



## OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority  
835 N. Central Avenue | Tracy, CA 95376  
MAIN 209.831.6700 | FAX 209.831.6703  
WWW.SJCFIRE.ORG

### MEMORANDUM

Date: October 9, 2023  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Chief Bradley  
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update – September 2023

#### **NFPA 1582 Physicals**

In September our firefighters completed NFPA 1582 physicals. NFPA 1582 physicals are a set of medical evaluations that aim to assess the overall health and fitness of firefighters to ensure they are capable of performing their duties both safely and effectively. The NFPA 1582 assessment examines a number of health parameters such as; cardiac health, respiratory function, musculoskeletal fitness and overall general health. In addition to the standard assessments, the Authority offered our personnel an enhanced ultrasound screening of all major organs. This program ensures our workforce remains healthy and can have the ability to identify issues at early stages. Lastly, as part of the newly negotiated contract, we are happy to report that we will be conducting yearly NFPA 1582 physicals to better track fitness over the course of a firefighter's career.

#### **Personnel and Succession Planning**

During the month of September, Chief Officers met with qualified internal candidates and conducted interviews for the Battalion Chief and Division Chief of Administration positions. These interviews were held in preparation for upcoming retirements within those ranks during the month of October and November. These promotions will also create vacancies in the Captain, Engineer and Firefighter ranks. Interviews for the Captain and Engineer ranks were previously conducted and established an eligibility and ranking list to hire from. Staff also worked on coordinating Firefighter interviews to be held the first week of October, as these impending retirements will create vacancies amongst all ranks in the Authority.

#### **EMS Manager Recruitment**

On March 8<sup>th</sup> the Board approved the over hire of the EMS Manager position and approved a 10% pay increase for the position in an attempt to attract highly qualified candidates. Interviews were held during the first week of July for qualified candidates. We are pleased to announce that we currently have a candidate in background and hope to have him on board by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Labor Negotiations

Throughout the month of September, management continued to work on a successor MOU with TFFA Local 3355. The previous MOU expired June 30, 2023.

## September 11 Memorial Ceremonies



During the month of September, fire personnel attended multiple 9/11 Memorial Ceremonies throughout the City. On the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup> all on duty crews perform ceremonial traditions to remember and honor the sacrifice paid by so many. Beginning at 0530 hours (5:30 am) all stations pull the apparatus onto the front apron with Code 3 lights running, assemble at the flag pole in Class B uniforms, lower the station USA flag to half-staff and observe a minute of silence. These remembrance traditions are long held with the SSJCFA and first responders throughout the nation to remember and honor the

343 brothers and sisters from the FDNY, 23 NYPD police officers and 37 Port Authority officers, and countless lives lost.

## Weed Abatement Status Update

The Community Risk Reduction Division continues to address vegetation management throughout the jurisdiction. SSJCFA received approval from the Tracy City Council to have the Authority's contractor abate 13 properties in the City after Fire Marshal Spears presented the item to Council. For properties requiring abatement outside of the City's jurisdiction, CRR staff coordinate with the County Fire Warden's office. The contractor will begin abating the identified properties the first week of October.

## Fire Prevention Week Drawing Contest

Fire Prevention Week runs from October 8<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> and this year's theme is "Cooking Safety Starts with You." The Community Risk Reduction Division is conducting our third annual Drawing Contest for children in kindergarten through fifth grade in the Tracy area school districts. The top three drawings for each age group will receive a prize and will have their drawings displayed that the Fire Administration Building for a year. Our primary objective is to engage students in learning about fire safety. The contest was advertised in elementary schools across the districts and the deadline for entries to be submitted at the Administration Building is October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Cooking safety starts with YOU.**  
Pay attention to fire prevention.  
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY**  
*Drawing Contest*  
Oct 8th - Oct 13th

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South San Joaquin County Fire Authority - Tracy, CA

### **Community Risk Assessment**

Authority staff continue to make process on our strategic initiative of identifying community risks through our continued work on the Standards of Cover and Community Risk Assessment. This assessment is being conducted by AP Triton and was approved by the Board in June utilizing the funds awarded from the FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety (FPS) Grant Program. This project extends across the Community Risk Reduction, Operations, and Administrative Divisions. Following our kickoff meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>, staff has been identifying and uploading the necessary documents to share with the consultant for a comprehensive assessment. The project is anticipated to be completed by March of 2024.

### **EMS Study**

SSJCFA, Lodi and Stockton Fire Departments entered into an agreement with AP Triton to conduct an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Evaluation and Delivery Modeling. The three agencies participated in a kickoff meeting and are doing their respective part in providing AP Triton with agency and jurisdictional information to complete the assessment. The project is estimated to take approximately six months to complete and we hope to have the final report by mid-year 2024.

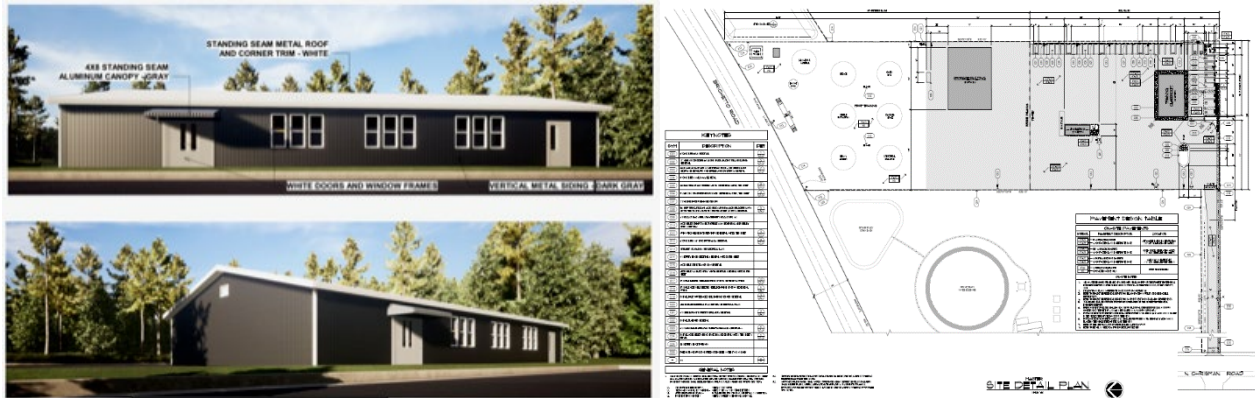
### **Leprino Foods**

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority was contacted by Leprino Foods in May to see if our agency would like to partner with them on a Supplemental Environmental Project Agreement (SEP). March of 2021, Leprino Foods had a HAZMAT incident at their Tracy site involving a leak of anhydrous ammonia which resulted in a fine from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SEP Agreement is an enforcement settlement that allows the penalized agency to redirect up to 50% of the fine to another agency that would provide a tangible environmental or public health benefit.

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority received a status update from Leprino Foods regarding the SEP Agreement. In the last few months, the Leprino Foods legal team has re-engaged with the EPA on finalizing the settlement agreement, which includes the review and approval of the SEP Agreement. If approved, SSJCFA could receive up to 50% of the total fine assessed to Leprino Foods, which amounts in a potential funding opportunity up to \$180,000. If the funds are awarded SSJCFA will be able to procure multiple pieces of simulation training equipment and a HAZMAT sensing drone which will provide training opportunities and effective means to respond to HAZMAT emergencies. These training props have a direct nexus to the incident that occurred at Leprino Foods in March of 2021 and will be valuable assets for our agency and training facility. We look forward to hearing back about the finalized offer in the coming weeks.

## Training Facility Update

SSJCFA continues to work with City staff, Schack & Associates and Modern Building Solutions on the development of the site plans and modular buildout of the Training Facility. Construction drawings are now 100% complete and are now in the review process. The provided photos include a rendering for the proposed classroom buildout and a copy of the site detail plan.



## Detention Basin 4 Controlled Burn

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, SSJCFA crews burned Detention Basin 4 located at MacArthur and Sixth Streets, just south of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street overcrossing. This controlled burn was requested by the City of Tracy's Police Department in an effort to mitigate future fire risk to an unsheltered population. SSJCFA staff worked with Tracy PD to coordinate the controlled burn through an Incident Action Plan. The burn was successful and took approximately 4 hours to complete.



## Board Action Recap

The Board of Directors for the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority met in a Regular Meeting on September 13, 2023 and adopted a resolution accepting the SB 1205 Compliance Report for state mandated annual fire inspections.

## Training

During September, the South County Fire Authority Division of Training continued to facilitate all risk emergency training events.

- HazMat personnel attended the Hazmat Continuing Challenge in Sacramento over the course of four days. Staff attended courses focused on gas leak mitigation, railcar emergencies and lithium-ion battery emergencies.
- The HazMat Team also participated in a Sentential Event training scenario with Modesto Fire and the 95<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team.
- Engine 97, Chief 91 and EMS-9 participated in an active shooter scenario training with the Defense Logistics Agency.
- Personnel participated in a four-day scenario on midrise structure fires at Great Wolf Lodge in Manteca with Manteca and Lathrop-Manteca Fire Departments.
- All personnel were trained on the new NarcBox narcotic storage boxes installed on all apparatus, including the use and policies for all paramedics.

At the company level our firefighters train daily to prepare for emergency response. Authority personnel logged over 1,000 hours of training during the month of September.

The Division of Training is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Fire Authority to provide a well-trained and professional fire agency to serve our community.



## Emergency Response Highlights

- **September 6, 2023** – Crews were dispatched to a front yard fire in the 1600 block of Shadowwood Court just after 6 PM. Upon arrival, crews found a working structure fire and made entry through the garage door. The fire was contained to the garage and side yard and was brought under control in approximately 15 minutes. No injuries were reported.



- **September 11, 2023** – Crews responded to a call for a residential structure fire just before 1 PM on the 28000 block of Tracy Boulevard. Upon arrival, crews made entry through the front door and brought the fire under control in 15 minutes. No injuries were reported.



- **September 16, 2023** – A call came in for a structure fire on San Jose Road just after 6 PM. Engines 96, 92, 91 and 97 arrived on scene and found a structure fire in an outbuilding with a partial roof collapse. The fire was brought under control and no injuries were reported.

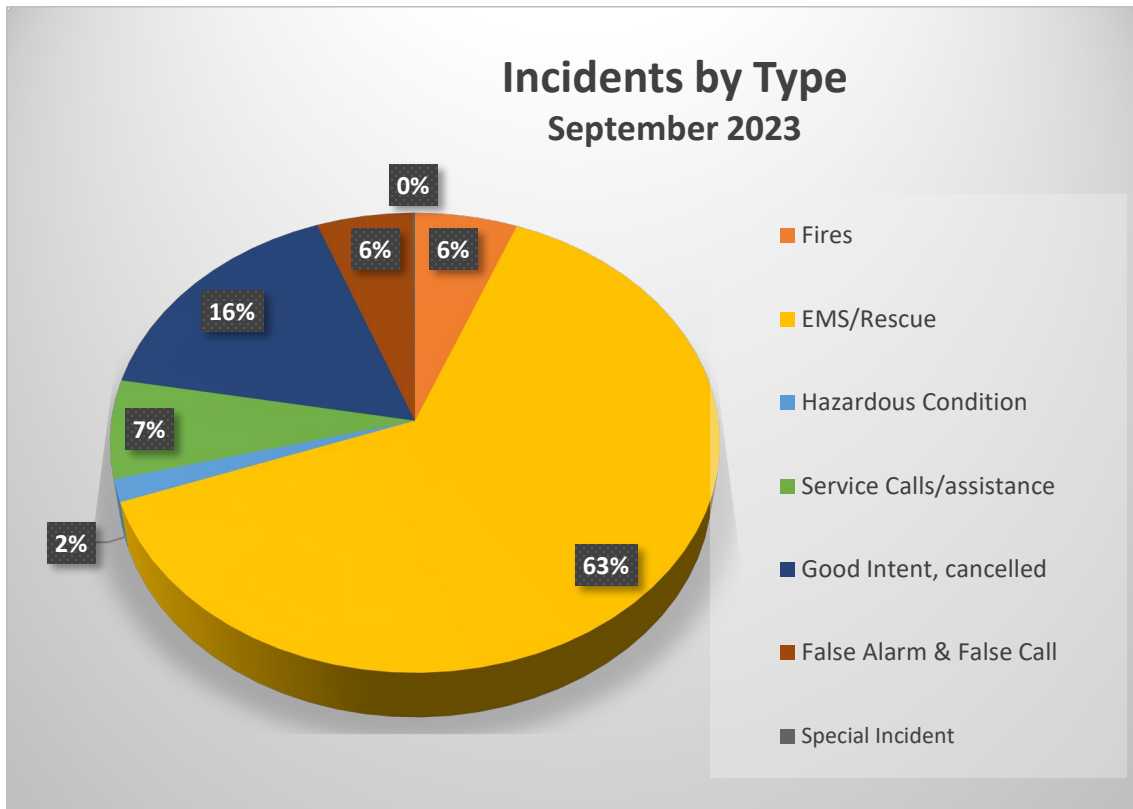


- **September 22, 2023** – Truck 91 and Engine 96 successfully resuscitated a 13-year-old student at Freiler Elementary School who had gone into full arrest. The patient was taken to Sutter Tracy and later transported to UCSF. We are happy to say that she is doing well.
- **September 23, 2023** – Crews responded to a call for a structure fire at 10:45 am on the 1300 block of Parkside Drive. Engine 93 arrived on scene and found black smoke and flames coming from the garage. Engines 91 and 92 arrived on scene and searched the home and found a dog, who was treated with oxygen and returned to the owner. The fire was brought under control at the 9-minute mark and no injuries were reported.



## September 2023 Response Data

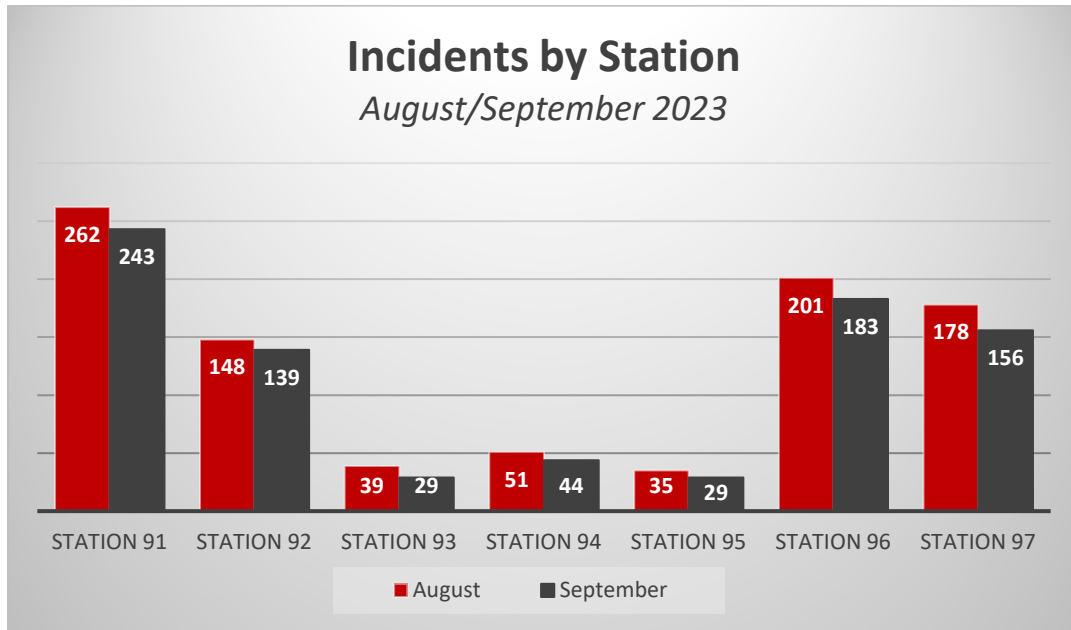
There were **823 reported incidents** in the month of September 2023, reflecting a slight decrease in calls from August. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (522 incidents comprising 63% of all calls for service). While there were 823 calls for service, it is important to note that some calls require multiple apparatus. There were **1,333 total apparatus responses** in September.



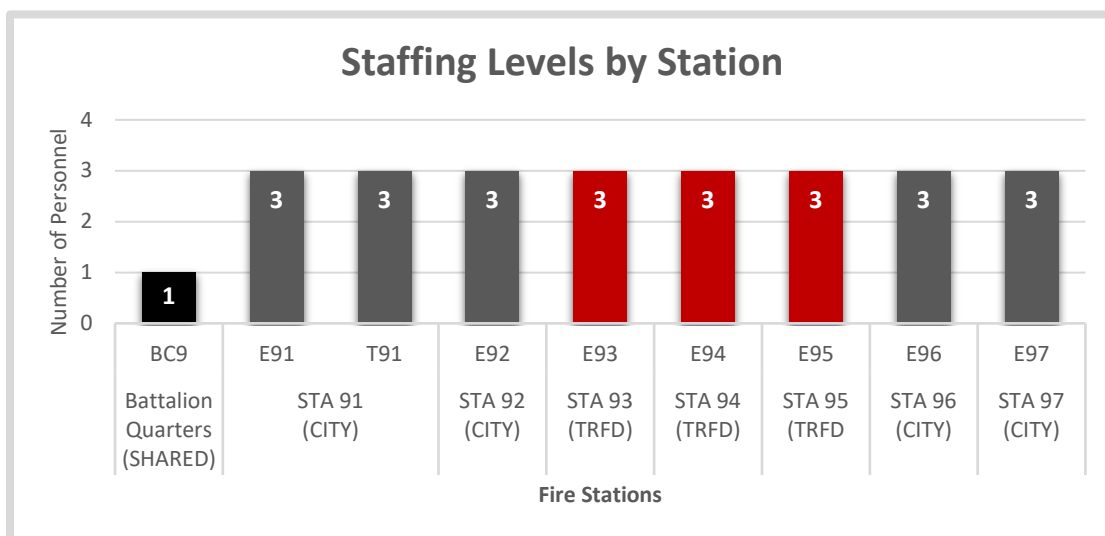
| Incident by Type                         | # of Incidents | % of Total |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Fires                                    | 49             | 5.95%      |
| Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, no fire | 0              | 0.00%      |
| EMS/Rescue                               | 522            | 63.43%     |
| Hazardous Condition                      | 13             | 1.58%      |
| Service Calls/assistance                 | 57             | 6.93%      |
| Good Intent, cancelled                   | 135            | 16.40%     |
| False Alarm & False Call                 | 46             | 5.25%      |
| Special Incident                         | 1              | 0.12%      |
| Total                                    | 823            | 100.00%    |

## September 2023 Response Data (continued)

Station 91 continues to be the busiest fire station in the month of September. There are two staffed units responding from Station 91; Truck 91 and Engine 91. Lastly, we are trending slightly below last year's call volume with **7,818** alarms in 2023 compared to **7,955** alarms in 2022.



The Joint Powers Agreement of the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority states the Chief Executive Officer will provide the Board of Directors a report on the staffing levels at each station. Authority fire engines and the ladder truck are staffed with 3 persons each. There is one Battalion Chief on duty each day to supervise one of three shifts.





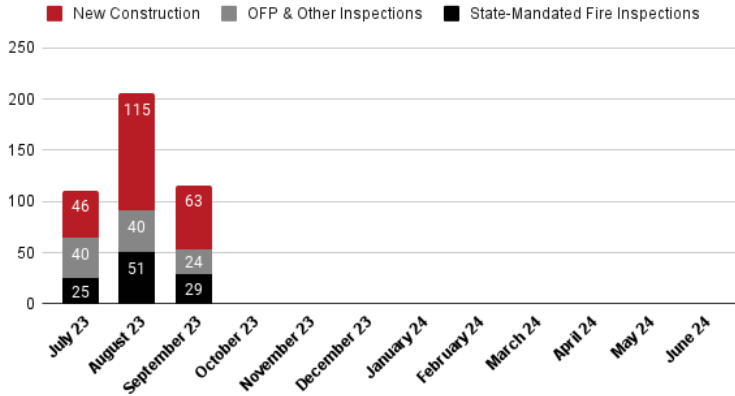
# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

## September FY23/24

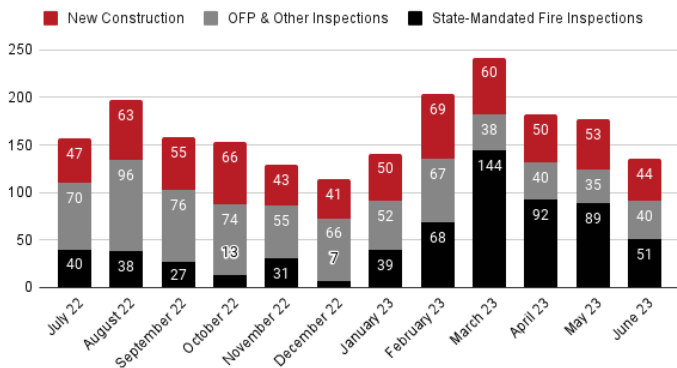
### FIRE INSPECTIONS

#### Fire Inspection Totals:

FIRE INSPECTIONS FY23/24



FIRE INSPECTIONS FY 22/23



### YTD STATE-MANDATE INITIAL FIRE INSPECTIONS

|   | Completed | Total | %    |
|---|-----------|-------|------|
| Multi-family Residential and Hotel/Motels | 0         |       | 100% |
| Schools (K-12)*                           | 0         |       | 100% |

### Annual Revenue

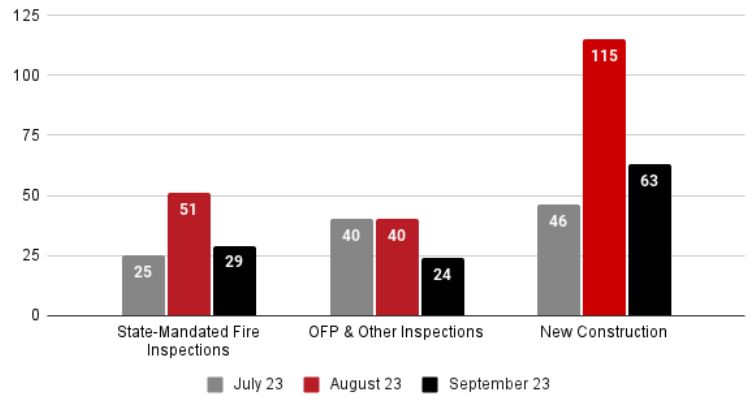
COT CRR Fees

\$133,910.12

TRFPD CRR Fees

\$7,214.34

### MONTHLY COMPLETED INSPECTION COMPARISON

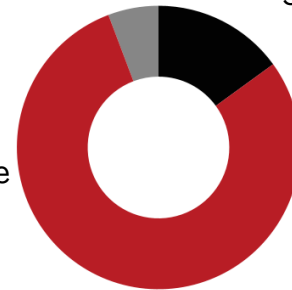


### YTD FIRE INSPECTION OVERVIEW

#### Completed Fire Inspections Per Zone:

No Zone 5.8% County Zone 15%

City Zone 79.2%

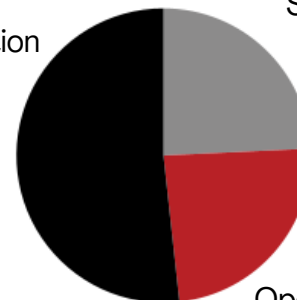


#### Completed Fire Inspections Per Type:

New Construction Inspections 51.7%

State-Mandated Fire Inspections 24.2%

Operational Permit & Other Inspections 24%

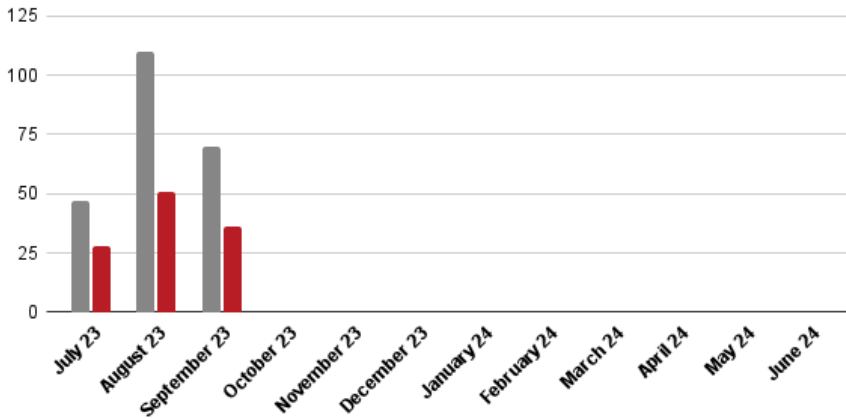


# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

## September FY 23/24

### PLAN REVIEWS FY23/24

■ Initial Plan Reviews ■ Resubmittals



### PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

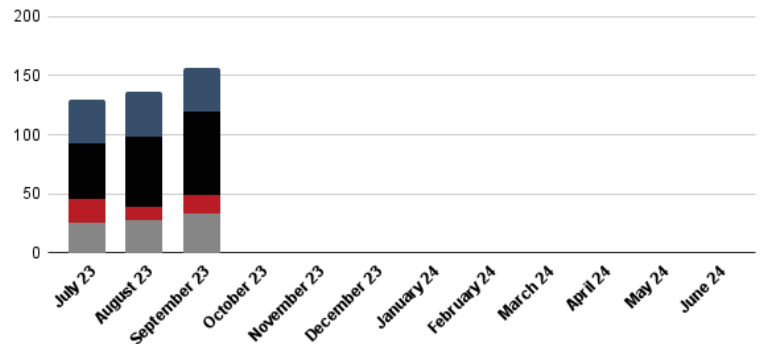
- There were 106 plan check activities in September
- In September 66% of the plan check activities were initial submittals and 34% were resubmittals
- There were no occurrences where a plan check exceeded its due date

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- 33 new construction permits were issued in September
- Received and processed 71 new plan submittals
- Received and processed 33 resubmitted construction documents
- 16 operational fire permits were issued in September

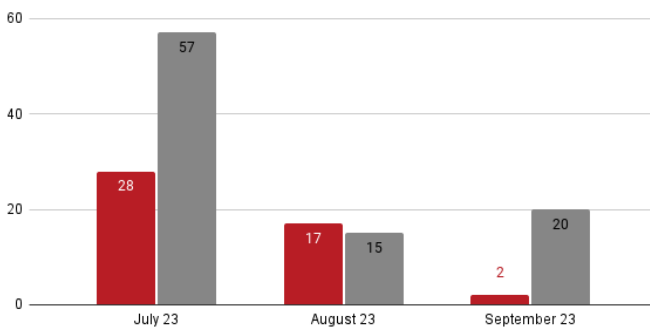
### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES FY 23/24

■ Construction Resubmittal Intake ■ Construction Plan Intake ■ Operational Permit Issuance ■ Construction Permit Issuance



### Weed Abatement Inspections

■ Initial Inspections ■ Re-inspections



### WEED ABATEMENT

- We continue receive reports of overgrown and dry vegetation.
- In September we conducted 2 initial inspections and 20 re-inspections.
- Received approval from the Tracy City Council to have the Authority's contractor to abate 13 properties in the City.

# August Social Media Overview

**FY 23/24**

**4.4K**

**63**

**19K**

**1.4K**

**17**

Facebook Page Followers    New Facebook Followers    People reached on Facebook    People reached on Instagram    New Instagram Followers

There were a few posts that stood out in terms of engagements, shares, likes, comments, impressions, and people reached. Here is an overview of the content:



A post on September 6th about a structure fire on Shadowood Court had:

- 215 engagements
- 16 shares
- 175 reactions
- 24 comment
- 12,081 impressions and reached 11,390 people.



The Instagram post had 0 comments, 5 shares, 98 likes, and reached 811 people.



A post on September 13th about a burn advisory at a detention basin had:

- 68 engagements
- 12 shares
- 51 reactions
- 5 comments
- 5,926 impressions and reached 5,135 people.



The Instagram post had 2 comments, 13 shares, 24 likes, and reached 552 people.

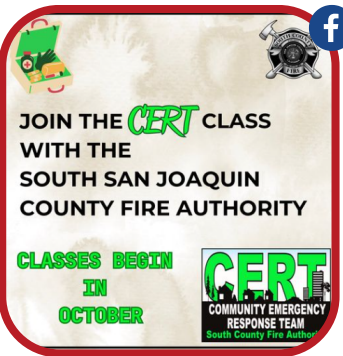


A post on September 11th about an structure fire near Linne & Tracy Blvd had:

- 44 engagements
- 7 shares
- 36 reactions
- 1 comment
- 4,046 impressions and reached 3,345 people.



The Instagram post had 1 comments, 8 shares, 73 likes, and reached 730 people.



A post on September 19th about our CERT Program had:

- 69 engagements
- 18 shares
- 47 reactions
- 4 comments
- 2,750 impressions and reached 2,414 people.



The Instagram post had 0 comments, 3 shares, 15 likes, and reached 483 people.

## FACEBOOK MONTHLY DATA

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Engagements    | 630    |
| Shares         | 92     |
| Likes          | 4,211  |
| People Reached | 19,735 |

## INSTAGRAM MONTHLY DATA

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Impressions    | 6,183 |
| Shares         | 59    |
| Likes          | 434   |
| People Reached | 1,392 |