



2020 Annual Report



Camas-Washougal Fire Department

Our Mission

To Provide the Highest Quality Service to our Community Through

Our Values

To Serve Our Community's Needs Through

Excellence

Courtesy, Equality and Respect

Professionalism

Readiness, Education, Training,
Competency and Accountability

Integrity

Dependability, Trust and Honesty

Pride

Enthusiasm, Optimism and Recognition

Mayors, Councils, and Citizens of Camas & Washougal:

I am pleased to submit to you the Camas-Washougal Fire Department's annual report for 2020. Although our most well-known functions include responding to medical emergencies and fires, this report demonstrates the wide array of other comprehensive services and programs we provide for our citizens. Employees and volunteers of CWFD are dedicated professionals who take tremendous pride in the mission of the agency. This report is a summary of our mission to improve public safety through emergency response, prevention, and public education.

As I look back on 2020, I see one of the most challenging years I've experienced in my 32 year career in the fire service. Since March 2020, the entire world has struggled against the devastating effects of COVID-19. With very little preparation, cases reached Clark County and our cities relatively quickly. Our personnel never wavered in their duties in responding to and mitigating the medical, fire, and rescue needs of our communities, despite the increased dangers they saw every day. We were very lucky at CWFD to have remained relatively unaffected by the pandemic until late in the year, while at the same time fire departments across the country were closing fire stations and quarantining entire shifts due to infectious spread. Part of that was luck, but a big part was in how seriously our staff adhered to safety guidelines from the State, County, and EMS Chief Cliff Free. COVID is by no means behind us, but with nearly all staff now vaccinated, we know we are safer than ever before.

As if the pandemic wasn't bad enough, in September we had to face one of the worst wildfire

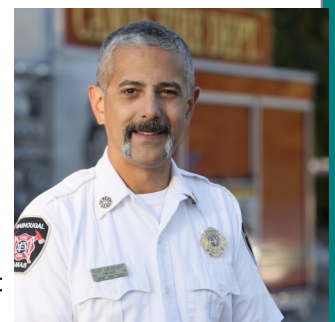
seasons we'd ever seen on the west side of the Cascades. Over Labor Day weekend, crews spent days fighting fires all over the county, while at the same time our communities struggled to breathe through hazy smoke that blotted the sun from the sky.

The year 2020 also saw a renewed focus from our administration and our City Council on the 2019 ESCI Master Plan, designed to map out CWFD's staffing and infrastructure needs for years to come. We are very appreciative for Council's initiative and leadership in authorizing four additional line staff in the 2021/2022 budget. These additional staff will be used to advance critical goals within our agency.

As Fire Chief of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department, my vision is to ***ensure that our agency continues to grow with our community, with the necessary staffing and facilities to meet the needs of our citizens while improving the safety of our personnel.*** Accomplishing this will require a stable funding mechanism in our partnership between the cities. Efforts will continue on this front as we enter 2021.

Thank you to all of our staff and their dedication and professionalism in getting our agency and our community through one of the most difficult years any of us will ever see again.

Nick Swinhart, EFO, CFO, MIFireE
Fire Chief
Camas-Washougal Fire Department



Ambulance Revenue			
	Billed	Collected	Percentage
2016	\$2,308,062	\$1,169,438	51%
2017	\$2,426,058	\$1,275,360	53%
2018	\$2,378,513	\$1,113,626	47%
2019	\$3,846,787	\$1,970,748	51%
2020	\$3,650,210	\$1,881,294	52%

Ambulance Billing

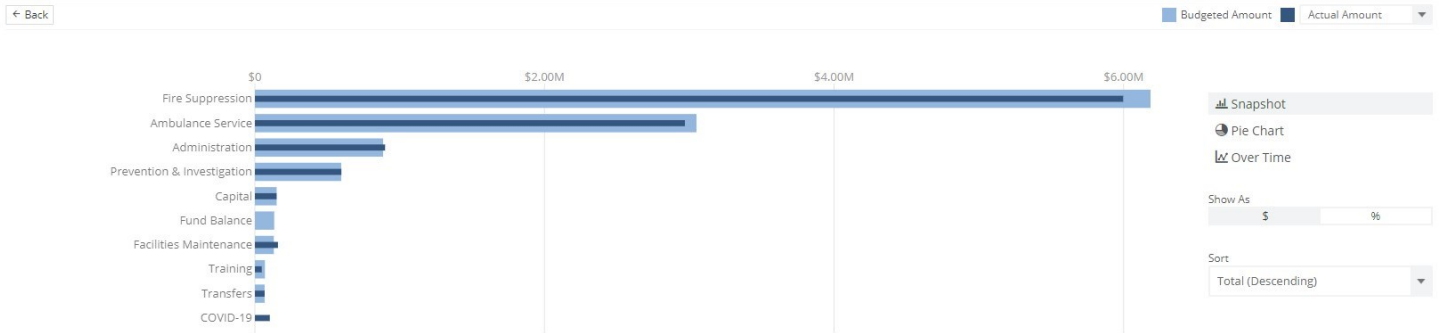
Ambulance billing is handled in-house at the city's finance department by Ameer Rasmussen. Nationally, ambulance revenues have varied drastically over the years due to changes in federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. When call volume and transports go up, the reasonable inference is that revenues 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. As a result, over 90% of our write-offs signify money that can never be recovered. One of the recommendations from a 2017 ESCI study was for CWFD to investigate whether ambulance billing rates should be increased. While we are committed to looking into this recommendation further, CWFD is hampered by its location in the Portland metropolitan area. This can significantly limit the amount of federal funds that can be collected, regardless of the approved transport billing rate. 2020 saw a continued upward trend in our collected percentage. We believe this is due to the ongoing diligence of our finance staff, as well as the new GEMT program, which is designed to help offset insurance write-offs.

Ambulance billing is getting more complex every year, and we appreciate the continued work by staff in our finance department to keep up with the latest changes. While ambulance collection rates increased in 2020, observers will note that gross billing and net collected amounts decreased significantly. This is primarily due to a decrease in EMS medical calls we received early on in the pandemic. Nationally, EMS providers experienced the same phenomenon as millions of people around the country stayed home.

2020 Budget Summary

\$11.27 Million Fire/EMS 2020

Where's it Going? How's it funded?



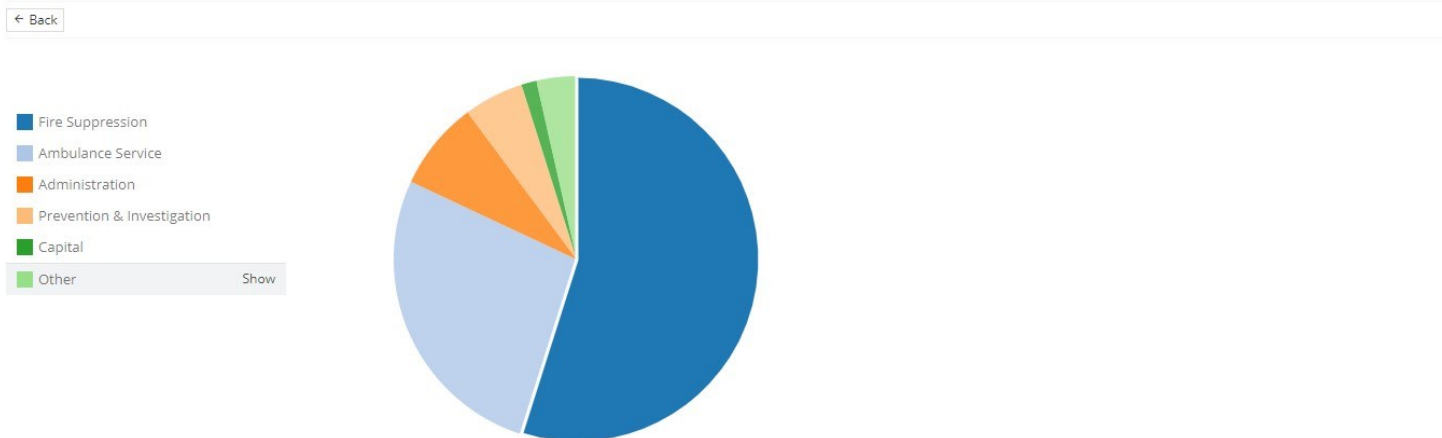
Ledger Details

Program	Budgeted Amount	%	Actual Amount	%
Fire Suppression	\$6,186,020	54.90%	\$5,997,231	96.95%
Ambulance Service	\$3,049,954	27.07%	\$2,969,974	97.38%
Administration	\$885,209	7.86%	\$899,242	101.59%
Prevention & Investigation	\$596,057	5.29%	\$597,254	100.20%
Capital	\$150,000	1.33%	\$149,499	99.67%
Fund Balance	\$133,304	1.18%	\$0	0%
Facilities Maintenance	\$130,667	1.16%	\$159,182	121.82%
Training	\$68,948	0.61%	\$46,850	67.95%
Transfers	\$67,081	0.60%	\$67,081	100.00%
COVID-19	\$0	0%	\$102,825	N/A
Total	Budgeted Amount \$11,267,240		Actual Amount \$10,989,138	

Where's it Going? How's it funded?

● Fire/EMS broken down by Program

Within Fire/EMS



Emergency Medical Services Report

Preamble:

To say that 2020 was a challenging year is an understatement of epic proportion. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of the world as we had known it; and in its wake remains an uncertainty as to the world we will encounter moving forward. It forced us to adapt. It forced us to make real time decisions with incomplete and inconsistent information. It challenged our sense of security in understanding the risks to our providers and to the community. However, the one thing the pandemic did not alter was our commitment to preserve life and care for the medical needs of our community. We adapted. We evolved. We retooled again and again. We persevered when the situation was ominous and onerous without losing focus. And of this, there is no better testament to the quality and commitment of the EMS crews of this department. The men and women with boots on the ground, no matter the footing. I salute them.

Cliff Free

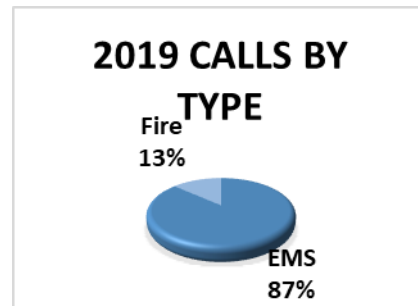
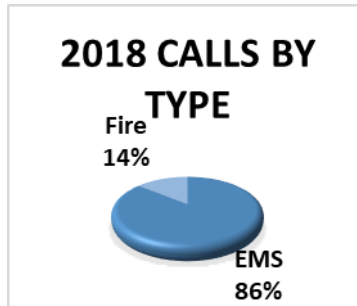
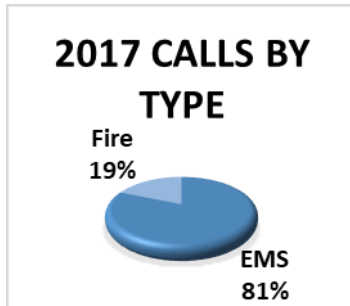
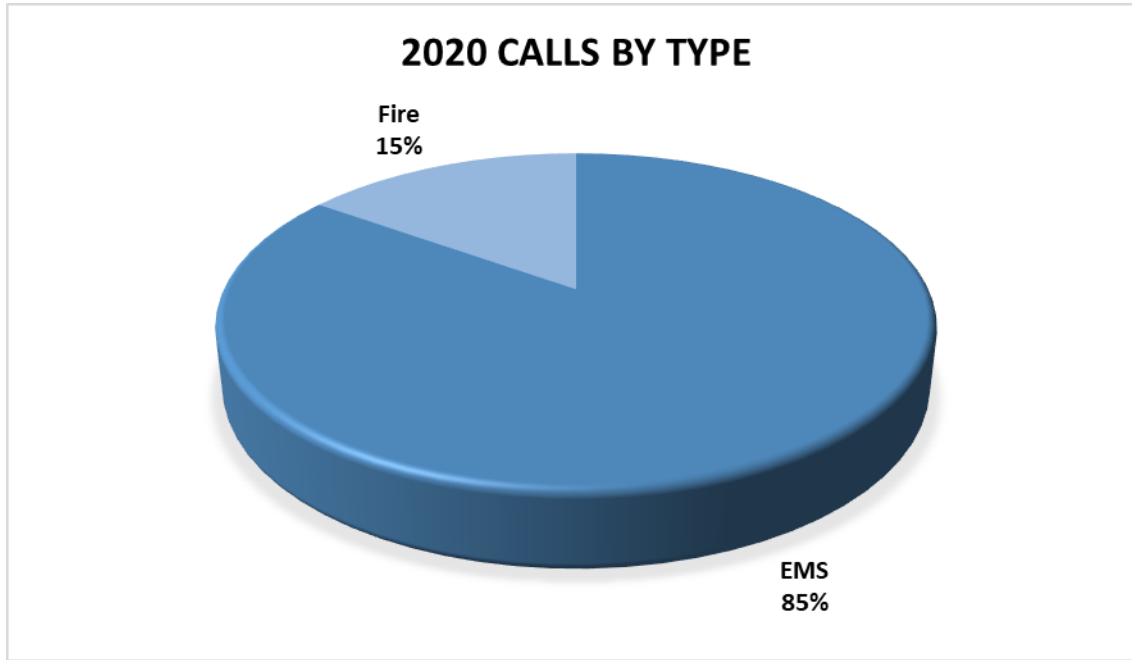
Division Chief of EMS

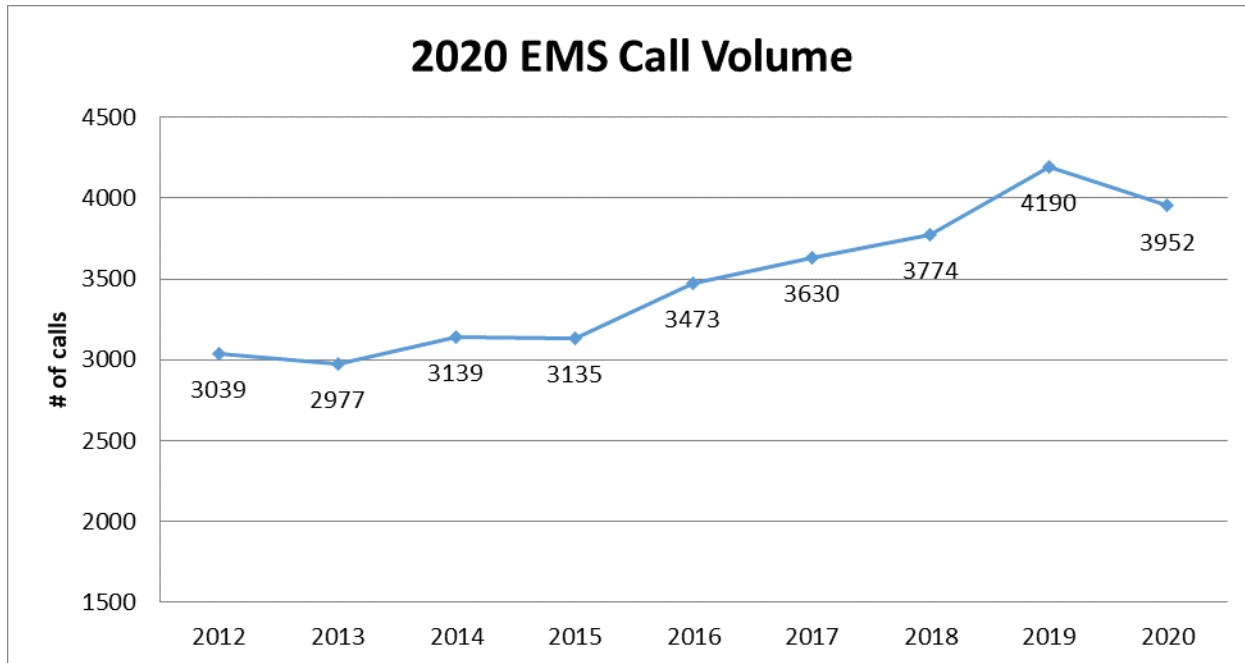


2020 Total Call Composition:

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) receives, processes and dispatches all 911 calls originating in Clark County. For CWFD, these requests for services fall into one of two categories as characterized by their nature: EMS calls or Fire calls. EMS calls are medical in nature. Fire calls are an amalgam of non-EMS calls. Examples of fire calls could be active structure fires, wildland fires, fire alarms, smoke in an area requiring investigation, hazardous conditions (ex. downed power lines) etc. Less intuitive are motor vehicle accidents (MVAs). MVAs are split between Fire and EMS call types depending on whether there was an EMS component or whether the services required could be handled by the responding engines alone. MVAs without injury are tabulated as Fire calls, MVAs with injury are tabulated as EMS calls.

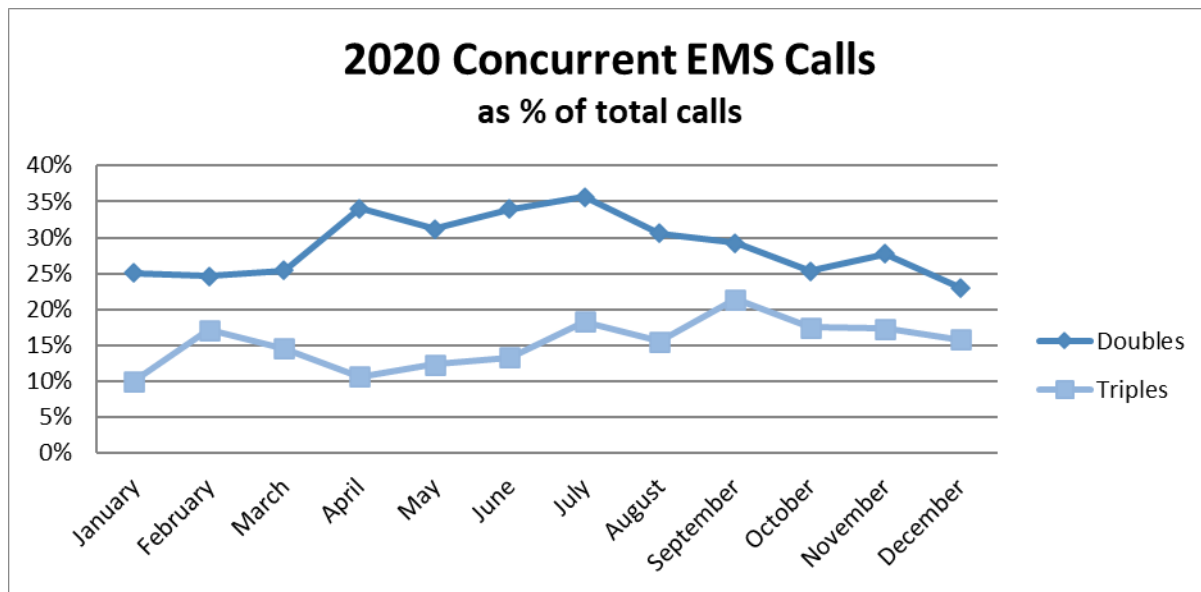
The majority of requests for service of the CWFD are EMS in nature. This is not exclusive to CWFD; it mirrors fire department statistics nationally. In 2020, 85% of our requests for service were EMS in nature, 15% were fire. This ratio is relatively stable year to year, deviating by +/- 6 percentage points over the last 4 years.



2020 EMS Total Call Volume:

2020 saw a 5.7% decrease in EMS call volume over that of 2019; however, still an increase of 4.5% from the year prior. Though we have seen some years of relative plateau (2012-2015), call volume has been steadily increasing. Over the span of 10 years we have experienced over a 50% increase in EMS call volume.

In the face of steadily rising EMS call demand, concurrent EMS calls are monitored to assess adequate ambulance availability and distribution for our service area. CWFD maintains four in-service ambulances housed within three stations in Camas and Washougal. (Additionally, CWFD has a fifth, reserve ambulance, which is too old to be employed continuously, but is put into service intermittently to accommodate loss of time for the in-service ambulances due to mechanical repairs, etc. This ambulance does not contain a full complement of required equipment without migrating such from the ambulance leaving the system for repairs. In 2020, 51% of our call volume required two or more ambulance to respond concurrently to separate calls. The 51% concurrency rate is comprised of doubles, where two ambulances are on calls simultaneously; triples, where three ambulances are on calls simultaneously; and quads, where all four ambulances are on calls simultaneously. Two ambulances (doubles) ran concurrent calls on an average of 29% of our call volume. Three ambulances (triples) ran concurrent calls on an average of 15% of our call volume. Four ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 7% of our call volume.

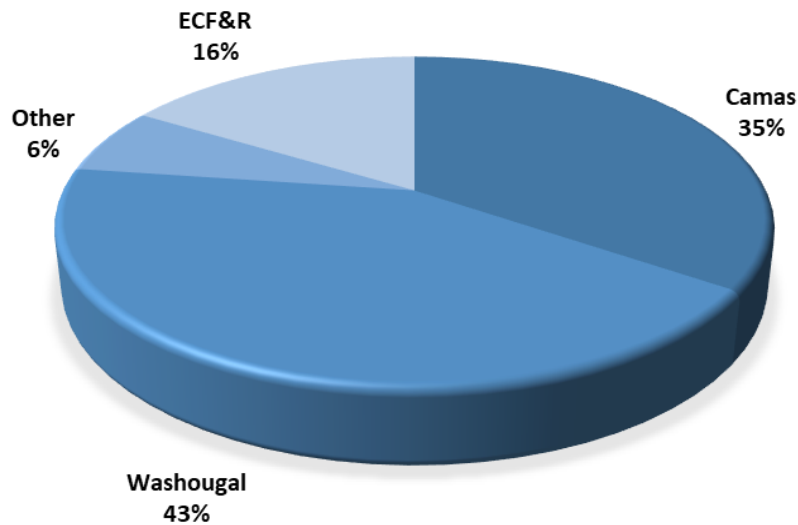


As a result of concurrent call volume, CWFD found itself 'level zero' 273 times, at an average of 23 times per month. During these periods of 'level zero', the Cities of Camas and Washougal had no intrinsic fire protection, and the 90 square miles that comprise the ambulance service, had no available intrinsic ambulances.

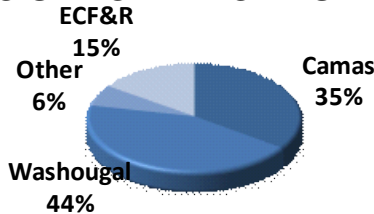
2020 Calls by District:

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, NCEMS and Skamania County through mutual/automatic aid agreements. 94% of EMS calls originated within the boundaries of Camas, Washougal and ECFR, while 6% of calls were mutual aid calls outside of this service area.

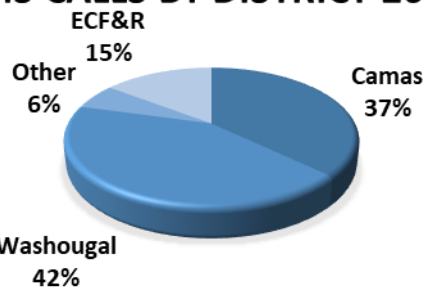
2020 EMS CALLS BY DISTRICT



EMS CALLS BY DISTRICT 2019

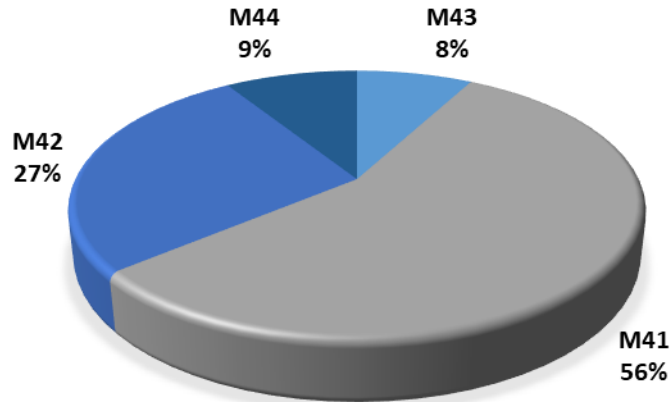


EMS CALLS BY DISTRICT 2018

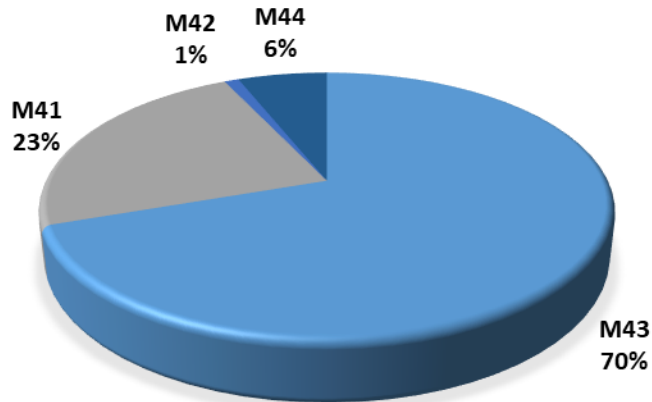


The City of Camas is primarily served by the two stations found within its city limits: Station 41 and Station 42. Station 41 houses M41, which maintains constant, dedicated ambulance staffing; and M44 which is cross-staffed with E41. Station 42 houses M42 which at minimum staffing is cross-staffed with E42, and at full staffing, has dedicated staffing for both M42 and E42. In 2020, Station 42 was fully staffed (meaning no cross-staffing of the engine and ambulance) 15 days out of the 365 day year.

CAMAS CALLS BY MEDIC UNIT



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, 70% were responded to by an ambulance stationed within the City of Washougal. 99% of the calls originating in the City of Washougal were served by ambulances from either downtown Washougal or downtown Camas.

The City of Camas is primarily served by Station 41 in downtown Camas and Station 42 in Grass Valley. Station 41 houses 2 ambulances: M41 which has dedicated ambulance staffing, and M44 which is cross-staffed with E41. Station 42 houses one ambulance: M42, which is cross-staffed with E42. For EMS calls that originated in the City of Camas, 92% of the ambulance response was from an ambulance stationed within the City of Camas. The other 8% required M43 to respond from the City of Washougal.



In terms of call outcome, 66% of EMS calls terminated in ambulance transport to a hospital. 30% were patient refusals. Patient refusals are patients who have a bona fide injury or illness, but refuse the option of being transported to the hospital by ambulance. Some of these patients refuse transport against the advice of the medical providers, others are low enough acuity that after initial assessment and treatment, an alternative form of transportation is more appropriate. 1% were non-emergency scheduled transports either to a hospital, clinic or hospice facility. The remaining 3% (other) were no medical necessity upon arrival, public assists dispatched as EMS calls, or no patient found upon arrival.

2021 EMS System Improvements and Challenges:**FUNDING: GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES (GEMT):**

In 2016 the WA State Health Care Authority began implementing a state program to partially remunerate public transport services for certain GEMT qualified medical transport fees. The remuneration is intended to help 'bridge the gap' between the cost of patient transport for publicly owned or operated qualified GEMT transport agencies and the allowable amount historically received from Washington Apple Health (Medicaid). The program is only available to public ambulance providers because the state recognizes that Medicaid's reimbursement rates are below the cost of providing public ambulance transport.

CWFD enrolled in the program, met the eligibility requirements, and in 2018 began receiving supplementary payments dating back to July 1 of 2016. Future funding of the program is not guaranteed; however, CWFD is committed to participating in the program as long as it remains funded.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT REPORTING SYSTEM:

CWFD has purchased a replacement to our aged reporting system (circa 2005). Implementation is a major undertaking requiring simultaneous integration of all our mobile apparatuses and CRESA's CAD system; billing interface; MPD office interface; end-user connectivity; and universal provider training. This will automate much of our state and federal reporting requirements; electronically integrate with local hospitals; create a more robust internal HIPPA environment; and more accurately calculate our response metrics. The goal is to go live mid-year.

DEPARTMENT GROWTH:

CWFD will be increasing our department staffing in an effort to fully staff the Grass Valley Station. Bringing on additional personnel, as well as filling vacancies caused by attrition, is a constant challenge in terms of both the hiring process and the training process. EMS training takes a committed effort by both the line staff and the administrative staff to insure that new EMS providers are adequately trained and prepared to meet the challenges that our system presents.

Summary:

Our goal, as it should forever be, is to continuously evolve to provide the best possible EMS service to the citizens of Camas, Washougal and ECF&R through recruiting quality talent; and retaining the dedicated group of EMS personnel that we currently employ. The quality of service will never surpass the quality of the personnel. With open eyes and open hearts, to that end we must tirelessly toil.

Operations Report

CWFD operations are all inclusive of our personnel, apparatus and fire stations used in day-to-day operations to respond to all hazard emergencies throughout Camas and Washougal, as well as, mutual aid to our neighboring fire departments. The day to day operations at CWFD are the nuts and bolts of what we do and how we do it. The following report details the number of calls that were responded to both in Camas and Washougal, as well as mutual aid responses. This report breaks down the type of responses along with comparisons to prior years.

In 2020 the department added 5 new employees, all of which are paramedic-firefighters who went through an extensive and comprehensive 12 week recruit academy at the Grass Valley Fire Station #42. The department has requested a staffing increase of 4 full-time employees in 2021 and 2022, in addition to filling vacancies left by several members who are retiring or have moved on to other departments.

In 2020 we added a new Brush rig to our aging fleet. This will be a welcome addition, as we are seeing more intense wildland fires encroaching on the wildland/urban interface in the western side of the state. During the 2020 fire season, CWFD sent crews on 6 state wildland mobilization fires on the east side of the state. Crews were out for 1 week per incident. State mobilizations use crews from all over the state of Washington to battle these fires and CWFD is reimbursed by the state for backfill of personnel, apparatus time and personnel costs on the fire line.

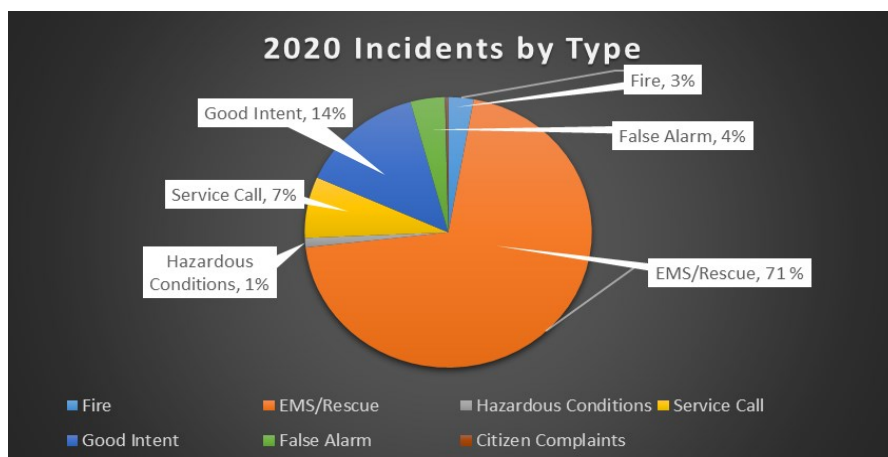


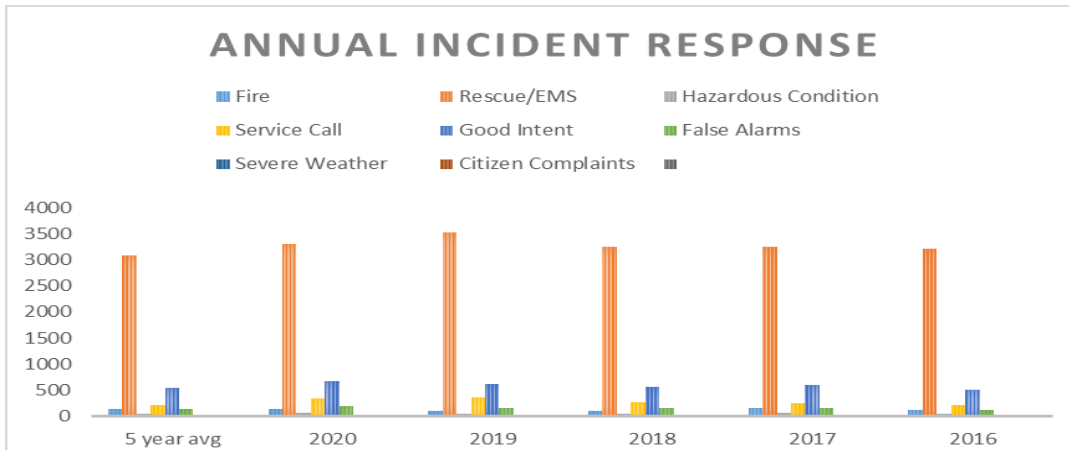
Our facilities are aging and are requiring more maintenance and repairs as the years go on. Station 41 is located in downtown Camas. The Fire Marshal's Office is located in a separate building on the same city block. Camas City Hall is attached to the fire station. Station 41 was constructed in the 1960s and has been remodeled a few times, but the building does not meet current earthquake standards. Station 41 needed only minor repairs and maintenance in 2020, however it was noted in the 2019 ESCI master plan study that the building is cramped, obsolete, and considered to be in poor condition. Station 41 houses 1 engine, 2 medic units, 1 Brush rig and 1 Battalion Chief. Station 41 is staffed with 5 personnel minimum, which allows for cross-staffing a second medic unit when needed. Station 41's maintenance and repair costs were \$5,72.69 for 2020.

Station 42, on the west side of Prune Hill, hosts the department’s training facility and is the newest station. Built in 2001, the station is still in need of upgrades and maintenance, but is noted in the 2020 ESCI study to be in good condition. Station 42 houses 2 engines, 1 medic unit, and 2 brush rigs, as well as administrative staff. Station 42 is crossed staffed with the minimum of 2 personnel, which means crews either respond in a medic unit or engine depending on call type. The repair and maintenance costs for Station 42 were \$15,854.63 in 2020.

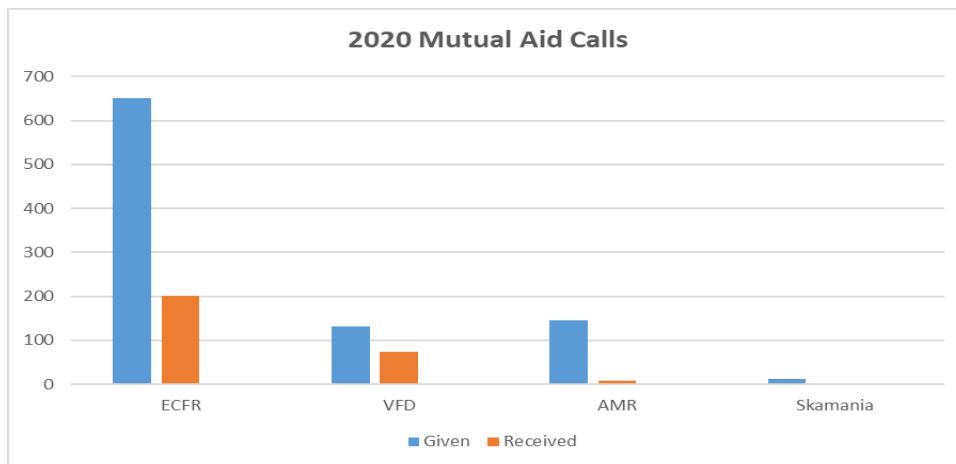
Station 43 is located in Washougal. Similar to Camas’ main station, Washougal’s station is much older and in need of major updates . The station suffered a major sewer issue/leak in 2020 that required extensive cleanup and remodel that took nearly 3 months to complete. Crews continued to staff the station and provide uninterrupted service to Washougal for the duration of repairs. Although repairs were made, a long term solution to the sewer line issue has yet to be decided. Station 43 houses 2 engines, 1 medic unit and 1 brush rig, and is staffed with a minimum of 4 personnel. Maintenance and repairs for Station 43 were \$49,108.87 in 2020.

CWFD personnel responded to 4683 in 2020 compared to 4853 calls in 2019; a decline in call volume of (.96%). The chart below is a breakdown of incident responses by type of incident. A majority of the call volume is EMS (emergency medical service) calls. This is typical throughout the county and accounted for 71% of CWFD’s calls in 2020. Also, as represented by the chart, the call volume for the other categories has remained fairly static. One category in particular to look at is the dark blue 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 (i.e dryer vents), 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 2020 we provided mutual aid on 938 calls and received mutual aid 283 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 is evidenced by the graph below, CWFD generally provide more mutual aid that we receive. The mutual aid to ECFR is higher because we have an EMS levy in place to provide ambulance service in their jurisdiction.



Submitted by,



Mark Ervin

Battalion Chief

Camas-Washougal Fire Department

Training Report

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department separately manages fire and medical (EMS) training. The EMS Division Chief oversees EMS training while the Administrative Battalion Chief is responsible for fire training. CWFD's fire training program is designed to comply with the requirements set forth by the State of Washington Administrative Code, the Washington State Survey and Ratings Bureau, as well as specific guidelines instituted by our department to best serve our community's needs.

Washington State WAC 305-296 Training Requirements (WAC)

The State of Washington requires that firefighters receive comprehensive training in many elements. These topics include but are not limited to:

- Ongoing Officer Development
- Hazardous Materials Operations Training
- Fire Apparatus / Driver Training
- Fire Suppression Training
- Safety Training
- Technical Rescue Training

Washington State Surveying and Ratings Bureau Training Requirements (WSRB)

In addition to the WAC required training, we also strive to meet the rigorous training guidelines that the WSRB uses to determine the Fire Department's insurance rating. These areas of training include:

- Firefighter Training
- Driver / Operator Training
- Officer Training
- Recruit Training
- Multi-Company Training
- Hazardous Materials Training
- Drill Ground Training
- Night Training

Training Summary

Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Peterson traveled to Las Vegas in February to attend the Fire House World Expo where he studied and drilled on advance search techniques. On his return he developed training videos and implemented new standards that changed how we as a department rescue trapped victims. This was of great benefit to our department and an example of always being willing to evolve and improve on a skill that is so critical.

Annual extrication drills were held in May. Crews practiced different techniques for stabilizing vehicles and extricating victims. Donated cars were staged on their sides and upside down as crews removed tops and doors using the latest techniques to safely remove victims. Due to COVID we were faced with challenges where individual engine companies, one at a time would train when we would normally have multiple at one time known as multi-company operations. COVID also prevented some training due to travel restrictions and the cancellation of courses which we had planned to attend.

At the end of June, crews completed the annual rope rescue drill at the "pot holes" on Lacamas Creek. This is a common area for real emergencies, and crews practice setting up rope systems to haul injured patients up steep terrain to an awaiting medic unit.

On October 17th, the on duty crews participated in a mock earthquake drill called the Great Shake Out. This included practicing exiting the stations, how to evaluate if it is safe to return, and following written procedures on earthquake emergency operations.

On December 17nd, our five newest hires graduated from the PCC joint regional fire academy hosted by CWFD. This is a twelve-week academy that provides graduating members with IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Firefighter 1 & 2 certifications. Upon completion, they are assigned to one of three shifts and have a skills-based task book to complete with their assigned Captain over the remainder of their probation. Captain Brad Delano lead this academy with great success including many others who developed training props to make the training as realistic as they possibly could. His efforts and the efforts of all that supported him were greatly appreciated.

CWFD normally conducts quarterly multi-company evolutions with neighboring fire district ECFR. This training usually takes place at Station 42's drill ground and training tower. Three engine companies and a Battalion Chief conduct multiple training scenarios and evolutions including; motor vehicle crashes, house fires, apartment fires, etc. However due to COVID restrictions these drills were suspended.

The Camas Washougal Fire Department has an active volunteer program that recruits new members annually. Prospective volunteers participate in a selection process that is quite similar to the department's hiring process, including an oral board interview. Subsequent to this selection process, new volunteers attend a twelve-week training academy. Volunteers are required to be trained commensurate with full time employees' training. At mid-December, upon conclusion of the volunteer academy we welcomed 4 new and very motivated volunteers to the group. In an effort to limit exposure to COVID volunteers were prevented from responding with crews for the majority of the year. We are excited to have them back in full force responding with crews and training on the drill ground. CWFD members broadened their knowledge base and expanded their rescue skills greatly. We enthusiastically look toward 2021 for new learning opportunities!



Submitted by,



Kevin West

Battalion Chief

Fire Marshal's Office Report

It is a pleasure to submit the Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) Annual Report for 2020. It was a busy year for all and one that found the FMO facing the unprecedented challenge of monitoring the safety and protection of our community while navigating evolving COVID-19 restrictions and protocols.

Construction Permit and Inspection Restrictions

On March 25, 2020 Governor Jay Inslee clarified his "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order to include the suspension of construction activity to combat the spread of COVID-19. This abrupt shutdown of the construction industry lasted over six weeks in our jurisdiction and had a profound impact on our local supply chains and contractors, and of course on important construction project deadlines.

When construction sites reopened, safety was the top priority, no jobsite could operate without adhering to strict new protocols. FMO staff had to adjust processes for site visits and performing inspections as procedures evolved.

We strived to be responsive and creative in an environment with new and often changing guidelines, working with our contractors to mitigate the impacts of delays. We continue to follow safety guidelines, working closely with our contractors to help ensure vital construction will continue.

Restaurant Restrictions and Fire Code for Outdoor Dining Tents

COVID-19 restrictions were particularly challenging for the restaurant industry. With state mandates limiting indoor gatherings, many local restaurants turned to outdoor dining. To extend that outdoor dining into the colder months, many of those restaurants erected outdoor tents.

Temporary structures (tents) fall under the purview of the fire code which among other things: requires certain separations from buildings and distances from property lines, prohibits open flames, requires large tents to be fire resistant, and limits the time a tent can be used.

The staff at the FMO worked closely with local restaurant owners to find innovative solutions to stay open safely. Installing these tents is costly, so permit fees were waived. We conferred with other Fire Marshal's in jurisdictions around the state and in other parts of the nation in order to provide guidelines for portable heaters (with some air exchange conditions) to accommodate tent dining in the safest manner possible.

Phase 2 Occupant Load Determinations

When the Governor's office released "Safe Start Plans and Guidance for Reopening" for businesses in "Phase 2", our office received many requests from business owners requesting help in determining occupancy loads. (Occupant loads are determined separately for each room and for each type of business.) We worked with business owners to help them understand the requirements. A detailed informational bulletin was created and posted on our website for easy access.

Moving Forward - Fire Code Enforcement and COVID-19

Facing these unique challenges has further enhanced our strong relationships with contractors and local businesses while providing educational opportunities for fire and life safety. We have adapted to the mandates and changes while still providing an extremely high level of safety to our communities and we will continue to do so as protocols evolve.

2020 AT THE FMO— OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Downtown Lights

In 2020 the FMO worked with the Camas Downtown Association's (DCA) 'lighting brigade' to ensure the decorative lighting that makes our downtown so inviting is also safe for our community and does not contribute to fire risk.

The fire code only permits temporary use of light strings but the businesses in downtown wanted a more permanent solution. Our office worked with Underwriters Laboratories, (UL) the industry experts for lighting safety worldwide. UL was able to provide some suggestions for attachments that will not damage the strings and service receptacles that are closer to the light strings to reduce the chance for fire.

Working with UL and collaboratively with the DCA we were able to find a way to light the downtown at a minimal cost that will keep Camas employees, residents, and visitors safe for years to come.

Firestorm 2020

A drier than usual rain year followed by low humidity, high winds and elevated temperatures created a recipe for unprecedented fire conditions in Oregon and Washington in the late summer of 2020. On the evening of September 8th, high winds knocked down power lines causing multiple fires in both states. In Oregon over 3000 homes were lost, while in Washington the city of Malden burned down completely.

Fortunately, in Southwest Washington the multiple fires that occurred were smaller in size with little property damage, but fire of this magnitude could occur anywhere, including here. This is why we, and Fire Marshals throughout the county, work diligently with property owners throughout the summer months utilizing fire prevention measures to help reduce the likelihood of such a catastrophic event.

EDUCATION - ENFORCEMENT - ENGINEERING

The 3 E's of Fire Prevention – 2020 in Review

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

Education

Fire and life safety education is an essential component of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department's mission to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens in our jurisdiction. It has always been a privilege to connect with our citizens in meaningful ways including many classroom visits, station tours, and community events. In 2020 however, because of COVID-19 restrictions, we were not able to participate in any community events except for Washougal's "Pumpkin Harvest Fest - On the Go!" and "Ho Ho Holiday".



The CWFD remains firmly committed to public education and looks forward to participating in the events we have enjoyed in past years.

Enforcement

The FMO enforces the fire code through plans review, and through routine fire and life safety inspections, hazardous materials inspections, and fire investigations as follows:

- ***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. Serious fire code violations are required to be corrected on the spot, but in most other cases building owners are allowed thirty days to make corrections. 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:*** Camas and Washougal have diverse industries; some of which have processes that are considered hazardous by definition. We issue permits and conduct inspections for the maintenance, storage, use or handling of hazardous materials, and for the installation and use of equipment used in connection with such activities. These businesses must meet strict 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 facilitate the rehabilitation process with insurance companies and building security companies.

Below are summaries of the total number of fires by type, total fire loss by month, and the more significant fires in our jurisdiction in 2020:

Total Number of Fires (by type) in 2020

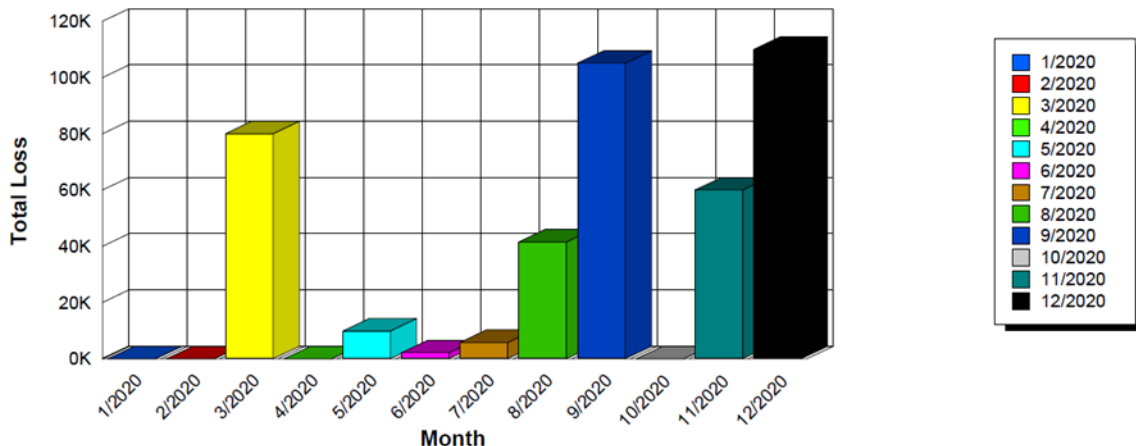
Incident by Incident Type With Detail

Date Range: From 1/1/2020 To 12/31/2020

Incident Type	Incident Count	Used in Ave. Resp.	Average Response Time HH:MM:SS	Total Loss	Total Value
Fire					
Fire, other	11	3	00:08:11	\$80.00	\$80.00
Building fire	6	2	00:04:19	\$36,070.00	\$5,501,070.00
Building fire Residential	11	5	00:09:08	\$273,500.00	\$2,892,000.00
Cooking fire, confined to container	16	12	00:06:41	\$20.00	\$20.00
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	3	1	00:06:06		
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	4	4	00:05:57	\$810.00	\$810.00
Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	1	1	00:14:55		
Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle	1	1	00:08:39	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
Passenger vehicle fire	10	6	00:05:17	\$9,100.00	\$9,100.00
Road freight or transport vehicle fire	2	2	00:07:23	\$1,000.00	\$75,000.00
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	2	1	00:05:09		
Natural vegetation fire, other	21	7	00:08:01	\$600.00	\$600.00
Forest, woods or wildland fire	2				
Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire	11	5	00:08:29	\$1,052.00	\$2,052.00
Grass fire	4	2	00:13:50		
Outside rubbish fire, other	5	3	00:09:35		
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	15	5	00:06:29	\$5,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	3	3	00:06:41		
Special outside fire, other	5	1	00:09:09	\$200.00	\$200.00
Outside storage fire	1	1	00:14:11		
Outside equipment fire	1	1	00:06:59	\$7,000.00	\$375,000.00
Total Fire:	135	66	00:07:36	\$414,432.00	\$9,935,932.00
Total Incident Count:	135	66		\$414,432.00	\$9,935,932.00

Note: The incident count used in averages does not include the following:
 Not completed incidents, Mutual Aid Given, Other Aid Given, Cancelled in Route, Not Priority, Fill-In Standby, No arrival and Invalid Dates/Times.

Total Fire Loss by Month



Significant Fires in Camas and Washougal – 2020

Date	City	Street	Type	Cause	Property Loss
03/17/20	Camas	2032 NW Douglas St.	Motorhome	Electrical	\$80,000.00
05/05/20	Washougal	1696 N Shepard Rd.	House	Smokers Carelessness	\$8,500.00
05/15/20	Camas	3241 NW Valley St.	House	Incendiary	\$5,000.00
08/29/20	Washougal	3720 S Grant St	Industrial	Equipment Malfunction	\$45,000.00
09/01/20	Camas	1551 NW 37 th Ave.	House	Radio Control Battery Charger Malfunction	\$175,000.00
11/22/20	Washougal	3708 C St.	House	Improper Use of a Weed Burner	\$62,000.00
12/05/20	Camas	3427 NW McMaster Dr.	Outside BBQ	Improper BBQ Installation	\$110,000.00

Engineering

The FMO works with the Planning, Engineering, and Building Departments in both Camas and Washougal along with architects, builders, and civil engineers to provide fire and life safety code comments on new developments and building permits as follows:

- We attend the Planning Department's 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 conduct plans reviews (and issue permits) to ensure requirements for IFC compliance are identified for all new construction, building alterations/change in use, and for the installation, or alteration of fire and life safety systems.
- Following plans reviews we conduct inspections during and at the completion of each project. We conduct final inspections to confirm that public safety components are installed and working as designed.

CAMAS COMMERCIAL PROJECT REVIEWS OF NOTE

Grass Valley Apartments The largest complex built in the city required hundreds of hours of inspections and creative problem-solving efforts between the FMO and the contractor. Construction started in 2019 and was completed at a fast pace in 2020.

Fisher Investments 5 Story Completion - Construction of this 5-story 132,000 sf. office building was completed in 2020. It is the third of its size added to the Fisher Campus and the fourth Fisher building to date.

Camas School Districts Fieldhouse - This unique facility being built on the CHS main Campus is a 100'x 124' indoor multi-sport practice facility. Completion is scheduled for early 2021.

6th Avenue Commercial Building - This mixed-use 2 building project located between 5th and 6th included 2 three-story buildings with a mix of apartments and commercial space. Construction of the apartments was completed in 2020 and tenant improvements for the first-floor commercial spaces is moving forward this year.

Acorn & The Oak - This project on NE Everett transformed the former Lakeside Chalet restaurant from the ground up into a new facility that includes a flower shop and bar/restaurant with an apartment above.

Camas Self-Storage - A fourth building for this site on 38th Ave. broke ground in 2020.

Garver Theater - The Camas School District has begun a major remodel to the Joyce Garver Theater Building formerly known as the Garfield Building.

Third Avenue Showroom - Some longtime residents may remember this space on NE 3rd as "Nan's Hallmark". It has been sitting vacant for several years until this project transformed the space into a showroom floor for building and remodel needs.

Riverview Community - A new stand-alone Riverview Bank building was completed on NE 3rd just a few blocks west of the long-standing bank building location.

Samson Sports - Samson Sports continues to add capabilities to their campus on NW Lake Rd. with a third building to house their powder coating operations completed in 2020.

WASHOUGAL COMMERCIAL PROJECT REVIEWS OF NOTE

B-Crystal – This tenant improvement project in the industrial park is for a manufacturer of crystals for the hi-tech industry. It is under construction and moving forward this year.

Iron Gate Storage – Iron Gate was issued a Certificate of Occupancy in late fall of 2020. This recondition/reconstruction project located on C St. includes 4 storage facility buildings; three of which are self-storage, the fourth provides storage for RV's and boats. Fuel pumps were also remodeled.

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS - LOOKING TOWARDS 2021

As we look ahead to 2021 there are numerous commercial projects in the initial review phases in both cities. In Camas two large apartment complexes and an assisted care facility are planned. Washougal will see construction of three new industrial buildings at the industrial park as well as development of the waterfront.

FIRE PERMITS, INSPECTIONS, AND FEES

One of the goals of the FMO is to conduct on site permit inspections in a timely manner. Nearly 95% of the time permit inspections are completed on the same day they are requested and as close as possible to the hour requested. This level of performance is extremely rare in our industry.

Permits and Inspections - 2020 By The Numbers

- Permits Issued: 478 (369 of those for residential fire sprinklers)
- Inspections Performed: 1,986 (construction, permit, fire and life safety)
- Fire Permit Fees: \$71,095

Fire Impact Fees

New growth and development in our cities create 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.

- Fire Impact Fees / Camas 2020: \$271,286
- Fire Impact Fees / Washougal 2020 : \$27,328

Looking Ahead

In closing, it has been 45 years since I first put on a fire department uniform. In that time, I have held positions in rank from firefighter/paramedic to fire chief. It was sometimes hazardous, but the work was gratifying. However, the work that has been the most rewarding and that I believe has had the greatest impact on the citizens we serve has been in the position I currently hold as Fire Marshal. Saving lives and property by preventing fires from happening is deeply rewarding. I have witnessed far too many tragedies caused by fire and I firmly believe the work our office performs not only reduces the severity of the injuries and property damage when a fire does occur but it also prevents fires from ever occurring.

Our office looks forward to the many challenges that lie ahead in 2021. We have and will continue to strive to provide excellent service to the customers we serve adhering to our motto of "Working Toward a Safer Community".

Ron Schumacher

Fire Marshal

Camas-Washougal Fire Department

CWFD Steering Committee

In late 2020, the fire department convened a steering committee, whose goal is to help provide input and direction on the future needs of the agency. It is our hope that the output of this committee can be used to create an internal strategic plan, and at some point in the future, a formal strategic plan that can be adopted by the department and Council. The committee consists of: Fire Chief Nick Swinhart, Ben Silva, Brad Delano, Cassie Knierim, Kevin Villines, Ben Porter, Aaron Cliburn, Mark Ervin, Wade Faircloth, Matt Baldwin, Kevin West, Kevin Bergstrom, and Koa Paakaula. This group will continue to meet throughout 2021. Some early findings of the group:

Things we're doing good:

- High paramedic standards
- Continued use of special duty assignments
- Wellness program
- Entry level hiring process
- Fire Marshal's Office and Prevention
- Good training opportunities
- Peer support
- Personnel have strong fire background
- In-house recruit academy
- Relationship w/area agencies
- Positive public image
- Training grounds at St. 42
- Promotional testing process
- Good diversity for department our size
- Ambulance inventory maintained well
- Efficiency (i.e. doing more with less)
- Blue card training program
- Portland Comm. College partnership
- High standards for probationary staff

Things we need to do better:

- We need water rescue capabilities
- Dynamic training model needed
- We are reactionary to challenges
- Target hazards training
- Lack of a boat for water rescues
- No apparatus replacement plan/fund
- We get few grants. Needs more focus
- Relationship w/other agencies
- Paramedic rotation needed
- Dept. has no HazMat capabilities
- Capital facilities plan needs updated
- Apparatus operator training
- Better communication
- Lack of 3-person engine companies
- Continued cross-staffing St. 42
- Technology improvements needed
- Improved fire training
- Strategic plan needed
- Improved station maintenance
- Paper mill safety/training
- Social media presence needed



2020 Employee Milestones

Anniversaries

Mark Ervin	Career Battalion Chief	30 years of service
Gene Marlow	Career Firefighter	30 years of service
Aron Black	Career Firefighter	20 years of service
Scott Slocum	Career Firefighter	20 years of service

Hired

Phil Gebhardt	Career Firefighter/Paramedic
David Pike	Career Firefighter/Paramedic
Quinn Murray	Career Firefighter/Paramedic
Gavin Horst	Career Firefighter/Paramedic
Erik Miller	Career Firefighter/Paramedic

Promotions

Kevin West	Battalion Chief (Dec. 2019)
Ben Silva	Battalion Chief
Ben Porter	Captain
Michael Coyle	Captain
Katie Linton	Captain

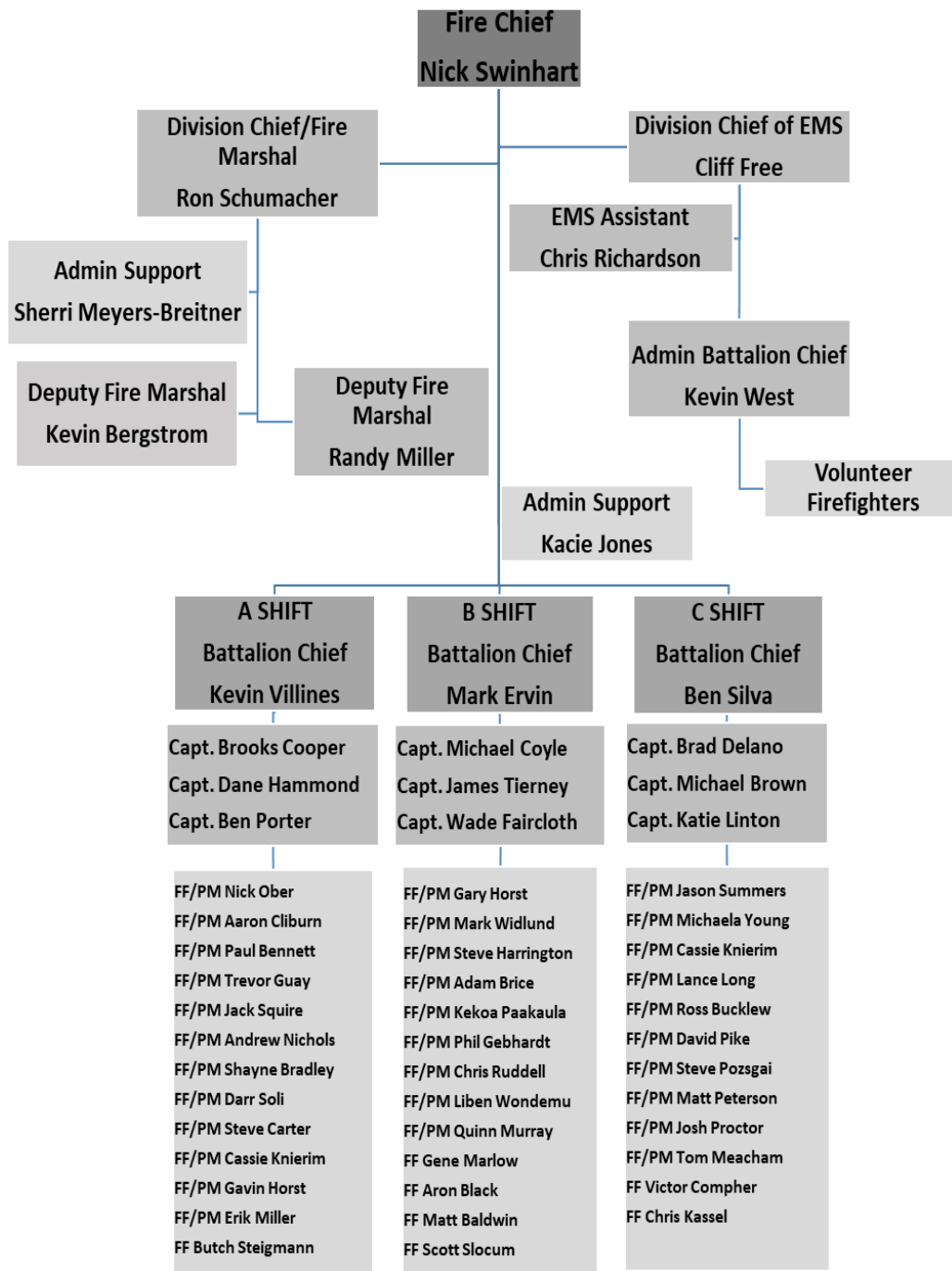
Retired

Garry Alex
Greg Payne
Allen Wolk

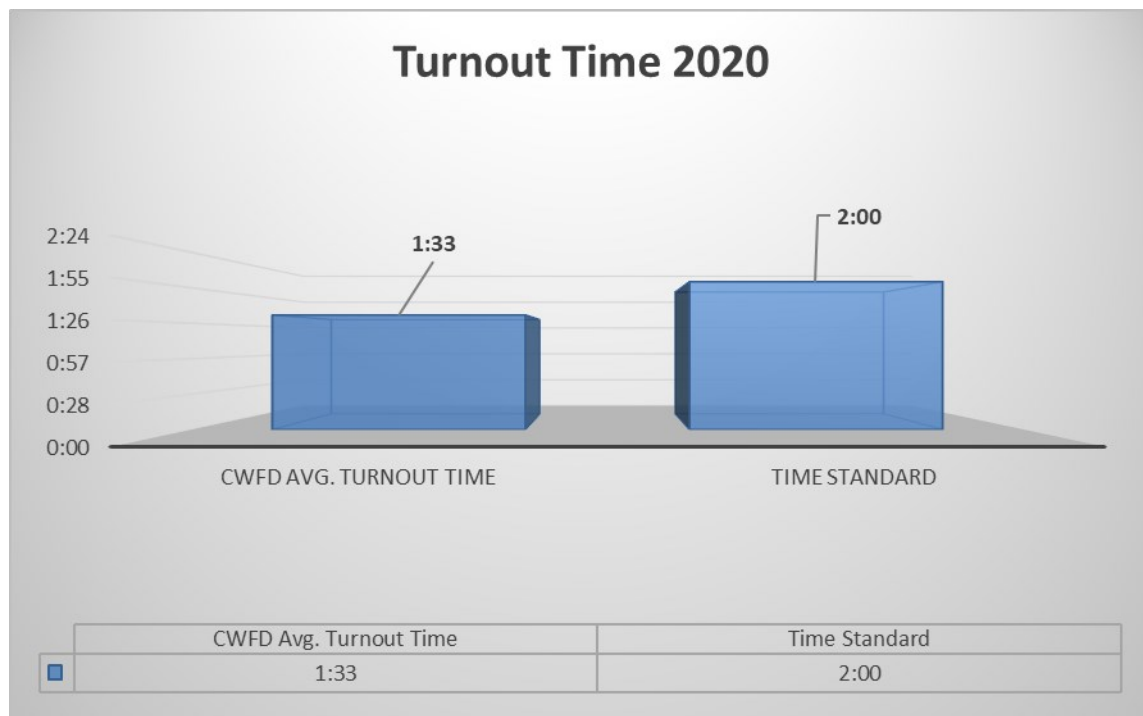


Camas-Washougal Fire Department

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

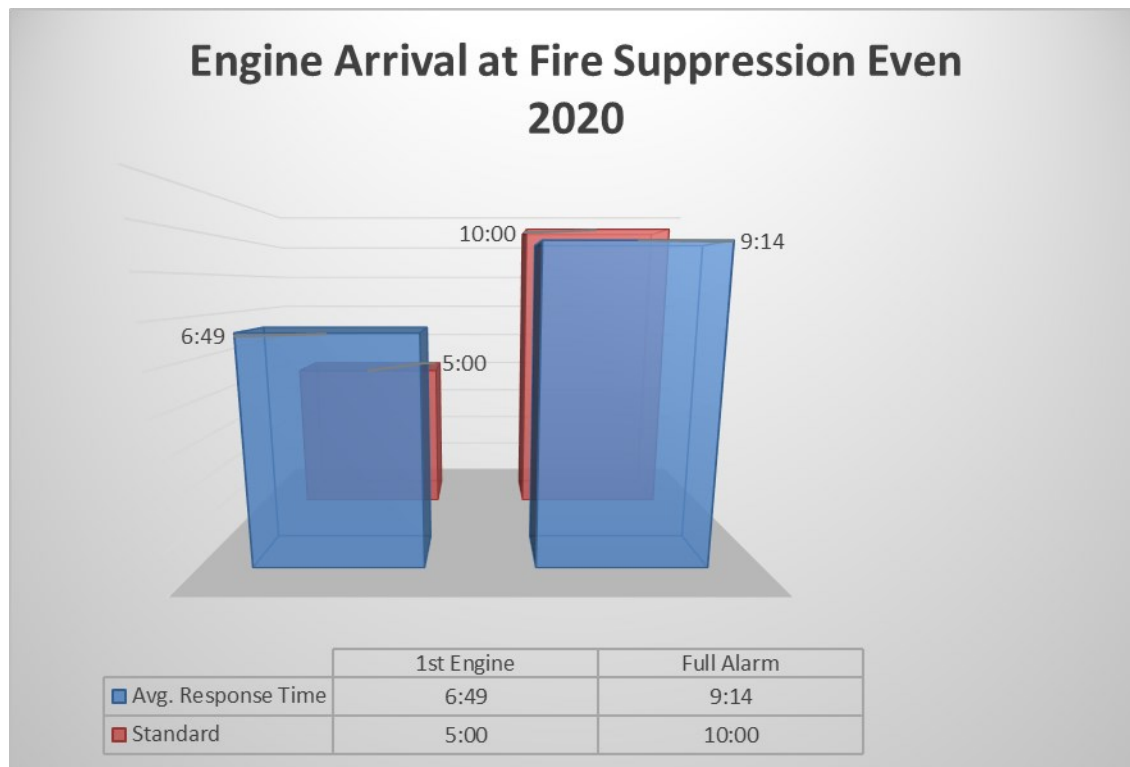


2020 Standard of Cover



Turnout time is defined as the duration in minutes between initial dispatch and the dispatched resource going in route to the call. Turnout times depicted are for all apparatuses for all priority calls (meaning Code 3 response) regardless of call type, time of day, or staffing level.

For systems that maintain dedicated staffing for all apparatuses; and a reasonable defined service area (typically five square miles); a customary turnout standard is 60 seconds for EMS calls and 90 seconds for fire calls. The current level of staffing for CWFD apparatuses relies on personnel to cross-staff an ambulance and an engine. This requires the moving of gear from one apparatus to another depending on the call type and then placing the complimentary apparatus out of service. Additionally, the service area of our ambulances is 90 square miles, which requires mapping the destination prior to leaving the station. To accommodate these added responsibilities prior to leaving the station, CWFD has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for all call types.



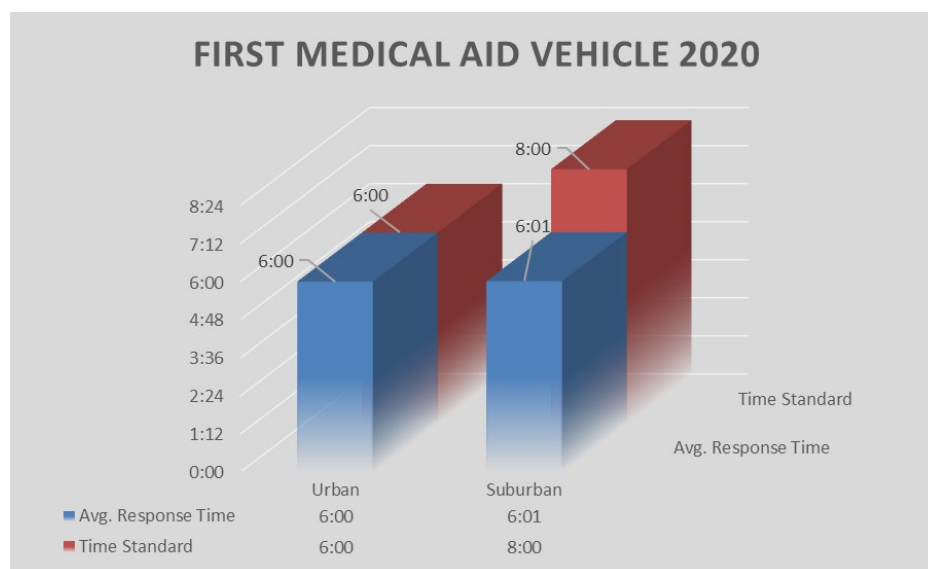
The standard of response for a 1st arriving engine company in their first due area for fire suppression incidents is 5:00 minutes. Currently, we have no software that can calculate the first due area of each respective station's engine and cross-match that with the first arriving unit. However, what is a more prescient assessment is the response time of the first arriving CWFD engine to any fire suppression incident within our fire suppression area, regardless of station of origin. Essentially, it is less important where they came from, but how long it took the first mitigating engine to arrive for any fire suppression incident. This is represented in the first column of the above chart.

The standard to deploy the first full alarm assignment to a fire suppression incident is 10:00 minutes. The second column represents this average. It should be noted that mutual aid is required to achieve a 'full' first alarm assignment. A full first alarm assignment is defined as a four engine response. It is

difficult to calculate the response times of mutual aid apparatuses because their times are outside of our data set and purview. The average demonstrated in the chart above is the time to arrival of all first alarm CWFD resources dispatched to fire suppression incidents within CWFD's fire suppression boundary.

In addition to Average response times, Fractiles are an additional performance metric. A fractile is the % of fire suppression events that we achieve the time standards. The fractile for the arrival of the first suppression engine within 5 minutes is 33%. The fractile for achieving a full alarm arrival within 10 minutes is 50%.

Arrival of First Response Medical Aid Vehicle to EMS Calls:



The Arrival of First Response Medical Aid Vehicles is a metric historically used for systems where two different agencies are employed for EMS response: an initial EMS engine response from the local fire department (MFR: Medical First Response), and a transport ambulance, typically from a separate private ambulance transport agency. The Standard is based on the concept that the initial first response medical aid vehicle arrives first and 'stops the clock' for the response of the ALS Transport Unit (ambulance...usually private). In the CWFD system, the engine and the transport ambulance are both part of the CWFD. Operationally, CWFD sends the ambulance out in the lead for most EMS calls, and the engine trails. In some situations, CWFD may send the engine and ambulance from separate stations

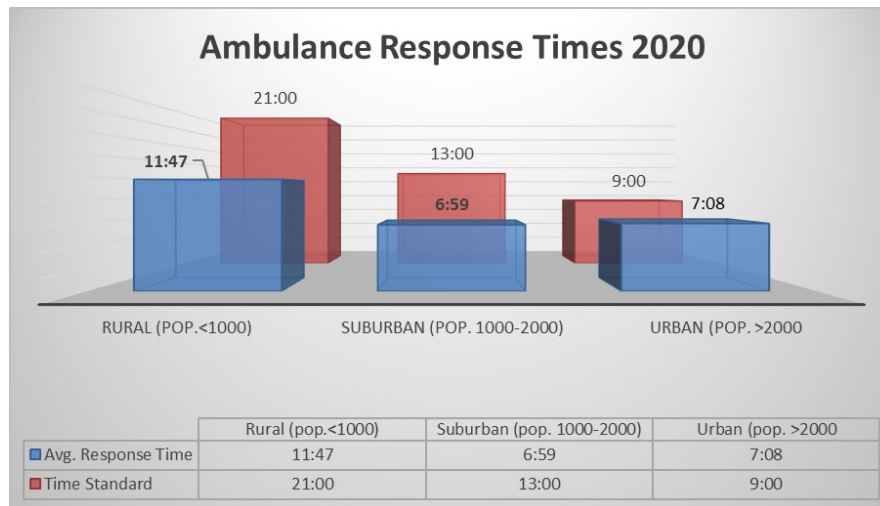
depending on available resources and location of the call. However, the closest ambulance is always dispatched. What is unique to our EMS system in the Cities of Camas and Washougal, is that the ambulance response times on an EMS call, are often shorter than the engine response times. However, the intent of the Standard of Cover is to track the arrival of first response medical aid. The times listed are the arrival times of the first aid vehicle staffed with medically trained personnel regardless of whether it is an engine or an ambulance.

CWFD's standard is six minutes for urban designations; eight minutes for Suburban designations; and eleven minutes for rural designations. The City of Camas and the City of Washougal do not have many Rural designations, the calls that do originate from this designation are statistically di minimis, so those response times are lumped into the Suburban data. The calls represented are only for the City of Camas and Washougal jurisdictions where we serve the constituents with both first response fire and a transport ambulance. In ECFR, CWFD does not provide first response fire, that obligation is fulfilled by the EMS responders of that district, therefore the district of ECFR is excluded from this data set. Ambulance times to ECFR's district are included in the Arrival of ALS Transport unit covered later in the report.

CWFD's Medical Aid Vehicle First Arrival Standard is the sum of the travel time standard and the turn-out standard. CWFD's travel time standard is based upon GIS mapping of our four and six minute travel radii from our three stations. Four minutes captures the majority of our urban area and six minutes captures the majority of our suburban area from the nearest CWFD station. CWFD's turnout standard is 120 seconds.

In addition to Average response times, Fractiles are an additional performance metric. A fractile is the % of priority EMS incidents events where we achieve the time standards. The fractile for the arrival of the first medical aid vehicle on priority EMS incidents in the urban designation within 6 minutes is 81%. The fractile for the arrival of the first medical aid vehicle on priority EMS incidents in the suburban designation within 8 minutes is 95%.

Arrival of Advanced Life Support Transport Unit to EMS Calls:



Transport ambulance response times are monitored for all priority EMS calls (dispatched as a Code 3 response). They are broken down into three categories: Urban, Suburban and Rural, depending on the population density per square mile (Clark County GIS Census map provided in Appendix A). These categories are defined by the State of Washington and do not take into account proximity of response, only population per square mile. The CWFD ambulance response area incorporates 8 square miles of Urban designation, 10 square miles of Suburban designation, 62 square miles of Rural designation and 14 square miles of Wilderness designation, although there is no defined Washington State time standard for Wilderness designation.

The rural response times at first glance seem improbable and warrant some further explanation. Proximity, which is not a factor in designation, pulls down the response average for the Rural designation response. For example, Bi-Mart in Washougal is on Map page 1417 and is designated by definition as Rural though it is within one mile of Station 43. This square mile map page incorporates much of the Columbia River, which has no registered population. By proximity, the response times are very short, though it is designated as rural. Additionally, as you move away from the two cities in proximity, the call volume decreases, explaining the seemingly short average response times for such a vast response area. Understanding the relationship between proximity and population density explains the relatively short rural response average over such a vast area.

CWFD separately and additionally employs a Fractile Response Percentage for ambulance response. Fractile response percentages begin with the response time standard per Urban, Suburban, Rural designation, and calculates the percentage of responses that meet that criteria. The fractile response percentages are listed below. This addresses the question of whether we are meeting our remote response times despite the proximity weighted average response times.

Fractile response percentages: Urban: 84% Suburban: 95% Rural: 94%

Arrival of Hazardous Materials trained and equipped Technicians:

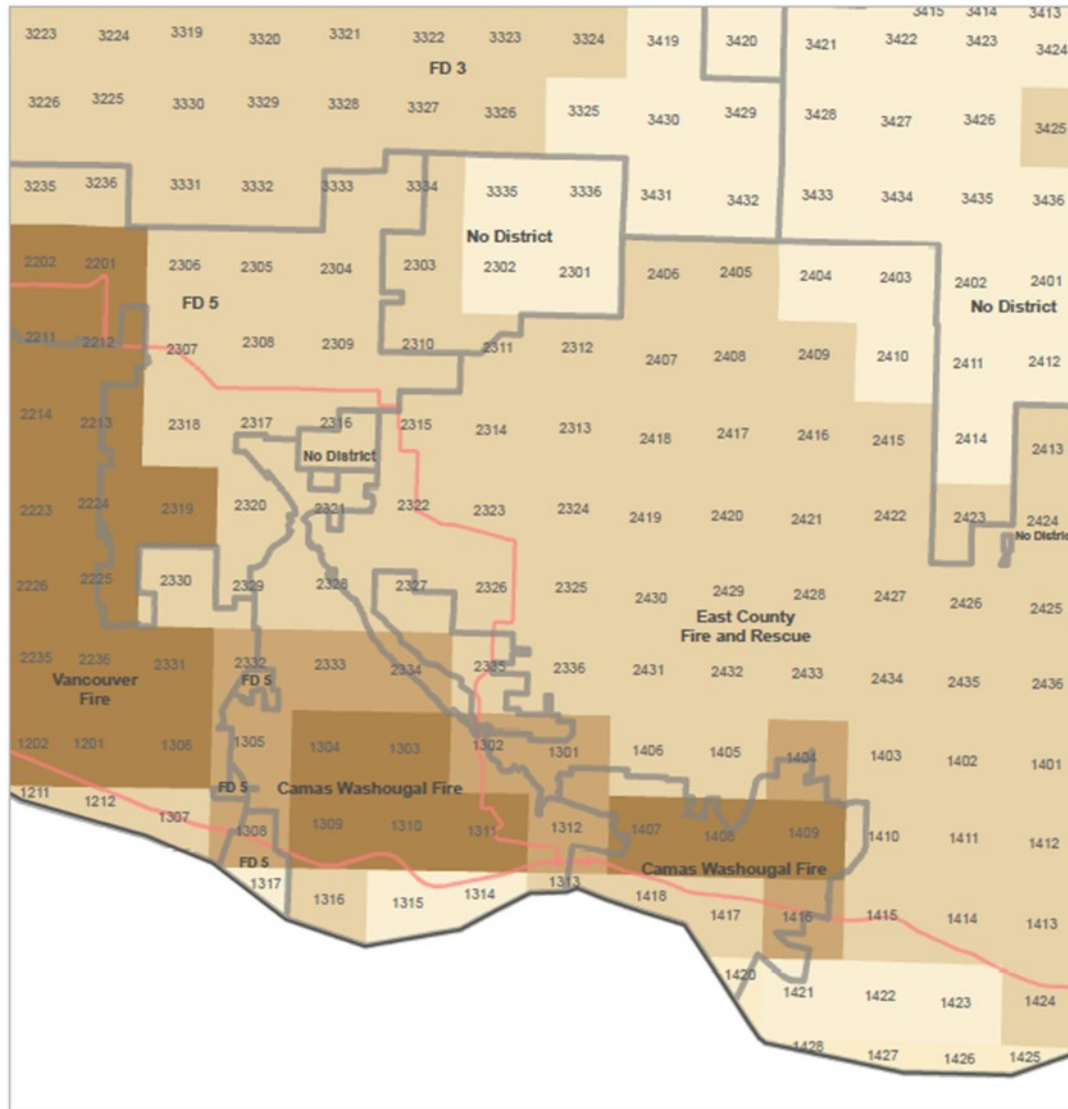
In 2020, there were no significant Hazardous Materials Incidents requiring the employment of specialty resources.

*Appendix A

Population Density

Camas Washougal Fire Department

Population Estimate Date: 2012



- Fire District Boundary
- Highway
- Population per Square Mile (with Map Page Numbers)**
- Wilderness (no people)
- Rural (1 to 999 people)
- Suburban (1000 to 1999 people)
- Urban (over 2000 people)



Population densities are based on current Assessor information (taxlots) along with persons per household counts from the 2010 Census.

Extreme care was taken in the completion and analysis of this map. However, due to the need to rely on several outside sources for information, Clark County, Washington cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional accuracy and, therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this product.

