



2021 Annual Report



Camas-Washougal Fire Department

Mayors, Councils, and Citizens of Camas & Washougal:

We are pleased to submit to you the Camas-Washougal Fire Department's annual report for 2021. It is our distinct privilege to report on all facets of this esteemed organization.

The staff and volunteers of CWFD are dedicated professionals who take tremendous pride in the mission of the agency. This report is a summary of our efforts to improve public safety through emergency response, prevention, and public education.

2021 saw a return to incremental increase in calls for both fire and EMS after a brief downturn in calls related to the first year of the pandemic. As the communities of Camas and Washougal continue to develop and new residents migrate to this beguiling area, the demands on public resources increases proportionally.

In 2021, the department experienced unprecedented staffing shortages due to attrition, injury and long-term leave. CWFD staff tirelessly staffed stations to ensure uninterrupted coverage to the residents of Camas and Washougal. In the fall of 2021, CWFD was able to put six new hires through our in-house regional fire academy that will begin alleviating some staffing strain in 2022.

The Camas Washougal Fire Department in 2021 was a place of learning, adaptation and change. The experiences over the past year will surely carry forward as we look optimistically to the future.

Thank you for your interest in our annual report.

Respectfully,

Camas Washougal Fire Department Staff

Our Mission:

To provide the highest quality service to our community through the protection and preservation of life and property.

Our Values:

To serve our communities' needs through:

- Excellence
- Courtesy, equality and respect
- Professionalism
- Readiness, education and training
- Competency and accountability
- Integrity
- Dependability, trust and honesty
- Enthusiasm, optimism and recognition
- Pride



CWFD Steering Committee

In 2021, the Steering Committee continued to work on identifying and planning for the needs of the department. A strategic plan was developed and adopted to help move the department in the identified directions. The committee members are: Battalion Chief Ben Silva, Captain Brad Delano, FF/PM Cassie Knierim, Battalion Chief Kevin Villines, Captain Ben Porter, FF/PM Aaron Cliburn, Battalion Chief Mark Ervin, Captain Wade Faircloth, Captain Matt Baldwin, Battalion Chief Kevin West, Deputy Fire Marshall Kevin Bergstrom, and FF/PM Koa Paakaula. Below are strategic goals outlined in the adopted Strategic Plan and the objectives related to each goal.

Strategic Goals:

1. Hire necessary staffing to ensure 4-person minimum staffing at Station 42.

- Increase the safety of personnel working at Station 42
- Provide a higher level of service to the community
- Shortened response times leading to improved emergency outcomes

2. Hiring necessary staffing to ensure 3-person engine companies.

- Increase the safety of personnel working on all CWFD engines
- Provide the appropriate level of service to all citizens
- Fulfill minimum staffing standard by allowing engine rotation schedules
- Decreased paramedic fatigue by allowing engine rotation schedules
- Safer response to mental health emergencies

3. Fill Training Captain position and plan for a Division Chief of Operations.

- Develop and improve formal training internally
- Ensure consistency in training
- Improve command oversight and safety at emergency scenes

4. Create and appropriately fund an apparatus and facilities replacement plan.

- Have fully funded apparatus and capital replacement plans that allow for the future needs and growth of the department
- Ability to make large expenditures without going through excessive requisition or loan processes
- Ensure safety of personnel by utilization of the newest technology and equipment
- Ensure public receives a high level of service through the use of modern equipment

5. Establish a water rescue training program and team.

- Maintain and improve responder water safety through proper training and acquisition of program-specific equipment
- Obtain budget authority to train and equip a water rescue team

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. Also provided are details on each of our stations, apparatus, personnel and other operational information.

In 2021 the department added 6 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 this past fall. The department received permission in late 2021 to add 8 more paramedic-firefighters to replace vacancies left by several members who are retiring or have moved on to other departments, those new employees will be starting a spring recruit academy beginning March 28, 2022.

During the 2021 fire season, CWFD sent crews on 6 state wildland mobilization fires on the east side of the state. Crews were out for 1-2 weeks 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.

In December of 2021 CWFD received a generous private donation of \$33k for the sole purpose of developing a swift water rescue program. With these funds we purchased a 15.5ft zodiac mil/pro rescue boat/trailer with a 40hp Yamaha outboard motor. The zodiac (red boat) will be utilized for rescues that occur on Lacamas Lake. Earlier in the year CWFD purchased an NRS ASR 155 rescue boat (Yellow) specifically for rescuing victims in the Lacamas Creek drainage and on the Washougal River. Also, we will be sending 12 department members to swift water tech. training in March of 2021, and purchasing 9 dry suits.



Operations Report

Our fleet of fire apparatus are aging. We currently have two fire engines that are in need of replacing but at this time only one has been approved for replacement. In the past we have replaced fire engines every 10 years, the ESCI study in 2019 suggested that with newer technology, fire engines could go as long as 13 years before being replaced/put in reserve status. With that said the current build time has been pushed out to well over a year and is taking about 18 months from time of contract to delivery. New fire engines cost roughly \$700k depending on manufacturer, the fire department is able to use fire impact fees for new fire engines which comes from new construction in Camas and Washougal. Currently Station 41(downtown Camas) has a first out engine that is a 2016 Pierce; Station 42 (Grass Valley) has a first out engine that is a 2009 BME(replacement engine ordered 12/21); and Station 43(Washougal) has a first out engine that is a 2010 Sutphen(needs replacing). Once an engine is replaced, it is housed at one of our fire stations as a reserve unit to be used when first line engines are out of service for repairs or maintenance. Our 2 reserve engines are a 2003 American LaFrance and a 2004 Sutphen. Both engines are getting close to the end of their lifespan. The department also has 3 brush rigs, 1 housed at each station for response to brush and wildland fires. B41 (2004 w/rebuilt engine 2017); B42 (1994 needs replacing); and B43 (2020/F-550).

Our department also has 4 front line medic units used in our advanced life support transport service. One medic unit is housed at each station. A 4th unit is housed at Station 41 and is used as a 2nd out medic unit(cross staffed w/ engine 41 crew) when the other 3 units are already committed to other emergency calls. Our medic fleet is in good condition and has a regular replacement plan in place. M41 (2019 Northstar/F-350); M42 (2016 Northstar/F-350); M43 (2017 Northstar/F-350); and M44 (2013 Northstar/F-350).

The annual repair and maintenance cost for fire apparatus (including brush rigs) was **\$62,842** in 2021. The annual repair and maintenance cost for medic units was **\$14,785**.



Operations Report

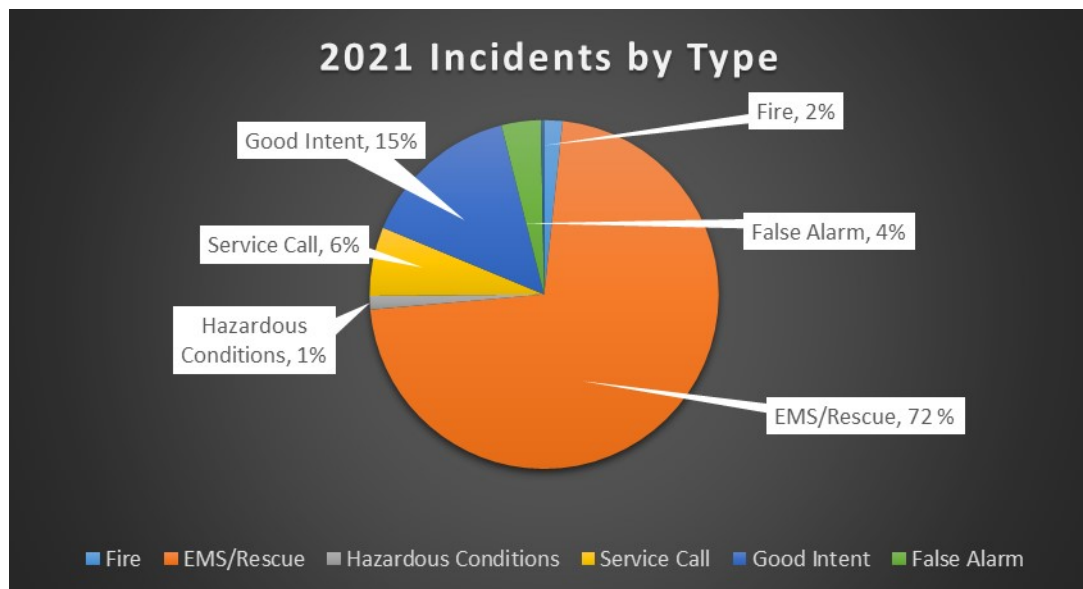
Our facilities are aging and are requiring more maintenance and repairs as the years go on. Station 41 is located in downtown Camas. The Fire Marshal's Office is located in a separate building on the same city block. Station 41 is attached to City Hall. The building was constructed in the 1960s and has been remodeled a few times, but the building does not have any seismic upgrades. Station 41 needed only minor repairs and maintenance in 2021, 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 4 full time professional personnel, which allows for cross-staffing a second medic unit when needed, and a Battalion Chief.

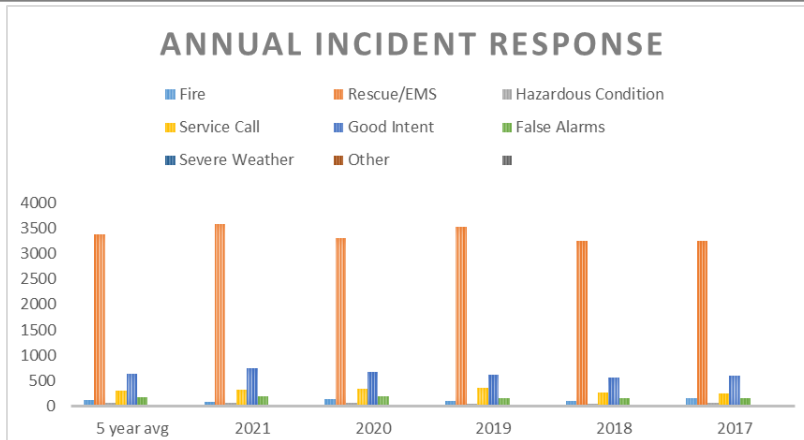
Station 42, on the west side of Prune Hill, hosts the department's training facility and is the newest station. Built in 2001, the station is in need of upgrades and maintenance, but is noted in the 2019 ESCI study to be in good condition. It is the only station in our department with seismic construction. 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. This staffing level leaves all of the other units unavailable to respond until the crew returns to quarters.

Station 43 is located in Washougal. Similar to Camas' main station 41, Washougal's station 43 is also older and lacks seismic upgrades. It is in need of major updates or replacement per the 2019 ESCI Master Plan study. The station suffered a plumbing failure in the fall of 2021 that caused significant damage to the kitchen and adjacent areas. This has required the crews to use an ad hoc sink and dishwashing station during the ongoing repairs scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2022. Crews continued to staff the station and provide uninterrupted service to Washougal during the repairs. Repairs were made to the main sewer line in 2020(after a separate significant sewage leak). A permanent, long term solution to the sewer line issues has yet to be determined. Station 43 houses 2 engines, 1 medic unit and 1 brush rig, and is staffed with a minimum of 4 personnel.

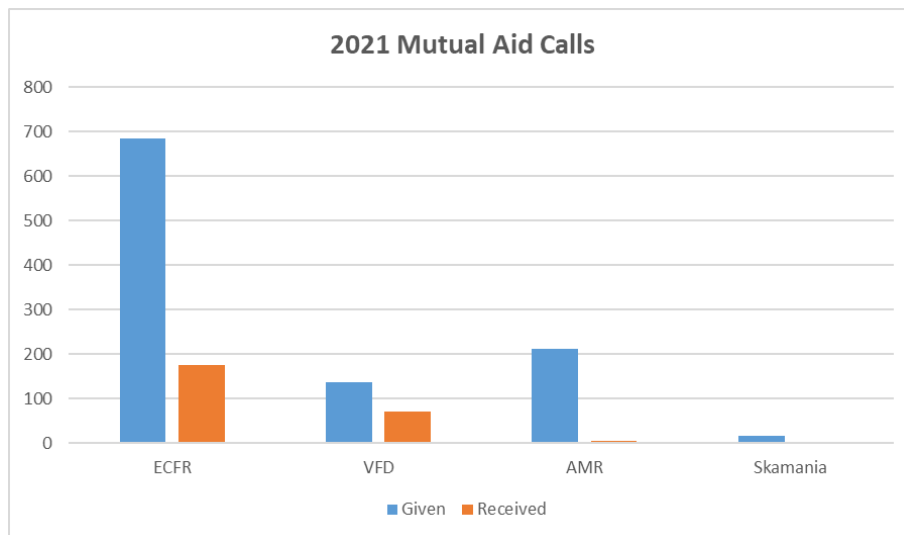
Total repair and maintenance costs for CWFD fire stations totaled **\$48,378 in 2021**.

CWFD personnel responded to 4998 emergency calls in 2021 compared to 4683 calls in 2020; an increase of 6.3% in call volume. The chart below is a breakdown of incident responses by type of incident at dispatch. A majority of the call volume is EMS (emergency medical service) calls. This is typical throughout the county and accounted for 72% of CWFD's dispatched calls in 2021. 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, business, or vehicle. 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, often these are 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 many otherwise innocuous incidents.





In 2021 we provided mutual aid on 1033 calls and received mutual aid 250 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 Steve Carter achieved his Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Tech certification. Steve is the second member now responsible for maintaining the departments SCBA's.

Battalion Chief Kevin West attended a 5 day Blue Card incident command instructor course. This certification is critical in maintaining Incident command on-going training for all of CWFD's Captains and Acting Captains.

During the month of April Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Martizia, Darr Soli, Steve Carter, and Jack Squire attended a 3 day swift water rescue course hosted by Wet Planet in Husum, WA. Each of these members earned the NFPA SRT-1 certification. This class has proven to be essential as we develop our swift water rescue program.

During the month of May, Justin McWilliams of Clackamas County Fire District 1 was a guest instructor teaching Search Culture. Justin has traveled around the country teaching search culture and "mindset" as it applies to searching for victims on the fire ground. Justin is highly regarded and we were great full to host his class. This class has changed how we will approach searching for victims in the future. Captain Dane Hammond, Captain James Tierney, Captain Brad Delano, and Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Peterson will be leading our adoption of search culture as we grow as a department.

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.

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 21st, 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 16th, our six 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 led 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 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.

The Camas Washougal Fire Department has an active volunteer program that recruits new members annually. Prospective volunteers participate in a selection process that is 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 6 new and very motivated volunteers to the group. CWFD members broadened their knowledge base and expanded their rescue skills greatly. We enthusiastically look toward 2022 for new learning opportunities!

Submitted by,

Kevin West

Battalion Chief

Camas Washougal Fire Department



Fire Marshal's Office Report

It is a pleasure to submit the Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) annual report for 2021. It was a busy year for all and one that found the FMO facing the continued challenge of monitoring the safety and protection of our community while navigating evolving COVID-19 restrictions and protocols.

FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Construction Permits and Inspection Restrictions

Construction industry members, including owners, developers, contractors, subcontractors and supply chain vendors have experienced varying degrees of impacts to their work as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Work in our area was no exception and came with its own unique set of COVID-related challenges in 2021.

In early 2021 Governor Jay Inslee relaxed some of the initially placed restrictions, only to reinstate them later in the year with the emergence of COVID-19 variants. Contractors and our staff were required to adapt quickly and once again follow more strict safety requirements in order to sustain productivity levels while minimizing the risk of exposure.

Restaurant Restrictions and Fire Code for Outdoor Dining Tents

COVID-19 restrictions remained challenging for the restaurant industry in 2021. With mask mandates and dining space restrictions in place and the deadline for lifting them uncertain, our office needed a thoughtful approach to help restaurants stay open. We made the decision to allow temporary tents to remain in place beyond the 180 day limit as established by the fire code. This allowed those restaurants with tents to have a ready alternative if the Governor placed further limits and/or a ban on inside dining.

Moving Forward

We have adjusted our business practices to follow changing safety worksite guidelines while continuing to serve our customers. Moving forward we will continue to work with contractors, business owners and the community to adjust and adapt in order to face challenges as they arise.

EDUCATION - ENFORCEMENT - ENGINEERING

The 3 E's of Fire Prevention – 2021 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.

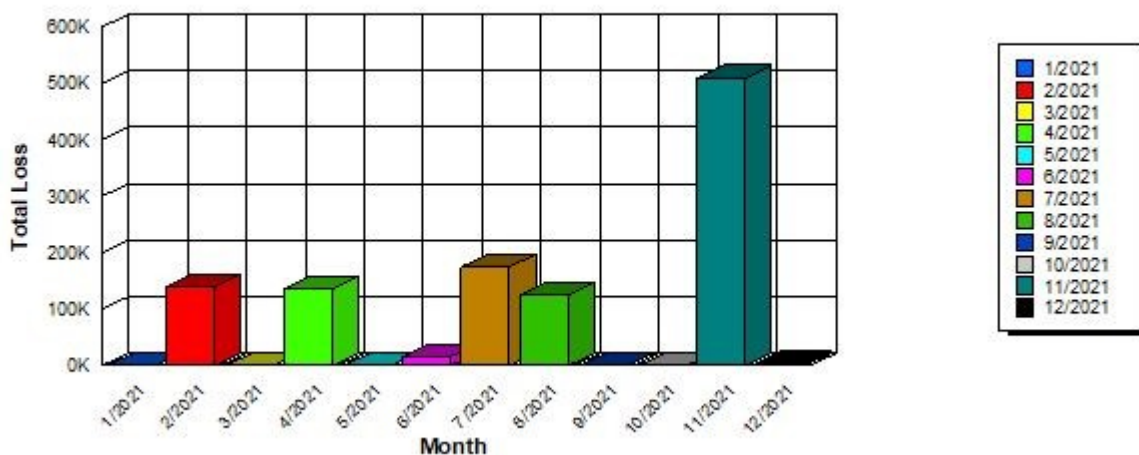
Education Fire and life safety education is an essential component of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department's mission to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens in our jurisdiction. It has always been a privilege to connect with our citizens in meaningful ways including many classroom visits, station tours, and community events. The CWFD remains firmly committed to public education and looks forward to participating in the events we have enjoyed in past years as COVID restrictions are lifted.

Enforcement

The FMO enforces the fire code through plans review, 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.

Total Fire Loss by Month - Camas and Washougal 2021



Total Number of Fires (by Type) Camas and Washougal 2021

Incident by Incident Type With Detail

Date Range: From 1/1/2021 To 12/31/2021

| Incident Type | Incident Count | Used in Ave Resp. | Average Response Time HH:MM:SS | Total Loss | Total Value |
|---|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fire | | | | | |
| Fire, other | 10 | 8 | 00:05:46 | \$350.00 | \$350.00 |
| Building fire | 1 | 1 | 00:06:51 | | |
| Building fire Residential | 10 | 5 | 00:07:06 | \$1,065,000.00 | \$2,295,000.00 |
| Cooking fire, confined to container | 8 | 5 | 00:08:11 | \$5,000.00 | \$6,500.00 |
| Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue | 1 | | | | |
| Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined | 2 | 2 | 00:08:54 | | |
| Trash or rubbish fire, contained | 1 | | | | |
| Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence | 1 | 1 | 00:11:56 | | |
| Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other | 1 | 1 | 00:08:41 | | |
| Passenger vehicle fire | 8 | 7 | 00:06:46 | \$36,500.00 | \$45,500.00 |
| Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire | 1 | | | | |
| Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire | 1 | | | | |
| Natural vegetation fire, other | 9 | 6 | 00:06:52 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 |
| Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire | 6 | 4 | 00:06:55 | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Grass fire | 2 | 1 | 00:06:03 | | |
| Outside rubbish fire, other | 8 | 1 | 00:07:10 | | |
| Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire | 9 | 3 | 00:08:59 | | |
| Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire | 1 | 1 | 00:07:03 | | |
| Special outside fire, other | 4 | 3 | 00:05:41 | | |
| Outside storage fire | 1 | 1 | 00:07:56 | | |
| Total Fire: | 85 | 50 | 00:07:07 | \$1,107,650.00 | \$2,348,150.00 |
| Total Incident Count: | 85 | 50 | | \$1,107,650.00 | \$2,348,150.00 |

Significant Fires in Camas and Washougal 2021

| Date | City | Street | Fire Type | Cause | Property Loss |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 07/25/21 | Camas | 1531 NW 41st Cir. | Garage | Ashes too close to combustibles | \$275,000 |
| 08/15/21 | Washougal | 348 W Dogwood | House | Smokers | \$225,000 |
| 09/01/21 | Washougal | 4501 Addy St. #28 | House | Undetermined | \$19,000 |
| 11/17/21 | Washougal | 1137 43rd St. | House | Undetermined | \$510,000 |

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 bi-monthly meetings with developers/applicants 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 average about 75 meetings per year, and despite the pandemic, the number of pre-application meetings stayed high in 2021.)
- 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

Many new commercial projects got underway in Camas in spite of pandemic related supply chain shortages and shutdowns. Some of the more notable projects that began in 2021 included:

- **Lacamas Assisted Living** -This residential living facility project on Lake Rd. had some access challenges but the FMO worked with the designer to find creative solutions allowing construction to begin in the fall.
- **The Casey** - Site work began on this multi-story apartment complex located on Pacific Rim Blvd.
- **Camas Professional Center** -This large, 2-story commercial office building is being constructed on Camas Meadows Dr. near the golf course between residential communities.
- **Camas Christian Academy (CCA) Portables** - CCA added 6 temporary portable structures on the Northlake Community Church Property. This required an upgrade permit to the church fire alarm system to include coverage for all of the portables.
- **Green Mountain (Growth)** - Additional phases began on this large ongoing subdivision project requiring multiple FMO inspections for compliance with design, fire sprinklers and other life safety requirements. A new clubhouse serving the residents in this area is nearing completion.
- **Hancock Springs Subdivision** - located on top of Prune Hill beside the water tower on NW 18th St., this moderate sized subdivision is nearing completion.

- **nLight** - This laser technology company continues to expand their operation in Camas and has several tenant improvement projects and system upgrades in process.
- **Garver Theater** - This Camas School District remodeling project began in 2020, and has transformed a once rundown building into a modern community theater. Most of the construction on this labor intensive project occurred in 2021. This older building required the addition of many modern fire service features to provide for the safety of the occupants for years to come.
- **Northwest Paper Box** - This established manufacturing business currently located in Portland is relocating to Camas on Pacific Rim Blvd. The FMO toured the current facility before construction began here in order to eliminate any challenges and provide a seamless move for the business owners.
- **Lacamas Tech Center** - This six-building commercial warehouse campus is being constructed in phases on Friberg-Strunk Rd. at the west boarder of the city and has required many hours of plan review by the FMO.

WASHOUGAL COMMERCIAL PROJECT REVIEWS OF NOTE

- **Ninebark Apartments** - This large nine-building three-story apartment with 242 units is being constructed on the Washougal waterfront.
- **Building 20** - This project saw the construction of a 50,000 square ft. warehouse in the Port of Camas - Washougal.
- **Stainless Cable & Railing** - This project includes 2 warehouses and an additional warehouse/office building located in the Port of Camas -Washougal.

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 - 2021

- Permits Issued: 543 (417 of those for residential fire sprinklers)
- Inspections Performed: 1,889 (construction, permit, fire and life safety)
- Fire Permit Fees: \$83,682

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 Collected Camas 2021: \$161,414
- Fire Impact Fees Collected Washougal 2021 : \$49,292

Looking Ahead

It is with mixed feelings that I submit this report, as this will probably be my last. I will be retiring soon so I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the FMO staff for their contributions and professionalism throughout my tenure as CWFD Fire Marshal. It is through their dedication, hard work and willingness to tackle difficult problems that our office has been able to succeed through challenges and adversity.

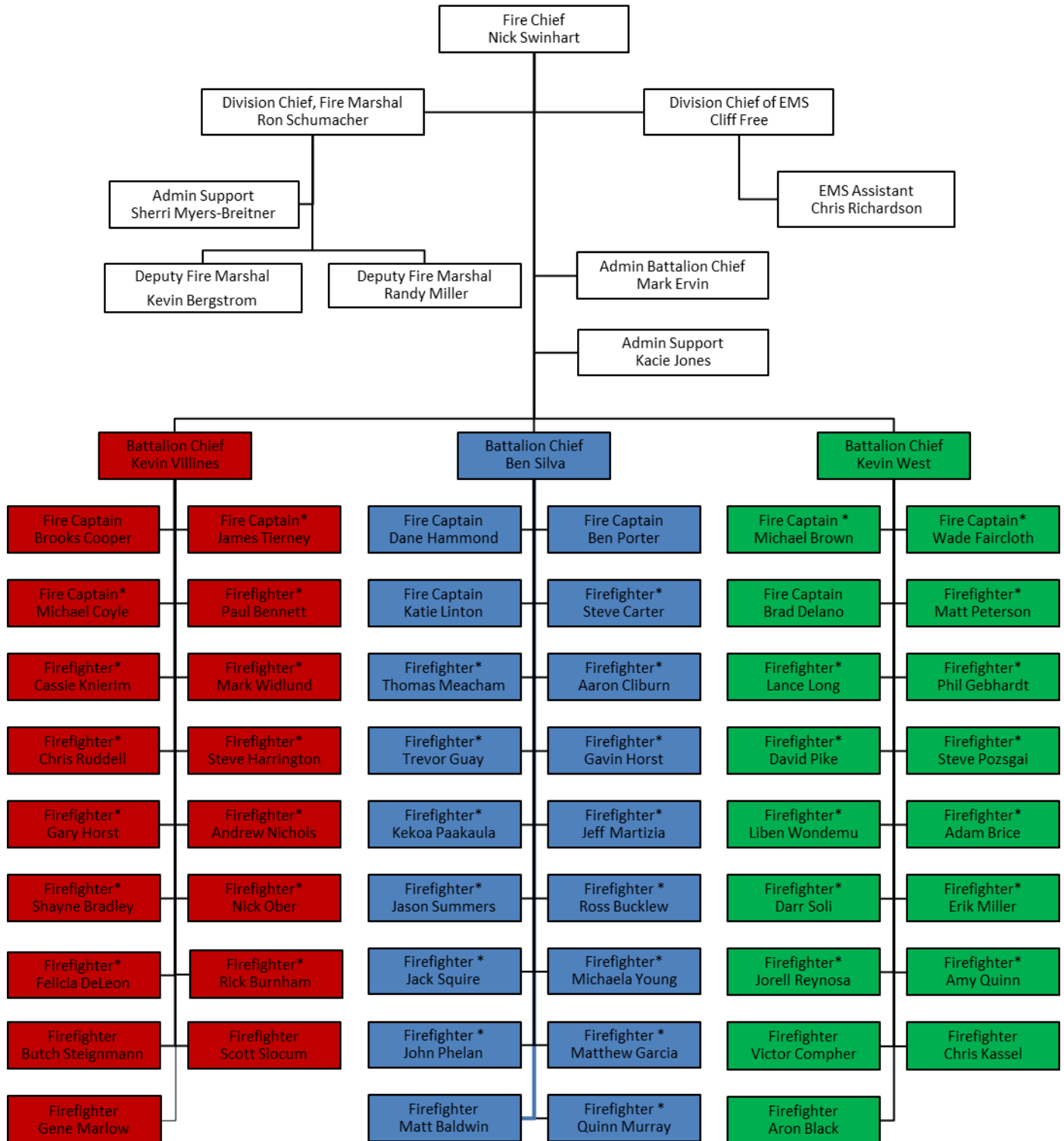
Our office looks forward to the many challenges that lie ahead in 2022. We have and will continue to strive to provide excellent service to the customers we serve adhering to our motto of “Working Toward a Safer Community”.

Ron Schumacher

Fire Marshal

Camas-Washougal Fire Department

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2021 Employee Milestones

Anniversaries

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Randy Miller | Deputy Fire Marshal | 30 years of service |
| Kevin Villines | Battalion Chief | 20 years of service |
| Kevin West | Battalion Chief | 20 years of service |
| Victor Compher | Career Firefighter | 20 years of service |
| Ben Porter | Captain | 10 years of service |

Hired

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Felicia DeLeon | Career Firefighter/Paramedic |
| Matthew Garcia | Career Firefighter/Paramedic |
| Amy Quinn | Career Firefighter/Paramedic |
| Rick Burnham | Career Firefighter/Paramedic |
| Jorell Reynosa | Career Firefighter/Paramedic |
| John Phelan | Career Firefighter/Paramedic |

Emergency Medical Services Report

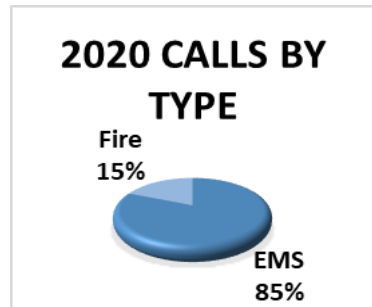
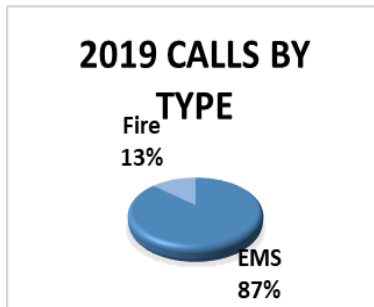
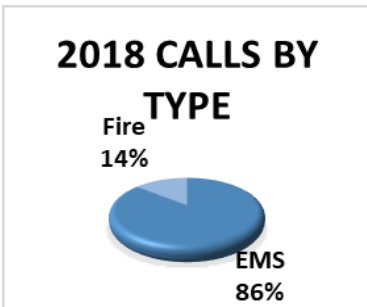
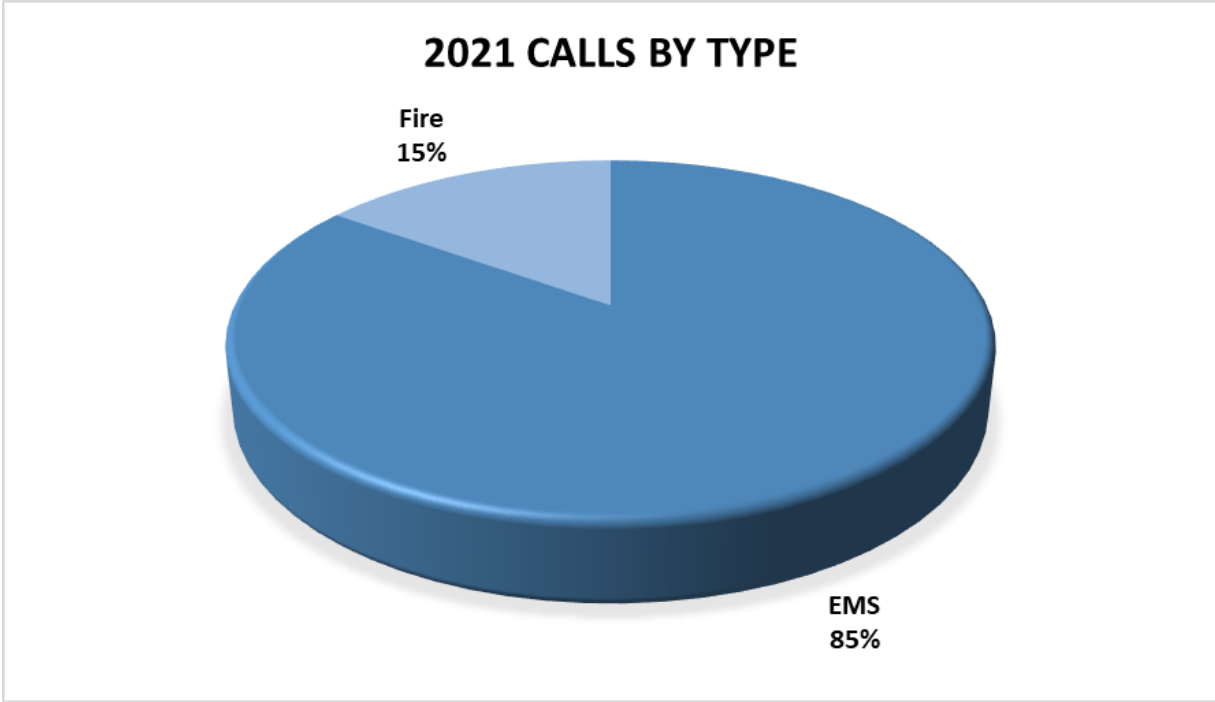
To say that 2021 was a challenging year is an understatement of epic proportion. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of the world as we had known it; and in its wake remains an uncertainty as to the world we will encounter moving forward. It forced us to adapt. It forced us to make real time decisions with incomplete and inconsistent information. It challenged our sense of security in understanding the risks to our providers and to the community. It challenged the line between personal freedom and autonomy and the ability to work in our chosen profession. 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 accommodated. We retooled again and again without losing focus, and there is no better testament to the quality and commitment of the EMS providers in this department.

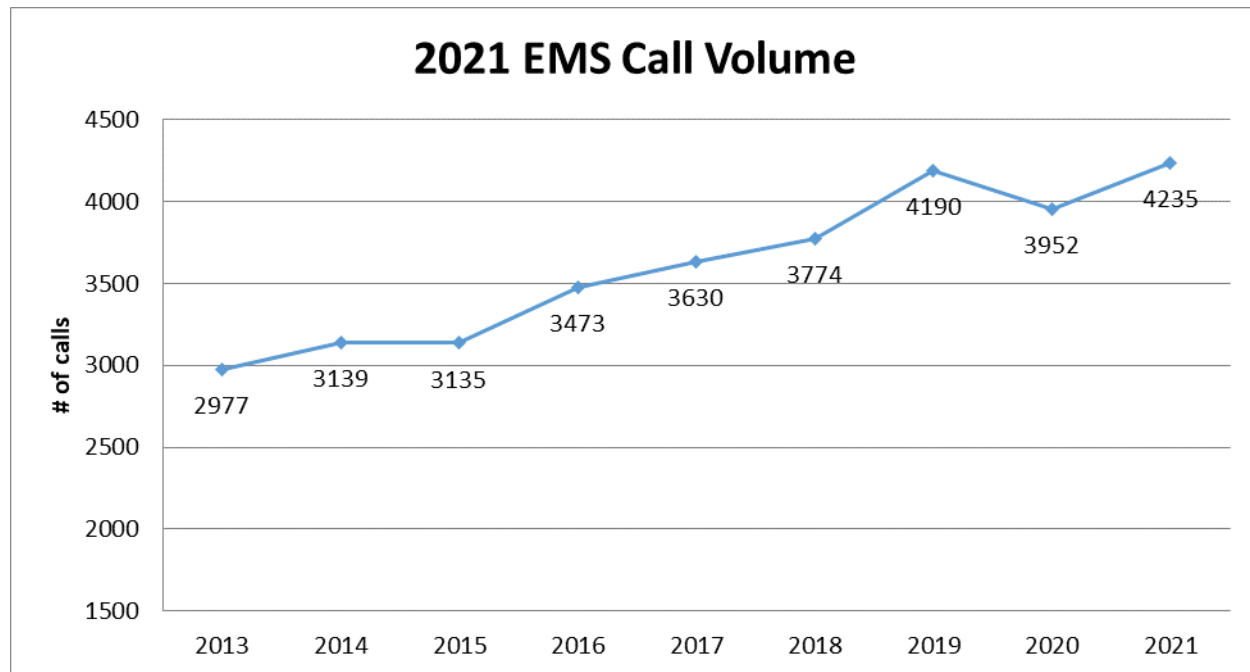
2021 Total Call Composition:

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 all other 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 lion's share of requests for service of the CWFD are EMS in nature. This is not exclusive to CWFD; it mirrors fire department statistics nationally. In 2021, 85%* of our requests for service were EMS in nature, 15%* were fire. This ratio is relatively stable year to year, deviating by +/- 3 percentage points over the last 4 years.

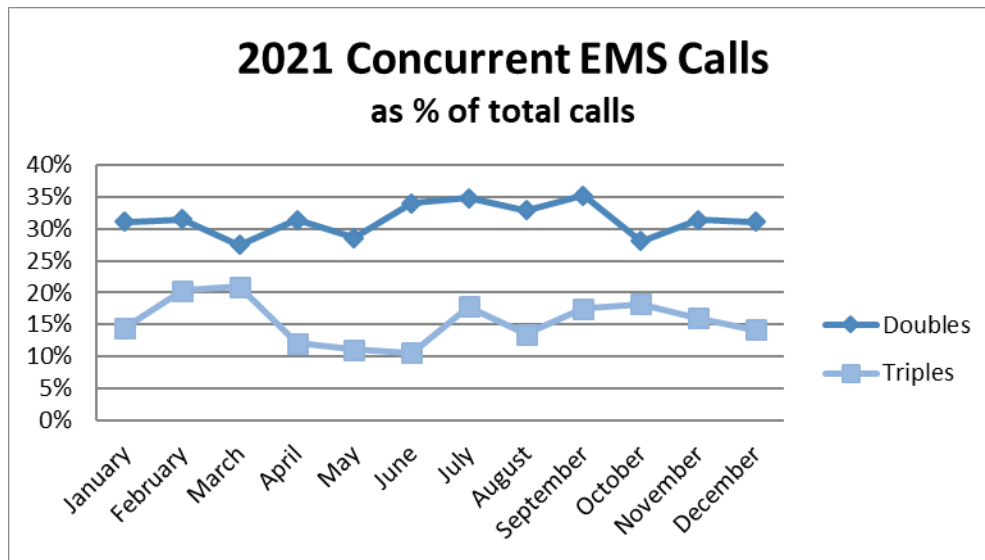
**In this report, Fire Calls vs. EMS Calls are tabulated after the resolution of the call. Calls that may have initially been dispatched as Fire calls (non-EMS calls) that upon arrival yielded an EMS necessity are reclassified as EMS calls. This is in contrast to the statistics provided in the Operations Report, which are tabulated based on call type at dispatch, a required NFIRS data point.*



2021 EMS Total Call Volume:

2021 saw a 6.7% increase in EMS call volume over that of 2020, the first full year of the pandemic. 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 30% increase in EMS call volume.

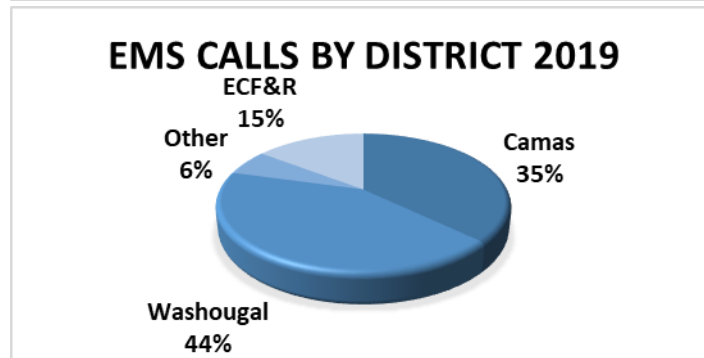
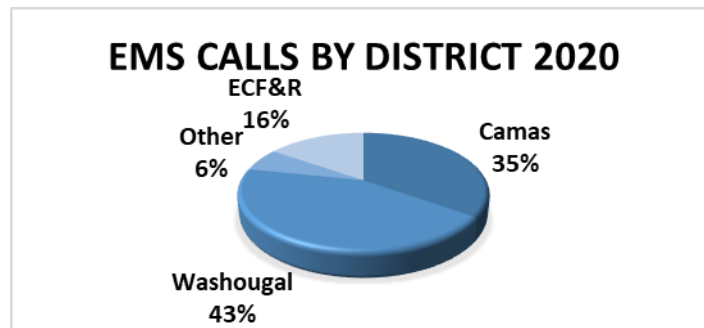
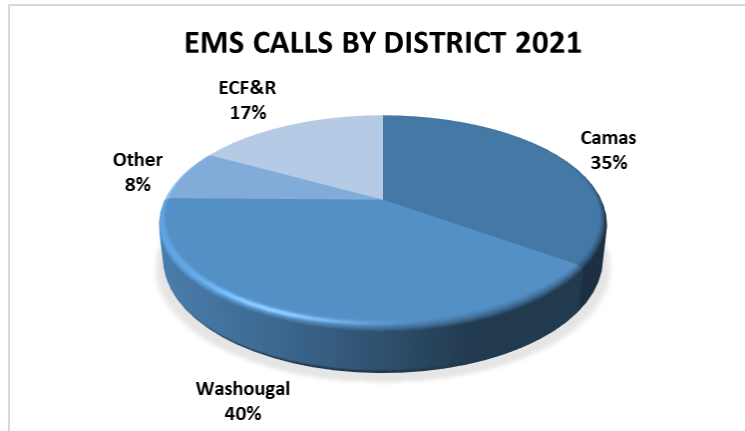
In the face of steadily rising EMS call demand, concurrent EMS calls are monitored to assess adequate ambulance availability and distribution for our service area. CWFD maintains four in-service ambulances housed within three stations in Camas and Washougal. Additionally, CWFD has a fifth, reserve ambulance, which is too old to be continuously employed, but is put into service intermittently to accommodate time loss for the in-service ambulances undergoing 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 2021, 53% of our call volume required two or more ambulance to respond concurrently to separate calls. The 53% 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 32% of our call volume. Three ambulances (triples) ran concurrent calls on an average of 16% of our call volume. Four ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 6% of our call volume.



As a result of concurrent call volume, CWFD found itself 'level zero' 281 times, an average of 23 incidences per month. During these periods of 'level zero', the Cities of Camas and Washougal had little CWFD fire protection, and the 90 square miles that comprise the ambulance service area, had no available CWFD ambulances.

2021 Calls by District:

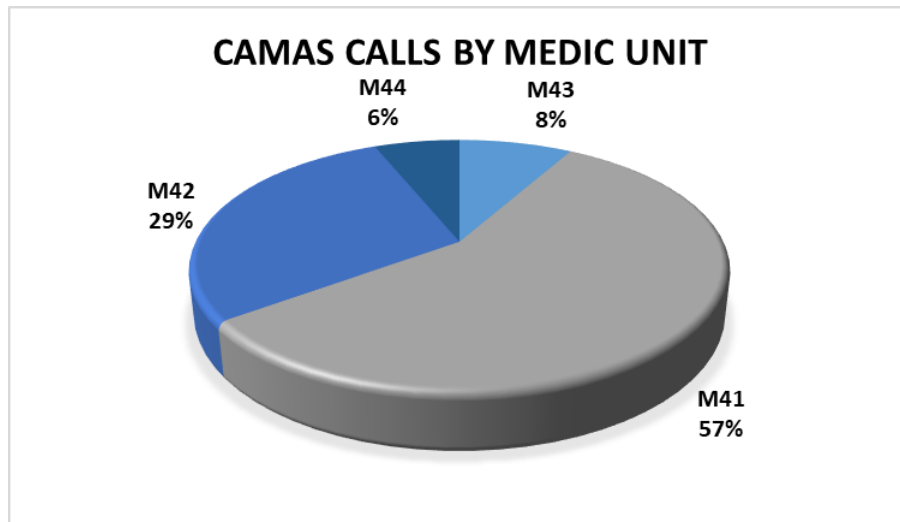
CWFD provides ambulance transport primarily for the cities of Camas and Washougal and the fire district of East County Fire and Rescue. This is facilitated through written agreement between the stated entities. EMS services are also provided to the City of Vancouver, EMS District 2, NCEMS and Skamania County through mutual/automatic aid agreements. 92% of EMS calls originated within the boundaries of Camas, Washougal and ECFR, while 8% of calls were mutual aid calls outside of this service area.



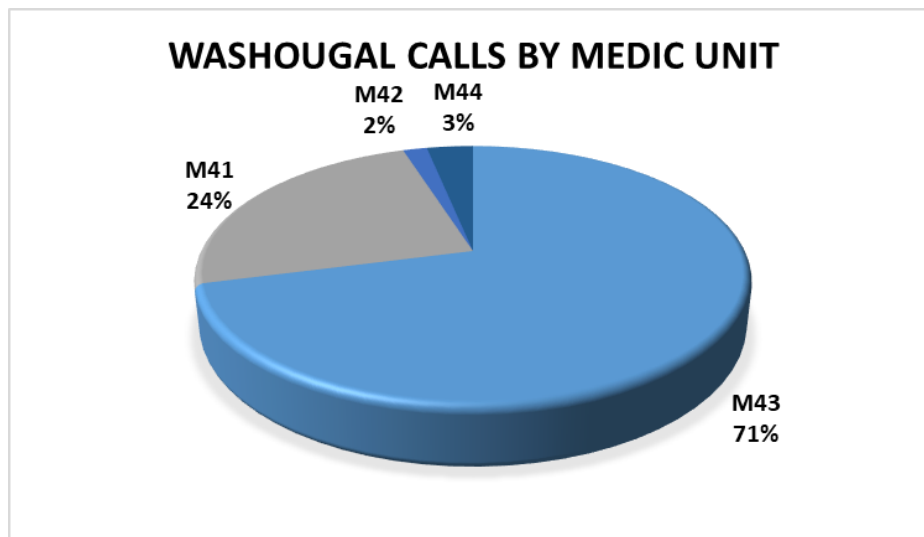
2021 Calls by City (Camas, Washougal):

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 2021, Station 42 was fully staffed (meaning no cross-staffing of the engine and ambulance) 11 days out of the 365 day calendar year.

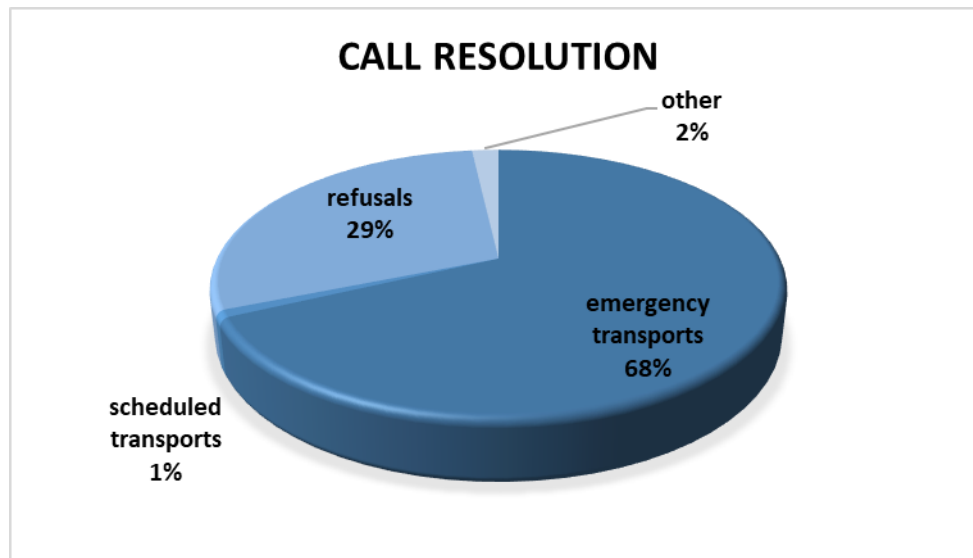
For EMS calls that originated in the City of Camas, 92% of the ambulance response was from an ambulance stationed within the City of Camas. The other 8% were during times of high call volume and concurrence where it was necessary to respond to a City of Camas call from St. 43 in Washougal.



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, 71% were responded to by an ambulance stationed within the City of Washougal. 98% of the calls originating in the City of Washougal were served by ambulances from either downtown Washougal or downtown Camas. The remaining 2% were during times of high call volume and concurrence where it was necessary to respond to a City of Washougal call from St. 42.



2021 Call Resolution:



In terms of call outcome, 68% of EMS calls resulted in ambulance transport to a hospital. 29% were patient refusals. Patient refusals are patients who may 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 responding medical providers, others are low enough acuity that after initial assessment and treatment, an alternative form of transportation is found to be more appropriate. 1% were non-emergency scheduled transports either to a hospital, clinic or hospice facility. The remaining 2% (other) were calls where no medical necessity was found upon arrival; public assists dispatched as EMS calls where no EMS was found to be required; or no patient was 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 at its inception, 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 viable, and it has secured funding through at least SFY 2023.

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT:

CWFD is expanding its cardiac arrest resuscitation capabilities. In the coming year we will be receiving and implementing LUCAS devices. LUCAS devices provide optimal and consistent mechanical CPR compressions during cardiac arrest resuscitation, allowing attending providers to address concomitant resuscitative care more efficiently and effectively.

DEPARTMENT GROWTH:

CWFD will be increasing our department staffing in an effort to fully staff the Grass Valley Station. This will eliminate the cross-staffing of M42 with E42. 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 ensure that new EMS providers are adequately trained and prepared to meet the challenges that our system presents.

CWFD's goal, as it shall forever be, is to continue 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 have.

Submitted by

Cliff Free

Division Chief of EMS

| Ambulance Revenue | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Billed | Collected | Percentage |
| 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% |
| 2021 | \$3,289,768 | \$1,507,438 | 46% |

Ambulance Billing

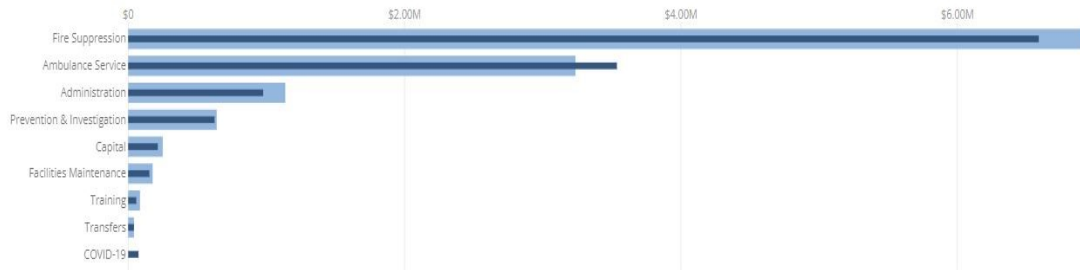
Ambulance billing is handled in-house at the city's finance department by Ameer Rasmussen. Nationally, ambulance revenues have varied drastically over the years due to changes in federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. When call volume and transports go up, the reasonable inference is that revenues should go up as well, albeit on a distinctly delayed timeline. Between insurance processing times, lawsuit settlements and adjudications, payment plans, etc., there is a lag between when a transport occurs and when the bill is ultimately paid, settled or written off. In 2020, calls overall decreased about 1%, transports decreased nearly 12%, and yet collections rose to 52%. This is indicative of the delay between the time a bill is issued and when a bill is ultimately settled. In 2021, calls began to rise again in accordance with pre-pandemic levels and transports increased by 7%, but the collection rate declined to the lowest level in several years.

Ambulance billing becomes more complex every year, and we appreciate the continued work by staff in the finance department to keep up with the latest changes. The department continues to annually evaluate transport expenses and billing rates, and assess programs designed to fill in the financial gaps to help increase collection rates.

2021 Budget Summary

\$12.51 Million Fire/EMS 2021

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



Snapshot
Pie Chart
Over Time

Show As: \$ %

Sort: Total (Descending)

Ledger Details

Hide

| Program | Budgeted Amount | % | Actual Amount | % |
|----------------------------|---|--------|---|---------|
| Fire Suppression | \$6,938,484 | 55.48% | \$6,589,958 | 94.98% |
| Ambulance Service | \$3,237,188 | 25.88% | \$3,536,789 | 109.25% |
| Administration | \$1,137,124 | 9.09% | \$976,626 | 85.89% |
| Prevention & Investigation | \$640,566 | 5.12% | \$624,832 | 97.54% |
| Capital | \$250,000 | 2.00% | \$214,309 | 85.72% |
| Facilities Maintenance | \$176,705 | 1.41% | \$153,321 | 86.77% |
| Training | \$85,282 | 0.68% | \$58,492 | 68.59% |
| Transfers | \$41,343 | 0.33% | \$41,342 | 100.00% |
| COVID-19 | \$0 | 0% | \$74,649 | N/A |
| Total | Budgeted Amount \$12,506,692 | | Actual Amount \$12,270,318 | |

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

● Fire/EMS broken down by Program

Within Fire/EMS and Public Safety

← Back

- Fire Suppression
 - Ambulance Service
 - Administration
 - Prevention & Investigation
 - Capital
 - Other
- Show

