



## VANCOUVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF VANCOUVER

7110 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street

Vancouver, Washington 98661

## FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

TO: Brennan Blue, Fire Chief  
FROM: Heidi Scarpelli, Fire Marshal  
Nathan Leek, Deputy Fire Chief  
DATE: July 15, 2025  
SUBJECT: 2025 Fourth of July Season – VFD Operations

This is an overview of the 2025 firework season from the Vancouver Fire Department, the Fire Marshal's Division, and the Emergency Operations Division. This year provided some added protection due to the higher moisture content of the vegetation/fuels because of weather activity (some light rain) leading up to the Fourth of July.

### PRE-FOURTH OF JULY EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The Fire Department continues to provide a proactive approach in informing Vancouver citizens of the many fire and life safety hazards associated with fireworks use and of the total firework ban in the City of Vancouver.

- Firework Stands in Clark County / Adjacent to COV – Distributed COV Firework Law posters and flyers
- Media and social media – COV press release and Facebook, Next-Door and Twitter for both COV and VFD



○ Example - Social media posts

- COV Neighborhood Associations Newsletter – COV Press Information regarding Fireworks Law
- COV Employee Notification on the Fireworks Law
- City / Public Buildings – Exhibited Firework Law posters on entrance doorways
- Website- Firework Law information for both COV and VFD websites
- Automobile Magnets - Non-front line VFD vehicles were outfitted with magnetic signs (both vehicle sides) emphasizing the Fireworks Law, approximately 25 vehicles. The signs were used from June 1st to July 6th for further educational outreach efforts to the public. The magnetic signs are reused annually one month prior to and during the firework season.



○ Example - VFD Vehicle Magnetic Sign

- Electronic Reader Board – Four (4) strategically placed in high traffic volume areas.
  - Complete Ban on Fireworks in the City

#### **FIREWORK ENFORCEMENT PATROLS**

Over the past decade of proactive education associated with firework risk, the City’s fireworks law, and specialized enforcement, it has been noted that most citizens are now obeying the fireworks law. There are, however, still a small percentage of people who choose to openly ignore the law, so those outliers are best suited for the joint Fire/Police firework patrol teams.

For 2025, the Fire/Police Department deployed dedicated joint patrol teams, which were comprised of Deputy Fire Marshals and Police Officers. The enforcement campaign occurred from July 2 through July 5. The dedicated teams were strategically positioned to respond to complaints swiftly, educate citizens, maintain high visibility, and issue citations to violators. In addition, VFD utilized dedicated CRESA dispatchers to triage firework complaints on July 4<sup>th</sup> as not to diminish routine fire/police 9-1-1 radio traffic.

**2025 Firework Citations Issued by FMO = 17 @ \$500 Citations Issued / Total \$8,500**

**2025 Firework Confiscations by FMO = 17**

#### **FOURTH OF JULY SEASON – INCIDENT DATA**

<b>Annual Fourth of July Season Time Period 6/28 - 7/5</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	
<b>VFD Call Volume (During Fireworks Season)</b>	943	1003	1011	
Average Daily Call Volume (from 1st 6 Months of Year)	105	102	111	
<b>Daily Call Volume for Period</b>				
<b># of Days</b>				
June 28th	112	99	123	
June 29th	110	106	123	
June 30th	117	103	139	
July 1st	90	111	134	
July 2nd	88	138	105	
July 3rd	119	123	119	
July 4th	163	150	140	
July 5th	144	173	128	
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>1011</b>	
Source: ESO				
ESO Analytics: Total Record Volume By Inc. Type				
NFIRS Fire Reports with Heat Source (with ESZ)				
(ESO AdHoc Report)				
<b># of Firework -Related Fire Calls</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>Firework-Related Injuries</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1*</b>	
<b>Estimated Damage/Cost from Fires</b>	<b>\$30,900</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$501</b>	

*\* Incident Number – 19855460; Injury - (Dog Bite, Former Military K-9 with PTSD, acted aggressively triggered by the sound of fireworks discharging)*

### **CRESA FIREWORK COMPLAINTS (6/28/2025 – 7/6/2025)**

1,057 = Total complaints for all of Clark County

900 = Total complaints for Vancouver Fire Department Service Delivery Area (City of Vancouver / Fire District #5)

~Approximately 85% of all firework-related complaints were within the VFD service delivery area.

*\*Data provided by CRESA, estimates may be subject to slight changes/updates.*

### **VANCOUVER FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY 2025– EMERGENCY OPS STAFFING**

Each year Vancouver Fire Department evaluates multiple factors to determine what additional operational resources will be deployed on July 4th to mitigate additional risk. For this we use weather forecasts, community events and anticipated fireworks related demands on our protection area. Upstaffing allows not only relief for our duty crews to handle the increased workload, but also provides a margin of system wide relief related to requesting or providing mutual aid from our partner fire and EMS agencies.

This year Vancouver Fire increased our normal staffing of eleven engines, three trucks, three squads and two BC's on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>, the following additional resources were added to the Vancouver Fire Department response force:

- Brush Rig 11                      July 4<sup>th</sup> 1200-2200
- Brush Rig 8                      July 4<sup>th</sup> 1200-2200
- Engine 16 / WT2                July 4<sup>th</sup> 1200-2200
- BC 3                                July 4<sup>th</sup> 1200-2200
- Fire Boat 1                      July 4<sup>th</sup> 1200-0100

The main mission for the additional Battalion Chief (BC3), brush rigs (B11 & B8) and the engine company (E16) with the water tender (WT2) was to handle the single-unit response fireworks-related incidents, such as bark dust fires, small grass fires, etc. Additionally, they were used to bolster the response force to structure fires, or other multi-unit scale events. The mission of the fire boat (FB1) was to be available on the water to reduce response times to all marine events, such as water rescue, boats in distress, or fire events more easily accessed from the water. All additional resources were extremely effective in their missions, and the overall Fire Department staffing model for the Holiday was very successful. This upstaffing aided in keeping the fires small and reducing our fire loss and helped our response times to these incidents.