



South San Joaquin County Fire Authority
835 Central Ave.
Tracy, CA 95376

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

MAIN 209.831.6700
FAX 209.831.6703
<https://sjcfire.org>

Memorandum

Date: August 8, 2022
To: Board of Directors
From: Chief Bradley
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update-July 2022

Captain Havicus' Name Etched into Firefighter Memorial



On July 30, 2022, members of our organization attended the California Firefighter Memorial Ceremony. Captain Daniel Havicus, "Havi", passed away in the line of duty on January 18, 2017. Each year the names of California Firefighters' who passed away in the line of duty are recognized for their unwavering courage and paying the ultimate sacrifice by having their name etched on the memorial wall in Sacramento, California. During the ceremony a family member of the fallen firefighter is presented with a California State flag. Havi's son, JJ, received the flag from Engineer William Schwarz. Captain Havicus is deeply missed and his memory never forgotten.



Engineer Laura Hernandez Retires



On August 1, 2022, Engineer Laura Hernandez retired with over 21 years of service with the South County Fire Authority. Engineer Hernandez was a valued member who served on the Hazardous Materials Team, Honor Guard and Cal-Jac Women's Firefighter Commission. She is a licensed paramedic, served as a Peer Support member and taught fire safety in Spanish at South School. Laura was hired in December of 2000 and was promoted to Engineer in February 2019. I hope you will join me in thanking Engineer Hernandez for her years of dedicated service and we wish happiness in her future endeavors as she and her husband, Ignacio, relocate to the Houston,

Texas area.

Mason Vickers Promoted to Engineer



I am pleased to announce the promotion of Firefighter/Paramedic Mason Vickers to the position Fire Engineer. Mason attended Modesto Jr. College's fire academy in 2010 and worked as an EMT with Manteca District Ambulance prior to attending paramedic school at NCTI in 2011. Mason then worked as a paramedic with Manteca District Ambulance and San Joaquin AMR until being hired with the Tracy Fire Department in January 2018. Mason is currently part of South County Fire Authority's training committee, EMS committee, and assists with the rope rescue program. Mason completed training

to become a Hazardous Materials Specialist earlier this year, and is part of the Authority's Peer Review Committee. Mason enjoys spending time and traveling with his wife Ashley and their two daughters, Makenna and Mylah. Mason's promotion will be effective August 14, 2022. He will be assigned to Station 96, A Shift. Please join me in congratulating Engineer Vickers on his promotion.

Firefighter Recruitments

Nine firefighter candidates have completed their background checks and have been extended conditional job offers. After they successfully complete medical and psychological exams they will begin the joint fire academy on September 1, 2022, in Stockton with the Stockton and Lodi Fire Departments.

Radio System Upgrade

South County Fire continues to work toward better reliability of our radio communication system. Currently we rely on outdated copper phone line technology to receive and transmit radio communications. These "legacy" copper lines both have frequent failures and will no longer be supported by ATT after the first quarter of 2023. To enhance and ensure stable communications we are migrating toward a private IP based network system. After evaluation we are now working with Comcast, our current network provider, to build a radio network on top of our existing network. This private network will have priority status and failsafe systems will also be in place if a network failure were to occur. With the reallocation of existing communications funds, we expect costs to be similar to the current cost of leasing copper lines. Lastly, while this first phase addresses the unreliable "legacy"

copper lines and will enhance communications we will still need to add receiver towers in a second phase to eliminate “dead spots” within our radio coverage area. We expect the design and implementation of this network to be complete in early 2023.

National Night Out



South County Fire participated in the National Night out events that were coordinated by the Tracy Police Department and the San Joaquin County Sheriffs Office. The annual event brings neighborhoods together to increase public safety awareness and to develop community partnerships. Our firefighters enjoy participating in the event and meeting members of the public we serve. We appreciate our law enforcement partners for organizing the event and for inviting our fire agency to participate.

Strategic Planning

Command Staff met and have established areas of responsibilities for each of the 2022-25 Strategic Plan initiatives. Working groups are now being formed to address each of the strategic initiatives. The working groups have developed work plans that identify timelines, milestones, work assignments and completion goals for initiative objectives.

EMS Litigation

The EMS litigation against the San Joaquin County EMS Agency is completing the final phase of the lawsuit. On Friday, July 1, 2022 the Authority filed a motion to reconsider the previous courts ruling based upon a recent precedent setting case involving the City of Oxnard. The County EMS Agency had three weeks to file opposition to the motion and the Authority and its member agency have until Friday, August 12, 2022, to respond to their opposing arguments. The hearing is set for August 24, 2022. The purpose of the litigation is to ensure that South County Fire member agencies maintain local control over public safety resources.

COVID Update

After a significant number of infections in June (including seven Chief Officers), in the month of July we only had one person test positive for COVID-19 and that person has returned to full duty. Many of the directives that were imposed to limit the spread of the disease have been lifted but may be reinstated if we have another surge in infections.

Sutter Health Medical HMO Option

This summer the fire department began to evaluate the possibility of adding a Sutter Health Medical HMO insurance option for our employees. This plan would be offered in addition to the current Kaiser plans offered to each employee. The goal is to offer more choices to our employees and mirror plans offered to city employees. Currently we are in the final phase of adding a plan that is both highly competitive in costs and robust in what it offers in benefits. We expect to have this plan available by our annual open enrollment period in

early November and employees can start receiving that benefit in 2023. There is no additional cost to the Authority to offer the additional plan.

New Fire Chiefs Association

The fire chiefs from SCFA, Stockton, Lodi, Manteca and Manteca/Lathrop are in the process of forming a San Joaquin County Metro Fire Chiefs Association. The new association will focus on common interests that may include dispatch, mutual aid, labor relations and EMS policy.

Training

During July, the Division of Training continued to facilitate all risk emergency training events that included:

- Arrival reports and operations (residential structure fire simulations) all shifts and BC's trained on simulations.
- Participated in table top exercises with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Fire Department. Crews were trained on new products and commodities that are being stored and methods of offloading materials from rail cars. SCFA and DLA will continue training and conducting table top exercises and participate in a drill at the end of August.
- Paramedics completed quarterly "infrequently used skills" as required by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.
- Haz Mat personnel and associated crews completed training in the use of the HM42 in air and gas monitoring meters. The training was put on by the Honeywell/RAE instructor. The training included equipment set up, troubleshooting, calibration and bump testing operations.
- At the company level our firefighters are training each and every day to better prepare themselves to assist in mitigating emergencies in our community.



Probationary Firefighters training on ladders

The fire agency logged over 550 training hours in the month of July. The Division of Training always supports the mission of the Fire Authority and its' duty to provide a well-trained and professional fire agency to serve our community.

Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI) Contract

The DVI state prison near Tracy has been closed since September of 2021. For the past two years, staff has been working with the Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation to enter into a contract to provide fire protection for the 600-acre, million square foot, vacant

facility. Last week, we received a commitment that a contract is being prepared that will be retroactive to July 1, 2022. The contract may take up to 90 days to complete.

Significant Incidents



July 21, 2nd Alarm Structure Fire, Lorraine Road



July 21, 2nd Alarm Structure Fire, Lorraine Road



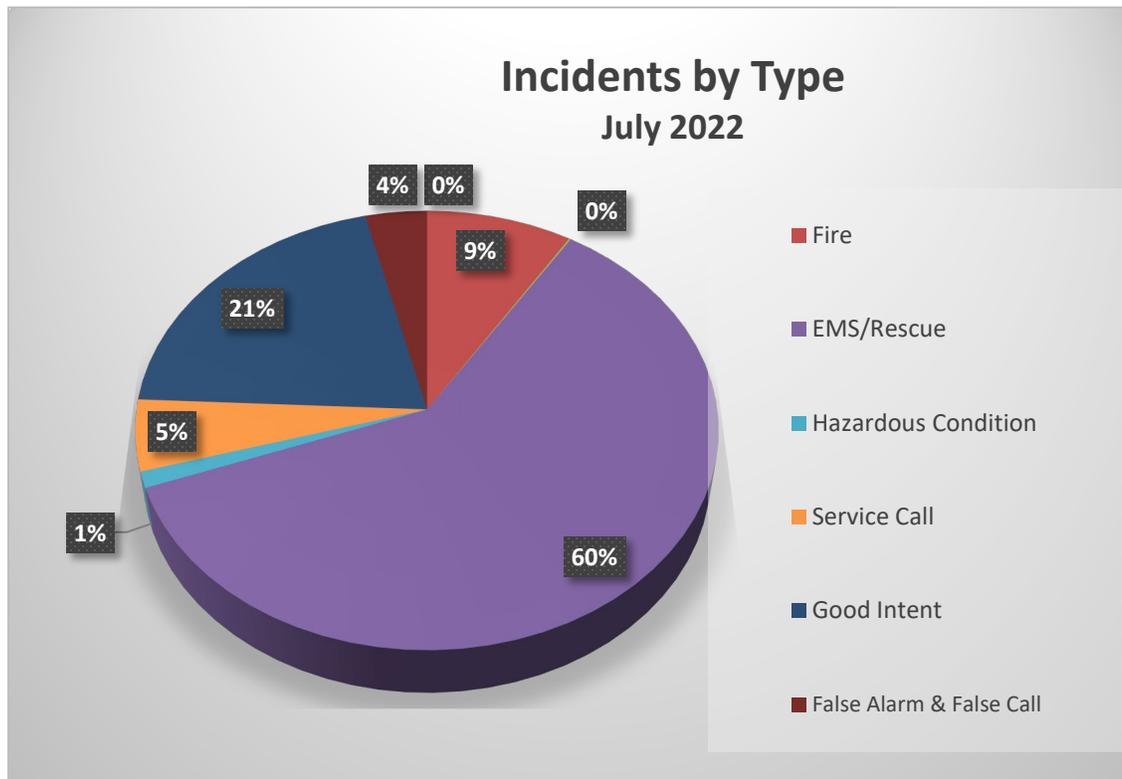
July 9, Pallet fire that extended into structure. Linne/Lehman Road



August 5, Micro Hotel, 3rd floor hotel room fire

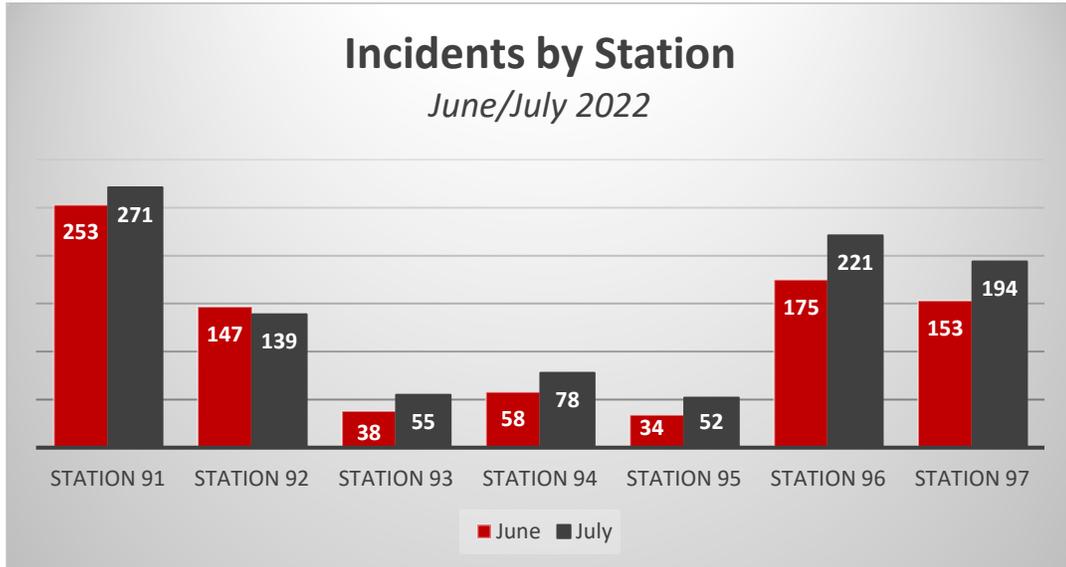
July Response Data

There were 1018 total reported incidents in the month of July 2022. The charts listed below reflect only those incidents (1010/1018) where the incident report has been completed and reviewed. The remaining 8 calls are pending review prior to inclusion in the following charts. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (612 incidents comprising 61% of all calls for service).



Incident by Type	#Incidents	% of Total
Fire	90	8.91%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, no fire	1	0.10%
EMS/Rescue	612	60.59%
Hazardous Condition	12	1.19%
Service Call	53	5.25%
Good Intent	208	20.59%
False Alarm & False Call	38	3.76%
Total	1010	100.00%

Station 91 continues to be the busiest fire station in the month of July. There are two staffed units responding from Station 91; Truck 91 and Engine 91. All other fire stations are staffed with a single fire engine. Station 91, 92 and 94 all saw increases while the other stations experienced modest decreases. July was 15% busier than June with 6 out of 7 stations increasing call volume.



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.

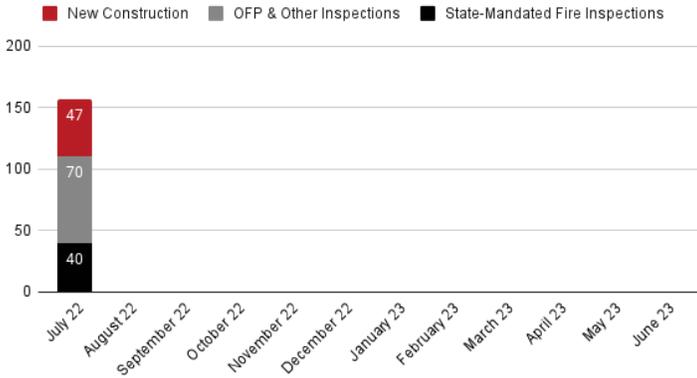
Community Risk Reduction Statistics

First Quarter FY 22/23
July - September

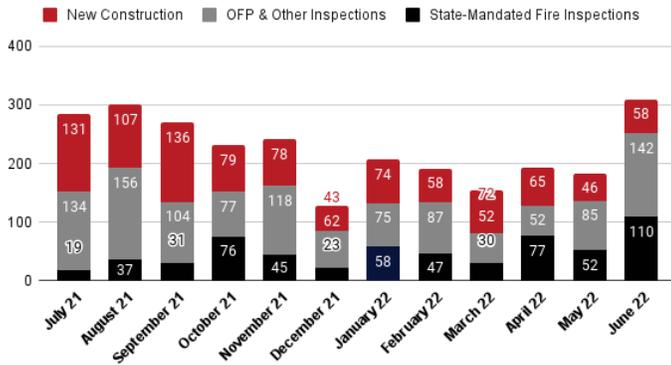
FIRE INSPECTIONS

Fire Inspection Totals:

FIRE INSPECTIONS FY 22/23



FIRE INSPECTIONS FY21/22



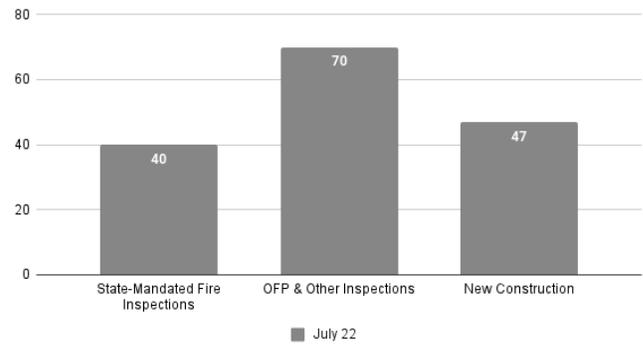
YTD STATE-MANDATE INITIAL FIRE INSPECTIONS

	Completed	Total	%
Multi-family Residential and Hotel/Motels	0	162	
Schools (K-12)*	0	35	

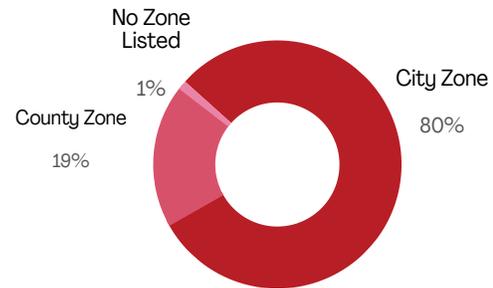
Annual Revenue

COT CRR Fees	\$26,505.19
TRFPD CRR Fees	\$282.13

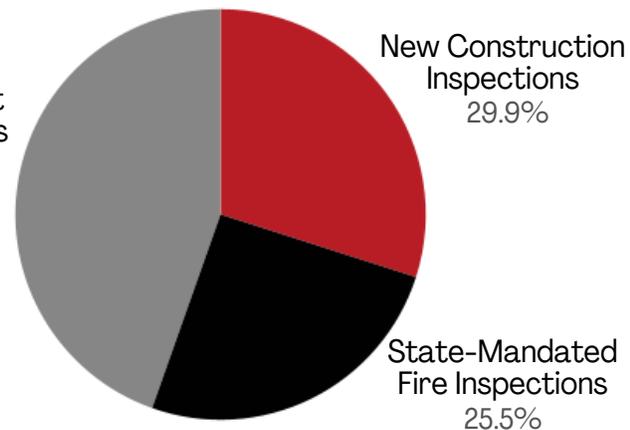
MONTHLY COMPLETED INSPECTION COMPARISON



1ST QTR FY22/23 INSPECTION OVERVIEW



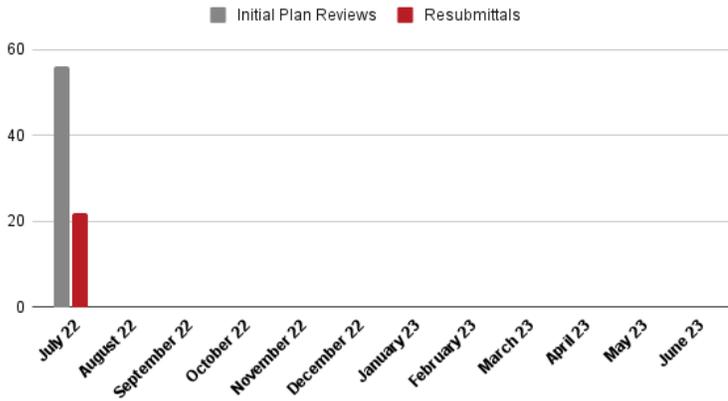
Operational Permit & Other Inspections
44.6%



Community Risk Reduction Statistics

First Quarter FY 22/23
July - September

PLAN REVIEWS FY22/23



PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

- There were 78 plan check activities in July
- The average plan check turn around time in July was 10 days
- There were 6 occurrences where an initial plan check exceeded 20 days in July

PERMIT ACTIVITIES

- 18 new construction permits were issued in July
- 34 operational fire permits were issued in July

PERMIT ISSUANCE FY 22/23

