

Cowichan Bay Improvement District

Fire Report

Date: July 15, 2026

To: Cowichan Bay Improvement District Board of Trustees

From: Dean Stennes, Fire Chief

Subject: Cowichan Bay Fire Rescue Monthly Report

Purpose

To provide the Board of Trustees with a summary of the activities for June 2026 by Cowichan Bay Fire Rescue.

Incidents:

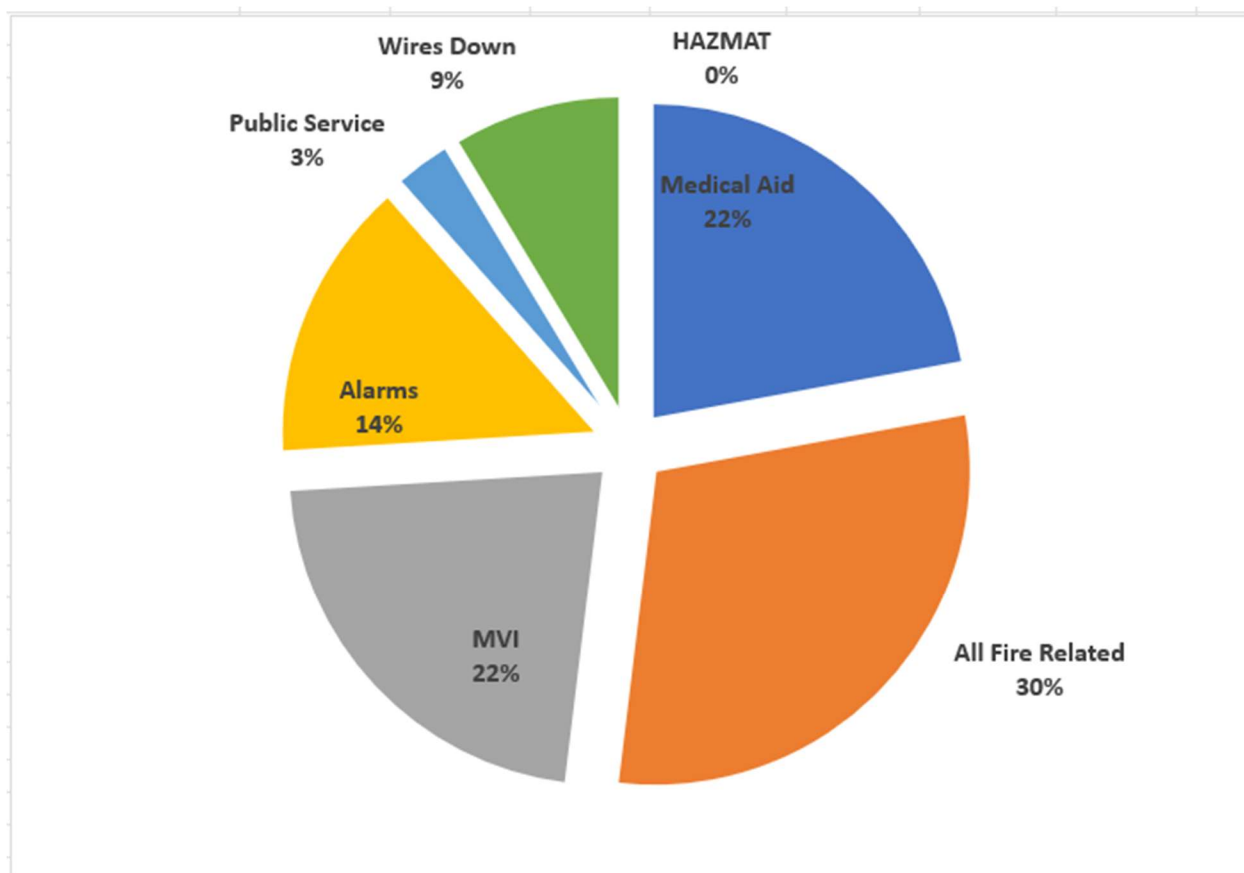
For the month of June Cowichan Bay Fire Rescue attended 12 incidents. This included a fully involved structure fire with Duncan Fire and one wildland incident that resulted in a request for out of district response due to human life being at risk. We supported BC Wildfire service with one water tender.

As set out in the Cowichan Bay Improvement District Bylaw 109-22 Fire Department Establishment Bylaw, Cowichan Bay Fire Rescue responds to several different types of incidents.

The table below shows a breakdown for type of incidents by month. The totals are at the top of the table. This table also shows the percentage of each type of incident responded to.

Incident Type	Medical Aid	All Fire Related	MVI	Alarms	Public Service	Wires Down	Hazardous Materials
Total	23	31	23	15	3	9	0
Percentage	22%	30%	22%	14%	3%	9%	0%
January	7	7	5	3		1	
February	3	3	5	4		1	
March	2	6	4	1	2	3	
April	7	5	1	1		1	
May	4	7	3	4	1	1	
June		3	5	2		2	
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

Incident Percentage by Type for Current Year



Membership:

At the end of June membership was 33.

The breakdown is as follows:

- 2 Full-time Career Certified members
- 17 Active Paid on Call Certified members
- 9 Active Paid on Call members working towards certification
- 5 Recruits

Phil Van Huizen retired from the department after 11 years of service.

Training:

Training continues on a weekly basis for all members, ensuring operational readiness and ongoing skills development. In addition to regular Monday evening training sessions, supplementary training is conducted during duty weekends, providing members with additional opportunities to enhance their knowledge and practical skills.

On June 13 & 14, 8 members attended JIBC-accredited Live Fire Advanced Training at Otter Point. 1 member attended Advanced on June 20 & 21. This valuable training provided realistic hands-on experience in fire suppression, fire behaviour, and crew coordination under controlled live-fire conditions.

Duty crews continue to benefit from smaller, focused weekend training sessions organized by their officers. These sessions have been well received by members and allow for targeted skill development, practical exercises, and mentorship opportunities in a more personalized learning environment.

Fire Prevention and Public Education

The Department continues to actively promote fire and life safety throughout the community. One member regularly attends meetings with the Cowichan Valley Fire Prevention Association, helping maintain strong regional partnerships and consistent prevention messaging. We inspected two new daycares in the area.

Professional Development

The Fire Chief and Deputy attended BC Fire Chiefs' Expo and Trade Show in Victoria. The event provided an excellent opportunity to participate in valuable training sessions, attend meetings, and connect with fire service leaders from across British Columbia.

We discussed current issues facing the fire service, learned about emerging trends, reviewed the latest apparatus developments and requirements, and received important updates from the Office of the Fire Commissioner. These events are invaluable in helping ensure Cowichan Bay Fire Rescue remains informed, prepared, and aligned with current best practices so we can continue providing the highest level of service to our community.

Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

Fire Department Administration Activities

The administrative side of the Fire Department continues to remain busy, with members of the public regularly attending the fire hall seeking information on fire safety, emergency preparedness, and general safety-related inquiries. Staff continue to provide guidance, support, and education to residents, contributing to the overall safety and resilience of our community.

This concludes the report on the activities of Cowichan Bay Fire Rescue for the month of June. I respectfully request that the Board accept this report as presented.

Prepared by: Dean Stennes, Fire Chief