



OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 7, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Chief Bradley
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update – October 2023

Chief Richardson Retires



On October 21, 2023, Battalion Chief Mark Richardson retired from the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority after 32 years of service. Chief Richardson began his career as an Engineer in 1991 and was promoted to Captain in 1995. In September of 2022, he was promoted to the A Shift Battalion Chief. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and served as South San Joaquin County Fire Authority's Hazardous Materials Program Coordinator from 1994 through 2017. Chief Richardson is an avid outdoorsman and rode his bike to work for a 75-mile round trip. He enjoys spending time with his family, being outdoors and traveling. I would like to thank him for his 32 years of service to our organization and congratulate him on his retirement.

Michael Frederick promoted to Battalion Chief



I am pleased to announce the promotion of Captain Mike Frederick to the rank of Battalion Chief. Mike grew up in the City of Tracy and graduated from Tracy High School in 1995. He went to Modesto Junior College and received an AS degree in Fire Service Management before transferring to Sacramento State University, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Service Management. He worked three fire seasons with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) before being hired full time with Tracy Fire in 2000. He has served on various committees and is currently the Apparatus Committee Chair and also the Authority's coordinator for the Tracy High ROP program. He's served many years on the Tracy Firefighters Association Executive Board and is currently the Union President. Mike still lives in Tracy with his wife and three children. On his off time he enjoys fishing, camping and being in the outdoors. Chief Frederick will serve as the A Shift Battalion Chief and his promotion became effective on October 22, 2023.

Clarke Caldwell promoted to Captain



I am pleased to announce the promotion of Engineer Clarke Caldwell to the rank of Captain. Clarke began his career with South San Joaquin County Fire Authority in March 2004 as a firefighter/paramedic and promoted to Engineer in January 2014. He holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science. He currently coordinates our National Fire Incident Reporting program, is the Chair of our SubJAC Committee and is a member of our Peer Support Team. He lives in Lincoln with his wife and four children. He enjoys spending time with family, watching and playing sports, flying planes, traveling and camping. Captain Caldwell's promotion became effective on October 22, 2023

Brandon Benson promoted to Engineer



I am pleased to announce the promotion of Firefighter Brandon Benson to the rank of Engineer. Brandon started his fire service career in 2004 as a Paid-Call Firefighter with CALFire, San Bernardino while working as an EMT for AMR in Palm Springs. In 2006 he was hired as a full time Firefighter/EMT at Combat Center Fire Dept aboard the 29 Palms Marine Corp base and simultaneously returned to school to obtain his paramedic license. He took a lateral position as a Paramedic Firefighter at Naval Air Station, Lemoore in 2014. He was then hired as a lateral Firefighter Paramedic with South County Fire in 2017. He and his wife have two daughters and during their spare time they remain busy with multiple club sports and school activities. Engineer Benson's promotion became effective on October 22, 2023.

Personnel and Succession Planning

One Battalion Chief and the Division Chief of Administration announced their retirements during the months of October and November. Staff conducted interviews for these ranks with qualified internal candidates during the month of September. The impending retirements will create vacancies in the Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter ranks. During the month of October, staff worked with Human Resources to launch a recruitment for the Firefighter rank. Qualified candidates were identified using the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) Statewide Eligibility List (SEL) and initial interviews are scheduled to be held in early November.

EMS Manager Recruitment

On March 8th 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 our candidate has successfully completed all required pre-employment checks and his anticipated start date is November 20th.

Labor Contract

Over the last several months, management worked closely with the Tracy Firefighters Association (TFFA Local 3355) to develop a successor MOU. This was the first labor contract that South San Joaquin County Fire Authority negotiated with the Local as a standalone JPA, and we are pleased that it was a positive internal experience. A tentative agreement was reached in May of 2023 and was brought to our member agencies. The labor contract was presented to our Board of Directors at the October 11th Regular Meeting, and was voted upon and passed. We would like to thank our member agencies for their support throughout this process.

Budget Update

A preliminary budget was presented and approved by the Board of Directors in May, 2023 following a workshop that was conducted in April to identify items that impacted our budget. The presentation of the final budget was delayed until the completion and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tracy Firefighter's Association, which was approved by the Board at the October 11th Regular Meeting. The final budget report is scheduled to go to the Board of Directors at the November 8th Regular Meeting. This budget will be the second full budget since moving to a standalone JPA. The Authority saw a surplus in its first full budget last year and we work toward continued progress in improving our fiscal responsibility.

Travel & Conferences

- **Chief Bradley** attended the Cal Chief's Conference in Ontario, California from October 17 – October 19th. The primary focus of the conference was fire based EMS Systems and Firefighter health and safety programs.
- **Jackie Heefner**, Fiscal Analyst attended the CalPERS Educational Forum in Los Angeles from October 2nd – October 4th. This conference focuses on CalPERS benefit programs and services. Highlights include informative sessions, exhibits, and private consultation. Jackie was able to meet with CalPERS staff to review our account and retirement system and is confident that they were able to make headway on some of our plan outlines since becoming a standalone JPA.
- **Fire Marshal Spears** is the current President of Region I of the International Code Council



(ICC) and attended the ICC Conference in St. Louis, Missouri from October 8th – 11th. Since its inception in 2014, Region I of the International Code Council has promoted a safer built environment across California, Hawaii, and Nevada. Region I earned the 2023 Regions Spotlight Award from the International Code Council and Chief Spears accepted the award during the conference on Region I's behalf.

- **Nicole Boswell**, Executive Assistant is working towards obtaining her Essential Leadership Skills Certification through the California Special Districts Association. This certification demonstrates training in critical skills to competently lead special districts. In the month of October, she completed three of the six courses required to obtain the certification.

CERT Class

The South San Joaquin County Fire Authority re-launched the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) during the month of October. The CERT Program consisted of seven classes over the course of two and a half weeks. Each class had a different focus including disaster preparedness, CERT organization, disaster medical operations, terrorism and disaster psychology, fire safety and utilities and light search and rescue. The final class was held on October 21st and consisted of a disaster simulation final and graduation ceremony. This was the first CERT Program that we hosted in nine years and we had a total of four participants graduate.



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 are doing their respective part in providing AP Triton with agency and jurisdictional information to complete the assessment, which is estimated to take approximately six months to complete. We hope to have the final report by mid-year 2024.

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. The project is anticipated to be completed by March of 2024.

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 began abating the identified properties during the month of October and continues to make progress. Union Pacific Railroad is nearing the completion of abatement throughout the City.

Fire Prevention Week Drawing Contest

Fire Prevention Week ran from October 8th through 13th and this year's theme was "Cooking Safety Starts with You." The Community Risk Reduction Division conducted the third annual Drawing contest for children in kindergarten through fifth grade in the Tracy area school districts. The primary objective is to engage students in learning about fire safety. We had over 100 submissions, and Authority personnel voted to choose the top three drawings for each age group. The winners will have their drawings displayed at the Fire Administration Building for one year.

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Winners



3rd – 5th Grade Winners



Fire Inspector Thornton wins competition



Fire Inspector Glenda Thornton has been competing as a female physique competitor for twelve years and won first place and overall physique show winner at the Reno NPC Legion on October 7th. This win allows her to compete at Nationals in 2024.

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate her hard work, dedication and accomplishments.

Community Events

Pancake Breakfast – The Tracy Firefighter’s Charity hosted the 49th Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Administration Building on October 7, 2023. We had hundreds of community members stop by for some food, fun and games. This event continues to be successful for the Charity and is something that we look forward to each year.



Candy Crawl – The South San Joaquin County Fire Authority’s Truck 91 crew and Community Risk Division participated in the Downtown Tracy Candy Crawl on October 21st. This event is always a fun and safe way for residents to trick-or-treat and we had thousands stop by our building to get some candy and Halloween safety tips.



Heather Freligh return to school – On 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 for treatment and recovery. Just three weeks after the incident, Heather returned to school on October 16th. South San Joaquin County Fire Authority along with the Tracy Police Department helped to give her a warm welcome back to school, where she was able to meet three of the six Authority personnel who responded to her call on September 22nd. We look forward to hosting a small get together with Heather and her family so she has a chance to reunite with her rescuers in the near future.



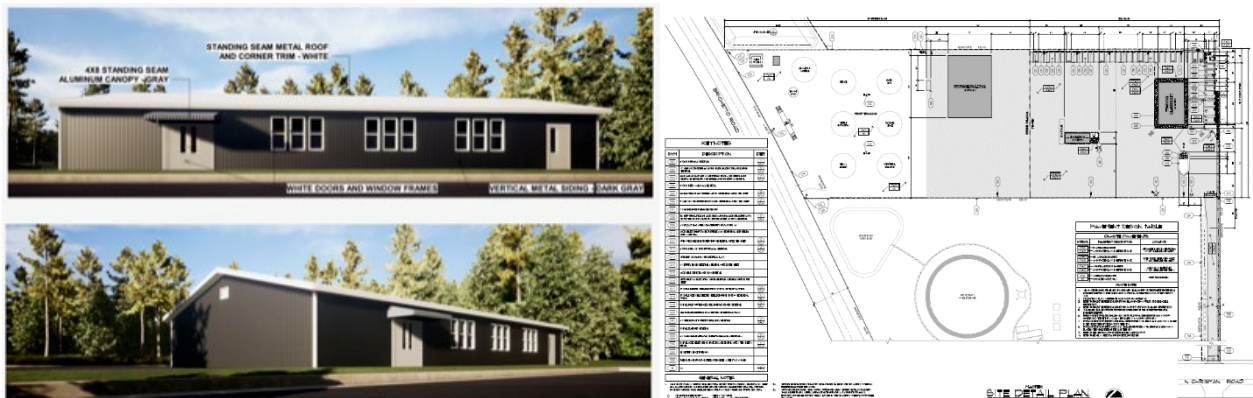
Leprino Foods

In 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). As a result of this incident, Leprino Foods was offered the opportunity to engage with the Authority on a Supplement Environmental Project Agreement (SEP). 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. This presents a potential funding opportunity up to \$180,000, which will allow SSJCFA to procure multiple pieces of simulation training equipment and a HAZMAT sensing drone.

On October 26, we received an update from Leprino Foods that the Tracy Plant Manager signed the approved EPA Settlement and that it was returned to their outside counsel for submission to the EPA. In the coming weeks we will receive an update from Leprino Foods to understand the next steps and timeframe for funding.

Training Facility Update

Construction drawings are now 100% complete and are now in the review process. Staff plans to have the proposed site formally dedicated in a December City Council meeting. The provided photos include a rendering for the proposed classroom buildout and a copy of the site detail plan.



Board Action Recap

The Board of Directors for the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority met in a Regular Meeting on October 11, 2023. The Board took the following actions:

- Approved past expenditures and continued funding for the services of Christopher Boucher to complete contract negotiations
- Received draft year end revenue and expense report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023
- Adopted a resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority and the Tracy Firefighters Association effective July 1, 2023
- Adopted a resolution approving the Master Pay Schedule and publicly available pay schedule for the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority retroactive to July 2, 2023 based on the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding

Training

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

- Firefighter rehab/EMS
- Active Shooter training with Tracy Police Department
- Vehicle stabilization with grip hoist
- Boat 9 awareness training
- EMS infrequent skills

Authority personnel logged over 900 hours of training during the month of October. 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

- **October 10, 2023** – At approximately 1:30 PM, crews were dispatched to a vehicle rollover from the Airport Way overcrossing into the San Joaquin River. Six bystanders who saw the vehicle and a woman in the water with a child in her arms works together to rescue the child before the woman disappeared beneath the surface. They were able to successfully rescue the woman from the water and upon arrival, SSJCFA and Manteca District Ambulance were able to revive her. One of the six men who assisted in the rescue did not resurface. Several local area emergency response teams remained on scene for hours and into the next day to assist with the search and recovery.



Emergency Response Highlights (Continued)

- **October 19, 2023** – At 10:20 am, South San Joaquin County Fire Authority personnel were dispatched to a call for an overturned big rig on the 1800 block of MacArthur Drive. Upon arrival crews found an Amazon truck that had overturned and spilled transmission fluid, coolant and knocked down a light post. Crews worked to cut and remove the light post and ensured there were no hazardous materials that spilled into the gutter. No injuries were reported.



- **October 21, 2023** – Crews responded to a call at 6:40 am for a vehicle accident on Eastbound 580, just west of Corral Hollow. Three vehicles were involved with one vehicle located on the embankment. A total of seven patients were transported to local area hospitals, with two suffering serious injuries. One patient was ejected from the vehicle and later succumbed to her injuries. This incident was declared a Mass Casualty Incident.

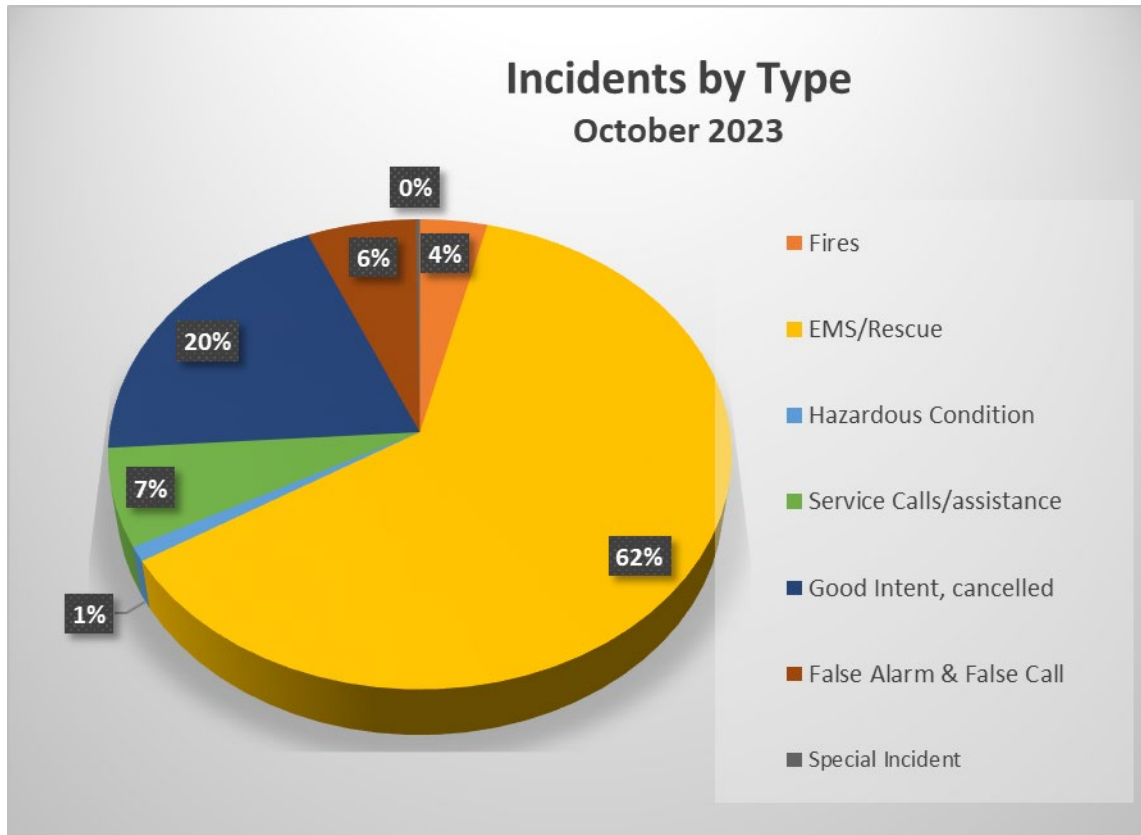


- **October 25, 2023** – At approximately 8:15 am, Engines 94 and 96 were dispatched to Westbound 205 at 11th Street for a call for a vehicle on fire. Engine 96 arrived and found a fully involved vehicle fire with no exposures. The cause of the fire is unknown and no injuries were reported.
- **October 28, 2023** – South San Joaquin County Fire Authority responded to the report of a person who had fallen into a large silo at the Holly Sugar Plant at 10:20 am. Upon arrival, crews identified a worker who had fallen approximately 80 feet into machinery near the bottom of the silo. Unfortunately the worker succumbed to his injuries. SSJCFA personnel developed a plan and used technical rescue rope systems to extricate the victim.



October 2023 Response Data

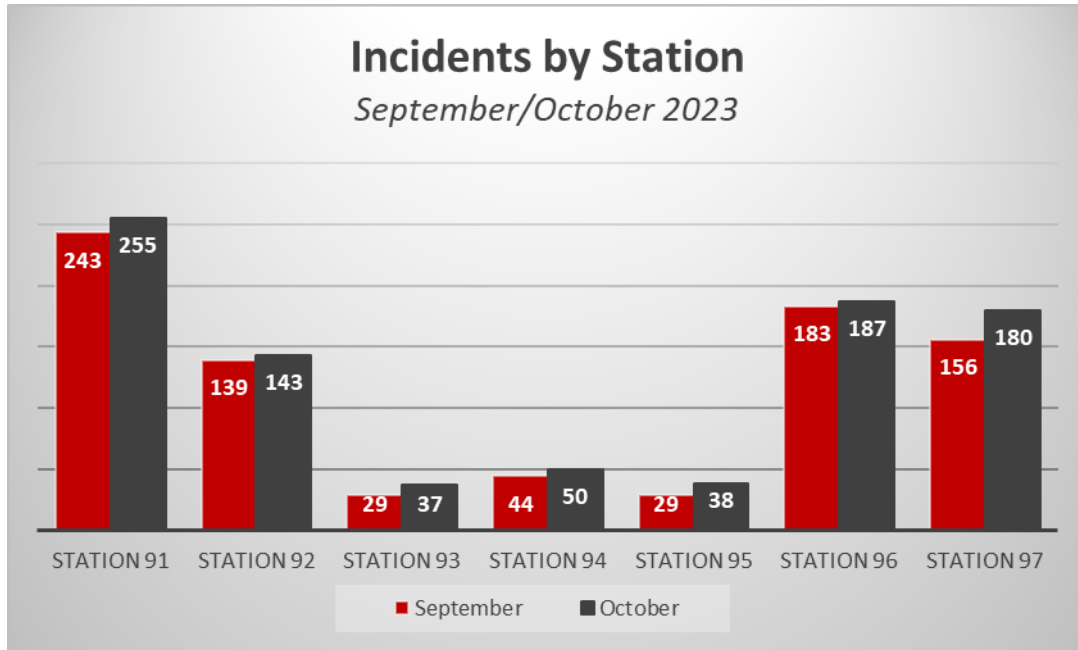
There were **890 reported incidents** in the month of October 2023, reflecting a slight increase in calls from September. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (555 incidents comprising 62% of all calls for service). While there were 890 were calls for service, it is important to note that some calls require multiple apparatus. There were **1,482 total apparatus responses** in October.



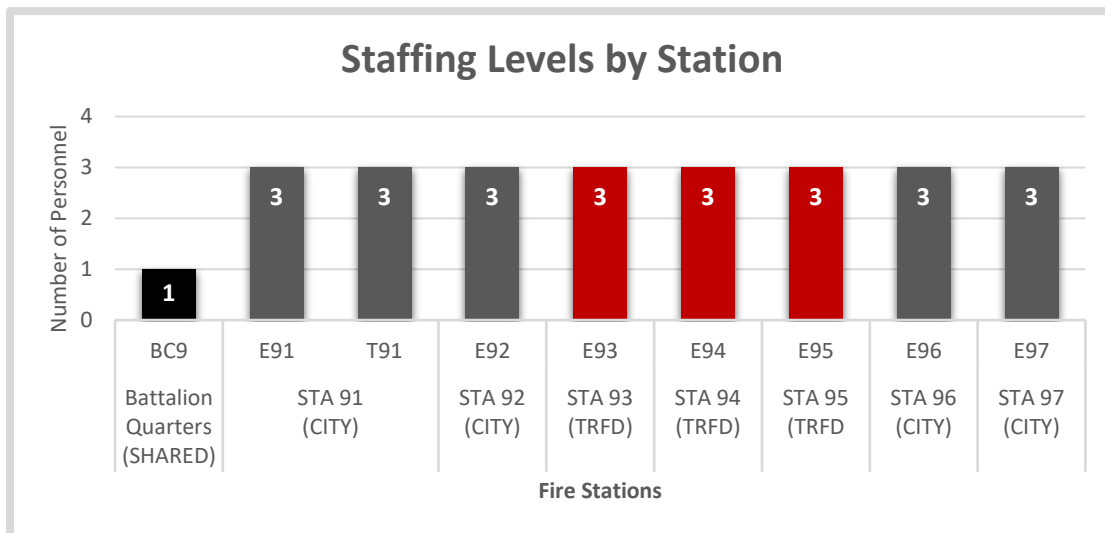
Incident by Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	34	3.82%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, no fire	0	0.00%
EMS/Rescue	555	62.36%
Hazardous Condition	9	1.01%
Service Calls/assistance	60	6.74%
Good Intent, cancelled	175	19.66%
False Alarm & False Call	55	6.18%
Special Incident	2	0.23%
Total	890	100.00%

October 2023 Response Data (Continued)

Station 91 continues to be the busiest fire station in the month of October. 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.



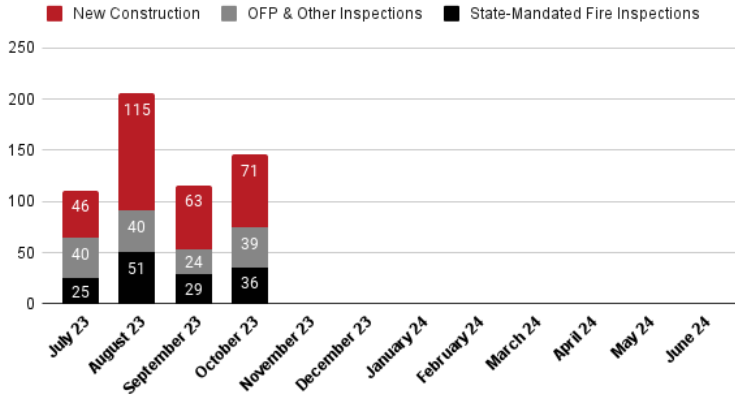
Community Risk Reduction Statistics

October FY23/24

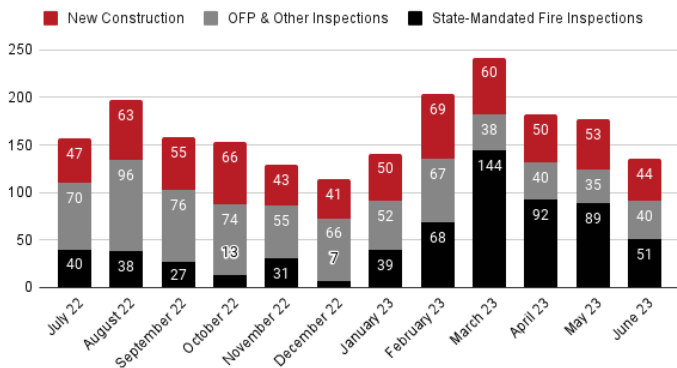
FIRE INSPECTIONS

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		0%
Schools (K-12)*	28	35	80%

Annual Revenue

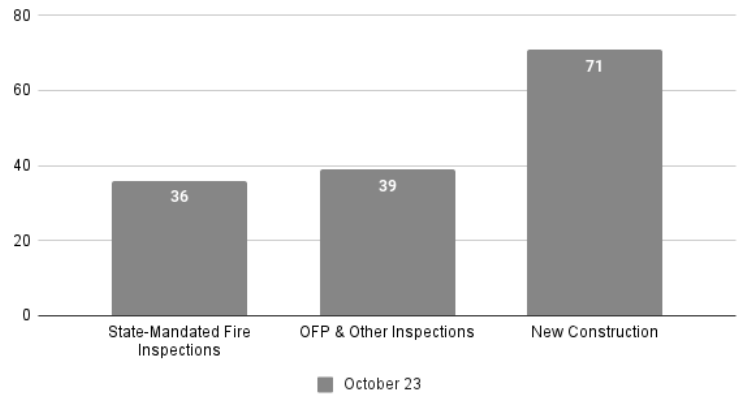
COT CRR Fees

\$183,890.48

TRFPD CRR Fees

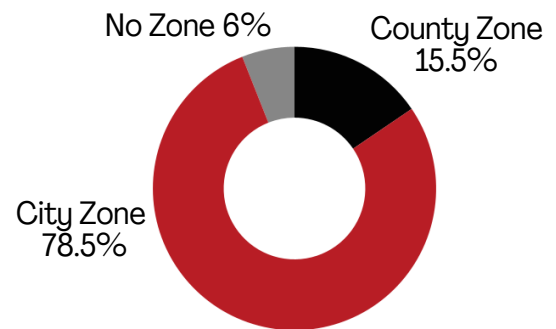
\$11,813.94

MONTHLY COMPLETED INSPECTION COMPARISON

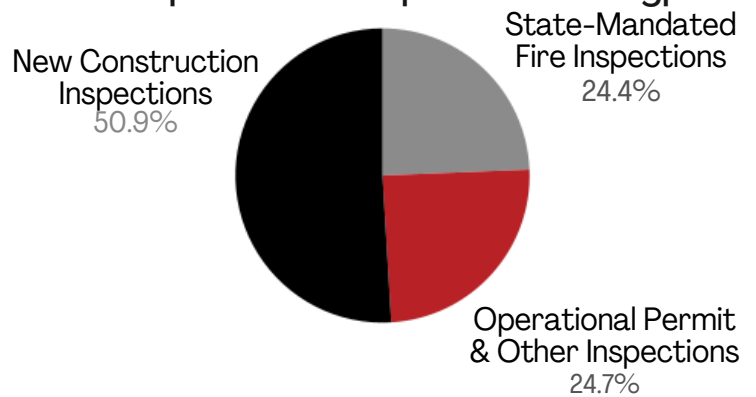


YTD FIRE INSPECTION OVERVIEW

Completed Fire Inspections Per Zone:



Completed Fire Inspections Per Type:

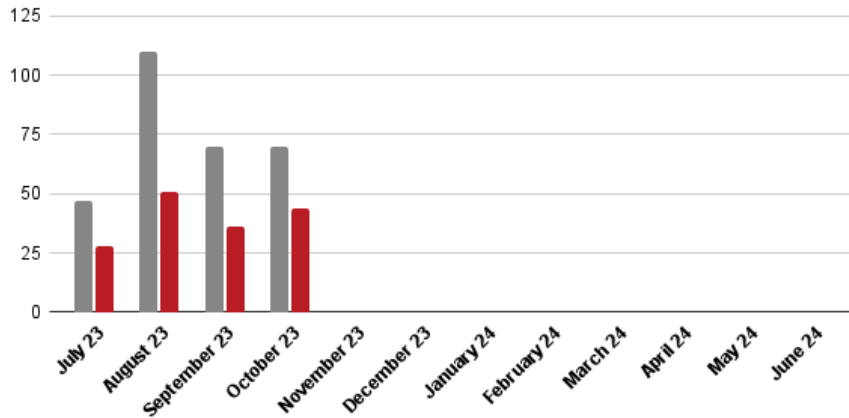


Community Risk Reduction Statistics

October FY 23/24

PLAN REVIEWS FY23/24

■ Initial Plan Reviews ■ Resubmittals



PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

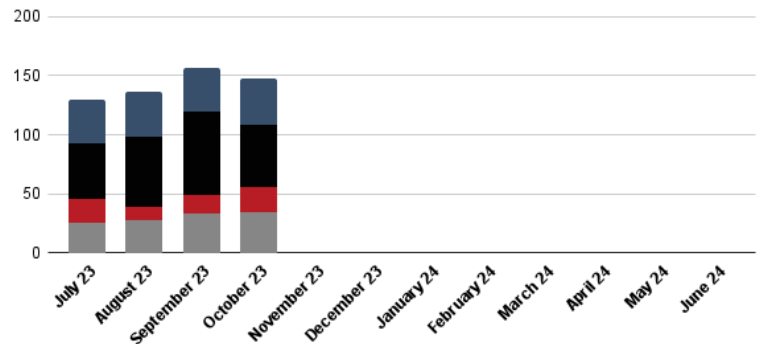
- There were 114 plan check activities in October
- In October 61% of the plan check activities were initial submittals and 39% were resubmittals
- There were no occurrences where a plan check exceeded its due date

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- 35 new construction permits were issued in October
- Received and processed 70 new plan submittals
- Received and processed 39 resubmitted construction documents
- 21 operational fire permits were issued in October

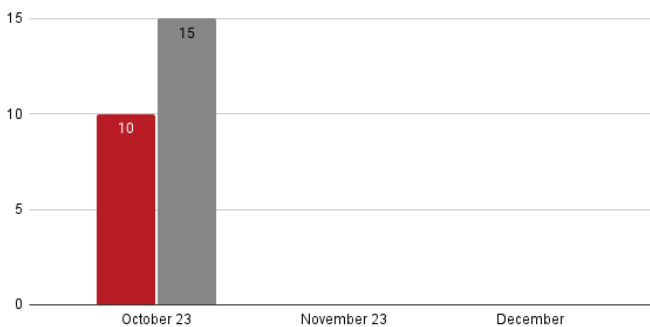
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES FY 23/24

■ 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 October we conducted 15 initial inspections and 10 re-inspections.

October Social Media Overview

FY 23/24

4.5K

Facebook Page Followers

111

New Facebook Followers

37K

People reached on Facebook

3.1K

People reached on Instagram

90

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 October 10th about a vehicle rollover accident into the river had:

- 144 engagements
- 49 shares
- 144 reactions
- 12 comments
- 22,800 impressions and reached 21,700 people.



A post on October 28th about an employee who fell into a silo at Holly Sugar had:

- 204 engagements
- 53 shares
- 124 reactions
- 22 comments
- 23,500 impressions and reached 21,600 people.



The Instagram post had 2 comments, 45 shares, 137 likes, and reached 1,280 people.



The Instagram post had 1 comment, 4 shares, 150 likes, and reached 1,023 people.



A post on October 16th about Heather Freligh's return to school had:

- 189 engagements
- 24 shares
- 160 reactions
- 4 comments
- 7,100 impressions and reached 6,600 people.



A post on October 27th about our Firefighters being off probation had:

- 93 engagements
- 4 shares
- 76 reactions
- 13 comments
- 3,300 impressions and reached 3,100 people.



The Instagram post had 4 comments, 68 shares, 243 likes, and reached 1,362 people.



The Instagram post had 4 comments, 22 shares, 232 likes, and reached 1,398 people.

FACEBOOK MONTHLY DATA

Engagements	2,334
Shares	156
Likes	1,957
People Reached	61,864

INSTAGRAM MONTHLY DATA

Impressions	14,477
Shares	204
Likes	1,373
People Reached	11,387