

NORTH WHATCOM FIRE & RESCUE

Annual Statistics 2023



"Semper Paratus"

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ADMINISTRATION

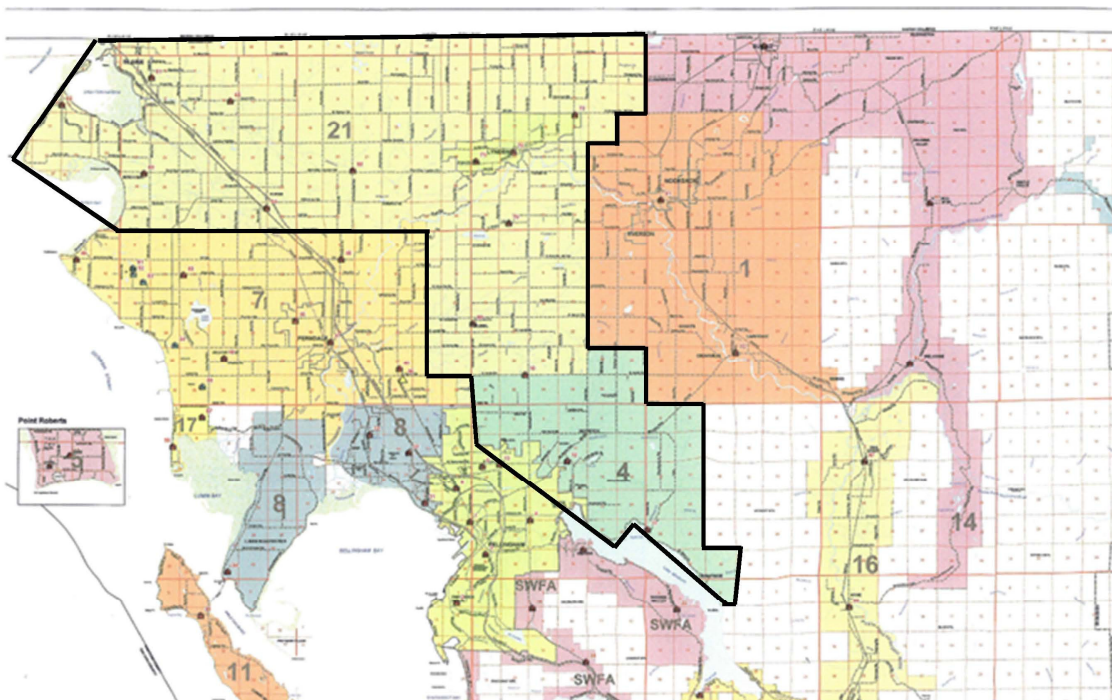
Department Overview

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 nine 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 over thirty 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 currently has forty-four full paid firefighters, twenty-two tender support, two rehab volunteers and seven support staff members, including a fire chief, assistant chief, and division chief.
- 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

2023 ROSTER OF MEMBERS

Fire Commissioners

District 21

Bruce Ansell, Chair
John Crawford, Vice-Chair
Scott Fischer
Kimberly McMurray
Matthew Rigberg

District 4

Steve Cooley, Chair
Tim Johnson, Vice-Chair
Mark Lann,

Chief Officers

Jason Van der Veen, District Fire Chief
Jon Ahrenholz, Division Chief of Operations
Shaun Ward, Division Chief of Special Services

Support Staff

Benita Williams, Business Manager
Jennie Sand, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Freeman, Human Resources
*Elliot Courage, Mechanic
Ryan Mack, Mechanic

Training Captain

*Mike Finley

Captains

Mike Schmidt
Adam Smith
Burr McPhail

Lieutenants

**Kevin Biery
Scott Brown
Tony Esser
Troy Freeman
Jeff Hofstad
Chris Hollander
John Hollstein
Danny Jensen
Kris Jorgensen
Rob Mulrooney
Mike Nelson
D.J. Riehl

Deputy Fire Marshal

Joel Nielsen

Career Firefighters

Russ Briskin
Liz Bronder
Kaleb Bruch
*Kenneth Cunningham
Jason Donnelly
Alex Georgulas
Aaron Logerstedt
Steven Latham
Evan Maack
Patricia McDermott
Tony Placzek
Wayne Sanders
Cody Stamberger
Collin Thomas
Haley Urling-Ehinger
Dylan Witzel

Cody Bowen
Tanner Brotherton
Tyler Budwey
Gary DeJager
John Geleynse
Philip Jackson
Keagan Kingslien
Mike Lyshol
Brandon May
Seth Meredith
Alden Roberts
*Chuck Shipp
Kat Stewart
Tye Thompson
Delanie Warne
**Mark Wohlrab

Volunteer Tender Support

Shawn Atwood
Laura Brewer—Yarnall
Thomas Erickson
Tanner Jansen
Dalton King
Robert King
Lee Lightfoot
Branden Millsap
*Mike Peetoom
Sabrina Renskers
Julie Smits
Scott Wood

Jeff Bowles
Brian Carlson
George Hargenrader
Aaron Jonasson
Jessica King
Tanner Larsen
Casey Martin
Mel Mulligan
Lane Renskers
Dale Rutgers
Michael Welch



Rehab Volunteers

Kim Gates
Melissa Van Cleve

* resigned in 2023
** retired in 2023

PERSONNEL

General Information

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue has personnel in the following areas:

- 48 full-paid firefighter positions
- 24 volunteers, tender support, rehab
- 10 support staff

Promotions

John Hollstein and Robert Mulrooney were promoted to shift lieutenant in 2023.



Retirement

Lieutenant Kevin Biery retired in 2023 after serving thirty-three years with District 13 and NWFR.



Firefighter Mark Wohlrab retired in 2023 after serving over sixteen years with NWFR.

New Members

Welcome new members of North Whatcom Fire and Rescue

Career Firefighters

(left to right)

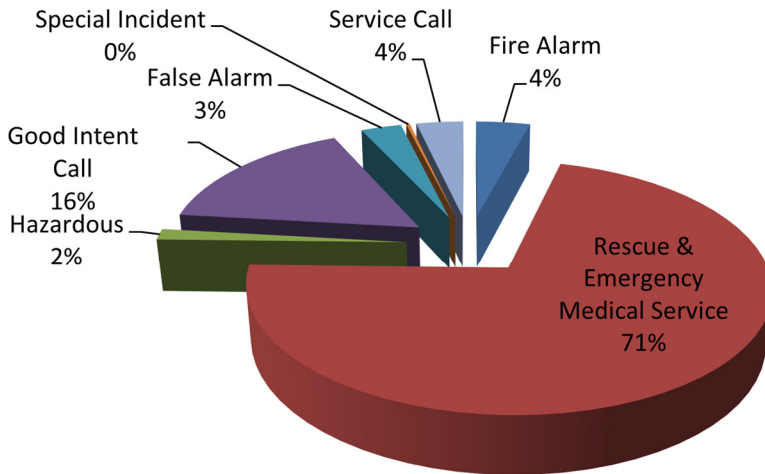
Brandon May
Collin Thomas
Aaron Logerstedt
Tony Placzek
Dylan Witzel



Tender Support

Laura Brewer-Yarnall
Tanner Jansen
George Hargenrader
Aaron Jonasson
Dalton King
Lee Lightfoot
Casey Martin
Julie Smits
Michael Welch

Responses by Type 2023



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

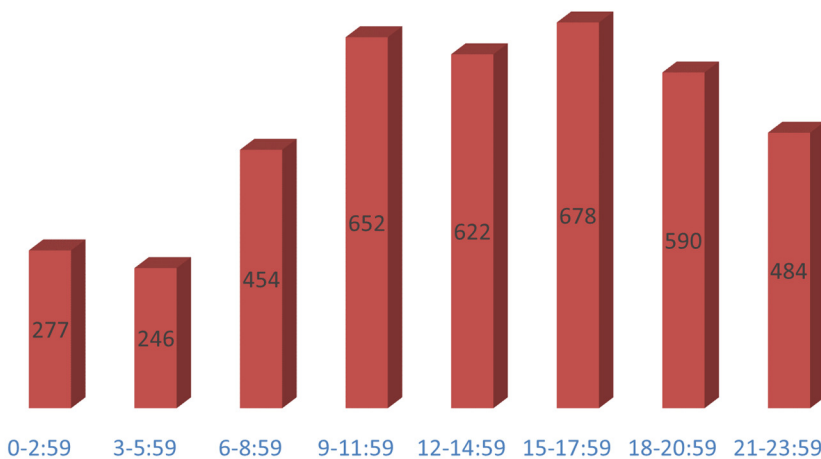
Fire

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

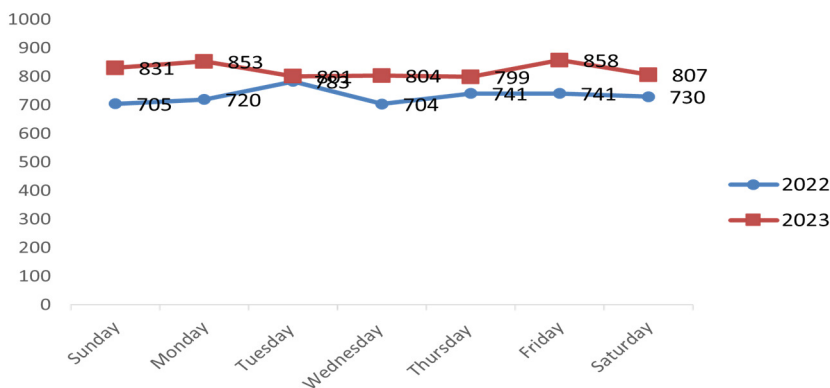
Rescue & Emergency Service

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

EMS Calls by Time of Day



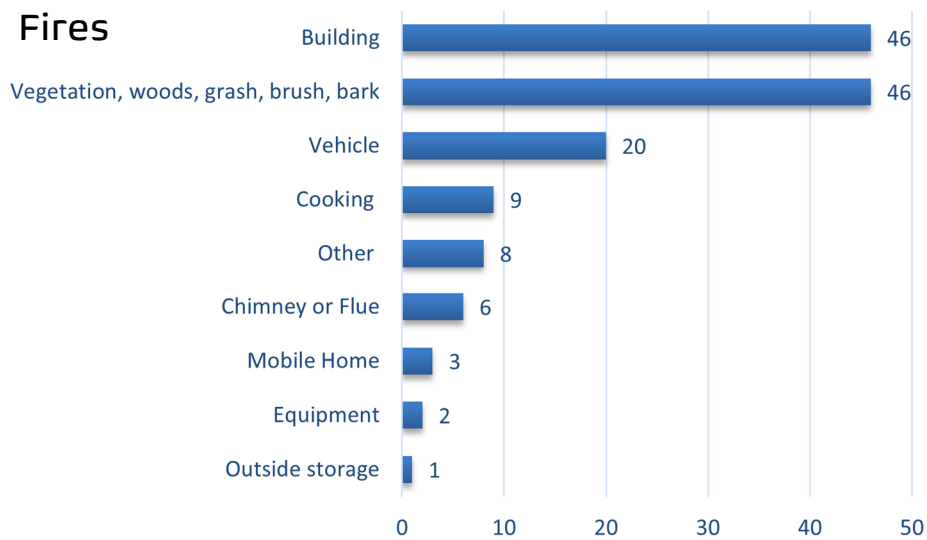
EMS Calls by Day of Week



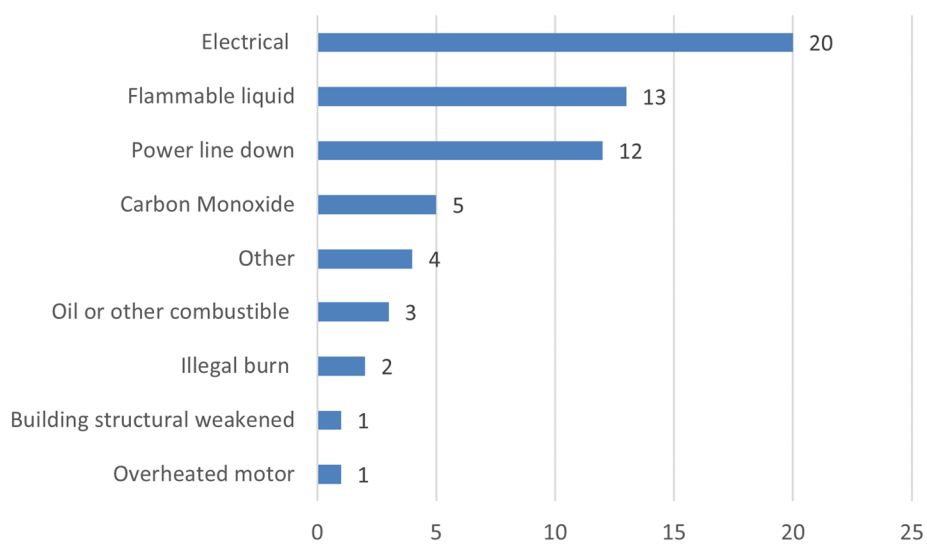
2023 Total
Calls
5,753

Incident Category other than EMS

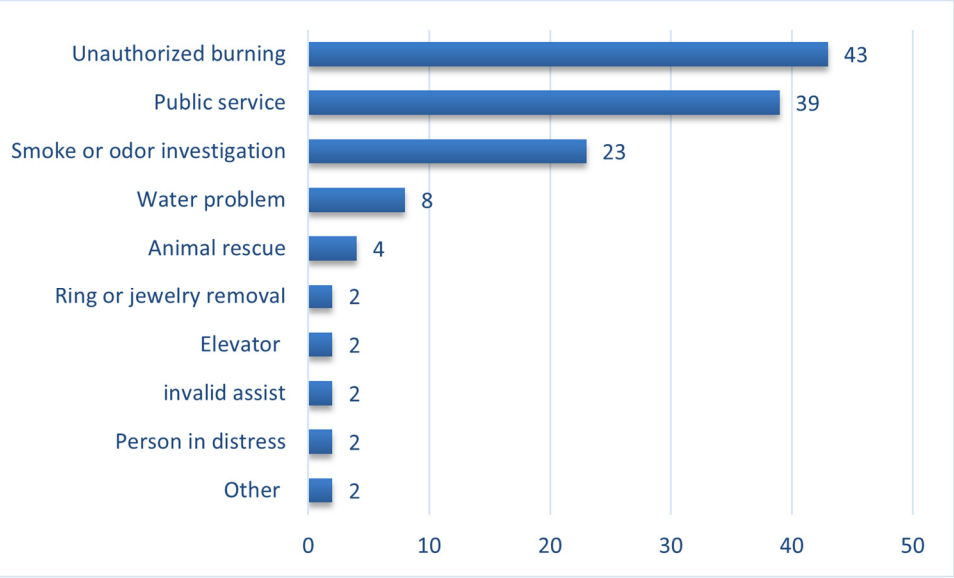
Fires



Hazardous



Service



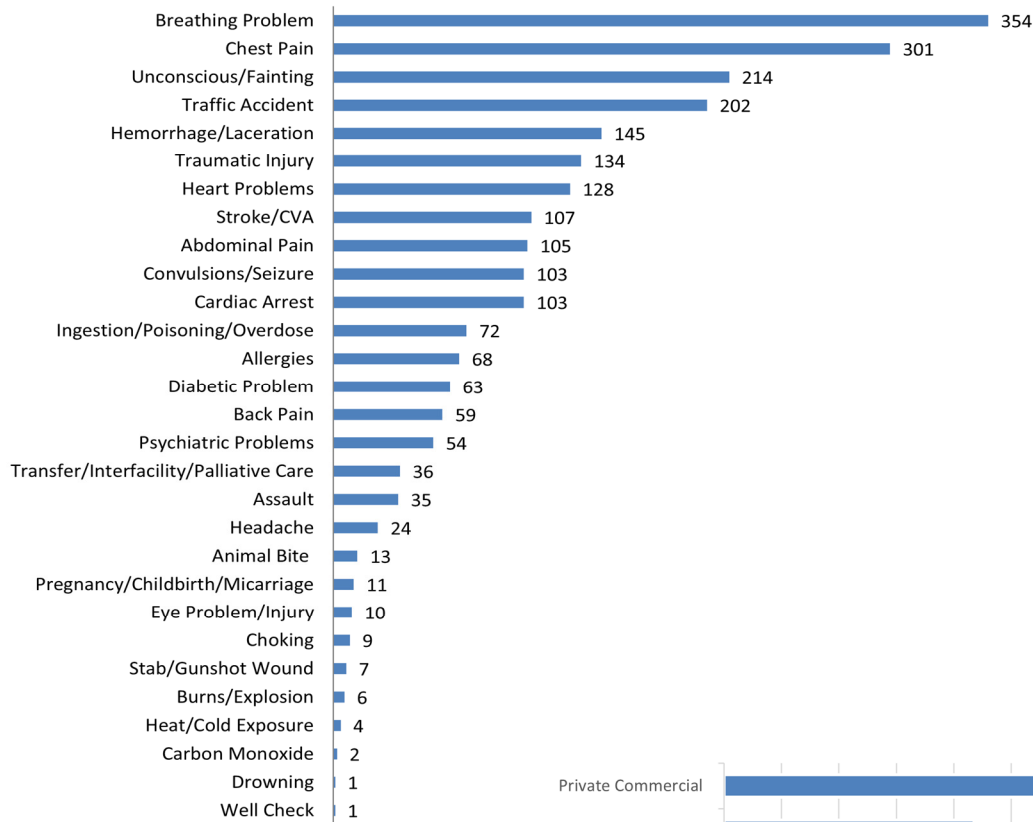
2023 Fire Loss

\$4,251,938

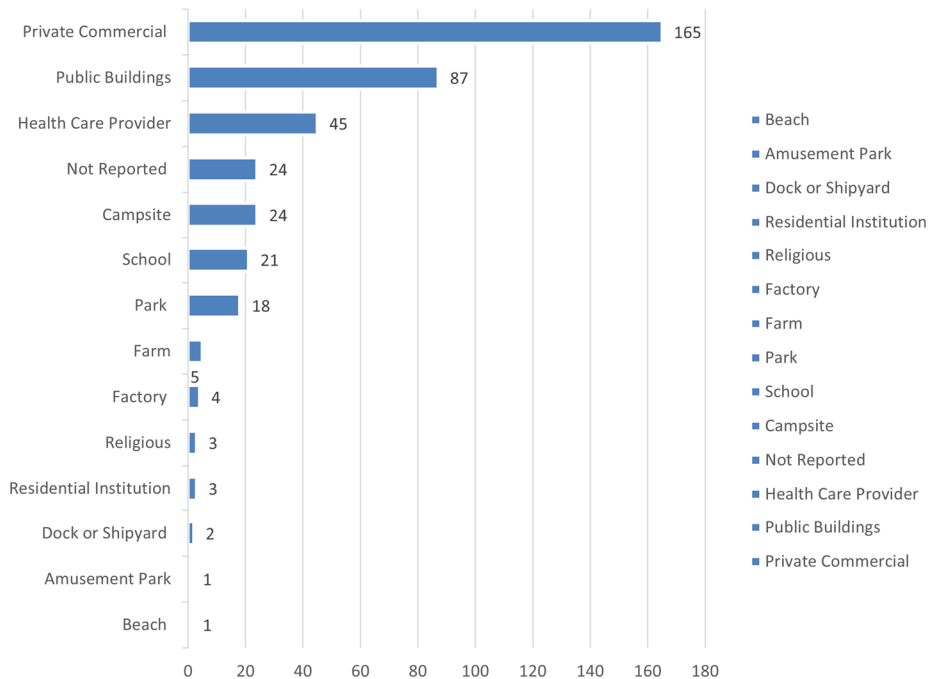
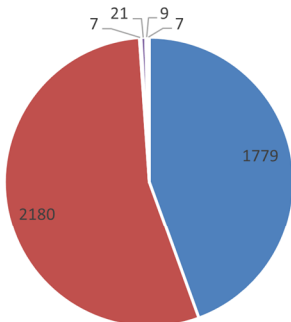
property and
content



Calls by Emergency Medical Response



Location Type



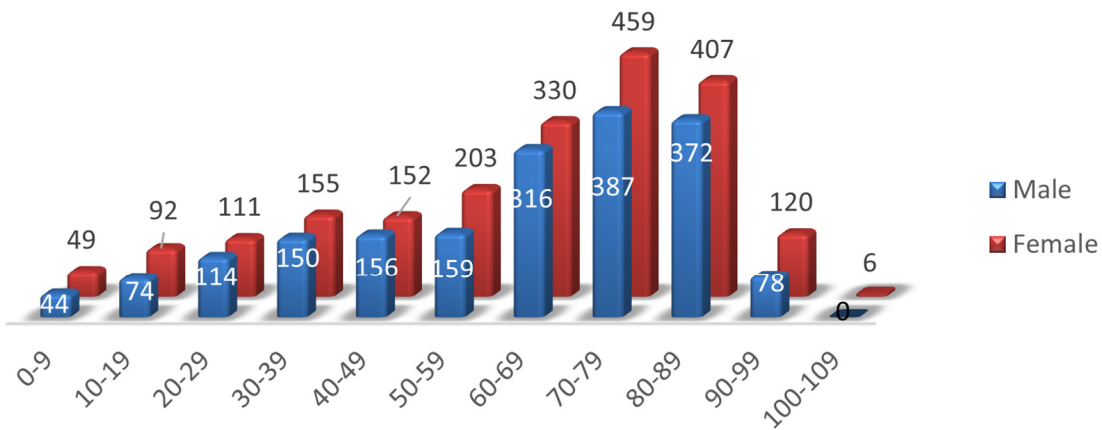
Calls by Response Mode to Scene



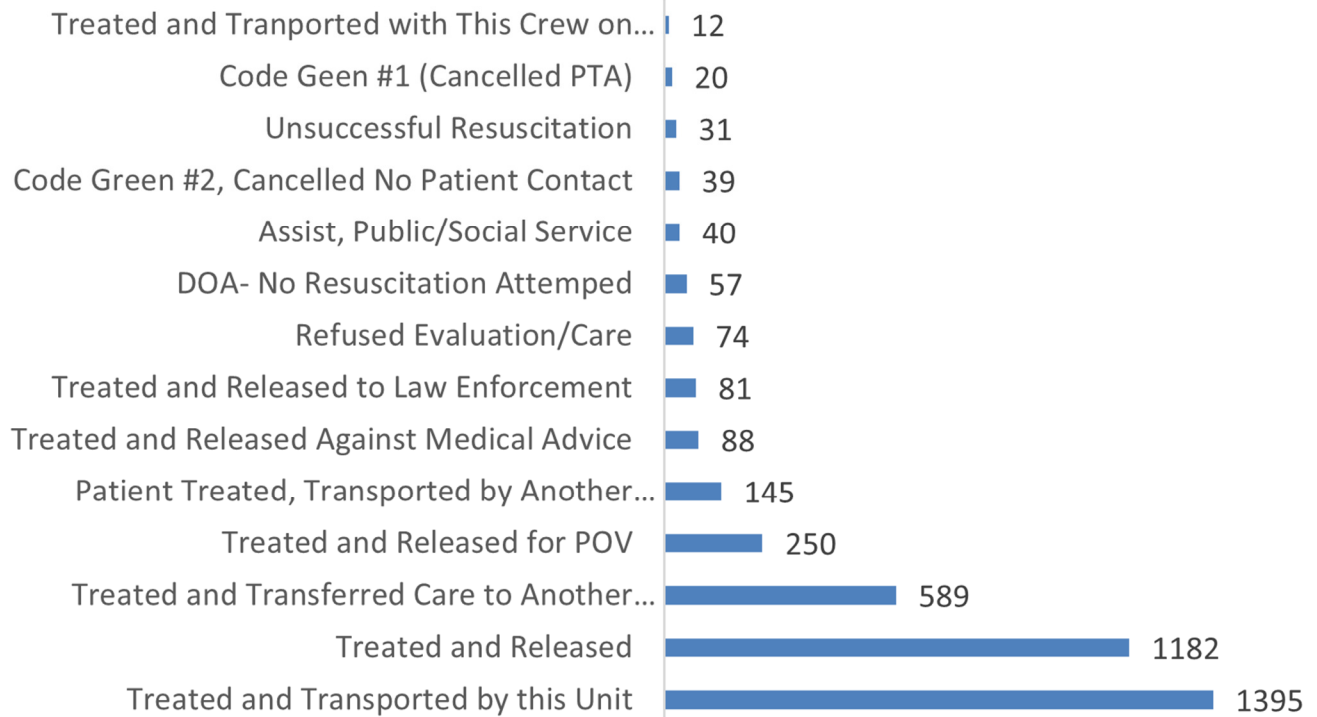
Response by Gender and Age



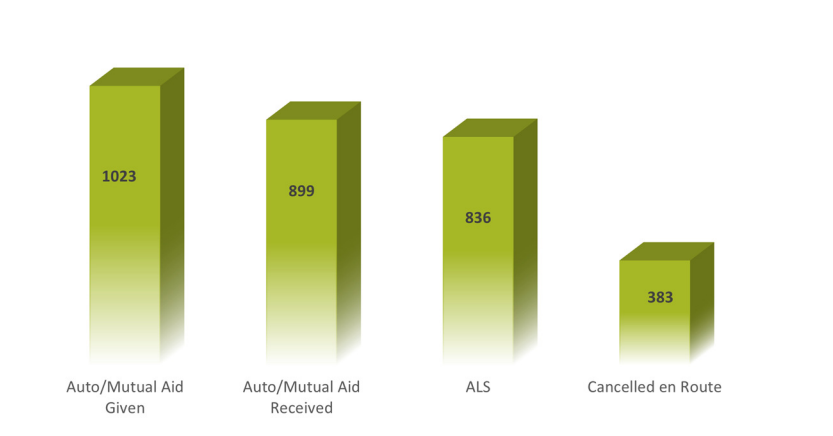
Gender not specified—66



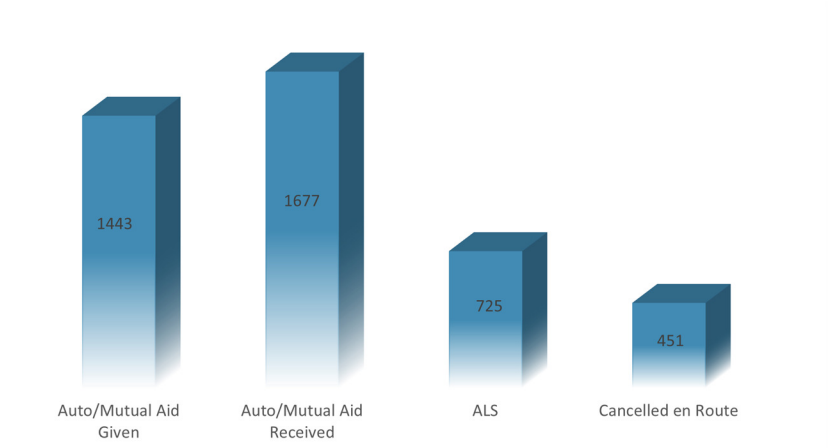
Patient Disposition



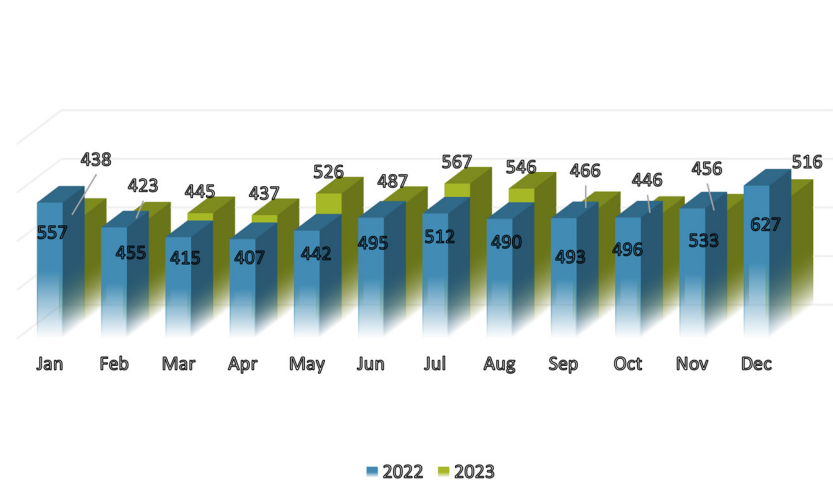
Auto, Mutual Aid and ALS 2023



Auto, Mutual Aid and ALS 2022

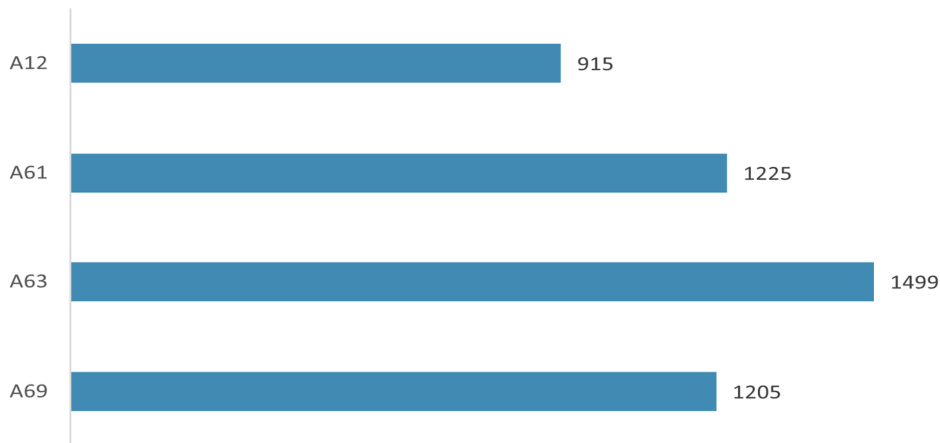


Monthly Incident Responses



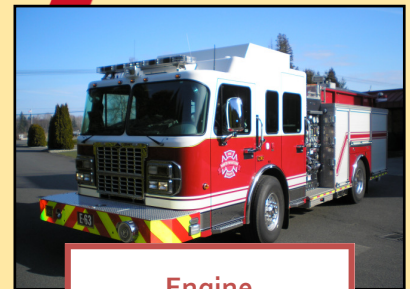
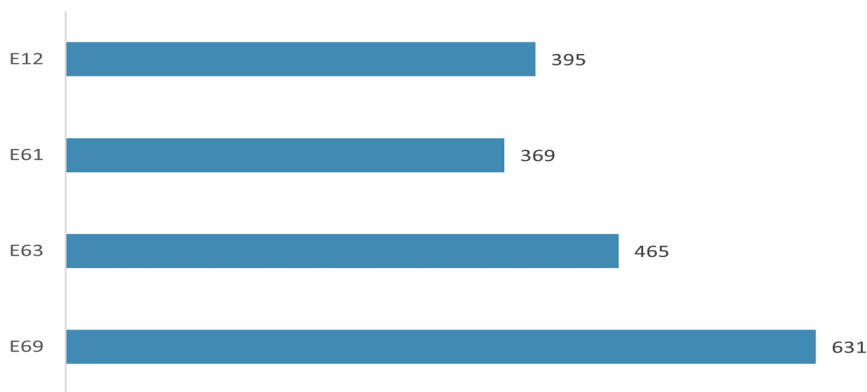
Calls by Apparatus Response

BLS Aid Unit / Ambulance Response (*basic life support vehicle equipped for taking sick or injured people to the hospital*)



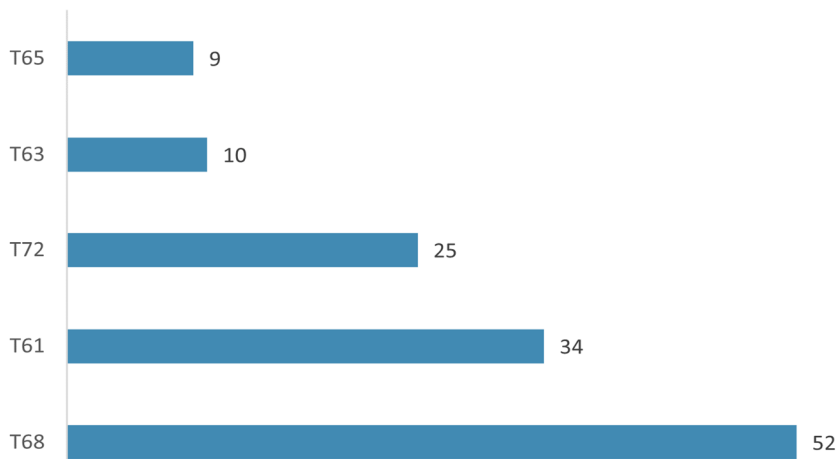
Aid / Ambulance

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.

Call volumes have almost doubled in the last 10 years. EMS calls have increased by 50 percent and now account for the majority of calls – 71 percent. Multiple emergencies happening at the same time are also occurring more frequently, at least 30 percent of the time. As a result, NWFR is experiencing longer response times.

The District is considering to place a fire levy lid lift on the August 6, 2024 primary election ballot.

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.

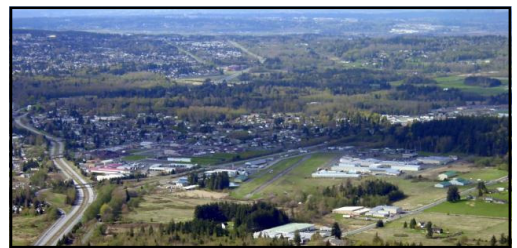
Rural

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 48 seconds







NORTH WHATCOM FIRE & RESCUE

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