



## OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

South San Joaquin Fire Authority  
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### MEMORANDUM

Date: April 6, 2023  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Chief Bradley  
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update – March 2023

#### Flood Watch

During the month of March, San Joaquin County continued to receive heavy rainfall and unpredictable weather. The South San Joaquin County Fire Authority kept a close eye on our surrounding water ways and continued to perform daily checks in the known flood zones.

On a countywide level, Captain LeBlanc is serving as the Operations Section Chief in the County OES Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The SSJCFA continues to support the County in staffing this very important position and being a resource to try and stay ahead of the rising water levels in the San Joaquin River and surrounding waterways.



#### Fire Prevention and Safety Grant

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority was awarded \$39,000 through the FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety (FPS) Grant Program. The funding for this grant will be utilized to prepare a Community Risk Assessment. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be made available to the public on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Explorers Graduation and Recruitment**

The Explorers of Post 900 graduated on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The program emphasizes character building, leadership, community service and physical fitness. South County Fire Authority is honored to have mentored them and we are proud of their growth and accomplishments throughout this course. The recruitment period for the upcoming Explorer Program is April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup> and we are honored that we are able to continue this program for the youth in our community.



### **Captain's Assessment**

During March, the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority conducted the Fire Captain promotional exams. The exam process included both written and assessment center components, and we are pleased to say that all seven candidates passed both portions of the exam. We received great feedback from the evaluators on the performance and preparation for our staff members. The seven individuals are eligible for move-up to the Captain rank as positions become available. I'd like to congratulate each one of them and applaud them on their outstanding performance and dedication.

### **EMS Manager Recruitment**

On March 8<sup>th</sup> the Board approved the temporary over hire of the EMS Manager position and approved a 10% pay increase for the position in an attempt to attract highly qualified candidates. The SSJCFA worked with the City of Tracy and was able to launch the recruitment on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This position is currently being filled by Captain Meineke due to an extended absence of the EMS Manager. This position is pertinent to the organization and is also a contractual agreement for our agreement with the San Joaquin County EMS Agency to provide ALS services. The recruitment period was open through March 29<sup>th</sup>, or until filled.

### **Pacific Gateway Project**

Staff met with members of the Pacific Gateway Project to discuss the location, timeline and funding mechanism for a new fire station that will be required if the project moves forward. The Pacific Gateway Project is a proposed 2000-acre logistics industrial project and a university that is planned for the unincorporated area along the I-580 corridor.

### **Proposed Battery Storage Complex on Patterson Pass Road**

Staff collaborated with TRFPD legal counsel to submit comments regarding a proposed large battery energy storage system by Griffith Energy. Comments were submitted as part of the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report. The project is proposed on West Patterson Pass Road along the Alameda County line. Staff will continue to meet with the applicant to discuss the fire and life safety impacts.

### **Collective Bargaining**

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority continues to meet with the Board of Directors, attorneys and the Local and negotiate collective bargaining terms. While we are in the beginning stages of the negotiation process, we will continue to meet and negotiate in good faith until there is a mutually agreeable written contract. Meetings are held at least monthly in hopes that the parties can produce the contract in time for it to go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Training Facility Update**

The South San Joaquin County Fire Authority engaged national representatives to explore funding options for Phase 3 of the Training Facility. We have received letters of support from multiple agencies that have been submitted along with the grant applications, and we are currently awaiting results of these applications

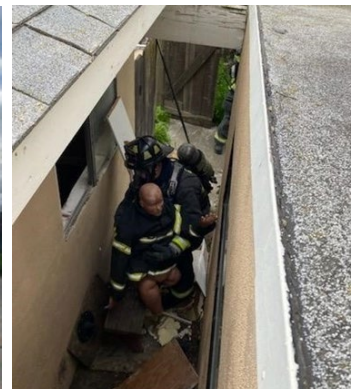
### **Training**

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

- All personnel attended DMV pre-trip and apparatus checks training.
- EVOC competency was training with Type 1, Type 3 and WT apparatus for all personnel.
- Forcible entry - company level training.
- Structure fire hose drills and search drills at the Arbor training house.
- 8 personnel attended the Fresno Fire symposium for a week of training for various topics including an officer academy and rope rescue training.

At the company level our firefighters are training every day to better prepare themselves for mitigating emergencies in our community. The department logged over 1,200 hours of training this month.

The Division of Training always supports the mission of the Fire Authority and its' duty to provide a well-trained and professional fire department to serve our community.





### **Vacant Property Obtained for Training Purposes**

South County Fire Authority took possession of an abandoned property on Arbor Road that will be utilized for training purposes. Crews went into the property and performed overhaul to ensure they are able to safely conduct training activities in the property. Some of the training drills they are hoping to accomplish are;

- Residential structure firefighting (in accordance with Policy number 200) to include hose pulls, ladder throws, victim searches, arrival reports, water supply, communication, command post location, division of labor, span of control, tablet command and ICS forms
- Firefighter down/Commanding the mayday
- Live fire burns
- Burning the property down while protecting the exposures, including multiple trees



### **Boat Operations**

Water Rescue 9 was put into service at Station 92 during the month of March. Water Rescue 9 consists of the Ford F250 (formerly Utility 92) which was re-designed to include the rolling boat rack, and the INMAR inflatable boat with the outboard motor.

Crews completed the break in process with the outboard motor, which consisted running the motor for a minimum of ten hours at various throttles at an incremental increase. The boat is now available for emergency responses at the discretion of the Battalion Chief on duty, however the boat will not be officially staffed until May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Water Rescue Task Book and Water Rescue Policy are currently being developed and will be published for the organization once finalized and approved. 16 of our members are attending Open Water Rescue Swimmer and Rescue Boat Operations the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. The goal within two years is to have all personnel assigned to Station 92 to have a minimum of three State certified classes to include Boat Operations, Open Water/Swift Water & Flood, RRT/Low Angle/RS1/Rope Competency courses.



## Significant Incidents

- **March 6, 2023** – Crews responded to a report of a collapsed overhang at the McDonalds located at 236 Eleventh Street just after 1:35 PM. Upon arrival, crews found that the overhang in the drive through line detached from the building and fell directly onto two vehicles. The property was cleared to ensure there were no gas leaks or electrical exposures, and no injuries were reported.

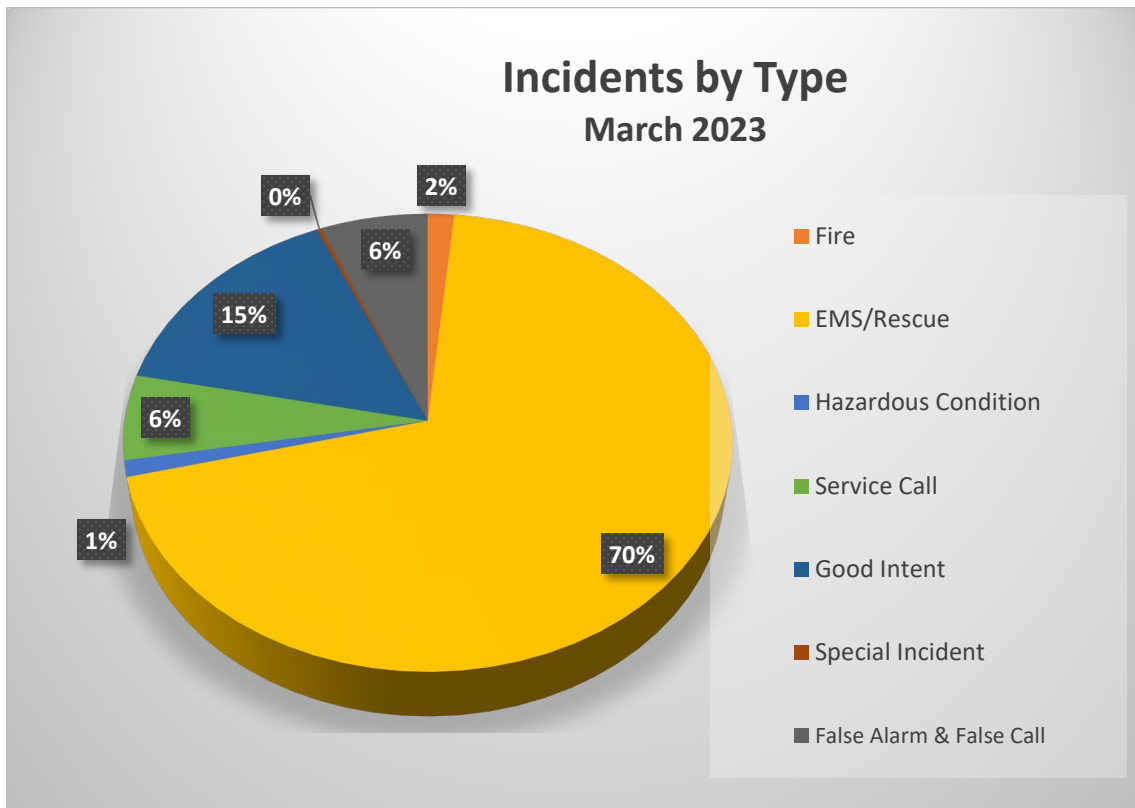


- **March 14, 2023** – A call came in around 12:15 for an overturned big rig at the intersection of MacArthur Drive and Pescadero Avenue. Crews provided emergency response and cleared the area, and no injuries were reported.
- **March 21, 2023** – The City of Tracy experienced a widespread power outage due to a downed tree and power lines on Linne Road between Banta and Chrisman Roads. The tree and power lines fell due to heavy winds that afternoon. Crews were on scene to provide emergency response, secure the roadways from any electrical exposures, direct traffic and assisted with evacuating children from Jefferson School.
- **March 23, 2023** – Just before 9 am, crews received a call for service for smoke coming out of a garage at a residence on Lawn Court. Upon arrival, crews found that a fire started in the garage, however the cause of the fire is unknown. No injuries were reported and crews were able to keep the fire to the building of origin.
- **March 27, 2023** – Crews responded to a call for smoke coming out of a garage on Portola Avenue at 8:35 am. Upon arrival, crews found that the smoke was coming from a fire in the garage of a two-story apartment building. The fire was extinguished by 9:00 am and the fire remained at the origin site and did not affect any surrounding structures. No injuries were reported, however four people were displaced.



### March 2023 Response Data

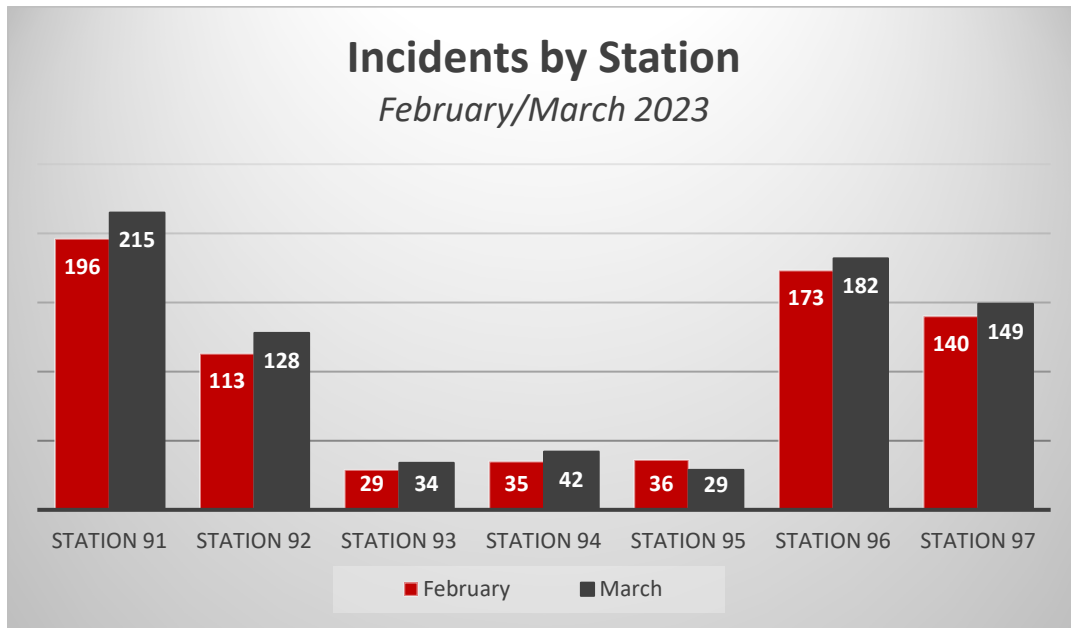
There were **782 reported incidents** in the month of March 2023. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (485 incidents comprising 67% of all calls for service). While there were 782 calls for service, it is important to note that some calls require multiple apparatus. In total there were 1,247 apparatus responses in March.



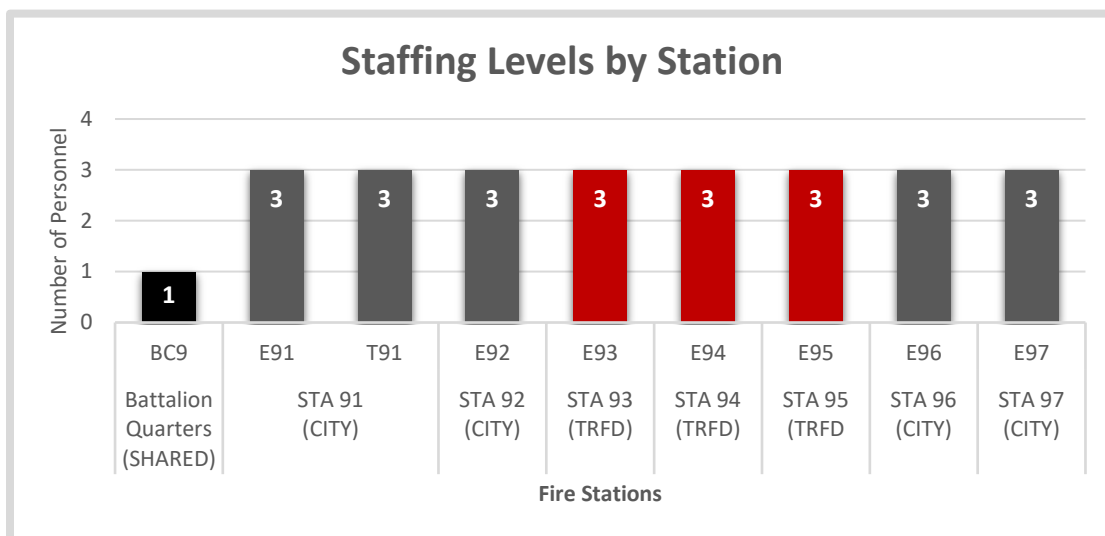
Incident by Type	#Incidents	% of Total
Fire	12	1.53%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, no fire	0	0.00%
EMS/Rescue	544	69.57%
Hazardous Condition	9	1.15%
Service Call	47	6.01%
Good Intent	119	15.22%
Special Incident	2	0.23%
False Alarm & False Call	49	6.27%
Total	782	100.00%

### March 2023 Response Data (continued)

Station 91 continues to be the busiest fire station in the month of March. There are two staffed units responding from Station 91; Truck 91 and Engine 91. Most stations experienced modest increases in March.



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.



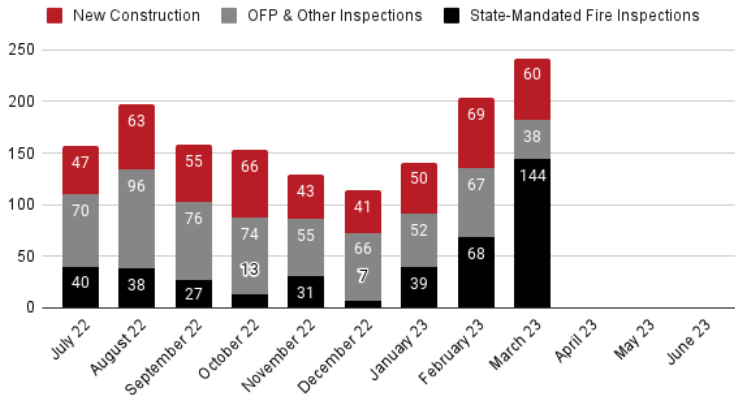
# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

## March FY22/23

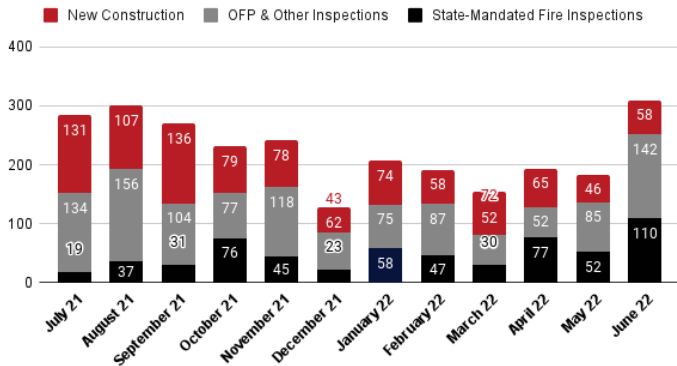
### FIRE INSPECTIONS

#### Fire Inspection Totals:

FIRE INSPECTIONS FY 22/23



FIRE INSPECTIONS FY21/22



#### YTD STATE-MANDATE INITIAL FIRE INSPECTIONS

	Completed	Total	%
Multi-family Residential and Hotel/Motels	155	162	95.6%
Schools (K-12)*	35	35	100%

### Annual Revenue

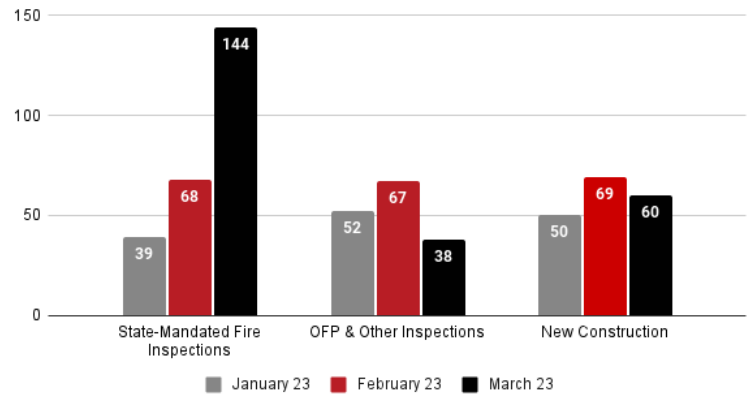
COT CRR Fees

\$405,686.91

TRFPD CRR Fees

\$47,923.81

#### MONTHLY COMPLETED INSPECTION COMPARISON

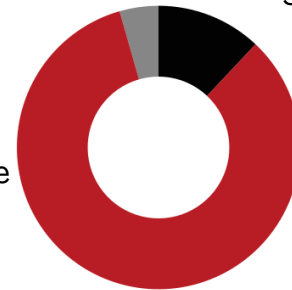


#### YTD FIRE INSPECTION OVERVIEW

##### Completed Fire Inspections Per Zone:

No Zone 4.5%    County Zone 12%

City Zone  
83.5%

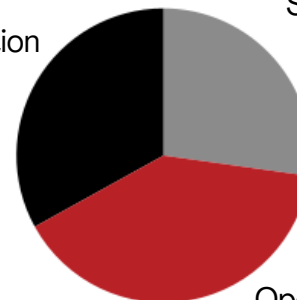


##### Completed Fire Inspections Per Type:

New Construction Inspections  
33%

State-Mandated Fire Inspections  
27%

Operational Permit & Other Inspections  
40%





# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

## March FY 22/23

### PLAN REVIEWS FY22/23



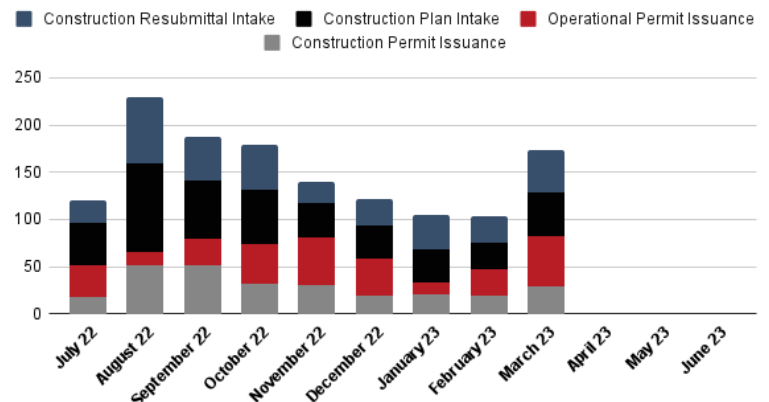
### PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

- There were 90 plan check activities in March
- In March, 51% of the plan check activities were initial submittals and 49% were resubmittals
- The average plan check turn around time in March was 2 days
- In March, there were no occurrences where a plan check exceeded its due date

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- 29 new construction permits were issued in March
- We received and processed 46 new plan submittals
- We received and processed 45 resubmitted construction documents
- 54 operational fire permits were issued in March

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES FY 22/23



## MARCH SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW

**4.1K**

Facebook Page Followers

**132**

New Facebook Followers

**37K**

People reached on Facebook

**1.6K**

People reached on Instagram

Title	Reach	Likes and reactions	Comments	Shares
<p>***UPDATE*** Linne Road is still closed to throug... South San Joaquin County Fire Authority - Tracy, CA</p>	21.1K	328	64	68
<p>***HAPPENING NOW*** Crews are currently on s... South San Joaquin County Fire Authority - Tracy, CA</p>	20.4K	232	33	41
<p>Yesterday at approximately 1:35 pm, crews respo... South San Joaquin County Fire Authority - Tracy, CA</p>	10.1K	234	70	35