



## OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

South San Joaquin Fire Authority  
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### MEMORANDUM

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

#### Joel Slaughter promoted to Captain



I am pleased to announce the promotion of Engineer Joel Slaughter to the rank of Captain. Joel started his career in San Diego where he worked for CAL Fire, he served as a paramedic in San Francisco, and firefighter/paramedic in North Tahoe. Captain Slaughter started with South County Fire in 2017 and was promoted to Engineer in 2021. Joel is a paramedic and holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science. He is a HAZMAT team member, boat operator and manages our PPE program. In his spare time Joel enjoys watching his daughter play soccer, spending time with his family and riding motocross. Captain Slaughter's promotion became effective on August 13, 2023.

#### Ricky Granados promoted to Engineer



I am pleased to announce the promotion of Firefighter Ricky Granados to the rank of Engineer. Engineer Granados started his career as a Fire Reserve with South County Fire in 2002. He was hired full time with the City of West Sacramento Fire Department in 2006 and was promoted to Fire Engineer in 2017. Ricky accepted a lateral position with South County Fire Authority as a firefighter in 2020. He is currently enrolled in the paramedic program at Merced College. Ricky was born and raised in Tracy and still resides in Tracy with his wife and two boys. In his spare time he likes to spend time with his family and watch his children play sports. Engineer Granado's promotion became effective on August 13, 2023.

### Probationary Firefighters

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority hired seven firefighters in August of 2022. Throughout the past year, they have worked extremely hard and I am pleased to announce that as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, they have successfully completed their arduous probationary training and evaluation requirements. This is the largest class in our fire agency's history and we are honored to have them as official members of the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority team. Congratulations to Ryan Aguilar, Joshua Daly, Joseph Flores, Dylan Goodwin, Chad Hanville, Khalid Hasri and Adam Sturdevant. Chief Officers will be delivering their official numbered badges to them over the coming weeks.

### National Night Out

National Night Out was August 1<sup>st</sup> and South San Joaquin County Fire Authority had several engines and Chief Officers participate in this year's event. Our crews were able to attend several stops on the route and had a great time interacting with our community. This year we brought extra Fire Authority swag to hand out to the kids, and we are happy to say we were able to pass out nearly all of it! Overall it was a great night and opportunity to connect with our community.



### Amazon Tour

Members of the Board and SSJCFA Chief Officers had the opportunity to tour the Amazon "Big Bird" facility on August 17<sup>th</sup>. With this facility being the first of its type and size within our jurisdictional boundaries, the tour was a great opportunity for staff and Board members to see firsthand the intricacies of the facility operations. The tour also served as a chance to get inside of the building during business hours to better plan for emergency responses within the facility.



## Strike Team Deployments

During the month of August, SSJCFA crews were deployed on several strike teams throughout the state of California.

**Highway Fire** – Engine 349 was deployed to the Highway Fire near Washington, California on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Chief Richardson served as the Strike Team Leader and the four personnel who were assigned to the engine were Captain Scott Byers, Engineer John Bell, Firefighter Trent Perkins, and Firefighter John Legasa. The crew returned home on August 19<sup>th</sup> after being deployed a total of four days.



**Six Rivers Lightning Complex** – Engine 349 was deployed to the Six Rivers Lightning Complex in Orleans, California on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This fire covers Trinity and Humboldt Counties. Chief Richardson served as the Strike Team Leader and the four personnel assigned to the engine were Captain Jeremy Ward, Engineer Justin Legasa, Firefighter Chad Hanville and Firefighter Dylan Goodwin. The crew returned home on September 5<sup>th</sup> after being deployed a total of 15 days.



**Smith River Complex** – Captain John Leblanc was deployed on August 24<sup>th</sup> as a Training Specialist at the Smith River Complex in Eureka, California. As of September 1, 2023, the fire grew to approximately 84,000 acres and his return date has not yet been determined.

**Tehachapi** – Five SSJCFA personnel were deployed to Tehachapi, California to preposition for Hurricane Hillary along with members from Lathrop-Manteca Fire and the Manteca Fire Department. They were dispatched for a total of 6 days assisting public safety agencies in Kern County with possible flooding and water rescue.



### **NarcBox**

SSJCFA has purchased and installed new controlled substance storage lockers (NarcBox by EMSLogik) on all apparatus including the OES Engines. The new program exceeds DEA requirements, and the integrated software provides state of the art substance reporting, medication inventory tools, temperature monitoring and customized alerts. The equipment and software will allow SSJCFA to track all narcotics electronically and will ensure that the Authority is up to date on current regulations and inventory. Crews are working diligently to implement the components of the new system and comprehensive training will be conducted over the coming weeks. SSJCFA anticipates that our narcotic tracking with NarcBox will be fully implemented in October.



### **Weed Abatement Status Update**

Throughout the spring and summer season, SSJCFA conducted over 150 fire hazard inspections both proactively and in response to citizen complaints. The objective has been to identify potential fire hazards on parcels, particularly those with the presence of overgrown vegetation and flammable materials. When a parcel has been identified to require abatement, a series of notices are sent to the respective owners in hopes that the letters will prompt a voluntary response. Occasionally, it does force an abatement by the City of Tracy or San Joaquin County. This season we have requested abatement of several properties due to noncompliance within San Joaquin County and continue to coordinate with the City of Tracy on other locations.

### **Leprino Foods SEP Agreement**

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority continues to await response from the EPA on the final decision regarding the SEP Agreement with Leprino Foods. If funding is awarded through the SEP Agreement, SSJCFA will be eligible to received up to \$180,000 in funds which will be utilized to purchase multiple pieces of simulation training equipment and a HAZMAT sensing drone. These training props and emergency response tools 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. Staff was able to connect with the representative from Leprino Foods and they have a meeting with their attorney scheduled on September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss strategies to provide information and apply pressure on the EAP to reach a resolution on the matter.

### **Hansen Road Gate**

Both the City and County have installed their respective gates to officially close off Hansen Road to through traffic. Fire department access is provided by Opticom and Fire knock keys for emergency response.



## Prescribed Burn for the Tracy Police Department

SSJCFA crews assisted the Tracy Police Department by conducting a prescribed burn at their gun range located on South Tracy Boulevard on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Staff worked to create an effective Incident Action Plan (IAP) within a few days of the request coming over from TPD. Division Chief Bagley, Captain Howell, along with the crews on the Water Tender, Brush 93, Brush 95 and Engine 96 burned approximately 5 acres within a three-hour period starting at 9 am. These prescribed burns not only help mitigate potential fire risk, but also provide wildland training for our staff members.



## Board Action Recap

The Board of Directors for the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority met in a Regular Meeting on August 9, 2023. The Board approved the following actions:

- Adopted a resolution to engage Fechter & Company, Certified Public Accountants, to conduct the SSJCFA Annual Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023
- Approve the acceptance of a Regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$400,350 for 67 portable radios and approve the ten percent grant match expenditure of \$40,035

## Training

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

- All three shifts attended a walk through of Sutter Tracy Community Hospital. Crews gained valuable knowledge on specific target hazards associated with this facility to better prepare for emergency response.
- Crews conducted a prescribed burn located at the Tracy Police Department's gun range, gaining additional training and experience with firing operations.
- Battalion Chiefs and line personnel worked with the Department of Transportation to ensure the Authority are meeting the training standards set by ISO. Authority staff continue to work diligently not only to meet the standards, but exceed it.

At the company level our firefighters are training daily to better prepare themselves for mitigating emergencies in our community. The Authority logged over 900 hours of training during the month of August.

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

- **August 5, 2023** – Crews responded to a call for a collapsed building on the 2300 block of East Street. Upon arrival crews found that the commercial building suffered a catastrophic roof failure. No injuries were reported and the incident was turned over to Code Enforcement.



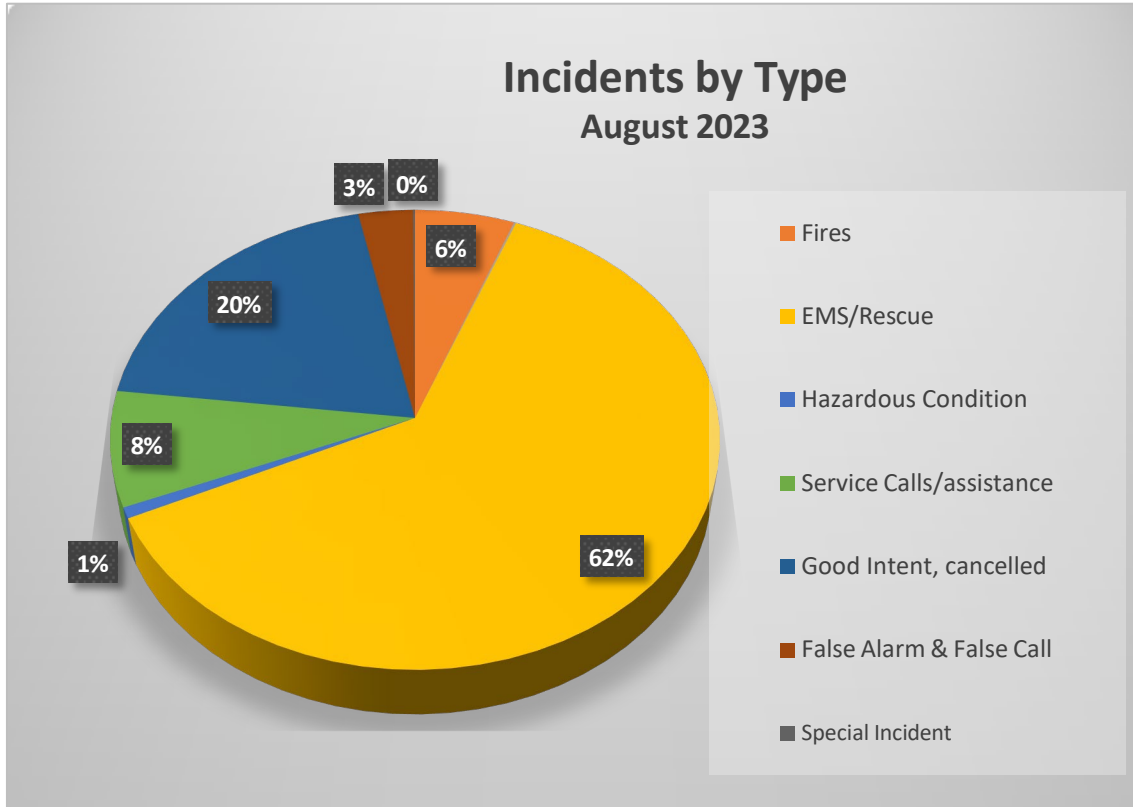
- **August 12, 2023** – SSJCFA resources assisted Livermore-Pleasanton Fire, Alameda County Fire, and CalFire on a vehicle fire that spread into the vegetation along the 580 corridor. The grass fire burned approximately 20 acres.
- **August 14, 2023** – A call for service came in for an outdoor fire near E Sixth Street and North MacArthur just before 8:30 PM. Upon arrival, crews found a large brush fire along Detention Basin 4, which is a known encampment for the unsheltered population. No injuries were reported.



- **August 23, 2023** – Crews responded to a call for a vehicle accident just after noon. Upon arrival, crews found that a big rig collided into a power pole on Tracy Boulevard near 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and the transformer was knocked to the ground. No injuries were reported and power was out around downtown Tracy for several hours.

## August 2023 Response Data

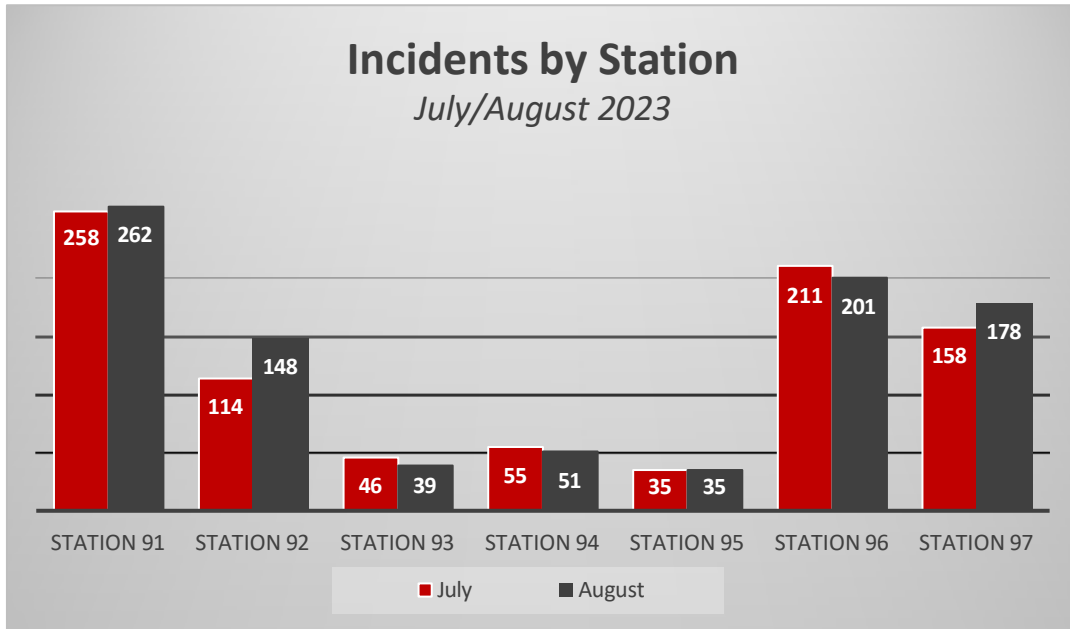
There were **914 reported incidents** in the month of August 2023, reflecting a rough increase of about 100 calls from July. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (568 incidents comprising 62% of all calls for service). While there were 914 calls for service, it is important to note that some calls require multiple apparatus. There were **1,434 total apparatus responses** in August.



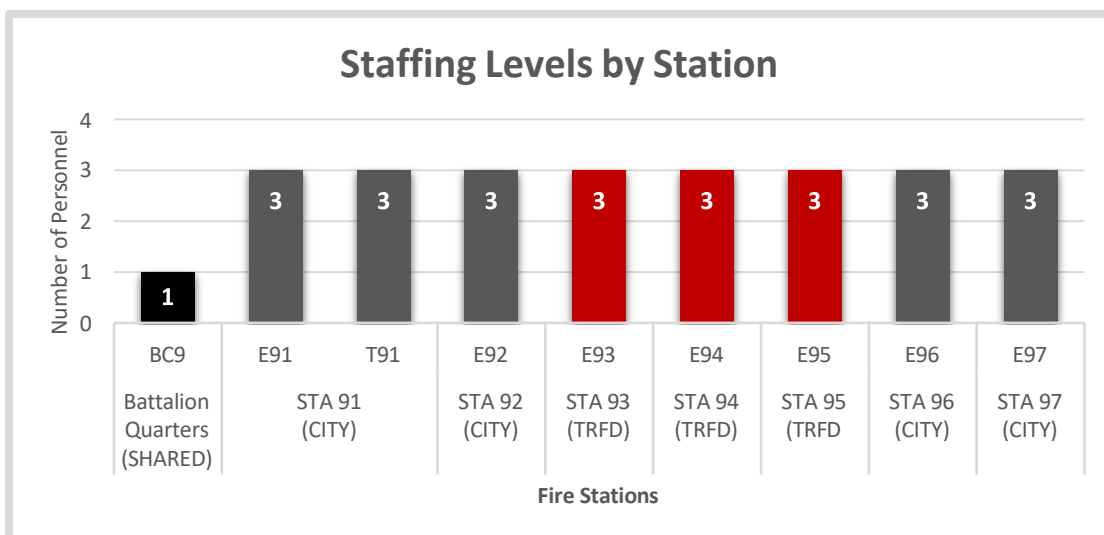
Incident by Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	53	5.80%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, no fire	1	0.11%
EMS/Rescue	568	62.14%
Hazardous Condition	7	0.77%
Service Calls/assistance	74	8.10%
Good Intent, cancelled	181	19.80%
False Alarm & False Call	29	3.31%
Special Incident	1	0.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### August 2023 Response Data (Continued)

Station 91 continues to be the busiest fire station in the month of August. 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 **6,962** alarms in 2023 compared to **7,162** 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.





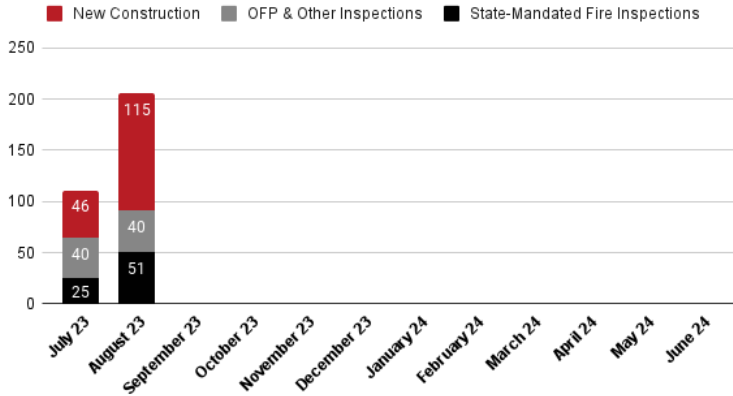
# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

## August FY23/24

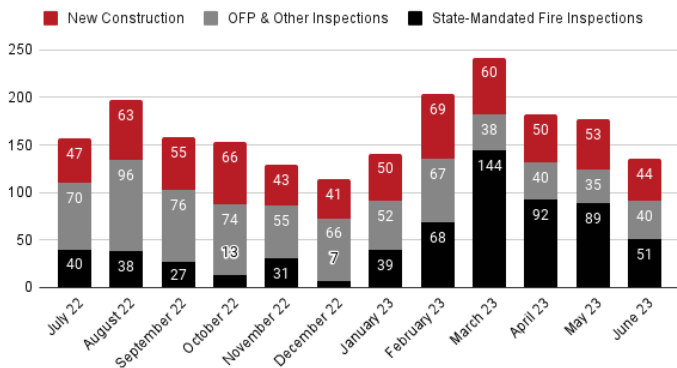
### FIRE INSPECTIONS

#### 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

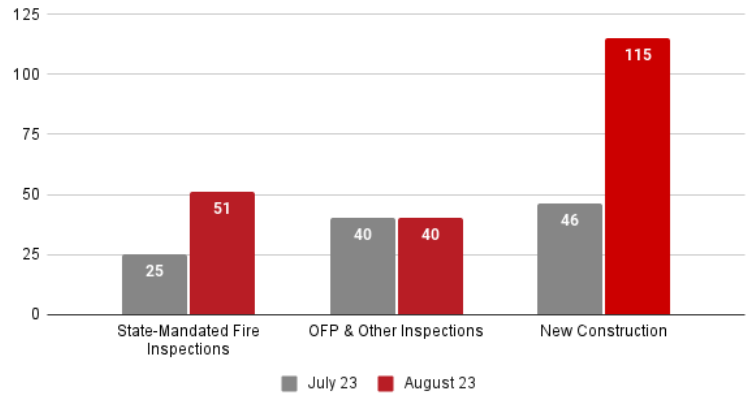
COT CRR Fees

\$94,207.15

TRFPD CRR Fees

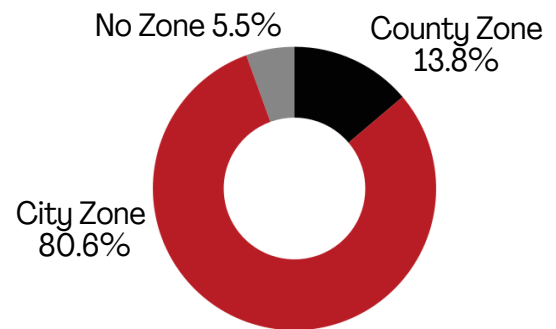
\$5,855.31

#### MONTHLY COMPLETED INSPECTION COMPARISON

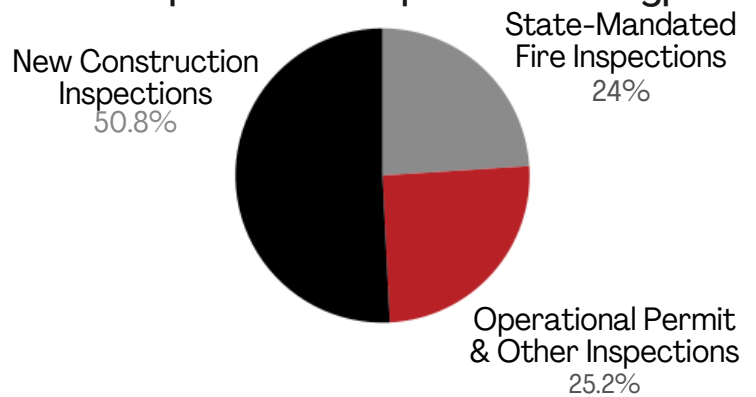


#### YTD FIRE INSPECTION OVERVIEW

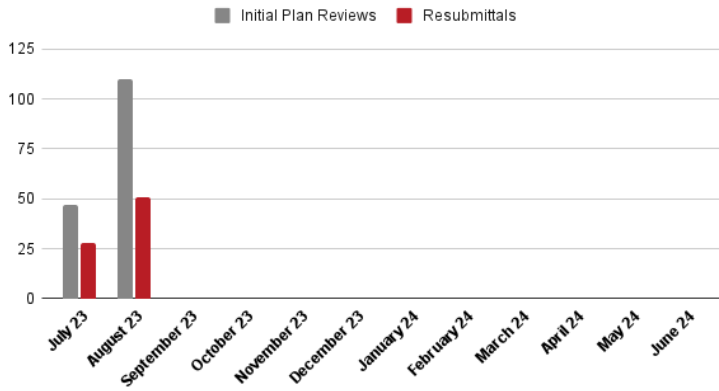
##### Completed Fire Inspections Per Zone:



##### Completed Fire Inspections Per Type:



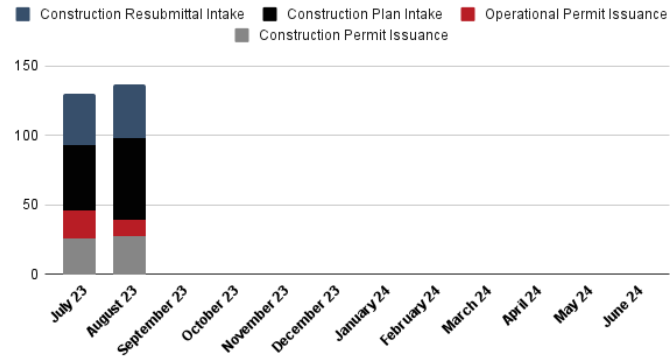
## PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES



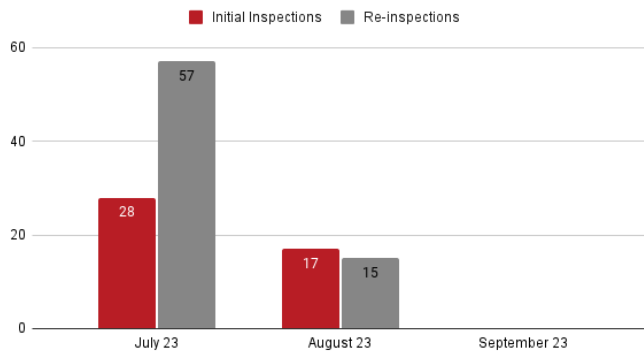
- There were 161 plan check activities in August
- 68% of the plan check activities were initial submittals and 32% were resubmittals
- There were no occurrences where a plan check exceeded its due date

## ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- 28 new construction permits were issued in August
- Received and processed 59 new plan submittals
- Received and processed 39 resubmitted construction documents
- 11 operational fire permits were issued in August



## WEED ABATEMENT



- SSJCFA continued to receive reports of overgrown and dry vegetation throughout August.
- Conducted 17 initial inspections and 15 re-inspections.
- 7 properties referred to San Joaquin County for abatement.

## AUGUST SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW

**4.4K**

Facebook Page Followers

**23**

New Facebook Followers

**7.5K**

People reached on Facebook

**1.1K**

People reached on Instagram

**26**

New Instagram Followers

	usNATIONAL NIGHT OUTus Thank you Tracy for... South San Joaquin County Fire Authority - Tracy, CA	2.7K Accounts Center accou...	90 Reactions	2 Shares	1 Comments
	Crews responded to a call for a vehicle accident... South San Joaquin County Fire Authority - Tracy, CA	1.4K Accounts Center accou...	10 Reactions	0 Shares	0 Comments
	usNATIONAL NIGHT OUTus Thank you Tracy for... south_county_fire	538 Accounts Center accou...	60 Likes	1 Shares	0 Comments