

# NORTH WHATCOM FIRE & RESCUE

## Annual Statistics 2021



"Semper Paratus"

# ADMINISTRATION

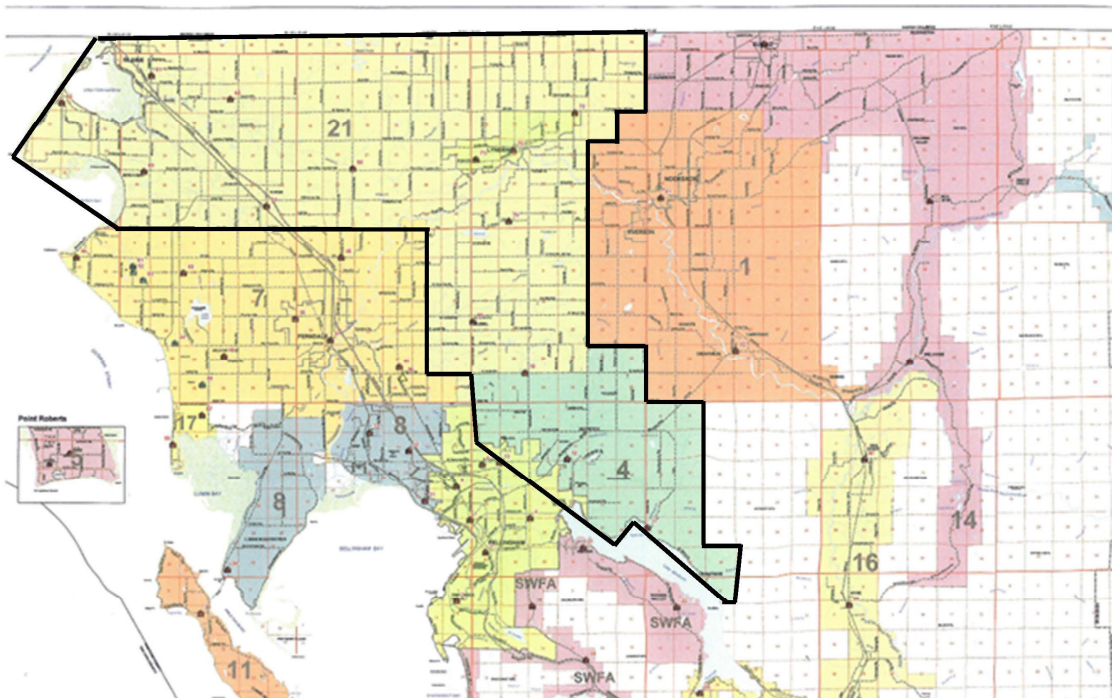
## Department Overview

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue was formed December 7, 2006, from a vote to merge Whatcom County Fire Protection District #3 and Whatcom County Fire Protection District #13. In January 2007 the Fire District officially changed their name to Whatcom County Fire Protection District #21 and operates as North Whatcom Fire & Rescue.

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue formed a functional consolidation with Whatcom County Fire Protection District #4 on July 1, 2011.

## District Statistics

- Service area including District 4 is one-hundred eighty-two square miles.
- Varied land use that includes forestry, rural and rural agricultural, suburban, urban and some commercial and light industrial.
- The Fire District operates eleven fire stations (4 career) strategically located throughout the district.
- The City of Blaine includes two marinas, two border crossing stations, and Interstate 5 running parallel to and acting as a feeder into the city.
- The Fire District operates fifty-two pieces of apparatus including fire engines, tenders, two ladder trucks, brush trucks, ambulances and some specialized apparatus.
- The Fire District is classified as a “combination” fire district incorporating both paid and volunteer “on-call” personnel.
- The Fire District has forty-six full paid firefighters, twenty-two volunteers, two rehab volunteers and ten support staff members.
- Fire District operations include fire response, emergency medical services including basic life support (BLS) transport, hazardous materials response at the operations level, some limited rescue, and fire prevention and public education activities.



Whatcom County Fire Districts and Stations



# 2021 ROSTER OF MEMBERS

## Fire Commissioners

### District 21

Bruce Ansell, Chair  
Rich Bosman, Vice-Chair  
John Crawford  
Scott Fischer  
Kimberly McMurray

### District 4

Mark Lann, Chair  
Harry Andrews, Vice-Chair  
Steve Cooley

## Chief Officers

Jason Van der Veen, District Fire Chief  
Shaun Ward / Ray Davidson, Temporary Chief of Operations

## Support Staff

Benita Williams, Business Manager  
Jennie Sand, Administrative Assistant  
Kelly Freeman, Human Resources  
Elliot Courage, Mechanic  
John Lovatt, Mechanic – Retired



## Captains

Jon Ahrenholz  
Ray Davidson – Retired  
Mike Schmidt  
Adam Smith  
Shaun Ward  
Burr McPhail

## Lieutenants

Kevin Biery  
Tony Esser  
Troy Freeman  
Danny Jensen  
Jeff Hofstad  
Mike Nelson  
D.J. Riehl  
Chuck Shipp  
Blake Scott  
Leslee Smith – Retired  
Keith Zylstra – Retired

## Deputy Fire Marshal

Joel Nielsen

## Career Firefighters

Russ Briskin  
Scott Brown  
Kaleb Bruch  
Kenneth Cunningham  
Jason Donnelly  
John Geleynse  
Chris Hollander  
Philip Jackson  
Steven Latham  
Mike Lyshol  
Patricia McDermott  
Rob Mulrooney  
Wayne Sanders  
Noah Silverman  
Tye Thompson  
Delanie Warne

Cody Bowen  
Darren Bruya  
David Comp  
Gary DeJager  
Aaron Ebner  
David Hancock  
John Hollstein  
Dar Kazemi  
Chris Lubenow  
Evan Maack  
Seth Meredith  
Alden Roberts  
Jackson Saylor  
Kat Stewart  
Haley Urling-Ehinger  
Mark Wohlrab

## Volunteer Firefighters / Tender Support

Shawn Atwood  
Jeff Bowles  
Thomas Erickson  
Robert King  
Branden Millsap  
Mike Peetoom  
Chet Renskers  
Sabrina Renskers  
Paul Van Dyken  
Dylan Witzel

Brian Botta Pillo  
Brian Carlson  
Jessica King  
Shane Madsen  
Mel Mulligan  
Gary Quintrall  
Lane Renskers  
Dale Rutgers  
David Varivoda  
Scott Wood

## Rehab Volunteers

Kim Gates

Melissa Van Cleve



# PERSONNEL

## General Information

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue is a 80 member department with personnel in the following areas:

- **46** full-paid firefighters
- **24** volunteers
- **10** support staff

## Promotions

Firefighter Blake Scott was promoted to shift lieutenant in May 2019.

Firefighter Chuck Shipp was promoted to shift lieutenant in November, 2019.

Lieutenant Jason Van der Veen was promoted to temporary and then permanent division chief of operations in November, 2019. He was appointed acting fire chief in late November, 2019.

Lieutenant Joel Nielsen was promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal in 2020.

Lieutenant Adam Smith was promoted to Shift Captain in May 2021.

Volunteer Noah Silverman was hired as a career firefighter in August, 2021.

## Retirement

Division Chief / Fire Marshal Henry Hollander's official retirement date was June 1, 2019. He completed a twenty-six year career in the fire service.

Volunteer Jerilyn Klix left the district in 2019 to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Commissioner Larry McPhail retired in July, 2020 and Kimberly McMurray was appointed to take his place in September, 2020.

Shift Captain Ray Davidson retired in June, 2021 after over a 29 year career in the fire service.

Fire Mechanic John Lovatt retired in October 2021 after 13.5 years of service.

Lieutenant Keith Zylstra retired October 1, 2021 after 29 years of service as both a volunteer and career firefighter.

Lieutenant Leslee Smith retired October 1, 2021 after 24 years of service as both a volunteer and career firefighter.



## New Members

*Welcome new members of North Whatcom Fire and Rescue*

### Career Firefighters

#### 2021

Patricia McDermott  
Evan Maack  
Seth Meredith  
Jackson Saylor  
Noah Silverman  
Kat Stewart

#### 2020

Gary DeJager  
Phillip Jackson  
Chris Lubenow  
Alden Roberts

#### 2019

Dar Kazemi  
Tye Thompson



### Volunteers / Tender Support

Jeff Bowles  
Brian Carlson  
Thomas Erickson  
Jessica King  
Dylan Witzel



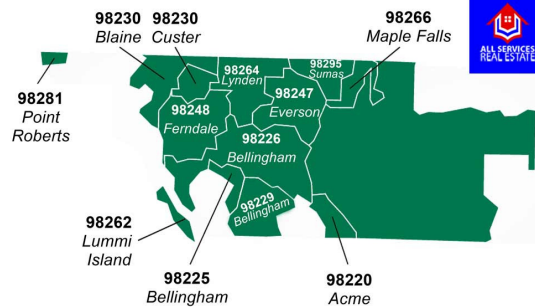
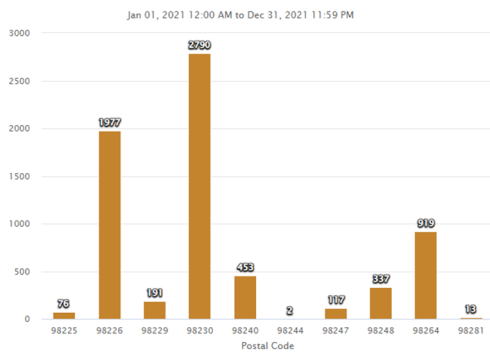
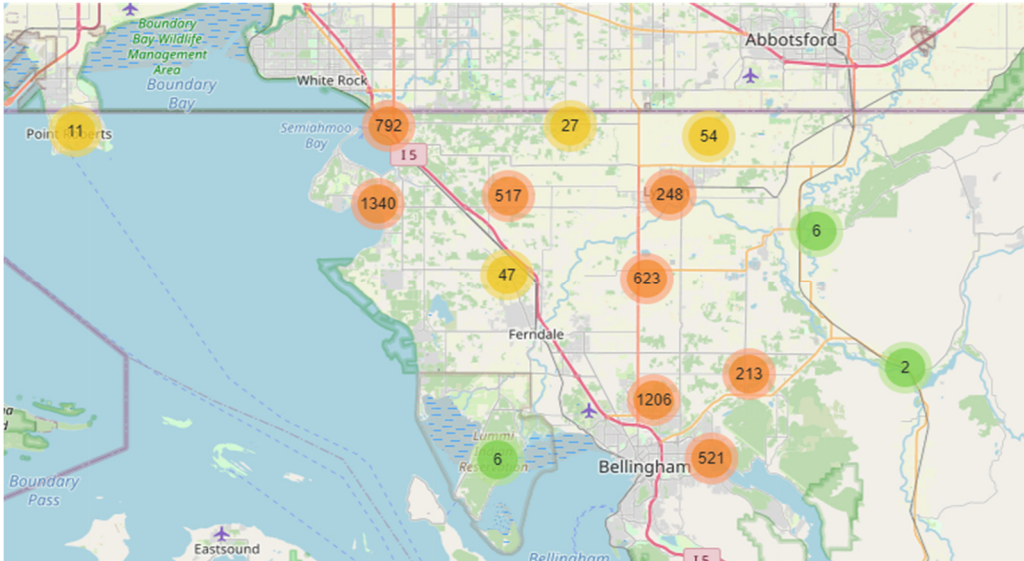
## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## Call Volume

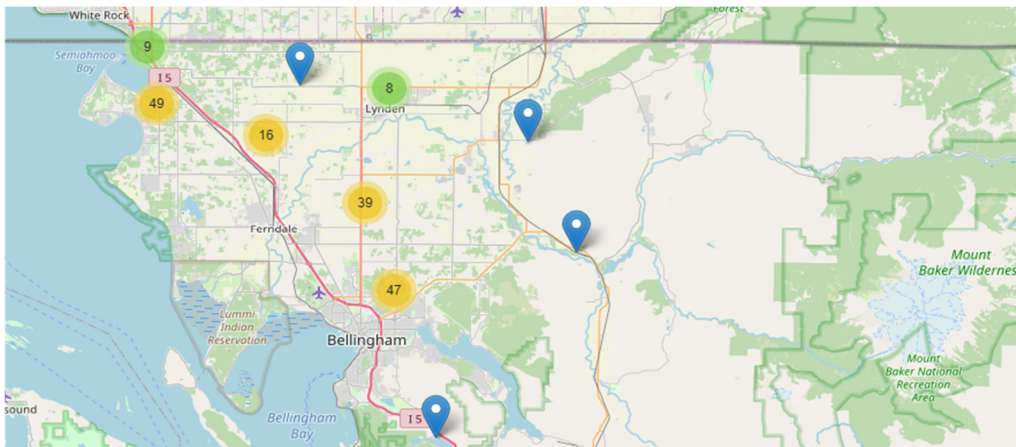
**EMS Total: 3,520**

**Fire Total: 173**

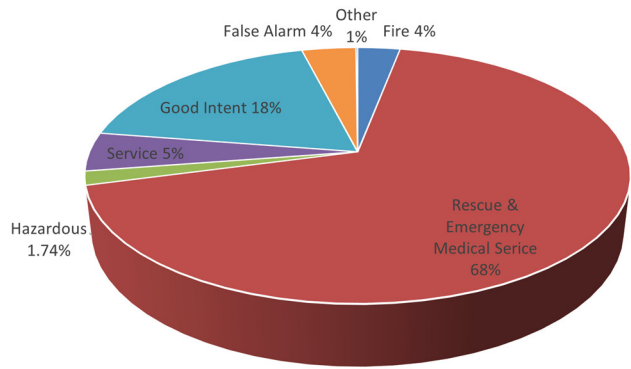
**Other : 1,920**



## Fire Incidents



## Responses by Type 2021



### Hazardous Condition

Spills and leaks, chemical releases, electrical, building collapse, aircraft standby, bomb removal

### Good Intent Call

Dispatch cancelled en route, wrong location, controlled burn, vicinity alarm

### False Alarm

Malicious, mischievous alarm, bomb scare, system malfunction

### Special Incident Type

Citizen complaints, severe weather

### Service Call

Person in distress, water problem, smoke odor, animal problem, public assist, unauthorized burning, standby

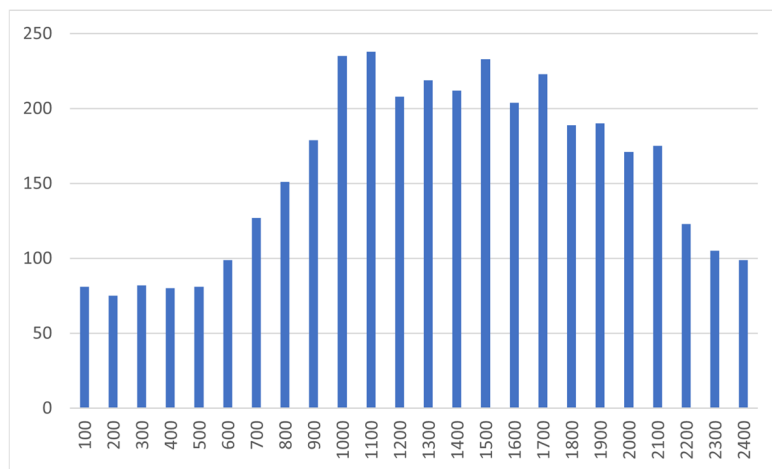
### Fire

Building, mobile property, vehicle, natural vegetation, outside rubbish or equipment

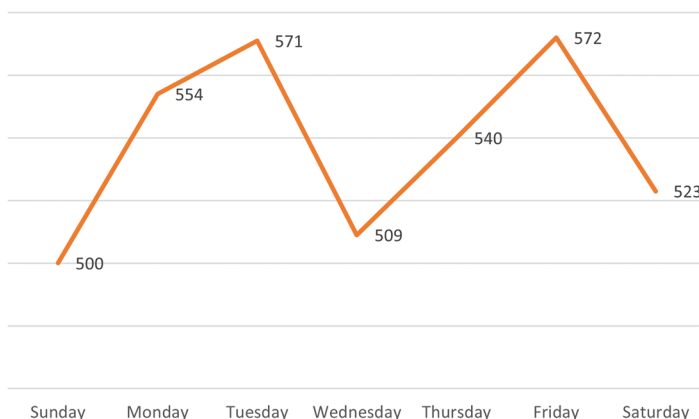
### Rescue & Emergency Service

Medical assist, EMS, MVA's, water rescue, electrical, extrication

## EMS Calls by Time of Day



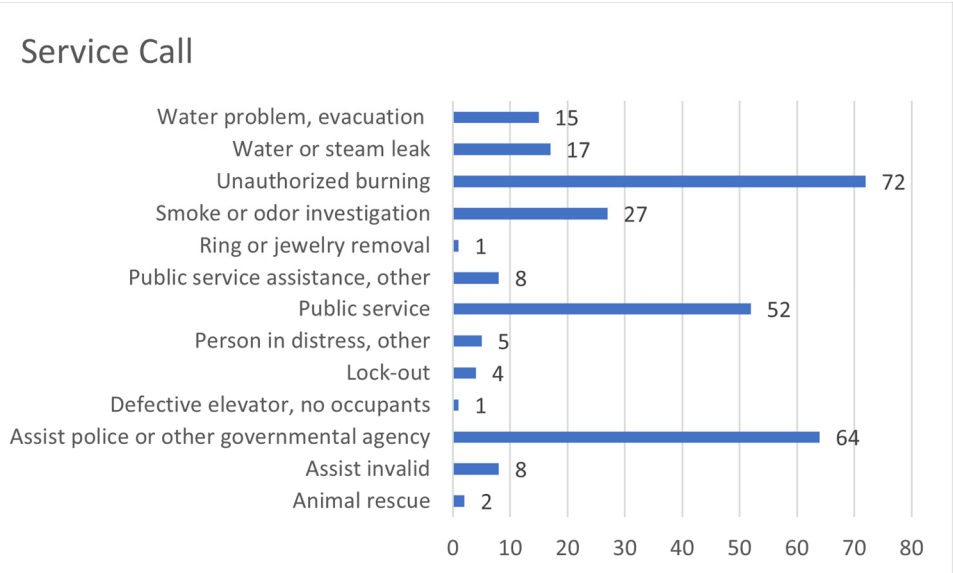
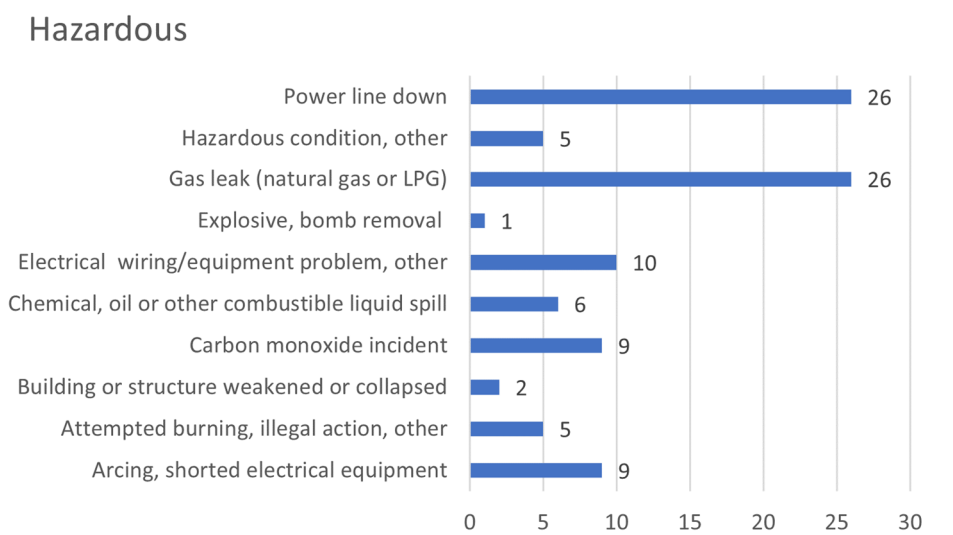
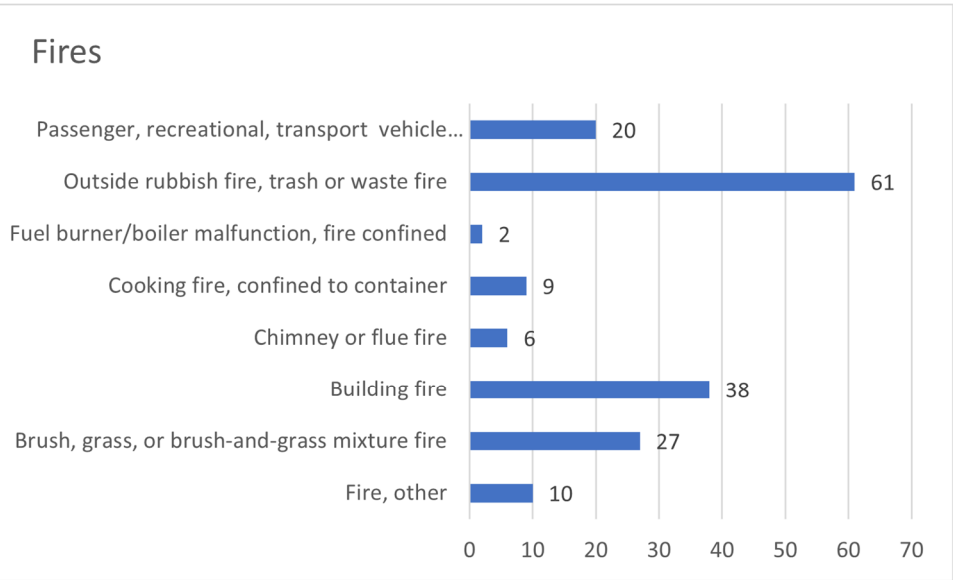
## EMS Calls by Day of Week



2021 Total  
Calls  
5,613



# Incident Category other than EMS



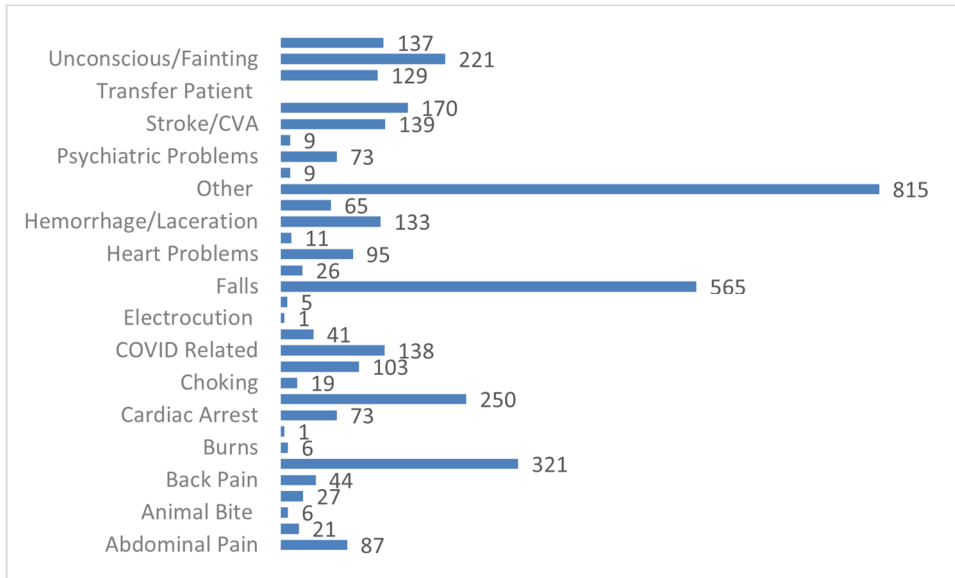
False Alarms — 215



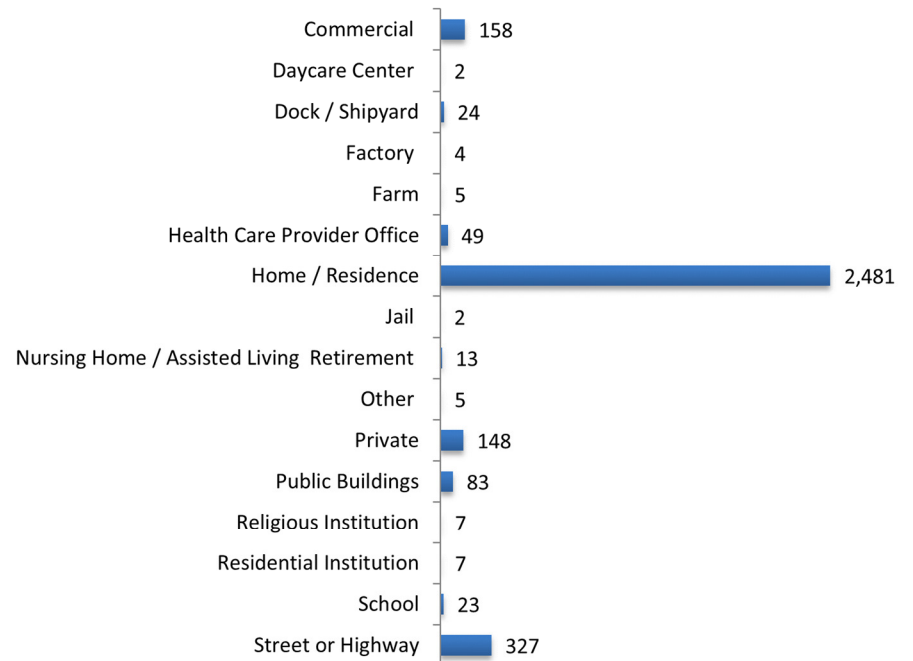
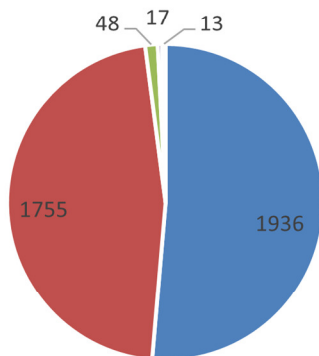
**2021 Fire  
Loss**  
*(structure  
and content)*  
**\$3,081,300**



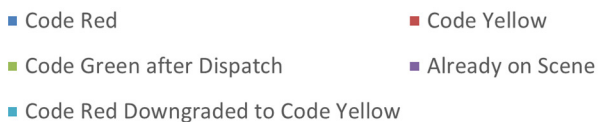
## Calls by Emergency Medical Response n



## Location Type



## Calls by Response Mode to Scene

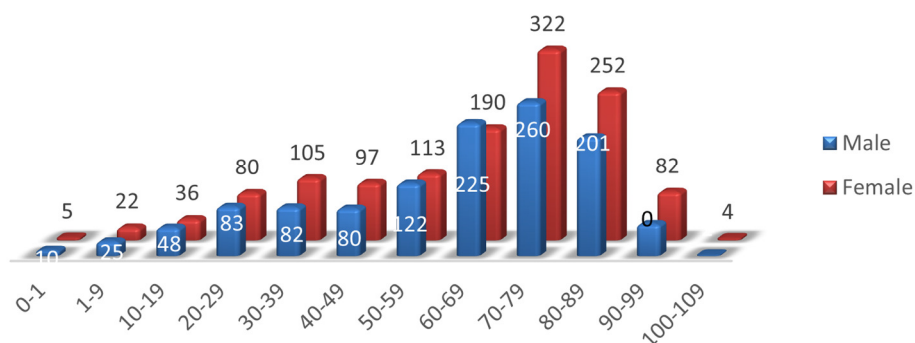




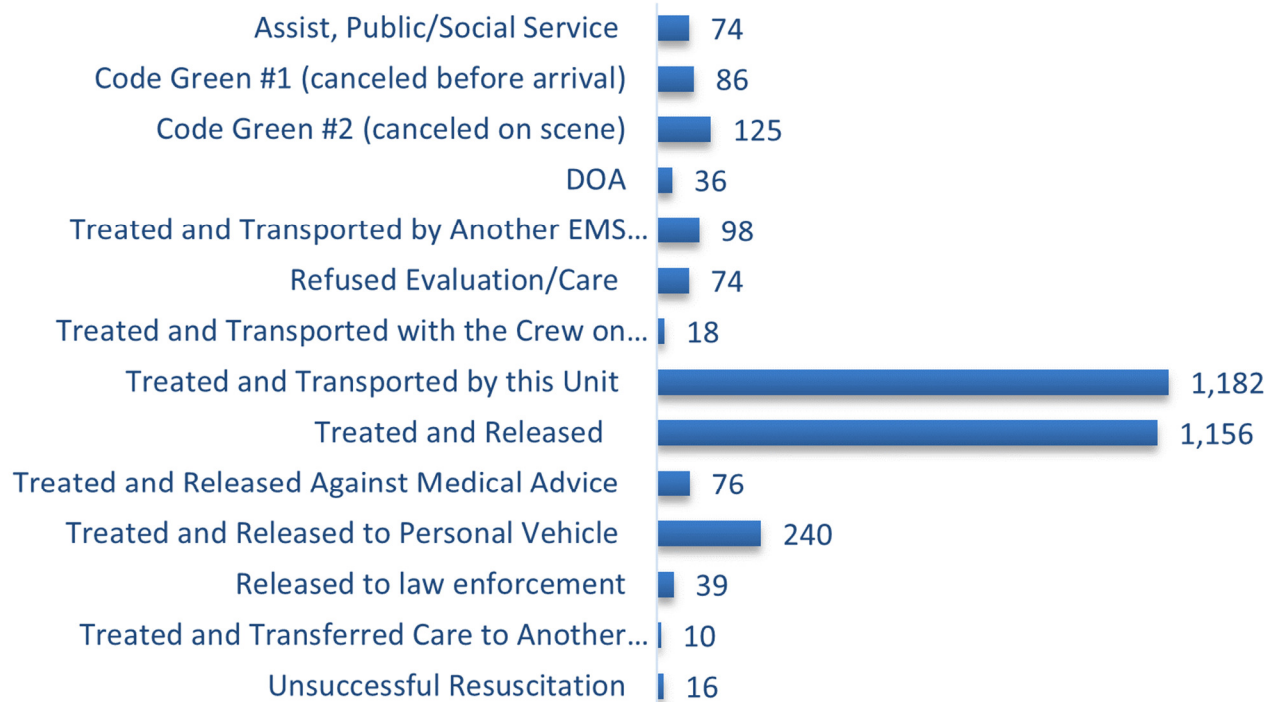
## Response by Gender and Age



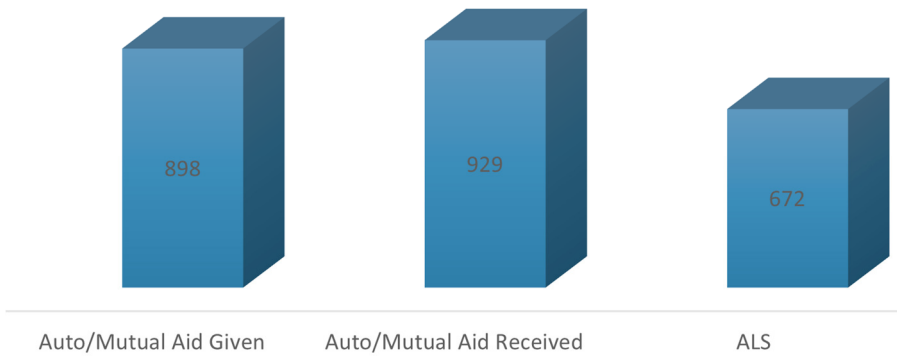
Gender not specified—113



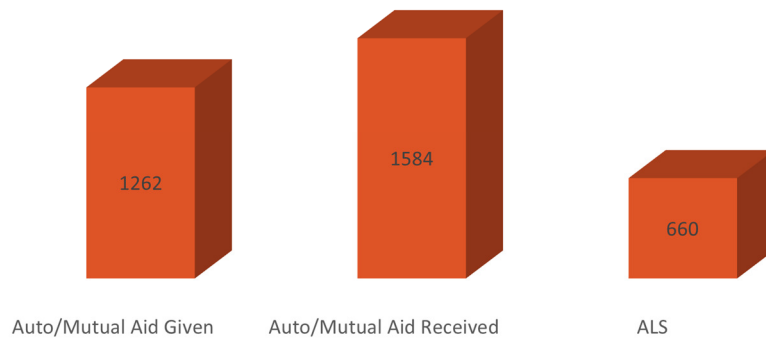
## Patient Disposition



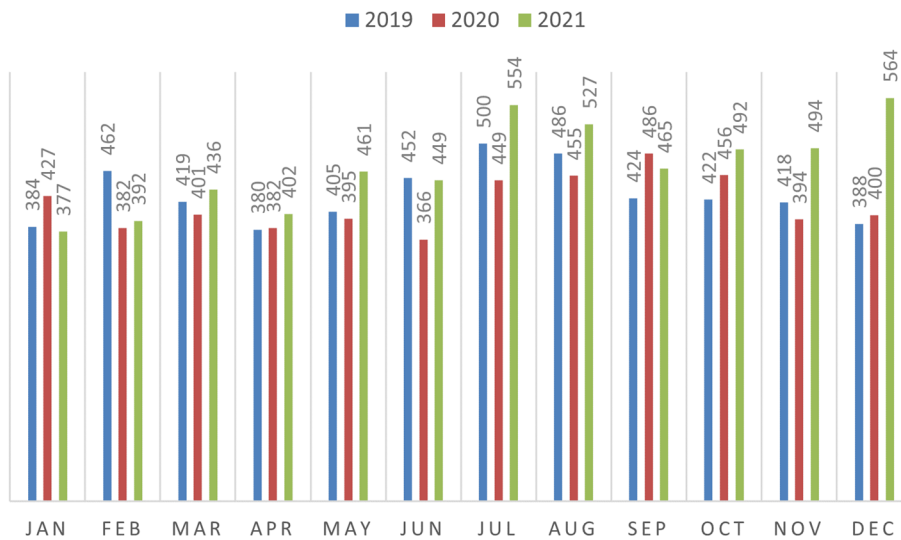
## Auto, Mutual Aid and ALS 2020



## Auto, Mutual Aid and ALS 2021



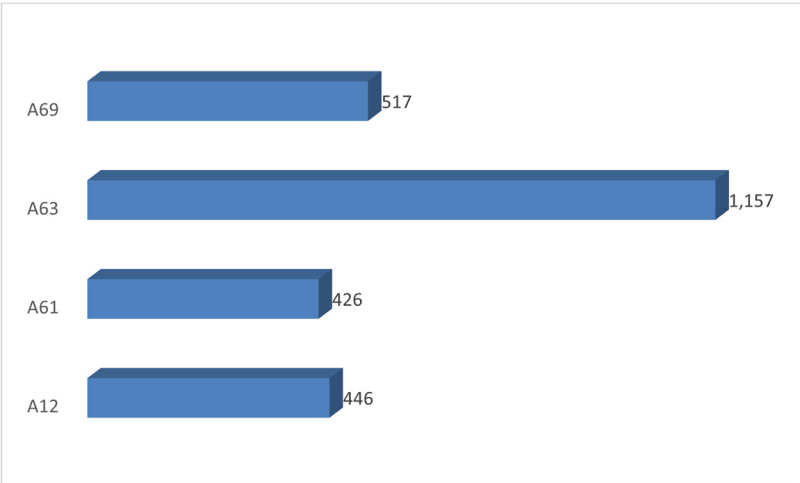
## Monthly Incident Responses





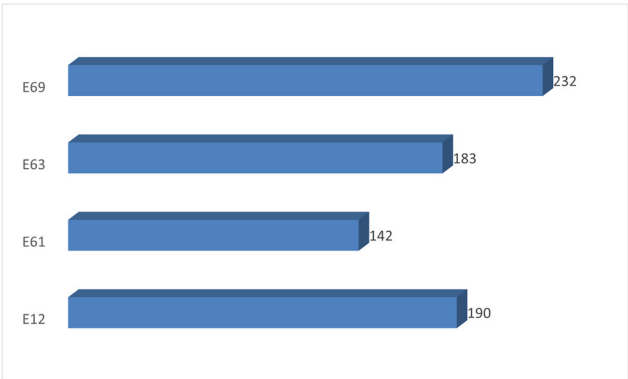
# Calls by Apparatus Response

BLS Aid Unit / Ambulance Response *(basic life support vehicle)*



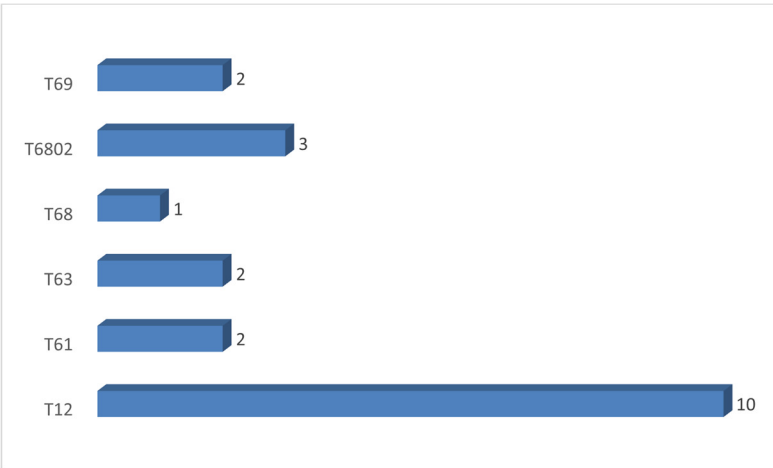
Aid / Ambulance

Engine Response *(large motor vehicle that carry firefighters and equipment and support extinguishing operations to a fire)*



Engine

Tender Response *(large motor vehicle that carry water to support fire engines and firefighters where hydrants are not available)*



Tender

## Response Times

NWFR continues to focus on reducing incident response times. Faster response times mean decreased damage to property and better outcomes in life-threatening medical emergencies.

Even with crews in quarters there are times when we are challenged because of long distance travel throughout the one hundred eighty-two square miles the district protects.

NWFR has entered into automatic aid agreements to improve response times across the county. In 2013, the district entered into an automatic aid agreement to coincide with their mutual aid agreement with the City of Lynden Fire Department to improve response times to the district's area north of the City of Lynden. NWFR has also entered into an inter local agreement with the City of Bellingham, an auto aid agreement with the Ferndale Fire Department, as well as a county wide mutual aid agreement.

The single biggest obstacle to improving response times to the standard adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners is staffing limitations.



### Urban

Population >1000 per square mile

Eight minutes eighty percent of the time of the arrival of the first due fire engine company/ ambulance.

### Suburban

Population of 500-1000 per square mile

Ten minutes eighty percent of the time of the arrival of the first due fire engine company/ ambulance.

### Rural

population < 500 per square mile

Twelve minutes eighty percent of the time of the arrival of the first due fire engine company/ ambulance

**Overall Average Response  
Time**

**9 minutes 38 seconds**





