



# Camas - Washougal Fire Department

## 2015 Annual Report



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

It is my pleasure to submit to you our 2015 annual report. This report will cover the first full year of a 10 year contract for service between the former Camas and Washougal Fire Departments. While 2014 was a year of transition as we began our partnership, 2015 became the year where our personnel became more cohesive and truly began operating as one agency. CWFD faced a tremendously challenging year in 2015. Staffing shortages caused by injuries and unprecedented wildfires in Eastern Washington put unique pressures on our system that we had not experienced before. As expected, however, our dedicated personnel were up to the challenge.

The year began with formal discussions with the Vancouver Fire Department concerning unincorporated

county response areas on the western edge of the city where CWFD had traditionally been tasked with fire and EMS responsibility. As we prepare this annual report, annexation of the Grand Ridge neighborhood is already in progress. One weakness CWFD has had for many years was an unwieldy policy and procedures manual that was cobbled together by many fire chiefs over the past two decades. The merger between the former CFD and WFD made this situation even more complex as we considered the best way to combine policies. CWFD finally made the decision to sign a contract with Lexipol, a public safety firm that specializes in producing customizable policy manuals based on commonly accepted best practices. This new policy manual will more accurately fit our current operations, will be more defensible, and will ultimately help keep our firefighters and citizens safer.

## Message from Chief Swinhart, Continued

As we approached the summer, CWFD had the unprecedented opportunity to conduct live fire training. Due to a new development on our border with Vancouver, the department had the opportunity for training burns on 8 different homes slated for demolition. Led by Training Captain Greg Payne, all of our paid and volunteer personnel had multiple opportunities to experience live fire situations over several months.

By now, all Washingtonians remember the disastrous wildfires experienced all over the state during the summer of 2015. Numerous CWFD personnel spent nearly the entire summer deployed on wildland fires in multiple locations. Fortunately all of our deployed staff returned safely. It is important to note that our participation in wildland deployment is reimbursed by the State.



The latter half of 2015 was spent discussing a topic that many of our personnel are very familiar with: mergers and partnerships. There was a renewed effort at this time to discuss the potential for a service merger with East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR), our neighbors to the north. Financial Consultant Paul Lewis was brought in to explore the possibilities. Lewis ultimately found that a full scale merger was not financially feasible right now, but that it was likely to occur, one way or another, within the next few years. In the meantime, both agencies will continue to explore ways to work closer together.

One of the biggest challenges faced by CWFD in 2015 was an unprecedented number of duty related injuries during the summer months. Given that this is the time of year where vacation usage is the highest, the department was faced with a significant overtime liability that would stretch our financial resources. At one point, it was estimated we might be forced to overspend our budget by some \$100,000 or more. The department curtailed spending where possible and made some personnel moves in an attempt to

address the problem. I'm very happy to report that by the end of 2015, the department had ended the year \$11,000 *under* budget. Thanks go out to all of our staff who helped make that possible.

In 2015, CWFD deployed 47 personnel working one of three assigned 24 hour shifts. Our shift personnel are deployed across three stations that include Camas Station 41, Station 42 in Grass Valley, and Station 43 in Washougal. Minimum daily staffing is 11 personnel. If available staffing drops below that threshold (e.g. sick leave) then we are required to hire back personnel on overtime. In addition to our paid staff, we have 21 volunteer firefighters who assist with public education, community events, and response to fire and EMS emergencies. In addition to our front line staff, our administrative team consists of the fire chief, division chief of emergency medical services, division chief/fire marshal, administrative battalion chief, and two administrative assistants. Including our deputy fire marshal, CWFD employs a total of 54 personnel.

The vast majority of CWFD's emergency response call volume is related to emergency medical services (EMS). We expect continued and significant upward trends in annual EMS calls for service in the coming years. This will come from not only the increased residents that a growing community brings, but as well as the increased medical needs of an aging population that already lives in Camas and Washougal. CWFD currently deploys 26 Washington State certified firefighter/paramedics on four advanced life support ambulances



Above left: CWFD Firefighter Nick Ober works the fire lines in Eastern Washington. Above: One of eight training burns held in the Spring of 2015.

Ambulance Revenue			
	Invoiced	Collected	Percentage
2011	\$1,721,978	\$941,508	55%
2012	1,776,823	\$977,997	55%
2013	\$1,764,714	\$964,693	55%
2014	\$1,873,619	\$993,911	53%
2015	\$1,982,009	\$1,037,886	52%

**Ambulance Billing**

Ambulance billing is handled in-house at the city’s finance department by Anee Rasmussen. Nationally, ambulance revenues have varied drastically over the years due to changes in federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. When call volume and transports go up, the reasonable inference is that revenues should go up as well. While revenues will often trend upwards with increasing call volumes, write-offs increase at an even more substantial rate. One question we get frequently is, “why not just be more aggressive with collections?” Unfortunately we are forbidden by federal law, as are all ambulance providers, to bill a patient above and beyond what Medicare or Medicaid determine is their allowable rate. Since the majority of our patients are covered by one of these federal programs, over 90% of our write-offs signify money that can never be recovered. This is the reason why there are such stark differences between the “invoiced” amount and the “collected” amount in the table above. Any collection rate approaching 60% is considered “excellent” in the ambulance billing industry.

The year 2016 will mark my fifth year as fire chief of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department. It continues to be my distinct honor to serve our citizens, elected officials, and our dedicated career and volunteer staff members.

Sincerely,



Nick Swinhart

Fire Chief

Camas-Washougal Fire Department

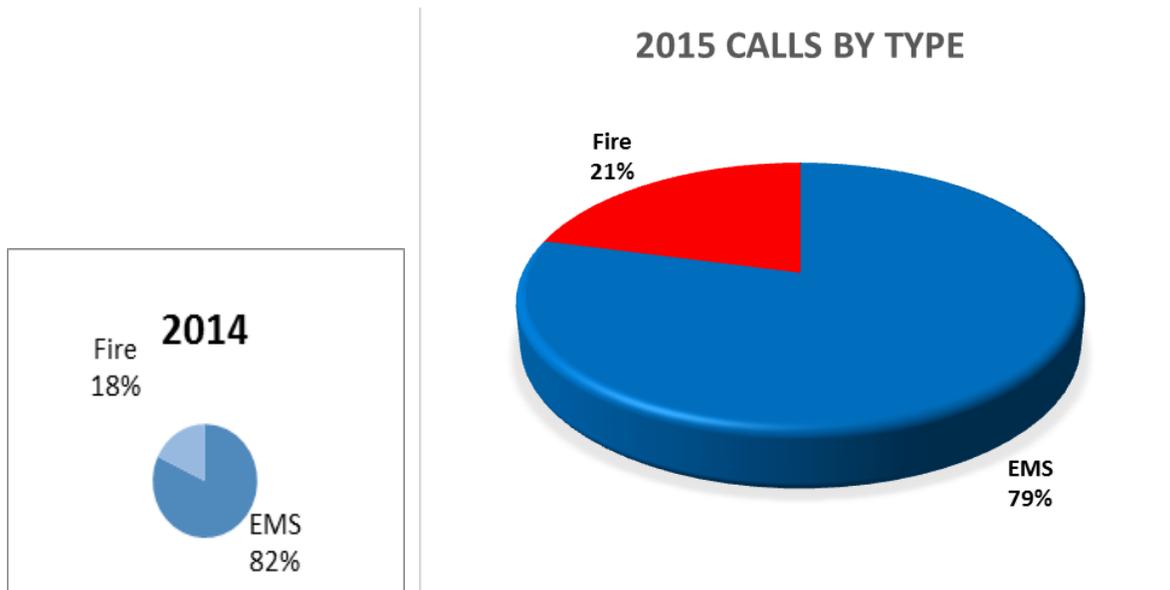


Chief Swinhart speaking at an oil train safety press conference with Senator Maria Cantwell.

2015 Emergency Medical Services Report

**2015 Total Call Composition:**

EMS requests for service account for the vast majority of fire department responses nationally. The Camas-Washougal Fire Department is no different; traditionally the ratio is well over 80% EMS. However, no year is without its peculiarities and two significant factors redistributed the call type ratio a few points from its tradition position of repose:

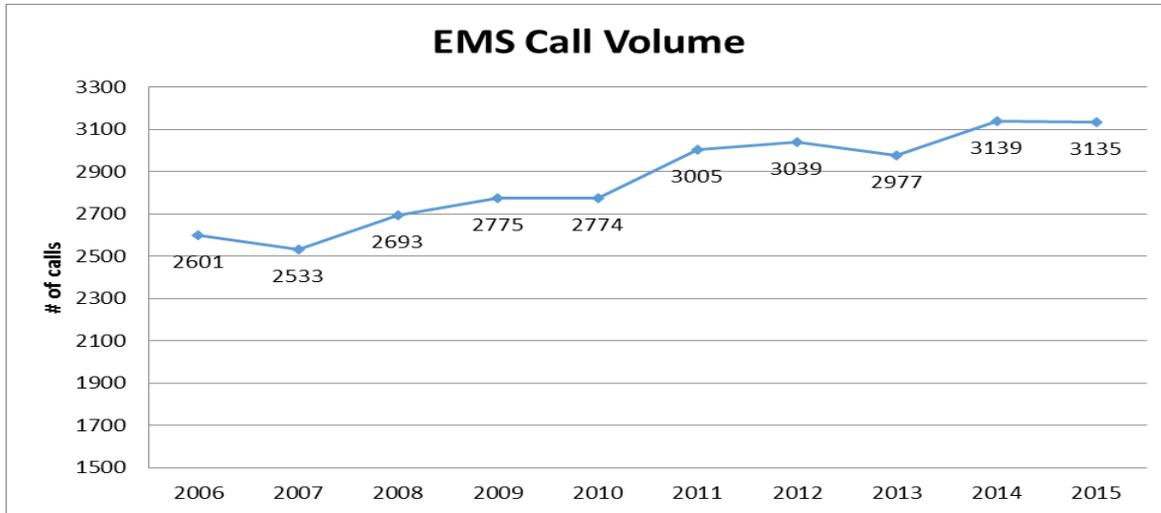


The unseasonably warm and dry summer season increased fire response calls in the third quarter. While this was predominantly a summer event; fire call volumes were also elevated in the two season’s bookending summer.

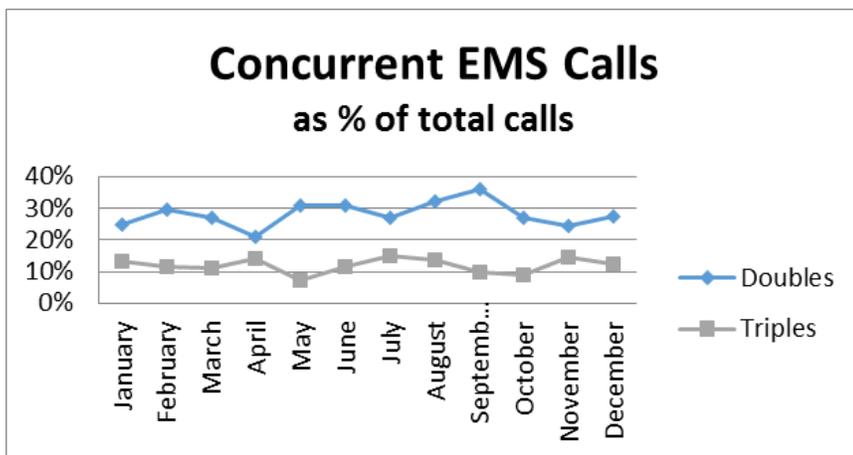
Beginning January, 1, 2015, a change was implemented through CRESA which limited Camas-Washougal’s ambulance response into Vancouver for any priority levels short of ‘immediate life threats’. This has reduced EMS ambulance response into Vancouver from 10% to 3% of our EMS call volume.

Both of these circumstances have a direct relationship on the Fire to EMS call response ratio. Weather influence is circumstantial and transient, but the difference due to structural dispatch changes should trend forward.

**2015 EMS Total Call Volume:**



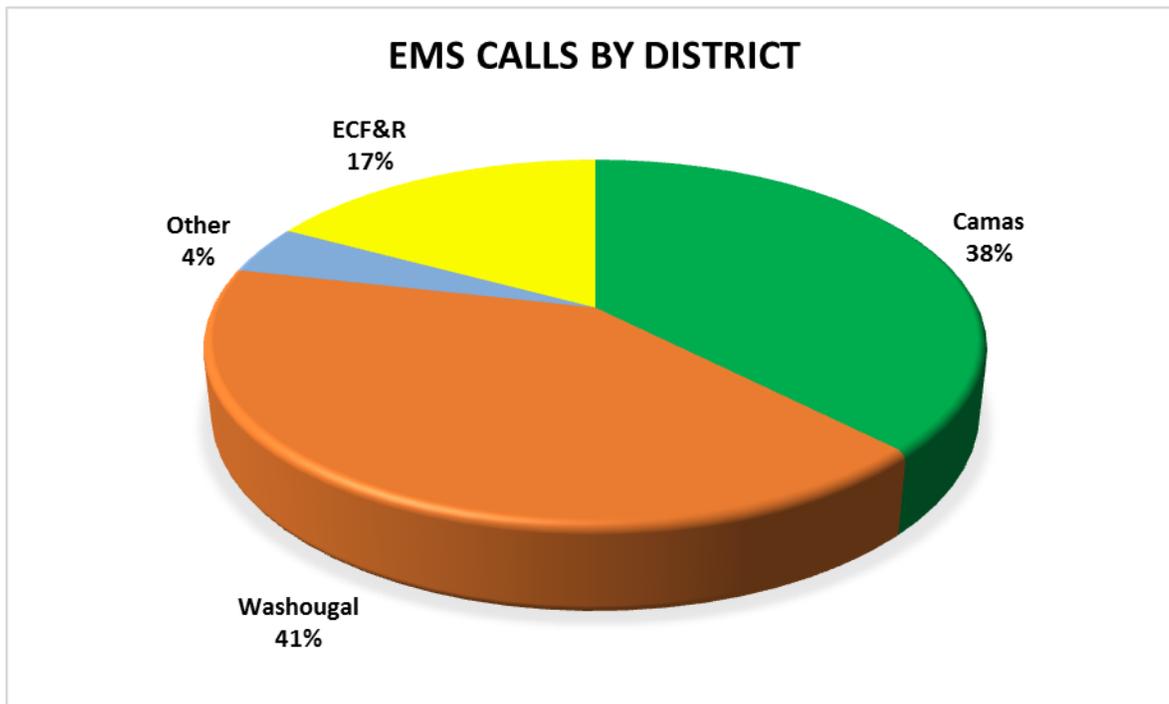
The total EMS call volume plateaued from 2014. However, within this high elevation statistic there is important nuance from a growth and planning perspective. Looking specifically at the EMS calls by district, Vancouver is the only district which demonstrated a decline in call volume. The other response areas (Camas, Washougal and ECFR) all demonstrated an increase in call volume. It should be noted that the decline in call volume to Vancouver was not a result of decreased demand, rather it was the result of a structural change to the algorithm that assigns those calls to specific agencies and resources. The net effect is that our total EMS responses plateaued in 2015; however, within our service area the demand for service continued to grow by 7%.



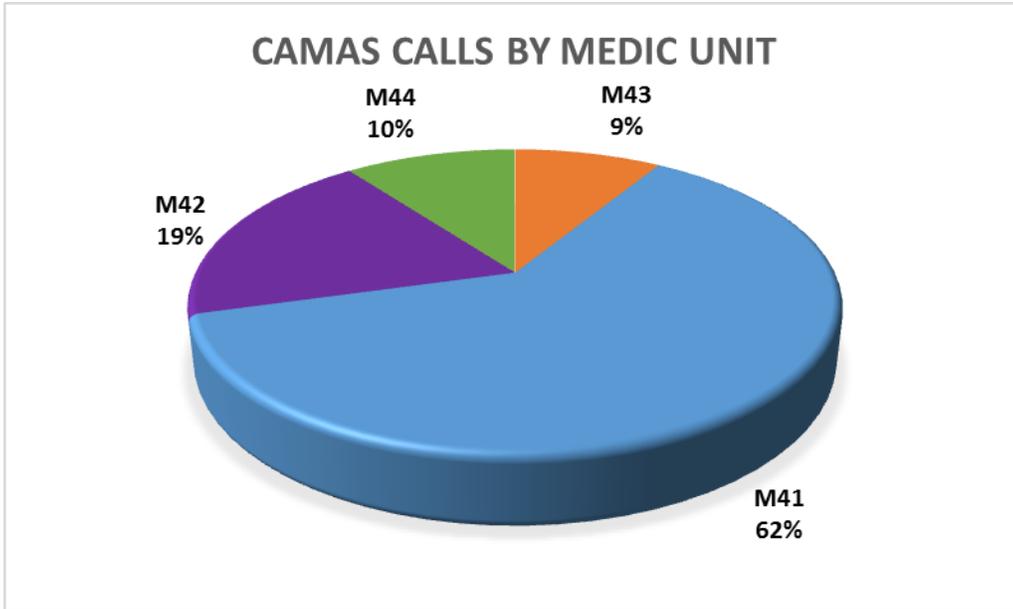
CWFD maintains four ambulances within our service area. Concurrent EMS calls are constantly monitored to assess adequate ambulance availability and distribution for our service area and call volume.

In 2015, 44% of our call volume required more than one ambulance to respond concurrently to separate calls. Of these, two ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 28% of our call volume. Three ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 12% of our call volume. Four ambulances (not depicted in chart) ran concurrent calls on an average of 4% of our call volume. It should be noted that sometimes multiple ambulances are required at a single event, for example, a motor vehicle accident with multiple patients requiring transport. In this case, one call is generated but more than one ambulance is deployed. These calls are not represented in the above graph due to the difficulty in parsing them from the database. However, the incidence of these calls is low enough to be not statistically relevant when looking at the total annual EMS call volume.

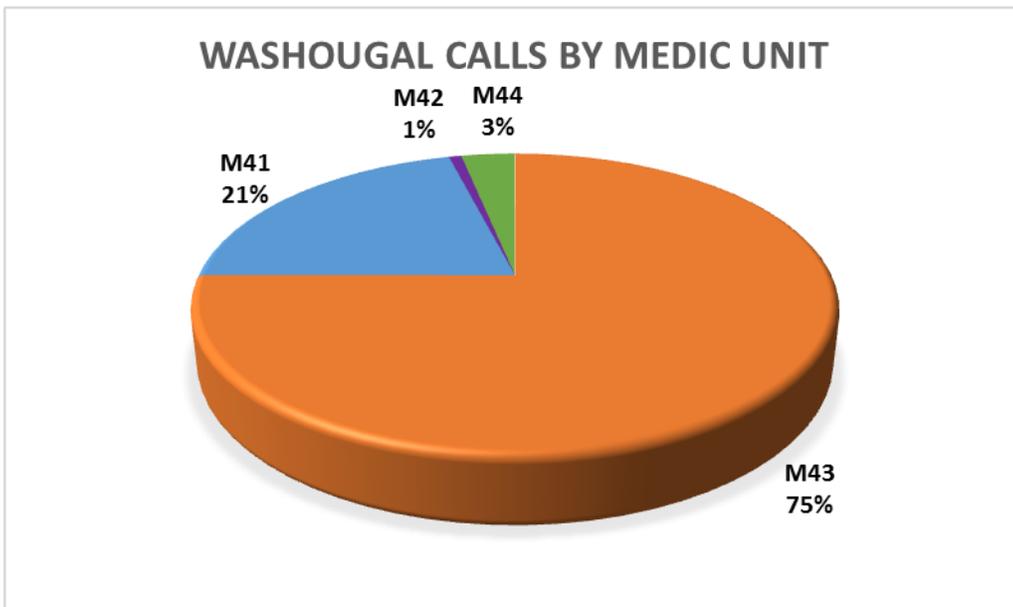
**2015 Calls by District:**



CWFD provides ambulance transport primarily for the cities of Camas and Washougal and the fire district of East County Fire and Rescue. In 2015, this was facilitated through a three party agreement between the stated entities which was renewed at the beginning of 2015. EMS services are also provided to EMS District 2, NCEMS and Skamania County through mutual aid agreements. 96% of EMS calls were within our primary service area and 4% of calls were mutual aid calls outside of our primary service area.

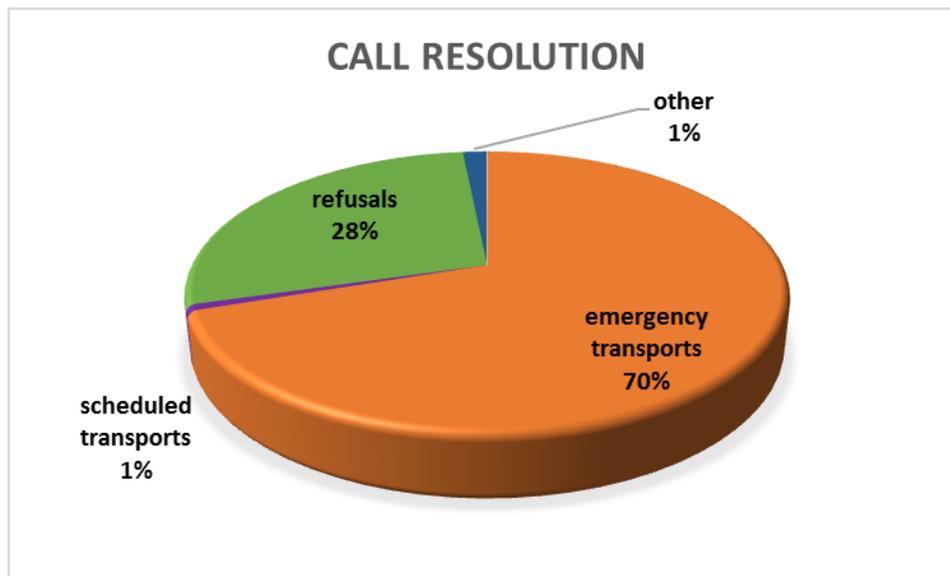


The City of Camas is primarily served by the two stations found within its city limits: Station 41 and Station 42. Station 41 houses M41, which maintains constant dedicated ambulance staffing, and M44 which is cross-staffed with E41. Station 42 houses M42 which at minimum staffing is cross-staffed with E42, and at full staffing, has dedicated staffing for both M42 and E42. In 2015, Station 42 was fully staffed 33 days out of the year. For EMS calls that originated in the City of Camas, 91% were responded to by ambulances residing in the City of Camas, from either Station 41 or Station 42.



The City of Washougal is primarily served by Station 43 which resides in the Washougal City limits. Station 43 houses M43, which maintains dedicated ambulance staffing. For EMS calls that originated in the City of Washougal, 75% were responded to by an ambulance stationed within the City of Washougal.

### **2015 EMS Call Resolution:**



In terms of call outcome, 70% of EMS calls resulted in ambulance transport to a hospital, 28% were patient refusals, and 1% were non-emergency scheduled transports either to a hospital, clinic or hospice facility. The remaining 1% were treat and releases, no medical necessity, public assists, or transport through private means.

### **2015 in Review:**

In 2015, medical equipment supply costs rose by an average of 12%, pharmaceutical supplies rose by an average of 20%. Some of this increase was buffered by a modest increase to the 2015 EMS budget and the rest was mitigated with constant vigilance in inventory control, management and minimizing waste. Another significant challenge has been navigating an escalating national issue of pharmaceutical drug shortages. This has resulted in market forces driving up the cost of drugs, while requiring a considerable amount of additional effort toward expanding our network of suppliers in order to keep our EMS system properly outfitted. There seems to be no immediate solution to this national issue. As a department, we have weathered this storm better than most other County agencies, in that we are not beholden to exclusive supply contracts; however, the downstream consequence is that it takes a substantial amount of administrative hours to maintain a competent compliment of EMS supplies and interventional drugs.

Two federal grants submitted in 2014/2015 were not awarded. The first was for a new ambulance slated for the fall of 2015. Funding ambulance replacement has continued to be a challenge, but efforts have been ongoing to secure funds and possibly purchase a new ambulance in the spring of 2016. The second was for replacing our aging gurney fleet. In the absence of a grant allowing for a wholesale replacement, we will be making an effort to replace these individually; however, as of the end of 2015 there were not enough funds in the budget to begin this process.

CWFD continued its participation in a cardiac arrest research study funded through the Resuscitation Outcome Consortium (ROC) and the National Institute of Health. The study began in June of 2012 and was completed in October of 2015. The goal of the study was to correlate pre-hospital cardiac arrest management, strategies and protocols with hospital survival outcome data. The results of the study will not be released until April of 2016; however, CWFD has seen a rise in the percentage of patients surviving cardiac arrest in our response area every year since the onset of the study. In 2015, 35% of the cardiac arrest patients where resuscitation was initiated in the field were discharged alive from the hospital.

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

#### **Goals for 2016:**

- Replace the 2001 Ambulance.
- Find funding for and begin replacement of fatigued gurneys.
- Begin transition to a more cost effective, user friendly, engine/medic MDC system.
- Expand, upgrade or replace Fire/RMS reporting system.
- Implement findings of recent cardiac arrest study.
- Bolster paramedic field training program to accommodate influx of new employees.
- Resurrect and expand community CPR/first-aid program.
- Expand EMS role in assisting law enforcement with processing of DUI's.
- Increase accessibility for In-house training.

Submitted by,



Cliff Free

Division Chief/Emergency Medical Services



## 2015 Fire Marshal's Report

It is a pleasure to submit the Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office Annual Report for 2015. We had a busy year in 2015 which saw a change to our office team and the accomplishment of many of the goals we set for the year.

In March the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) added a fully funded full-time Administrative Assistant to our team. With the addition of Sherri Breitner to our staff the office has become much more efficient. Permits are being processed in a timely fashion and the level of customer service has greatly increased. In addition to processing permits and running the office, Sherri assists with scheduling public education events, updating the departments *Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plans*, updating the FMO portion of the *Standard Operational Guidelines*, the implementation of our new *Confidence Testing System*, and helping our contractors with the new *Camas Connect* program.

One important goal met by the FMO in 2015 was the consolidation of Camas and Washougal's fire fee schedules for fire permit inspections and plans review. Prior to the consolidation the fees charged were inconsistent, which at times caused confusion. We worked closely with the city councils of both Camas and Washougal and now have a unified permit fee schedule for both cities. This consolidation has been very beneficial for all parties involved.

Our motto "Working for a Safer Community" exemplifies our commitment to the communities of Camas and Washougal whose citizens we serve. This commitment was evident in our many activities and accomplishments throughout the year.



### **THE 3 E's**

The FMO is responsible for what I call the three E's: Education, Enforcement and Engineering.

#### **Education:**

The Camas – Washougal Fire Department is committed to ensuring the safest possible community through public education and prevention programs. Our education platforms each year include teaching pre-school through fifth grade students about first aid and fire safety, and educating adults in fire extinguisher training, CPR, and emergency preparedness.

In 2015 the staff from the FMO along with on-duty firefighters and volunteer firefighters enjoyed these and many other opportunities to provide fire and life safety education to our citizens of all ages. It was our privilege to connect with our citizens in meaningful ways not only at our Annual Open House and during Fire Prevention week, but also at events such as; the Liberty Middle School Resource Fair, UL Bring your Kids to Work Day, Camas Boo Bash, Washougal's Harvest Festival, the Camas School District Chili Cook-Off, Washougal Tree Lighting, Camas Hometown Holidays, Camas Days Parades, Washougal's Turkey Bingo, back to school nights, a kids fair, and multiple classroom visits, to name a few.

We also conducted many station tours, which have become a highlight for many local kids. In 2015 crews from all 3 stations gave a total of 22 station tours to over 500 kids ranging in age from 3 to 18 years old. These tours were a great opportunity for us to teach important fire prevention and life safety skills. The kids (and their chaperones) were introduced to engines and rescue equipment, and learned that firefighters do so much more than fight fires.

We genuinely enjoy engaging with community through the public education facet of our work. In 2016, as in every year, we will continue to place a high priority on connecting with the citizens we serve.

#### **Enforcement**

The fire code is enforced through routine fire and life safety inspections, hazardous materials inspections, and fire investigations.

##### *Fire and Life Safety Inspections*

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

##### *Fire Investigations*

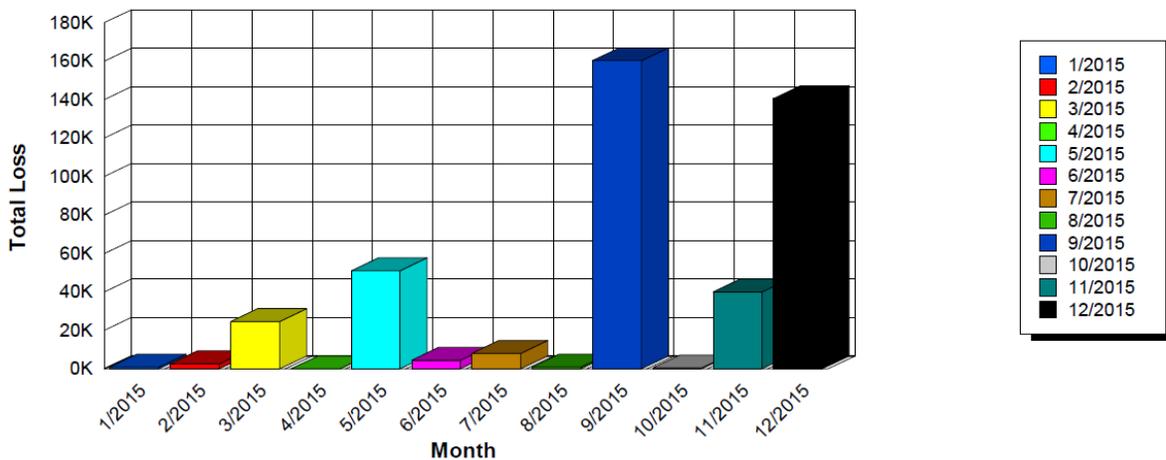
The FMO investigator begins fire scene investigation procedures immediately upon arrival at a fire scene by interviewing occupants and bystanders. We also provide assistance to fire victims by helping them connect with the Red Cross and other emergency agencies and to initiate contact and facilitate the rehabilitation process with the insurance and building security companies.

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department responded to a wide array of fires in 2015 and it was the responsibility of the FMO to investigate those fires:

**Significant Fires in Camas and Washougal in 2015**

Date	City	Street	Type	Cause	Prop Loss	Content Loss
05/08/15	Washougal	3715 T Circle	Residential - Started/Bedroom	Unknown	\$35,000	\$16,000
09/20/15	Camas	5205 NW Astor Court	Residential - Started/Bedroom	Electrical Failure	\$85,000	\$75,000
11/22/15	Washougal	1950 N Washougal River Road	Residential - Garage	Heat too Close to Combustibles	\$20,000	\$20,000
12/14/15	Washougal	2123 41 <sup>st</sup> Court	Residential - Started/Dining Room	Open Flame	\$75,000	\$20,000
12/23/15	Washougal	3210 A Street	Building (Vacant) - Started/Bedroom	Unknown	\$10,000	\$500
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$131,500</b>

**2015 Total Fire Loss by Month**



**Engineering**

The FMO works with architects, civil engineers, builders and developers to create a safer community. We attend pre-application meetings with developers to ensure that potential new projects allow for plenty of fire flow to fight fires and that all new developments include fire apparatus access roads.

The FMO issues fire permits and conducts plan reviews and inspections for fire code compliance for not only new construction, but also alterations or change in use and installation, or alteration of fire and life safety systems. Permits are also issued to maintain, store, use or handle materials, or to conduct processes which produce conditions hazardous to life or property, or to install equipment used in connection with such activities.

This past year has been extremely busy with new construction in both cities. Many of the new buildings and tenant improvements required the installation of fire alarms and fire sprinklers. Of the 312 homes built last year in Camas and Washougal, 223 of them were constructed with *NFPA13D Life Safety Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems*. 213 of these were in the city of Camas. These sprinklers are protecting our citizen’s lives as well as our firefighters. Just from the new construction alone they are helping to protect in excess of 50 million dollars of residential structural assets. Throughout Camas and Washougal there are well over 1800 homes that are equipped with these Life Safety Residential Sprinkler Systems.

**Fire Permits, Inspections and Fees 2015:**

In 2015 the FMO processed 337 fire code permits and performed over 802 inspections (including construction/permit inspections and fire and life safety code related inspections).

<u>FMO Permit Fees - 2015</u>	<u>\$40,901.00</u>
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**Fire Impact Fees**

New growth and development in our cities creates additional demand and need for public fire safety facilities in the city. Fire impact fees are collected to help recover a portion of the costs incurred in for new fire service facilities to serve this new growth. Fees for 2015 were as follows:

<u>Fire Impact Fees/Camas 2015</u>	<u>\$18,198.00</u>
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<u>Fire Impact Fees/Washougal 2015</u>	<u>\$56,300.00</u>
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### **CONFIDENCE TESTING COMPLIANCE SYSTEM**

The International Fire Code (IFC) requires building owners to maintain their building's fire protection systems in good working condition at all times and to ensure that these systems are tested on a regular basis. This periodic testing of fire protection is called *confidence testing*.

Semi-annual, annual and five-year confidence tests are to be conducted by certified technicians and the confidence test reports they generate, including problems found and any corrections made, are required to be submitted to our office.

According to one national survey, between 30 and 50% of all fire and life safety systems go without mandatory inspection, testing and maintenance as required by the building and fire codes. That number is not acceptable for our community. It is imperative that Camas-Washougal building owners stay current with testing, but our task of tracking that compliance presents a challenge, due in part to sheer volume.

In 2015 the Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office implemented a new *Confidence Testing Database / Notification System* in an effort to improve our tracking efficiency and the level of compliance in our cities. To date there are 170 buildings with a combined 275 systems in our database and that number continues to grow. Approximately 100 non-compliance notices were sent out late last year and the response from our business community and the testing companies has been positive. In many cases the testing had been done, but the report had just not been forwarded to our office. In other cases, those systems that were overdue have now been tested.

We believe this new confidence testing compliance system will foster more awareness/compliance from business owners and that the number of systems in non-compliance will continue to decrease. Currently just (approximately) 10% of those systems in our database are showing as non-compliant. We are striving for 100% compliance as part of our primary goal to consistently improve/increase public safety in Camas and Washougal.

### **ADDED TECHNOLOGY - CAMAS CONNECT**

In late summer of 2015 the City of Camas rolled out CRM (Citizen Relationship Management) also known as "Camas Connect". This city-wide technology project is providing new services to our citizens, as well as great new resources to many of the city's departments.

The Fire Marshal's Office is currently utilizing Camas Connect to streamline fire permit inspection requests. In 2015 our office performed just over 800 inspections and over 600 of those were fire permit inspections. In the past, all 600+ of those fire permit inspections would have been called in via our inspection request phone line (and the information then transcribed by our office.) If the request was not clear and/or not all required details included that would require calling the contractor (potentially interrupting his/her work).

Contractors can now submit requests (and receive updates) via *Camas Connect* either on-line or through a smartphone mobile app. This new process has not only eliminated the time previously spent transcribing that information, but has also allowed for improved accuracy and understanding of the requests.

As more and more contractors become familiar with and use *Camas Connect* we expect to see continued improvements in our workflow. In 2016 we plan to use the system in other facets of our work as we strive to continually improve our service to our contractors and citizens.

**OTHER PROJECTS OF NOTE**

In 2015 along with the construction of single family dwellings, two new commercial structures were finalized: a large warehouse at the Port of Camas-Washougal and an industrial building on Lake Road in Camas. The industrial building houses a shooting range with 27 stations. This project presented many challenges and hurdles to overcome. Working together with the contractor we were able to finalize the project in a timely manner while maintaining our commitment to providing a safe environment for their customers.

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

The FMO logs a high volume of phone calls each year and in 2015 we received well over 1200 phone calls regarding permits, code violations, outdoor burning, life safety issues, hazard conditions, code development and legislation, residential sprinklers, extinguishers, smoke detection, carbon monoxide, and the list goes on.

**FMO GOALS FOR 2016**

The Inter-local Agreement between the cities of Camas and Washougal requires a unified fire code for fire protection within three years. Much work towards completing that goal took place in 2015. However there is much more to do. It is still my goal to have a unified fire code by the end of 2016.

As we look ahead, 2016 looks to be even busier than last year. There are numerous projects beginning to take shape in both cities. We are excited about the new projects and look forward to the many challenges that lie ahead.

**IN CLOSING ...**

It has been a privilege to serve as Fire Marshal for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department. Working as a team with a professional and dedicated staff the Fire Marshal's Office has and will continue to provide excellent service to the customers we serve.

Submitted by,



Ron Schumacher

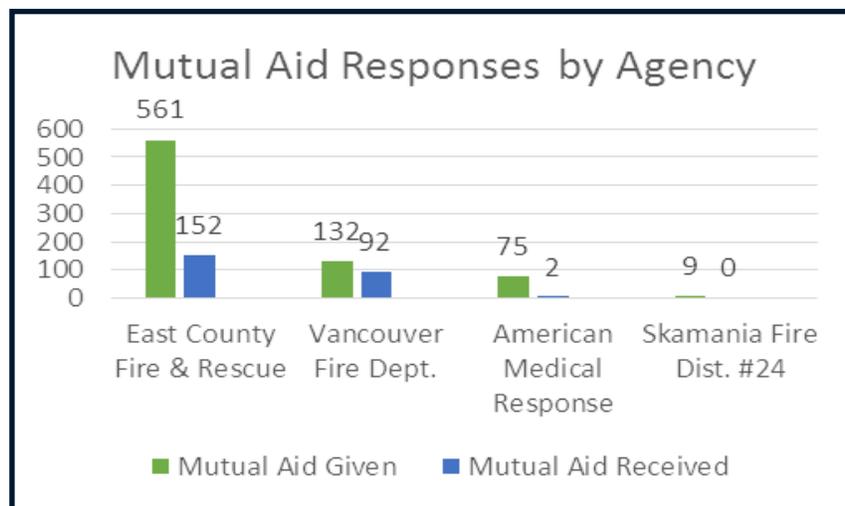
Division Chief/Fire Marshal



2015 Fire Operations Report

CWFD responded to 3,962 emergency incidents in 2015, these incidents include fire and emergency medical responses. The following graph only represents fire calls and associated incidents (see emergency medical services report for EMS data). Even though the chart does not reflect our EMS calls, each EMS response has a fire engine response as well. Many citizens don't understand why we need to send a fire engine with the ambulance. The main reason is manpower; it allows the engine crew to assist with lifting, moving, patient care and other ancillary functions to ensure the best patient care possible and to get the patient transported to the hospital as soon as possible. All of the other incidents listed in the chart cover a broad spectrum of fire related events that need from 1 to 4 (+) engines to respond to handle the situation.

The graph below illustrates the number of mutual aid responses by agencies that border the cities of Camas and Washougal. The graph for ECFR is not only fire mutual aid but also our levy obligation for ambulance response into their jurisdiction. Mutual aid is a very important component of the fire service. In 2015 the county Fire Chiefs signed a mutual aid agreement that allows for closest units to respond to the highest priority call types. This ensures that citizens will get the closest fire unit, regardless of jurisdiction, to respond to high priority incidents. County wide we have been doing this for the past several years, but now we have a signed document by all the county Fire Chiefs. This is a good thing for the citizens of Clark County and has opened the door for agencies to work more closely with each other and ensure that every call is responded to as quickly as possible by the closest unit.



2015 was an active wildland fire season for members of our department. Crews were sent out starting in June and didn't stop until late September. Crews were sent to Wenatchee, Walla Walla, Shelton, Klickitat and Okanogan. Crews were sent out in teams of four, made up of both career and volunteer firefighters. Crews were out as long as two weeks before returning back to their normal duties on line at their assigned station. Each member assigned to wildland fires has been through specialized training that they are required to maintain each year. With the changing seasons and climate, we have also been dealing with urban interface fires (wildland fires within our city boundaries) on a more consistent basis. This is a challenging task due to our lack of resources available initially for this type of incident, as was seen by a late season fire in Vancouver in which several houses were damaged due to two simultaneous brush fires off Highway 14. This will continue to be a challenge for departments moving forward.

In October we ordered a new fire engine from Pierce Fire Apparatus out of Appleton, WI to replace a twenty-five year old engine. The new engine will be completed in fall of 2016. Members of the apparatus committee worked hard throughout the year to get the best quality engine possible within the budgeted amount. Special thanks to Firefighter Brad Delano for his thorough research and time to make sure this engine will serve our department needs for many years to come. He spent countless hours measuring compartments, gauging ideas from other firefighters, and working with company representatives to ensure we get exactly what we want and need to fit with the rest of our fleet.

In 2015 crews continued to utilize the "Blue Card" incident command system that was implemented in 2014. Crews have been using continuing education modules and simulations to hone their skills to ensure proficiency on fire scenes. The Blue Card system has been adopted countywide and is another example of interagency cooperation....We are all speaking the same language at fire scenes.

Also, to stay compliant with federal reporting standards, CWFD submitted all incidents that we responded to in 2015 to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) through FEMA. These reports are used by the federal government to assist fire departments nationally with statistics that can help with all aspects of fire department operations, including grants to assist with equipment, personnel, prevention and safety for firefighters.

Submitted by,



Mark Ervin  
Battalion Chief



### 2015 Staff Milestones

Gene Marlow	Career Firefighter	25 years of service
Mark Ervin	Career Battalion Chief	25 years of service
Charlie Dawson	Volunteer Battalion Chief	25 years of service
Aron Black	Career Firefighter	15 years of service
Scott Slocum	Career Firefighter	15 years of service
Victor Compher	Career Firefighter	15 years of service
Cliff Free	Division Chief of EMS	10 years of service
Butch Steigmann	Career Firefighter	10 years of service
Ron Nickles	Career Firefighter	10 years of service

### Retirements and Promotions



In June, Captain Greg Payne (left) was promoted to the long vacant administrative battalion chief position. Chief Payne was hired in 1989 and had most recently served as the training captain. Congratulations to Greg! Captain Grant Brock (middle) retired from CWFD in September. Captain Brock was hired by the Washougal Fire Department in 1993. His most recent assignment had been as training captain. He left CWFD with nearly 22 years of service. Congratulations to Captain Brock on his well deserved retirement! To fill this vacancy, firefighter/paramedic Chris Richardson (right) was promoted to captain. Chris was hired in 2008 and has been participating in the National Fire Academy's new Managing Officer program. Congratulations to Captain Richardson!

2015 Training Report

The medical training for the department is overseen by Division Chief Cliff Free. Training consist of state mandated training for career Paramedics and EMT / IV techs. Some of this training is done annually and some is done monthly. Beyond this required training, Chief Free provides regular trainings beyond the required topics, keeping our crews polished on their skills and treatment options. The ongoing medical training for our volunteer firefighters is mostly done by monthly training sessions, regularly conducted by Captain Chris Richardson.

The fire and rescue side of training is a combination of monthly, quarterly, annual, and topic specific training. Topics for monthly training are skill specific or evolution based and are completed individually or at the company level. Quarterly training includes both required competency based evolutions and individual skills. The annual topics are either mandated training through the state or departmentally required topics. These trainings may be hands-on, classroom, video based, or a combination of all.

Multi-Company Evolution training is done about eight times per year and include combining two or three companies at one time for larger scale training. Some topics include: rope rescue training at the Potholes, Motor Vehicle Operations at accident scenes, multiple fire scenarios, Mass Casualty Incidents, and Active Shooter scenarios. Some of these drills are conducted at our training tower at Station 42, while when possible we do these drills at offsite locations or burn houses. These drills are done with both our own department members as well as our neighboring department, East County Fire & Rescue.



CWFD conducted numerous training burns during 2015, all led by Battalion Chief Greg Payne (above). Far Left: BC Payne confers with Captain Ben Silva during a training burn. Left: Captain Brooks Cooper talks with Columbian newspaper reporter Emily Gillespie, who participated in one of the department's training burns in 2015.

## 2015 Training Report



The most significant training we accomplished in 2015 was the burning of eight homes slated for demolition for a future development near NW Bybee Road. These homes ranged from 1,800 to 3,000 square feet and all were in very good condition. The burns allowed each shift to have two homes to practice fire ground operations in very realistic conditions. Each burn would consist of a fire in one to three rooms with victims (hose dummies) trapped. Once fires were burning, crews would get dispatched into the scene and run through their operations for the fire (fire control, primary search, rescue, utility control, ventilation, and overhaul). Once the scene was under control the crews would pick up hoses and equipment, rotate positions, drive away and await another dispatch for the next scenario. The two remaining homes were a combination of career and volunteer firefighters, running the scenarios in the same manner mentioned above.

Overall we had a productive year in training. We continue to stay proficient in our routine skills, while continually trying to raise the bar. Evaluating several fires, significant motor vehicle accidents and rescues last year, the training is paying off to our customers.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Payne

Battalion Chief

2015 Communications Report

The merger of Camas and Washougal communications equipment was completed in 2015 with the purchase and installation of 58 portable radios and 15 mobile radios. Installation was done by Day Wireless and took about a month last August. Replacement radios were mandated by new security requirements pertaining mostly to law enforcement. Fortunately our radios were past their useful life and due for replacement.

We began using the cell phone application “Active911” last fall for receiving calls, and it appears to be working well. The app receives a call from CRESA and shows the location of the call, units dispatched, and maps the closest route to the event. This app may soon eliminate the need for pagers.

It has been about six years since the current mobile computer data software was introduced in the county. This is the software that interfaces with CRESA for dispatching. The current software will no longer be supported and is going to be replaced by a completely new program this year. CRESA is in the process of gathering input and will have work sessions in order to have the new software in place by November of this year.

Submitted by,

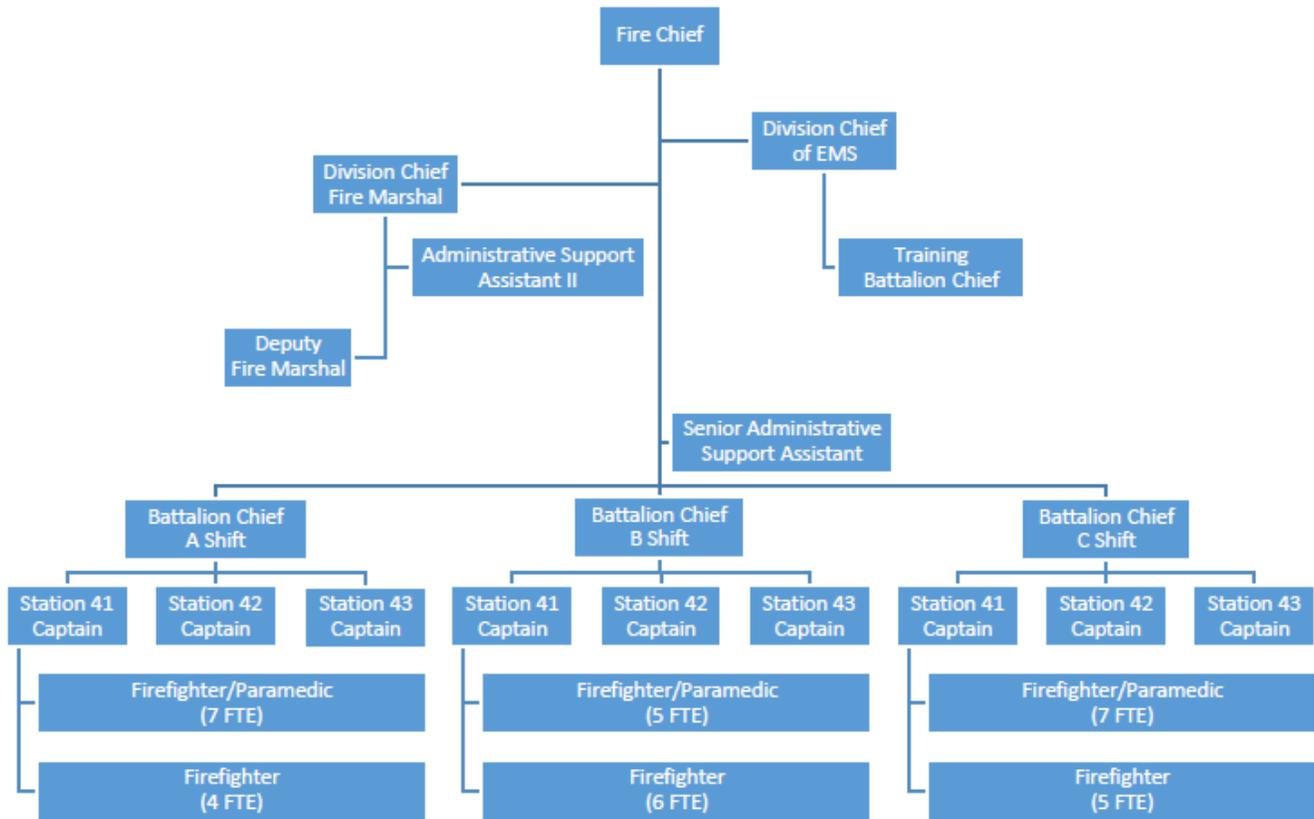


Allen Wolk

Battalion Chief

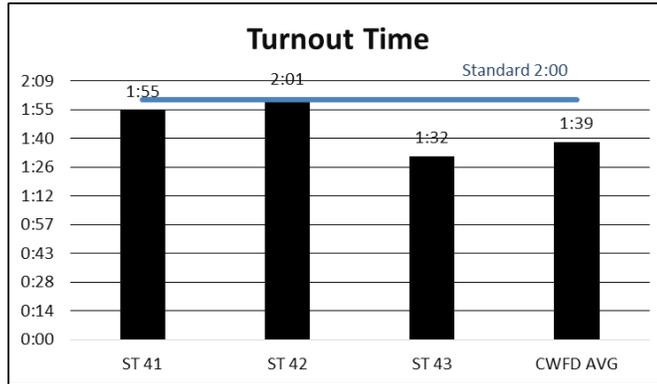


2015 Organizational Chart



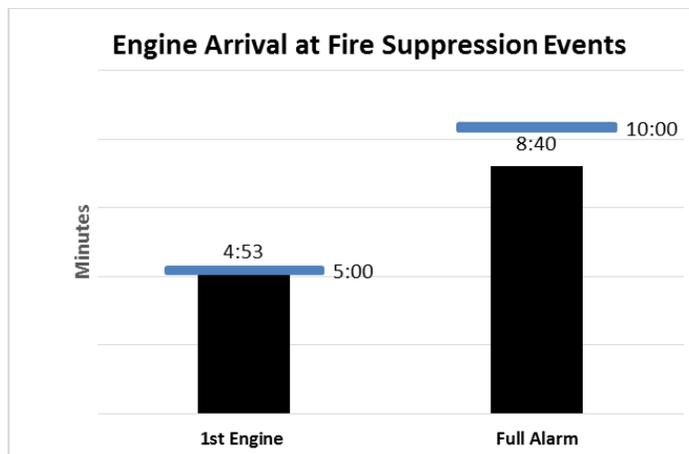
**2015 Standard of Cover**

Note: House Bill 1756, passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2005, requires all career fire departments to annually establish and adopt response objectives. Such a document is frequently called a "Standard of Cover" document. The following pages will serve as CWFD's Standard of Cover for 2015.



Turnout time is defined as the duration in minutes between initial dispatch and an apparatus leaving the station en route to a call. Turnout times depicted are for all apparatuses for all priority calls (meaning Code 3 response) by Station, day or night. The agency average is calculated from the total number of priority calls received by the CWFD, not by averaging the individual station turnout times. Station 42 has a predictably longer turnout time average. This is due to the cross-staffing of an engine and a medic unit requiring the shuffling of personal protective gear between the engine and the ambulance depending on the call type. Station 41 is an average of Apparatuses housed within Station 41. This average is an amalgam of dedicated staffed apparatuses and cross-staffed apparatuses. The cross-staffed apparatuses have a slightly longer turn-out time to facilitate the moving of gear between rigs, but are dispatched less frequently than the dedicated staffed rigs...so they have less of an effect on the CWFD average.

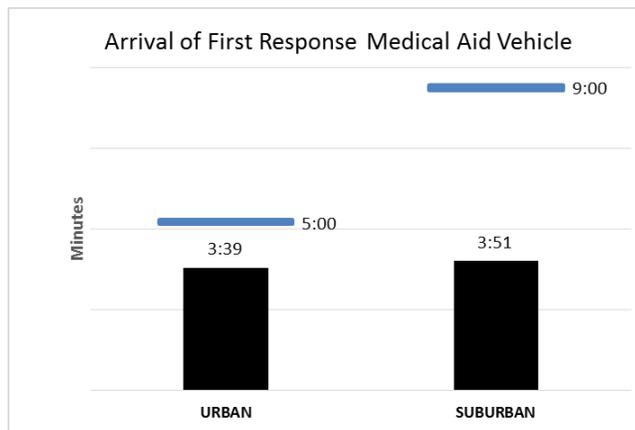
**1<sup>st</sup> Arrival Engine Company/Deployment of Full First Alarm on Fire Suppression Incidents:**



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 engine and cross-match that with the first arriving unit. However, what is a more indicative assessment is the response time of any first arriving 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 previous 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 often mutual aid is required to achieve a 'full' first alarm assignment. 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 above is the time to arrival of all CWFD resources dispatched to fire suppression incident within CWFD's fire suppression boundary.

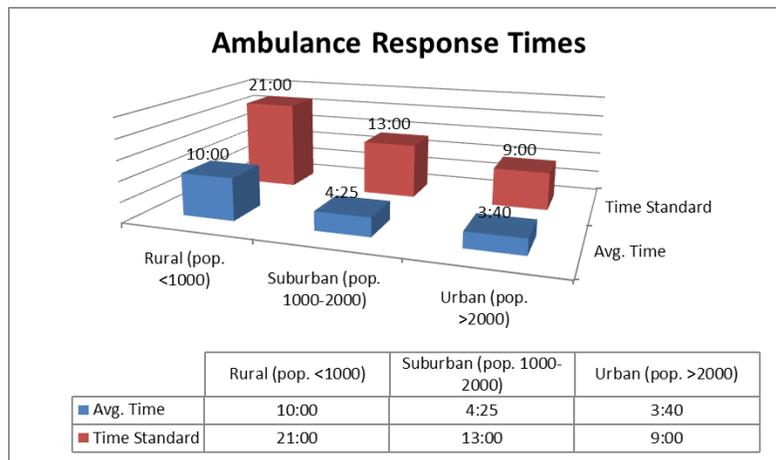
**Arrival of First Response Medical Aid Vehicle to EMS Calls:**



The Arrival of First Response Medical Aid Vehicles is historically used for systems where two different agencies are employed for EMS response: an initial engine response from the local fire department, and a transport ambulance from a separate ambulance transport agency. The standard is five minutes for Urban designations, nine minutes for Suburban designations, and fifteen minutes for Rural designations (the City of Camas and the City of Washougal do not have many Rural designations, so those response times are included in the Suburban data).

The concept is that the initial first response medical aid vehicle arrives first and ‘stops the clock’ for the response of the 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 EMS calls, and the engine trails. In some situations, CWFD will send the engine and ambulance from separate stations so as not to deplete a response area entirely. 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, more often than not, are 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.

**Arrival of Advanced Life Support Transport Unit to EMS Calls:**



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. 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 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 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.

CWFD separately and additionally employs a Fractile Response Percentage. Fractile response percentages begin with the response time standard per Urban, Suburban, Rural designation, and calculates the percentage of responses that meet that criteria. Our standard for Fractile percentage is 90% for all designations. In other words, do we meet the response standard for each designation at least 90% of the time? 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 percentage:

Urban: 98.5% (N=823) Suburban: 98.5% (N=476) Rural: 95.6% (N=412)

*\*N = the number of responses in the data set for 2015. Omitted from the data set are cases of incomplete arrival time data or low priority dispatched calls of which we were not dispatched emergently. Data provided by CRESA.*

*\*\*Population Designation Data provided by Clark County GIS. See Appendix A.*

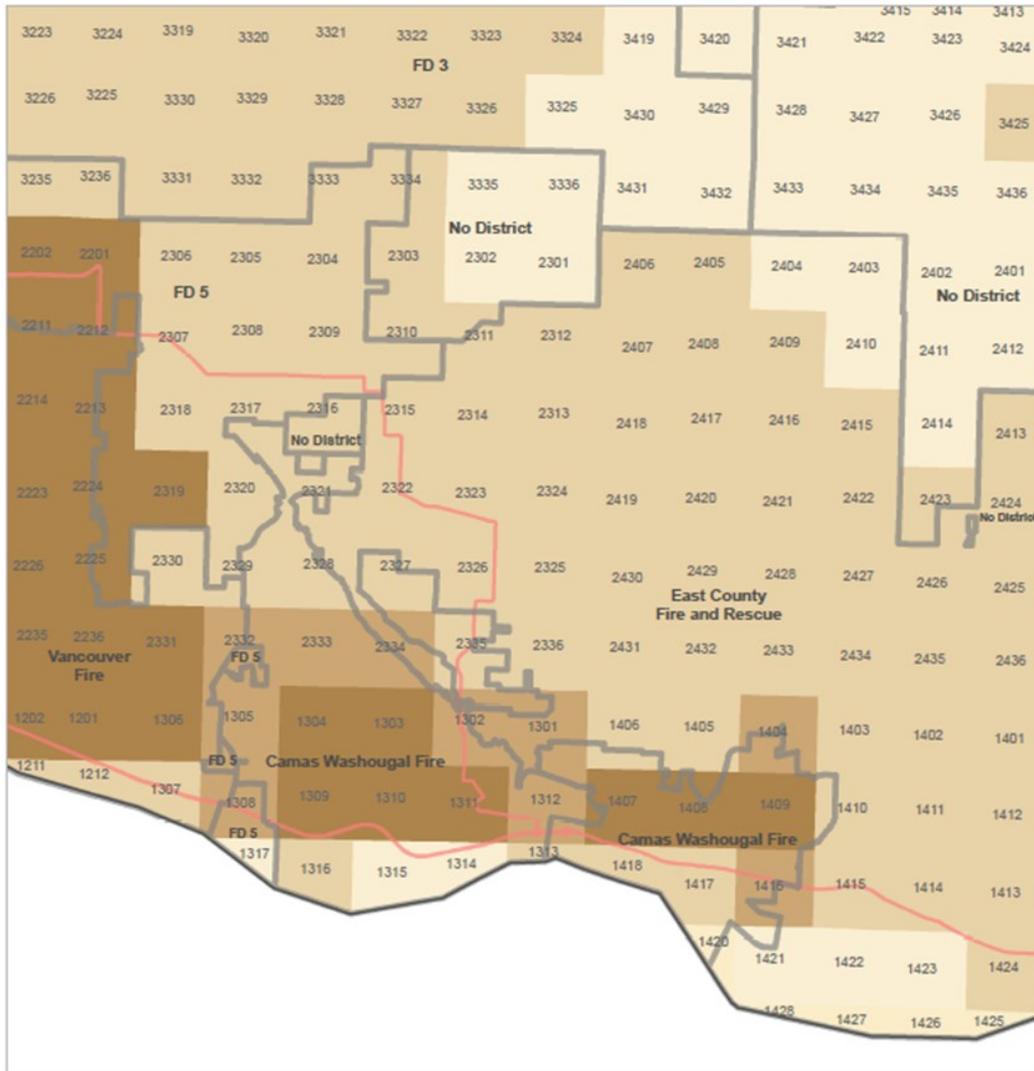
### **Arrival of Hazardous Materials trained and equipped Technicians:**

In 2015, there were no significant Hazardous Materials Incidents requiring the employment of specialty resources.

# 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.

