

Bellevue Fire Department
Community Risk Assessment
2025





For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4367 (voice) or email adryer@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

Acknowledgements

The Bellevue Fire Department (BFD) would like to sincerely thank the individuals and organizations that have provided input, feedback, data analysis and assistance in drafting this Community Risk Assessment (CRA)

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Fire Prevention Division led by Fire Marshal, Travis Ripley. Special recognition goes to Alex Dryer, Community Risk Reduction Specialist and Education Coordinator, who served as the lead writer for this assessment. The Community Risk Reduction Team made invaluable contributions to this project. We thank Jackie Cottom, Program Analyst; Jeff Hackmeister, Business Systems Manager; Kyle Nelson, former Assistant Fire Marshal; Amanda Winkler, Senior Administrative Assistant; and Heather Wong, Public Information Officer for their commitment and hard work. The Team also received valuable insight from Ellen Montanana, Emergency Management Administrator, Chris Burris, Fire Business Process Analyst and Natasha Grossman, CARES Program Manager.

We also wish to express our appreciation to Vision 20/20, particularly Stephen Hrustich, for their expert guidance in creating this Community Risk Assessment and for their continued leadership in risk reduction initiatives. Their training and initial CRA template carved a path for the creation of this assessment.

Finally, we are grateful for the support of Fire Department leadership, including Fire Chief Dave Tait, Deputy Chief Doug Halbert and Deputy Chief Charlie Kimball. Their leadership and strategic direction have been instrumental in advancing our Community Risk Reduction initiatives to enhance public safety throughout Bellevue. Our sincere thanks also go to City Leadership under Mayor Lynne Robinson for their steadfast support and ongoing efforts to improve the City of Bellevue.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 3

Project Overview 5

Organizational Profile & History 6

Community Profile..... 9

Demographic Profile..... 13

Incident Profile 17

Weather/Natural Hazard Related Risk 28

Critical Infrastructure 31

Risk Matrix 32

Summary..... 35

References 36

Project Overview

The Bellevue Fire Department's Community Risk Assessment (CRA) presents a comprehensive analysis of the risks faced by our community and the department's ability to address these challenges. This document outlines the structure, methodology and intended outcomes of the risk assessment process. The CRA will serve as the foundation for strategic planning, resource allocation and emergency response optimization. By systematically evaluating community characteristics, historical incident data and environmental factors, the department will develop evidence-based strategies to enhance public safety and emergency services throughout Bellevue.

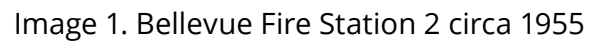
This Community Risk Assessment will include an organization history, community profile, demographic analysis, incident response data analysis, weather and natural disaster assessment and identification of critical infrastructure. It concludes with an overall risk summary.

The completed Community Risk Assessment will inform strategic planning in conjunction with the Standards of Cover document to align resources with identified risks. The CRA will not identify every risk to the community,

but it will give the Department a foundation from which to guide the creation of targeted prevention and public education programs. It will also establish performance metrics and continuous assessment processes to measure risk reduction progress.

The Community Risk Assessment represents more than a regulatory requirement or administrative exercise; it embodies the Bellevue Fire Department's commitment to data-driven decision making and community-centered service. By methodically analyzing the unique risk profile of our community, we can allocate resources more effectively, develop targeted prevention programs and enhance emergency response capabilities. The ultimate beneficiaries of this comprehensive approach are the residents, businesses and visitors of Bellevue, who will experience improved service delivery, reduced incident severity and enhanced community resilience. This assessment provides the foundation for a strategic, forward-looking approach to public safety that adapts to our community's evolving needs while maintaining operational excellence and fiscal responsibility.

The Operations Bureau constitutes the largest component of the department and is responsible for emergency responses including fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue and hazardous materials



response and the training division. The Support Services Bureau manages health and safety, data analytics and systems, and logistical support including stations, apparatuses, and equipment. The Fire Prevention Division oversees fire code enforcement, public education and fire investigation services.

The Bellevue Fire Department currently operates nine fire stations strategically located throughout the city, with a tenth station under construction. The new Station 10 will enhance coverage and reduce response times in a sector with a growing number of high-rise structures. The Department has four paramedic units that supply advanced life support (ALS) to Bellevue and its contract cities as well as Eastside Fire and Rescue (ESFR). They are housed at BFD Station 2, Overlake Medical Hospital, and ESFR Stations in Issaquah and North Bend.

The Bellevue Fire Department employs approximately 290 personnel. This workforce comprises roughly 220 uniformed firefighters (including firefighter/EMTs, firefighter/paramedics and lieutenant and captain ranks), 12 chief officers and administrators, and 56 civilian support staff. The department maintains a rigorous training program to ensure all personnel meet or exceed national standards for fire and emergency medical services. The Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau recognized the Department's high standards with a Class 2 rating. Bellevue Fire has also maintained accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence's Commission on Fire Accreditation International since 1998, a designation only achieved by 336 agencies as of 2025.

Station #	Neighborhood	Address	Available Units
Station 1	Downtown	766 Bellevue Way SE	Battalion 101, Engine 101, Aid 101, CARES 101
Station 2	Eastgate	2802 148th Ave SE	Engine 102, Aid 102, Medic 102, MSO 105
Station 3	Crossroads	16100 NE 8th St	Ladder 103, Aid 103, Rescue 103
Station 4	Factoria/Somerset	4216 Factoria Blvd SE	Engine 104, Battalion 102
Station 5	Clyde Hill/Points	9621 NE 24th St	Engine 105
Station 6	Bel Red/Overlake	1850 132nd Ave NE	Engine 106, Aid 206 (reserve), Hazmat 106
Station 7	Wilburton	11900 SE 8th St	Ladder 107
Station 8	Lakemont	5701 Lakemont Blvd SE	Engine 108, Air 108
Station 9	Newport/Newcastle	12412 Newcastle Way	Engine 109 Brush Truck 101
Station 10*	Northwest Bellevue	1219 112th Ave NE	Engine 110 (A101, M101, and B101 will relocate)
Eastside Station 73	Issaquah Highlands	1280 NE Park Dr	Medic 104
Eastside Station 87	North Bend	112 W Second St	Medic 103
Overlake Medical Center	Downtown	1035 116th Ave NE	Medic 101

* Under construction | *Table 1. Station and Unit Locations*

The Bellevue Fire Department provides a comprehensive range of emergency and non-emergency services to the community. Emergency services include fire suppression, basic life support (BLS), emergency medical transport, technical rescue operations encompassing confined space, rope rescue, trench rescue, heavy machinery rescue, auto extrication, and structural collapse response, hazardous materials mitigation and water rescue. The department's advanced life support (ALS) services are provided within city limits and contracted service areas as well as East King County.

Complementing these emergency services, the department also delivers numerous non-emergency services vital to community safety. These include fire prevention and code enforcement activities, routine fire safety inspections of commercial and multi-family residential properties, plan reviews for new construction projects to ensure fire code

compliance, public education and community outreach initiatives, thorough fire investigation services, emergency management and disaster preparedness planning and CPR and first aid training opportunities for community members. For community members needing assistance beyond emergency services responders can refer them to the Community Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) Team who can provide access to appropriate resources. For those in crisis who need more immediate services mental health professionals from the CARES Team partner with specially trained police officers to form the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT). This joint effort helps deescalate behavioral health emergencies while reducing the person's chances of facing criminal charges and arrests. This comprehensive approach to service delivery reflects the department's commitment to both emergency response and proactive risk reduction.



Image 2. Open House at Station 6

Community Profile

Population

Bellevue is a diverse and affluent city located in King County, Washington, with a population of approximately 155,000 residents. The city has experienced steady growth over the past decade, driven by its proximity to Seattle and its status as a major technology hub. The Bellevue community makes up the largest portion of the department's service population at 88% with Newcastle's population of 13,000 as the next highest at 7%. Beaux Arts, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, and Yarrow Point collectively have approximately 7,880 residents, nearly 5% of the department's resident population.

When considering total responses by Bellevue firefighters it is important to recognize that residents make up only a portion of reporting parties and patients. Anyone who works or recreates in the greater Bellevue area can experience an emergency. According to the latest Diversity Advantage Plan published in 2014, Bellevue experiences an over-40% daytime growth population from commuters, workers and students, pushing the population well over 200,000. This growth can cause increased strain on the emergency response system at peak hours.

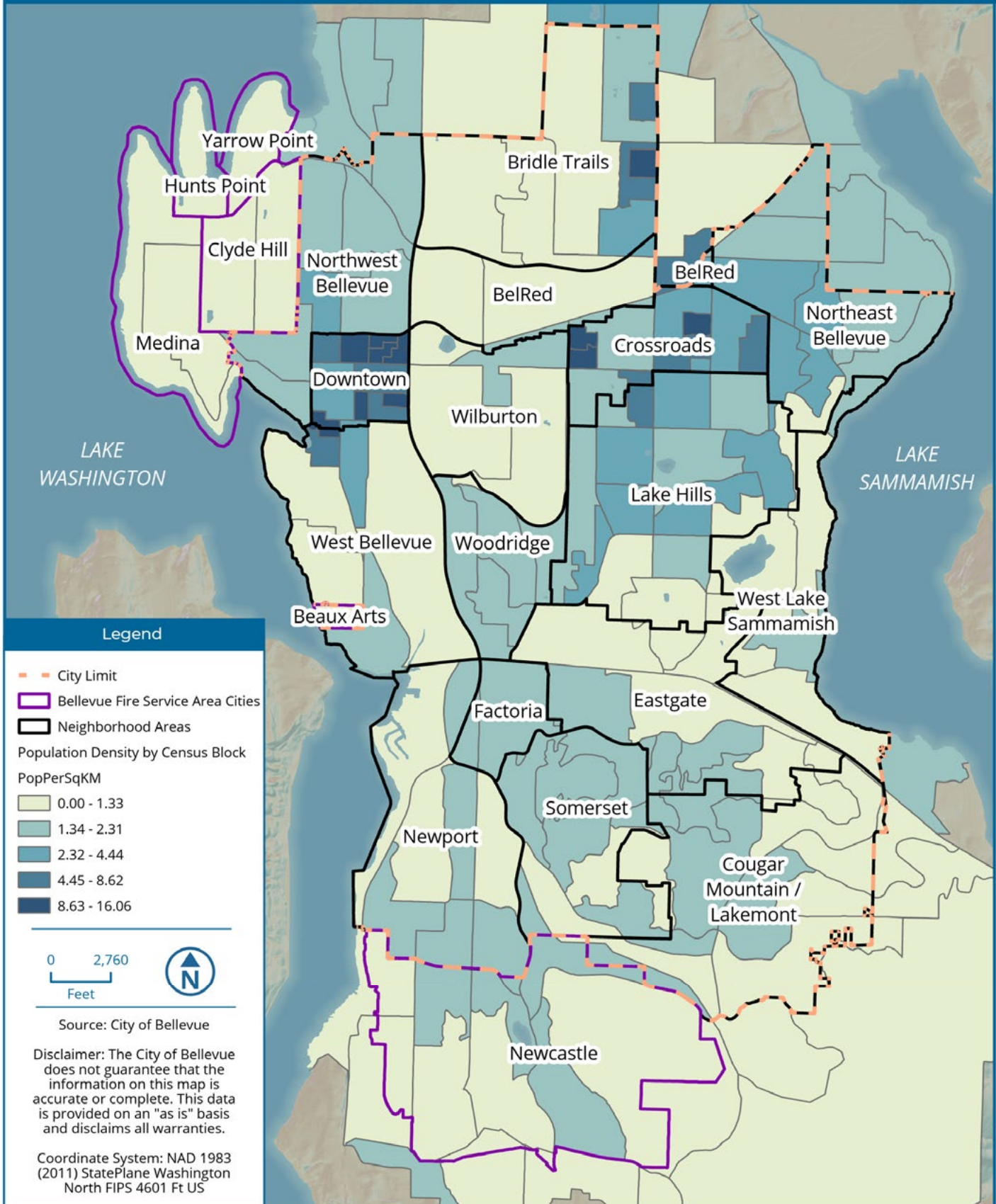
The economic disparities between and among the cities present unique challenges for emergency service delivery and community risk management. Beaux Arts, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina, and Yarrow Point residents have median incomes of at least 250K while Newcastle and Bellevue average 163K and 158K, respectively. Despite its overall affluence, Bellevue has notable income disparities. Approximately 8% of residents live below the poverty line, with higher concentrations in the northeast and central areas of the city. In 2025 Bellevue's City Council approved code changes to increase the supply, affordability and choice of housing units within the city. This may result in a change to not only the population but also the building stock of the largest city supported by Bellevue Fire.

City	Size	Approx. Population	Median Income	Bachelor's or Higher	Foreign Born	Population 65+
Beaux Arts	0.1 m ²	300	250K+	90%	9%	16%
Bellevue	33.5 m ²	155,000	158K	76%	45%	15%
Clyde Hill	1.06 m ²	3,100	250K+	78%	37%	23%
Hunts Point	0.3 m ²	450	250K+	73%	20%	39%
Medina	1.44 m ²	3,000	250K+	88%	31%	18%
Newcastle	4.45 m ²	13,000	163K	71%	30%	15%
Yarrow point	0.36 m ²	1,030	250K+	88%	26%	19%

Table 2. Demographic Breakdown of Cities Served by Bellevue Fire

Bellevue Fire Department

Population Density By Census Block



Date: 10/9/2025 File Name: V:\Fire\ArcGISPro\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\PopulationDensityByCensusBlock.aprx

Map 2. Population Density by Census Block

Housing affordability remains a significant concern for residents in the greater Bellevue area. Beaux Arts, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina and Yarrow Point all exceed the US Census' ability to properly calculate the median housing price and median gross rent. Each meets or exceeds the highest categories of \$2 million housing price and \$3,500 rent. Residents of Bellevue and Newcastle are still facing above average costs with respective median home prices at \$1.2 million and \$1.1 million and median gross rent at \$2,500 and \$2,300, making housing unaffordable for many service workers, young professionals and seniors on fixed incomes. This has resulted in some residents living in overcrowded conditions or in aging housing stock that may present increased fire risks. The city has several subsidized housing developments and continues to work on affordable housing initiatives, though demand consistently outpaces supply.

Land and Building Characteristics

The greater Bellevue area encompasses approximately 41 square miles of diverse terrain, from densely developed urban areas to suburban neighborhoods and natural open spaces. The building stock ranges from high-rise office and residential towers in the downtown Bellevue core to single-family homes throughout most neighborhoods. The central and eastern parts of Bellevue contain older housing stock, primarily built in the 1950s and 1960s, while newer construction dominates downtown and the western neighborhoods. Beaux Arts has the oldest homes with the median built in the 1950s, while Newcastle has the youngest homes with a median built in the 1990s. The Fire Department's prevention division conducts regular fire safety inspections for commercial properties and residential properties with three or more units in a single structure totaling approximately 4,300 inspections annually. High-risk occupancies such as non-sprinklered multifamily housing complexes and restaurants receive annual inspections while sprinklered commercial buildings are inspected biannually. Commercial compliance rates are generally high at 92%, though follow-up inspections are sometimes necessary to address code violations. The most common infractions involve blocked exits, improper storage of flammable materials and non-functioning fire alarm systems.

City	Non-Residential Use	Housing Stock Median Age
Beaux Arts	N/A	1950s
Bellevue	Robust stock of commercial and recreational properties	1980s
Clyde Hill	2 commercial properties 4 schools Small government zone	1970s
Hunts Point	Community center Town Hall	1950s
Medina	3 commercial properties 2 government buildings 3 schools	1970s
Newcastle	Growing commercial sector Recreational points of interest	1990s
Yarrow point	Town Hall	1970s

Table 3. Land Use by City

Building conditions vary significantly across the city. While newer structures incorporate modern fire protection systems and building materials, some older commercial and multi-family residential buildings have outdated electrical systems, inadequate fire stops and fewer built-in fire protection features. The city has implemented retrofit programs for some older buildings, but participation remains voluntary in many cases.

The transportation network is dominated by several major highways, including Interstate 405 and Interstate 90, which intersect within Bellevue city limits. State Route 520 also intersects with I-405 in north Bellevue. These highways serve as critical evacuation routes, but also present hazards related to transportation collisions and hazardous materials incidents. Public transportation includes bus service and light rail throughout the city with travel east to Redmond and travel west to Seattle starting early 2026.



Demographic Profile

Race, Ethnicity, and Language Profile

Often called a ‘minority-majority’ city, Bellevue has transformed into one of Washington’s most diverse areas over the past two decades. The American Community Survey’s 2023 release had 45% of the population identifying as White, 41% as Asian, and 8% as Multiracial. All contract cities also have White, Asian, and Multiracial as their highest percentages though Black, Native/Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and those who do not identify with these racial categories make up 0.6% - 6% of cities. Additionally, those identifying as Hispanic or Latino is highest in Bellevue with 8% and in Newcastle with 6% of residents.

City	White	Asian	Black	Native, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	Multi- racial	Other	Hispanic/ Latino
Beaux Arts	84%	6%	0.7%	0%	9%	0%	0.7%
Bellevue	45%	41%	2%	0.6%	8%	3%	8%
Clyde Hill	54%	34%	0%	0.5%	11%	1%	4%
Hunts Point	76%	18%	0%	0%	6%	0.6%	2%
Medina	61%	27%	0%	0.2%	12%	0.8%	0.3%
Newcastle	43%	40%	2%	0%	12%	4%	6%
Yarrow point	59%	29%	0%	0.3%	11%	0.5%	0.8%

Table 4. Race and Ethnicity by Percentage (2023 ACS 1 year estimates)

The linguistic diversity in Bellevue mirrors its demographic composition. While English remains the predominant language, according to the Bellevue School District, 42.5% of students speak a first language other than English and 17.2% of students receive multilingual language learning services. The 2024-2025 school year saw 117 first languages spoken across the district, which includes Clyde Hill, Medina, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Beaux Arts as well as portions of Newcastle. Mandarin Chinese is the most common non-English language in Bellevue, spoken by roughly 11% of residents and Spanish is the next most widely spoken at 5%. Other frequently spoken languages include Hindi, Korean, Telugu, Japanese, Russian, Tamil and French. This linguistic diversity has significant implications for emergency services, as 17% of residents report speaking English “less than very well.” The Bellevue Fire Department has responded to this risk by implementing translation services and employing multilingual staff to ensure effective communication during emergencies.

Age Distribution and Vulnerable Populations

Bellevue’s age demographics reveal several vulnerable populations requiring specialized emergency response considerations. Seniors aged 65 and older constitute approximately 15% of the population—a figure that has grown steadily over the past decade and is projected to increase further as the baby boomer generation ages. Within this group, approximately 41% live alone, creating heightened vulnerability during emergencies. Of people 65 years or older 29% report having a disability of some kind. This could indicate the inability to evacuate efficiently in case of an emergency, putting these seniors at higher risk.

At the other end of the spectrum, children under 5 years represent about 5% of the population. These young residents face unique risks during emergencies due to their developmental stage and dependence on caregivers. In 2021 the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported that children under 5 accounted for 5% of home fire fatalities and 4% of fire injuries.

It is important to note that despite the overall diversity in the greater Bellevue area not every neighborhood experiences the associated vulnerabilities equally. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) regularly publishes the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) that quantifies vulnerable populations through socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status and housing type.

These factors of vulnerability indicate areas with lower resiliency to risk, both natural and human-caused. For example, individuals in a multi-family structure who experience overcrowding in a unit due to socioeconomic factors are not only more at risk of a fire from the amount of cooking that occurs in a large apartment complex but may be more negatively affected if they are displaced from a fire than those with more financial means.

When calculating the intersection of these factors the CDC assigns a higher percentile (0.75-1.0) to areas with a higher vulnerability. Areas determined to be the most resilient fall into the lowest percentile (0.0-0.25). Analyzing these metrics for Bellevue Fire's service area using the map on page 16 shows that the Lake Hills and Crossroads neighborhoods are areas with higher vulnerable populations and may benefit from strategic risk reduction programming.

Education

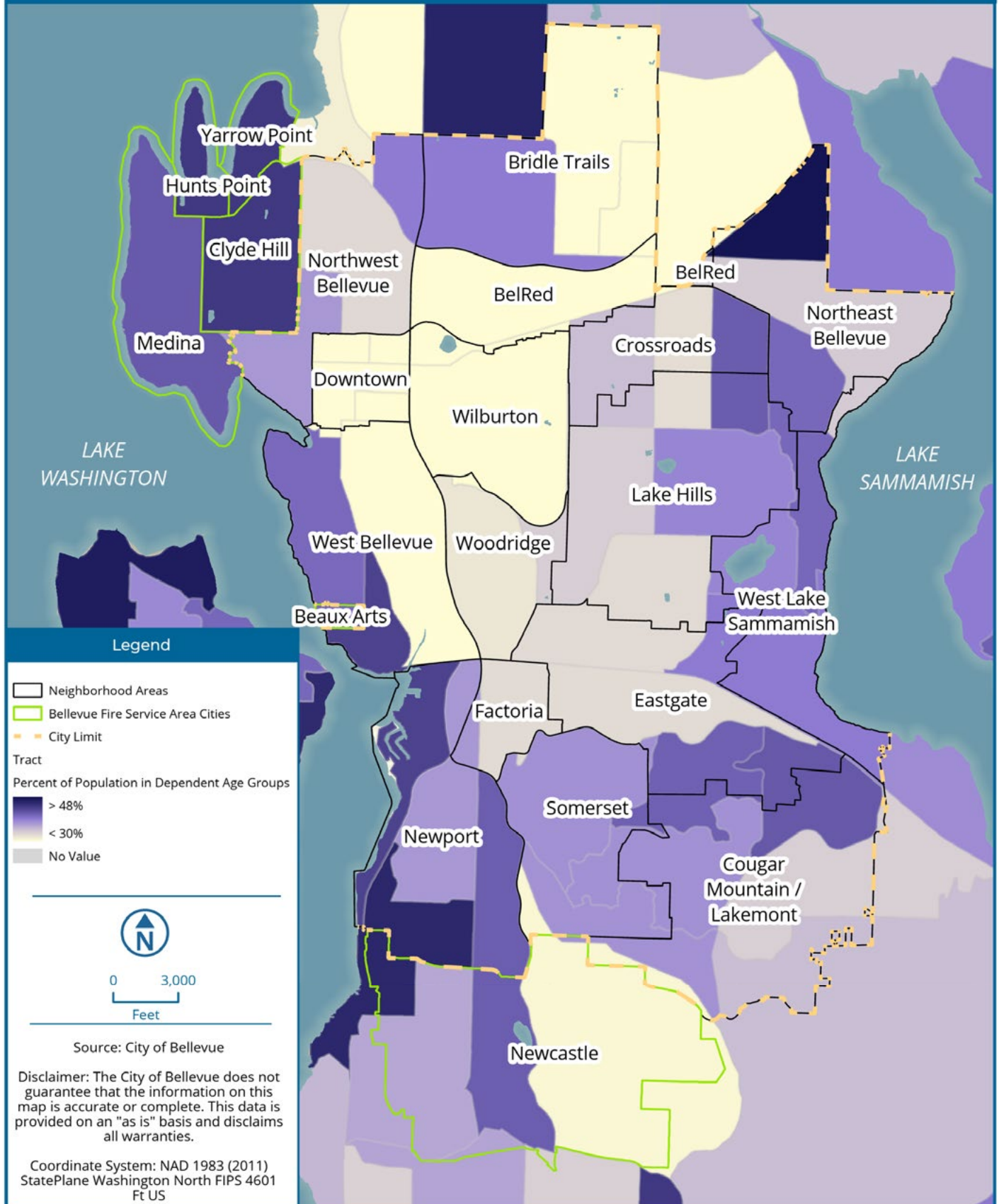
Residents of the greater Bellevue area demonstrate exceptionally high educational attainment levels compared to national averages. Over 70% of adults aged 25 and older hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and approximately 30% of residents hold graduate or professional degrees. The Bellevue School District consistently ranks among the top districts in Washington state, with high graduation rates exceeding 95%. This educational environment contributes to the city's skilled workforce and economic prosperity.

Employment and Income

The economy in the greater Bellevue area is robust and primarily anchored by technology, professional services and retail sectors. The city typically enjoys an unemployment rate lower than both the state and national averages, hovering around 4.3%. Most workers in Bellevue Fire's jurisdiction work "in management, business, science and arts" occupations. Major employers include Microsoft, T-Mobile, Amazon, Boeing and numerous technology startups.

The median household income for Bellevue stands at approximately \$158,000, and Newcastle's median income is \$163,000, both significantly higher than state and national averages. All other contract cities have median incomes above \$250,000. Despite the overall affluence, about 8% of residents in Bellevue live below the poverty line, though this figure varies considerably by neighborhood.

Population in Dependent Age Groups (under 18 and 65+) By US Census Tract

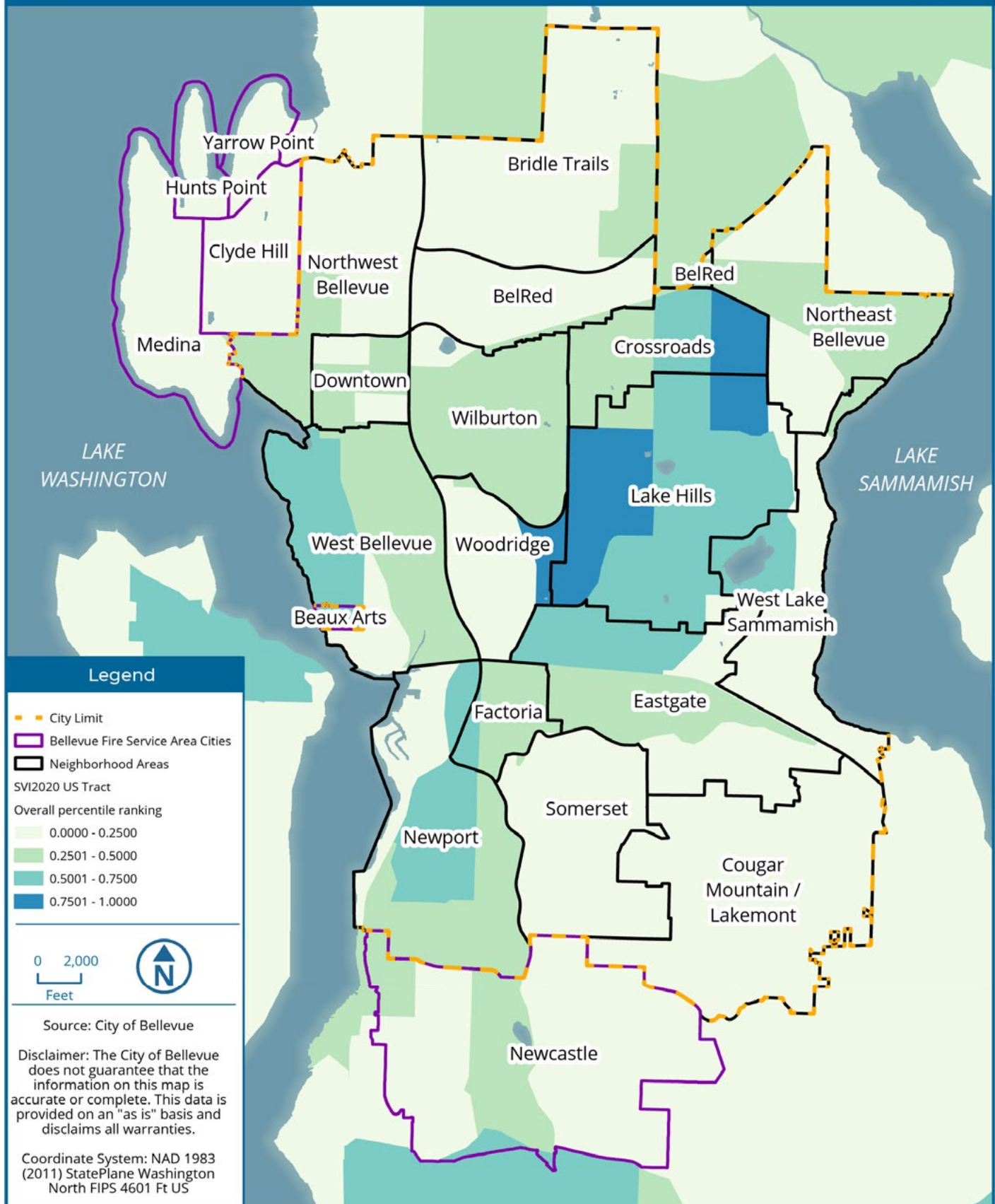


Date: 10/9/2025 File Name: V:\Fire\ArcGISPro\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\PopulationInDependentAgeGroups.aprx

Map 3. Dependent Age Groups by Density

Social Vulnerability Index

By US Census Tract



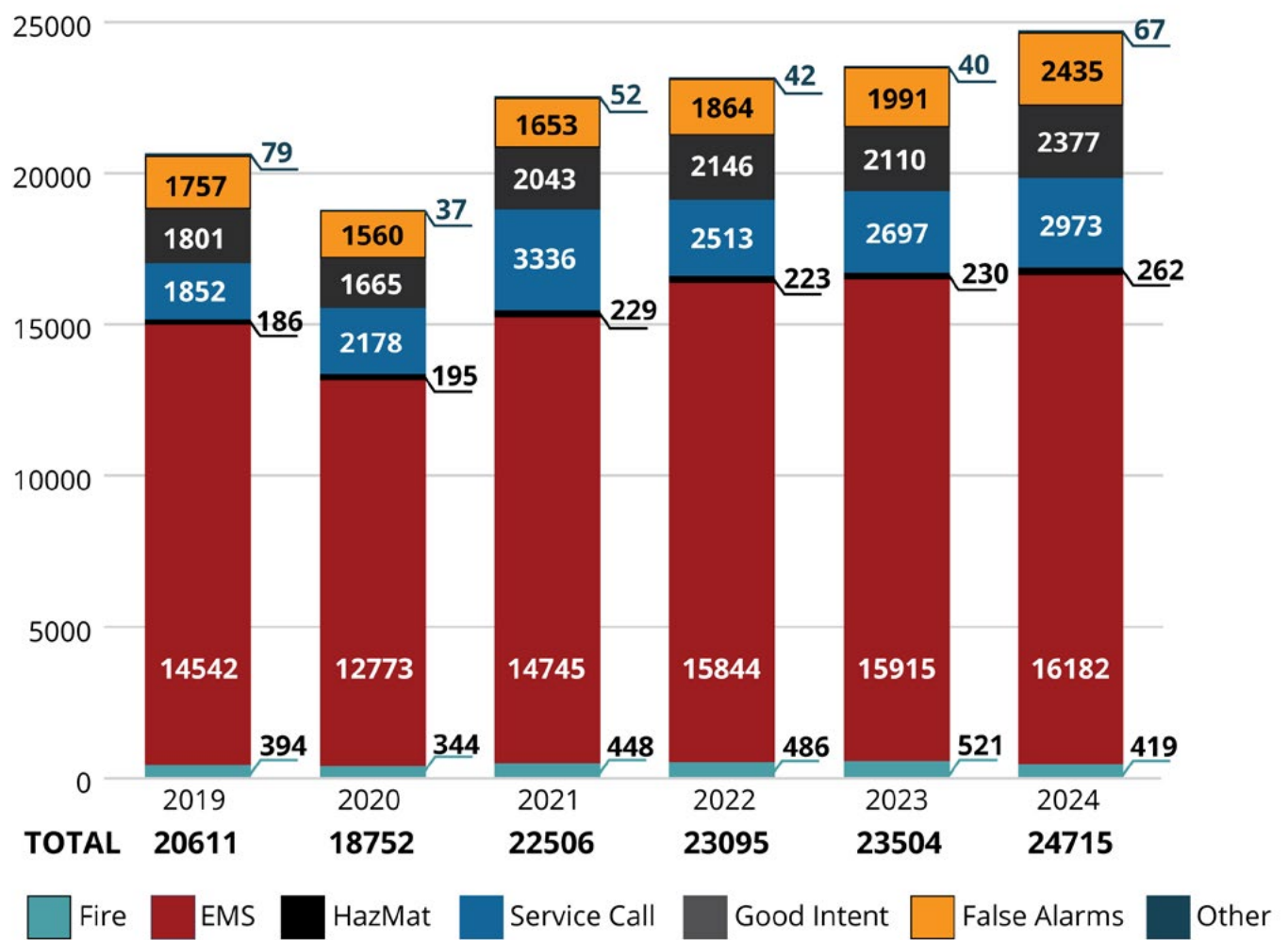
Date: 10/9/2025 File Name: V:\Fire\ArcGISPro\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\SocialVulnerabilityIndex.aprx

Map 4. SVI by Neighborhood

Incident Profile

Total Incidents

The Bellevue Fire Department utilizes data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) to collect fire and medical incident data. This data provides a crucial foundation for understanding where emergencies happen and how many resources are required to handle each emergency. While this information is utilized to increase department efficiency, this assessment focuses solely on the type and quantity of incidents to assess community risk and does not address department standards of cover.



Graph 1. Total Incidents by Year and Type

Each year the total number of incidents increases, with the exception of 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic caused long term shutdowns of many workplaces. The majority of incidents are Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which is standard for integrated fire/medical departments. In 2024 EMS accounted for 65% of incidents while Service Calls, Good Intent Calls and False alarms collectively made up 32%. Despite fire incidents representing only 2% of incidents in 2024 they represent one of the greatest risks to the community due to the devastating impact a large fire can inflict.

Incident Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	6 Year Total	2024 Total %	2024 Non-EMS %
1. Fire	394	344	448	463	521	419	2589	2%	5%
Fire, Other	19	12	19	21	20	26	117	0%	0%
Structure	170	152	144	158	152	147	923	1%	2%
Mobile Home	1	2	4	0	0	2	9	0%	0%
Vehicle	55	42	46	52	66	52	313	0%	1%
Natural Vegetation	117	87	178	181	206	127	896	1%	1%
Outdoor Rubbish	25	34	42	41	69	54	265	0%	1%
Outside Equipment and Storage	6	14	15	10	8	11	64	0%	0%
Cultivated Crops	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0%	0%
2. Overpressure Explosion (no fire)	17	18	19	15	6	12	87	0%	0%
3. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	14542	12773	14745	15844	15915	16182	90001	65%	N/A
4. HazMat	186	195	229	223	230	262	1325	1%	3%
5. Service Calls	1852	2178	3336	2513	2697	2973	15549	12%	35%
6. Good Intent Calls	1801	1665	2043	2146	2110	2377	12142	10%	28%
7. False Alarms	1757	1560	1653	1864	1991	2435	11260	10%	29%
8. Natural Disaster or Severe Weather	38	12	23	15	22	45	155	0%	1%
9. Special Intent	24	7	10	12	12	10	75	0%	0%
Total	20611	18752	22506	23095	23504	24715	133183	100%	100%

Table 5. Total Combined Incident Data 2019-2024 Including Automatic and Mutual Aid

In 2024 nearly 13% of all incidents occurred at the same twenty locations. These locations included housing shelters, adult living facilities, apartment complexes and a park and ride. While these addresses often house large numbers of vulnerable populations, they represent a strain on emergency resources. Of the over 3200 incidents from these locations 44% were non-emergent responses, putting units out of service if an emergency were to arise. Collaboration with adult living facilities and shelters can empower staff to handle some non-emergent situations without the need for emergency resources. This would allow residents to receive proper care from qualified staff without removing an apparatus from service.

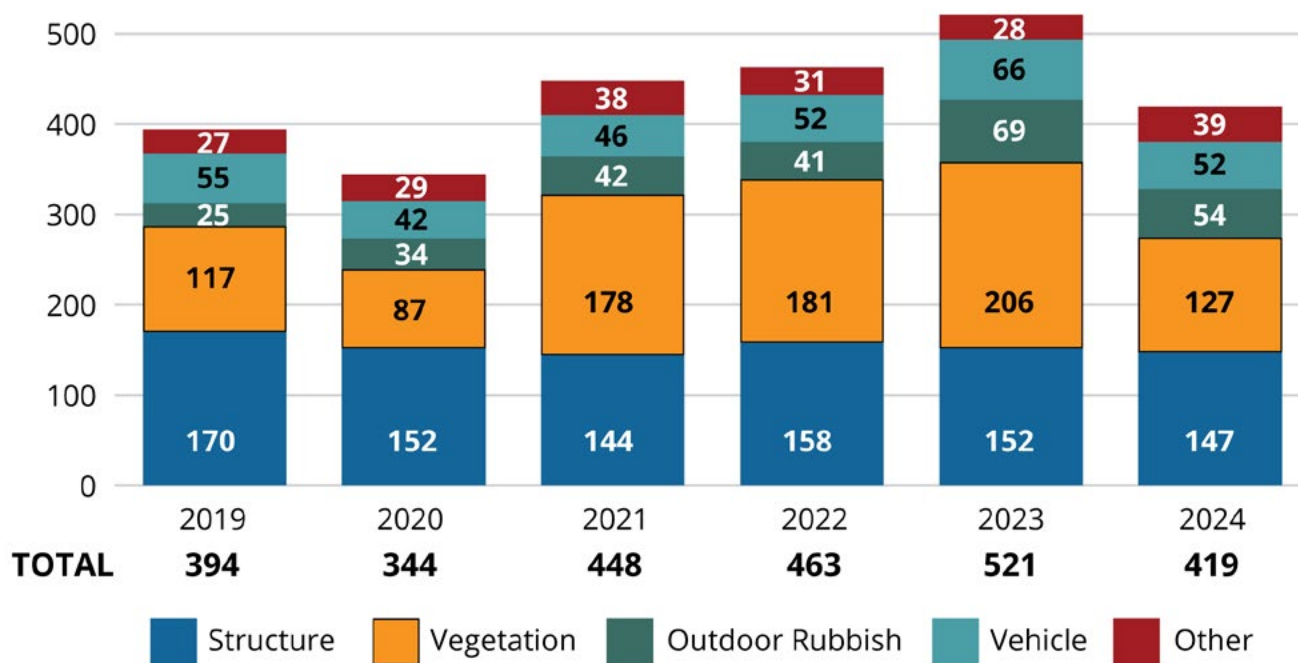
Fire Incidents

When discussing fire incidents, it is important to note that this data does not include false alarms or malicious pulls of a fire alarm. The data presented in this section will only include incidents that occurred within Bellevue Fire's jurisdiction and not incidents where mutual or automatic aid was given to surrounding jurisdictions.

Fire incidents have been variable over the last six years with increases as high as 30.23% between 2020 and 2021 and decreases of 19.58% between 2023 and 2024. This volatile fluctuation may

indicate the community's inability to respond to different risks rather than the success of any community risk reduction efforts.

Over the last six years vegetation fires remain one of the most common fire incident for the department. Vegetation fires include any forest, wood, brush, grass or bark on fire, but do not include outside rubbish, trash or cultivated crop fires. Of those, beauty bark fires remain the most common vegetation fires that, while usually small, show a vulnerability to greater structure fire and wildland fire risks.



Graph 2. Fire Incidents by Year and Type

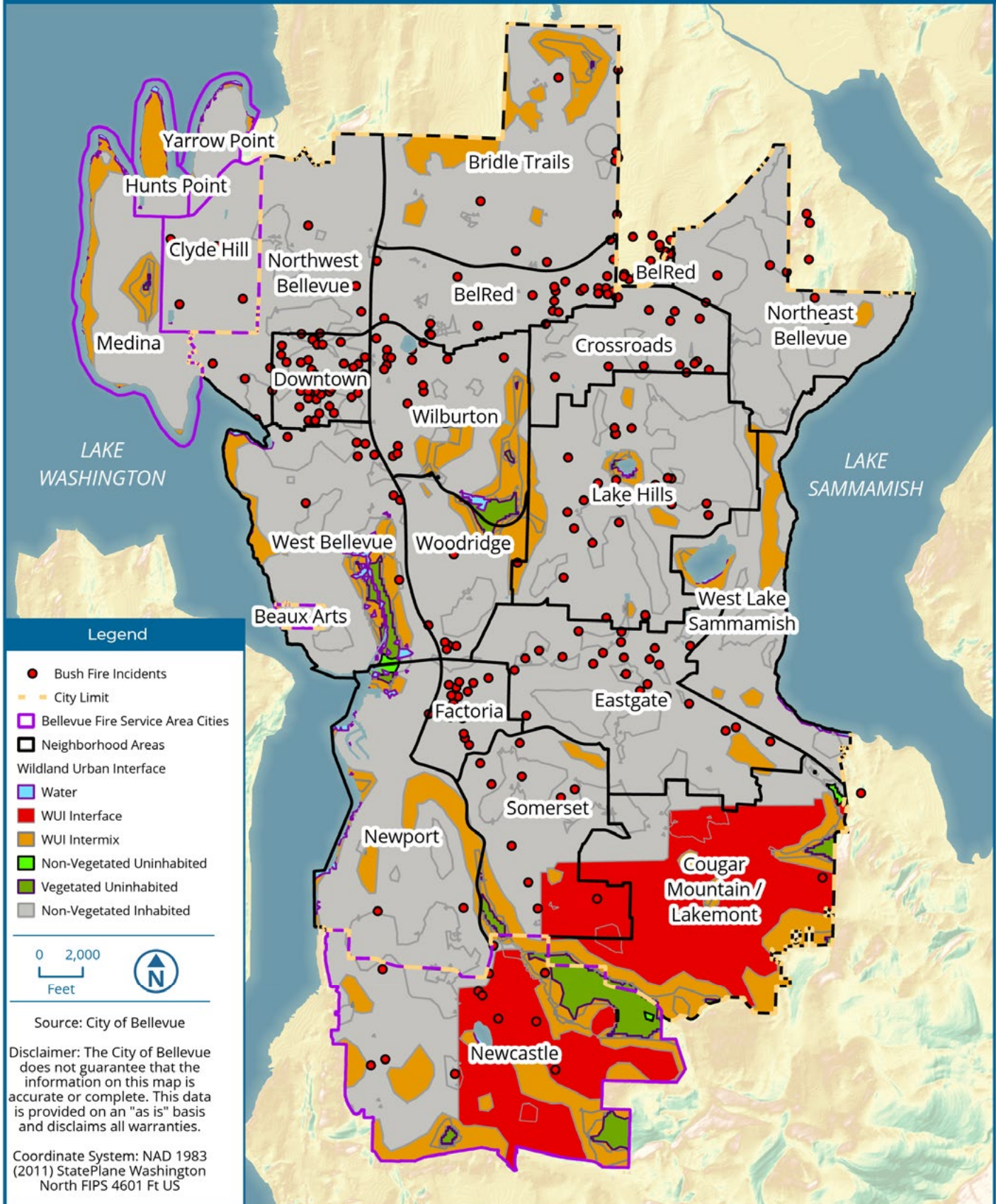
Year	Undefined	Wildland	Brush	Grass	Bark	Total
2019	5	2	10	0	93	110
2020	5	0	16	3	59	83
2021	11	7	13	3	134	168
2022	4	5	21	3	136	169
2023	7	4	26	5	150	192
2024	8	3	14	3	93	121
Total	40	21	100	17	665	843

Table 6. Vegetation Fires by Type

Building fires pose one of the largest risks to community members and property owners. NFIRS defines a building fire as a fire within a structure that is not confined to a chimney or contained to a cooking appliance. Despite accounting for less than 1% of total incidents in 2024, building fires cost millions of dollars in property and content loss and risk the lives of community members. Cooking fires, those fires contained to a cooking appliance, represent “near misses” as they can quickly extend and threaten entire structures. The number of cooking fires over the last five years indicates

Brush Fires and Wildland Urban Interface

January 2024- May 2025



Date: 10/9/2025 File Name: V:\Fire\ArcGISPro\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\PopulationDensityComumuniRiskAssesm\BrushFiresAndWildlandUrbanInterfaceDifColors.aprx

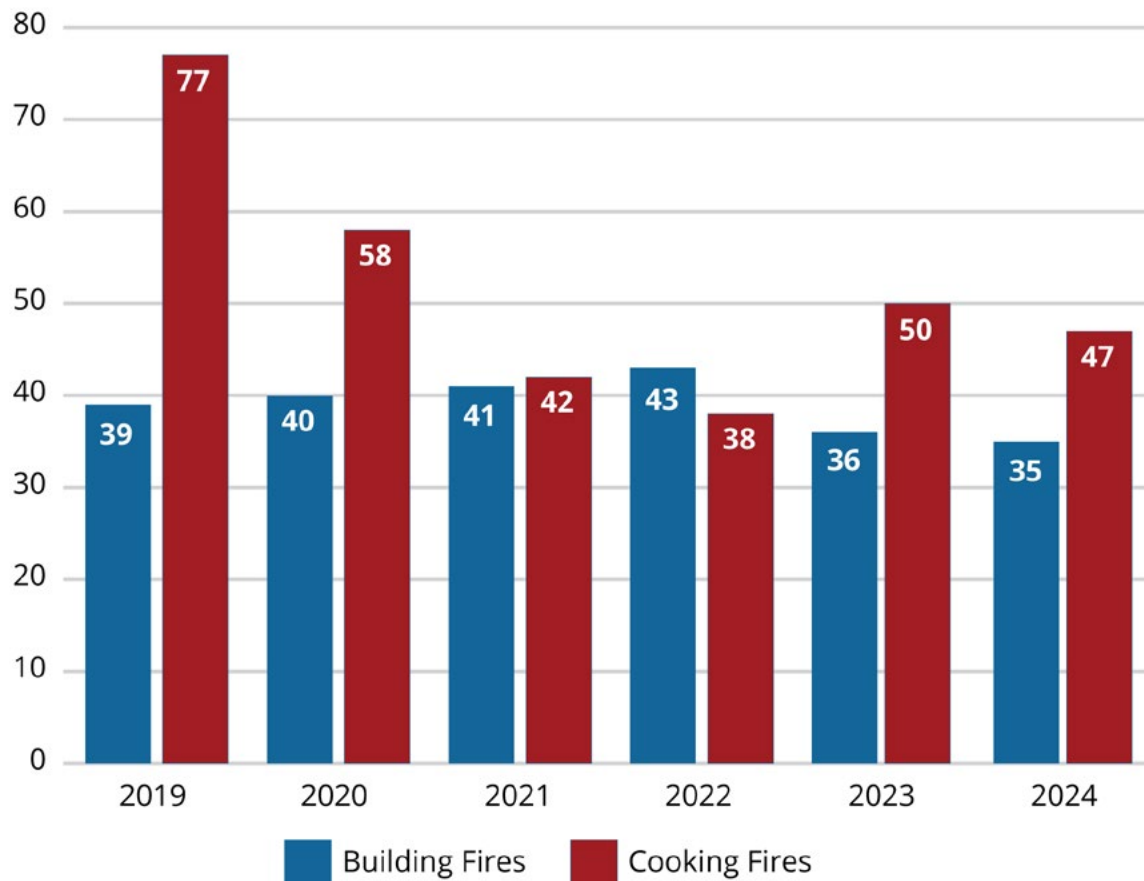
Map 5. Brush Fires and Wildland Urban Interface

a consistent risk to the community especially when some of these fires occur in multifamily complexes that risk not only the unit of origin but also their neighbors.

When the cause of a fire is unclear, crews may request a fire investigator to the scene to determine the probable cause. A probable cause is cited if the investigator is over 50% certain of the asserted cause. Only a small percentage of the total fires are investigated so that the department can focus its resources on the most impactful events such as structure fires and suspected arsons. Historically, about 70% of the fires investigated resulted in probable cause determination. However, in 2023 there was a steep decline in the number of probable determinations of fires due to an influx of new staff members undergoing fundamentals of fire investigation training. That percentage approached historically normal levels in 2024.

Year	Total Fires	Investigated Fires	Probable Cause Determined
2020	344	35	71%
2021	448	40	74%
2022	463	44	55%
2023	521	30	26%
2024	419	35	61%

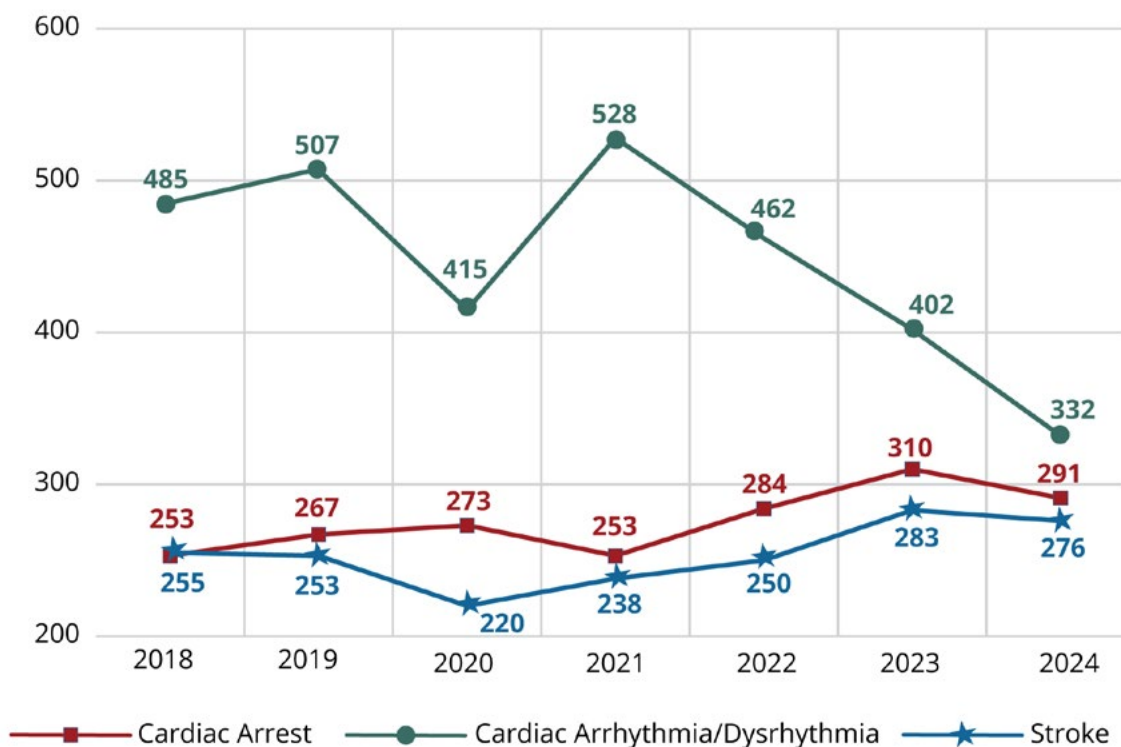
Table 7. Probable Cause Determined from Investigations



Graph 3. Comparison of Building and Cooking Fires by Year

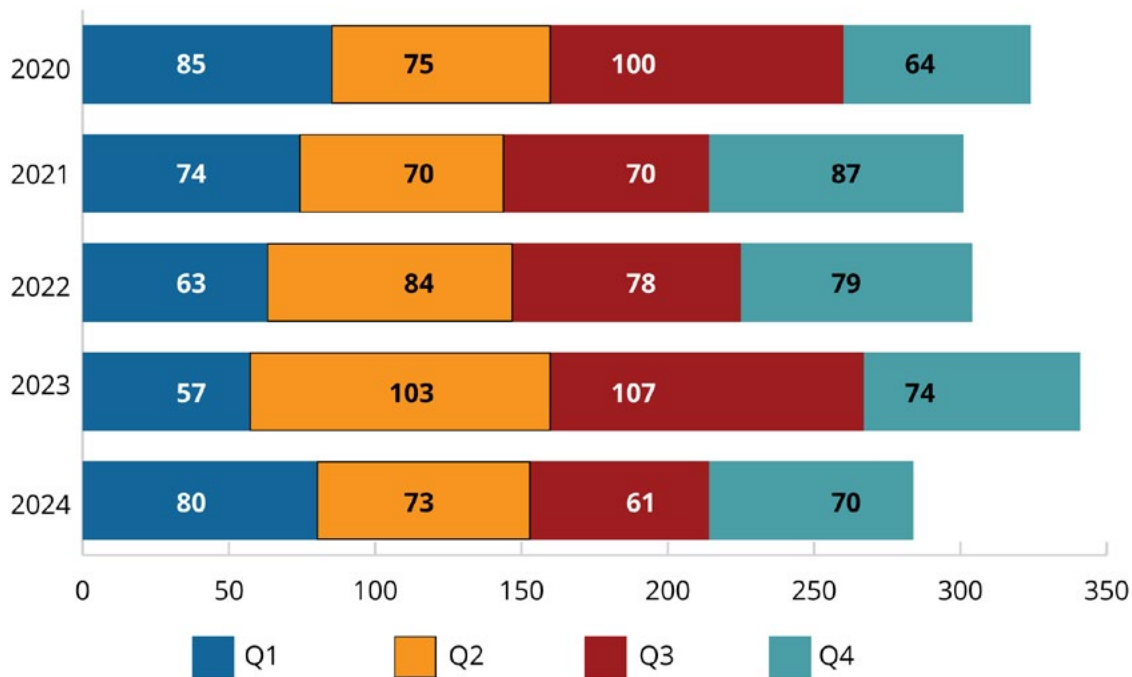
EMS Incidents

Emergency Medical Services account for the majority of incidents over the last six years, constituting 65% of all incidents in 2024. Between 2019 and 2024 the increase is over 1,600 incidents. EMS incidents increased by 1.68% between 2023 and 2024, more than the total volume increase of 5.15% in the same timeframe. Surprisingly, despite this increase in total incidents, critical conditions such as cardiac arrests, arrhythmia, dysrhythmia and strokes have remained relatively steady or decreased since 2018. This data is based on primary impressions from the on-scene crew and may not represent the actual cause of symptoms, but it is important to show that these critical incidents are not necessarily increasing at the same rate as total incident volume. This may indicate that units are responding to an increasing number of non-emergent medical incidents, which makes them unavailable for emergent responses.



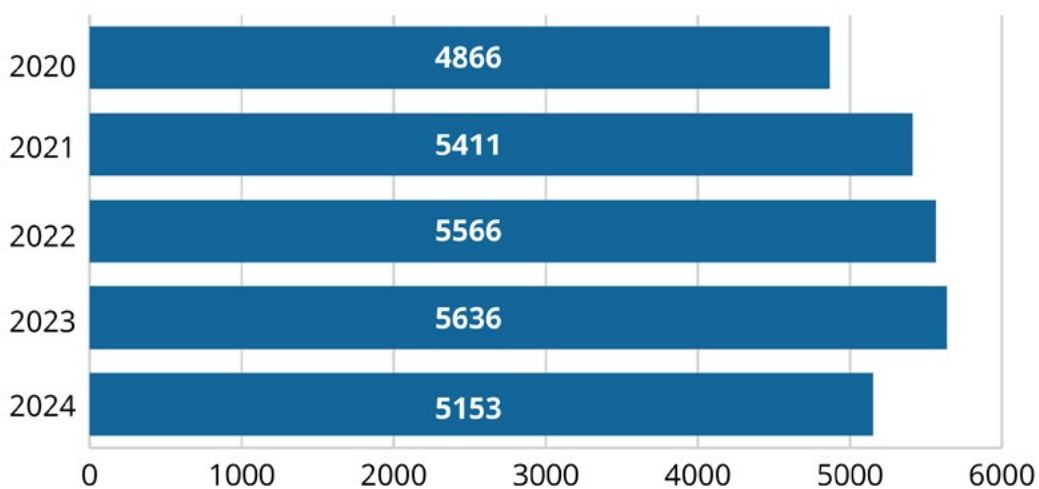
Graph 4: Primary Impressions by Year

Although opioid deaths have been increasing nationally since the late 1990s fentanyl has been on the rise over the last decade. Data over the last five years is inconclusive about whether the overdose risk is rising, falling or remaining steady within the community. Spikes as high as 107 incidents in one quarter are often followed by an average or lower than average number of incidents the next quarter. Finding the cause for these incidents can be difficult due to the number of variables that can result in an overdose. The Bellevue Community Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) program added an Opioid Overdose & Outreach Coordinator to their team in 2024 to assist individuals experiencing an opioid crisis as well as their families. In 2025, in partnership with the City Prosecutor, the team also began piloting a Drug Possession Diversion Program for those facing criminal charges for possession or public use without other criminal activity. If the individual completes a Substance Use Disorder Assessment and follows through with any referral for treatment, no charges will be filed. The goal of the program is to interrupt the cycle of use and reduce the risk of overdose in the community.

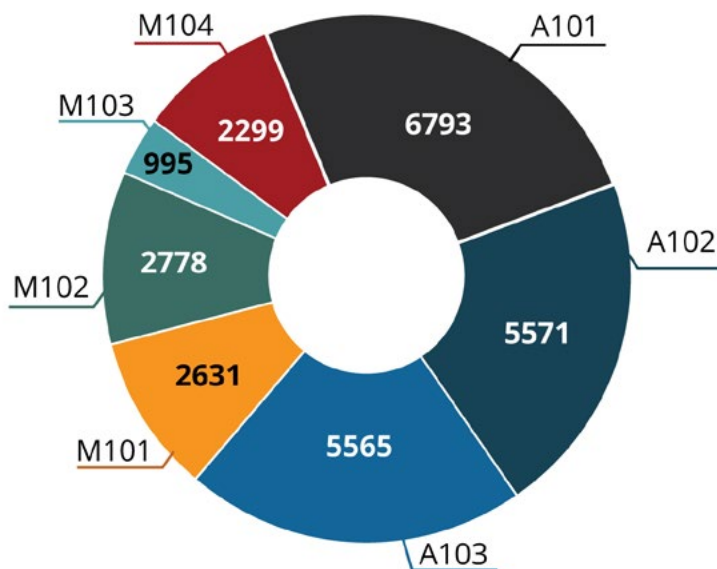


Graph 5. Overdoses by Quarter

In addition to basic and advanced life support for medical incidents, Bellevue Fire also offers emergency transport to local hospitals. While this can put aid cars out of service for extended periods of time as crews transport and transfer care to hospital staff, it is a valuable service the department is proud to offer the community. Currently there are five transport units serving Bellevue and the contract cities and two paramedic units stationed in Issaquah and North Bend. Medic units only transport patients in need of advanced life support such as cardiac arrests and severe trauma. The seven apparatuses average over 5,000 transports per year with 67% of transports handled by the three aid cars. Additionally, Bellevue Fire contracts with a local ambulance company to supplement resources during times of high volume. These consistent numbers between 2020-2024 corroborate the idea that the increase in incident volume is not coming from medical incidents severe enough to require transport to the hospital.



Graph 6. Total Transports by Year

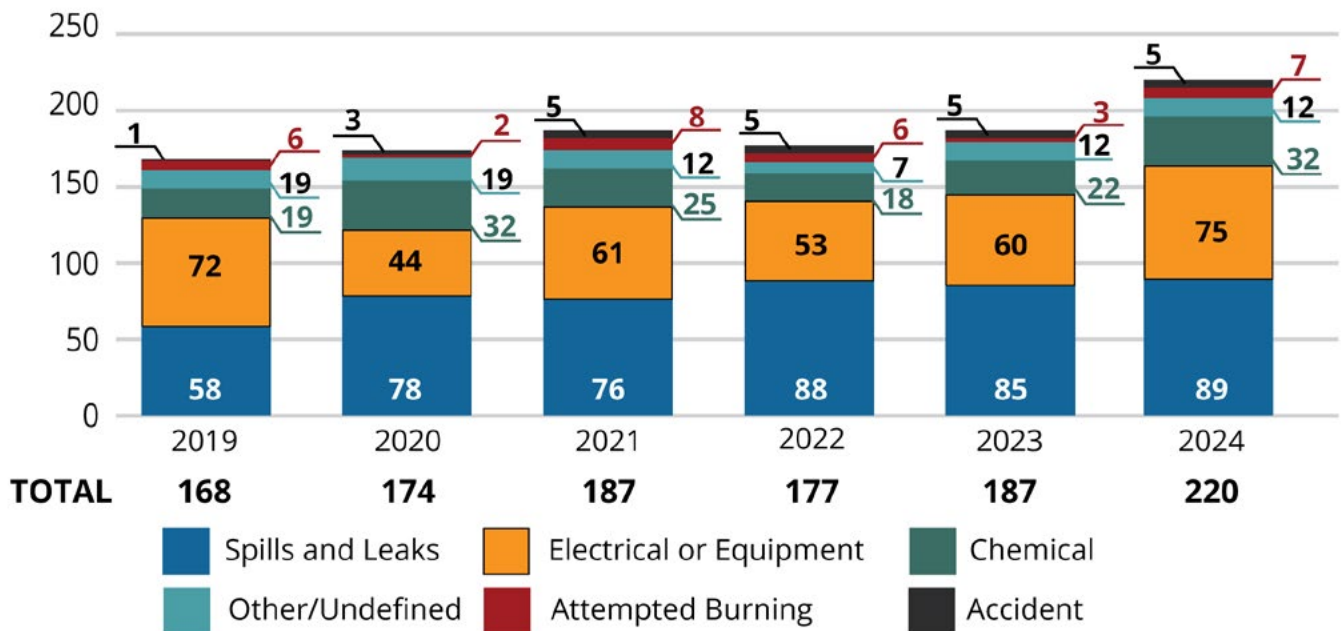


Graph 7. Distribution of Transports by Unit 2020-2024

Hazardous Condition Incidents

Hazardous condition incidents include spills and leaks of combustible liquids or gases, high levels of carbon monoxide and problems with electrical equipment. While accounting for only 1% of all incidents and 3% of non-EMS incidents in 2024, hazardous condition incidents have been on a steady increase since 2019.

Carbon monoxide, a deadly odorless gas, is a product of combustion. Faulty or poorly maintained gas appliances, improperly vented fireplaces, and vehicles running in enclosed spaces are some of the primary reasons carbon monoxide can build up in the average home. Without a properly maintained and regularly tested carbon monoxide detector on every level of a home these hazardous condition incidents can become medical emergencies.

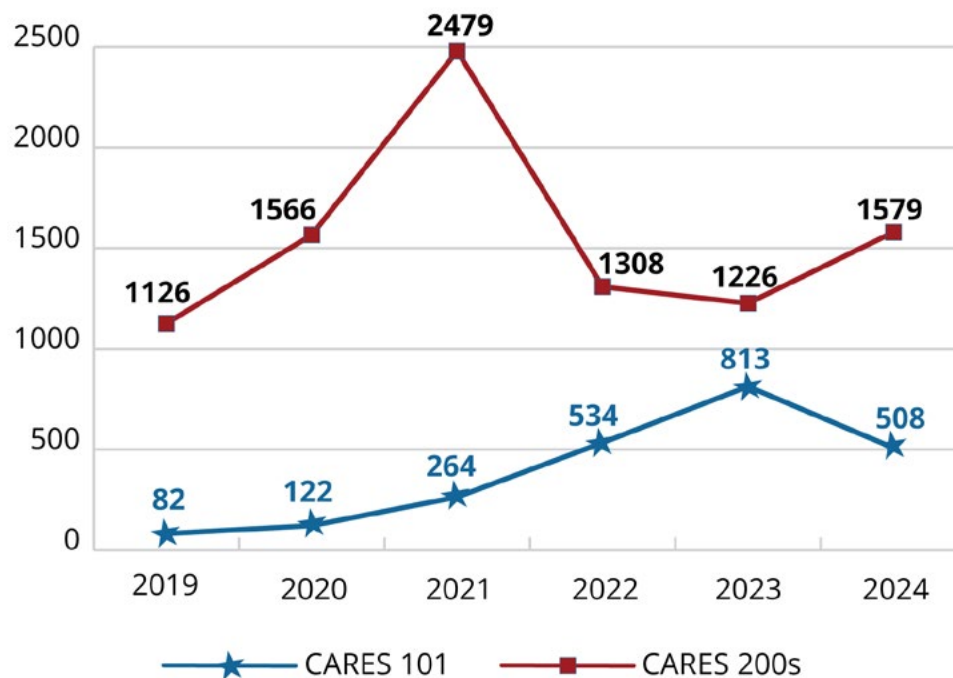


Graph 8. HazMat Incidents by Year and Type

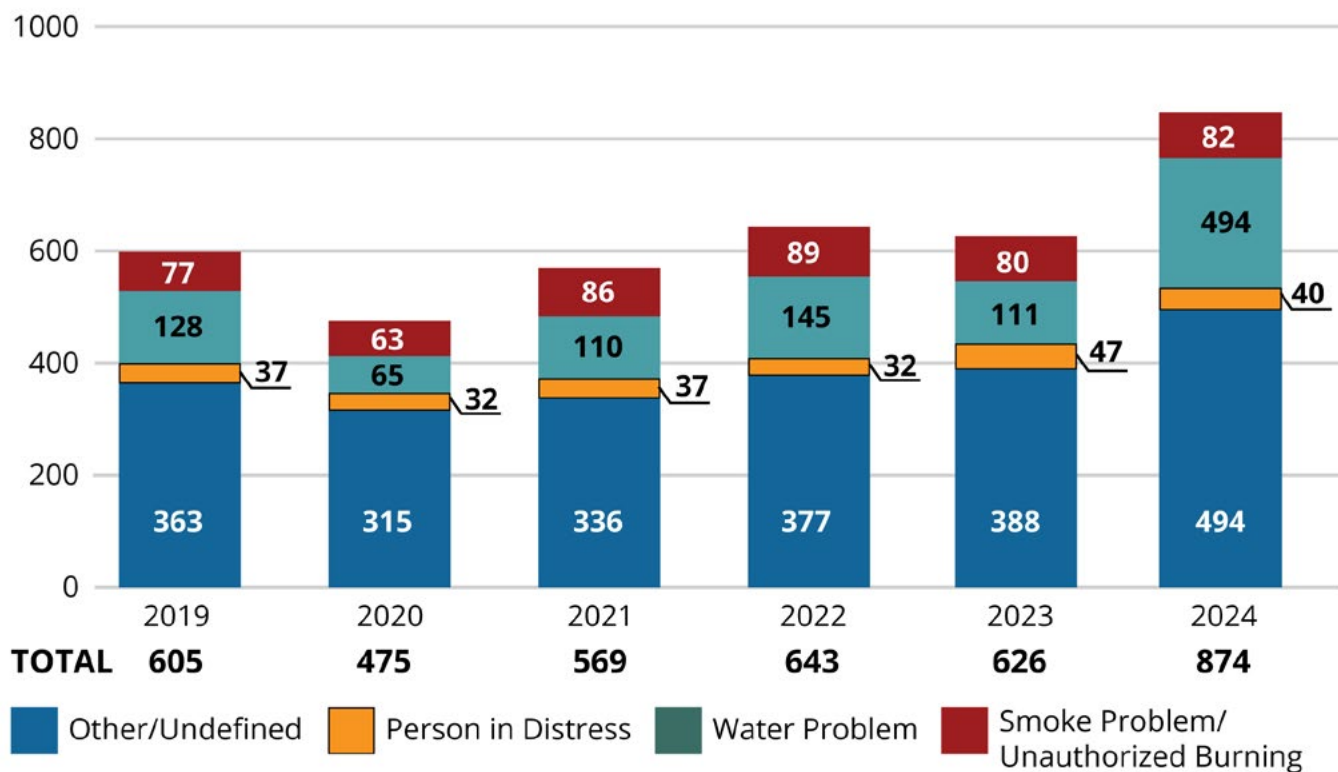
Service Calls

After EMS incidents, service calls are the most common incident for the fire service making up 12% of total incident volume and 35% of non-EMS related incidents for 2024. However, unlike other fire or EMS incidents, the majority of service calls are not handled by operations personnel. The Bellevue Community Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) Team is comprised of social workers and mental health professionals trained to assist community members who have needs beyond emergency services. This internal referral system allows fire personnel and the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) to request follow-up care for community members. This assistance ranges from grab bars for frequent fall patients to help with housing and food security. As the program has evolved the size of the team has changed leading to a large spike in 2021. The CARES 101 team responds to incidents as requested by fire and police personnel to give immediate assistance to community members in need. The CARES 200 team will then follow up with visits to ensure a continuity of care beyond the emergency incident. The increase in both total service incidents and CARES specific incidents shows that our team can reach more people each year, an overall positive in reducing risk throughout the city. However, the rise in incidents may indicate that there are vulnerable and underserved populations that the department has not been able to reach previously. This is something the CRR Team can analyze to reduce risks before they impact our community members.

Beyond CARES incidents, service calls also include smoke and water complaints as well as non injury incidents where the fire department can assist, such as stuck jewelry and blocking trees. These incidents have increased proportionally to the total incident volume.



Graph 9. CARES Incidents Over Time

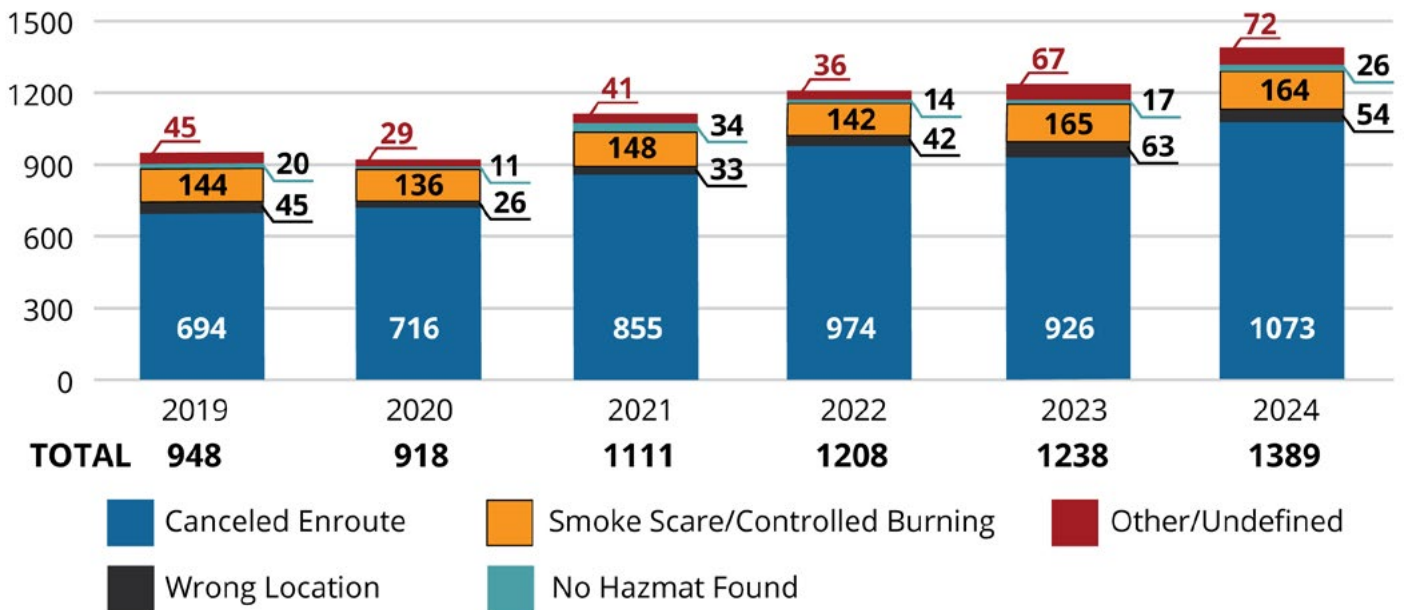


Graph 10. Service Calls by Year and Type

Good Intent Calls

Good intent calls include any incident in which units respond before it's known that emergency services are not needed or are no longer required. The large majority of these responses end with the units being cancelled before they arrive on scene. These responses also include smoke scares, authorized burns, incorrect locations and patients who choose to transport themselves to the hospital before crews arrive. These incidents have continued to increase over the last six years with an additional 576 incidents in 2024 compared to 2019. This is a growth from 8.7% of total incident volume in 2019 to 9.6% of the total in 2024.

When a unit is taken out of position for a response that ultimately turns out to not be an emergency, there is a chance they will not be available for a high priority response in their district. This causes a delay in that second emergency response, which increases the risk to the community. Additionally, driving to and from emergency incidents is one of the most dangerous parts of firefighting. Traffic collisions and near misses increase when large emergency rigs are driving with lights and sirens. While we never want to discourage anyone from utilizing the 9-1-1 system, there is an opportunity here to educate community members on the process around emergency services to decrease responses where units are cancelled enroute, leaving them available for other emergencies.

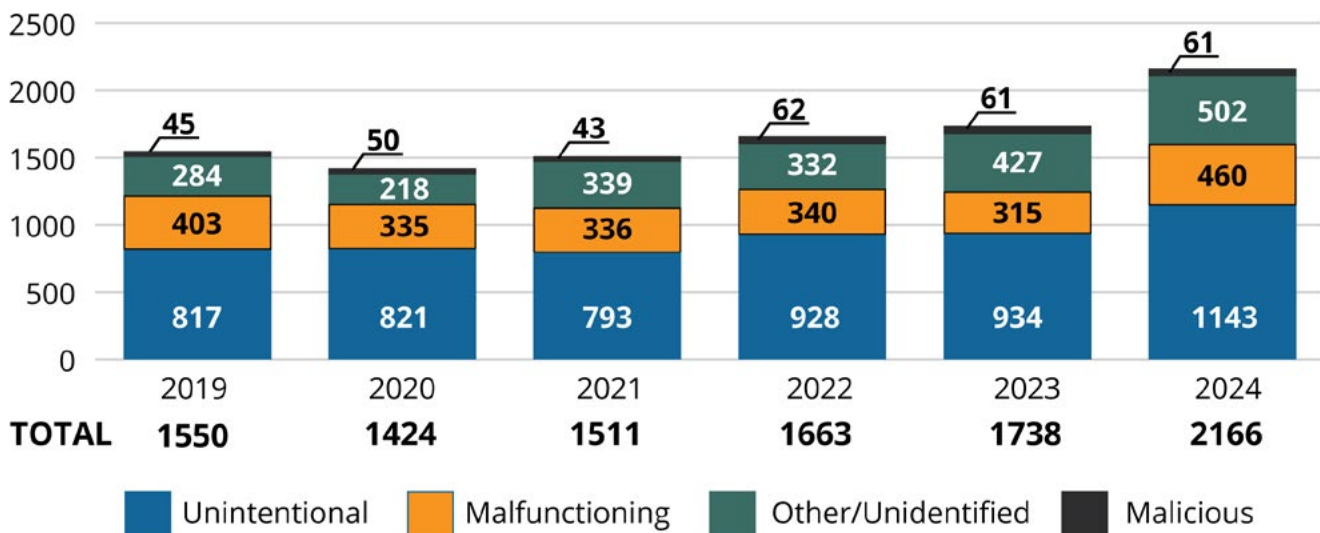


Graph 11. Good Intent Calls by Year and Type

False Alarm Incidents

Whether accidental or malicious, the number of false fire alarms continue to rise. These responses put stress on emergency operations as they can tie up multiple units for a significant amount of time. These incidents have increased by almost 40% over the last six years, of which the most drastic increase between years was 2023 to 2024 with a nearly 25% increase.

Reducing the number of false alarms keeps units in service to handle other emergencies. The department has a preventable alarm program that advises businesses, apartment managers and community members of repeated false alarms and charges increasing fines after three preventable alarms per 90-day period. Despite this deterrent, the increasing number of false alarms is something the Community Risk Reduction Team is seeking to reduce. This will keep emergency resources available for actual emergencies.



Graph 12. False Alarms by Year and Type

Weather/Natural Hazard Related Risk

Bellevue, Washington faces several weather-related hazards typical of the Pacific Northwest region, though it benefits from a generally moderate climate. This assessment gives foundational knowledge for emergency preparedness throughout the city. However, climate models project several changes for the Bellevue region, including increased frequency of atmospheric river events causing heavy precipitation, higher likelihood of summer drought conditions, more frequent heat waves and potential for more intense winter storms. These changes may alter the risk profile for Bellevue in coming decades.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes represent a significant natural hazard for the Bellevue area due to its location near the Cascadia Subduction Zone, Seattle Fault Zone, South Whidbey Island Faults and the Tacoma Fault. The most impactful for the Bellevue area are the Cascadia Subduction Zone and the Seattle Fault Zone. Earthquakes originating in the Cascadia Subduction Zone will produce low-frequency waves lasting several minutes with potential to measure 9 or more on the Richter scale. The Seattle Fault Zone, part of which runs directly under Interstate 90, is likely to produce shallow, high intensity earthquakes with many aftershocks. Earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning, meaning preparedness is the only potential mitigation tactic. Additionally, earthquakes can trigger several secondary hazards such as landslides and seiches causing further negative impacts on the community.

Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms present one of the most common weather hazards in Bellevue. These events can include heavy rainfall causing localized flooding, snow and ice accumulation

and high winds leading to power outages and downed trees. Most notable FEMA emergency declarations related to Bellevue have been associated with severe winter weather, including a declaration in February 2019 for “persistent snow and icy conditions.” A weeklong ice storm impacted the area in December 2022 causing non-emergency city facilities to close temporarily. In November 2024 a “bomb cyclone” event significantly impacted Bellevue and the greater Puget Sound region. This brought record-breaking rainfall, wind gusts exceeding 60 mph and widespread power outages. This event highlights the continuing vulnerability of the region to intense winter storm systems, particularly as climate change increases the frequency of atmospheric river events.

Flooding

While Bellevue is not among the highest flood-risk communities in Washington, localized flooding occurs during intense rainfall events, particularly in areas near the Lake Washington shoreline, Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek watershed and Coal Creek watershed. Urban flooding from stormwater runoff presents challenges during heavy precipitation events.

Extreme Temperatures

Bellevue rarely experiences severe temperature extremes. Summer temperatures occasionally exceed 90°F, with rare instances above 100°F. Winter temperatures seldom drop below 20°F for extended periods. However, climate change projections suggest increasing frequency of heat events, with potential public health implications. For example, 2021 saw an extreme heat wave where temperatures reached 108 degrees with the Department of Health attributing 34 deaths in King County to heat related complications. These extreme temperature scenarios disproportionately affect vulnerable populations such as seniors, young children,

those with disabilities and unhoused persons who are unable to take necessary precautions.

Wildland Fire/Smoke

Wildfire smoke has regularly impacted Bellevue and the surrounding areas during wildfire season. Air quality alerts are common during these times and community members with preexisting health conditions or who represent a vulnerable population are at greater risks during these events. Rising temperatures combined with dryer summers have increased the likelihood of wildland fire in the greater Seattle area as ground fuels are numerous. Even those outside of designated wildland-urban interface see an increased number of bark and brush fires from these hotter and dryer conditions.

Volcanic Activity

Though not immediately proximate to Bellevue, several active Cascade volcanoes pose indirect hazards to the city. Mount Rainier, Mount Baker and Glacier Peak are all considered active volcanoes within relatively close proximity. The primary volcanic hazard affecting Bellevue would be ashfall, which could impact air quality, transportation, water systems and electrical infrastructure. Heavy ashfall could cause respiratory issues, particularly among vulnerable populations, and potentially damage mechanical systems.

Drought

As climate change brings hotter and dryer summers, drought has become an increasing concern in the greater Bellevue area. King County experienced nine drought declarations since 2019, with 2021, 2022 and 2023 each seeing two declarations. Early predictions for 2025 show a high probability for another drought year. Drought threatens vegetation and crop harvest as well as impacting the entire population of the area with water quality and quantity. Over time this harm can lead to permanent loss of habitat and stable water supplies.

Due to the high sloping hills in combination with areas of erosion and historic failures, landslides are a high probability in the greater Bellevue area. Landslide hazard areas of 15% or greater slope over at least 10 feet of rise have been identified primarily in the north, east and west sides of the city. Heavy rainfall can destabilize soil on these slopes causing a debris flow that not only threatens structures but also roadways, vegetation and critical infrastructure leading to economic loss for nearby businesses. Six landslide events have occurred in the last 28 years, the most recent of which occurred in 2022. In that incident a broken water main caused a landslide that pushed a house off its foundation and threatened seven additional homes.

Tsunami/Seiche Risk

While Bellevue is not directly on the Pacific coastline, its location on the eastern shore of Lake Washington introduces a limited tsunami risk. More importantly, the high probability of an earthquake event increases the likelihood of a seiche or standing wave that oscillates in a body of water. A substantial seismic event could generate a seiche affecting Bellevue's lakefront areas, particularly the Mercer Slough, Meydenbauer Bay, Newport Shores and other waterfront communities. A seiche could also threaten major transportation corridors such as the I-90 and SR 520 bridges resulting in a greater economic impact.

Emergency Management Framework

Bellevue maintains a comprehensive emergency management approach through its development of the City of Bellevue Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) that is anticipated to be signed by the end of 2025. The city has integrated its emergency response systems with state and federal frameworks to ensure coordinated action during weather-related disasters. Local early warning systems for

weather events provide community members with timely information about approaching hazards, while ongoing public education campaigns enhance community disaster preparedness. This integrated approach allows Bellevue to maximize resilience against the diverse weather hazards that impact the Pacific Northwest region.

As part of the research for the City of Bellevue HMP, an evaluation of the major natural hazards was conducted, and a Hazard Risk Rating was assigned to each hazard. This rating is calculated by assessing the probability of an event and the impacts on people, property and the economy. Each impact is weighted for its significance. Impact on people is weighted by a factor of 3, impact on property by a factor of 2 and impact on the economy by a factor of 1. Using Table 8 to determine values for each category, the risk rating is calculated using the following formula: **probability factor x sum of weighted impact factors = total**. Risks are then given a ranking with total scores 0-15 indicating a low risk, 16-32 as a medium risk, and 33 to 54 as a high risk.

Score	Hazard Risk 0	Hazard Risk 1	Hazard Risk 2	Hazard Risk 3
Probability	There is no probability of occurrence	Hazard event is not likely to occur within 100 years	Hazard event is likely to occur within 100 years	Hazard event is likely to occur within 25 years
Impact on Property	None of the total assessed property value is exposed to a hazard	10% or less of the total assessed property value is exposed to the hazard	10% to 15% of the total assessed property value is exposed to the hazard	25% or more of the total assessed property value is exposed to the hazard
Impact on People	None of the population is exposed to the hazard	9% or less of the population is exposed to the hazard	10% to 24% of the population is exposed to the hazard	25% or more of the population is exposed to the hazard
Impact on Economy	No loss is estimated from the hazard	Estimated loss is 5% or less of the total exposed property value	Estimated loss is 5% to 10% of the total exposed property value	Estimated loss is 10% or more of the total exposed property value

Table 8. Hazard Risk Score Values

Hazard	Probability Factor	Weighted Impact on Property	Weighted Impact on People	Weighted Impact on Economy	Total	Risk Rating
Drought	2	2	3	2	14	Low
Earthquake (Seattle)	1	6	9	3	18	Medium
Earthquake (Cascadia)	2	6	9	1	32	Medium
Flooding	2	2	3	0	10	Low
Landslide	3	2	3	1	18	Medium
Severe Weather	3	6	9	1	48	High
Volcano	1	6	9	2	17	Medium
Wildfire	2	2	3	1	12	Low

Table 9. Hazard Risk Ranking

Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure is defined as the body of systems, networks and assets that are so essential that their continued operation is required to ensure the security of a given community, its economy and the public's health and/or safety.

City of Bellevue utilities provides water and sewer services to Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Medina and Yarrow Point and sewer services to Beaux Arts. The utilities department maintains over 600 miles of water pipeline, over 400 miles of stormwater pipeline and 5983 fire hydrants ensuring that Bellevue Fire has clear roads and hydrant access in case of emergencies. Beaux Arts Water Department supplies water to its residents while Newcastle contracts with Coal Creek Utility District for both services. Electricity and gas are provided to the region by Puget Sound Energy. The Olympic Pipeline runs north to south through Bellevue and Newcastle requiring the fire department to have specialized hazmat training in the event of a failure.

Transportation throughout the greater Bellevue area involves three major highways: Interstate 90, Interstate 405 and State Route 520. These highways not only provide daily commuter access to the cities, but they are major evacuation routes in case of emergency. This is especially important because the Seattle Fault runs underneath I90 and a decent sized earthquake would impact community members' ability to evacuate east and west. Additionally, the community is relying more on public transportation, and the new light rail that runs northeast from South Bellevue Park and Ride to Overlake Village in Redmond would also be impacted in these events.

Except for Beaux Arts, each city has a city or town hall to provide government services to their community members. Hunts Point contracts their police services through Medina and Yarrow Point contracts their police through Clyde Hill. There are only two hospitals providing 24-hour emergency services, Overlake Hospital and Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, though a number of urgent cares and medical clinics are available with limited hours.

Critical Infrastructure	Bellevue	Clyde Hill	Hunts Point	Medina	Newcastle	Yarrow Point
City/Town Hall	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fire Stations	9*	1	0	0	0	0
Hospitals	2	0	0	0	0	0
Major Highways	I90 ~5 mi I405 ~7.5 mi SR520 ~3.5 mi	SR520 ~0.5 mi	SR520 ~0.5 m	SR520 ~0.5 m	I405 ~0.5 m	SR520 ~0.5 m
Light Rail	~6 miles 6 stations	0	0	0	0	0
Olympic Pipeline	~13 miles	0	0	0	~1.5 miles	0
Police Station	1 station 2 substations	1	0	1	1	0
PSE Substation	4	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer Station	1	0	0	0	0	0
Schools	29 public 33 private	2 public 2 private	0	1 public 2 private	3 public 0 private	0

Table 10. Critical Infrastructure by City | Beaux Arts is 100% residential with no communal critical infrastructure | *Fire Station 10 is currently under construction

Risk Matrix

After analyzing historical call data and evaluating special hazards and critical infrastructure, it is important to calculate the probability and impact of incidents to assign an overall risk score. Probability is categorized from certain to rare depending on historic incidents. Impact is more complex, estimating the injuries or fatalities, damage to the community and its ability to function with this damage and the economic losses to the community at large. This visual approach helps the CRR Team make informed decisions about where to allocate resources, what trainings to prioritize and which prevention programs to develop. The goal is to enhance public safety while making the most efficient use of available resources.

Probability		Impact	
Expected	Event is expected to occur regularly due to high level of recorded incidents each year.	Extreme	Large number of severe injuries or fatalities, extensive damage to the community or environment, or huge financial loss for community.
Frequent	Event will occur frequently with regularly recorded incidents each year.	Major	Extensive injuries with some fatalities, significant damage to community or environment, or significant financial loss for community.
Likely	Event is likely to occur as there is some opportunity or means with some recorded incidents each year.	Moderate	Some injuries with a rare fatality, localized damage to community or environment, some financial loss for community.
Possible	Event could occur but there are very few recorded incidents each year.	Minor	Few injuries but no fatalities, some damage to community or environment, minimal financial loss for community.
Rare	Event may only occur in exceptional circumstances each year.	Minimal	No injuries or fatalities, inconsequential damage to community or environment, little to no financial loss for community.

Table 11. Probability and Impact Scoring

After scoring incidents on both probability and impact each incident is given a priority score from 1 to 5 with 1 representing the highest priority. While priorities 3 and lower can represent great risks to the community, they are either less frequent or cause less impact to the community. The CRR Team's highest priorities will be those categorized as 1 or 2 in this risk matrix.

Probability	Impact Minimal	Impact Minor	Impact Moderate	Impact Major	Impact Extreme
Expected	2	2	1	1	1
Frequent	3	3	2	1	1
Likely	4	3	2	1	1
Possible	5	4	3	2	1
Rare	5	5	4	3	3

Key

- 1= Extreme Risk
- 2= High Risk
- 3= Moderate Risk
- 4= Minor Risk
- 5= Low Risk

Table 12. Risk Matrix Scoring

Risk	Probability	Impact	Priority	Prevention Strategies
Fire Related				
Building Fire 1& 2 Family	Likely	Minor	3	Pub Ed, Permitting, Pre-Planning
Building Fire Multifamily	Likely	Moderate	2	Fire Inspections, Pre-Planning, Pub Ed
Building Fire Commercial	Possible	Moderate	3	Fire Inspections, Code Development, Permitting, Pre-Planning
Cooking Fire Residential	Frequent	Minor	3	Pub Ed
Cooking Fire Commercial	Possible	Minor	4	Fire Inspections, Code Development, Permitting, Pre-Planning
Vehicle Fire	Likely	Minimal	4	Department Training
Vegetation Fires	Frequent	Minor	3	Pub Ed
False Alarms	Expected	Minor	2	Fire Inspections, Preventable Alarm Program, Pub Ed
EMS Related				
Senior Slips & Falls	Expected	Moderate	1	CARES, Pub Ed, Coordination with Medic One
Motor Vehicle Collisions	Frequent	Moderate	2	Support Vision Zero, Pub Ed
Overdoses	Frequent	Moderate	2	Pub Ed, CARES
Other Risks				
Earthquakes	Rare	Major/ Extreme	3	Hazard Mitigation Planning, EOC Coordination, SOGs
Weather Incidents	Likely	Minor	3	Pub Ed, Hazard Mitigation Planning
Special Hazards Incident	Rare	Major	3	Permitting, SOGs, Department Training, Hazard Mitigation Planning, EOC Coordination
Critical Infrastructure Loss	Rare	Major	3	EOC Coordination, Fire Inspections, Pre-Planning

Table 14. Risk Priority and Prevention Strategies

Top Priorities

Non-injury slips and falls represent a high-volume incident where the impact is greater for department resources and the community as a whole. There is an opportunity to partner with adult living facilities to provide training to staff, residents and family members on non-emergency resources to aid in these low-acuity incidents. For injury falls, each incident reduces the functional lifespan of the patient putting a higher burden of care on caregivers or resulting in a loss of independence for patients.

Several multifamily building fires have occurred in recent years, displacing many families and resulting in large financial losses. These high impact incidents can be mitigated through regular fire inspections, emergency response pre-planning and targeted public education initiatives.

False alarms occur with high frequency and can create unnecessary resource deployment and potential delays in responding to genuine emergencies. Fire Prevention has implemented a preventable alarm program where fines are charged for repeated false alarms in a rolling 90 day period with higher fees after the fifth annual preventable alarm. This program can be reevaluated for its effectiveness and paired with further efforts by the Education Coordinator to reduce the number of false alarms.

Despite the efforts of the Vision Zero Team motor vehicle collisions continue to be frequent and sometimes deadly in Bellevue. According to Vision Zero's 2021 strategic plan, 83% of fatal or serious injury collisions occur on 8% of the City's total street network. The Fire Department can continue to support the effort to reduce serious injury and fatality collisions as well as increase public education about safe driving.

The fentanyl epidemic has led to inconsistent spikes in overdoses in Bellevue Fire's jurisdiction. If the time delay between drug use and a call to 911 is minimal, there is a chance of recovery through naloxone (Narcan) use and CPR if needed. Longer time delays or failure to start an emergency response increases the risk of death for the patient. The CARES Team can support community members who are struggling with addiction or need additional resources to prevent overdoses. The addition of an opioid specialist has increased opportunities for public education around accidental overdoses to ensure that those who may be at risk or know someone at risk have resources they need to stay safer.

The risk matrix provides a valuable framework for prioritizing emergency services resources and prevention efforts. By focusing first on the higher-level risks—senior falls, multifamily building fires, false alarms, motor vehicle collisions and overdoses—Bellevue Fire Department can address its most pressing safety concerns. The systematic application of inspections, public education, pre-planning and coordination with other agencies forms the foundation of an effective risk reduction strategy for the city. These targeted approaches allow Bellevue to maximize the impact of its safety resources while addressing the most significant threats to public safety and property protection.

Summary

The Bellevue Fire Department's Community Risk Assessment has identified several significant risks within our service area. The highest fire-related risks include multifamily building fires, which can result in multiple displacements and substantial financial losses and false alarms, which continue to increase at a concerning rate (40% over six years) and strain emergency resources. These high-priority risks can be mitigated through enhanced fire inspections, pre-planning, public education initiatives and continued refinement of the preventable alarm program.

The assessment's EMS data reveals that emergency medical incidents constitute approximately 65% of the department's total call volume, with senior falls representing a significant portion of these incidents. Critical conditions like cardiac arrest and stroke are not rising at the same rates as total EMS incidents. Overdoses have been consistent over the last five years but have spiked to over 100 incidents per quarter multiple times and still represent a real risk in the community. Service calls—including CARES Team referrals—have shown steady growth, indicating both improved outreach capabilities and potentially underserved vulnerable populations. The concentration of nearly 13% of total incidents at just twenty locations throughout the city highlights opportunities for targeted intervention programs with adult living facilities, housing shelters and apartment

complexes to reduce non-emergency utilization of fire department resources.

As Bellevue and surrounding areas grow there is a risk of the community outpacing the department's capabilities. Because economic activity drives total and day-time population growth it is important to recognize the risk that overgrowth and traffic congestion pose to emergency response times. High rise buildings provide living and office space while also increasing vertical response times. The Light Rail expansion connects the city with its neighbors but introduces the potential of large-scale incidents from collisions to fires.

Demographic changes in Bellevue present additional challenges for emergency service delivery, with 42% of residents speaking a language other than English at home and approximately 20% reporting limited English proficiency. The city's aging population (15% over age 65) and increasing diversity necessitate adaptable communication strategies and specialized response considerations. Natural hazards, particularly earthquakes and severe winter storms, along with critical infrastructure vulnerabilities and special hazards like the Olympic Pipeline, require comprehensive planning and coordination. As Bellevue continues to grow, the department must evolve its risk reduction strategies to address these emerging challenges while maximizing the impact of prevention resources.

References

About Us - Bellevue School District. (2024). bsd405.org/about-us

Bellevue Diversity Initiative. (2014). *The Diversity Advantage: Putting the positive power of diversity to work in our community.*

BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/Bellevue%20Diversity%20Advantage%20Plan%2012-08-14.pdf

Bellevue, WA | Data USA. (2023). datausa.io/profile/geo/bellevue-wa/#demographics

City of Bellevue. (2021). *Vision Zero Strategic Plan.* BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2021/vision-zero-strategic-plan-120120.pdf

City of Bellevue. (2025). *2025 City of Bellevue Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Review Draft.*

City of Bellevue Utilities (2025). *Bellevue Water System Statistical Summary as of 01/02/2025.*

CRA/SOC Development Team. (2024). *Bellevue Fire Department: 2024 Standards of Cover Community Risk Assessment.* BellevueWA.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/dept-fire/fire/2024-bellevue-fire-community-risk-assessment-and-standard-of-cover-1.pdf

Flores, D. (2024). *Seattle Fire Department Community Risk Assessment.* Seattle Fire Department. seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Fire/Business/SFDCommunityRiskAssessmentReport.pdf

Private schools. Washington State Board of Education. (n.d.).

sbe.wa.gov/our-work/private-schools#Private%20School%20Approval%20Certificates

US Census Bureau. (2025). census.gov

Vision 20/20. (n.d.). *Community risk assessment: A guide for conducting a community risk assessment.* riskassessment.strategicfire.org/

Who dies in fatal home fires? | NFPA. (2022).

nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2022/01/12/who-dies-in-fatal-home-fires