



# 2023 Annual Report



**Camas-Washougal Fire Department**

# Mayors, Councils, and Citizens of Camas & Washougal:

*The Camas-Washougal Fire Department is excited to present to the public 2023's Annual Report. This report is intended to present an overview of the crucial facets of the department's performance over the last year as well as give a glimpse into the services we offer and the operational support necessary to provide these services.*

*A few notable achievements in 2023 include:*

*CWFD's participation in Fire Ops 101. This is a Regional Fire Academy in Boise, Idaho designed to introduce Elected Officials to the rigors of firefighting through a weekend of hands-on immersion training. Elected Officials are outfitted with firefighting gear and participate in basic firefighting operations under the safe shadow of a CWFD mentor. Camas City Councilor Leslie Lewallen represented our community proudly and showed tremendous grit and determination in successfully completing the program. Much acclaim is due to Councilor Lewallen for participating and bringing her perspective back to Camas City Council on how best to support the needs and mission of the Fire Department.*

*Field Training of new personnel was a primary emphasis of 2023. Coming out of the staffing shortage during the pandemic and a heavier than normal rate of department attrition, the department was required to focus on training new personnel and adapting the department to accommodate an influx of less experienced personnel.*

*Through 2023, efforts continued on Station 41 and Station 43 replacement projects culminating in a final site selection for both stations. This has been and will continue to be a multi-year process as we continue the ground-work necessary to construct a bond proposition to support replacement stations in 2024.*

*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







## Training Report

2023 brought a busy year of training for the Camas Washougal Fire Department. Just like most knowledge and skill-based activities, firefighting skills are perishable if not exercised regularly. Our firefighters are consistently engaging in refresher training throughout the year to maintain their proficiency. To keep up with the requirements set by the state and the need to maintain skills proficiency, our crews work each quarter to complete a prescribed list of training assigned by the CWFD Fire Training Captain in accordance with WAC and the WSRB.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) along with the Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) are the primary bodies that outline the minimum requirements in Washington State for new hire firefighter training along with ongoing annual training and member development. These training topics include but are not limited to:

- Fire Suppression
- Firefighter Safety
- Live Fire Training
- Pump Operator
- Officer Development
- Hazardous Materials
- Driver Training
- Recruit Training
- Wildland Firefighting
- Swift Water Operations
- Rope Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication

In 2023 our newest firefighters that graduated from the Southwest Washington Regional Fire Academy the previous year, finished their on the job training requirements. The first year of employment within the department is demanding for our new members with little down time between running emergency responses and training. Prior to being assigned to shift to respond to emergency calls, the new firefighters were required to complete a thirteen week fire academy.

Upon successful completion of the fire academy, the firefighters were assigned a prescribed Fire and EMS training plan to complete while working on shift with their assigned crew. This includes completing a fire-fighting task, driver operator and pump training, low angle rope rescue and swiftwater operations level training, and completing EMS field training program.



## Training Report

This year we continued training with various industries in the Camas Washougal Fire Departments response area. These include building walkthroughs and tours along with hands-on drills at different facilities. Our largest and most comprehensive drill was with Kiva Energy, a propane distributor, located in the industrial area in the Port of Camas Washougal. All three shifts participated in guided walk-throughs of the facility and equipment, including the propane rail car on site. The training finished out with a multi company fire fighting evolution to mitigate a simulated propane rail car fire.



Each year we prioritize working with our neighboring agencies to improve interoperability while working on larger emergencies that could require assistance from each other's departments. Due to close proximity and frequency of assisting each other, East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR) and CWFD train annually on numerous emergency response types. These include but aren't limited to; Multi Company Fire suppression drills, EMS, Rope Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, and Incident command training.





## Fire Marshal's Office Report

2023 was an extremely busy year in the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO). Commercial construction projects were proposed, planned and constructed at a rate not recently seen in our community, keeping our staff busy with permitting, plan review, and inspections.

Work on a new software program that will allow builders and developers to submit, request and track everything related to a project electronically, began in June of 2023. The process has required hundreds of staff hours to build the program to meet the ever-growing demand created by new construction projects.



In September, our annual open house at Station 42 attracted record crowds. Over 2,000 people attended the 4-hour event to witness fire and police demonstrations and explore informational booths staffed with numerous health and safety-based agencies from our community.

To help us keep up with our work while helping with this memorable event, we reached out to Washougal High School's Director of Career and Technical Education. We were thrilled to have a small group of 11th grade students from the Construction Technology program assist us in the building of our side-by-side prop rooms. The students applied the skills they had learned in the classroom and helped us to finish the prop in just one day!



Eleventh grade students Gage Leavitt, Gavan McCallister, and Noah Wheeler constructed two prop rooms as part of a Career & Technical Education lesson.



## The 3 E's of Fire Prevention

### EDUCATION - ENFORCEMENT - ENGINEERING

The primary goal of the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) is to save lives and property by reducing the occurrence of fires within our jurisdiction through the three E's of Fire Prevention: **Education, Enforcement and Engineering.**

#### **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.

**Some of the public and educational events that the FMO participated in 2023 in addition to the CWFD Open House were:**

- Family Promise Program (family support through local churches)
- Fourth of July and New Year's Eve (patrolling to enforce firework ordinances)
- Harvest Festival (Washougal)
- Fire Prevention Week
- Christmas Parade with Santa (Washougal)

The FMO not only participates in these scheduled events, but we also have the opportunity to connect with and educate the public every day. Many citizens stop in or call with questions regarding permits, code violations, outdoor burning, life safety issues, hazard conditions, code development and legislation, residential fire sprinklers, fireworks, tall grass hazards, fire department access, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors, to name a few.

We enjoy engaging with the community and will continue to place a high priority on connecting with the citizens we serve as we share the important message of fire safety and injury prevention as we move into 2024.

#### **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.

## **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 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.

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### **CAMAS COMMERCIAL PROJECT REVIEWS OF NOTE**

- Lacamas Hills Work on this residential community began in 2022 and used explosives to move thousands of tons of rock. In 2023, home construction began at a brisk pace. Each new home in our jurisdiction is equipped with residential fire sprinklers. Those systems are critical for the life safety of our residents and are inspected at least two separate times by the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO).
- Lacamas Tech Center This project on Friberg-Strunk St. is expanding from two building to six. Each of the buildings will be provided with fire alarm monitoring as well as sprinklers throughout. The spaces will be leased to independent retailers and trade professionals.
- Hudson East This 4-story mixed use building is being erected on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Dallas. Work will require demolition of two existing church buildings before construction can begin. The FMO will be involved in every phase of demolition as well as construction which is projected to be completed in 2025.



- **Oak Tree Station** This community food cart pod with over 20 vendors with one central gathering building began construction in 2023. Each food cart will operate as an independent commercial kitchen requiring frequent inspections.
- **Camas Meadows Warehouse** This warehouse space being built on Camas Meadows Drive and Friberg-Strunk St. will be in excess of 200,000 square feet and will be one of the largest spaces in Camas under one roof. That much space requires many fire suppression and detection systems to keep our community safe.

### **WASHOUGAL COMMERCIAL PROJECT REVIEWS OF NOTE**

- **Hyas Point** The Washougal waterfront will see significant changes over the coming months including the construction of the Hyas Point project, which began with the review phase in 2023. The project will include multiple six and seven-story waterfront residential apartment buildings with retail spaces and parking underneath. This will likely be one of the largest commercial projects built in Washougal.
- **Ninebark Apartments** on the Columbia River Waterfront completed construction in 2023 and began renting to the community. The Fire Marshal's Office worked with developers for nearly 2 years to see this project safely through to completion.
- **Goodwill Industries** began construction of a retail and donation facility on C St. near Highway 14. All underground utilities were completed in 2023 before pausing construction for the winter. When completed, the familiar retail store will be over 20,000 square feet.
- **Northside** a residential development located on Woodburn hill, continued to expand our community. Home construction in Northside proceeded at a quick pace and each home will include residential fire sprinklers.

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### **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 - 2023**

- **Permits Issued:** 413
- **Inspections Performed:** 1,626 construction , permit, fire and life safety)
- **Fire Permit Fees:** \$75,856

Fire Counts By Type in 2023

	Total
(10) Fire, other	22
(11) Structure Fire	30
(12) Fire in mobile property used as a fixed structure	2
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire	10
(14) Natural vegetation fire	24
(15) Outside rubbish fire	14
(16) Special outside fire	6
(21) Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire)	1
(25) Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

Significant Fires in Camas and Washougal In 2023

Date	Street	City	Type	Cause	Prop Loss
05/22/23	5515 NW Pac Rim Blvd	C	Apartment	Accidental	\$30 K
05/30/23	1077 W Alder St.	W	Residential	Unknown	\$580 K
05/31/23	728 E St.	W	5th Wheel	Unknown	\$35 K
07/05/23	744 NW Valley St.	C	Residential Deck	Fireworks	\$100 K
08/08/23	1213 NW Klickitat Ln.	C	Residential	Smoking	\$350 K
08/21/23	1512 G St.	W	Duplex	Soldering	\$25 K
12/29/23	1940 Division St.	C	Residential Basement	Unknown	\$85 K

**Total Fire Loss by Type in Camas and Washougal - 2023**

Fire Type	Count of Fires With Loss	Total Loss
Other	7	\$7,600
Building	7	\$1,175,500
Cooking (Confined)	2	\$11,000
Passenger Vehicle	5	\$24,000
Brush or Grass	1	\$200
Outside Rubbish	2	\$300
Dumpster or Other Outside Trash Receptacle	3	\$15,510

**Looking Ahead**

2023 was an extremely busy year with no slowdown in the number of permits issued or inspections performed by our office. We saw the construction of the first mid-rise residential building in downtown Washougal and there are 5 more of similar size set to begin construction in 2024 with occupancy expected in 2025. With fire sprinklers required in all new residential dwellings and the construction of new homes in both cities outpacing most of the county, our office will continue to be very busy in 2024.

This year marks my tenth year serving as the Fire Marshal to the cities of Camas and Washougal. Our office has made great strides in developing codes to make the communities safer during that time. The passing of a residential fire sprinkler ordinance is probably the most notable. Many of the new codes would not have been implemented without the groundwork laid down by my predecessors. I would like to thank those that worked in this office prior to my coming on board for the work that they completed.

With that said I would like also to thank the fine staff that presently serve in the Fire Marshal's Office. It is an honor to serve alongside such dedicated professionals. It is this professionalism that makes our motto "Working for a safer Community" a reality.

Ron Schumacher

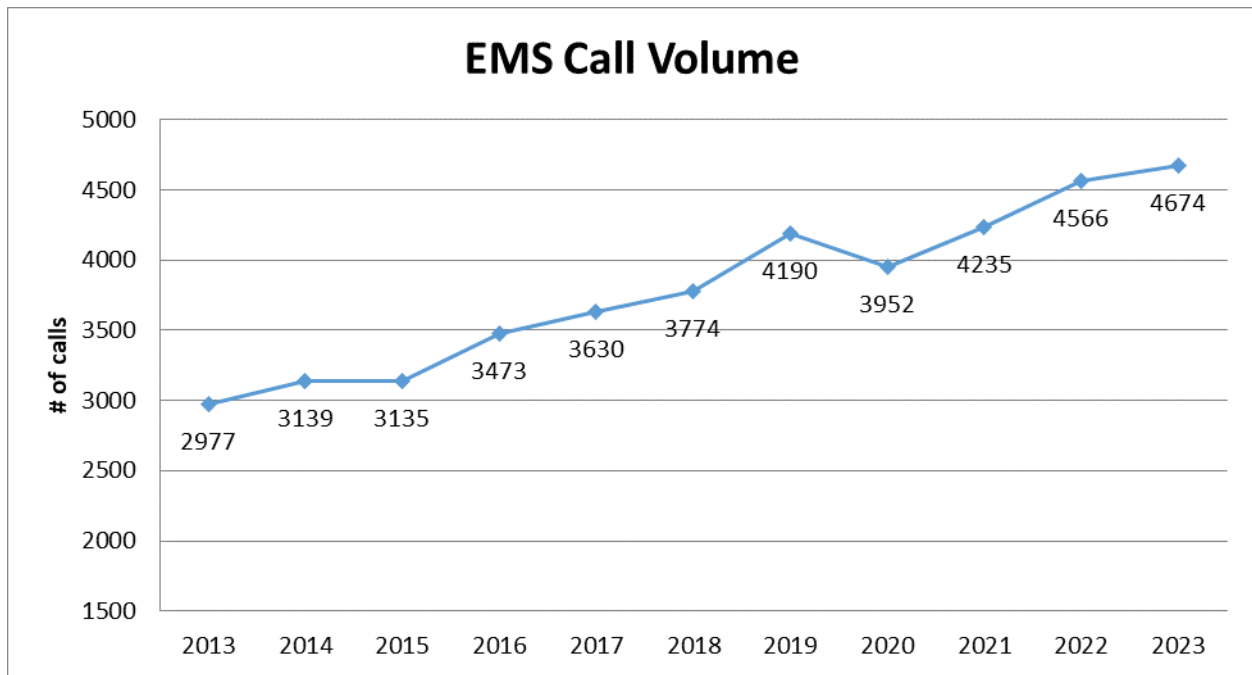
Fire Marshal

Camas-Washougal Fire Department



### Emergency Medical Services Report

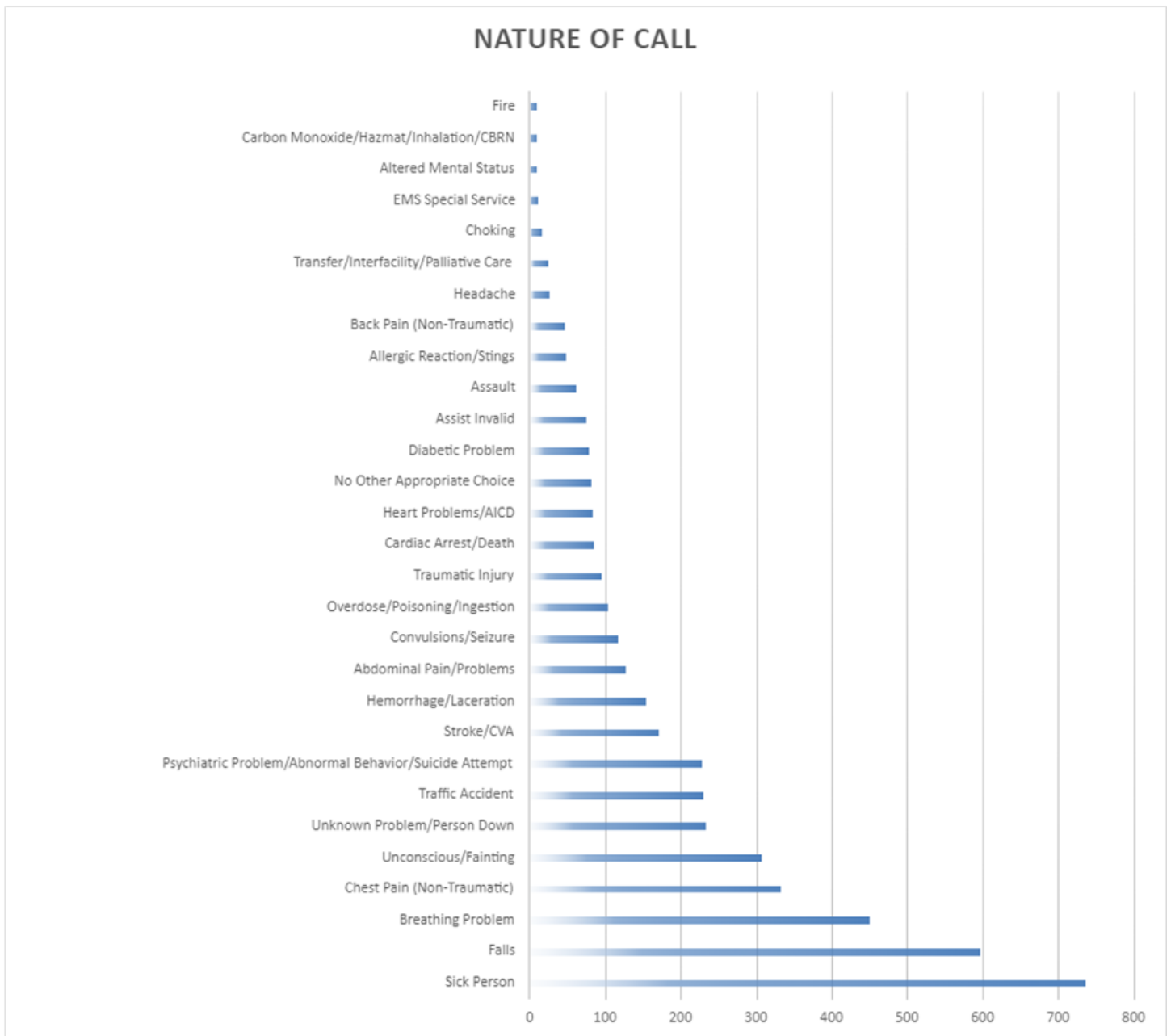
Still evolving from the COVID-19 pandemic response that saw a significant alteration in EMS field operations, 2023 felt a bit more relaxed. CWFD still had a significant new normal evolution in 2023 with a change in EMS Division leadership because of the well-deserved promotion of Cliff Free to Fire Chief. CWFD never lost their stride and continued to provide the highest level of care to those we serve while adapting to adjustments that are inevitable with a change in leadership.



As is normal for most fire departments in the United States most requests for service of the fire department are for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). EMS is the term used for any medical care provided by a fire department or an ambulance provider to a patient. 2023 saw an overall increase in the requests for EMS of 2% with a 10-year increase of 33%.

## Emergency Medical Services Report

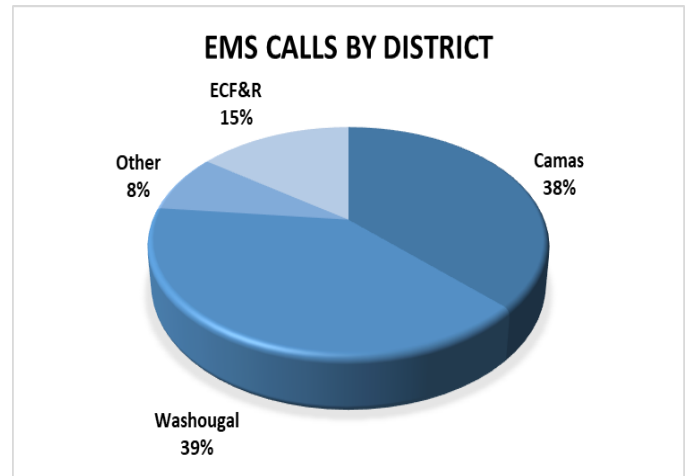
An abridged graph shows the many general categories which these calls are divided into by the 911 dispatcher. CRESA is the 911 dispatch center for all of Clark County and they utilize a medical triage system that categorizes the symptoms described by the caller assigning a severity to it as well. "Sick person" was the most common category. This category can include a multitude of complaints, the most common being weakness and nonspecific gastrointestinal complaints.



## Emergency Medical Services Report

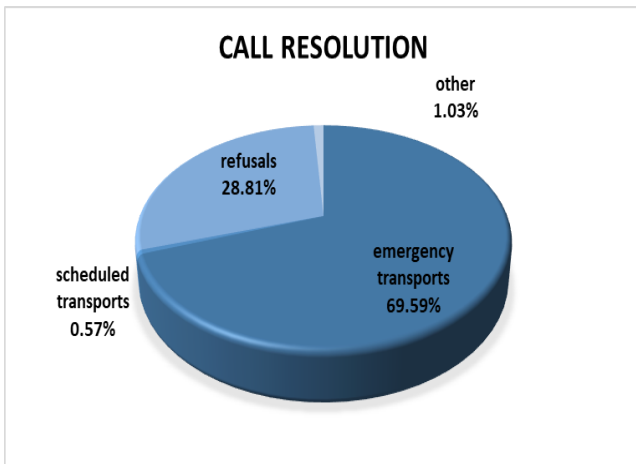
CWFD provides ambulance transport primarily for the cities of Camas and Washougal and the fire district of East County Fire and Rescue. EMS services may be also provided to the City of Vancouver, EMS District 2, North Country EMS and Skamania County EMS through mutual/automatic aid agreements. 92% of EMS calls originated within the boundaries of Camas, Washougal and ECFR, while 8% of calls were mutual aid calls outside of this service area.

CWFD’s primary ambulance service is designated into three distinct areas in which an EMS levy is collected to assist in funding the ambulance service. CWFD also provides service to areas outside of those tax levy areas in times when ambulance providers in that area are unable to cover the call due to system demand. Providing this assistance is known as mutual aid and those providers give the same service to CWFD when we cannot respond within our service area due to system demands. 92% of the responses by CWFD are in our primary response area and 8% are outside of that area.



Outcome is the final resolution of the request for EMS services. This can fall into four general categories: cancelled enroute, refusal, transport, and dead on scene. Cancelled enroute means the caller or someone at the scene decided they no longer required our services. Refusal is the instance where either the patient despite the need for ambulance transport to the hospital declines that service or the condition found upon arrival is minor enough that the patient and ambulance agree ambulance transport is not required.

Transport means the patient was transported via ambulance to the appropriate destination usually a hospital however, CWFD also provides scheduled transports for care home patients to clinic visits or to hospice centers. Dead on scene represents patients who were either already deceased upon arrival and no resuscitation was attempted or patients in cardiac arrest who did not respond to treatments and declared deceased on scene.





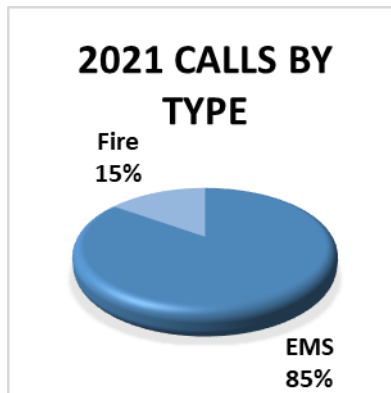
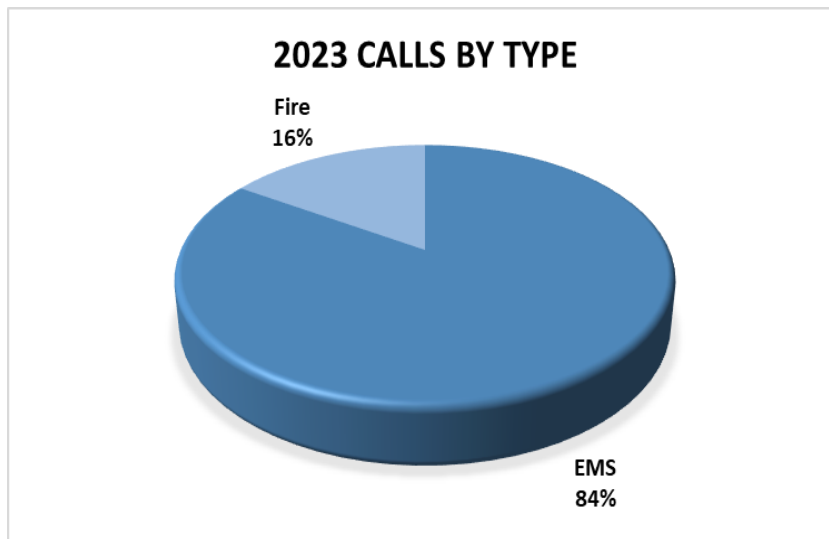
## Emergency Medical Services Report

### 2023 Equipment Deliveries

In 2023 CWFD took delivery of a new ambulance. For CWFD the lifespan of an ambulance is about 8 years with 4-5 of those years running as a primary ambulance before moving into a reserve status. Currently the time to receive a new ambulance once ordered is about one year though those times are increasing based on the availability of the truck body from vehicle manufacturers.

Our newest ambulance is also our first vehicle to have what is known as a “power load” system installed. This system removes the need of the ambulance personnel to hold the weight of the patient while loading the patient and gurney into the ambulance. The power load system decreases the incidences of muscle injuries of the crew sustained while lifting the patient into the ambulance. Back injuries related to moving patients are the number one cause of on-the-job injuries for EMS providers. 1 in 4 EMS providers will suffer a career ending back injury within the first four years of their career. This system is estimated to reduce back injuries across all users by 50%. From 2010-2020 EMS providers had a rate of injury 4x higher than the average U.S. worker, 7x higher than for firefighters, and 1.6x higher than nurses.

*Maguire BJ, Al Amiry A, O'Neill BJ. Occupational Injuries and Illnesses among Paramedicine Clinicians: Analyses of US Department of Labor Data (2010 - 2020). Prehosp Disaster Med. 2023 Oct;38(5):581-588. doi: 10.1017/S1049023X23006118. Epub 2023 Aug 10. PMID: 37559197; PMCID: PMC10548021.*



## 2023 Employee Milestones

### Anniversaries:

Mark Widlund	Firefighter Paramedic	20 years of service
Wade Faircloth	Captain	20 years of service
Adam Brice	Firefighter Paramedic	20 years of service
Christopher Richardson	Firefighter Paramedic	15 years of service
Andrew Nichols	Firefighter Paramedic	15 years of service
Darr Soli	Firefighter Paramedic	5 years of service
Christian Ruddell	Firefighter Paramedic	5 years of service

### Hired:

Shaun Ford	Division Chief of EMS
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### Promoted:

Christian Ruddell	Captain
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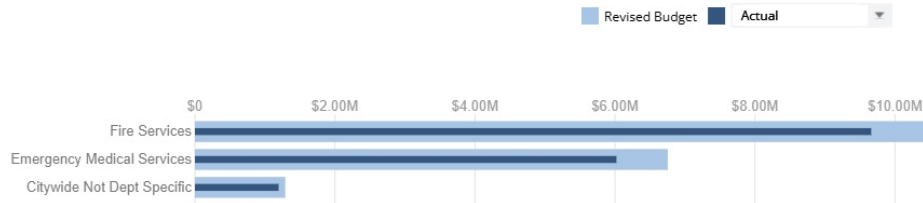


### 2023 Budget Summary

\$18.62 Million

Fund 2023

Camas-Washougal Fire/EMS Fund broken down by Department



Ledger Details

Hide

Department	Revised Budget	%	Actual	%	Original Budget	%
Fire Services	\$10,578,842	56.80%	\$9,659,044	91.31%	\$10,557,296	99.80%
Emergency Medical Services	\$6,753,283	36.26%	\$6,020,187	89.14%	\$6,944,005	102.82%
Citywide Not Dept Specific	\$1,290,994	6.93%	\$1,195,100	92.57%	\$0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Revised Budget \$18,623,119</b>		<b>Actual \$16,874,331</b>		<b>Original Budget \$17,501,301</b>	

**\$18.62 Million** 2023 January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

● Camas-Washougal Fire/EMS Fund broken down by Department

← Back

A pie chart showing the distribution of the \$18.62 million fund across three departments. The legend indicates: Fire Services (dark blue), Emergency Medical Services (light blue), and Citywide Not Dept Specific (orange).

Department	Amount	Percentage
Fire Services	\$10,578,842	56.80%
Emergency Medical Services	\$6,753,283	36.26%
Citywide Not Dept Specific	\$1,290,994	6.93%



## Response Standard Report (Standard of Cover) CWFD 2023

### Turnout Time:



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 with a reasonably defined first due area (typically five square miles), a customary turnout standard is 60 seconds for EMS calls and 80 seconds for fire calls. Historically CWFD has had to rely on personnel to cross-staff ambulances and engines. 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. Though we have increased the number of apparatuses with dedicated staffing, some concomitant calls still require cross-staffing remaining apparatuses. 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> Arrival Engine Company/Deployment of Full First Alarm on Fire Suppression Incidents:**

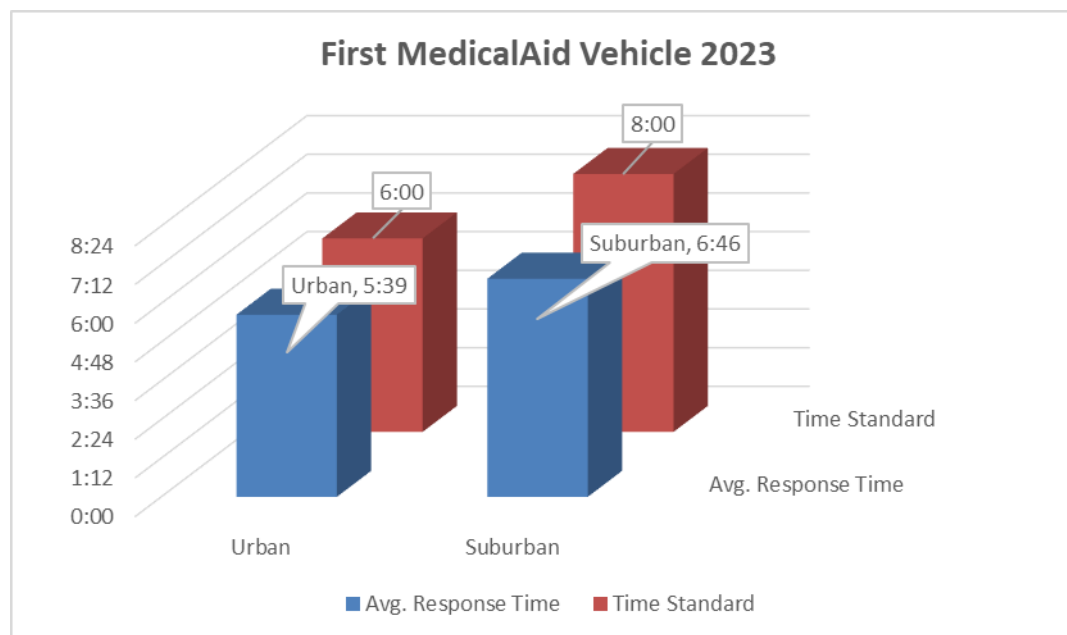


The standard of response for a 1<sup>st</sup> arriving engine company in their first due area for fire suppression incidents is 5:00 minutes. Currently, we have no software that can calculate the first due area of each respective station’s engine and crossmatch that with the first arriving unit. However, 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, and the CWFD only staffs three engines at full availability. Therefore, the times listed contain the response times of at least one fire engine from a neighboring agency. In this sense, the full alarm measurement is less an indicator of CWFD’s performance than it is a measurement of the greater emergency system that includes our mutual aid partners(Vancouver Fire Dept and ECFR). Arrival times depicted are the sum of turnout time plus travel time. Essentially, from the moment we are dispatched until the moment we arrive on scene.

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 39%. The fractile for achieving a full alarm arrival within 10 minutes is 14%.

### 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 largely assuming that the First Medical Aid Vehicle will be a fire engine provisioned to be capable of providing some level of medical care, either ALS or BLS, upon arrival that will bridge the gap until medical transport(ambulance) arrives. 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 the 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 this tenant of the Standard of Cover is to track the arrival of the first response apparatus that can provide 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.

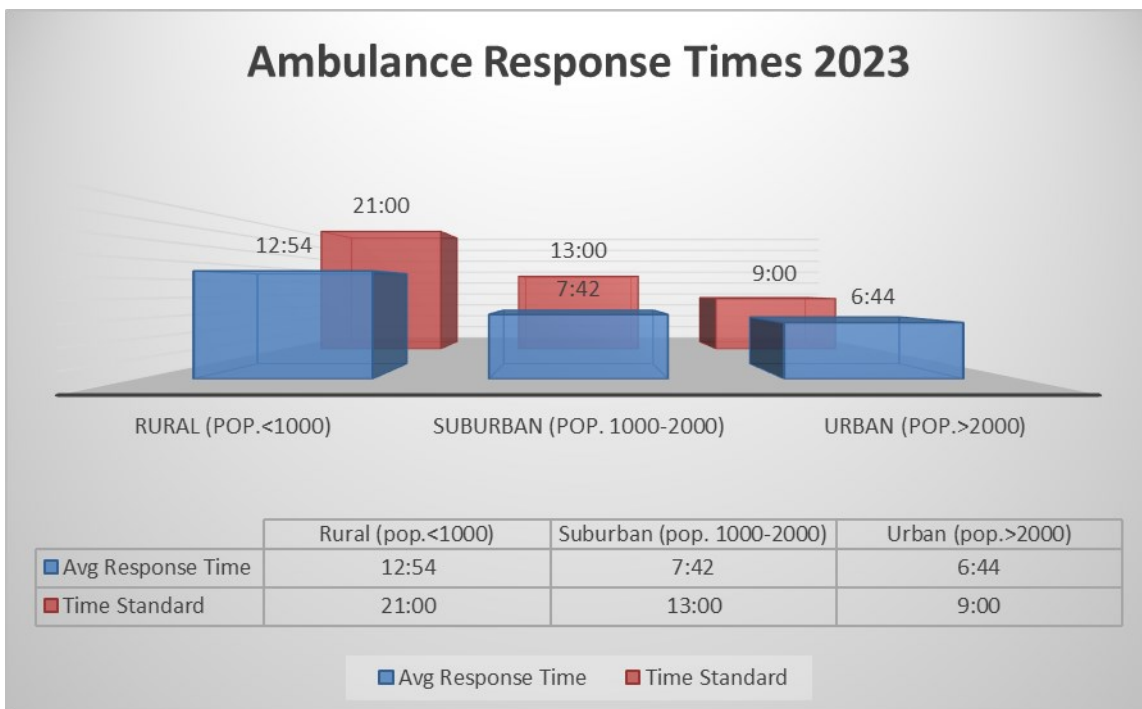
CWFD's standard is six minutes for urban designations; eight minutes for Suburban designations; and eleven minutes for rural designations. The City of Camas and the City of Washougal do not have many Rural designations so rather than calculating a separate response time category for rural responses, the calls that originate from this designation are lumped into the Suburban dataset.

The calls represented are only for the City of Camas and Washougal jurisdictions where we serve the constituents with both first response fire engines and a transport ambulance. In ECFR, CWFD does not provide first response fire, that obligation is fulfilled by the MFR: (Medical First Response) 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 plus the turnout standard. Essentially, the length of time between when we are dispatched to a scene and when we arrive on that scene. CWFD’s travel time standard is based upon GIS mapping of our four and six minute travel time 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 63%. The fractile for the arrival of the first medical aid vehicle on priority EMS incidents in the suburban designation within 8 minutes is 72%

**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 at end of report). These categories are defined by the State of Washington and do not take into account proximity of response, only population per square mile. Using 2020 Census data, the CWFD ambulance response area incorporates 14 square miles of Urban designation, 8 square miles of Suburban designation, 56 square miles of Rural designation and 16 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 adds context to the relatively short rural response average over such a vast rural 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: 82%   Suburban: 91%   Rural: 91%

### ***Arrival of Hazardous Materials trained and equipped Technicians:***

In 2023, there were no significant Hazardous Materials Incidents requiring the employment of specialty resources outside of the department's ability to assess and handle.



