



CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON



City of Vancouver Fire and EMS

2024 Annual Report



Contents

Mission, vision and values	3
Message from the Fire Chief	4
About Vancouver Fire	5
Apparatus profile	7
Fire stations	8
Fire suppression	11
Emergency Medical Service (EMS) ...	12
Special operations	18
Fire Marshal's Office Division	20
VFD organizational chart	24
Budget and expenditures	25



Mission, vision and values



Mission

To provide highly trained professionals, well-equipped to respond effectively to the education, prevention, and emergency response needs of our community.

Vision

The Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) is committed to safeguarding lives, property and the environment within our community.

Values

- People are the most important, whether it's who we serve or who we serve with.
- Quality service is what we deliver, and pride is evident in its delivery.
- Integrity is evident in our actions; leadership is evident in our decisions.
- Trust is critical; we hold ourselves accountable for our behavior, our decisions, and our actions.
- We are stewards of the community's trust and resources.
- We foster an environment where people feel safe and secure.



**City of Vancouver
Fire Department**

City of Vancouver Fire Department
P.O. Box 1995 Vancouver, WA 98668-1995
360-487-7212

cityofvancouver.us/fire

facebook.com/VancouverUSFire

beheardvancouver.org/ambulanceservicesform



Message from the Fire Chief



Brennan Blue
Fire Chief

The dedicated members of the Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) have been proudly serving our community for more than a century and a half! Our dedicated personnel remain committed to providing the highest quality fire and emergency services to the City of Vancouver (COV) and Clark County Fire District 5.

In 2024, we continued to witness the rapid growth of our community coupled with a 1.3% increase in total calls within our jurisdiction. Vancouver Fire Department personnel responded to 38,422 individual calls for service in 2024. Total responses of all our apparatus combined exceeded 52,000 responses.

While some of our fire companies experienced an increase in total call volume, several of our busiest companies finally experienced some relief with the addition of 3 Paramedic Squads that are now responding to some of the lower acuity medical emergency incidents, leaving the engine companies available for the higher acuity EMS and fire calls. Truck 10, located in east Vancouver, was placed into service in early 2024 and provides much needed ladder truck coverage to the rapidly growing east side of our service area. These service improvements are the latest additions that resulted from the voter approval of Propositions 1 and 2.

The City of Vancouver, as the ambulance services contract administrator for the COV and Clark County Emergency Medical Services District #2 (EMSD2), has worked closely with our longstanding provider American Medical Response (AMR) and the Medical Program Directors Office, to reshape the emergency medical system (EMS) into a tiered response system. This was done by adding basic life support (BLS)

ambulances into the system. AMR BLS ambulances are now responding to lower priority medical calls and allowing advanced life support (ALS) ambulances to be available for more serious incidents. This enhanced level of response has improved community safety and made the entire EMS system more efficient. This initiative as well as the ongoing Nurse Navigation Program are ensuring that we get the right resource to the right call at the right time.

The support of our constituents, elected officials, and our incredible VFD team has made greater Vancouver a safer and healthier place to live, work and play. I must extend a special thank you to the Clark County Fire District 5 Board of Commissioners for their partnership and stalworth support over the years. This partnership between the COV and Fire District 5 exemplifies what good government looks like; fiscal responsibility that focuses on delivering the best level of service to our community.

As I enter the last year of my service to Vancouver, I feel very proud and honored to have led such a fantastic group of dedicated public safety professionals at the VFD.

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2024 VFD Annual Report.

We remain ready to serve our community with pride, integrity and professionalism.

Respectfully,

A stylized black ink signature of Brennan Blue.

Brennan Blue, Fire Chief

About Vancouver Fire

The City of Vancouver, Washington sits on the north bank of the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. The VFD has existed as a fire department within the state of Washington since April 1, 1867, when, in response to a devastating fire in the business district, the Vancouver City Council passed an ordinance organizing a Fire Department.

In 1994, VFD merged with Clark County Fire District #5, becoming the fourth largest fire department in the state.

VFD is one of the busiest fire departments in the region, serving 89.2 square miles and 301,529 citizens in the mostly urban/suburban area. Since 2015 City population has grown over 15% and emergency calls has increased over 50%.

VFD protects this growing population by responding to 38,422 calls from 11 permanent stations. This is done with 245 full-time firefighters, which is approximately 0.81 firefighters per thousand citizens.

A mutual aid agreement that includes automatic aid provisions with Clark County, as well as mutual aid agreements with the State Homeland Security Region 4, the City of Portland, Oregon and the Marine Fire Safety Association allows for daily interaction with nearby agencies serving over 1.2 million citizens in total.

VFD's current standard of cover follows the IAFC integrated risk management process and complies with state requirements (RCW 35.103) to identify risk areas and critical infrastructure elements.

Interstate 5, which runs through our response area, is the main freeway from Canada to Mexico, and two Interstate bridges carry 280,000 vehicles daily.



Services provided

- Fire response
- Emergency medical response
- Hazardous materials response—regional
- Technical rescue response—regional
- Maritime response
- Fire prevention
- Fire investigation

About Vancouver Fire

VFD protects 22 miles of Columbia River shoreline. The shoreline includes an international shipping port for east-west river barges which is also part of the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River. The Port of Vancouver alone has over one million square feet of dockside warehouses and industrial facilities. Railways outline two sides of the city and include a train station and rail bridges. Several railroad companies supply international freight and passenger service. Hazardous materials are transported by rail and truck, including unit trains of grain, coal, crude oil, and ethanol.

Vancouver is home to the Regional 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and its 15-tower emergency radio communications system. Vancouver is also the home to The U.S. Department of Energy Bonneville Power Authority complex, which supplies hydroelectric power to eight states and high-voltage capacity through the Northwest Power Grid of 31 dams, 15,000 miles of electric lines and 257 substations.

High-risk natural disasters for our area include active volcanoes, earthquakes, flooding, landslides, wildfires, and extreme weather. Each of these features presents unique risks, and we have trained staff, equipment, and operational response plans in place to ensure community protection and firefighter safety.



**Vancouver Fire
Department covers**

89.2
square
miles

301,529
population
served

VFD response time performance

Alarm type	Standard response time	2024	2024 percent met standard	Number of calls received in 2024	Precent change over 2023
Priority 1 and 2 Except Maritime	07:59	08:01	89.9%	16,676	5.5%
Priority 3 and 4 Except Maritime	10:59	08:43	95.8%	8,582	-0.7%
Priority 5 Non-Medical	15:59	10:35	98.3%	5,873	16.3%
Priority 5 Emergency Medical - Ambulance Only	17:59	17:50	90.4%	7,436	-5.4%

Apparatus profile



2 BRUSH UNITS



3 MOBILE WATER TENDERS



11 FIRE ENGINES



3 LADDER TRUCKS



1 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT



1 HEAVY RESCUE UNIT



1 MEDICAL REHAB UNIT



1 MOBILE AIR COMPRESSOR



1 FIRE BOAT



1 HIGH-CAPACITY PUMP AND FOAM TENDER



2 BATTALION CHIEFS



3 PARAMEDIC SQUADS



1 FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT



Fire stations

STATION 1
 2607 Main Street
 Built 2017

Engine 1 | Truck 1 | Squad 1
2024 CALL VOLUMES
TOTAL INCIDENTS: 5,263
UNIT RESPONSES
 E1: 3,115 T1: 1,669 SQ1: 2,383

STATION 2
 2106 Norris Road
 Built 2017

Battalion 1 | Engine 2
 Squad 2
2024 CALL VOLUMES
TOTAL INCIDENTS: 3,796
UNIT RESPONSES
 E2: 1,920 SQ2: 1,393 BC1: 459

STATION 3
 1110 N. Divine Road
 Built 1957

Engine 3 | Fire boat 1
2024 CALL VOLUMES
TOTAL INCIDENTS: 3,612
UNIT RESPONSES
 E3: 2,935 FB1: 22

STATION 4
 6701 NE 147th Avenue
 Built 1995

Battalion 2 | Engine 4
2024 CALL VOLUMES
TOTAL INCIDENTS: 2,025
UNIT RESPONSES
 E4: 1,944 BC2: 405

STATION 5 (HQ)
 7110 NE 63rd Street
 Built 1980

Engine 5 | Truck 5 | Heavy rescue 5
2024 CALL VOLUMES
TOTAL INCIDENTS: 5,562
UNIT RESPONSES
 E5: 3,992 T5: 2,011 HR5: 6

STATION 6
 3216 NE 112th Avenue
 Built 1975

Engine 6 | Squad 6
2024 CALL VOLUMES
TOTAL INCIDENTS: 4,533
UNIT RESPONSES
 E6: 2,750 SQ6: 2,057

Fire stations

STATION 7

12603 NE 72nd Avenue
Built 2005



Engine 7

2024 CALL VOLUMES

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 1,414
UNIT RESPONSES
E7: 1,107

STATION 8

213 NE 120th Avenue
Built 1970



Engine 8

2024 CALL VOLUMES

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 4,830
UNIT RESPONSES
E8: 3,658

STATION 9

17408 SE 15th Street
Built 1992



Engine 9

2024 CALL VOLUMES

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 3,452
UNIT RESPONSES
E9: 2,669

STATION 10

1501 NE 164th Avenue
Built 2009



Engine 10 | Hazmat 10

2024 CALL VOLUMES

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 2,034
UNIT RESPONSES
E10: 2,020 T10: 876

STATION 11

9606 NE 130th Avenue
Built 2022



Engine 11

2024 CALL VOLUMES

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 1,901
UNIT RESPONSES
E11: 1,755

Response time reliability by station area number

	2023			2024			
Station area number	Response time 90 th percentile	Average P1 & P2 target met	Emergency calls	Response time 90 th percentile	Average P1 & P2 target met	Emergency calls	Year-over-year response time reliability
1	07:31	91.77%	2,042	06:57	94.96%	2,241	-7.54%
2	08:12	88.90%	1,369	07:47	90.73%	1,704	-5.08%
3	08:56	83.52%	1,432	08:26	87.22%	1,534	-5.60%
4	08:40	85.44%	824	08:32	87.63%	881	-1.54%
5	08:12	88.95%	2,162	07:38	92.41%	2,241	-6.91%
6	08:29	87.52%	1,907	07:26	93.12%	1,933	-12.38%
7	08:51	80.76%	577	09:20	79.41%	573	5.46%
8	08:45	85.41%	1,954	08:05	89.57%	2,013	-7.62%
9	09:16	82.22%	1,367	08:52	82.96%	1,420	-4.32%
10	07:54	90.17%	1,017	07:42	92.09%	999	-2.53%
11	08:17	87.42%	771	07:53	90.83%	851	-4.83%

Definitions

Response time 90th percentile

This means that in 90 out of 100 emergency calls, the first unit to arrive on scene did so within this amount of time or faster.

Average P1 and P2 target met

The goal is to meet response time targets for Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls at least 90% of the time.

Emergency calls

The number of Priority 1 and Priority 2 emergency calls that occurred within the station's response area.

Year-over-year response time reliability

The percentage change in the Response Time 90th Percentile from 2023 to 2024. A negative percentage means that response times improved (i.e., calls were reached faster) compared to the previous year.

Summary

All station areas improved their Year-Over-Year Response Time Reliability, except for Station Area 7, which is more rural.

The addition of the three Paramedic Squads significantly improved response time reliability in Station Areas 6, 1, and 2, where the squads are based.

Fire suppression

The VFD has a suppression division that is trained and equipped to respond to all Risks and all Hazards. There are currently 17 full time 24 hour staffed fire companies responding out of 11 fire stations. Daily suppression activities are managed by two Battalion Chiefs who maintain operational command at any significant emergency.

Life safety, property protection, and environmental conservation are the incident priorities at nearly all emergency events. Fire suppression crews address these priorities through speed and efficiency. Quickly and safely bringing the appropriate firefighting resources to bare on a particular emergency is critical to success.

Vancouver Fire has a long history of being a highly trained and highly efficient, all hazard, firefighting force.

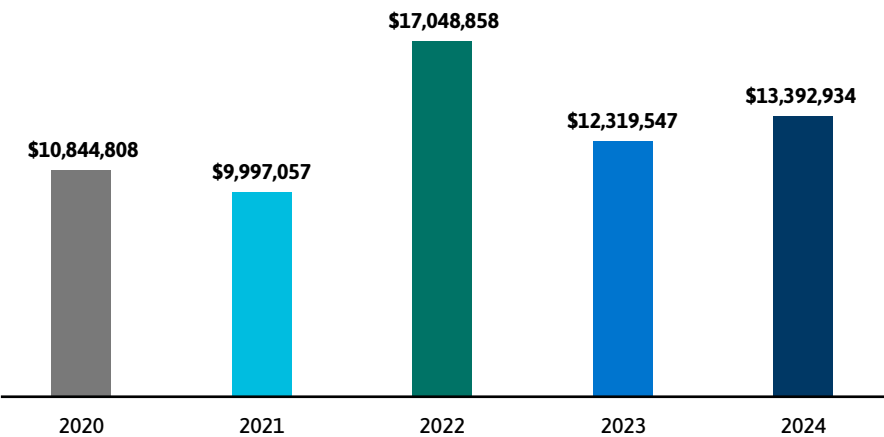


1,353
fire suppression
responses in 2024

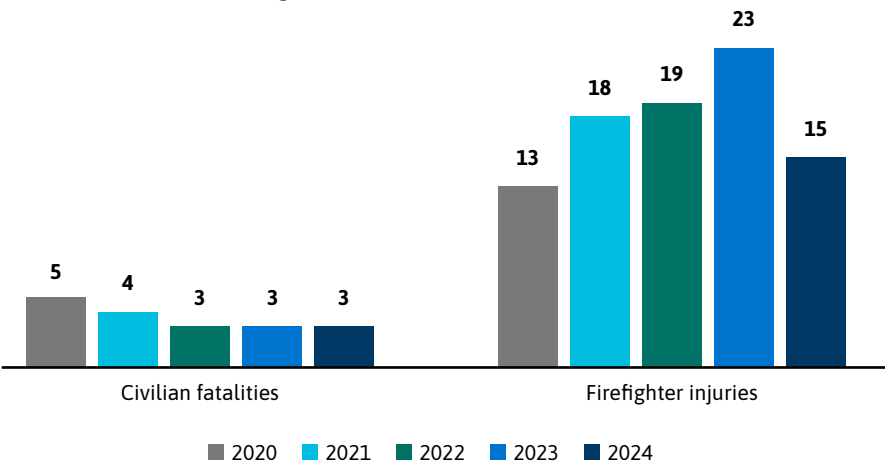


114
fire alarm
responses in 2024

Fire property and contents loss



Fire injuries and fatalities



Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

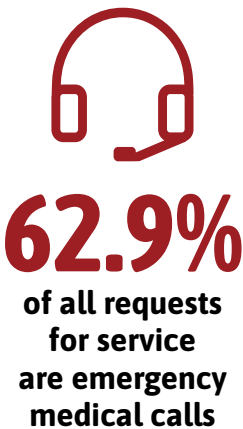
Since 1867, the Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) has been a steadfast guardian of the community, delivering critical emergency services with unwavering dedication. In 2024, an impressive 62.9% of all service requests are emergency medical calls—proof of the essential role VFD plays in protecting lives.

When seconds count, VFD’s emergency medical teams rise to the challenge. Their prehospital advanced life support care is state-of-the-art, consistently surpassing state and national benchmarks for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival. This outstanding performance is driven by the department’s commitment to excellence—every response apparatus is staffed with at least one highly trained Paramedic, ensuring advanced life support is available at a moment’s notice.

Equipped with cutting-edge medical technology, VFD’s response units are prepared for any emergency, providing the highest standard of care to both residents and visitors. This level of preparedness wouldn’t be possible without the strong support of the City of Vancouver and the progressive, data-driven protocols crafted by the Medical Program Director’s Office.

For ambulance transport, VFD partners with American Medical Response (AMR) through a contract agreement with the City of Vancouver. Their fleet of Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances are staffed with at least one paramedic and one EMT, while Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances ensure expert care with a minimum of two EMTs.

Through innovation, expertise, and unwavering dedication, VFD continues to set the bar for emergency medical services—because when lives are on the line, only the best will do.



“In 2024, the Office of the Medical Program Director focused on continuing to raise the bar for our EMS system. The focus for 2024 was on safe transport. Using rapid improvement cycles, we were able to increase the portion of patients transported without lights and sirens from 83% to 87%. The national performance on this measure is 61%. For the work on this national quality measure, Clark County EMS was awarded the National Association of EMS Physicians Quality and Safety Award for 2024.

We found additional efficiencies by opening more call types to basic life support response and nurse navigation, and by moving to a single incident number for all agencies responding to a call.

In the final quarter of 2024, we started our quality project for 2025. With 56 other EMS systems across the country, we are participating in the National EMS Quality Alliance Airway Collaborative. This group is working together to raise the quality of care nationwide.”

—Dr. Marlow Macht, Medical Program Director

Staffing levels		Emergent calls		Total unit responses		Total jurisdiction calls	
VFD	256	VFD	38,422	VFD	52,035	VFD	45,858
AMR	190	AMR	38,190	AMR	40,766		



AMR response time performance

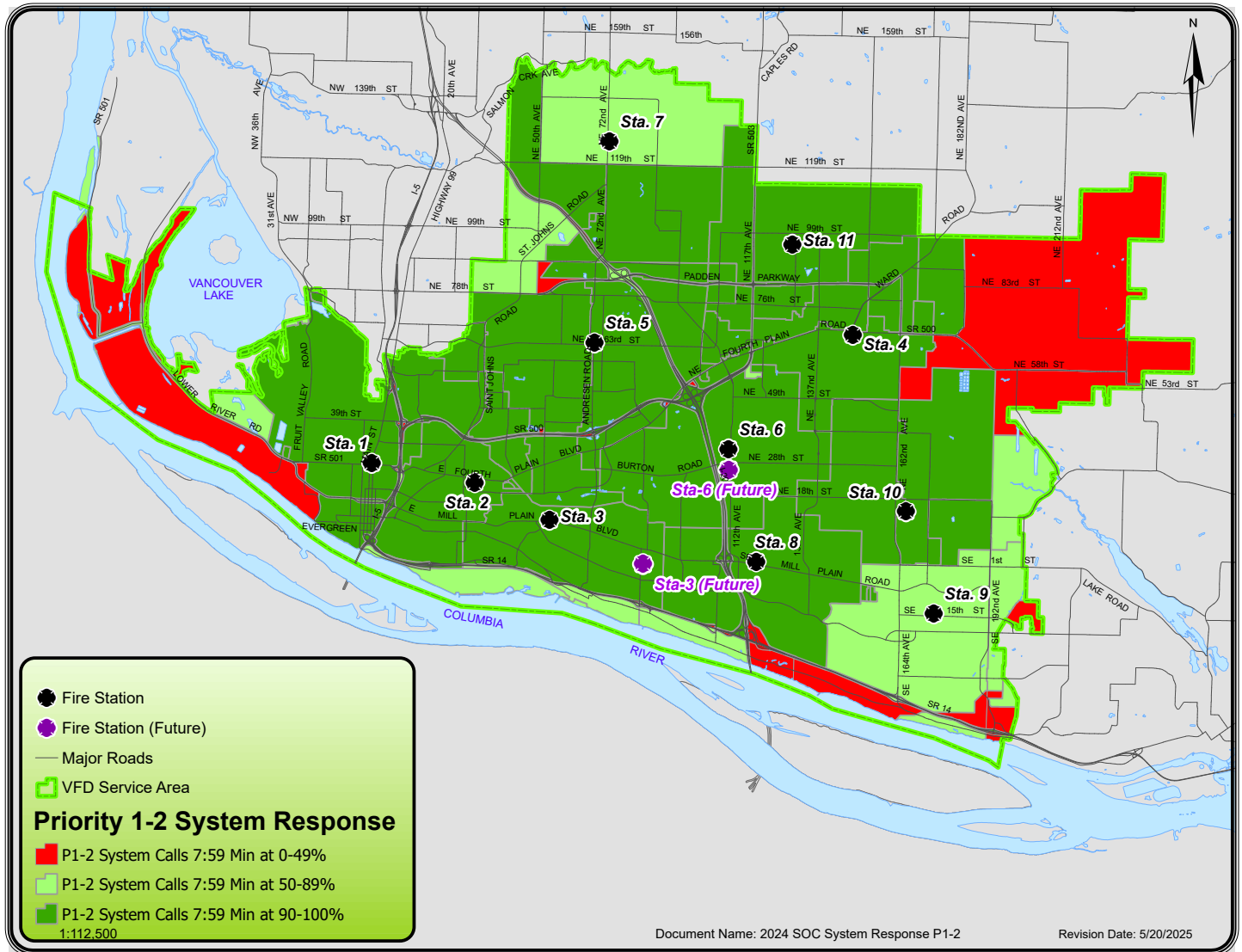
Alarm type	Standard reponse time	2024 actual compliance	Number of calls received in 2024
Priority 1 and 2 - High Density	09:59	90.85%	23,723
Priority 1 and 2 - Low Density	19:59	94.43%	2,172
Priority 3 and 4 - High Density	12:59	94.20%	17,006
Priority 3 and 4 - Low Density	19:59	93.01%	1,674
Priority 5 and 6 - High Density	17:59	93.69%	12,006
Priority 5 and 6 - Low Density	29:59	96.53%	893
Routine - EMSD2 Area Only - Inter-Facility Scheduled (12 hr Pre-Scheduled)	15:00	50.62%	405
Routine - EMSD2 Area Only - Inter-Facility Non-Scheduled (Less than 12 hr Pre-Scheduled)	60:00	62.44%	3,405

“As our first contract cycle comes to an end, we are excited to begin the next chapter of our continued partnership. The last 10 years has brought a level of Emergency services to the citizens of Vancouver, through transparency and innovation, that have become a model for all other communities in Washington to strive for. We are proud and humbled to continue to be the City of Vancouver Emergency Medical Services partner and look forward to the next 10 years.”

—Rocco Roncarati
Regional Director, AMR



Systemwide response time performance



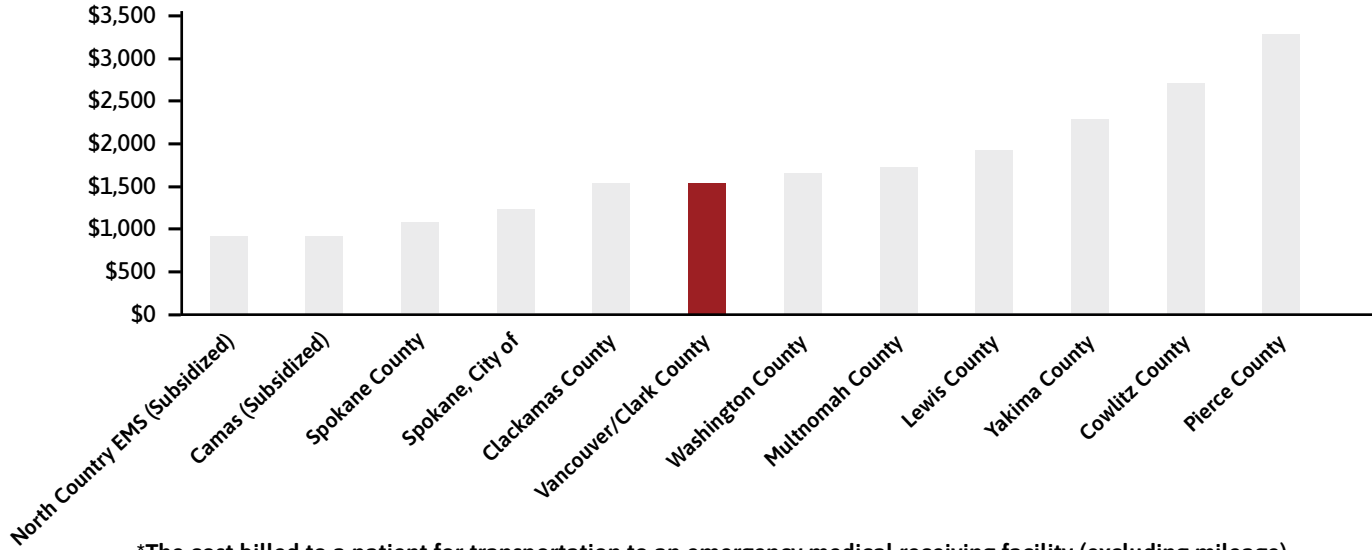
Cardiac arrest: 2024 data

	Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA)	Utstein criteria
Total	290	35
Clark County	19.0%	54.3%
Washington	14.1%	40.8%
National	10.5%	33.4%

Utstein criteria definition per the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival = Witnessed by bystander and found in shockable rhythm.



2024 ALS emergency rates*



*The cost billed to a patient for transportation to an emergency medical receiving facility (excluding mileage).

NEMSIS safety-02 no use of lights and sirens during transport

Clark County 87%

National 61%

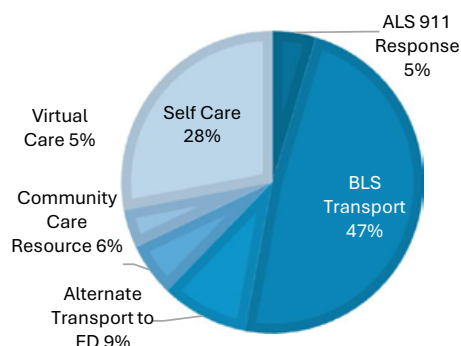
*Source 2024 NEMSIS V3 Public Performance Measures Dashboard
<https://nemsis.org/view-reports/public-reports/version-3-public-dashboards/v3-public-performance-measures-dashboard/>



(Data Period: 1/1/2024-12/31/2024)

Benefit: Nurse Navigation directed over 695 residents to the right care¹

The Clark County Nurse Navigation program provides clinical guidance for 9-1-1 callers with specific complaints and determines the best options for their emergency care. For 2024, Nurse Navigation successfully managed 695 cases. The highlights include:



- **332 (48%)** callers were navigated completely out of the EMS system:
 - **229 (33%)** callers were able to be treated in their own homes:
 - **192 (28%)** were treated with Nurse Advice only
 - **37 (5%)** were treated with Virtual Care (telehealth)
 - **103 (15%)** callers were directed to a community care resource (urgent care, FQHC, or similar) or provided alternate transport to an emergency department
- **331 (47%)** required a BLS ambulance transport to an emergency department, but could safely be prioritized behind other emergencies

47.8% of callers did not require EMS

Benefit: Nurse Navigation creates operational efficiencies

95% (663) of cases managed by Clark County Nurse Navigation did not clinically require rapid response from first responders, reducing response costs and maintaining availability for more serious cases. The program also led to:

Generated Ambulance Capacity^{1,2}

996 unit hours

(equivalent to almost three additional unit hours of availability during peak times daily)

Based on system "Unit Hour Utilization" of 0.390, a 30-minute time on task for patient refusals and a 90-minute time on task for transports, plus a 15% UH credit for the ability to hold non-time sensitive calls during peak utilization.

Improved Unit Efficiency²

332 avoided unnecessary calls

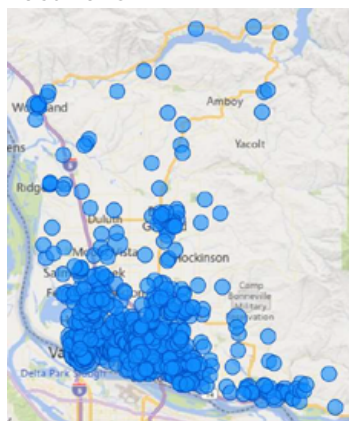
(average one avoided FD and EMS response per day)

Nurse Navigation ensures Clark County residents who call 911 receive clinically appropriate care, even if an ambulance and first responders do not need to respond in person. Each avoided emergency response improves community safety and maintains availability for more serious incidents.

Benefit: Nurse Navigation provides exceptional customer service

Clark County residents who received Nurse Navigation services expressed satisfaction with the care received when called back 24-hours after their initial call. Additionally, the program generated more than \$700,000 in savings from avoided ED visits and was widely utilized across the country.

Nurse Navigation Caller Locations¹



64

Outbound or return rideshare trips to EDs or Community Care Resources provided to 911 callers at no cost

Patient Survey Score (out of 5.0)¹

Average Score



Reasons for Calling 911

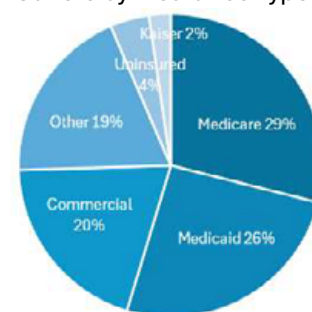
- 38%** Perceived it was a life-threatening emergency
- 33%** Didn't know how else to get care
- 13%** Thought they would get seen/treated quicker
- 11%** Had no other transportation options available
- 5%** Trouble getting dr. appt/care elsewhere

Generated Savings

\$745,960

In avoided Emergency Care Costs³

Callers by Insurance Type¹



¹ NN program data for the Clark County, WA system. Accessible on demand.

² AMR system data for Clark County 911 contract and functional UHU of 0.39

³ Included avoided ED charges & phys fees (est. \$2200), amb transport fees (est. \$475), and first response costs (est. \$50), debits costs for ccr, vc, or muc (est. \$220)

Community outreach

A total of 28,567 Vancouver residents attended multiple clinics and classes offered by or with AMR in 2024. A major focus was to significantly improve the reach and capabilities of the car seat program. AMR spent 240 hours and inspected or distributed 139 car seats, which will likely result in saved lives in the future. Another major focus was to better connect with and serve members of the community that do not speak English as their first language by increasing the number of languages the Safe Kids Clark County website and car seat education flyers are offered in. The Safe Kids Clark County website is now available in 9 languages other than English.

Additional community education efforts conducted in 2024 were community events, health fairs and Safe Kids Clark County coalition events, which include walk, bike and roll safety events, helmet fittings, water safety and more.

AMR community outreach

Topic	Hours	Attendance/reach	Percent of total hours
Car Seat Inspection	123	123	19%
Car Seat Distribution	117	139	18%
Community Relations Meetings	11	220	2%
School Based Presentations and Prep	27	1,281	4%
Safe Kids Meetings and Prep	6	50	1%
Meetings/Events Representing Safe Kids	34	714	5%
Water Safety	11	5,902	2%
Bike, Walk, Roll Safety	48	314	8%
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	21	68	3%
General Community Education	83	11,521	14%
Conference/Continuing Education	52	3,135	8%
Apollo	102	5,100	16%
Total	635	28,567	
Hands Only CPR*	12	950	

*Hands Only CPR is recorded independently due to its inclusion in events of varying areas of interest.

Special operations

The VFD Special Operations Division provides Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials response in Vancouver and throughout the Southwest Washington region, plus Maritime emergency response with our fire boat and shipboard firefighters on the Columbia River. VFD Special Operations Teams also respond to incidents in Oregon when needed through mutual aid agreements, bringing the total population base to over 1,200,000 citizens in our regional response area.

Special Operations team members responding to incidents have specific, advanced training and specialized tools and equipment in accordance with national standards.



Maritime

VFD's Maritime Program works in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard, Washington State Department of Ecology, and other regional public safety agencies. VFD currently has 36 positions in maritime emergency response operations.

VFD's 52-foot emergency response vessel, Discovery (Fire Boat 1), responds to recreational boat fires, commercial ship fires, water rescues, provides over-water transport of personnel and equipment, and serves as waterside support for any significant incident near the river. Fire Boat 1 also serves as an initial detection and monitoring responder for an oil spill on the Columbia River.

VFD is also part of a large regional consortium that provides highly trained, land-based shipboard firefighters for response to commercial vessel fires at all ports on the lower Columbia River and Willamette Rivers from the Portland/Vancouver area to Astoria.



22

**maritime
responses
in 2024**

Technical rescue

VFD's Technical Rescue Team is composed of 28 members specially trained to respond to high angle rope rescues, structural and trench collapses, heavy extrication rescues, confined space rescues, and swift water incidents. The team is part of the Southwest Washington Region 4 Technical Rescue Team responding to incidents throughout Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties.



6 technical
rescue responses
in 2024



Hazardous materials

Vancouver's rail, highway and shipping infrastructure create a hub for the transportation of hazardous materials. VFD's Hazardous Materials Team is composed of 28 members and serves as the regional hazmat team for Southwest Washington Region 4, including Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties. VFD and its hazmat team are also an integral part of the Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee. As part of these agreements and as a regional responder for hazmat, VFD participates in hazmat training and drills with regional response partners and industries throughout Southwest Washington.



259 hazmat
responses
in 2024



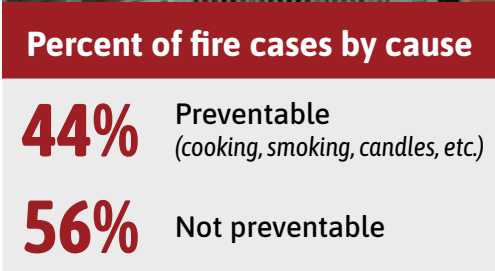
Fire Marshal’s Office Division

The purpose of the Division is to uphold the City’s legal responsibilities of public safety, complete fire origin and cause investigations, and deliver quality prevention services that promote public safety in a comprehensive fashion aimed at reducing community risk and losses.

Fire-arson investigation

The FMO is mandated by the State of Washington to investigate the fire origin and cause and circumstance of all fires. Deputy Fire Marshals serve as primary investigators when the fire cause is not readily apparent, there is a high dollar loss, explosion, incendiary fire, injury, or death. The Fire-Arson Investigation Unit (FAIU) is comprised of both Fire and Police personnel for maximum efficiency and effectiveness. The FAIU proactively coordinates with the Clark County Prosecuting Office for positive legal outcomes on incendiary fire incidents. There were approximately 11 fire investigation incidents that resulted in an arrest or mental hold in 2024.

In 2024, Deputy Fire Marshals investigated 163 fires and placed the findings into categories: 44% preventable fire cause (cooking, smoking, candles, etc.), 56% not preventable, and 7% undetermined.



Fire engineering

The Division processed 2,477 construction project permits including land use, commercial, multifamily, and residential neighborhood projects. Of those, 688 were new or upgraded fire protection systems. In 2024, the Deputy Fire Marshals were able to accommodate 100% of requested acceptance inspections.

The FMO Division provides fire and life safety plan review and new construction inspection services. These services include pre-construction site plan reviews, fire and life safety inspections, testing and commissioning of fire protection systems.

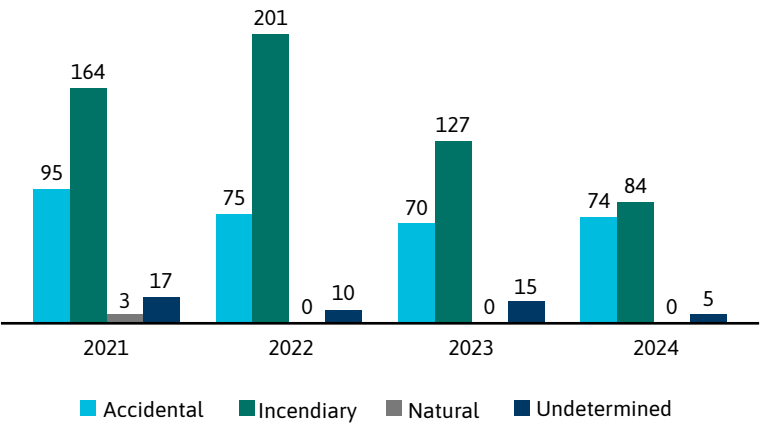
Deputy Fire Marshal staff also provide the review and issuance of construction permits for hazardous processes regulated by the International Fire Code. These include high-piled storage, hazardous materials, fuel storage and dispensing, and other high-risk processes.



Fire code violations in 2024

7,270 fire protection equipment deficiencies	3,730 electrical hazards	2,224 unwanted alarms	2,163 exiting hazards
---	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Fire cause classification



General fire and life safety inspections

The focus of general fire and life safety inspections are protecting people, property, the environment and first responders. The fundamental goal is to correct code violations, educate business owners and to provide risk reduction (which includes lower insurance rates). Fire Code Officers identified and abated 22,319 fire code violations and hazards in commercial businesses and multi-family dwellings. The Division worked with Vancouver’s businesses to bring them into safe fire code compliance, thus reducing risk in the community.

Community Risk Reduction

The FMO Division completed a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact, this process is called Community Risk Reduction (CRR), and it was the foundation of educational opportunities.

Proactive community outreach

The FMO Division and Fire Corps Volunteers participated in numerous public outreach and educational events resulting in an additional 3,876 in-person contacts (examples, Youth Fire setter Intervention, Dozer Days and Native American POW WOW). Also, the FMO additionally used social media platforms to highlight fire incidents (preventable fires) as “teachable moments” of how to avoid similar fires at home, thus further reducing risk in the community.

As multi-media approach, the Division produced an award-winning public service announcement tailored to address Vancouver’s fire problem that aired on national TV to specially address preventable fire (unattended cooking and improper disposal of smoking materials).

School visits: Fourth grade classrooms

Deputy Fire Marshals and Firefighters teamed up together visited elementary schools to teach students how to prevent fires and how to act and respond if there is one.

Project Home Safe

The FMO Division was awarded another FEMA Fire Prevention Grant totaling \$200,340 for the continuation of Project Home Safe. This is the eighth (8th) FEMA grant the Vancouver Fire Marshal’s Office has received since 2012, totaling over \$1.7 million in federal grant funding the city has received for community risk reduction efforts. Project Home Safe is a unique program and only a limited few in the nation exist. It demonstrates the value and impact of public education for fire prevention. Project Home Safe has proven statistically that public education is effective in reducing the occurrences of preventable fires.

The Division with the assistance of Vancouver Fire Department Fire Corps Volunteers and FMO personnel, directly contacted ~2,000 homes with targeted fire prevention messaging. The goal is to educate home occupants on fire safety practices in areas with higher-than-average numbers of house fires.



Firework enforcement patrols

Over the past decade of proactive education associated with firework risk, the firework law and enforcement, it has been noted most citizens are now obeying the fireworks law. There are, however, still a small percentage of people that choose to openly ignore the law, so those outliers are best suited for the joint Fire/Police firework patrol teams.

For 2024, the Fire and Police Departments personnel joined together and deployed dedicated combined patrol teams. The enforcement campaign occurred from June 28 through July 5. The dedicated teams were strategically positioned to respond to complaints swiftly, educate citizens, maintain high visibility, and issue citations to violators. In addition, VFD utilized dedicated CRESA dispatchers to triage firework complaints on July 4th so as not to diminish routine fire/police 9-1-1 radio traffic.



Firework citations in 2024

25 \$500 citations issued

\$12,500 in citations collected*

*Many with firework confiscations

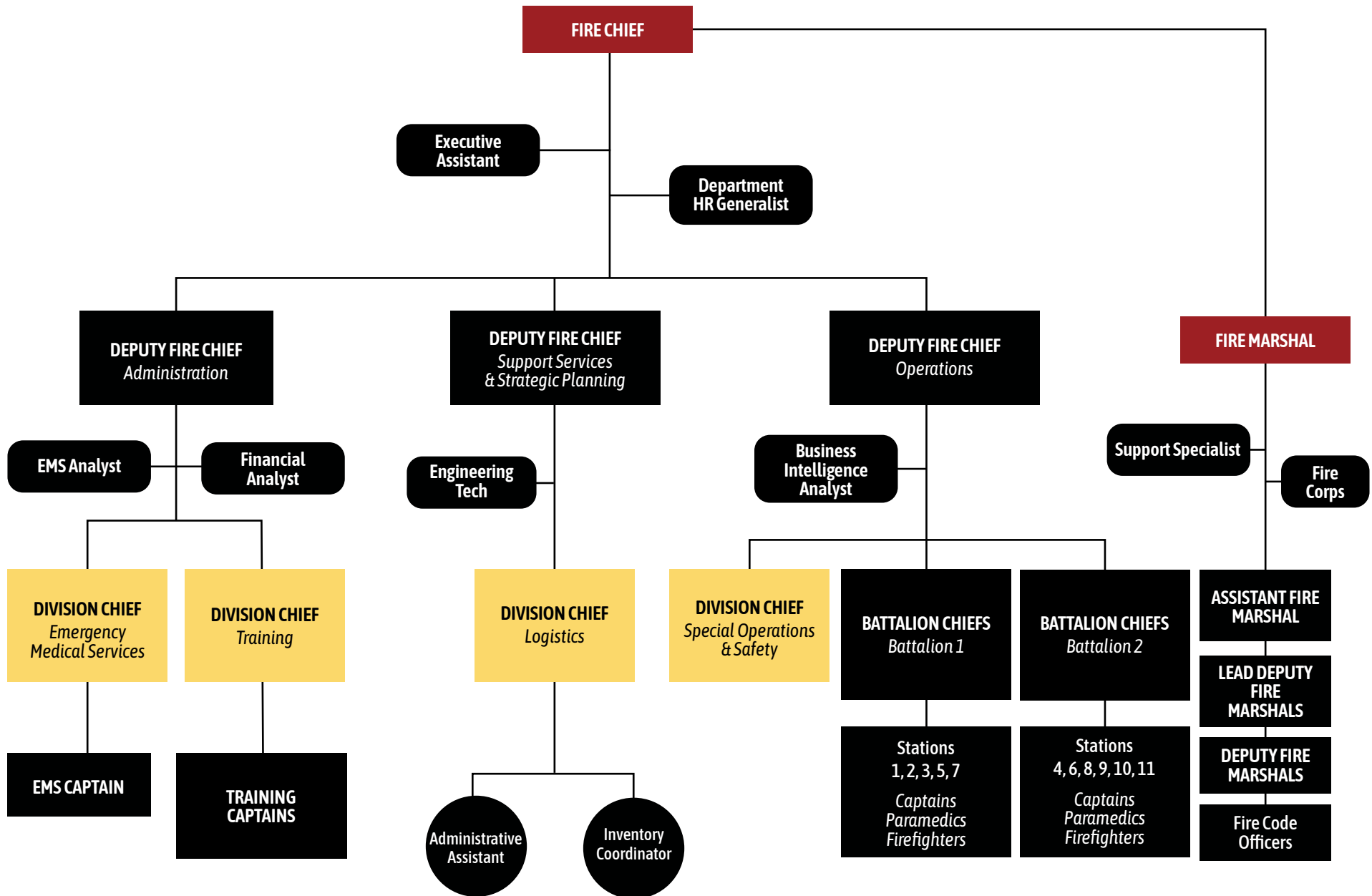


Required fire protection equipment/systems

The City of Vancouver requires certain facilities to be provided with fire protection systems, such as sprinklers, alarms, and various special protection systems to protect the community and emergency responders. Fire and life safety protection systems are a significant part of the building systems as a whole, and as such, the systems require inspections and maintenance, so they function and operate as designed in the event of an emergency.

The Vancouver FMO has a system of reviewing technical fire protection system reports. The detailed review of these reports allows the FMO to verify compliance with the system using Fire Code and National Standards. Fire Code Officers follow-up with the business to ensure the impairments and deficiencies noted on the report are corrected for fire code compliance. This includes documentation of repairs performed as maintenance.

VFD organizational chart



Budget and expenditures

Budgeted actual revenue	2022	2023	2024*
Revenue and Transfers in COV	25,325,826	39,264,642	55,843,516
Property Tax Revenue FD5	16,828,013	18,460,859	18,260,904
Fee for service, regulatory fees, and other	14,720,698	21,698,978	2,532,566
Grants and Donations	877,890	475,786	1,286,858
Total Revenue per ACFR	57,752,427	79,900,265	77,923,844

Budgeted actual expenditures	2022	2023	2024*
Salaries and Benefits	41,408,490	51,136,170	59,614,957
Supplies and Services	3,118,631	5,273,417	4,247,937
City Infrastructure & Dispatch	4,908,956	7,750,326	10,601,588
Equipment & Vehicles Operating Expenses	1,097,296	3,675,412	1,487,037
Capital Outlay (new vehicles and capital equipment)	3,822,017	1,368,412	1,544,512
Other	3,944,961	2,586,438	9,410,565
Total Expenditures per ACFR	58,300,352	71,790,175	86,906,596
Change in fund balance per ACFR	(547,925)	8,110,090	(8,982,752)

* The 2024 ACFR has not been published. 2024 amounts are based on preliminary year-end figures as of 4/28/25.

Notable grants over \$50,000

Grant received	Amount
FEMA AFG for Fire Prevention FY23	\$200,341
Washington State Military Department/Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency/Region IV grant for tech rescue training	\$78,268
Washington State Department of Ecology for Hazmat Personal Protective Equipment	\$84,000
Total: \$362,609	





City of Vancouver
Fire Department