

City of Vancouver Fire and EMS

CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

2025 Annual Report



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Mission, vison, and values

Vision

To be the regional leader in public safety and emergency services, forging unified partnerships and safeguarding our community

Mission

To preserve life, protect property, and ensure a safe, prepared community

Values

Service - Compassionate dedication to our community; prioritizing emergency preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery

Engagement - Individual and collective contributions that enhance our services

Respect - Appreciation for the value of diversity in people, perspectives, and beliefs

Vision - Inclusive, participative leadership at all levels; empowering innovation

Integrity - Principled behavior and professional performance that aligns with our values

Collaboration - Regional partnerships that advance our public safety services

Excellence - Relentless pursuit of the highest standards and exemplary services

Safety - In every operation; at every incident

City of Vancouver
Fire Department

City of Vancouver Fire Department
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Vancouver Fire website
Vancouver Fire Facebook page
Ambulance services inquiry/concern form

Meet the new Fire Chief

Fire Chief John L Drake II (JD)



Chief Drake brings 38 years of public safety experience and a strong commitment to strengthening emergency operations and advancing community resilience. As fire and emergency service needs continue to grow and evolve, his insight, leadership, and strategic approach will be invaluable to Vancouver.

He previously served as the chief deputy of emergency operations for the Los Angeles City Fire Department and as acting fire chief, helping oversee one of the largest fire departments in the country.

Chief Drake holds a doctorate in policy, planning, and development from the University of Southern California, where he also teaches courses focused on improving emergency services and public-sector performance.

For the Vancouver Fire Department, his early priorities include:

- Creating a clear, collaborative roadmap for the department's future with a focus on keeping the community safe and prepared.
- Strengthening partnerships inside the department and across the community.
- Supporting firefighters' development, well-being, and motivation.

About Vancouver Fire

The Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) provides all-hazards emergency response and community risk-reduction services to one of Washington's fastest-growing cities and the surrounding region. VFD protects approximately 304,000 residents across 89.2 square miles and responded to 39,907 calls last year—about 80% emergency medical services (EMS)—reflecting the City's continued growth and changing service demands.

As of December 2025, VFD operates from 11 permanent stations with 242 line and command personnel, 21 Fire Marshal's Office staff, and 8 administrative staff. Line staffing includes 110 firefighters, 55 engineers, and 62 captains, with 105 certified paramedics supporting advanced life-support coverage across the system. Personnel are trained in fire suppression, advanced life support, technical rescue, and hazardous materials response.

The department's Standard of Cover follows the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) integrated risk-management process and complies with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.103, ensuring deployment needs, risk areas, and critical infrastructure are regularly evaluated.

Vancouver's infrastructure—including the I-5 corridor, interstate bridges, rail lines, the Port of Vancouver, and regional power facilities—creates operational challenges that require strong technical capability and close coordination. VFD maintains daily automatic-aid and mutual-aid partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure unified response for fires, EMS incidents, and major emergencies.

Rooted in more than 150 years of service, VFD has evolved from its early volunteer beginnings into a modern, all-hazards department that continues to adapt to the community it serves while honoring a long tradition of professionalism and public trust.





Services provided

- Fire response
- Emergency medical response
- Hazardous materials response (regional)
- Technical rescue response (regional)
- Maritime and shipboard response
- Fire prevention
- Fire investigation

Significant incidents

February 10 – Storage units



Engine 6 arrived at a row of storage units on Burton Road to find flames pushing from multiple doors and smoke spreading along the building. Crews quickly forced their way into the main involved unit and launched an aggressive attack as the fire spread through several adjoining spaces. Additional engines and trucks were called to help open locked units, cut access points, and stop the fire from traveling farther down the row. Firefighters worked from both sides of the building to contain the blaze, while Police and Public Works closed nearby roads and the People's Utility District (PUD) secured power to the structure. After an extended operation involving several companies, crews brought the fire under control, and investigators began working to determine the cause.

March 26 – Juliano's Pizza



Engine 9 arrived at Juliano's Pizza to find flames coming from the roof vent and spreading through the kitchen area. Crews quickly moved inside to attack the fire, while additional units secured a water supply, checked the roof, and opened the building to stop the fire from extending further. Within minutes, firefighters were able to knock down the main body of fire, though the restaurant filled with smoke and required extensive ventilation. A secondary check confirmed the flames had not spread into the roof structure, and the fire was ultimately contained to the pizza oven and vent hood. No injuries were reported, and investigators worked with the business owner to document the cause and damage before units cleared the scene.

April 2 – United Grain Conveyor



Fire crews responded to the Port of Vancouver after a dust explosion sparked a fire in the conveyor system at United Grain while the ship Blue Horizon was being loaded. The burning equipment sat high above the water on a narrow dock, making access difficult. Firefighters worked with port personnel to reach the smoldering conveyor, check for fire spread into the grain silos and ship, and cool pockets of burning grain that had fallen into the vessel's hold.

Additional marine and mutual-aid units assisted as crews opened small access panels, monitored smoke conditions, and worked from both the dock and the water to keep the fire from spreading. After several hours, firefighters extinguished the remaining hot spots and turned the scene back over to United Grain, which maintained a fire watch overnight.

May 1 – Evergreen Pointe Apartments



Firefighters were dispatched to the Evergreen Pointe Apartments after multiple callers reported a fire on the top floor of the three-story building. Engine 3 arrived to find flames coming from a third-floor unit in the center hallway and immediately requested a second alarm. Crews encountered problems with the first hydrant and briefly held back until a reliable water supply was secured. Once the water supply was established, teams advanced hose lines to the fire floor while others searched surrounding units for occupants.

Firefighters confirmed a deceased individual inside the main fire unit, and the Fire Marshal's Office began its investigation while crews worked to stop extension into the floors below. Additional companies laddered the roof for ventilation, assisted residents displaced from the building, and supported overhaul operations. The fire was contained to the top-floor unit, and the scene was ultimately turned over to investigators and property management.

October 8 – Metro Metals



Firefighters responded to Metro Metals Recycling after smoke and flames were reported coming from a large pile of scrap metal near an industrial shredder. The fire grew rapidly, prompting a multi-unit response and the establishment of divisions on both sides of the pile. Crews laid hundreds of feet of hose, connected to multiple hydrants, and used elevated master streams to keep the fire from spreading to nearby equipment. Because the burning debris was deeply packed, firefighters worked closely with facility personnel as heavy machinery pulled the pile apart, exposing hotspots buried inside the twisted metal. Crews applied foam to cool stubborn areas, and environmental agencies were notified due to the size of the fire and potential runoff concerns. After several hours of coordinated work, crews extinguished the remaining smoldering material and turned the scene back over to Metro Metals for overnight monitoring.

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

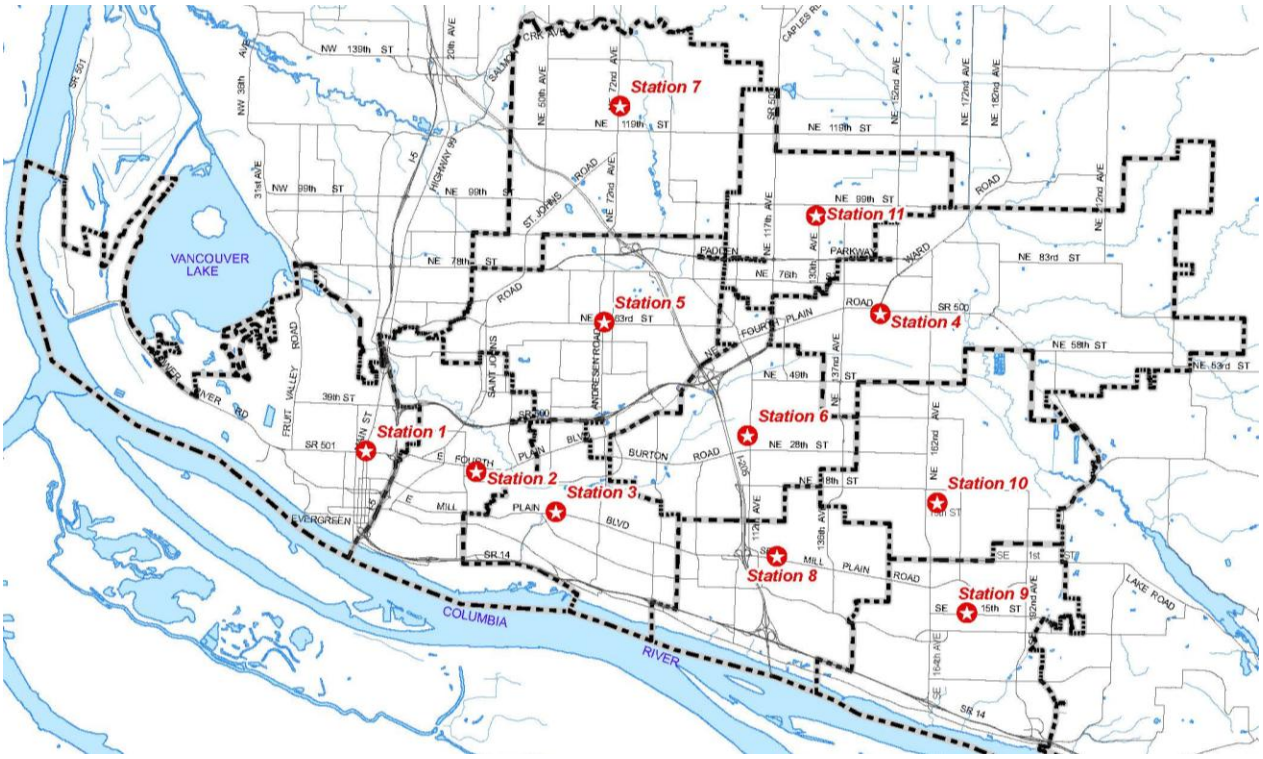


3 PARAMEDIC SQUADS



1 FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

Vancouver Fire stations



Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4
2607 Main Street Engine | Squad | Truck	2106 Norris Road Engine | Battalion Chief	1110 N. Devine Road Engine | Fire Boat	6701 NE 147th Avenue Engine | Battalion Chief

Station 5 (HQ)	Station 6	Station 7	Station 8
7110 NE 63rd Street Engine | Squad | Truck	3216 NE 112th Avenue Engine | Squad	12603 NE 72nd Avenue Engine	213 NE 120th Avenue Engine

Station 9	Station 10	Station 11
17408 SE 15th Street Engine	1501 NE 164th Avenue Engine | Truck	9606 NE 130th Avenue Engine



Standards of cover

Total incidents: 39,907

Number of fire and EMS calls within VFD's jurisdiction.

Total VFD unit responses: 48,856

Number of VFD units that responded to fire and EMS calls.

Population: 300,400

Residents within the 89.2 square miles VFD covers.

EMS incidents: 80%

Eighty percent of calls within VFD's jurisdiction were EMS related.

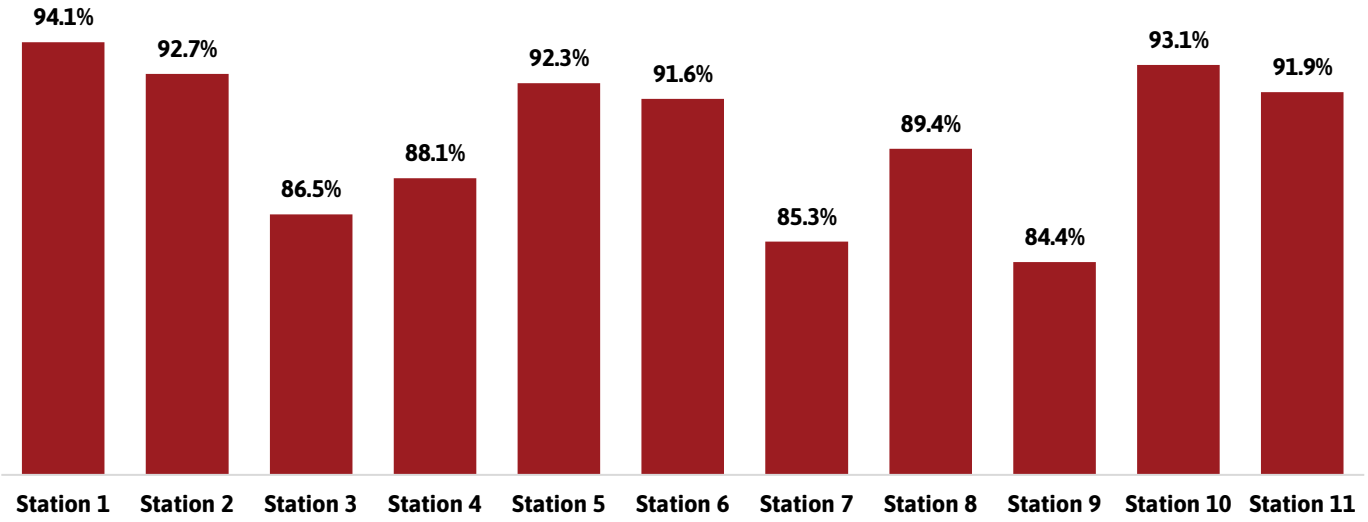
Response time: 07:59

VFD arrived within 7 minutes and 59 seconds on 90.1% of priority 1 & 2 calls.

Response time performance by priority

Priority	Standard response times	Actual response times	Response time reliability	Unit response volume
Priority 1 and 2	07:59	07:59	90.1%	24,450
Priority 3 and 4	10:59	08:30	96.4%	13,698
Priority 5	15:59	09:58	98.5%	10,708
Priority 5 - ambulance only	17:59	17:39	90.7%	8,081

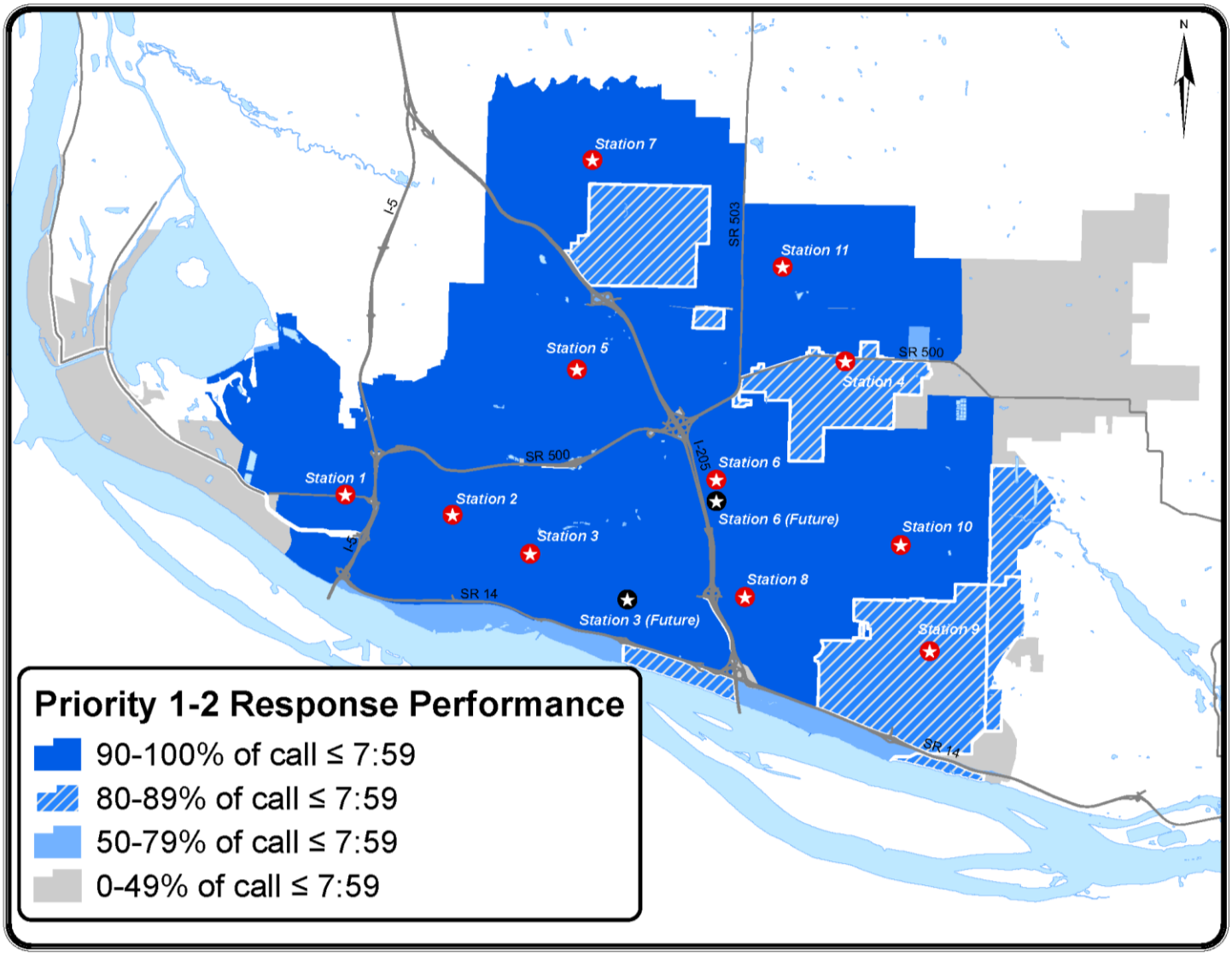
Response time reliability for priority 1 and 2 incidents



Summary

Priority 1 and 2 incidents met the standard response time of 07:59 at the 90th percentile, with stations generally achieving reliability rates between 84% to 94%. Overall, the department reached Priority 1 and 2 calls within the target time 90% of the time, demonstrating consistent response time reliability across most stations.

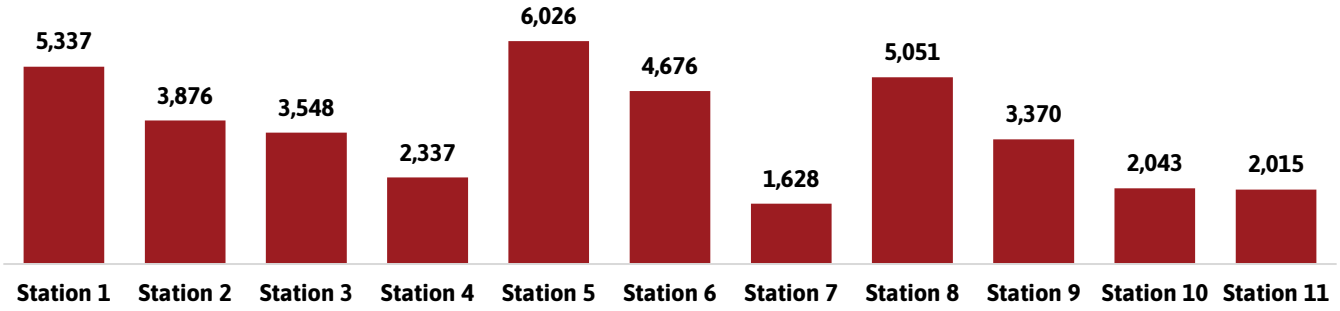
System response priority 1 and 2 map



Summary

A citywide map showing how reliably Priority 1 and 2 emergency calls met the 7-minute, 59-second response-time standard. Most central and western areas of Vancouver are dark blue, indicating high reliability between 90% and 100%. Light-blue zones in the eastern and far-southern areas show moderate reliability between 80% and 89%. A few small gray areas indicate lower reliability. Red stars mark existing fire stations, while black stars show planned future station locations.

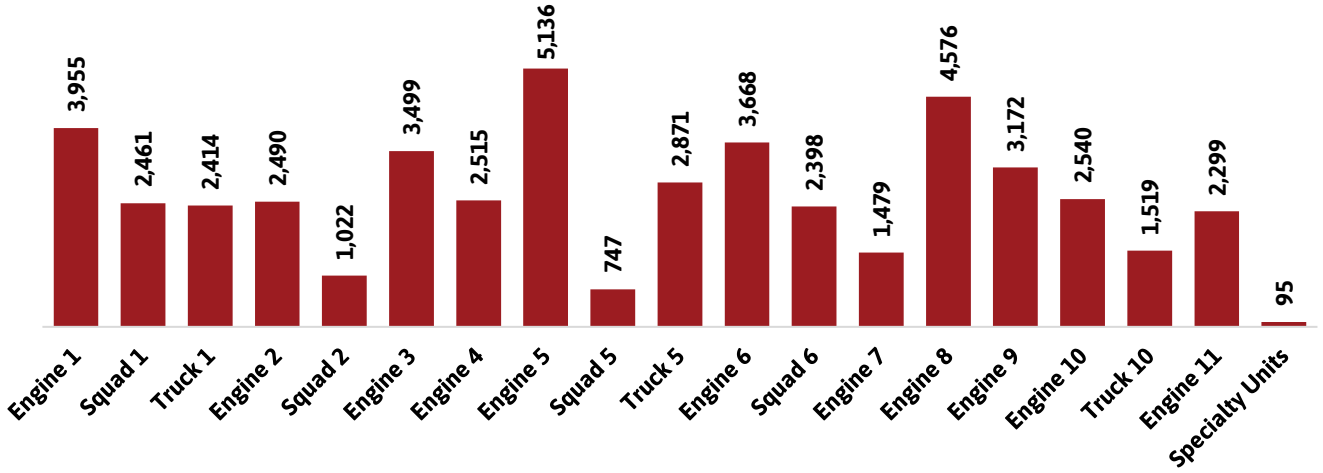
Total incidents by station



Summary

A bar graph showing the total number of incidents handled by each Vancouver Fire Department Station in 2025. Station 5 has the highest call volume at 6,026 incidents. Stations 1, 8, 6, 3, and 9 also show high activity with totals between roughly 3,300 and 5,300 calls. Stations 10, 11, and 7 have the lowest volumes, each with around 1,600 to 2,100 calls. The chart highlights that Stations 1, 5, and 8 together account for approximately 41% of all incidents.

Total responses by unit



Summary

A bar graph showing the total number of responses for each Vancouver Fire Department apparatus in 2025. Engine 5 has the highest activity at 5,136 responses, followed by Engine 8 with 4,576 and Engine 1 with 3,955. Several other units, including Engine 3, Engine 6, Truck 5, and Truck 10, show moderate call volumes ranging from about 2,400 to 3,500 responses. Units with the lowest activity include Squad 2, Engine 7, and Truck 10. Overall, the five busiest units account for about 43% of all department responses. Please note: In September 2025, Squad 2 relocated to Station 5 and was redesignated as Squad 5.

Fire suppression

Fire suppression incidents: 1,332

Fire suppression incidents within VFD's jurisdiction and regional response area.



Fire full-alarm incidents: 211

Fire full-alarm incidents require a minimum of 4 engines, 1 truck, and 1 battalion chief.

Fire property and contents loss: $21,205,600

Estimated total loss to property and contents due to fires.



Civilian fatalities: 3

Civilian fatalities due to fires.

Firefighter injuries: 17

Injuries that resulted in a workers' compensation claim during a suppression call.

Emergency Medical Services

Since 1867, VFD has been a steadfast guardian of the community, delivering critical emergency services with unwavering dedication. In 2025, 80% of all service requests were 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 and consistently surpasses 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.

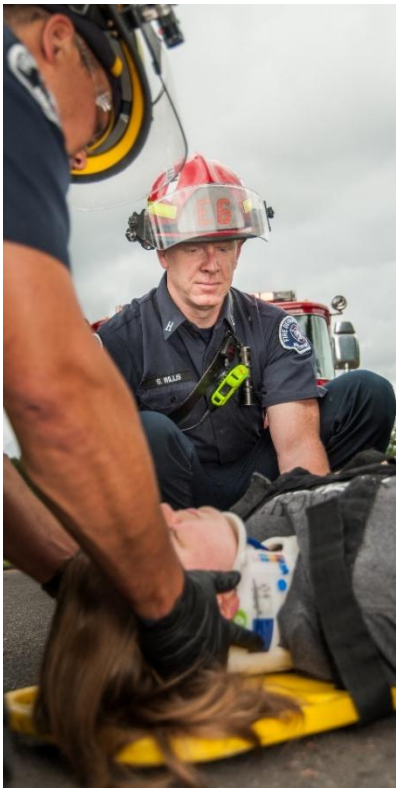
Equipped with leading medical technology, VFD's response units are prepared for any emergency, providing the highest standard of care to both residents and visitors. This level of preparedness wouldn't be possible without the strong support of the City of Vancouver and the progressive, data-driven protocols crafted by the Clark County 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 is staffed with at least one paramedic and one EMT, while basic life-support (BLS) ambulances are staffed by 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.

80%

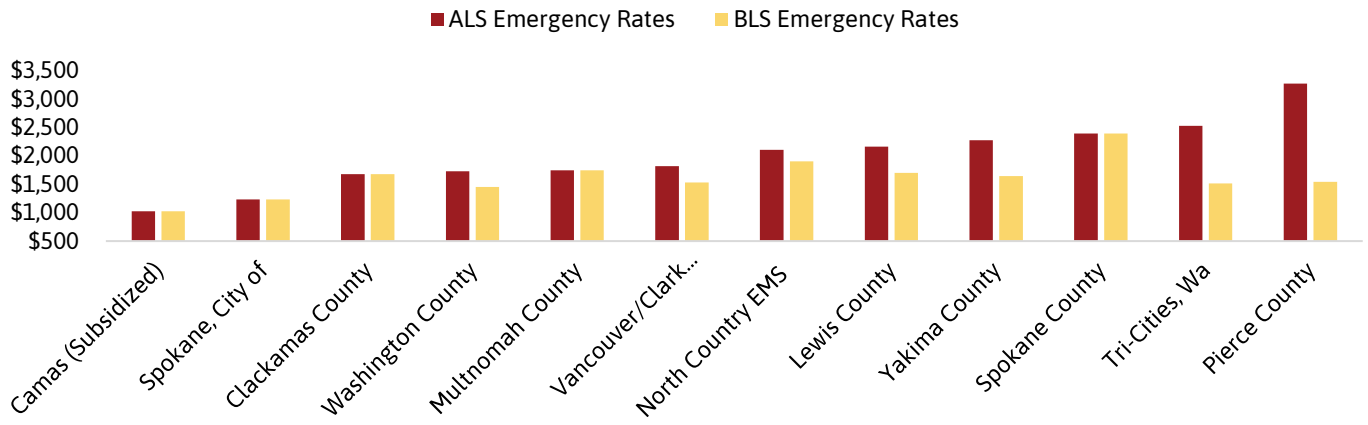
of all calls within VFD's jurisdiction were EMS related



"In 2025, we strengthened airway management for critically ill patients. Using rapid-improvement cycles, we increased the share of patients in respiratory failure who received a breathing tube on the first attempt—without dangerous drops in blood pressure or oxygen—from 12% to 49%. This improvement supports life-saving resuscitation for our sickest patients. This is one of the most challenging quality measures in emergency medical services; national performance is 21%. This work also strengthened our ability to improve quickly and adapt as a system. In 2026, we will build on these gains by further improving patient safety and improving our ability to match patients to the right resources for their needs."

—Dr. Marlow Macht, Medical Program Director

ALS and BLS emergency rates



Summary

The cost billed to a patient for transportation to an emergency medical receiving facility (excluding mileage). Vancouver/Clark County ALS emergency rate is $1,813.39 and BLS emergency rate is $1,527.07.

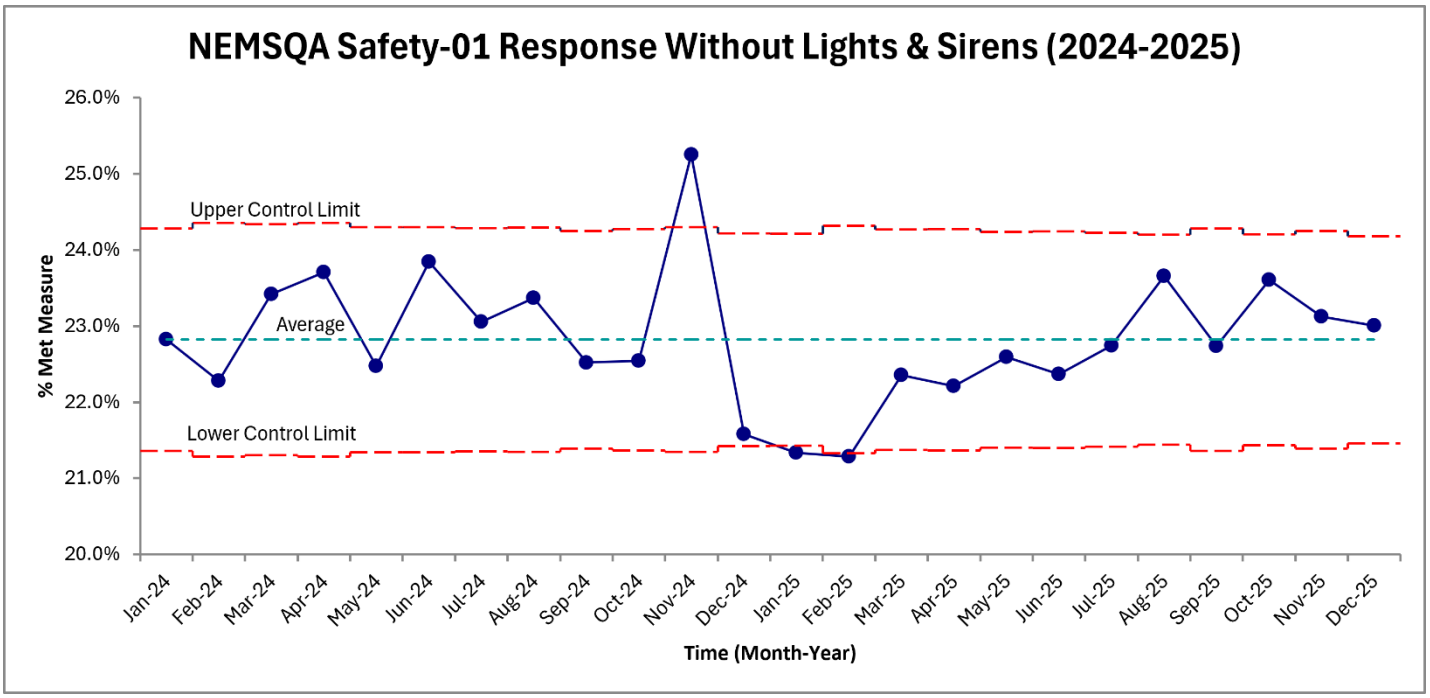
Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA)

Measurement Area	Overall Survival	Utstein Criteria Survival**
Clark County	15.7% (53/337)	54.0% (27/50)
Washington State	14.0% (738/5,258)	42.9% (298/695)
National	10.5% (14,768/140,427)	33.2% (5,163/15,550)

Summary

This table shows how often patients survived after their heart stopped outside of a hospital (called out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, or OHCA) in 2025. There were 337 total cardiac arrests in Clark County, and 27 of those met 'Utstein criteria'—meaning someone nearby saw it happen and the patient's heart was in a rhythm that could be treated with a defibrillator shock. These cases have the best chance of survival with fast action. Overall survival: 15.7% of all cardiac arrest patients in Clark County survived, compared to 14% statewide in Washington and 10.5% nationally. Best-case scenario survival (Utstein criteria): When a bystander witnessed the arrest and the heart rhythm was shockable, 54% of patients in Clark County survived—well above Washington's rate of 42.9% and the national rate of 33.2%. Clark County significantly outperforms both state and national benchmarks in cardiac arrest survival, reflecting the quality of bystander response, EMS care, and hospital partnerships in the community.

Operational safety



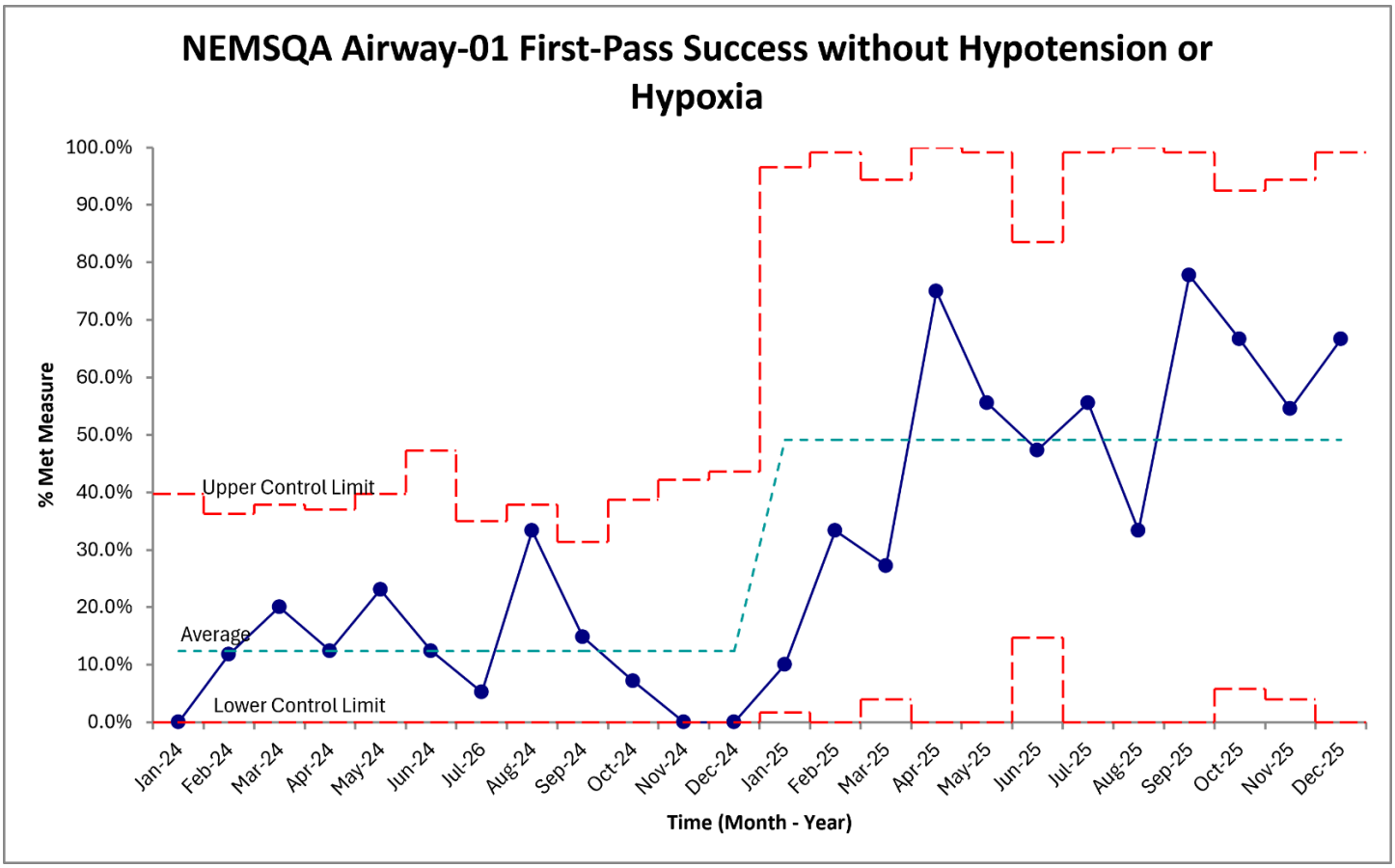
National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA)

Summary

This chart tracks how often EMS crews drive to an emergency call without using lights and sirens—meaning the call was assessed as low enough risk to respond at normal speed. Responding without lights and sirens is safer for crews, patients, and the public. Clark County's rate is 23%, compared to the national average of 19%. The trend line shows steady performance over time, consistently at or above the national benchmark.

Measurement area	Safety-01 benchmark
Clark County	23%
National	19%

Airway management



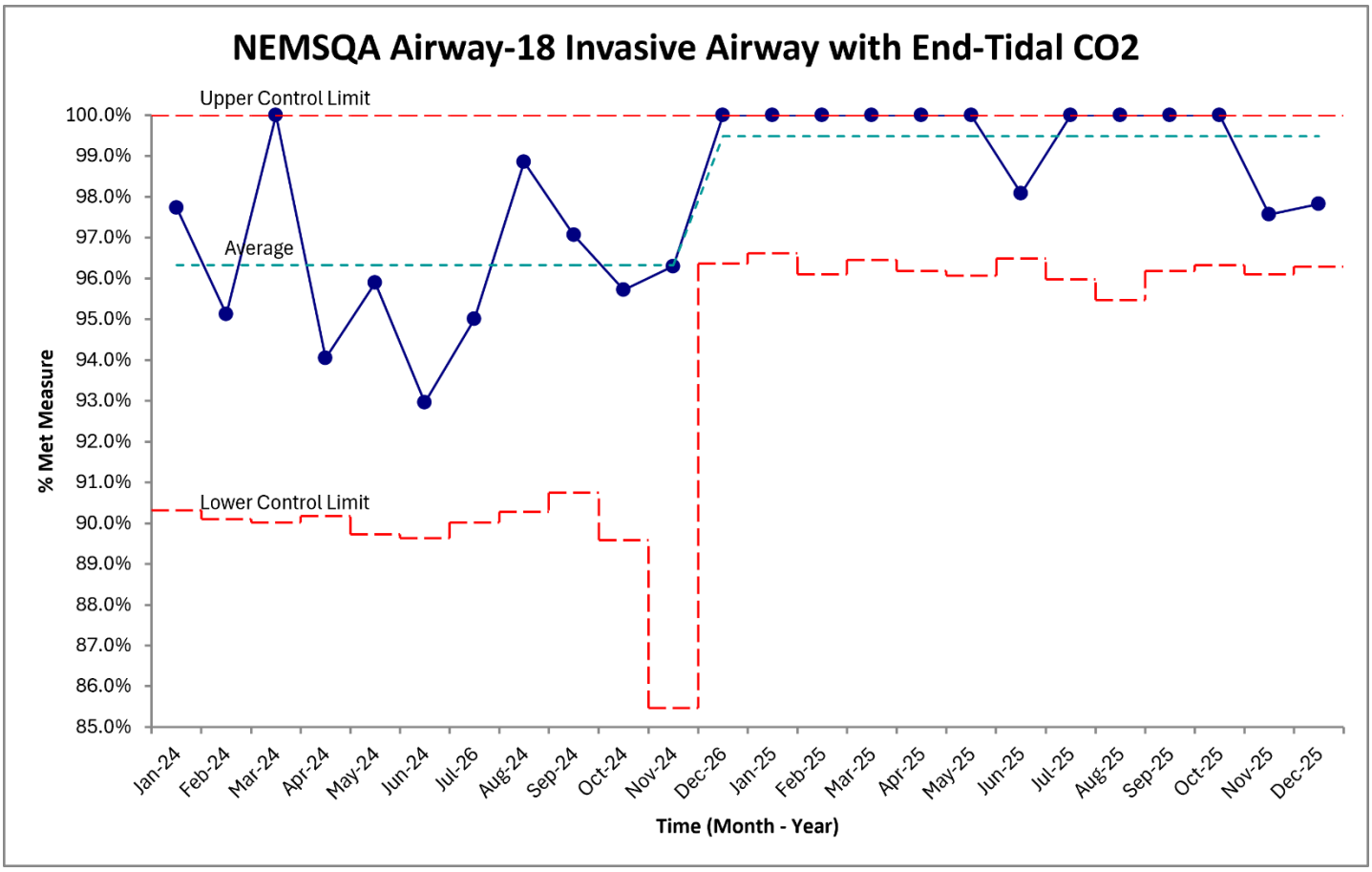
National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA)

Summary

This chart measures how often EMS crews successfully place a breathing tube on the first attempt without causing a dangerous drop in blood pressure or oxygen levels. Getting this right the first time, without complications, is critical to patient safety. Clark County's rate is 49%, more than double the national average of 21%. The trend line shows significant improvement over time, climbing from 12% to 49% as a result of focused quality improvement efforts.

Measurement area	Airway-01 benchmark
Clark County	49%
National**	21%

Airway management



National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA)

Summary

This chart shows how often EMS crews confirm that a breathing tube is correctly placed by measuring carbon dioxide in the patient's exhaled breath—the gold standard safety check. If a tube is in the wrong position, the patient can't get oxygen. Clark County confirms correct placement 99% of the time. The trend line shows performance reaching and sustaining near-perfect reliability.

American Medical Response

Response time performance

Priority	Standard response times	Actual compliance %	Unit response volume
Priority 1 and 2 – High density	09:59	91.2%	24,922
Priority 1 and 2 – Low density	19:59	93.2%	588
Priority 3 and 4 – High density	12:59	96.4%	16,631
Priority 3 and 4 – Low density	19:59	92.3%	1,771
Priority 5 and 6 – High density	17:59	93.0%	13,265
Priority 5 and 6 – Low density	29:59	96.9%	970
Routine – EMSD2 area only, inter-facility scheduled (12-hr pre-scheduled)	30:00	89.6%	453
Routine – EMSD2 area only, inter-facility non-scheduled (less than 12-hr pre-scheduled)	120:00	95.7%	2,292

"The strong partnership between the City of Vancouver and AMR continues to ensure that the community receives the highest level of emergency services. We will continue to innovate and look for new ways to improve service without compromising our goal: the right resource to the right patient in the right amount of time."

—Rocco Roncarati, Regional Director, AMR

Community outreach

A total of 13,825 Vancouver residents attended multiple clinics and classes offered by or with AMR in 2025. A major focus was to significantly improve the reach and capabilities of the car-seat program. AMR spent 258 hours and inspected or distributed 153 car seats, which will likely result in saved lives in the future.

Other major areas of focus included addressing opioid use disorder with the launch of a buprenorphine (“Bup”) pilot program in July of 2025 & joining the Washington State Department of Health’s Naloxone (or Narcan) Leave-Behind Program in September of 2025. The Bup Program, approved by the Washington State Department of Health, allows providers to offer buprenorphine to patients exhibiting signs of opioid withdrawal after Narcan administration or because the patient has not used opioids recently. Buprenorphine helps treat opioid use disorder by reducing cravings, reducing withdrawal symptoms, and providing protection against overdose by blocking receptors. It has been shown to be the most effective treatment to prevent death from opioid use disorder. The leave-behind Narcan program allows EMS personnel to provide Narcan kits to individuals who request it or who EMS responders see are likely to experience or witness an overdose. AMR left behind over 80 Narcan kits in 2025.

Additional community education efforts conducted in 2025 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.

Outreach	Hours	Attendance
Car seat inspection	105	105
Car seat distribution	153	153
Community relations meetings	12	409
School-based presentation and prep	53	1,405
Safe kids meetings and prep	8	43
Meetings and events representing safe kids	39	584
Water safety	6	295
Bike, walk, roll-safety events	1	90
Inclusion and belonging	32	263
General community education	54	5,504
Conference and continuing education	4	57
Apollo	108	4,917
Total	**575**	**13,825**
Hands only CPR**		359

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

Clark County 9-1-1 Nurse Navigation

What 9-1-1 Nurse Navigation does



Receives cases referred from the 9-1-1 call center or from EMS clinicians on scene.



Identifies care options beyond ambulance transport to an emergency department when appropriate.

2025 at a glance

- **903** callers supported in Clark County
  - **849** referred by 9-1-1 call center
  - **54** referred by EMS clinicians on site
- **1.27%** of all Clark County EMS calls
- **$1,042,000** in estimated avoided emergency care costs

Right care, right time, right place



The savings model applies to patients only and includes estimated avoided emergency department charges and physician fees ($2,500), ambulance transport fees ($500) and includes costs for alternate destinations and virtual care ($250), assuming all patients would have been transported to an emergency department otherwise.

To learn more, visit the City's Nurse-Navigation information page.

cityofvancouver.us/911-nurse-navigation

How callers' needs were met

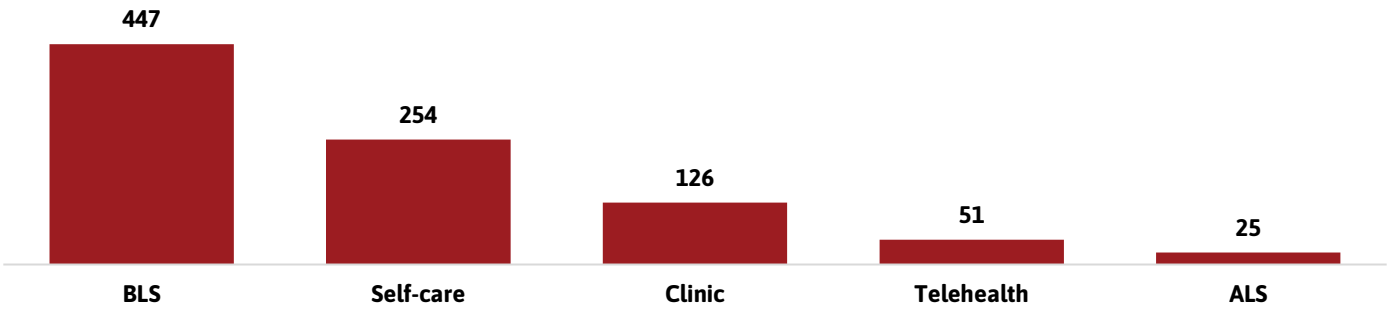
Key outcomes

- Forty-eight percent of patients did not require EMS (managed through self-care, clinic visits, or telehealth).
- Thirty-four percent were treated safely in their homes (self-care or telehealth).

Operational impact

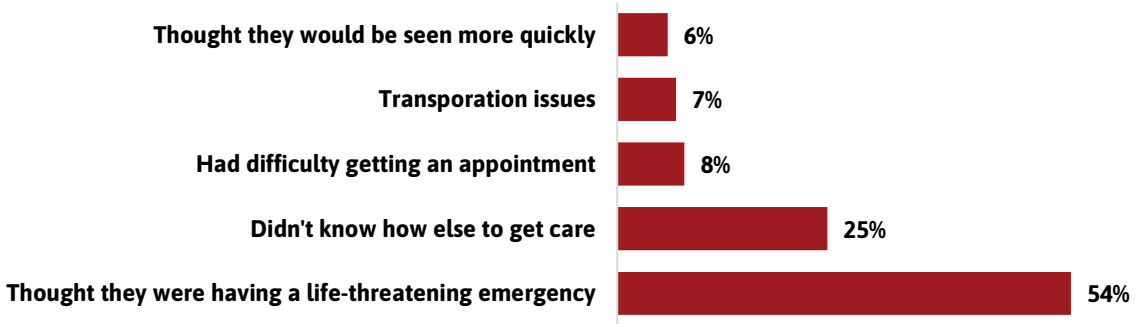
The Nurse Navigation program generated significant system benefits:

- 820 unit hours of ambulance capacity created
- Equivalent to 2.25 additional unit hours per day
- Calculations based on:
    - System Unit Hour Utilization: 37%
    - 67-minute time on task for transports
    - 25-minute time on task for treat-no-transport cases without Nurse Navigation



Reasons for calling 9-1-1

Patient satisfaction: 4.7 out of 5



Special operations

The VFD Special Operations Division provides technical-rescue and hazardous-materials response throughout Vancouver and Southwest Washington, as well as maritime emergency response on the Columbia River through our fire boat and shipboard-qualified personnel. The division also responds to incidents in Oregon under mutual-aid agreements. Special Operations team members maintain advanced training, certifications, and specialized equipment in alignment with national standards to safely and effectively manage high-risk incidents.



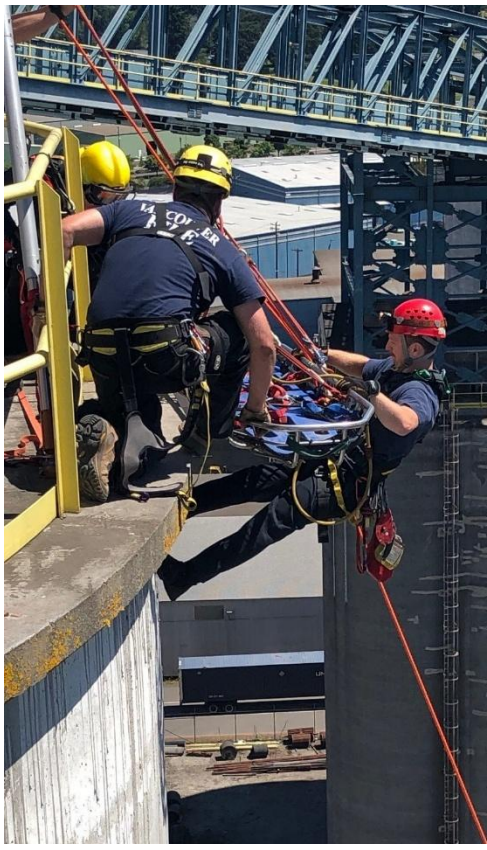
Maritime

The VFD Maritime Program operates in coordination with the United States Coast Guard, Washington State Department of Ecology, and regional public-safety partners to provide comprehensive marine emergency-response capabilities. The program currently maintains 36 trained positions dedicated to maritime operations.

VFD's 52-foot emergency-response vessel Discovery (Fire Boat 1) responds to recreational and commercial vessel fires and water rescues, and supports over-water transport of personnel and equipment. Fire Boat 1 also provides waterside support for major incidents near the Columbia River and serves as an initial detection and monitoring platform for oil spills.

VFD also participates in a regional consortium that deploys highly trained, land-based, shipboard-qualified firefighters to commercial-vessel fires across ports along the lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers, from the Portland–Vancouver area to Astoria.

Technical rescue



The VFD Technical Rescue Team consists of 28 specially trained members who respond to complex, high-risk incidents, including high-angle rope rescues, structural collapses, trench emergencies, heavy extrication operations, confined-space rescues, and swift-water incidents. The team operates as part of the Southwest Washington Region 4 Technical Rescue Team, providing coordinated response capabilities across Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties.

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Hazardous materials



Vancouver's rail, highway, and marine-shipping corridors create a major regional hub for the movement of hazardous materials. The VFD Hazardous Materials Team, composed of 28 trained members, serves as the designated regional hazardous-materials response team for Southwest Washington Region 4, including Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. The team also plays an integral role in the Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee, supporting coordination, planning, and preparedness efforts.

As part of its regional responsibilities, VFD participates in ongoing hazardous-materials training and exercises with partner agencies and industrial stakeholders throughout Southwest Washington, ensuring readiness for both routine and large-scale hazardous-materials incidents.

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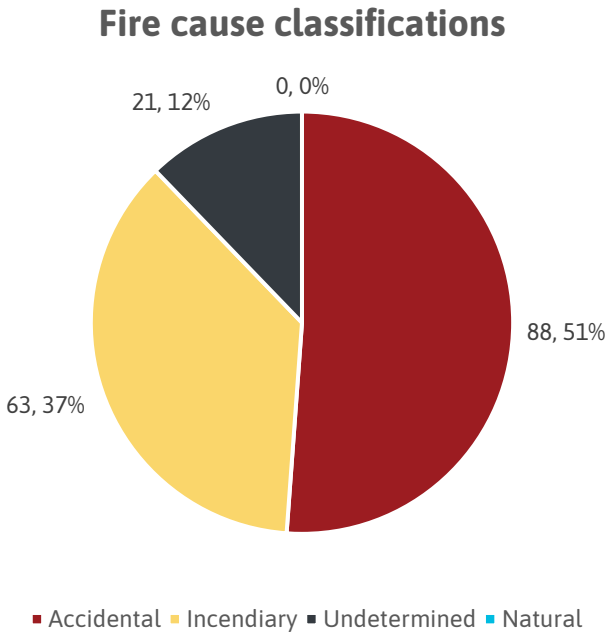
Fire Marshal’s Office

Fire Marshal’s Office (FMO)

The FMO upholds the City’s legal responsibilities for fire-arson investigations, fire and life-safety plans review, fire inspections, and delivers quality prevention services that promote public safety in a broad fashion aimed at reducing community risk and losses. The division utilizes fire-incident data to create community risk-reduction programs designed to reduce hazards, fires, incident rates, and other emergencies. All FMO programs strive to maintain and reduce already low levels of fire-related injuries, fire-related fatalities, and property losses for residents, visitors, and emergency-service personnel.

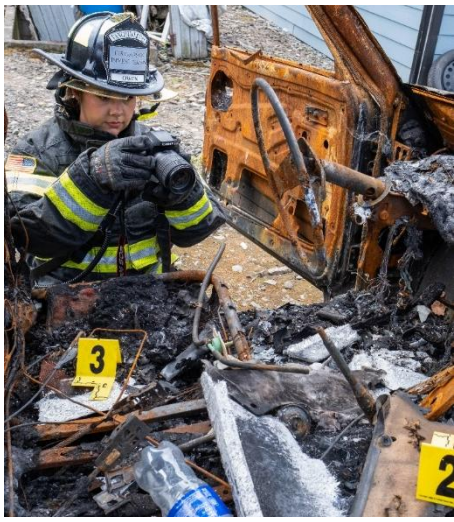
Fire-arson investigation

The FMO is mandated by the State of Washington to investigate the origin, cause, and circumstances of all fires. Deputy Fire Marshals serve as primary investigators in cases where the cause is not readily apparent or where significant factors are present, including high-dollar loss, explosions, suspected incendiary origins, injuries, or fatalities. The Fire-Arson Investigation Unit (FAIU) is a joint VFD and VFP team designed to enhance investigative efficiency and effectiveness. FAIU also coordinates proactively with the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office to support the successful prosecution of incendiary fire cases. In 2025, approximately four fire-investigation incidents resulted in an arrest or an involuntary mental-health hold. During the same period, Deputy Fire Marshals investigated 172 fires and classified outcomes as follows: 53% preventable causes (e.g., cooking, smoking, candles) and 37% non-preventable causes (e.g., electrical or mechanical malfunctions).





Fire and life-safety compliance



Fire and life-safety code compliance is achieved through a comprehensive fire inspection program for commercial businesses and multi-family occupancies by Fire Code Officers. Fire Code Officers increase community resilience. They identified and abated approximately 19,500 fire hazards within businesses, industries, and multifamily residential complexes in 2025. These inspections ensure Washington state fire code compliance, increase public safety and reduce risk while concurrently enhancing firefighter safety. In addition, Fire Code Officers ensure all required fire protection equipment is operational and will activate as designed (e.g., fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, smoke control systems). Most importantly, fire protection equipment compliance is achieved through a partnership with private industry (licensed/endorsed fire protection system contractors) and FMO staff.

Inspection type	Fire code inspections	Unwanted alarms	Complaints	Citations
Number	3,496	2,067	135	62

Fire engineering and new construction

The FMO provides fire and life safety plan review and construction inspection services, including pre-construction site plan reviews, testing and commissioning fire protection systems, and new construction fire inspections. Deputy Fire Marshals review and issue construction and operational permits for hazardous processes regulated by the International Fire Code, including high-piled storage, hazardous materials, fuel storage and dispensing systems, and other high-risk operations.

The FMO completed 2,129 technical reviews on construction project permits, including all fire, use, commercial, multifamily, and residential development projects. In 2025, Deputy Fire Marshals accommodated 100% of requested same-day acceptance inspections and averaged a 96% on-time plan review turnaround timeline.

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Community risk reduction

Community risk reduction (CRR) is a data-informed, prevention-focused strategy used to identify, prioritize, and mitigate fire and life safety risks before they result in emergencies or adverse outcomes. CRR encompasses targeted public education, code enforcement, community outreach, and risk-based interventions designed to reduce hazards, improve occupant safety, and strengthen the overall resilience of the community. These include home-safety visits, smoke-alarm education and installation, target-hazard inspections, school and neighborhood fire-safety outreach, and collaboration with community partners to address local risks such as cooking fires, falls, and vulnerable-population safety. More advanced CRR efforts can also include risk-based data analysis, code enforcement, and focused campaigns in high-risk areas to reduce incidents and improve community resilience.

Project Home Safe

FMO was awarded a $224,000 FEMA grant to fund a multi-media campaign for educating citizens on reducing “preventable fires.” The funding supports a fire prevention field campaign reaching 2,527 homes and apartments. This program has reduced preventable fires in residential homes by approximately 87%.

Project homesafe
Fire safety and prevention

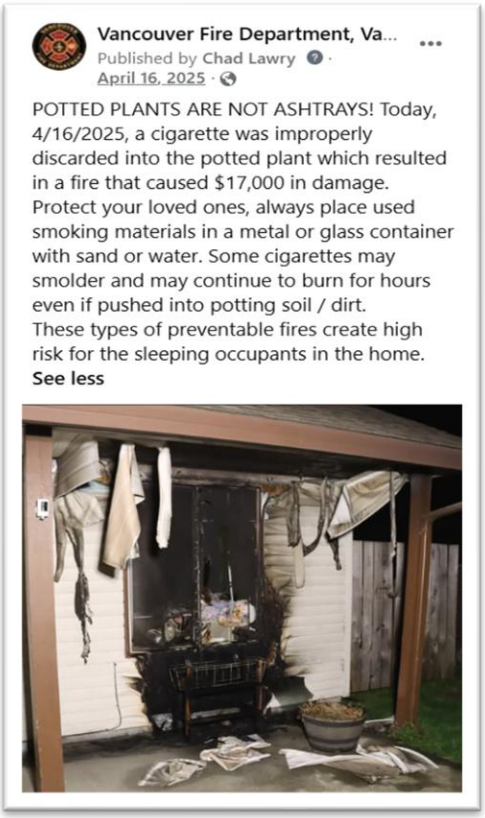
Public events

Participated in multiple events, such as “Dozer Days”, reaching more than 1,700 people with fire risk reduction education.

Social media

1,518,266 views of VFD social-media content in 2025, including educational messages about preventable fires in our service area. These included unattended cooking fires, improperly discarded cigarette fires, and fires resulting from a lack of maintenance such as bathroom ceiling fan fires and chimney fires.

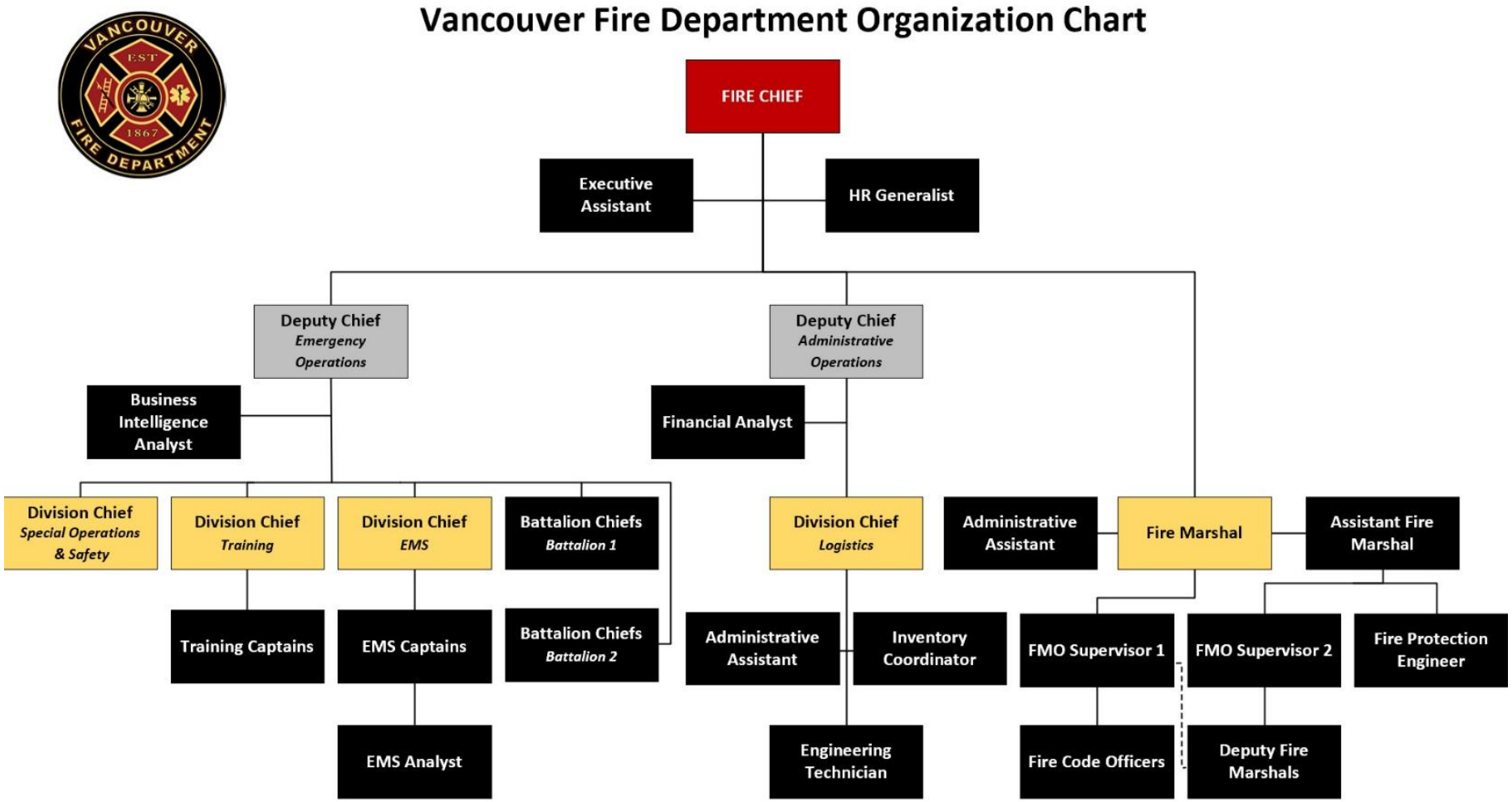
Educational efforts for both news releases and social media included real time “teachable moment” content as it related to emergencies that just recently happened. Seasonal content was also published to help protect residents from preventable hazards such as wildfires and illegal fireworks.



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Organization chart



Budget and expenditures

Budget actual revenue	2023	2024	2025***
Revenue and transfers - City of Vancouver	$39,264,642	$37,581,750	$59,740,152
Property-tax revenue – Fire District 5	$18,460,859	$18,260,904	$17,366,860
Fee-for-service, regulatory fees, and other revenue	$21,698,978	$20,635,328	$2,684,790
Grants and donations	$475,786	$1,451,113	$628,017
Total revenue per ACFR**	**$79,900,265**	**$77,929,095**	**$80,419,819**

Budget actual expenditure	2023	2024	2025***
Salaries and benefits	$51,136,170	$53,459,359	$59,942,140
Supplies and services	$5,273,417	$3,818,526	$5,406,566
City infrastructure and dispatch	$7,750,326	$10,598,357	$8,107,801
Equipment and vehicle operating expenses	$3,675,412	$3,117,164	$1,466,411
Capital outlay (new vehicles and capital equipment)	$1,368,412	$973,369	$6,228,255
Other	$2,586,438	$10,856,112	$9,536,836
Total expenditure per ACFR**	**$71,790,175**	**$82,822,887**	**$90,688,009**
Change in fund balance per ACFR**	**$8,110,090**	**($4,893,792)***	**($10,268,190)***

* Represents a negative value.
** ACFR stands for Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
*** The 2025 ACFR has not been published. 2025 amounts are based on preliminary year-end figures.



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