



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



**CAMANO ISLAND
FIRE AND RESCUE**

OUR SERVICE AREA

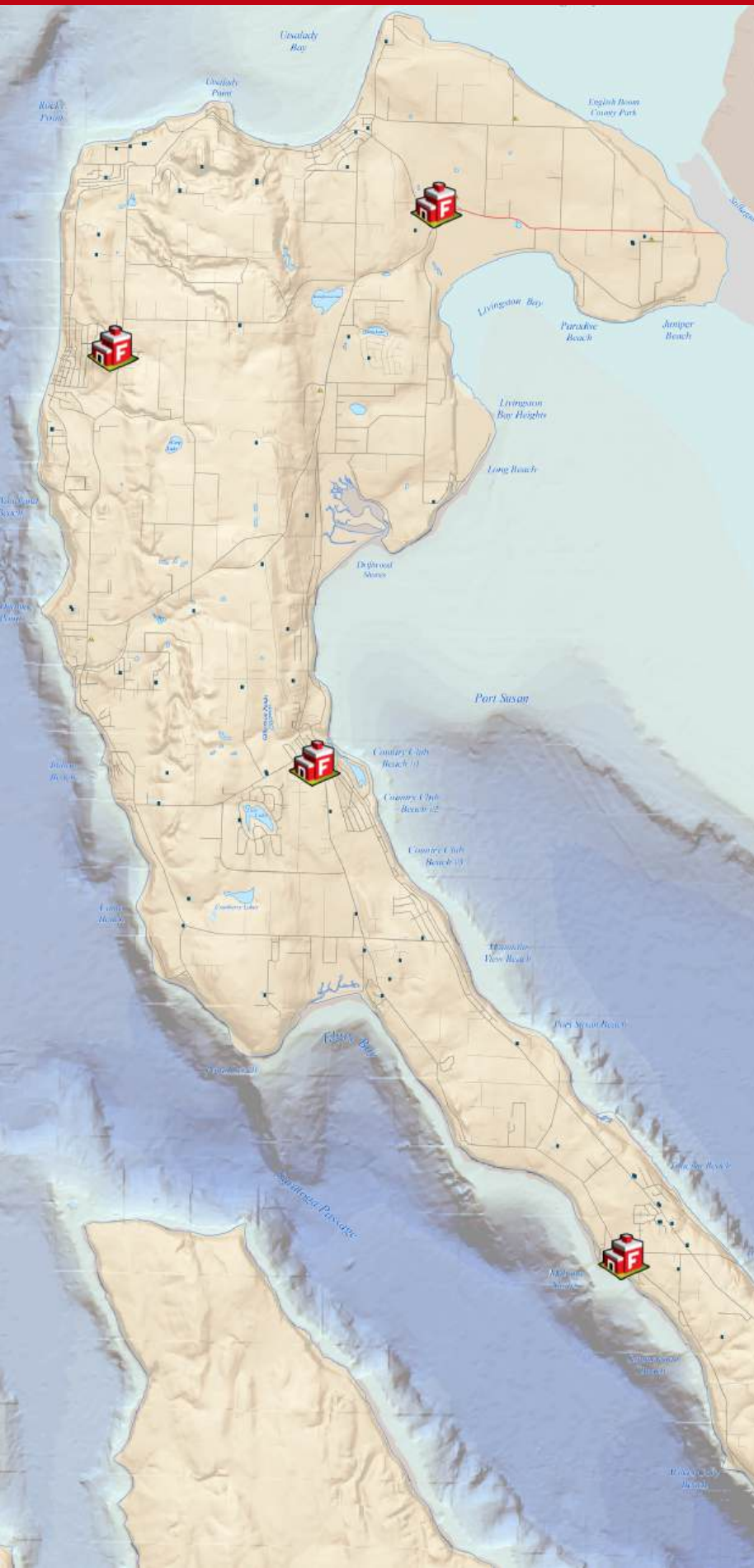


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Camano Island Fire and Rescue



Camano Fire

INTRODUCTION

Our primary purpose at Camano Island Fire and Rescue is to protect and serve our community - their lives, property, and environment. Our annual report is a chance to review the past year's performance, highlight notable events and successes, and share information about our department.

We are the only elected body that specifically serves Camano Island. We are proud of our dedication and commitment to our community, and our ability to support their health and wellbeing.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS



Camano Island Fire and Rescue is governed by a board of five Fire Commissioners elected to serve six-year terms. The Board is responsible for financial oversight of the district, and helps develop its overall strategic plan and its long term vision. Working closely with the administrative staff, the Board ensures a balanced budget and guides the District through the adoption of policies and procedures.

In addition to their work for the residents of Camano Island, Board members are also actively involved in State and County associations that address issues related to the delivery of fire and emergency medical services.



FROM OUR FIRE CHIEF



As we reflect on 2022, I am pleased to share our annual report. This year marked a significant shift as we navigated the challenges of returning to more normal operations post-COVID.

The demand for emergency services, particularly emergency medical assistance, remained high. This demand was intensified by longer wait times at area hospitals that took apparatus and firefighters out of service for several hours at a time.

Despite these challenges, I am proud to highlight our successes. We hosted our first-ever National Night Out, a fantastic community event that showcases our commitment to building and maintaining strong local partnerships. We also resumed our annual Halloween party

and conducted a successful community food drive and Santa Run benefiting the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank.

It's important to acknowledge that our department faced challenges in meeting response time standards due to heightened service demands and understaffing at local hospitals. As we navigate these issues, we are diligently reviewing our budget to prioritize resources for hiring additional staff.

As a department, we remain committed to quality care and rapid response times, and we are actively reviewing our call response to identify ways to improve. The health and safety of our community is paramount. I am optimistic about the future and looking forward to being out in the community in the coming months to talk with you about our plans for the future. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



OUR MISSION

Working together to safely protect our community's lives & property. We fulfill this mission through high quality:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Protection
- Technical Rope & Marine Rescue
- Fire Prevention & Public Education

OUR VISION

Camano Island Fire and Rescue will be a premiere agency and industry-leading role model for combination fire departments, which include full time, part time, and volunteer personnel. We will focus on providing high-quality, cost-effective, and cohesive service that will exceed community expectations. We will accomplish this vision by utilizing a physically fit, healthy, and diverse workforce that is well trained and empowered with a high level of involvement in our success. We will emphasize proactive communication at all levels, and ongoing transparency to our community. Camano Island Fire & Rescue will be a positive and valued part of the community.



OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

- Good ethics
- Walking the talk
- Doing the right thing when no one is looking or when it is unpopular

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Honesty
- Feeling safe
- Must be earned
- Willingness to break the cycle of distrust
- Respect our partners & coworkers

TRANSPARENCY

- Open communication
- Community involvement & information

PRIDE & OWNERSHIP

- Professionalism
- Knowledge
- Teamwork
- Appearance & uniform
 - Dress and act appropriately
- Self-Motivation
 - Foster an entrepreneurial attitude
 - Take the opportunity to go above and beyond
- Emphasis on Customer Service
- Standards
 - Let people know what is expected of them
- Embrace diversity and creativity

CAMANO ISLAND

17,193
population

39.8
square miles

60
firefighters

8
paramedics

15*
administrative
& maintenance
personnel

*includes temporary
part-time support
personnel for
administrative office



2022 NOTABLE EVENTS

Jan. 2022

Two new fire commissioners



Commissioners Kelly Yadon and Kim Williams were elected to the Board of Fire Commissioners and will serve 6-year terms.



Feb. 2022

Snow delays, power outages

Heavy, wet, late-season snow shut down schools, closed roads, and knocked out power to thousands of residents around the island. Crews chained up and responded to calls.



May 2022

Hi, Smokey

A local elementary student gave our second-hand Smokey Bear a fresh coat of paint. He was reinstalled along SR 532 in May.



July 2022

Garage fire

Crews responded to a fire in the detached garage of a home near Camano Hill Road and Green Island Way. Despite heavy winds and dry temps, they extinguished the blaze before it spread.



Aug. 2022

National Night Out

We hosted our first-ever National Night Out with help from local community groups. Community members visited Mabana and Vista/Madrona stations to meet firefighters and learn more about emergency services.

Oct. 2022

Halloween party is back

After a two-year COVID hiatus, we opened the Vista/Madrona station for a Halloween celebration. More than 300 kids and parents joined us for a night of family-friendly fun, food, and station tours.

2022 by the numbers



2,468
TOTAL CALLS
FOR SERVICE



OF THOSE CALLS...

685
WERE
OVERLAPPING
CALLS

WHICH WAS
28%
OF ALL
OUR CALLS

CALLS BY TYPE



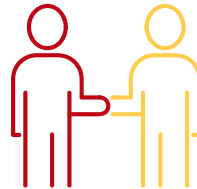
46
FIRES



23
MARINE CALLS



1,535
RESCUE/EMS



460
SERVICE CALL*



86
HAZARDOUS
CONDITIONS



107
FALSE ALARM



198
GOOD INTENT**



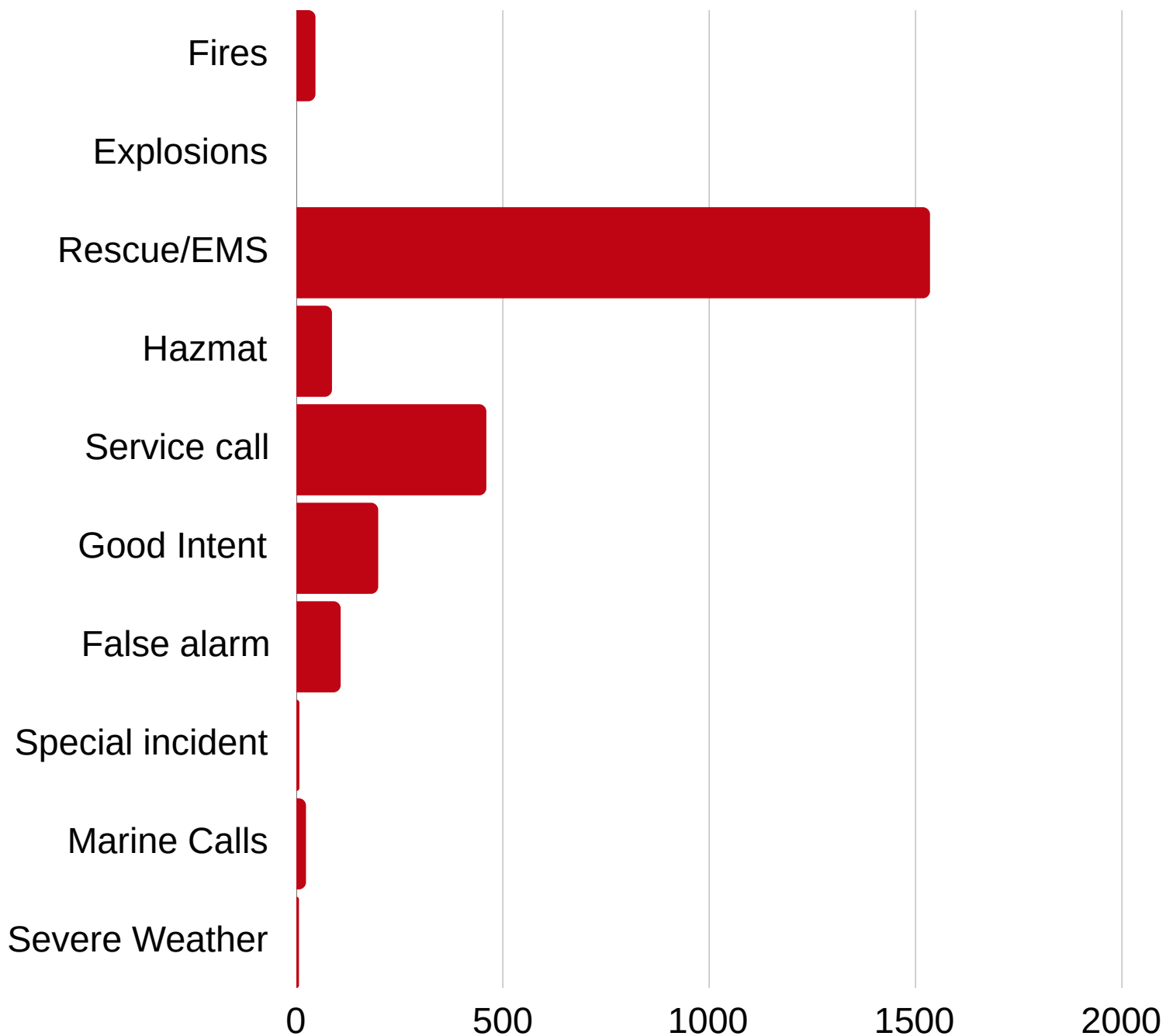
7 SPECIAL
INCIDENT



6 SEVERE
WEATHER

* Service Call: Public service assistance.
** Good intent: Dispatched & canceled;
controlled burn; no emergency found.

2022 INCIDENT TYPES



2,468

Number of
dispatched calls

47

Mutual aid calls



RESPONSE TIMELINE

CIFR Standards

2022 Crew performance

TURNOUT TIME/FIRST UNIT DEPARTS

<90 seconds
90% of the time for
priority calls

90th Percentile*:
1 min. 54 seconds

90th PERCENTILE* RESPONSE TIMES

*Camano Fire has
adopted a first
arriving unit
response time
standard of 9
minutes and 30
seconds
90% of the time for
all priority calls.*

Department-wide

12:16

By response zone

Station 2

12:00

Station 3

11:09

Station 4

11:18

Station 5

17:59

911 call

someone calls 911



dispatch

911 dispatch
center processes
call and
dispatches
appropriate units



turnout

Time from unit
dispatch to time
when crew is
geared up, in
vehicle & leaving
for the call



travel

Time from unit
leaving to when
it physically
arrives at the
call



*90th Percentile means that 90% of the time we responded at the time listed or more quickly.

** Longer response times are often due to overlapping calls or ability to rapidly move apparatus from their current location to the physical location of the emergency.

RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Predictable consequences

Response standards within the fire service are based on certain critical time factions, e.g. time to flash-over in a burning room, decrease in survival rates over time following a cardiac arrest without defibrillation, and a decrease in survival rates over time following severe traumatic injuries prior to arrival at a trauma facility. We understand the critical nature of these measures and acknowledge the importance of meeting these standards to ensure the safety and well-being of our community members.

All departments face individual challenges in meeting these critical time points and national standards are especially difficult to meet for

rural departments such as CIFR. In addition, Camano Island faces unique challenges. Serving geographically dispersed populations with fewer firefighters and paramedics poses inherent difficulties. Our service is absolutely dependent on mutual aid resources from neighboring departments and aid agreements are in place to support our fire and medical personnel. Our uniquely isolated geography limits our ability to receive aid which can exacerbate staffing and response challenges.

Our commitment to community safety remains a top priority, and these collaborative measures strengthen our capacity to address the needs of our residents efficiently.

Plan of Action

In 2022 the District neared completion of its Standards of Cover and Strategic Plan. The District will develop a corresponding financial plan to implement identified needed system improvements. The needs include the hiring of additional firefighters and paramedics to staff a fourth unit every day, add a second paramedic to daily minimum staffing, and evaluate options for the housing of full-time staff at Station 5. Funding of the plan via a fire levy lid lift and will be presented to voters in the upcoming year.

Other service improvements identified in the plan should also be initiated including the establishment of a daytime training officer, the improvement of the District's training facility, the initiation of priority EMS dispatch, and the development of performance outcome measures.

Action Items for 2023:

- Assess apparatus deployment model and modify apparatus placement plan to improve system reliability in the face of increasing call volumes and overlapping incidents.
- Establish daytime training officer position and develop standardized response SOPs for fire response.
- Move volunteer program oversight to better integrate volunteer and career staffing and training
- Present fire levy lid lift to voters in order to implement initial phases of strategic plan including increased staffing, increased ALS availability, and evaluating facility needs specifically at Station 5.

SERVICES

Fire suppression

Our strategy in responding to structure fires is simple – get there fast and extinguish the fire while it's small. When we arrive before flashover (when the temperature closest to the fire rises to a level where everything ignites), they find a fire that requires little water or extinguishment effort.

However, once flashover occurs, ordinary fire suppression techniques have little impact on life and property loss near the fire. After flashover, the smoke and heat generated reduce the chances of safe evacuation in the remainder of the building. This also presents a much greater danger to the firefighters. Unless the building is equipped with sprinklers, firefighters must take hose lines inside to extinguish the fire.

CIFR utilizes an aggressive attack strategy to push the heat, smoke and steam away from potential survivors;



if this is not possible, defensive operations are deployed to prevent the fire from spreading and contain it to the room of origin. The success of fire suppression operations depends on early intervention by response crews.

CIFR dispatches four engines, three tenders, one rescue truck, one medic truck and a chief officer to a working fire. However, quick response times are dependent on the location of the fire in relationship to the fire station and availability of firefighters.

Marine Rescue



When you live on an island, water rescue is very important. On Camano, we see more water rescues than cardiac arrests. Too often, the victim isn't wearing a life jacket, and time is everything. During crabbing and shrimp season, the number of boaters increases dramatically on the island. As a result, every firefighter with the department is trained for this. With three boats, including a 28 foot fireboat, CIFR's more than 40 water rescue technicians and 13 fire boat operators are increasingly prepared.

SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services

All firefighters are cross-trained as EMTs or paramedics, with Medical Control taking place through the Island County Medical Direction.

Personnel maintain rigorous training and recertification processes following Washington State Department of Health guidelines and the adopted and approved continuing education plan.

Emergency Medical Services are provided through the use of engine companies and ambulance crews who are trained as paramedics or EMTs. Based on the need for services, these units will respond with either a fire engine, Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance, or Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance.

Depending on the on-duty personnel available, the on-duty fire engine may be staffed either as a basic or advanced life support unit. Once patient care has been established, an appropriate care level is determined, and either the basic life support personnel, EMTs, or advanced life support paramedics provide care until arriving at a local hospital for definitive care.

One ALS and one BLS ambulance, as well as one fire engine, are staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and they are strategically positioned on Camano Island to provide rapid response.



PARAMEDICS

The new recruits serving as paramedics on Camano Island have been through emergency boot camp in either Bellingham or Seattle.

Harborview Medical Center in Seattle is the region's busiest trauma center. There, each recruit responds to at least 3,000 emergencies. Those thousands of calls prepare them to serve with other veterans. There are many examples of crew members who served in high-volume areas such as Portland and Seattle. It's all been important training, since Camano Island logs more than a thousand EMS calls per year.

Training

Camano Island Fire and Rescue is committed to preparing fire and rescue personnel to deliver excellent service to the community's residents while adhering to training requirements as mandated by law. This is accomplished by proactively responding to changes, solving problems, collaborating on issues, assessing the needs of the community and personnel, and developing viable solutions.

The training division accomplishes this by incorporating the best instructional and training methods and continuously evaluating the personnel's capabilities. All Camano Fire personnel are certified in HazMat Awareness and Operations, and Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2.

In 2022 the department had 8,667 total training hours, for an average of 206 hours per firefighter. The lower individual average is due to increased part-time and volunteer staffing.



Rope Rescue



Rope rescue operations are a critical piece of the technical rescue response on Camano Island. Much of our shoreline is high bluff, and often it is a homeowner's pet that goes over a cliff. If we don't go get the dog, nine times out of 10 we'll have to go after the owner instead.

The department commits to training every career firefighter in rope rescue; six team members are at the technician level, requiring at least 40 hours of training, though most have 90 or more hours. In addition, the rope rescue equipment and methods are frequently used in other rescue operations, such as fire incidents and car accidents.

SERVICES

Community outreach & education

Camano Island Fire and Rescue paramedics offer monthly CPR classes for the public that include Adult, Child & Infant CPR training, Choking, and AED. We participate in public and community events throughout the year, from National Night Out and Touch-A-Truck in August, to our Halloween Party in October, to our Food Drive & Santa Run in December.

We also offer in-person and virtual safety and health information presentations to community groups as requested, and visit local elementary schools to talk about fire safety education. We even bring Sparky the Fire Dog!



NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Elementary fire
safety & field day
school visits
June

National Night
Out on Camano
August

Food Drive
& Santa Run
December

July
Kids Fest at
Camano Commons

October
Halloween party
& haunted house