

EMS LEVY 2026

Pacific County Fire District #1



General Information about the Levy

- Pacific County Fire District #1 is asking voters to renew the existing EMS levy for another 6-years, as the current levy expires on December 31, 2026
- If approved the EMS levy will be \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed property value. For example, a property valued at \$400,000 would pay \$200 annually.
- EMS levy funds must be dedicated for emergency medical services and are governed by State law. (RCW 84.52.069)
- The EMS levy has been in place since 1986, and is integral to funding comprehensive emergency medical services programs

EMS Levy Benefits

- EMS Services include
 - 24/7 staffing of Paramedic-level services. Immediate emergency responses from three (3) staffed stations (Ocean Park, Seaview, Surfside)
 - Emergency and non-emergency transport
 - Medical stand-by at events
 - Initial and on-going medical training for Fire District personnel
 - Comprehensive prevention programs focused on injury / illness prevention
 - Integrated health collaboration with hospitals, Department of Health, and advocacy groups
- A Fire District Taxpayer/Resident has no out-of-pocket expense for emergency medical responses, treatment, or transport

Governance

- Pacific County Fire District #1 is a political sub-division of the State of Washington
- Powers and authority are established under Title 52 RCW
- Board consists of three (3) elected officials
- Provide fire and emergency medical services to the unincorporated areas of the peninsula
- Contractual agreements with WA State Parks, WA Department of Natural Resources, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Emergency Medical Services (scope of practice, licensure, and certification) are governed by the WA State Department of Health

Personnel

- 3 Elected Fire Commissioners
- 25 Volunteers (50% are EMTs)
- 36 Employees (30 FTE, 6 PTE)
 - 3 Chief Officers (1 Fire Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs)
 - 24 Line/Shift Firefighters (54% are certified Paramedics)
 - 5 Part-time Firefighter/EMTs
 - 1 District Secretary
 - 1 Public Education Coordinator
 - 1 Mechanic
 - 1 Part-time Office Receptionist

- **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)**

- Initial training of 240 hours
- Includes basic life support assessment and intervention techniques

- **Paramedic**

- Initial training of 1,400 hours
- Includes advanced life support assessment and advanced intervention scope of practice
- Advanced EMT (new)

EMS Equipment

- Five (5) Ambulances
 - 2 Ambulances at Ocean Park Station
 - 2 Ambulances at Seaview Station
 - 1 Ambulance at Surfside Station
- Two (2) Transport capable rescues
 - 1 at the Ocean Park Station and 1 at the Seaview Station
- Special Operations Trailer
- Zoll cardiac monitors
- Video laryngoscopes
- Electric gurneys with auto-load systems (February 2026)
- Electric stair chairs (February 2026)
- AEDs on command vehicles, first out engines, and ladder truck

Training & QA/QI

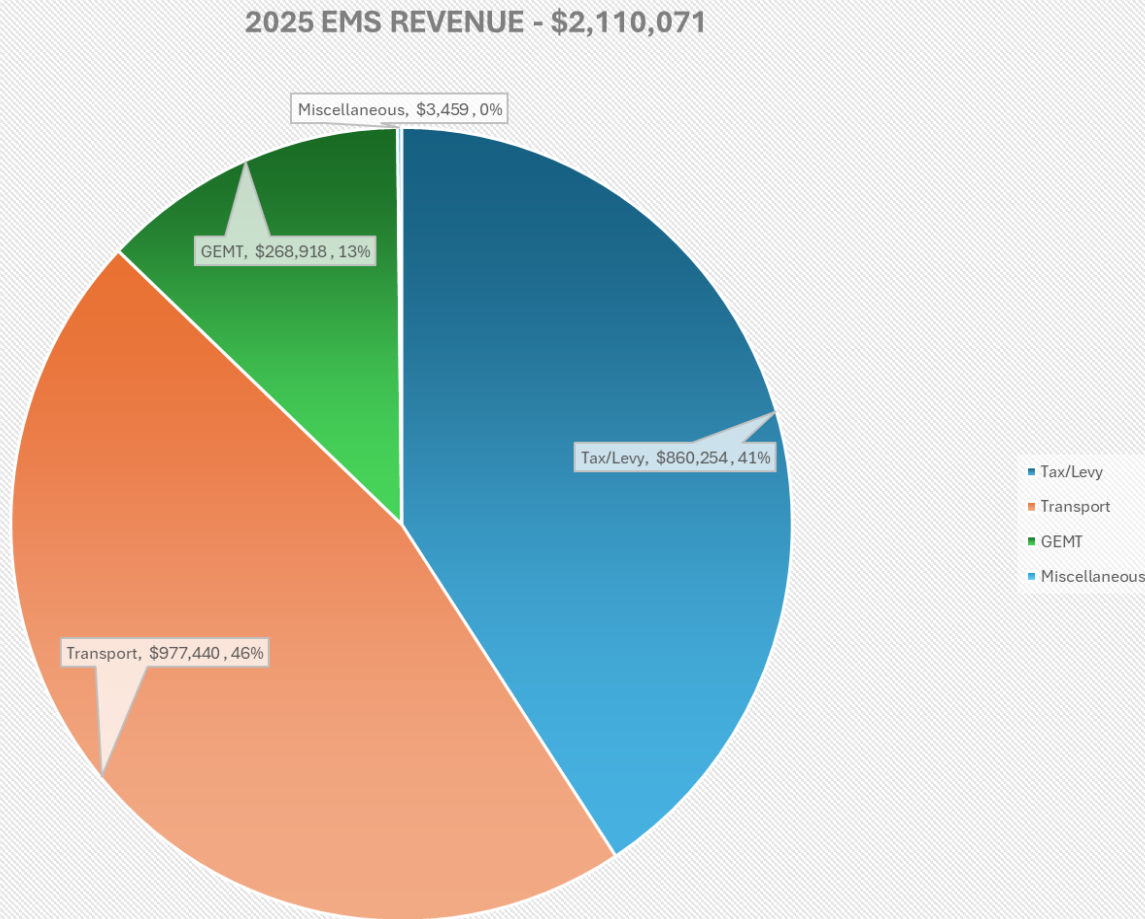
Training

- Entry level and on-going training
- Asst. Chief of Administration is certified as a EMT instructor
- The Fire District is the only recognized State-approved training site in Pacific and Wahkiakum County
- All personnel are encouraged to attend medical training, including Paramedic level schooling

Quality Assurance & Improvement

- The Fire District is part of several State and local quality assurance and improvement groups
- We are one of only a small number of rural EMS providers that participate in a State-level QA/QI programs
- The Fire District is part of Ocean Beach Hospital's QA/QI processes and programs for traumas, strokes, and STEMIs (heart attacks)

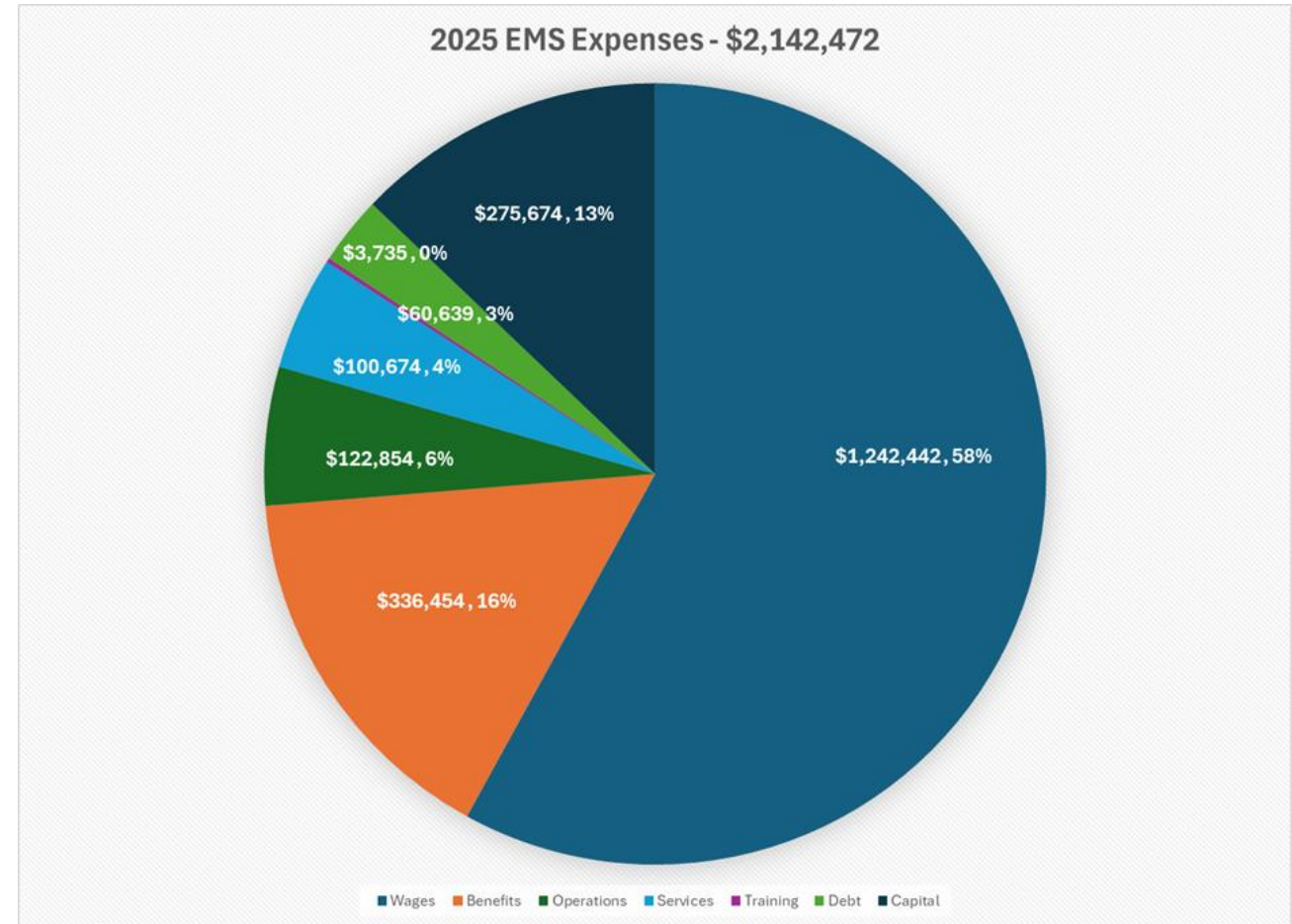
2025 EMS Revenues



- EMS functions performed through a balanced mixture of levy/tax and transport revenue.
- Tax/levy includes only the EMS levy
- Transport includes revenues directly related to emergency and non-emergency transports
- GEMT includes cost settlement for treatment **and** transport of Medicaid patients

2025 EMS Expenditures

- Wages include all Firefighter Paramedic wages
- Benefits includes L&I, fringe benefits (medical insurance, retirement, etc.)
- Operations include supplies, fuel, vehicle parts
- Services include billing service, IFT contract, vehicle and equipment repair
- Training includes training costs, outside training
- Debt is debt obligation related to financing of capital equipment
- Capital equipment includes purchase of ambulance and other large cost EMS assets

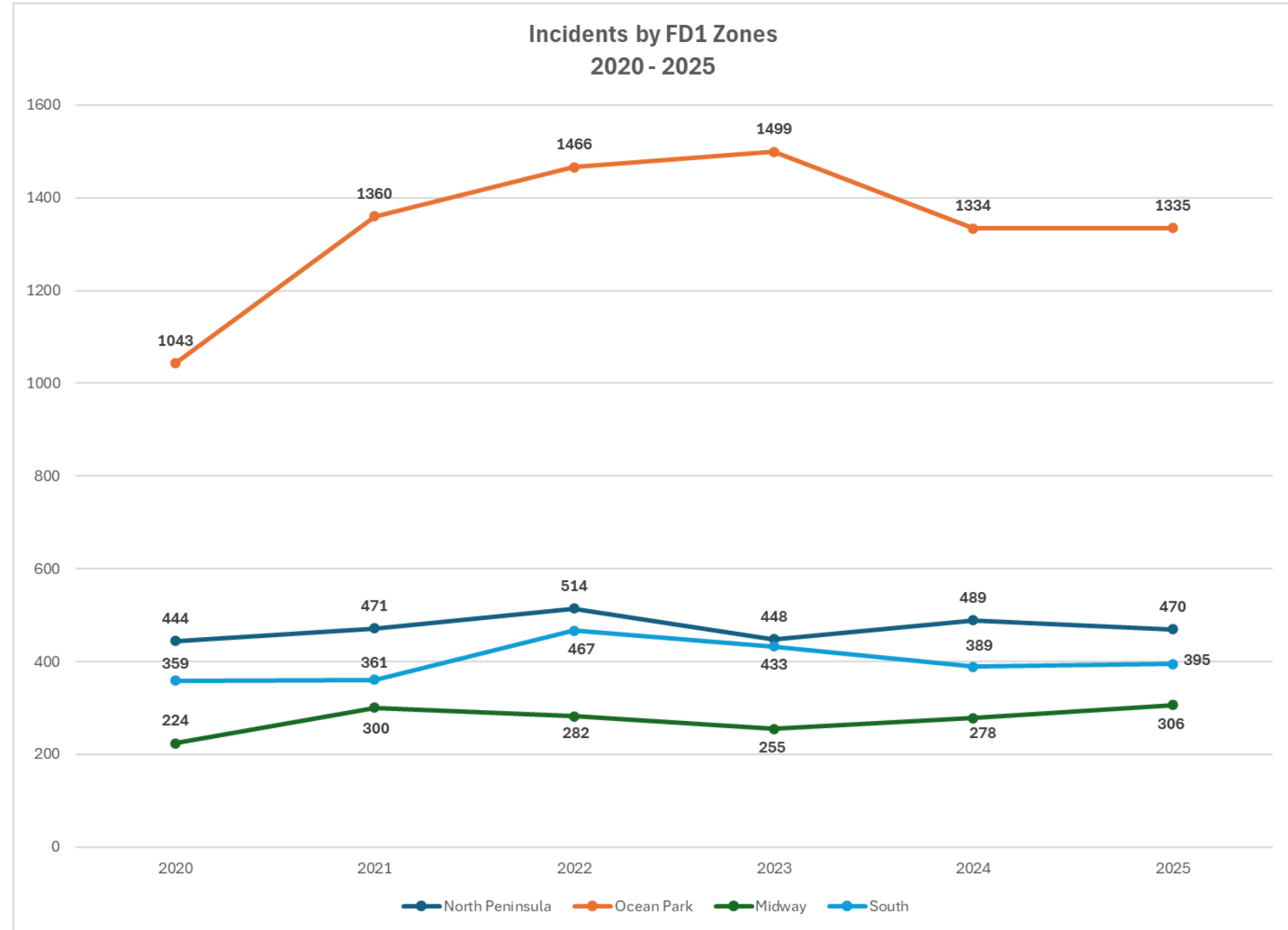


EMS Operations - Emergency

- EMS equipped stations are based on call location, call types, call volume, population, and accessibility
 - Both EMS and fire calls are tracked by “FD1 Zones”
 - Staffed (24/7) cross-trained firefighters and EMT/Paramedics are in Surfside, Ocean Park, and Seaview
 - A minimum of one Firefighter/EMT and one Firefighter/Paramedic are stationed at the Ocean Park and Seaview Stations
 - A minimum of two Firefighter/EMTs are stationed at the Surfside Station.
 - In 2025, the Surfside Station had a Firefighter/Paramedic at the station 75% of the days
 - Volunteer EMTs support responses across the peninsula
- **Zone 1 – North Peninsula**
 - West Boundary – Pacific Ocean
 - East Boundary – Willapa Bay
 - North Boundary – Leadbetter Point
 - South Boundary – Joe John’s Road
 - **Zone 2 – Ocean Park**
 - West Boundary – Pacific Ocean
 - East Boundary – Willapa Bay
 - North Boundary – Joe John’s Road
 - South Boundary – 200th Street
 - **Zone 3 – Midway**
 - West Boundary – Pacific Ocean
 - East Boundary – Willapa Bay
 - North Boundary - 200th Street
 - South Boundary – Cranberry Road
 - **Zone 4 – South**
 - West Boundary – Pacific Ocean
 - East Boundary – Teal Lane
 - North Boundary – Cranberry Road
 - South Boundary – 30th/Willows Road

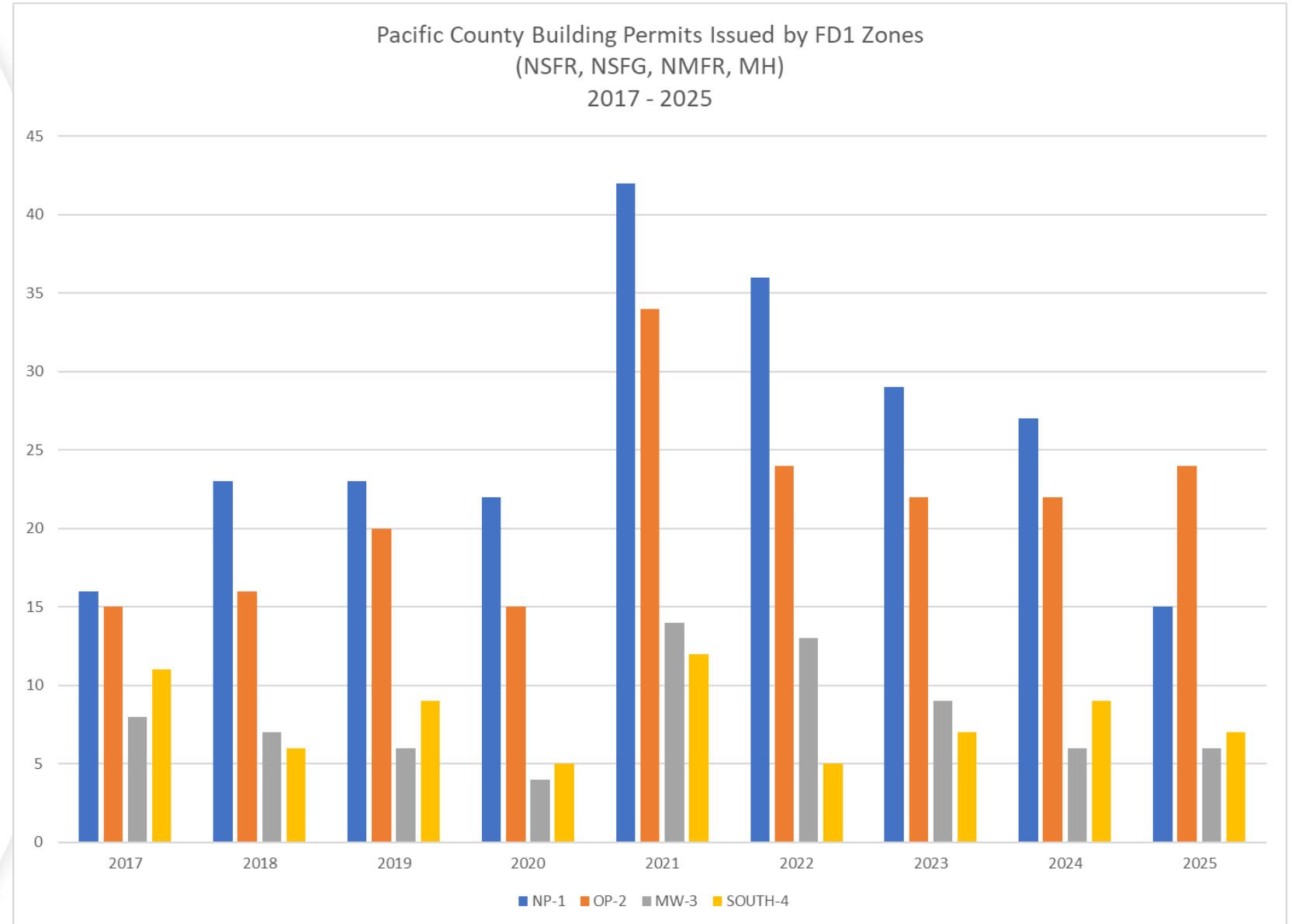
Call Volume by FD1 Zone

- More than 75% of the Fire District's call volume occurs north of Cranberry Road
- Call volume is used to evaluate the location of fire and EMS resources
- The greatest call volume occurs in Ocean Park (Zone 2)

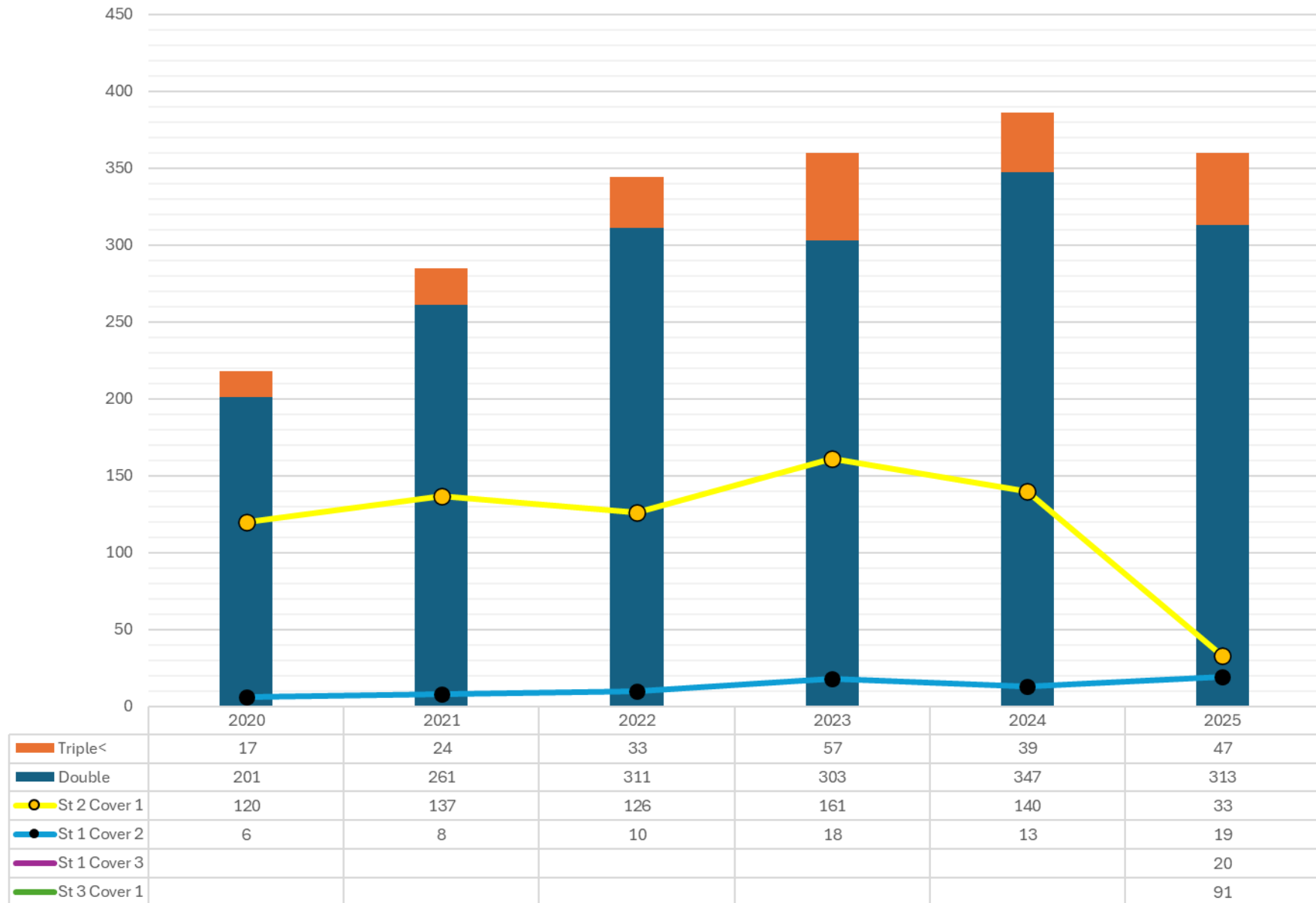


Population / Growth

- A measure of population growth and density is tracking new construction that will become occupied.
- New single family, multi-family, and manufactured homes are tracked by FD1 zone
- The North Peninsula (Zone 1) area has seen significant growth over the past 6-years.



Incidence of Concurrence

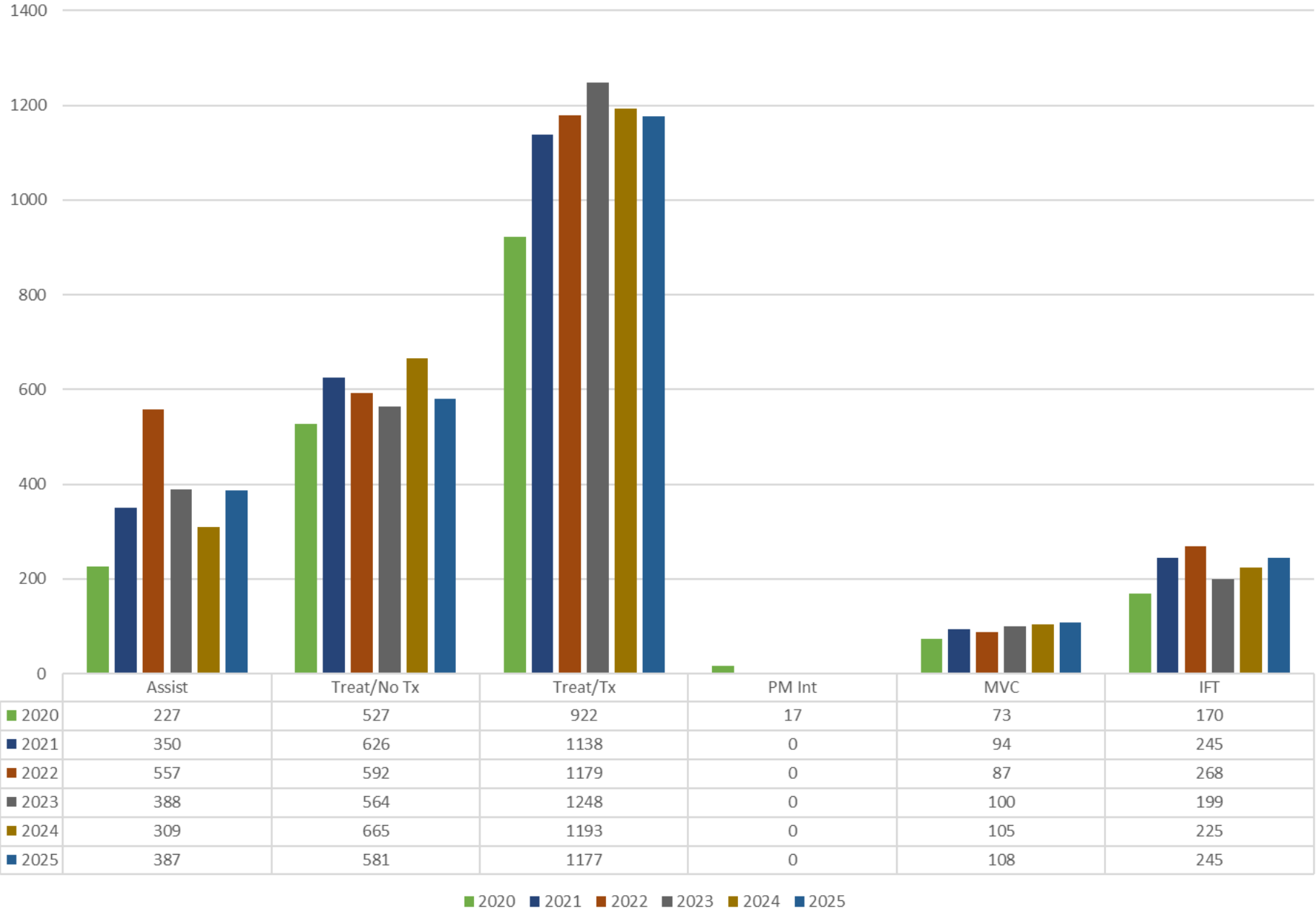


EMS Operations - Types

- Respond to all emergency and non-emergency EMS calls with certified EMTs
- Provide Basic and Advanced Life Support medical care
- Coordinate with Life Flight for critical transports directly to definitive care
- Provide ambulance transport to a local hospital (if necessary)
- Provide ambulance transport to higher level of care
- Dual trained crews can provide EMS care in dynamic scenes

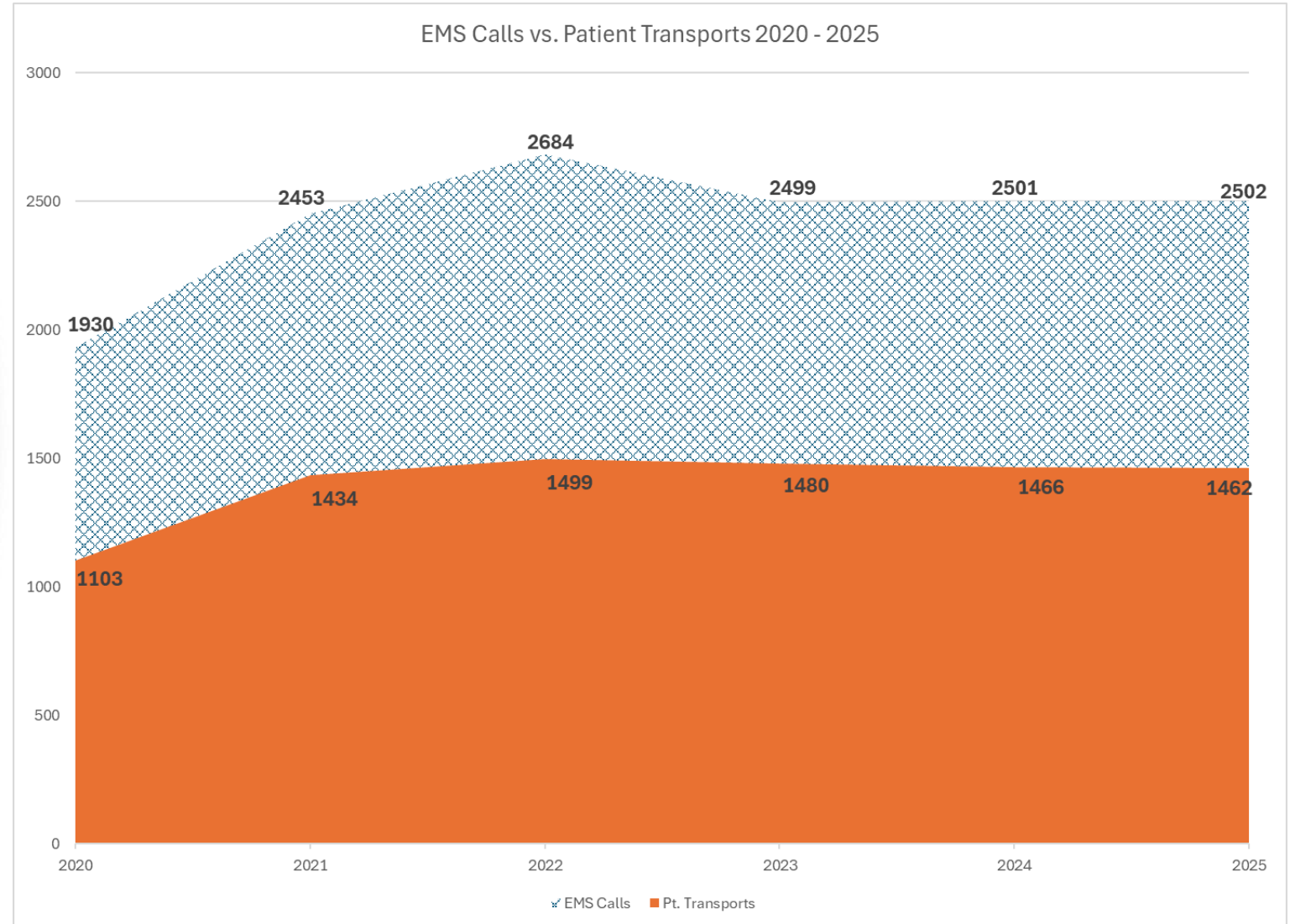


EMS Related Incident 2020 - 2025



EMS Operations

- Not all calls for emergency medical services necessitate ambulance transports
- Certified crews will respond and provide an initial assessment and discuss further actions
- Due to our community's demographic makeup, situations often present the need to provide services to improve accessibility, identify prevention needs or empower people to be prepared to handle an emergency



Illness & Injury Prevention

- The Fire District has a full-time Public Education Coordinator who focuses on illness & injury prevention
- The Public Education Coordinator works on both fire and EMS related matters and delivers many options through several Fire District programs
- The Public Education Coordinator holds several certifications, including EMT
- She belongs to numerous State, regional, and local groups that focus on risk reduction efforts in the community
 - WA State Falls Coalition
 - Olympic Area Agency on Aging (O3A)
 - South Pacific County EMS council

Illness & Injury Prevention Programs

- **Home safety visits** – Evaluation of private homes of fire hazards and injury prevention.
- **Address sign program** – Installation of reflective address signs. Includes an evaluation of driveway length for operational considerations. (attached is the document used)
- **Lock Box program** – Installation of lock box, with key access by fire department personnel only. Used for EMS calls, fire alarms, and lock outs.
- **First Aid/CPR/AED training** – Instruct responders, business, individuals in first aid/CPR/AED/Stop the Bleed
- **Technology based assistance** – Integrate technology into prevention efforts such as Elli-Q, Alexa, Lifeline, etc.
- **Car seat inspection / installation** – Performs inspections and / or installations of car seats
- **Bicycle helmets** (adult and child)
- **Blood pressure monitoring (at staffed stations)** – Citizen access for blood pressure monitoring, as directed by the primary care provider
- **Fall prevention program** – Evaluation and mitigation efforts to prevent falls
- **Project Life Saver** – Program for patients with dementia and special needs
- **Smoke detector program** – Inspection, installation, and consultation of smoke detectors. Includes access to bed shaker smoke detectors for hearing impaired.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Home Safety Visit	9	13	41	30	22	30
Home Safety Visit w/ Alarm	7	18	0	3	9	3
Home Safety Visit w/ Lock Box	14	13	0	13	12	4
Home Safety Visit w/ Durable Equipment	6	1	0	0	23	6
Fall Prevention	0	5	9	0	8	0
CPR / First Aid / Stop the Bleed	2	9	11	24	28	33
Babysitter Course	1	0	0	0	0	0
Car Seat Inspect / Install	7	9	13	20	8	12
Bicycle Helmets	0	2	4	3	2	5
Elli-Q / Alexa / Lifeline	0	4	10	8	5	1
Lock Box Install	14	10	21	11	15	14
Project Lifesaver	3	4	5	0	7	1
Smoke / Co Detector	14	12	12	19	10	18
WUI Evaluation	2	1	0	1	1	4
Fire Extinguisher Class	3	1	3	0	2	0
After the Fire	2	1	5	3	3	1

Medical Transport – Scene Response

- The Fire District provides both basic and advance life support transports
- In 2025, the Fire District transported 1,462 patients.
 - 1,213 were transported to OBH, CMH, or direct connect with Life Flight
- Hospital destination is a patient's choice (with some exceptions)
 - In 2025, the Fire District transported a patient from an incident scene to Columbia Memorial Hospital approximately 8% of the time



How Much Does it Cost

- Zoll EKG Monitor = \$48,000 (2025)
- Gurney = \$21,000 (2025)
- Stair Chair = \$14,300 (2025)
- Ambulance (Re-chassis) = \$212,000 (1/2025)
- Ambulance (New) = \$325,000
- EMT student = \$1,600
- Paramedic student = \$11,500
- Firefighter/Paramedic wage = \$32.09 – 40.96/hour (2026)

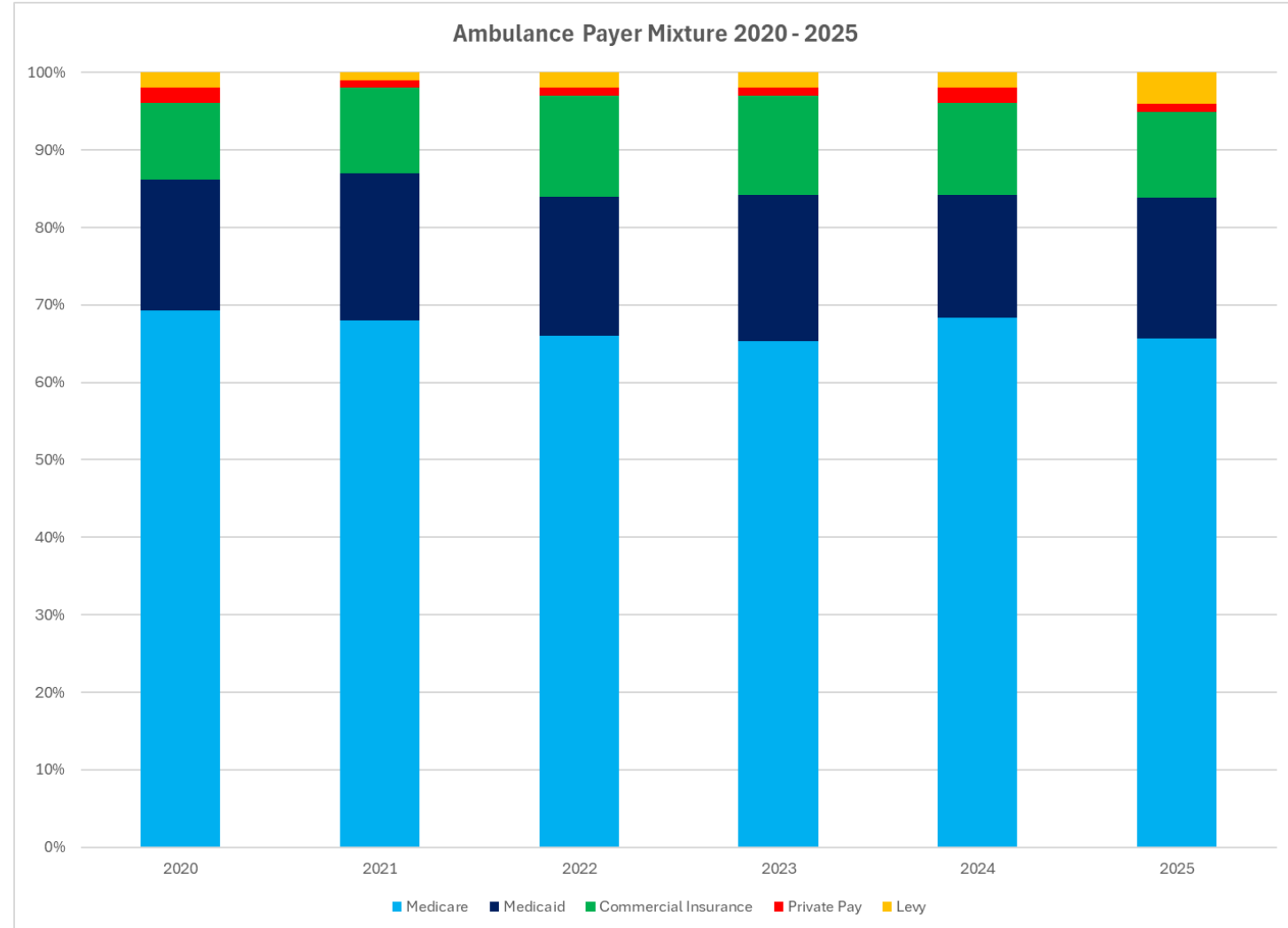


Medical Transport – Interfacility Transfers

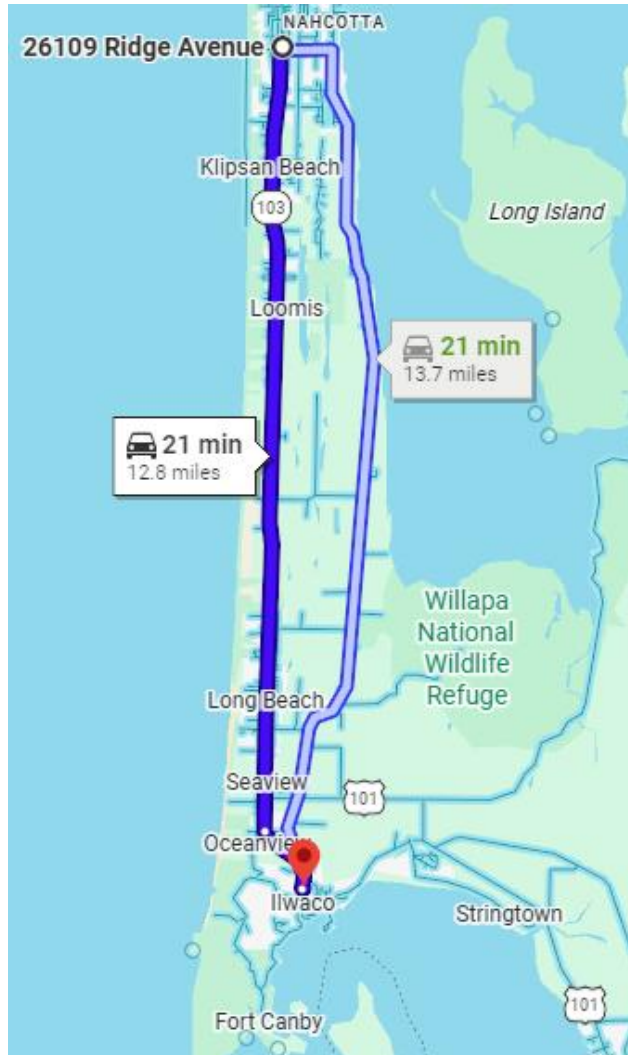
- The Fire District provides interfacility transfers to higher levels of care in the Seattle/Tacoma or Portland/Vancouver area hospitals
- The Fire District also provides non-emergency transports for non-ambulatory patients back to home or care facility.
- The Fire District contracts with Medix Ambulance to provide basic life support interfacility transfers
 - Medix will not bill a District citizen out-of-pocket for non-insurance covered services
 - Medix is required to report quarterly analytics regarding compliance measures
- On average, 300 requests for interfacility transfers of District taxpayers or residents are made by Ocean Beach Hospital
 - In 2025, the Fire District performed a total of 245 interfacility transfers. Under contract, Medix performed an additional 49 BLS interfacility transfers
- **The Fire District works constantly to balance the medical transportation needs of performing interfacility transfers with the public safety responsibilities with the resources available**

Ambulance Billing

- The Fire District only bills if ambulance transport occurs
- Residents or Taxpayers: Fire District accepts any insurance payment(s) as payment in full (no out-of-pocket cost)
- Non-resident or non taxpayer: Fire District pursues full payment
- Systems Design is our contracted billing company
- **83-87% of patients transported are Medicare or Medicaid insured**



Ambulance Billing (*Example*)



Walk-in chest pain at the Ocean Park Fire Station requiring treatment and transport to Ocean Beach Hospital.

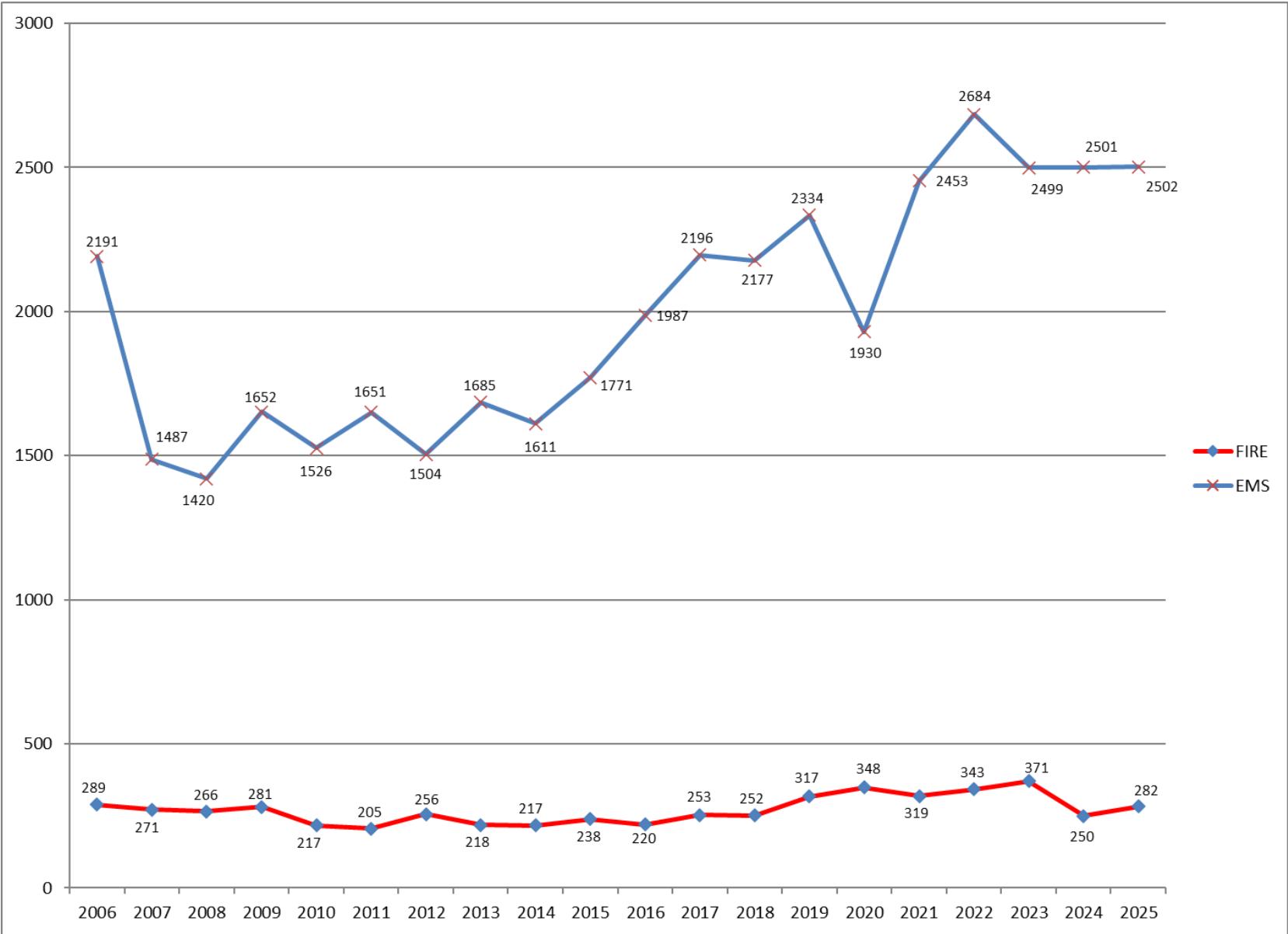
- Billed \$700 (ALS e) base rate + \$15/mile for 12.8 miles = \$892 total bill to insurance
- Medicare allows \$688.09 (ALS E base rate) + \$13.86/mile for 12.8 miles = \$865.50 allowable
- Medicare pays 80% of allowable.

	EMS SPECIFIC TAXES and FEES		AMBULANCE BILLING RATES PER LEVEL OF SERVICE							
AGENCY	EMS LEVY (per 1000 AV)	UTILITY FEE	BLS (NE)	BLS (E)	ALS (NE)	ALS (E)	ALS 2	SCT	Mileage (per mile)	Treat / Release
Pacific County #1	0.2976	N/A	\$425	\$600	\$700	\$700	\$1,100	\$1,200	\$15	N/A
North Pacific Co. EMS	0.5332	N/A	\$800	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,300	\$16	N/A
Medix Ambulance	N/A	N/A	\$1,764	\$1,764	\$1,764	\$1,764	\$1,764	\$3,100	\$29.05	\$420.62
South Beach RFA	0.2917	N/A	N/A	\$993	N/A	\$1,194	\$1,509	N/A	\$36	N/A
Naselle Fire	0.5332	N/A	N/A	\$800	N/A	\$1,000	\$1,200	N/A	\$17	N/A
Ilwaco Fire	N/A	N/A	\$600	\$600	N/A	\$800	\$900	N/A	\$20	\$250
Grays River Ambulance	0.2967	N/A	\$800	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	N/A	\$17	N/A
Aberdeen Fire Dept.	N/A	\$67.54/month	\$950	\$950	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$1,350	\$1,450	\$20	N/A
Hoquiam Fire Dept.	0.3899	\$45.61/month	\$1,124	\$1,124	\$1,588	\$1,588	N/A	N/A	\$19	\$275
Montesano Fire Dept.	N/A	\$30/month	\$931	\$1,054	\$1,230	\$1,267	\$1,601	\$1,752	\$26	N/A
Ocean Shores Fire Dept.	0.3698	\$31.17/month	\$1,028	\$1,028	\$1,343	\$1,343	\$1,530	\$1,530	\$21	N/A
Grays Harbor #2	0.50	N/A	N/A	\$1,300	N/A	\$1,500	\$1,700	\$2,000	\$25	N/A
East Grays Harbor FA	0.4996	N/A	\$1,305.59	\$1,469.91	\$1,520.56	\$1,660.13	\$1,908.86	\$1,950.51	\$24.76	N/A
✓ This table reflects costs to residents and / or taxpayers for EMS related services, including ambulance transports. Many agencies listed above charge an additional surcharge for ambulance transports and/or treat-and-release that involve a “non-resident.” Additionally, this table does not evaluate additional EMS related fees or billed costs, such as event stand-by.										

TAX/UTILITY FEE/AMBULANCE BILLING RATE COMPARISONS OF REGIONAL AMBULANCE PROVIDERS (December 2025)

1. *Medix Ambulance is the only private, for-profit ambulance provider listed. Direct and indirect fees, taxes, costs or assessments are not known for municipalities that contract with Medix.*
2. *Ilwaco Fire Department, Naselle Fire, and Grays River Ambulance only provide basic life support services*
3. *Grays Harbor City Agencies also receive revenues from an ambulance utility fee*
4. *Ambulance billing rates are available for review at WA Office of Insurance Commissioner. https://data.wa.gov/dataset/WA-Ground-Ambulance-Locally-Set-Rates/r9b2-b8ff/data_preview*
5. *EMS Levy rates were based on 2025 levy rates. <https://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/2024%20for%202025%20Tax.pdf> <https://co.pacific.wa.us/assessor/2025-LEVY-BOOK.pdf> <https://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/3323/2024-for-2025>*
6. *Utility fees are based on January 2026 rates. <https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=69414&repo=r-c8f636c8> <https://www.thedailyworld.com/news/aberdeen-ems-rate-hike-goes-into-effect-jan-1/> <https://cms8.revize.com/revize/montesano/Resolution%201006.pdf> <https://hoquiam.municipal.codes/HMC/1.45.090>*
7. *BLS, ALS1, ALS2, SCT, and mileage definitions are established by Medicare / Medicaid and are based on the level of medical assessment and/or interventions provided*
8. *Treat and release are for patients not transported by ambulance, but received some form of treatment*

20 Year Historical Incident Trend



References

- WA DOH Provider Search
 - <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/providercredentialsearch/>
- Emergency Medical Service Statutes and Rules
 - <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/emergency-medical-services-ems-and-trauma-care-system/ems-and-trauma/statutes>
 - <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/emergency-medical-services-ems-and-trauma-care-system/ems-and-trauma/rules>
- WA State Ambulance Billing Rates (Office of the Insurance Commissioner)
 - https://data.wa.gov/dataset/WA-Ground-Ambulance-Locally-Set-Rates/r9b2-b8ff/about_data
- PCFD#1 Website (Board packets, including financials and meeting minutes)
 - www.pcf1.org
- Long Beach Peninsula Demographics
 - https://data.census.gov/profile/Long_Beach-North_Beach_Peninsula_CCD,_Pacific_County,_Washington?g=060XX00US5304991656

Questions?

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