



2025 Biannual Report January 1 to June 30 North Cowichan Fire Department

August 12, 2025
Special Council Meeting

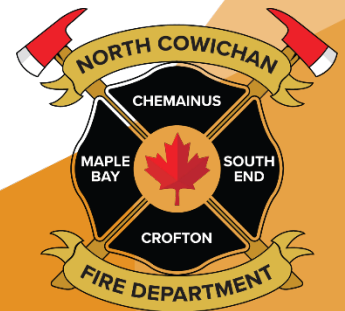
Fire Services Administration

- Fire Services business planning was completed in preparation for the 2025-2029 Operating and Capital Budget.
- Staff continue to implement recommendations from the 2024 Tim Pley & Associates Ltd. report, *North Cowichan Fire Department Review and Strategic Work Plan*. Long-term recommendations will require budget approvals before adoption of the recommendations.
- Council and Fire Services Appreciation & Awards banquet will be held on October 4, 2025.
- Crofton Fire Station construction was completed. Firefighters have moved into the new section with the open house ceremony held on May 3, 2025.
- Recruitment drive (2024) was completed with 26 applications; 5 experienced firefighters, 6 recruits, and 3 juniors in the South End, Chemainus, Crofton, and Maple Bay Fire Stations all started in early 2025. Ongoing training is taking place to meet the minimum training standards set by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.



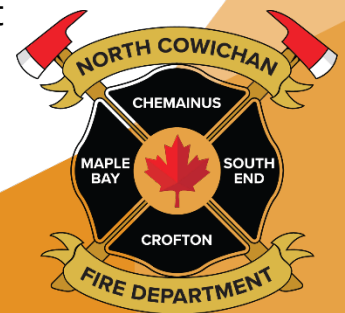
Fire Services Administration continued

- New fire apparatus has arrived and has been placed into service at the South End Fire Station.
- Planning is in place to deliver Engine 28 to the Penelakut Island Fire Department.
- New Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Inspector hiring process is completed with anticipation of the successful candidate to start in September 2025.
- North Cowichan Fire Department registered with BC Wildfire Service for any potential request of wildfire deployment for both local and provincial response.
- Staffing of fire apparatus continues to be a challenge; Crofton, Chemainus, and Maple Bay Fire Stations have very low turnout numbers during the daytime hours.
- The department has 116 personnel; 106 in service and 11 on leave of absence. There are 13 females (11%) and 103 males (89%) in the various ranks.



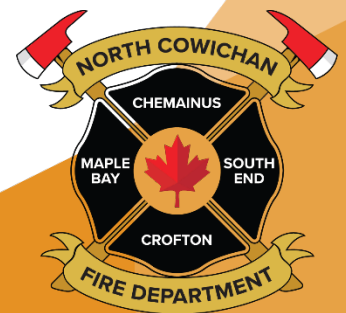
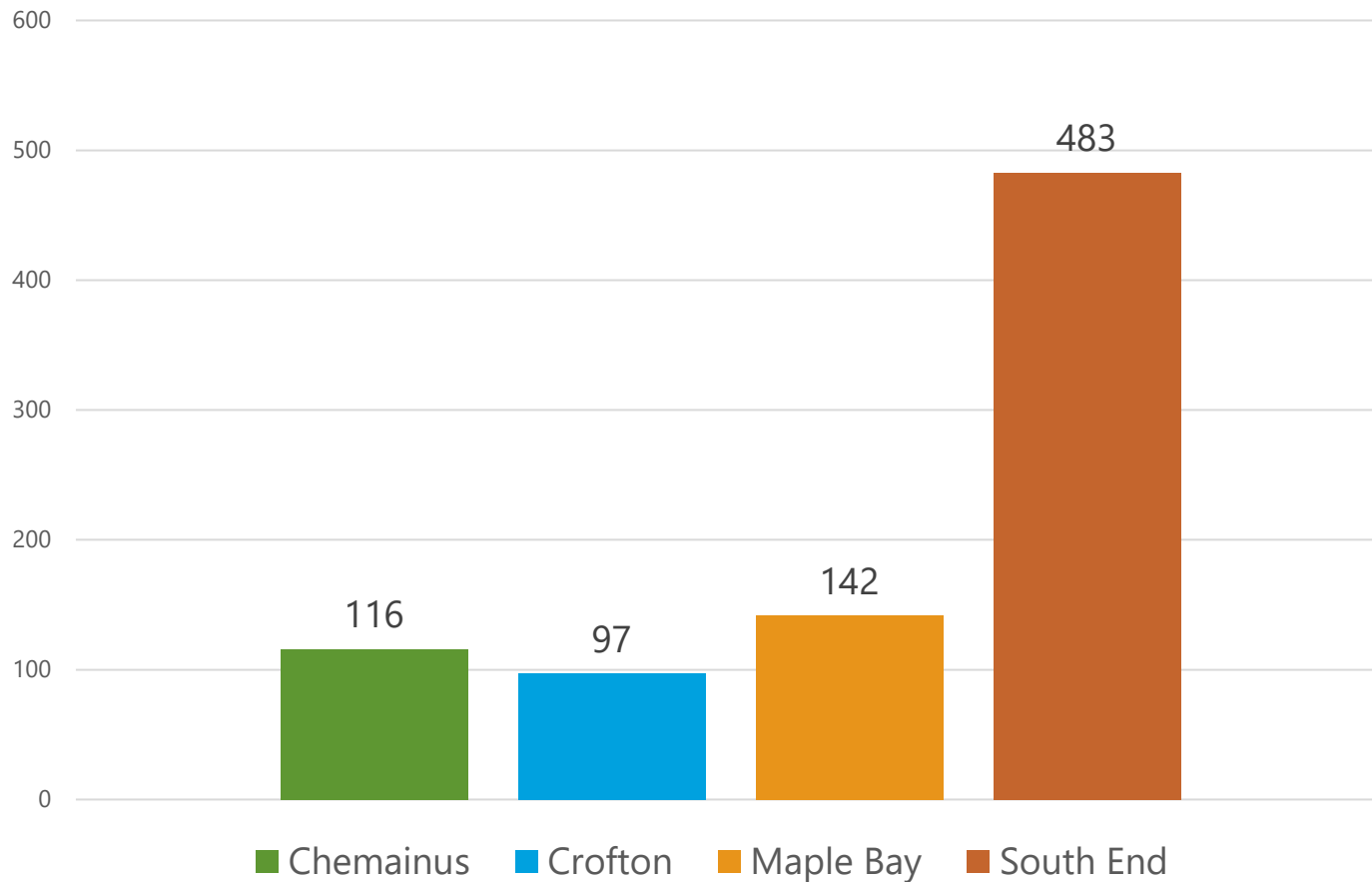
Fire Services Administration continued

- North Cowichan Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) was received late fall. Staff are reviewing the FUS report and will be delivering the outcomes to Council in Q4 2025. FUS provides the fire insurance grade for insurance rates.
- South End Fire Station continues to have the highest call volume in the Fire Department.
- Fire Services staff and personnel have developed a committee to provide a staffing plan for voluntary staffing on an Engine. This will be presented to Council for consideration in the business planning for the 2026-2030 Operating & Capital Budget.
- Fire Services staff were awarded a grant through the 2024 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant program under the Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training funding stream for wildland personal protective equipment and wildland firefighting equipment.
- Fire Services staff were awarded a grant administered by the Union of BC Municipalities on behalf of the Ministry of Citizens' Services in the 2025 Next Generation 911 application-based Funding program. This grant funding is for mobile data technologies equipment for the North Cowichan Fire Department.



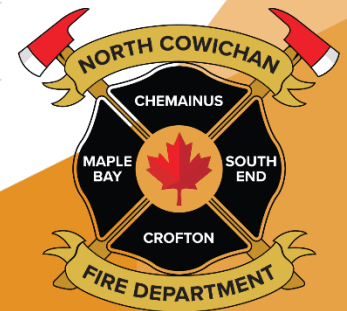
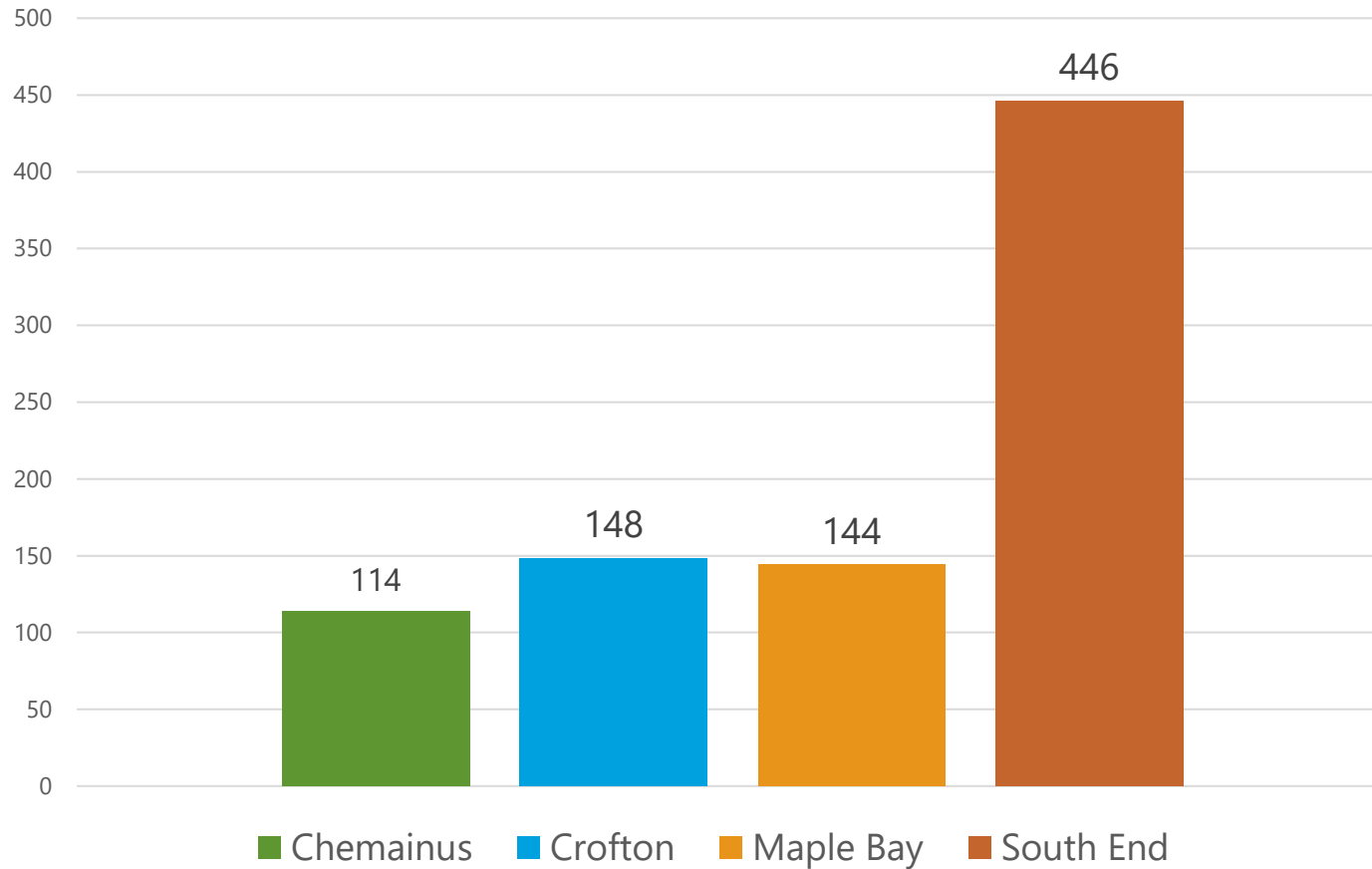
January-June 2024: Incident calls by Fire Station

838 Department Responses

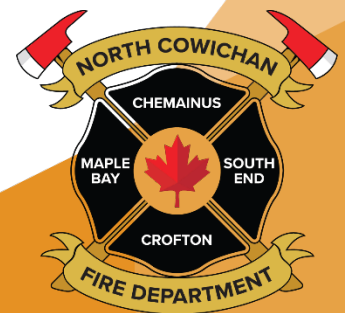
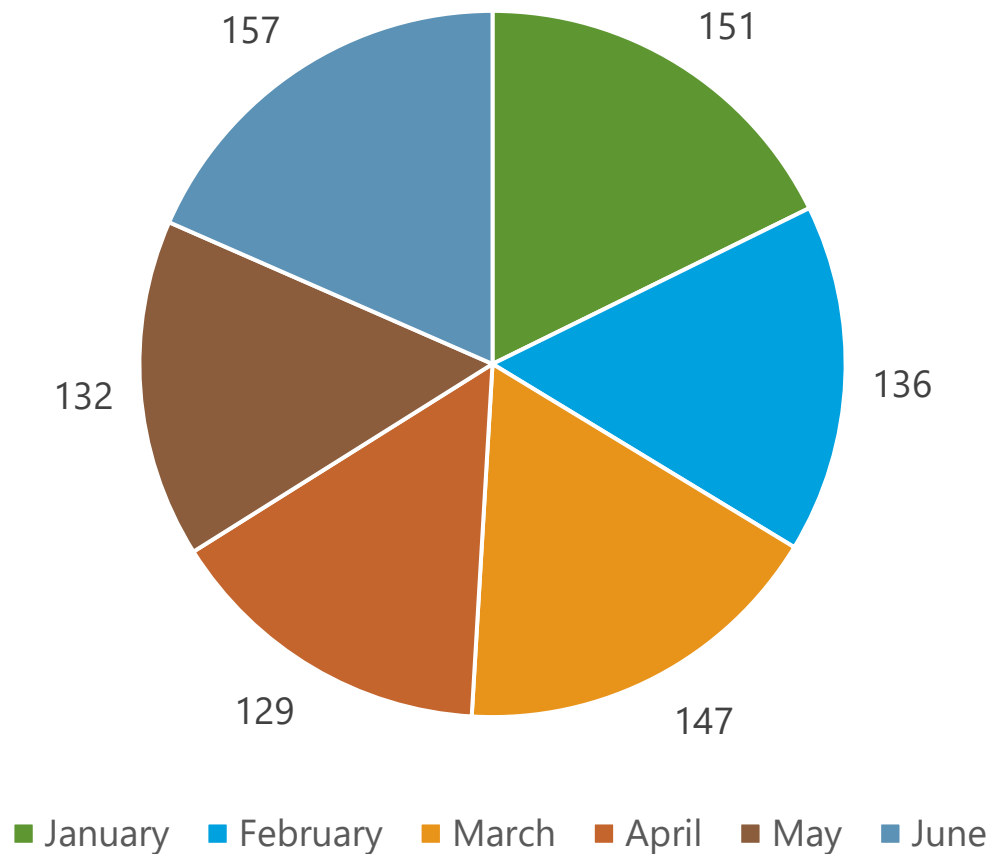


January-June 2025: Incident calls by Fire Station

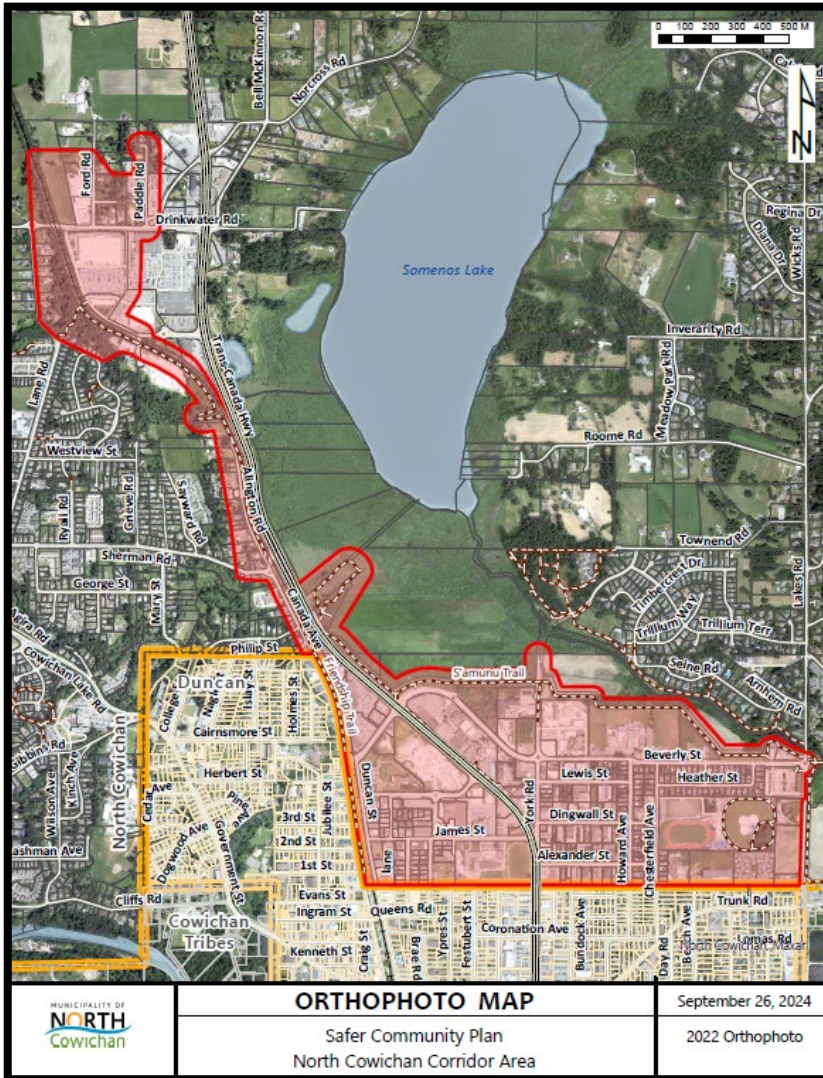
852 Department Responses



2025: Incident call totals by month



January-June: Corridor response comparison



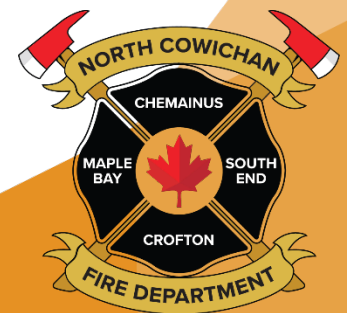
Month	2024	2025
January	30	33
February	34	26
March	36	28
April	39	27
May	41	14
June	31	17
Total	211	145

This is a 31.28% decrease in incident calls for properties within the corridor boundaries, from 2024 to 2025.



2025 January-June: Medical calls by station

Called in as	Chemainus	Crofton	Maple Bay	South End	Total for department
First Responder (Red/Purple/Delay)	5	78	74	12	169
Assist Emergency	12	2	3	16	33
Total by station	17	80	77	28	202



2025 January-June: False alarm calls

- 21 warning letters have been sent to property owners and occupants in relation to the *False Alarm Bylaw 3861*.
- 14 letters have been sent to property owners and occupants to have their alarm systems serviced.
- 4 levies have been sent to property owners and occupants in this time frame.

2025 January-June: Alarm calls by month

Called in as	Chemainus	Crofton	Maple Bay	South End	Total for department
Alarms Commercial	13	4	1	50	68
Alarms Residential	13	8	13	47	81
Alarms Non-Emergency	2	1	2	7	12
Total by station	28	13	16	104	161



2025 January-June: Report Operations Division

Courses and training completed by North Cowichan Fire Department personnel

- Auto Extrication
- Class 5 Air Brake Endorsement
- BC Hydro Safety
- Basic Life Support CPR training
- First Responder
- First Responder Train the Trainer
- Pleasure Craft Operator
- Swiftwater Awareness
- Live Fire Level 1 & 2
- Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations
- Fire Service Instructor 1
- Fire Leadership 2
- Emergency Scene Traffic Control
- Emergency Scene Management 1
- Emergency Scene Management 2
- BCWS – Wildland Structure Protection Program
- BCWS – Wildland Firefighter

2025 Training Hours

Type	# of sessions	Session hours	Firefighter hours
Special training	183	708	4461
Practice	102	206	4500
Totals	285	914	8961



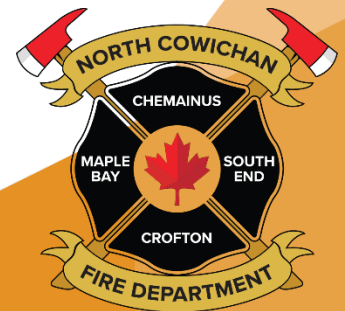
2025 January-June: Fire Prevention Division

Inspections	38
Referrals/Reviews	59
Fire Investigations	122
Public Education Events	18
Total	237



2025 January-June: Referrals/reviews

Development Referral Reviews	30
Special Event Reviews	17
Fire Safety Plan Reviews	15
Assistance (comfort letters, codes, etc.)	53
Total	160



2025 January-June: Fire investigations

Structure Fires	18
Outdoor Fires	103
Vehicle Fires	1
Total	122



2025 January-June: Public education events

Type of event	Quantity	Audience age	Participants
Community displays	1	Grades 1-3	250
	1	Grades 3-7	300
	4	All ages	1,100
Fire & Life Safety Education	2	Pre-school	45
	4	K-Grade 1	88
	1	Seniors	12
Fire & Life Safety Session	1	Seniors	2
Fire & Life Safety Tour	2	Grades 1-3	50
	1	Grades 3-7	15
	1	Service group	20
Totals	18		1,882

