

TUMWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Brian Hurley, Fire Chief



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Tumwater Fire Department is *Providing Excellent Public Service through Compassion and Dedication*. The Department supports City priorities of *Providing and Sustaining Quality Public Safety Services* as well as *Building a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion, and Humanity*. Innovation and partnerships ensure timely, efficient, and effective public safety response in our community.

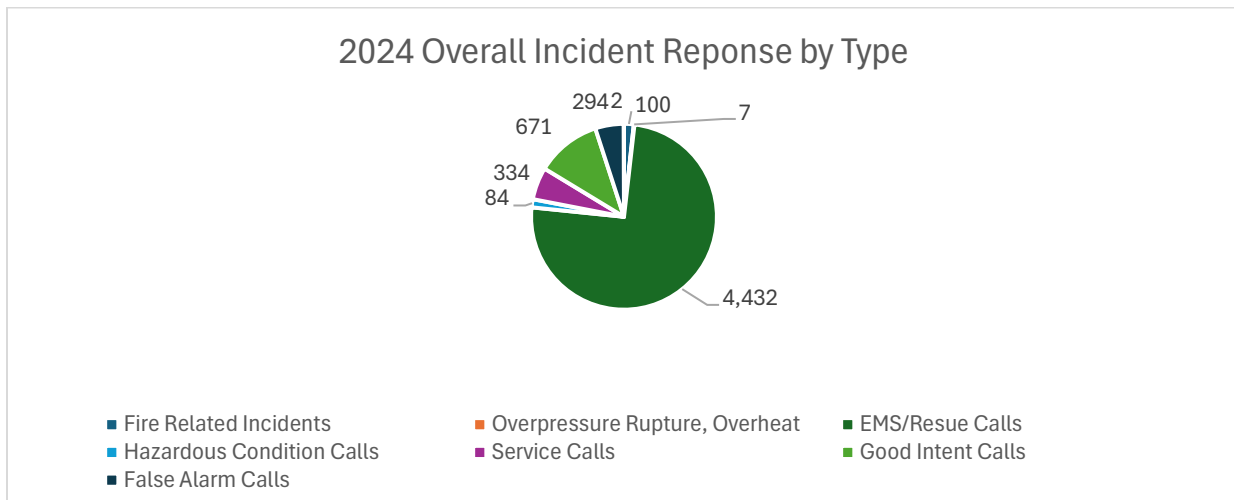
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Updated Fire Department Strategic Plan: Staff and community members identified key goals and objectives for implementation in the next 5 years.
- Washington Survey and Rating Bureau Protection Class Upgrade: Completed Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) re-evaluation of the City's protection class rating improving from a class 4 to 3. This rating process occurs every 5 years and examines fire department operations, equipment, and staffing, city water system, fire prevention efforts and emergency communications. The improved rating lowers property insurance rates if insurer uses data from the WSRB.
- Updated City's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP): Plan approved by the State Emergency Management Division. Explored opportunities for emergency management partnerships.
- Expanded partnership with Thurston County Medic One: Reached agreement with Medic One to host a new paramedic unit (Medic 8) to serve residents of Tumwater and Thurston County. Completed recruitment process for the addition of nine new Paramedic/Firefighters to staff the new unit.
- In partnership with TCOMM911, transitioned to TCERN System: New digital radio system project planned in phases over several years. All fire and police radios replaced as well as significant radio infrastructure upgrades at fire and police facilities.
- Supported employee wellness: The Department continues to work with IAFF Local 2409 and other area agencies to support employee wellness through the County PEER Support Team. The Department also continues to participate in the L&I FIIRE program to support employee safety and wellness as well as reducing City L&I rates.
- Completed Collective Bargaining Agreement with IAFF Local 2409.

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BY THE NUMBERS

The Department responded to 5,924 total incidents in 2024 – average 16.2 per day.



GOALS FOR 2025-2026

- Continued implementation of FD CARES program: Developed partnership with Olympia Fire Department FD CARES program to expand services into Tumwater under interlocal agreement. Half-time CARES employee supports community members in need of non-emergency services through referrals from public safety responders.
- Implement crisis response partnership: Olympic Health and Recovery Services provides crisis response services for Thurston County, City of Lacey, and Mason County through contractual agreements. The City of Tumwater is partnering with OHRS to pursue a new crisis response program model through the Fire Department. Work will begin by the 3rd quarter of 2025 if the application is successful.
- Emergency Management program partnership: Preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters is a critical government function to support a resilient community. The City continues to explore partnerships that will enhance the City’s capabilities.
- Implement Medic 8: Complete required paramedic and firefighter training for new employees who support Medic 8, including a six-week Advanced Life Support (ALS) academy and a 16-week fire academy for entry level candidates. Training completed for implementation of Medic 8 staffing by January 1, 2026.
- Increased staffing: Daily minimum staffing will increase from 11 to 13 in 2026 with the addition of Medic 8.
- Facility updates: Station T2 was built in 1995 and will be remodeled to accommodate additional Medic 8 staffing. Facilities staff and the Fire Department are working with an architect on the remodel design. Stations T1 and T2 will be retrofitted with a new digital alert system that reduces stress on responders and enhances response times as well as much needed upgrades.
- Staff wellbeing: Fire will continue to put staff wellbeing at the forefront, including peer support, cancer screening, and increasing staffing levels.
- New equipment: Delivery of new fire engine scheduled for 2026 as well as replacement of all paramedic units (medic unit replacement funded by Medic One)