

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



**CAMANO ISLAND
FIRE AND RESCUE**

OUR SERVICE AREA

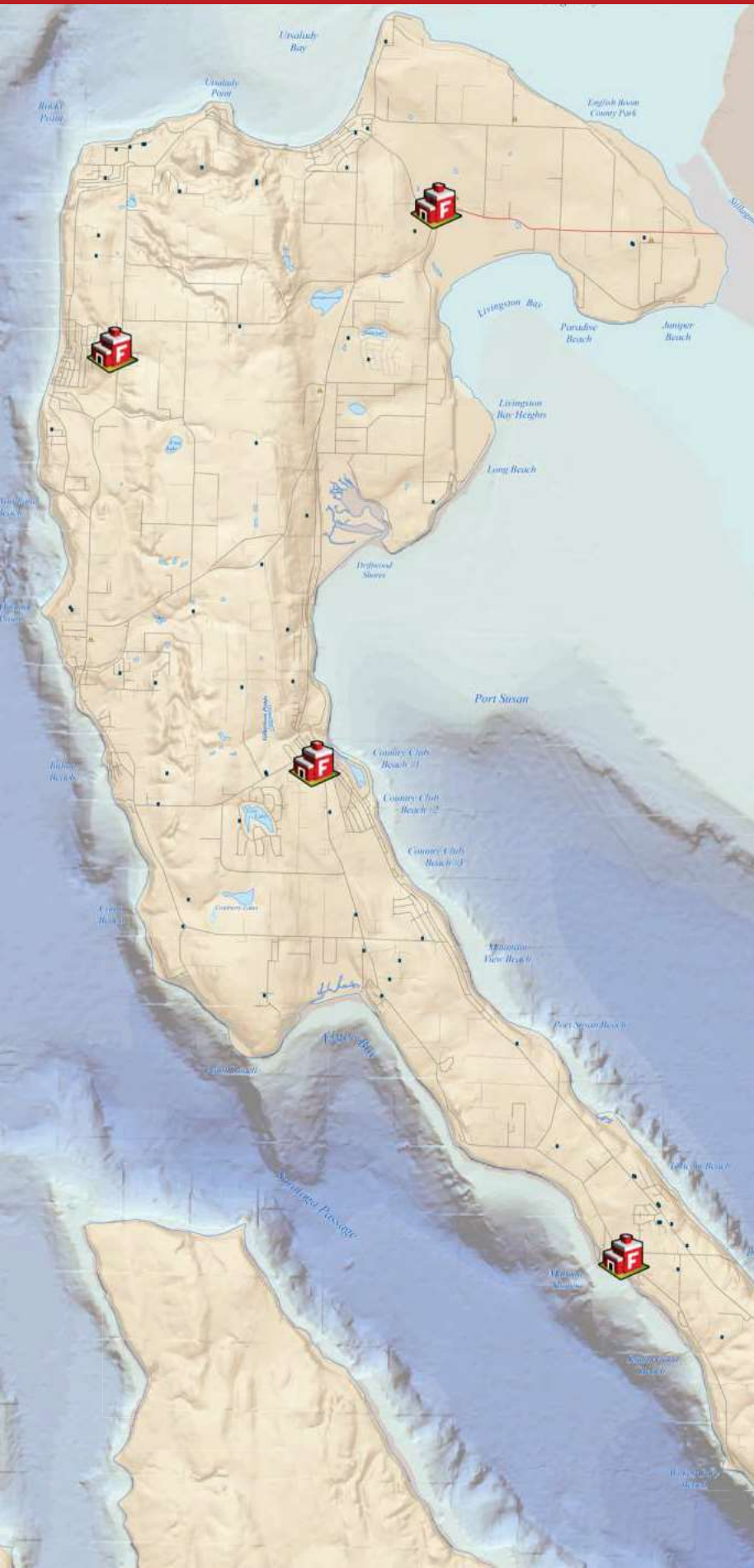


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INTRODUCTION

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



Looking back at 2023, I find myself reflecting on the tremendous work we've accomplished this year. I am immensely grateful for the strong support of our community when it came to learning

about and eventually passing the fire levy lid lift. Your trust in us means we'll be able to hire more firefighters, train more paramedics, and improve emergency response on our island.

Undoubtedly, this past year presented challenges. Longer wait times at hospitals impacted our emergency response times, as did the retirement of several firefighters. Hiring new staff in 2024 will allow us to staff an additional transport unit, and improve service coverage across the island.

While we faced many challenges this last year, I am immensely proud of the women and men of Camano Island Fire and Rescue. Your firefighters and paramedics worked hard to keep our community safe; serving with care and compassion. Beyond the calls for emergency services, we hosted many community meetings related to our fire levy lid lift request as well as public education events such as National Night Out and our annual Halloween Haunted House. This outreach culminated in the department's four-day Santa Run and food drive where residents donated an unprecedented 2200 pounds (yes, a literal ton) of food to benefit the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank and help those in need.

Looking ahead to 2024, I am committed to the improvements promised last year, as well as keeping our community informed of our progress. We have already begun hiring and training new firefighters and paramedics and are beginning the process of renovating the Mabana Station to accommodate 24-hour staffing. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the work we are doing.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.



OUR MISSION

We work as a team to serve, protecting you and your property.

OUR VISION

The safest rural community in the state – a model of excellence in service



OUR VALUES

SELFLESS SERVICE

- We put others first
- We always act with compassion and empathy
- We act with courage, choosing action over personal comfort

HUMILITY

- We encourage
- We recognize strengths and work at improving weaknesses
- We are genuinely curious; we ask questions so we can learn
- We get better every shift

INTEGRITY

- We live up to the values of CIFR
- We are honest and have no hidden agendas
- We do what we say we are going to do
- We fulfill our promises

TRUST/RELIABILITY

- We work at being reliable
- We communicate directly
- regardless of rank
- We go to the source
- We approach one another with genuine, respectful curiosity

RESPECT/PROFESSIONALISM

- We recognize the inherent value in those we serve
- We always act professionally
- We always put our best foot forward
- We are constantly improving ourselves

STEWARDSHIP

- We take care of it better than if we owned it
- We always leave it better than we found it

CAMANO ISLAND

39

firefighters*

9

paramedics

5

elected
commissioners

10

administrative
& maintenance
personnel

17,235
population

39.8
square miles

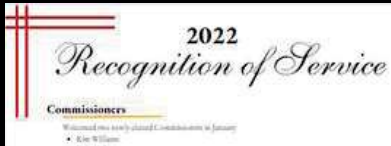


* Includes career, part-time & volunteer firefighters

2023 NOTABLE EVENTS

Winter

Recognition of Service



We hosted a family event in February so our staff and their family could celebrate notable staff achievements in 2022, such as new certifications, degrees, and new department hires.

Spring



Flames 50th anniversary

Chief Yengoyan & members of the Mabana Flames celebrated the group's 50th anniversary in April



Summer

Meet the Chief

Chief Yengoyan hosted several informal meetings throughout the summer and fall to share info about the department, facilitate conversations with Island County, and answer questions about fire service on the island.



Fires aplenty

Crews responded to a large grass fire on Camano Ridge in early July, a brush fire off Monticello in late August, and garage fire off Sandell Road in September. All were contained without serious damage or injury.

November

Fire levy lid lift passes

Voters approved the department's levy lid lift request by more than 65%. The funding will allow for hiring of more firefighters and paramedics, and renovations to the south-end Mabana fire station.



December

Record-setting Santa Run

The community donated a literal ton of food and hygiene supplies during the four-day Santa Run, eclipsing the entire 2023 total by more than 700 lbs. We also received \$1,765 in cash and \$500 in gift card donations for the food bank.

Our people are our greatest asset

Each year we welcome new firefighters and say farewell to others. We take pride in hiring and retaining people who embody the values of our department and provide professional, selfless service to the residents of our community.

New hires

Winter

- P/T Payroll Mgr. Jasmine Perez
- P/T FF Down
- P/T FF Levitsis

Spring

- P/T FF Munson
- P/T FF Oldow
- P/T FF Onderbeke

Summer

- F/T FF Peloquin
- Finance Mgr. Lisa Beckett

Fall

- F/T Paramedic Shockley

Farewells

- Lt. D. Tedrow retired in May after serving for 24 years
- Lt. W. Webb retired in December after serving for 33 years
- Cpt. Schweiger retired in December after serving for 26 years
- Finance Manager Linda Layton retired in December after serving for 23 and a half years

Accomplishments



February

FF Berg & FF Edmonds completed probation

July

FF Easter graduated Harborview Paramedic training program

August

Lt. Olsen promoted to Captain, FFs Mauck & Carlson promoted to Lieutenant

December

FF Fox-Ramey graduated Bellingham Technical College Paramedic training program

2023 by the numbers



2,426

TOTAL CALLS
FOR SERVICE



OF THOSE CALLS...

662

WERE
OVERLAPPING
CALLS

WHICH WAS

27%

OF ALL
OUR CALLS

CALLS BY TYPE



48

FIRES



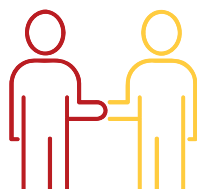
19

MARINE CALLS



1,820

RESCUE/EMS



218

SERVICE CALL*



33

HAZARDOUS
CONDITIONS



89

FALSE ALARM



197

GOOD INTENT**



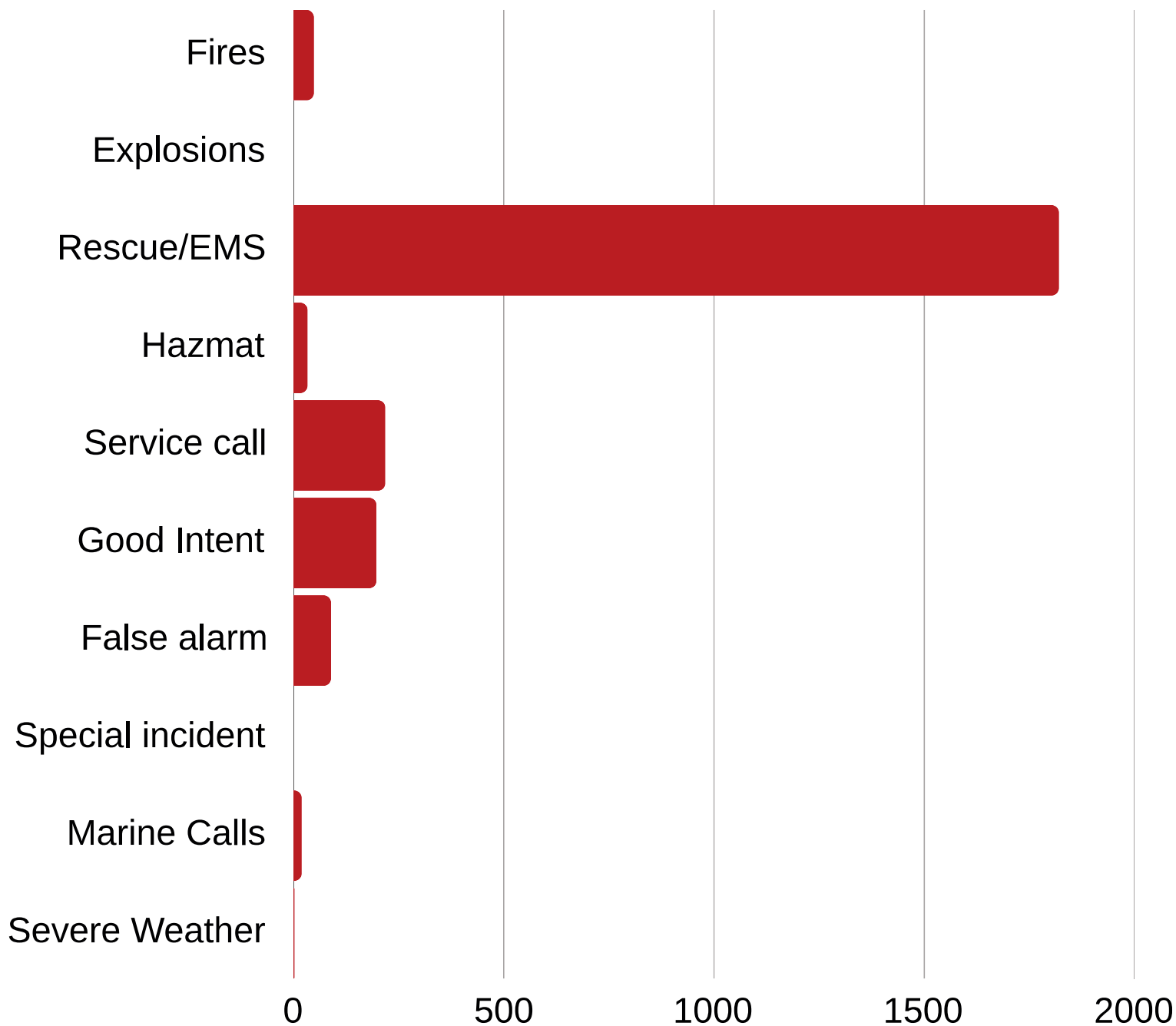
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SEVERE
WEATHER

* Service Call: Public service assistance.

** Good intent: Dispatched & canceled; controlled burn; no emergency found.

2023 INCIDENT TYPES



2,426

Number of
dispatched calls

71

Mutual aid calls

11



RESPONSE TIMELINE

CIFR Standards

2023 Crew performance

TURNOUT TIME/FIRST UNIT DEPARTS

<90 seconds
90% of the time for
priority calls

90th Percentile*:
1 min. 42 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

11:54

By response zone

Station 2

11:01

Station 3

11:08

Station 4

10:56

Station 5

17:31

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 2023 the District took a major step forward in implementing its strategic plan with the passage of a fire levy lid lift. With the financial resources in place, the District will implement the identified improvements presented to the community last year.

Specifically, the District will backfill vacant positions, hire additional firefighters and paramedics to staff an additional transport unit every day, work to improve daily paramedic staffing, and begin the process of renovating the Mabana Fire Station to accommodate 24-hour staffing. These staffing and station improvements, and our continued focus on recruiting, will help the District improve its 90th Percentile response times by having more staff on shift strategically positioned around the island.

Other identified service enhancements include the improvement of the District's training facility, a move to priority EMS dispatch, improved recordkeeping, expanded analysis of performance benchmarks and outcome measures, and restructuring of organizational leadership.

Action Items for 2024:

- Hire and train 10 firefighters to replace vacant positions and increase total staffing.
- Recruit lateral paramedics and train new paramedics to improve daily ALS resources.
- Provide for daytime staffing at the Mabana Fire Station.
- Begin process of renovating Mabana Fire Station to accommodate 24-hour staffing.

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.

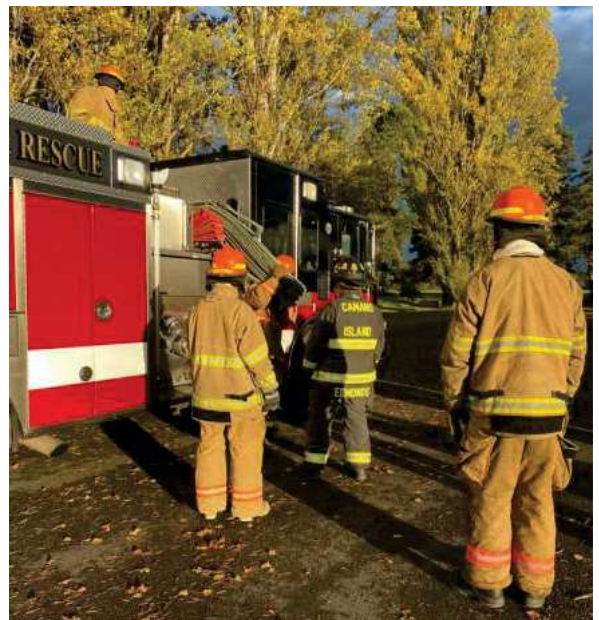
Harborview Medical Center in Seattle is the region's busiest trauma center. There, each recruit responds to at least 3,000 emergencies. Those thousands of calls prepare them to serve with other veterans. There are many examples of crew members who served in high-volume areas such as Portland and Seattle. 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