company drills with several varied fire and rescue scenarios in each home prior to burning. Each shift then had a home to conduct multiple different live fire training burns with members from their shift. This continually proves to be some of the most valuable training each year.

We had another successful year in training in 2016, and we are looking forward to some new and innovative training topics and platforms in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Payne

Administrative Battalion Chief

Training Program Coordinator



2016 Grant Activity Report

2016 brought a unique opportunity to the Camas-Washougal Fire Department in the grant arena. Early in the year, all of the fire agencies in Clark County came together and began a dialogue concerning the replacement of one of the most essential pieces of equipment in the fire service.

Our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, or SCBA, were last replaced in 1999 and have reached the end of their useful life. They are failing regularly and are determined to be obsolete by the manufacturer and all applicable industry standards as soon as next year. The last time these critical pieces of equipment were replaced, it was through a regional grant opportunity through FEMA led by Vancouver Fire Department.

When it comes to equipment like SCBA, regional grant applications are favored by FEMA over standalone agency applications because there is more geographical interoperability when the equipment is the same across all the agencies.

This time around, the group decided that our best opportunity for success would be to have the small grant committee from the Camas-Washougal Fire Department coordinate the application process. It was humbling to be chosen, but we knew that it would be an incredible amount of work.



FEMA



A single complete SCBA costs approximately \$7,000 and the entire county is limited to asking for no more than two million dollars. To replace the equipment that will become obsolete in our department alone is around \$300,000. We worked diligently with manufacturers and department representatives to develop a plan for replacement. A sub-committee was formed where each agency had representatives 'test' the equipment over an entire day of rigorous training. The needs of each agency were considered and we quickly realized that it was going to be extremely challenging to request enough equipment while still maintaining a two million dollar cap.

Committee members attended workshops both online and hosted by legislators from our community to increase our chance of success. We feel a complete and extremely thorough application process formally began in late October 2016. There are multiple pages of data required of each agency involved. We had to coordinate the collection of that data, ensure its accuracy, and go through the tedious task of data entry for days on end. Additionally, there are multiple 'narrative' components to the application where we are required to answer a series of questions about our application, request, community, and financial situation to help support our request.

In addition to what is listed above, the City of Camas had to create a legal agreement that would cover all the agencies in the county so that the equipment would be distributed if we were to receive the grant. That agreement provides that Camas will receive all the funds and purchase all the equipment and then distribute it to the partner agencies and collect their portion of the money committed. This portion has proven to be particularly challenging,

The grant was submitted in November 2016 just prior to the national deadline. Our committee is now waiting to hear if our application will be chosen among the thousands submitted this year nationwide. We anticipate FEMA will announce the first wave of awards in March 2017 and hope that our efforts are met with success.

Submitted by,



Kevin Bergstrom

Captain

Note from Fire Chief Nick Swinhart: The department is extremely grateful to Captain Bergstrom (assisted in no small part by Sr. Administrative Assistant Alicia Ramsey) for taking on the task of writing this regional grant for the departments of Clark County. This was an incredibly time consuming project with no extra pay or incentive that they had to fit in among their other duties and responsibilities. If we are successful, it will be due to their efforts.

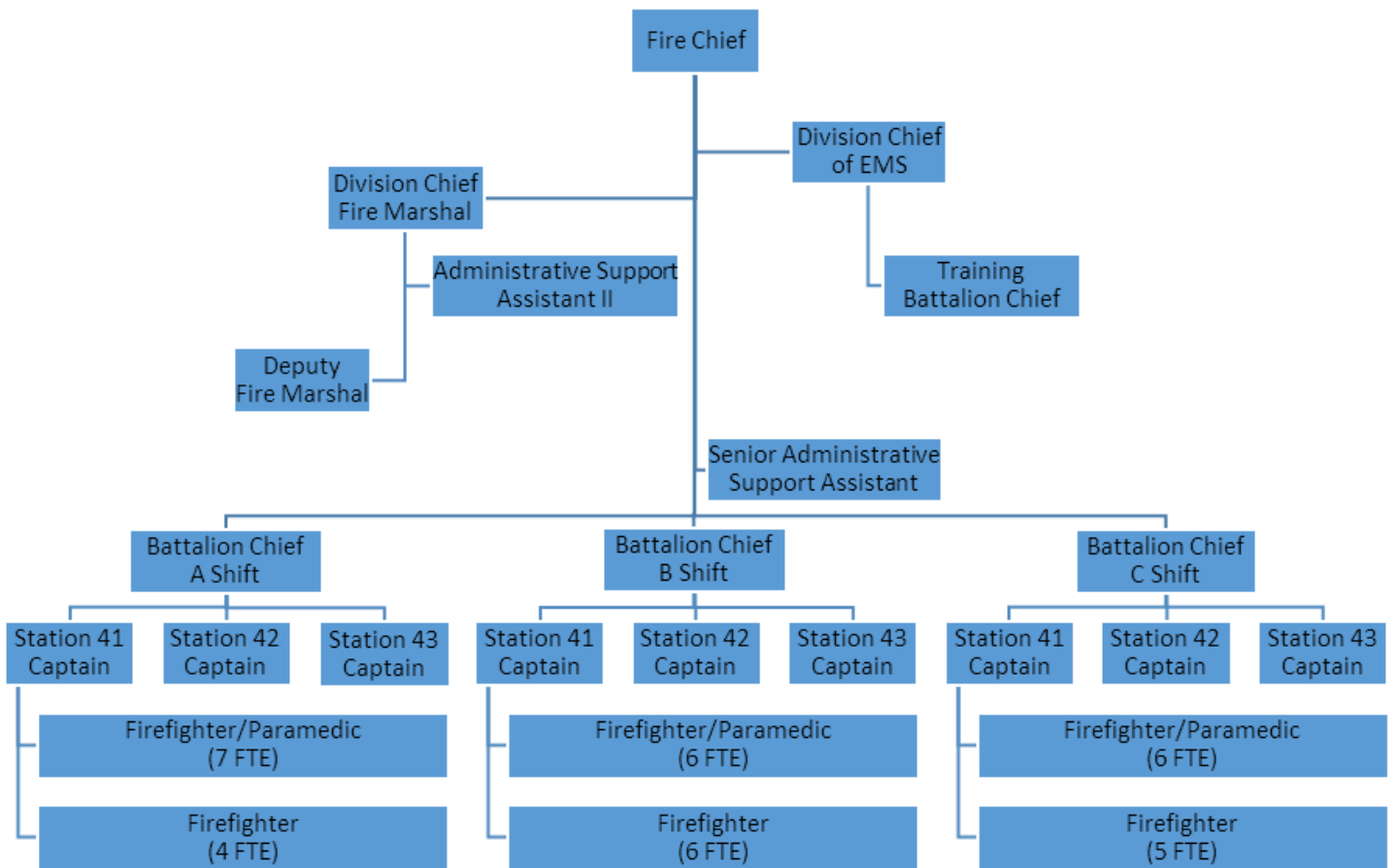
2016 Staff Milestones

Allen Wolk	Career Battalion Chief	30 years of service
Randy Miller	Deputy Fire Marshal	25 years of service
Garry Alex	Career Firefighter/Paramedic	25 years of service
Joe Scheer	Career Firefighter	20 years of service
Myron Crumpacker	Volunteer Firefighter	20 years of service
Kevin Villines	Career Fire Captain/Paramedic	15 years of service
Dave McMakin	Career Firefighter	15 years of service
Kevin West	Career Fire Captain/Paramedic	15 years of service
Larry Larimer	Career Battalion Chief	15 years of service
Chris Kassel	Career Firefighter	10 years of service
Alicia Ramsey	Sr. Administrative Support	10 years of service
Jordan Boldt	Volunteer Firefighter	10 years of service
Rick Nieto	Volunteer Firefighter	5 years of service
Ben Porter	Career Firefighter	5 years of service

New Hires:

Cassie Knierim	Career Firefighter/Paramedic
Kekoa Paakaula	Career Firefighter/Paramedic
Gary Stallings	Career Firefighter/Paramedic
AJ Mounsey	Career Firefighter/Paramedic

2016 Department Organization





Top Left: Unprecedented winter weather caused extreme challenges for the department in late 2016, including this structure fire that occurred on an evening where some in the area received up to 12" of snow. Top Right: As it has been for over 50 years, the department's annual CAROL program was once again a great success. CWFD and ECFR staff, as well as many community members, came together to help deliver food and gifts to needy families through East Clark County.



Top Left: ECFR Board Chair Martha Martin and Camas Mayor Scott Higgins sign an interlocal agreement that allows for the merging of administration between the two departments. Top Right: ECFR Interim Fire Chief Al Gillespie and CWFD Fire Chief Nick Swinhart were happy to see nearly a year of effort come to a successful conclusion.