



2025 Annual Report

Washington Township Fire Department
John Donahue, Fire Chief
April 1, 2026



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Mission Statement

“Provide for the protection and preservation of life and property, mindful of acceptable levels of risk by maintaining the highest standards of Emergency Medical Services, Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention, Education and Safety programs.”

Vision Statement

“Be a force that fuels community pride, cohesion, caring and wellness.”

Core Values

Partnership – Collaborating to provide outstanding service.

Respect – High regard for our profession, ourselves, and community.

Integrity – Truthfulness and honesty in every action.

Dedication – To safety and wellness.

Excellence – In all we do.



Introduction



The 2025 year reflected Washington Township's continued commitment to service, stewardship, and community partnership. This progress was made possible through the trust of our residents, the leadership of the Township Trustees, and the daily dedication of our fire and emergency medical personnel.

In May, voters approved the Fire Levy with an overwhelming 78% level of support. This strong affirmation ensured the sustainability of essential services and reinforced the shared responsibility between the Township and the community it serves.

With this support, the Township completed the replacement of a frontline fire engine and a paramedic transport unit. These investments strengthen operational readiness, enhance response capabilities, and provide our personnel with safe, reliable equipment to serve the community effectively.

The Township also continued to invest in its people through the development of the Emergency Medical Services Field Training Officer (FTO) program. This focus on mentorship, clinical excellence, and leadership supports consistent, high-quality patient care and professional growth within the organization.

Significant progress was made in advancing the Township's Capital Program, establishing a long-term framework for apparatus, facility, and infrastructure planning. Developed in collaboration with the Township Trustees, this program reflects a responsible investment in the future of Washington Township.

Throughout 2025, the Township remained grateful for its continued partnership with the City of Dublin, enhancing regional response capabilities and shared service delivery.

Looking ahead to 2026, Washington Township remains focused on thoughtful succession planning, ensuring fiscal sustainability, and preparing for continued community growth. Priorities include enhancing emergency response capabilities, modernizing infrastructure and equipment, strengthening workforce development, and fostering strong community partnerships. Through careful planning and continued collaboration, the Township is positioned to remain responsive, resilient, and prepared for the future.

As we reflect on the year, Washington Township extends sincere appreciation to our residents, Township Trustees, and dedicated personnel whose collective efforts ensure our community remains safe, prepared, and well served.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Donahue

John L. Donahue
Fire Chief



TRUSTEES

Stu Harris
Charles W. Kranstuber
Jan Rozanski

FISCAL OFFICER

Scott W. Melody

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Accreditation

The Washington Township Fire Department successfully maintained its accredited status following a favorable review of the Annual Compliance Report by the accrediting agency. The accreditation program also achieved several notable accomplishments, including the participation of all three peer assessors in site visits at agencies across the country, with one member serving as a team leader. Program expenditures were limited primarily to annual accreditation fees and continuing education costs, including participation in the accrediting agency's Excellence Conference.

Looking ahead, the Accreditation Program will continue efforts to maintain the Washington Township Fire Department's accredited status through the successful completion of the 2026 Annual Compliance Report. Additional program objectives include expanding continuing education opportunities for department members, transitioning to the newly released 11th Edition Self-Assessment Model, converting the SOC to a digital format, supporting department leaders in achieving professional credentialing, and preparing for the 2027 site visit and reaccreditation process.



**Commission on
Fire Accreditation
International®**



ISO Class 1

The Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification (PPC) Program plays an important role in the underwriting process for insurance companies. Most U.S. insurers, including the largest ones, use PPC information as part of their decision-making process when deciding what insurance to write, coverage to offer, or price to charge for personal and commercial property insurance. Communities whose PPC improves may receive lower insurance prices. A PPC rating of 1 is the best possible rating and recommends the lowest insurance rates. The PPC also provides fire departments with common benchmarks or performance indicators and is used by many departments as a valuable tool when planning, budgeting, and justifying fire protection improvements.

ISO is the leading supplier of data and analytics for the property/casualty insurance industry and collects and evaluates information from communities in the United States on their structural fire suppression capabilities. ISO analyzes the data using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and assigns a Public Protection Classification number to the community. ISO's PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. There are currently 29,452 fire departments in the United States ranging from fully staffed career departments to completely volunteer departments. Of the 29,452 fire departments, ISO has completed 48,000 evaluations and classifications of fire protection survey areas. These areas are rated in a 1-10 Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. A combination of meetings between trained ISO field agents, a dispatch center coordinator, community fire officials, and a water superintendent is used in conjunction with a comprehensive questionnaire to collect the data necessary to determine the PPC grade.

In 2017 the Washington Township Fire Department completed the rating process of questionnaires, data collection, document preparation, a site visit, and final reporting. The department was awarded its first coveted PPC1 rating on December 18, 2017, with an effective date of April 1, 2018. The department was once again awarded the PPC Class 1 rating in 2022. This is the highest rating possible for any fire department and places Washington Township Fire Department as 1 of only 498 departments in the United States.

Ohio has 1,180 fire departments. Washington Township is 1 of only 7 fire departments in the State of Ohio to achieve this recognition. Washington Township is also 1 of only 2 township departments to achieve this rating. Additionally, the fact that the Washington Township Fire Department is Accredited by the Center for Fire Accreditation International and holds the ISO 1 rating by the PPC, makes the Washington Township Fire Department 1 of only 123 departments in the United States, and 1 of only 4 departments in the state of Ohio (Toledo, Columbus and Loveland-Symmes are the other departments) to achieve both of these distinguished designations. Also, Washington is the only township department to do so.





2022-2026 Strategic Plan

#1 Maintain Accreditation

- Determine need for compliance officer - compliance calendar implemented, further examination of distributing through existing staff needed
- Master Plan - Continue to examine staffing, apparatus and stations, including data monitoring
- Fire Officer Credentialing - Group working through the process
- Accreditation Recommendations - 11 out of 16 complete. Employee manual and policies need the most work

#2 Maintain ISO 1 Rating

- Data reporting and mutual aid agreements complete, ISO deficiencies identified

#3 Recruitment/Retention/Promotion Standardized Process

- Leadership training program implemented and Officer Leadership Training components added to all officer's meetings
- Officer Development class was completed

#4 Mental Health Program

- Mandatory Annual Mental Health visits for all personnel started in 2023 and a second provider has since been added to the Township's resources

#5 EMS Development

- Field Training Officer (FTO) program was initiated with one per shift identified through a process. Metrics established to monitor success and challenges

#6 Diversity Group

- Now falls under the Township Administrator

#7 Information Technology

- ESO implementation complete
- First Arriving purchased and implemented for Station Kiosks

#8 Station Safety Updates

- Station 95 remodel completed
- 2 Gear Extractors purchased
- Gear Room isolation work completed at Fire Stations 92 and 95

Fire and EMS Operations

The operations division is the largest of all divisions within the Washington Township Fire Department. The primary responsibilities of its personnel are life safety, incident stabilization, and preservation of property, emergency medical care, and public education. The Washington Township Fire Department takes great pride in serving the residents and visitors of Washington Township and the City of Dublin. The Operations Division is capable of mitigating:

- Fires
- Emergency Medical Responses
- Technical Rescues
- Traffic Accidents/Extrications
- Swift Water Responses
- Trench Collapse Incidents
- Mass Casualty Incidents
- Hazardous Material Incidents
- High-Angle Rescue Incidents
- Ice Rescue Incidents
- Confined Space Incidents
- Rescue Dive Responses
- Structural Collapse Incidents
- Active Shooter Responses

Operation Fleet

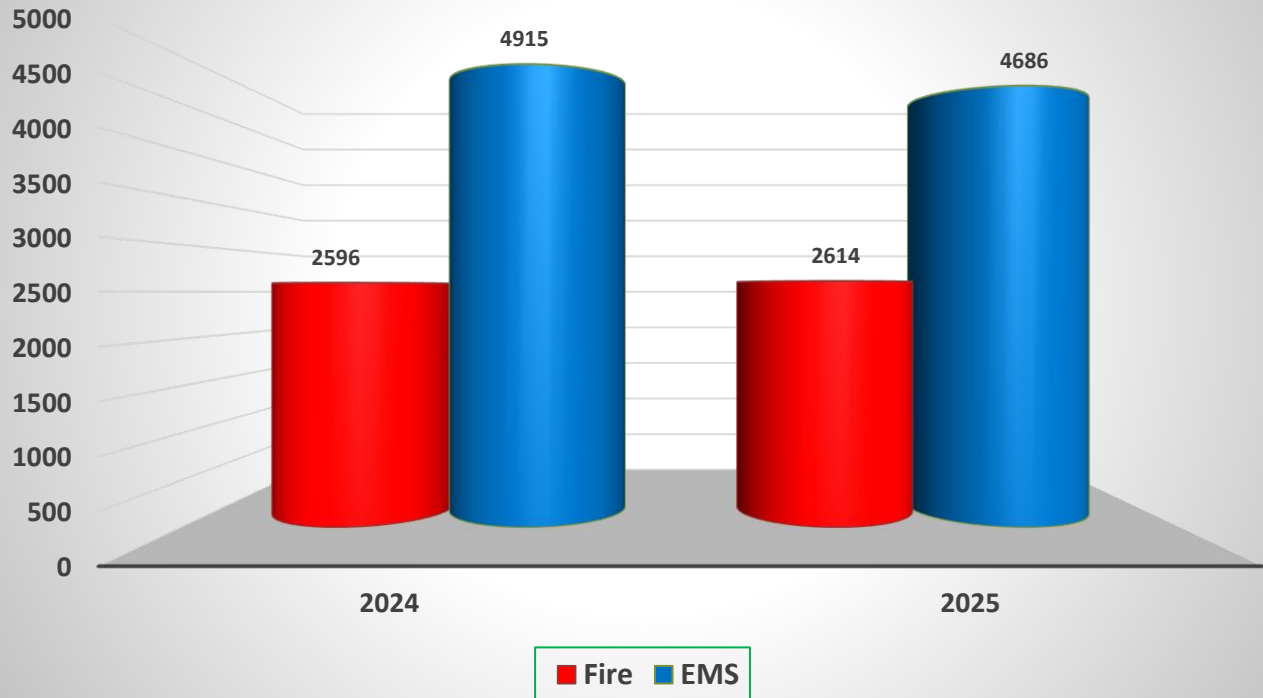
- 1 Fire Chief
- 1 Assistant Fire Chief
- 2 ALS Engines
- 1 ALS Ladder
- 1 ALS Quint
- 1 ALS Engine/Heavy Rescue
- 3 ALS Medics
- 1 ALS Transport Squad
- 1 ALS Non-Transport EMS Support
- 1 Battalion Chief
- 1 EMS Manager
- 1 Training Manager
- 5 Prevention Officers
- 1 Safety Technician
- 1 Grass Fighter
- 1 Dive Response Truck
- 3 Boats
- 8 EMS Bicycles
- 2 Special Event Golf Carts
- 1 Special Response Trailer
- 1 Technical Rescue Trailer
- 1 Reserve ALS Engine
- 1 Reserve ALS Ladder
- 2 Reserve ALS Medics
- 1 Reserve Battalion Chief SUV



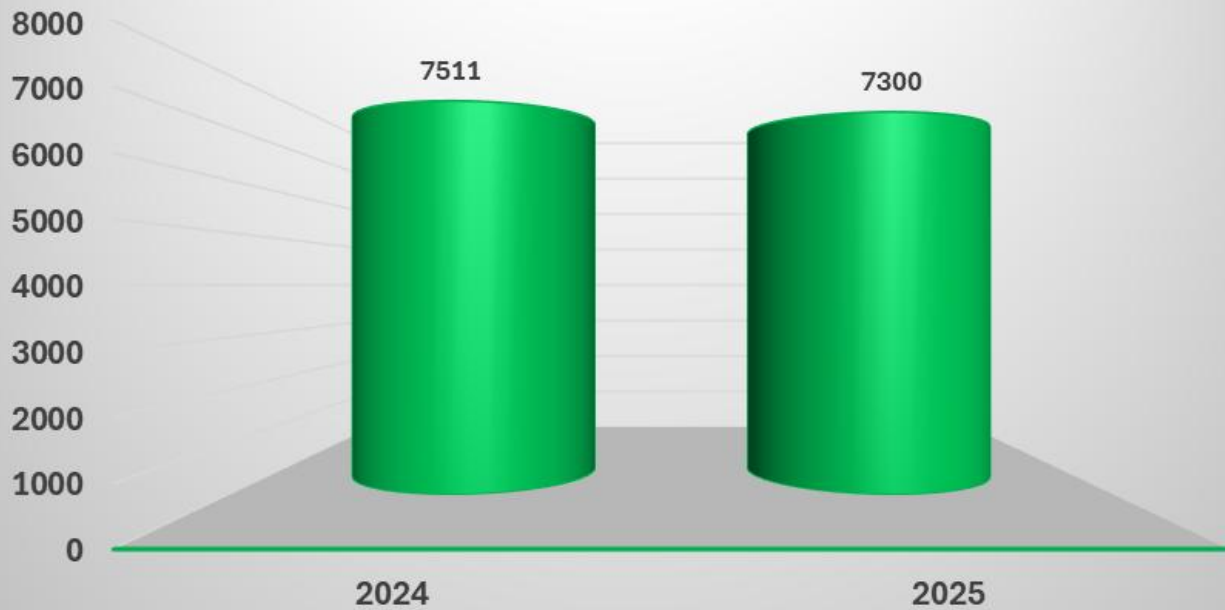


Statistical Data

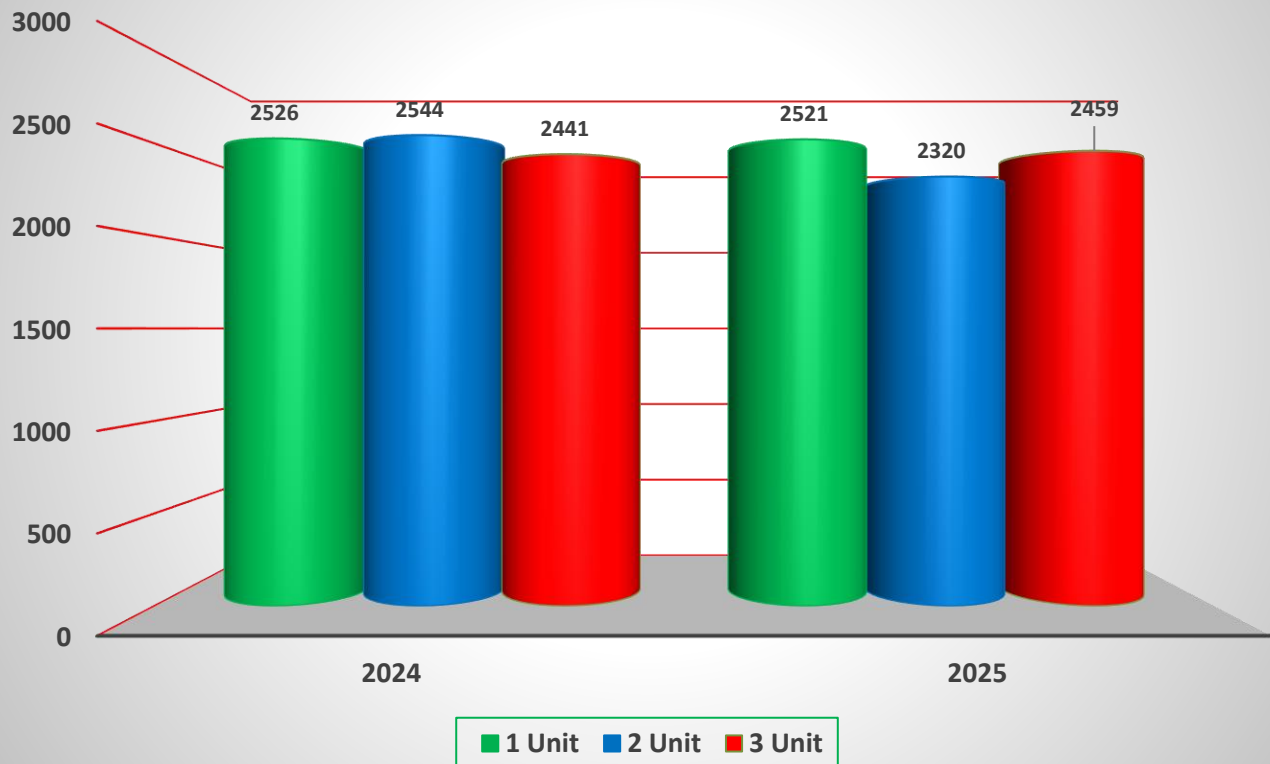
Total Incidents by Type



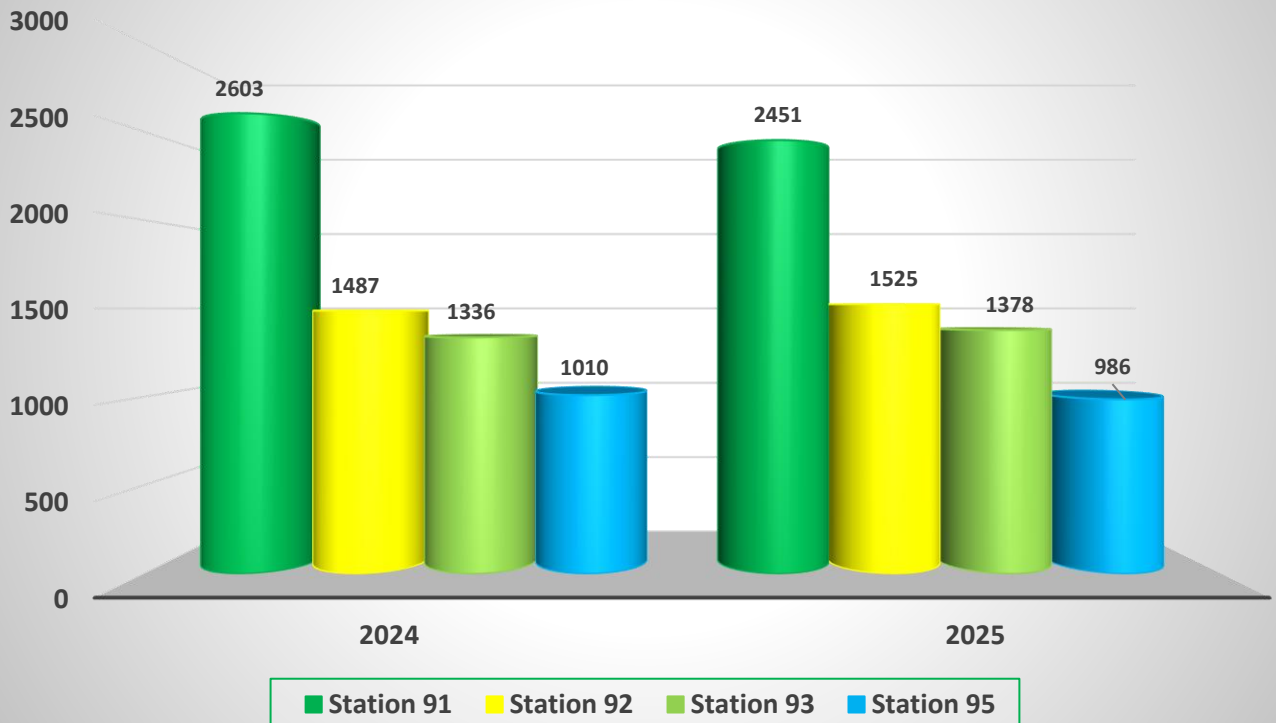
Total Incidents by Year



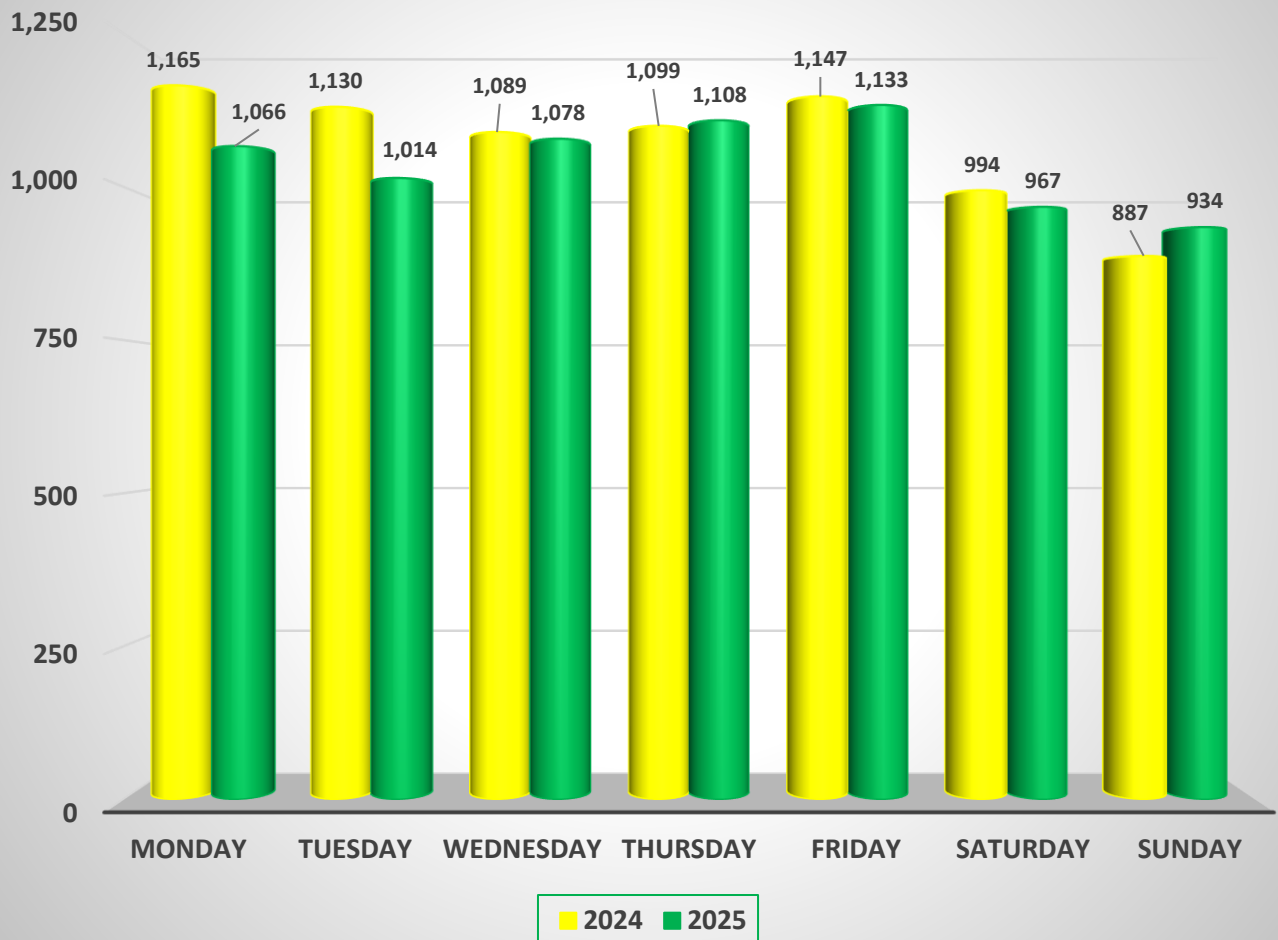
Total Incidents by Shift



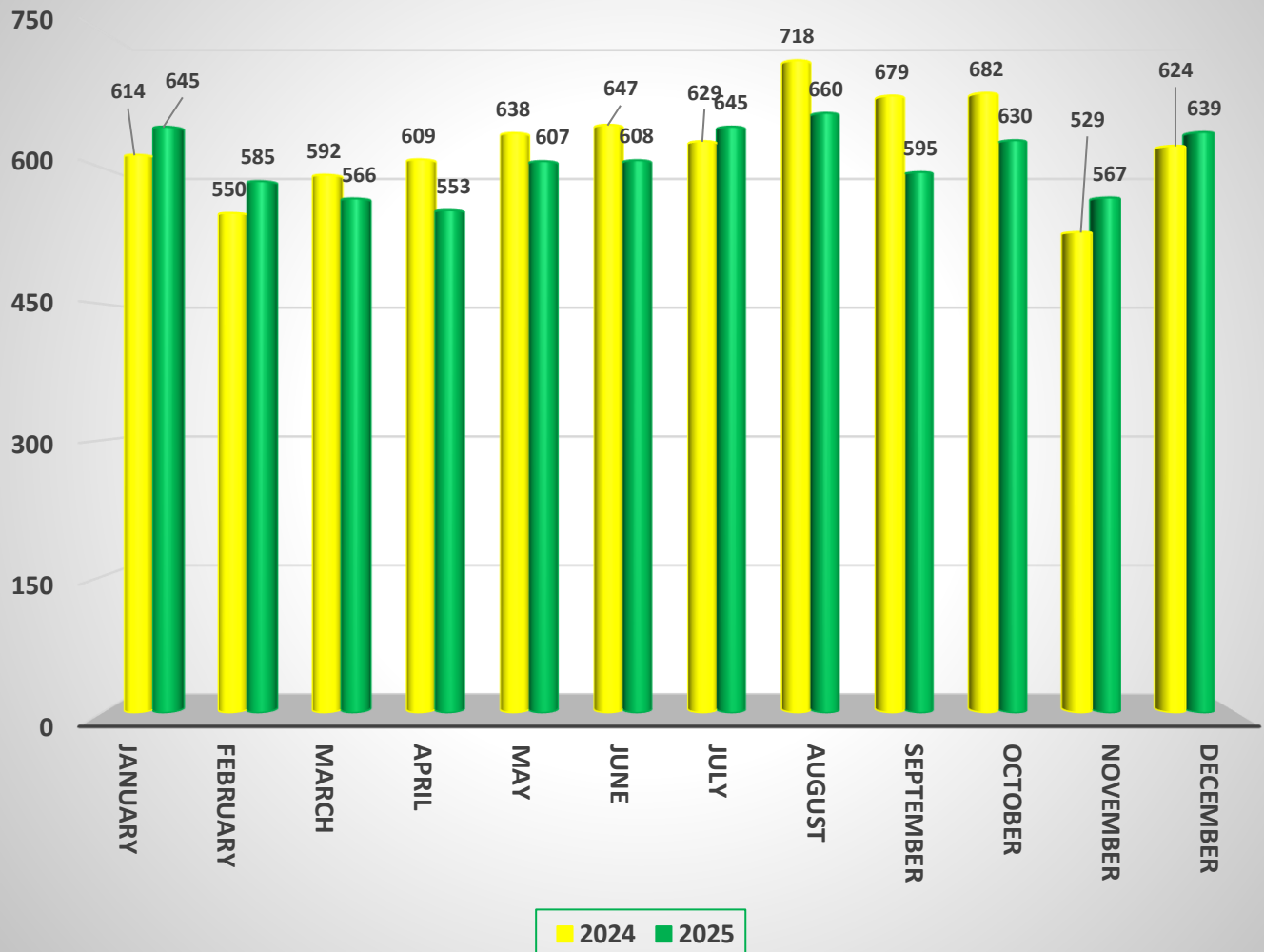
Total Incidents by Station



Total Incidents by Day of the Week

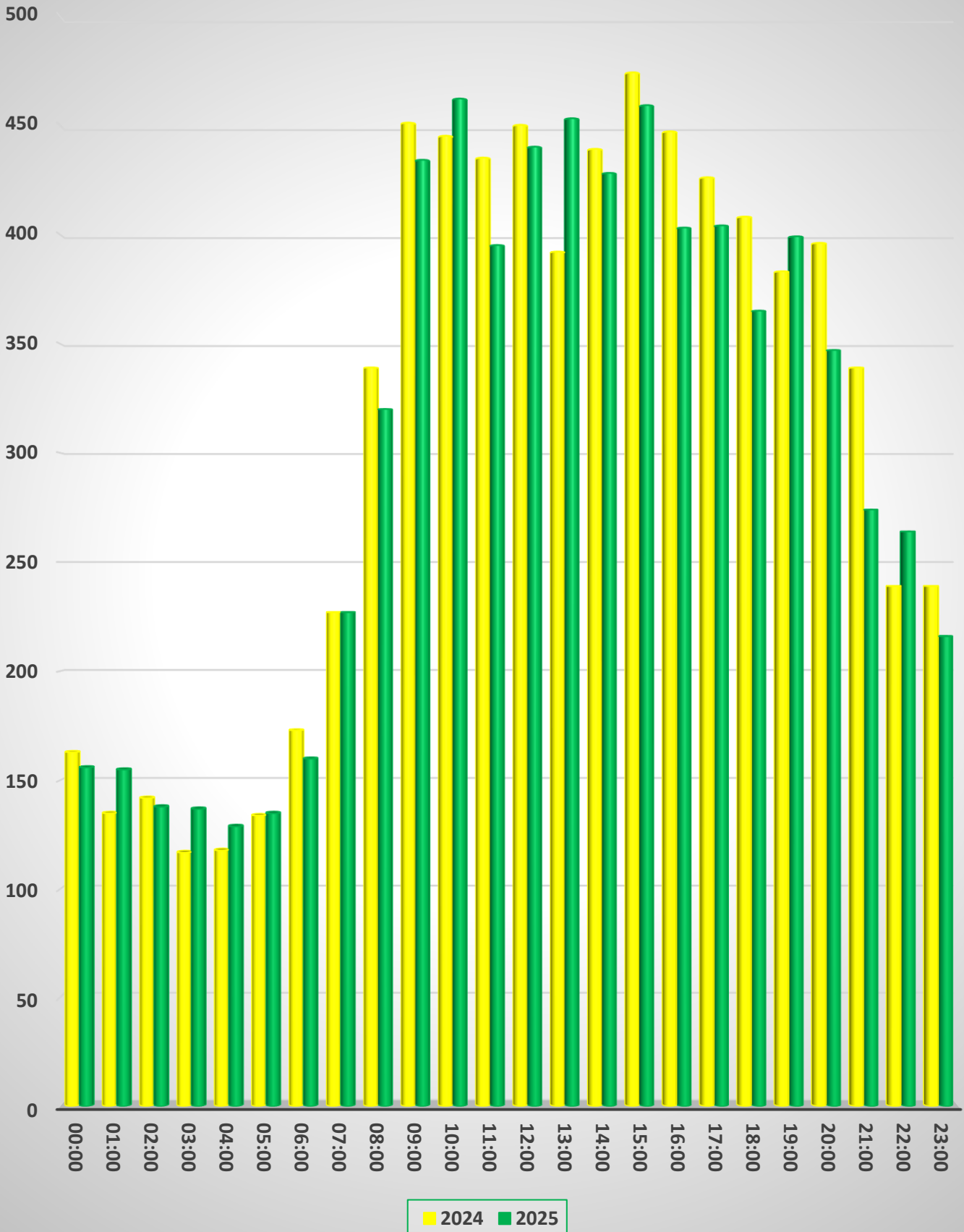


Total Incidents by Month

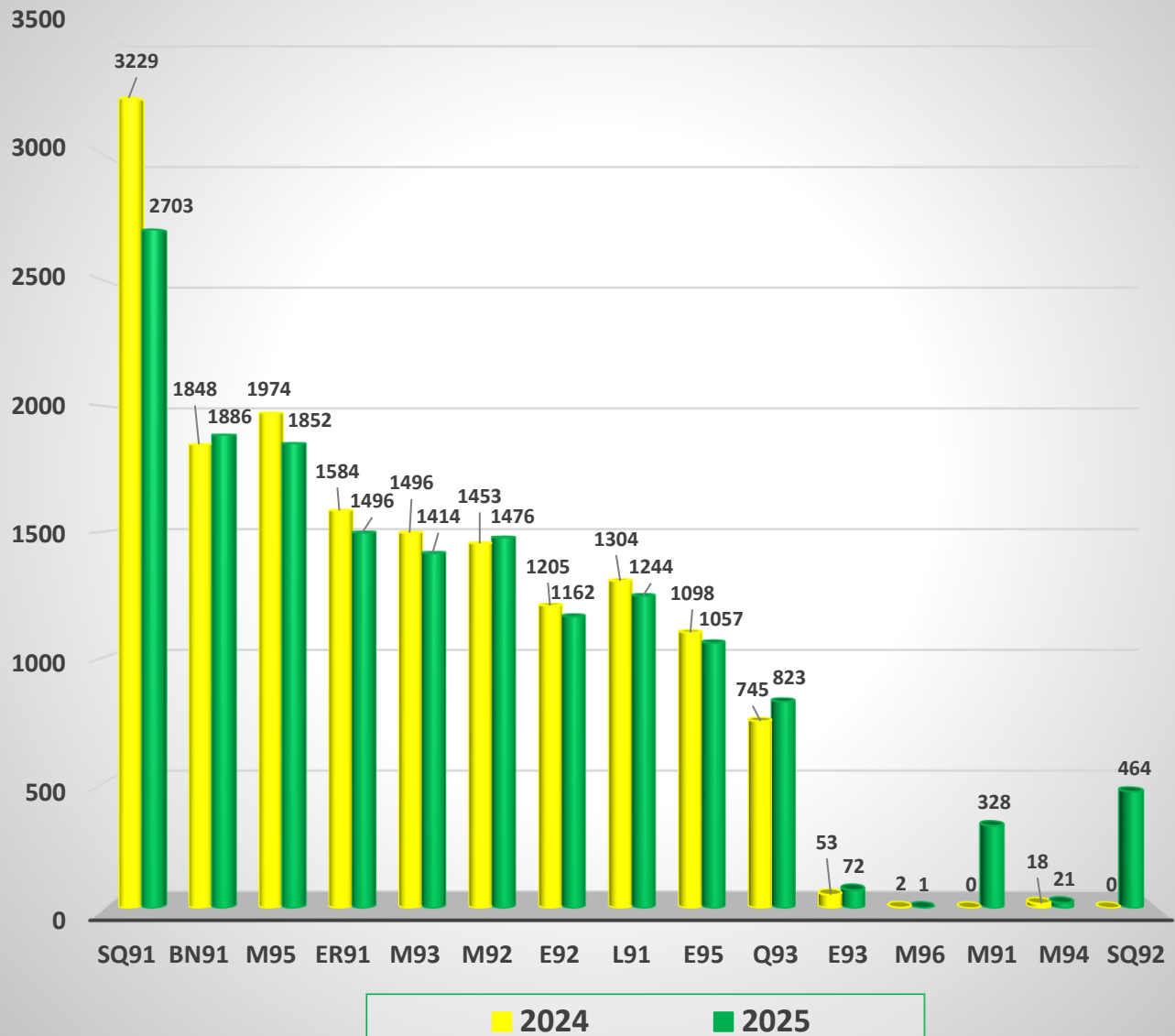




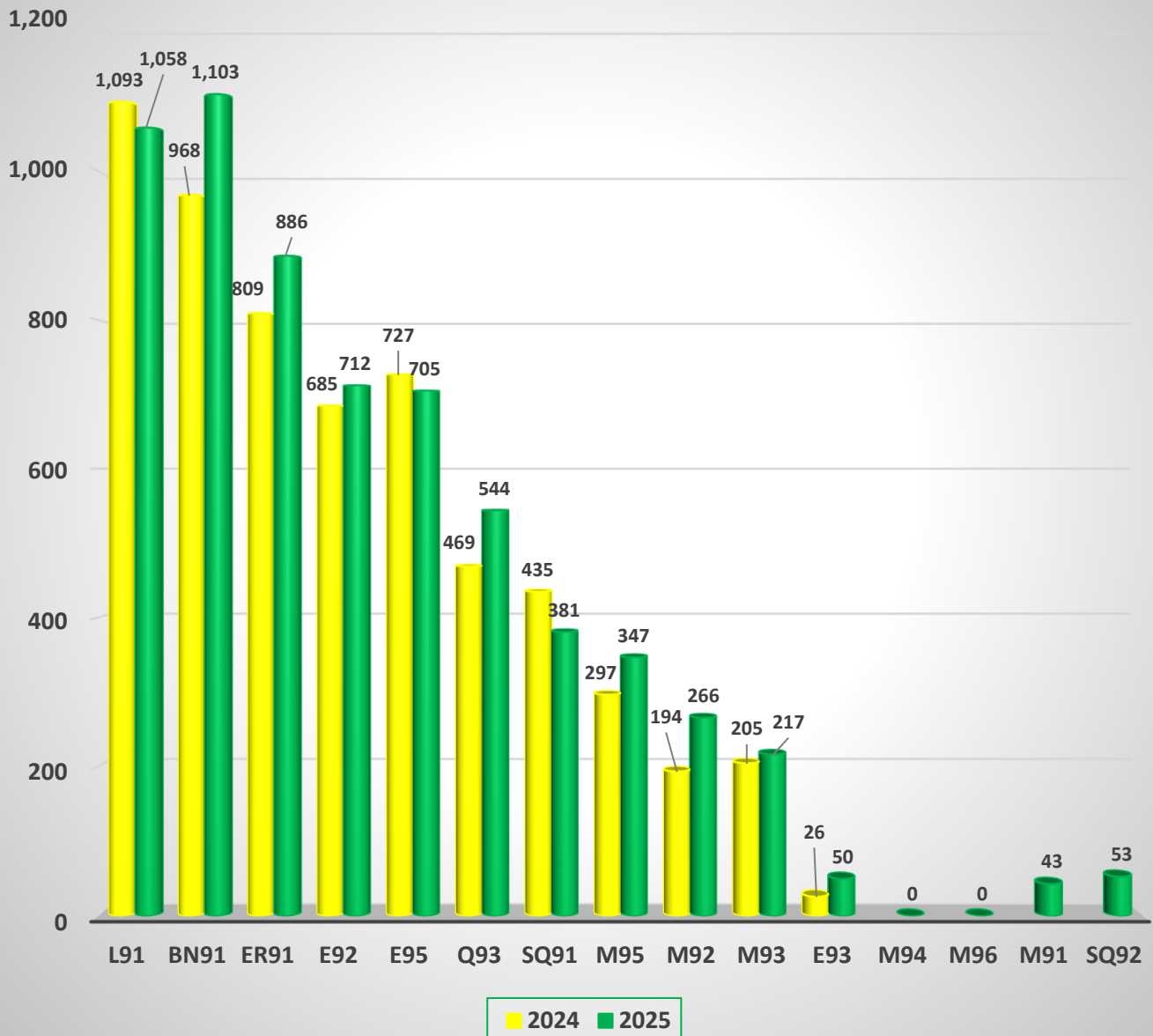
Total Incidents by Hour of the Day



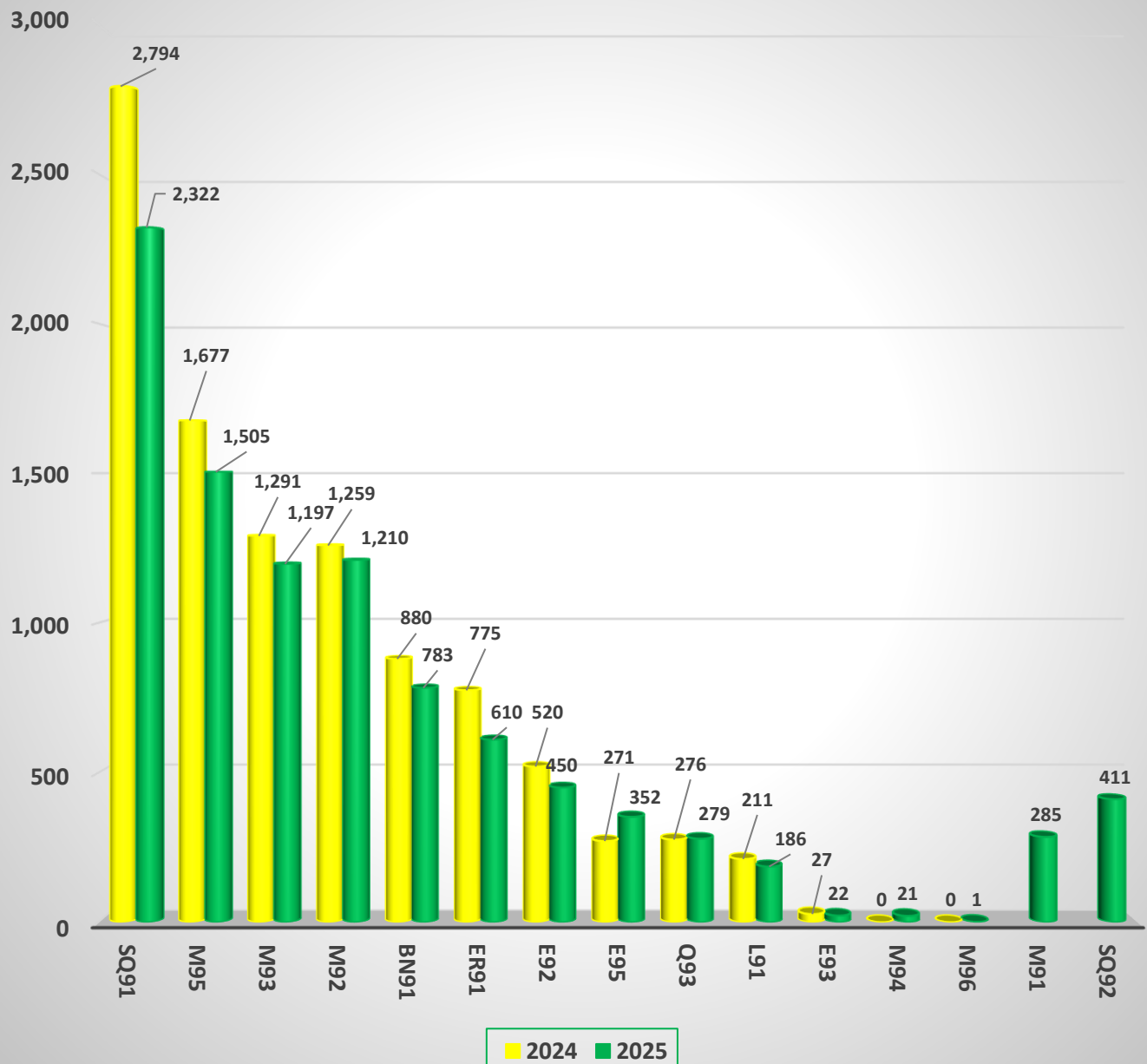
Total Incidents by Apparatus



Total Incidents by Appartus - Fire

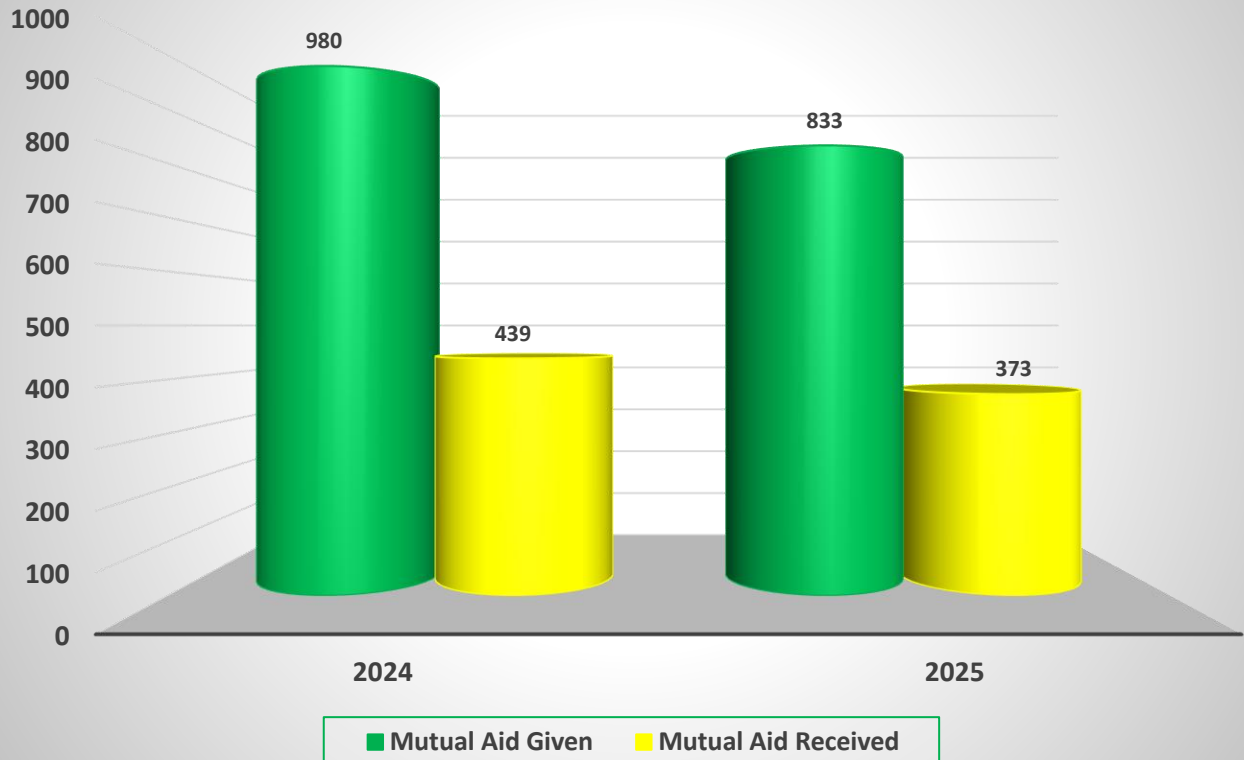


Total Incidents by Apparatus - EMS

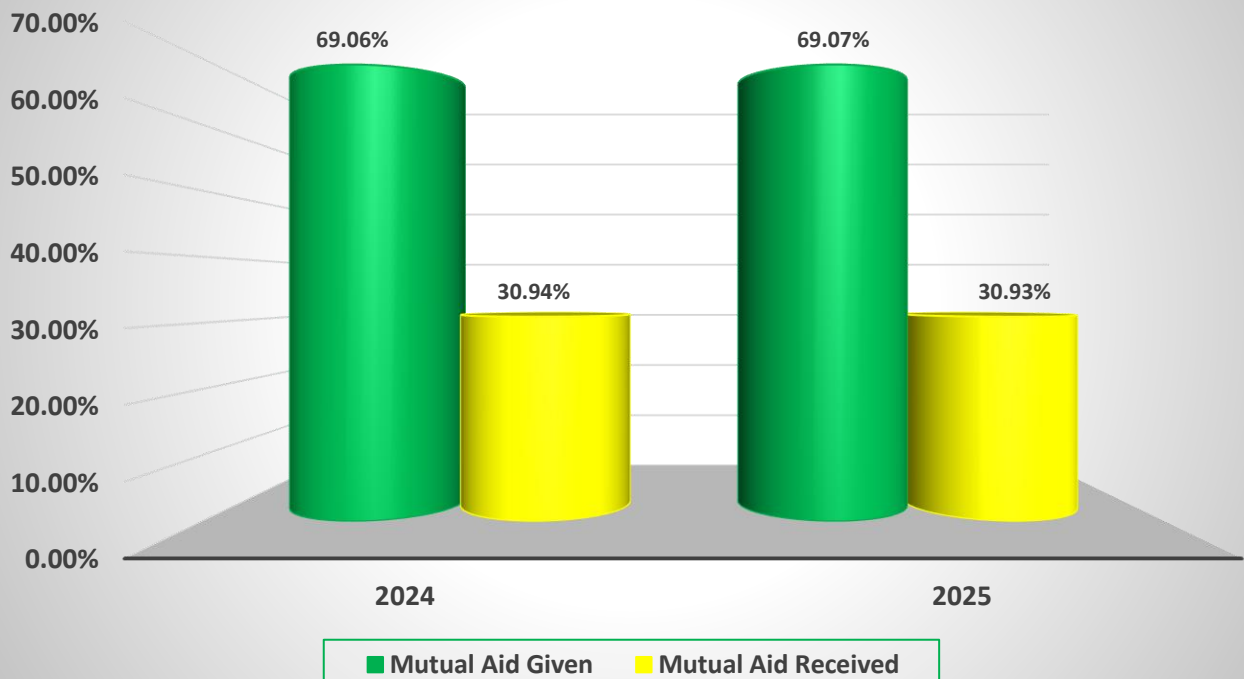




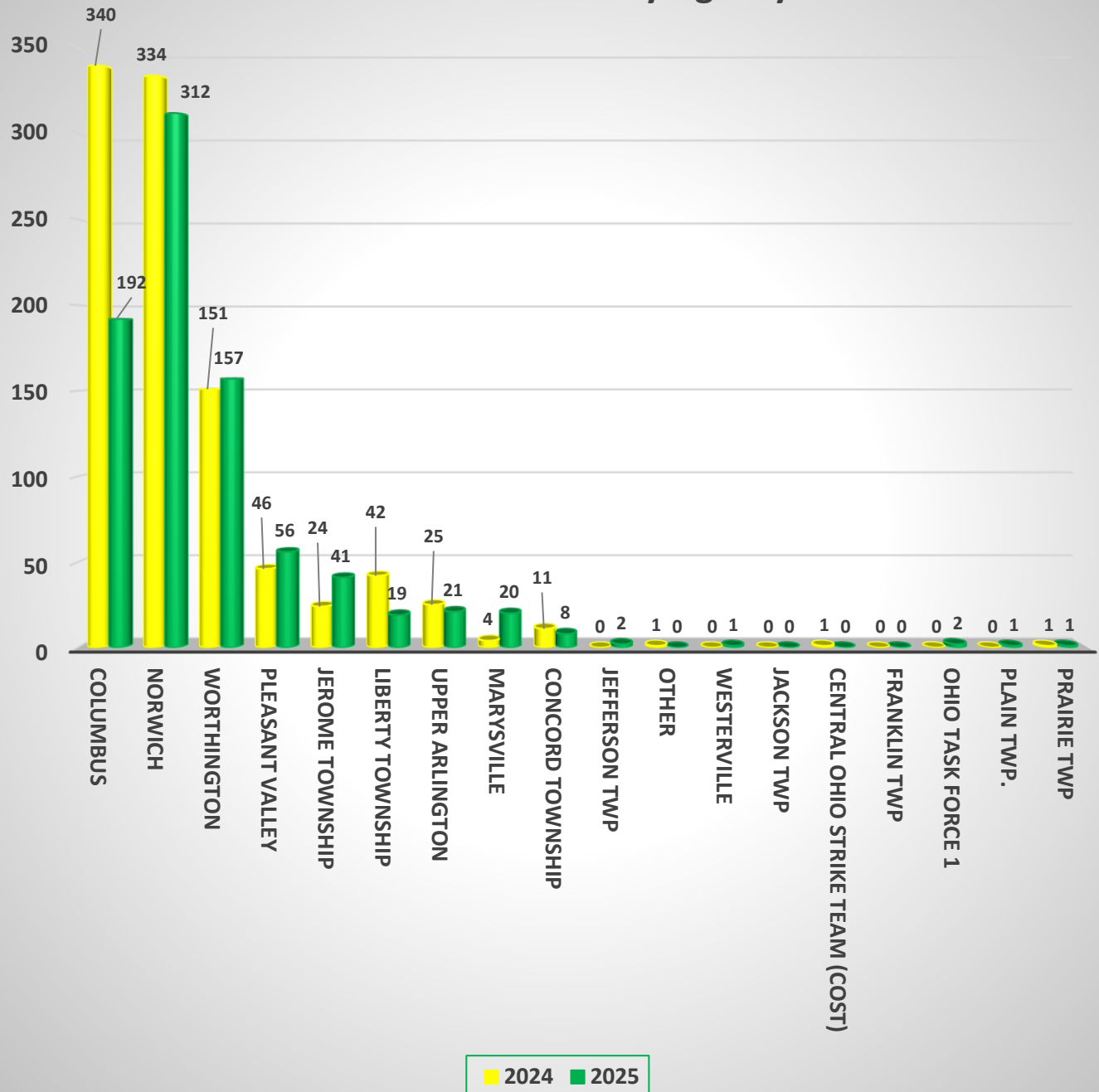
Total Mutual Aid



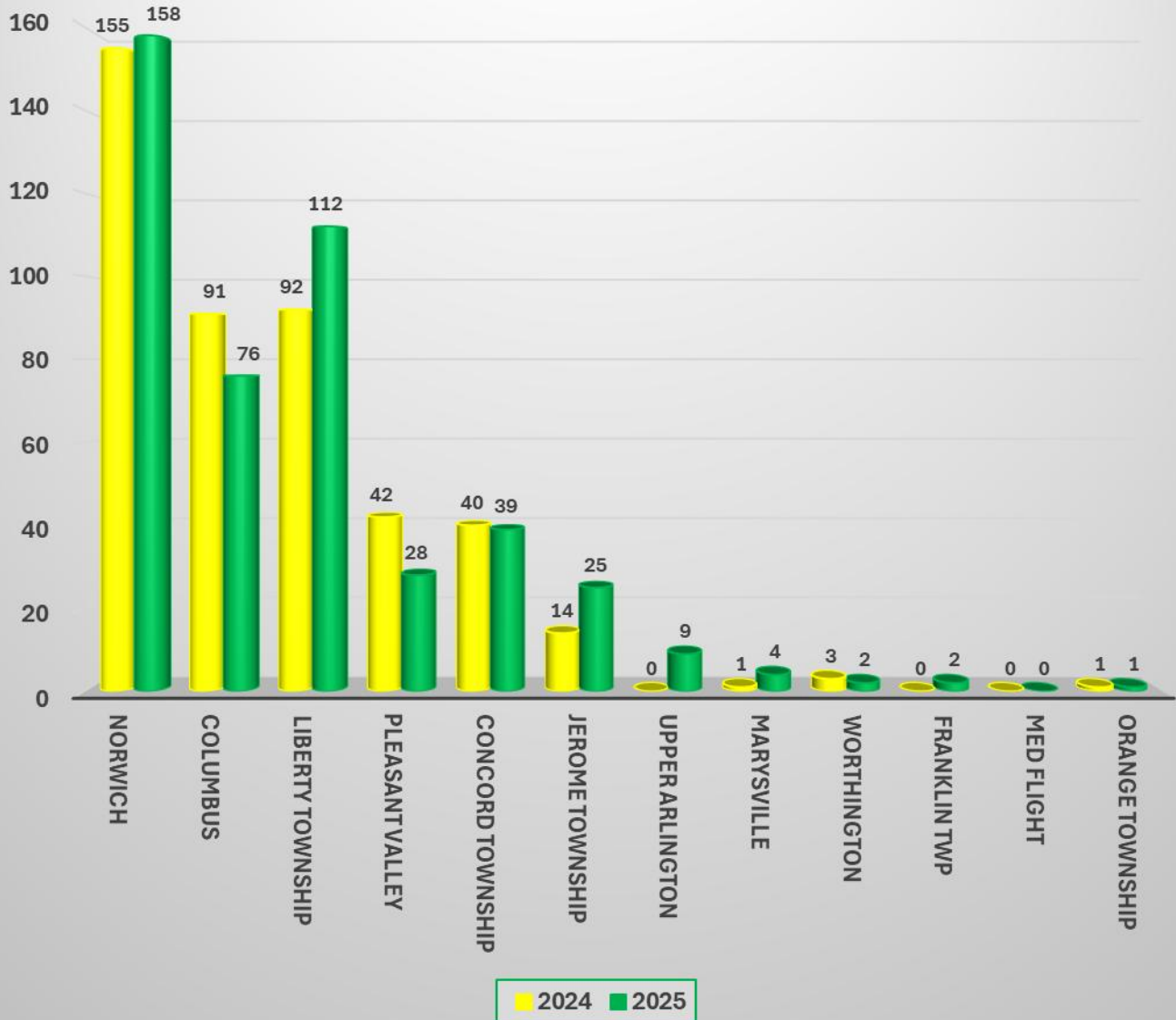
Total Mutual Aid by Percentage



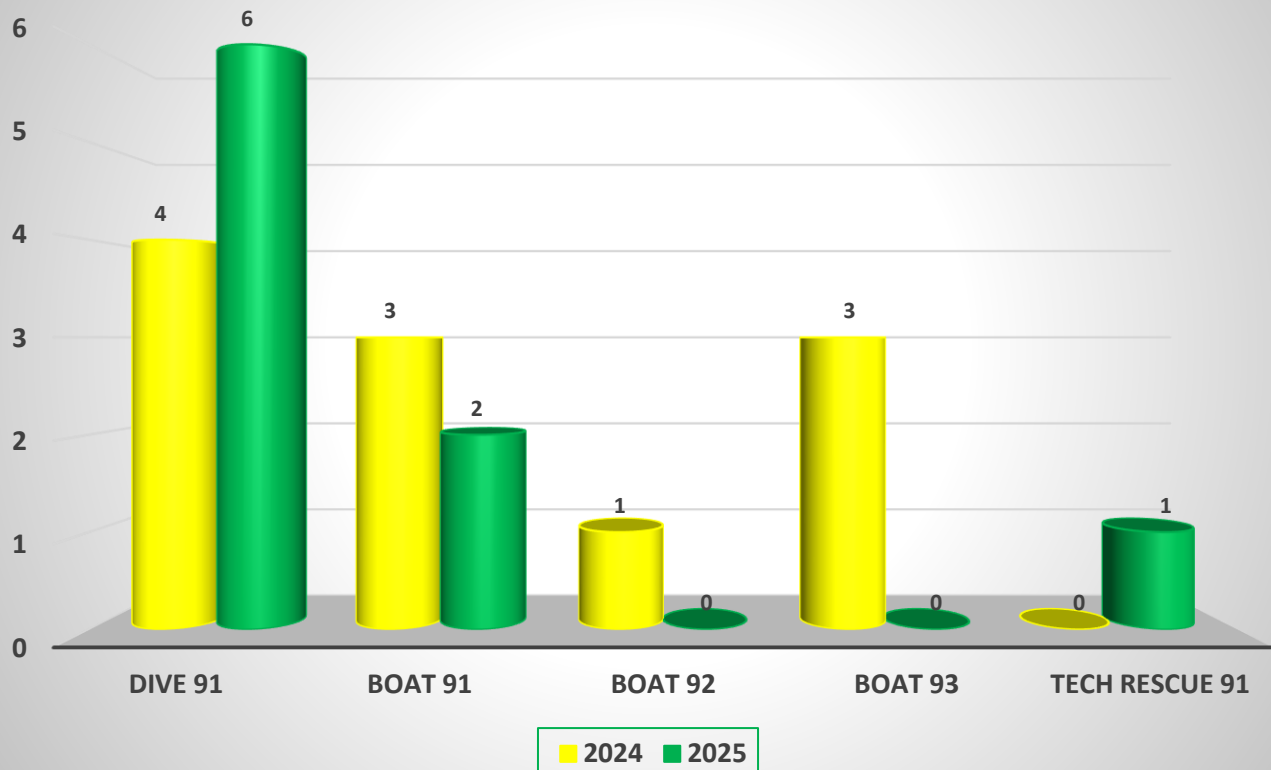
Mutual Aid Given by Agency



Mutual Aid Receieved by Agency



Total Incident by Speciality Resource



Staffing

In 2025, the Washington Township Fire Department continued to experience changes in staffing. The department maintains 102 full-time uniformed personnel, along with nine civilian support staff. There is also a part-time roster which allows up to an additional 25 personnel. In 2025, the department continued to hire full-time personnel. The department had 19 new hires, 8 promotions, with 4 retirements.

2025 NEW HIRES

Name	Position	Hire Date
Alonzo Bush	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Arthur Green	Part-Time Firefighter	June 26
Avery Fenton	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Benjamin Mantenicks	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Blake Wilfong	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Brody McLaughlin	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Colby Simkins	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Emearson Szewczyk-White	Part-Time Firefighter	June 26
George Sorge	Training & Safety Manager	January 1, 2026
Jace Ninceheler	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Jaxon Swank	Part-Time Firefighter	June 26
Joseph Baker	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Kasey Swank	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6
Kyle Muchmore	Part-Time Firefighter	June 26
Megan Schiff	Community Safety Liaison	May 24
Paul Olesh	Part-time Firefighter	June 26
Robert Morton	Battalion Chief	October 6
Vanessa Wolfe	Payroll / Finance Specialist	June 21
Zachary Zinser	Part-Time Firefighter	March 6



2025 PROMOTIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Adam Smith	Assistant Fire Chief	April 26
Ethan Loring	Full-Time Firefighter	November 22
Evan Will	Lieutenant	November 8
Jesse Hill	Captain	November 9
John Donahue	Fire Chief	March 15
Joseph Commisso	Full-Time Firefighter	November 22
Matthew <u>Scarbury</u>	Battalion Chief	August 16
Seth Wirt	Full-Time Firefighter	April 12



2025 RETIREMENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>
Alan Baker	Firefighter	April 4
Alec O'Connell	Fire Chief	March 14
Brian West	Firefighter	September 17
Linda Latham	Payroll / Finance Specialist	July 25



Dispatching

The Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC) continues to provide high-quality emergency dispatching services to Washington Township and the seven (7) partner agencies. The only direct expense to the Washington Township Fire Department was the annual contract cost. An upcoming CAD system upgrade will require capital investment, with costs anticipated to begin in 2026 and full implementation expected in 2027 or 2028.

NRECC continues to experience staff turnover due to retirements and resignations; however, efforts are ongoing to fill vacancies as quickly as possible. A CAD Manager and Supervisor are expected to begin their roles in early 2026.

NRECC 911

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

City of Dublin | Washington Township | City of Hilliard
Norwich Township | City of Upper Arlington | City of Worthington



Calls for Service

The department responded to 7,300 calls for service in 2025. Calls for service decreased by 211 calls from 2024. The department had a total of 16,849-unit responses in 2025.

Calls for service are anticipated to continue to increase, based on year-over-year historical increases, aging and increasing population, and planned construction in the jurisdiction. Of interest to note is that nearly 39% of the time, when a unit is dispatched to an emergency, another call is currently in progress, resulting in an overlap in the department's utilization. This overlap trend has increased consistently from 20.94% in 2013 to 39.96% in 2025.



PulsePoint

PulsePoint is an application software and pre-arrival solution designed to support public safety agencies working to improve cardiac arrest survival rates through improved bystander performance and active citizenship. Split into two divisions, *PulsePoint Respond* empowers everyday citizens to provide life-saving assistance to victims of sudden cardiac arrest while *PulsePoint Verified Responder (VR)* allows agency-identified responders to receive additional information not available in the public version of the application such as sensitive call types and the full address of medical calls. The application also directs users to the scene with turn-by-turn navigation in addition to identifying the exact location of the closest publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED). An additional benefit to responders is a faster alarm

notification for critical call types, thus decreasing call turnout times.

The department launched this application at the end of July 2017 (PulsePoint VR launched in November 2018) and currently averages nearly 3,000 active monthly users. The department collaborated with Norwich Township Fire Department, Upper Arlington Fire Department and the NRECC communication center to split the cost of the initial and VR implementation. The project cost was approximately \$20,000. The department initially paid \$9,000 of the cost but was later reimbursed through funding from the Dublin Foundation's first responder fund.

To follow Washington Township on PulsePoint, users should first download the app, which is available on Apple and Android devices. Washington Township Fire Department can be added to user's list of followed agencies by searching for the agency name, city, or zip code.

Residents interested in learning CPR or attending one of the other empowering courses offered by Washington Township should call the administration building at (614) 652-3820.

PulsePoint



Mini-Academy/Mentorship

In 2025, there were fifteen (15) personnel brought on to the department to supplement the part-time firefighter ranks. These individuals were merged into the department in two separate groups. Like all part-time members, their introduction began with the mentorship program and mini academy. The mentorship program assigns all newly hired part-time members to a seasoned firefighter to assist them in learning the apparatus, equipment, department guidelines, etc. The mini-academy portion gives the new part-time member the opportunity to experience hands-on training with department apparatus and equipment. The mini academy consists of Ladder Operations, Engine Operations, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Emergency Vehicle Operations, Vehicle Extrication, Rope Rescue and Firefighter Safety. Of the initial fifteen (15) newly hired part-time personnel, eleven (11) remain at Washington Township and function as part-time staff.



Emergency Medical Services

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program serving Washington Township, including the City of Dublin, continued its mission in 2025 to deliver the highest quality emergency medical response and system coverage. Under the leadership of Fire Chief John Donahue, Assistant Chief Adam Smith, and EMS Manager Kevin McDowell, the program maintained oversight of critical operational components, including response time performance, resource deployment, and system-wide risk assessment. Significant progress was achieved through the finalization of updated EMS protocols and their successful integration into the Response Soft platform for operational use. The program met most of its established goals, including implementation of enhanced medication tracking and electronic signature processes, as well as the development of pediatric CPAP protocols for future deployment. Ongoing data analysis and quality assurance initiatives remain central to adapting services to evolving community needs.

Substantial advancements were also realized in training and equipment modernization. Throughout the year, quarterly didactic instruction and scenario-based, hands-on training delivered in collaboration with medical directors and education partners assured personnel met all required educational benchmarks. Key accomplishments included continued department-wide certification programs such as Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and International Trauma Life Support (ITLS), along with updates to the department's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program. The approval for the replacement of critical capital equipment in 2026, including all LifePak 15 cardiac monitors and LUCAS devices, further strengthened operational readiness.

Looking ahead, the EMS Program will continue to emphasize performance-based, data-driven improvements while expanding external training partnerships. Strategic priorities for the coming year include the implementation of a new electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) systems, exploring the use of iPad-based platforms, and increasing access to higher-level clinical training opportunities. In 2025 the department joined Dublin Police Department to implement a social worker or care coordinator role into EMS operations to support a more comprehensive, patient-centered approach to care. Continued investment in EMS supplies, capital equipment



replacement, and the acquisition of a new Squad 91 was critical to sustaining service delivery. By building upon the successes achieved in 2025, the EMS Program is well-positioned to meet increasing service demands while maintaining a strong commitment to clinical excellence and community care.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program serving Washington Township, including the City of Dublin, demonstrated a strong commitment to delivering efficient and effective emergency medical transport services throughout 2025. Under the leadership of Fire Chief John Donahue, Assistant Chief Adam Smith, and EMS Manager Kevin McDowell, the program consistently met critical operational benchmarks, reflecting a performance-driven approach to EMS delivery.

During the year, the department completed 3,277 patient transports, achieving over a 100% goal attainment rate. Hospital response times were maintained within 103% of the established target. The program achieved 100% compliance for trauma and STEMI transports, while 96.1% of stroke patients were transported to the most appropriate receiving facilities. Additionally, 116 personnel successfully met trauma triage training requirements, ensuring continued readiness for high-acuity patient care.

Key accomplishments in 2025 included the procurement of three (3) new paramedic ambulances equipped with power-load cot systems, enhancing both provider safety and patient care capabilities. The program also maintained active participation in the Central Ohio Trauma System, strengthening collaboration among fire departments, EMS agencies, and hospital emergency departments to support seamless patient care coordination.

EMS expenditures in 2025 were managed within the approved budget, allowing for the acquisition of new ambulances without exceeding financial allocations. The program continued to prioritize strong relationships with hospital liaisons, ensuring effective communication and continuity of care between EMS crews and receiving facilities. While detailed budget input and output metrics were not individually itemized, resource allocation remained aligned with the program's strategic goals, supporting both operational readiness and training requirements.

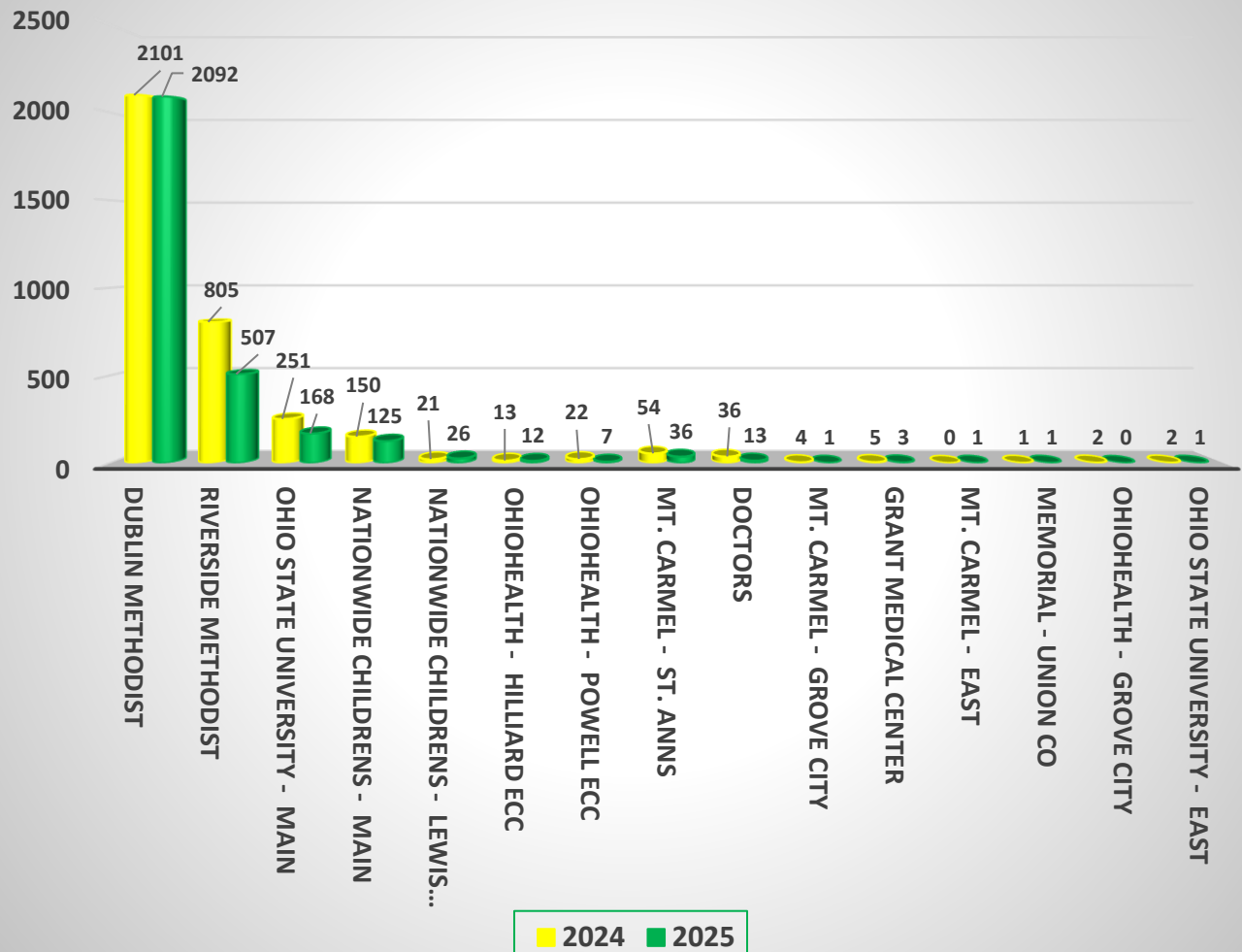
Looking ahead to 2026, the EMS Program will continue its data-driven approach to performance management while further enhancing service delivery capabilities. Strategic priorities for 2026

include the implementation of mass casualty incident (MCI) and active violence response training, ensuring personnel are prepared for complex and high-risk emergency scenarios. Funding for these initiatives has been incorporated into the EMS appraisal, demonstrating the township's continued commitment to high-quality, patient-centered emergency medical services.

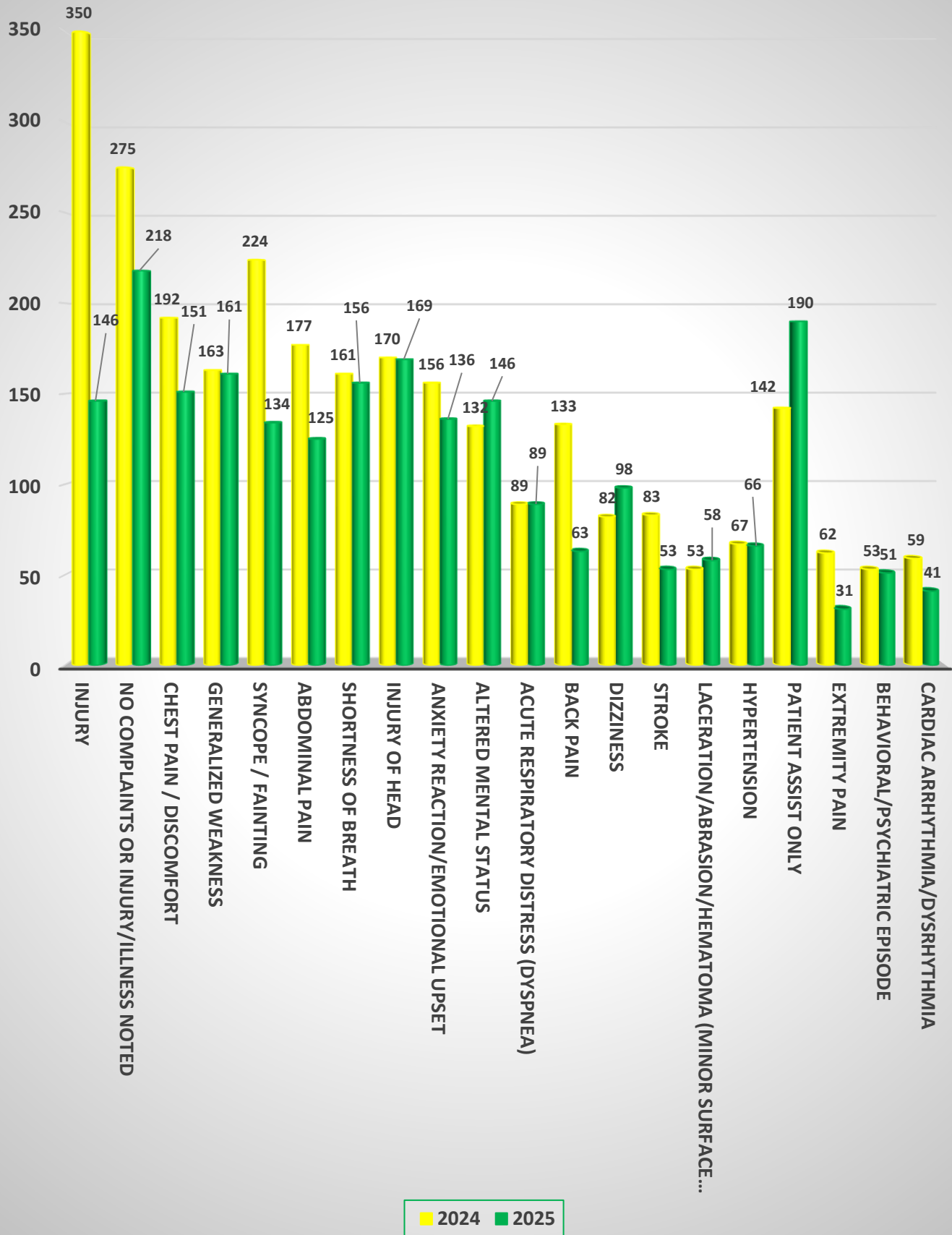
By building upon the successes achieved in 2025 and proactively addressing emerging challenges, the EMS Program remains well positioned to meet the evolving needs of the community.



Patient Transports by Destination

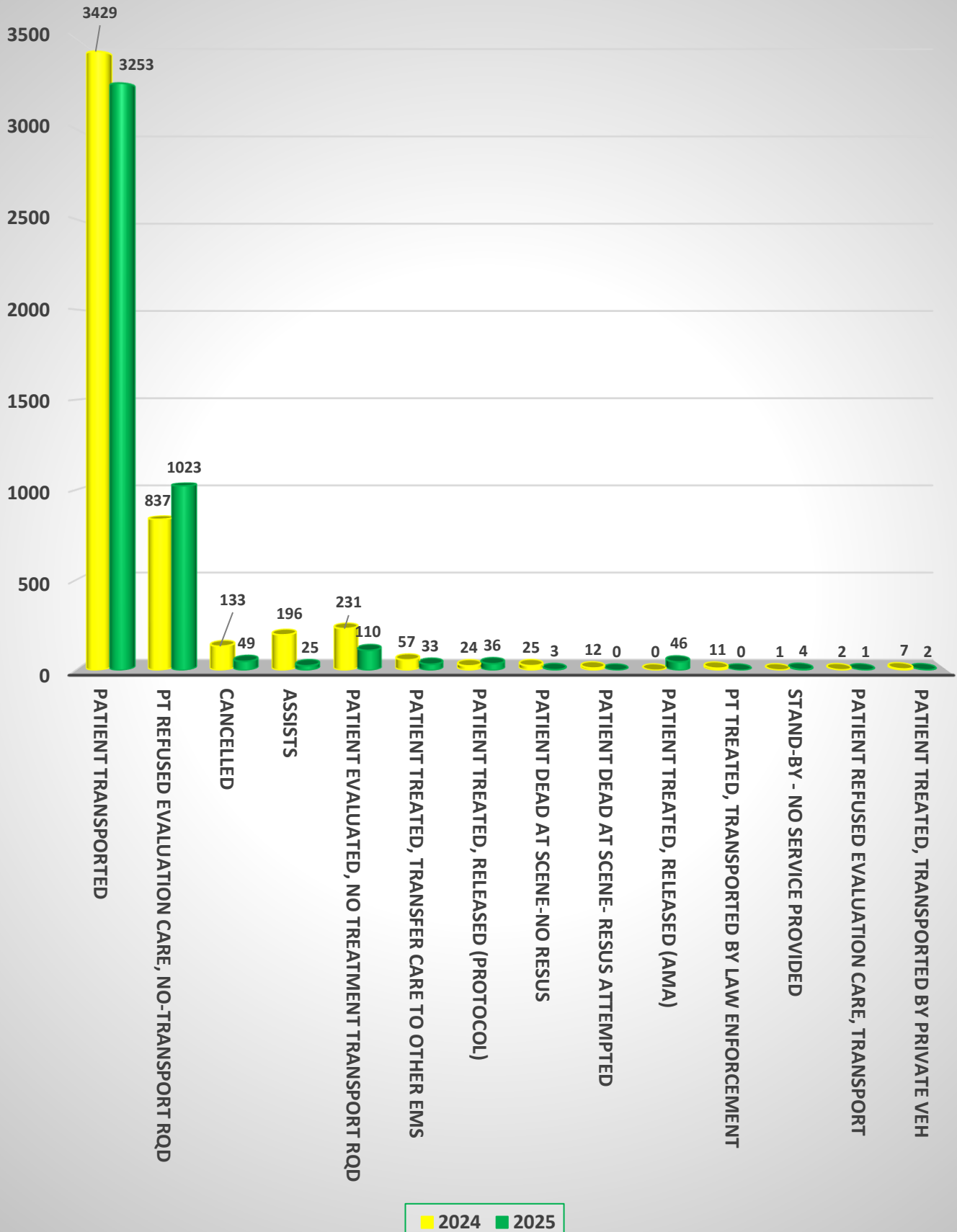


EMS Top 20 Clinical Impressions





EMS Incidents by Patient Dispositions



Wellness and Fitness

The department offers a comprehensive wellness program that supports both the physical and mental health of its personnel. A certified physical fitness trainer works with staff on Thursdays, while a licensed physical therapist is available to assist with both on- and off-duty injuries. In addition, a yoga instructor conducts weekly sessions on Fridays to promote flexibility, recovery, and stress reduction.

Each fire station and the Administration Building are equipped with dedicated fitness rooms and exercise equipment to support daily physical training. To address mental health needs, the department provides an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with a focus on mental health services. Personnel also have access to a psychologist who works directly with the department, as well as a chaplain who is available as needed.

In 2025, the Township provided a comprehensive, no-cost cancer screening program to all employees as part of its ongoing commitment to early detection and employee health. The screening included a nine-organ ultrasound conducted by United Diagnostic Services, which evaluated the liver, kidneys, pancreas, spleen, gallbladder, bladder, prostate or uterus, thyroid, and abdominal aorta for abnormalities or early indicators of disease. In addition, employees were offered a blood-based DNA cancer screening through Grail. This test analyzes circulating cell-free DNA to identify molecular signals associated with multiple types of cancer, allowing for the potential detection of cancer at earlier stages before symptoms are present.

The total cost of the cancer screening program to the Township was \$89,671.74.

The department has previously offered skin cancer screenings; however, scheduling challenges have limited availability in recent years. One shift successfully completed cancer screenings in 2025. Peer support members and personnel trained in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) are also available to support staff following critical incidents or as needed.



Training

The Safety and Training Program ensures firefighters and civilian staff receive adequate, consistent training while maintaining a strong focus on safety. The training component of the program monitors all required and continuing education training for uniformed personnel, as well as selected training for civilian staff. The safety component is dedicated to protecting responders and civilian personnel through injury prevention, policy development, and incident review.

All uniformed members of the department are required to maintain, at a minimum, Firefighter II (FFII) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certifications. Full-time members are additionally required to hold a Paramedic certification. Continuing education (CE) requirements are based on certification level and include 36 hours for FFII, 40 hours for EMT, 60 hours for Advanced EMT (AEMT), and 75 hours for Paramedic certification.

The department utilizes internal, state-certified instructors to conduct training. Certified instructors are required for all EMS-related training, while fire training may be conducted by any certified FFII. Currently, the department has 13 CE EMS Instructors and 38 combined Fire and EMS Instructors. Live fire training is conducted in accordance with state requirements and utilizes certified Live Fire Instructors. When necessary, staff members may be assigned overtime to support larger-scale training activities.

The Training Committee meets quarterly to develop and coordinate the departmental training schedule. All training sessions are documented and tracked electronically using ESO software. The Safety Committee meets monthly to review injuries and vehicle accidents and works closely with the Safety Officer to develop safety policies, review incidents, and address safety concerns raised by company personnel.

Throughout the year, the department utilized its burn prop, resulting in approximately 600 staff hours of live fire training in the burn building. Training goals for 2025 included:

- Maintaining a strong focus on safety
- Fire competency evaluations

- Monthly quality control training in ESO
- Priority-based training delivery

In 2025, the department recorded a total of thirteen (13) injuries, ten (10) of which occurred during training activities. Of those training-related injuries, seven (7) were classified as reportable under the Public Employee Risk Reduction Program (PERRP).

In 2025, the department experienced nine (9) vehicle accidents.

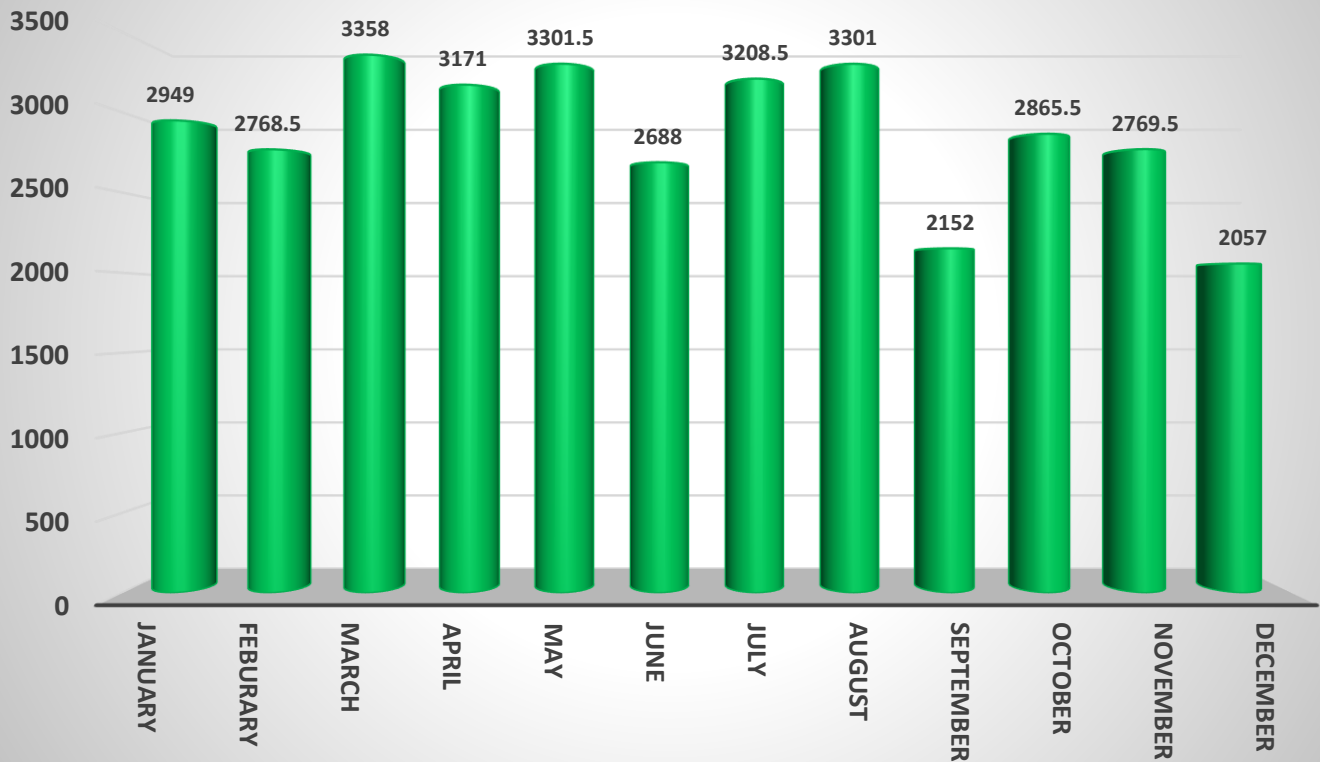
Overall training hours and class sessions increased, due in part to improved documentation practices and an emphasis on accurately capturing all training activity. Training statistics are as follows:

2025: 8,815 sessions; 34,996 hours
2024: 4,842 sessions; 35,470 hours
2023: 4,931 sessions; 37,161 hours, plus 1,945 hours of external training
2022: 4,294 sessions; 31,616 hours
2021: 4,146 sessions; 32,678 hours
2020: 4,355 sessions; 34,082 hours

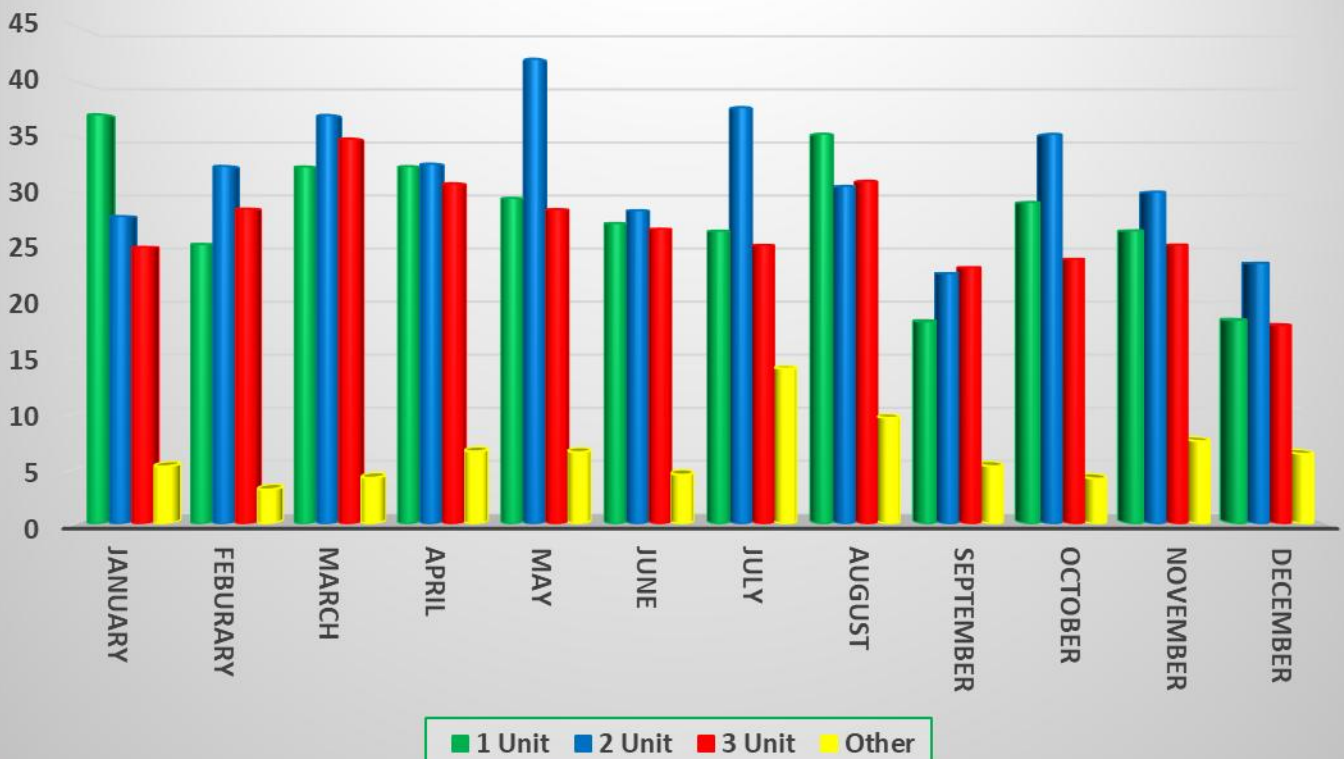




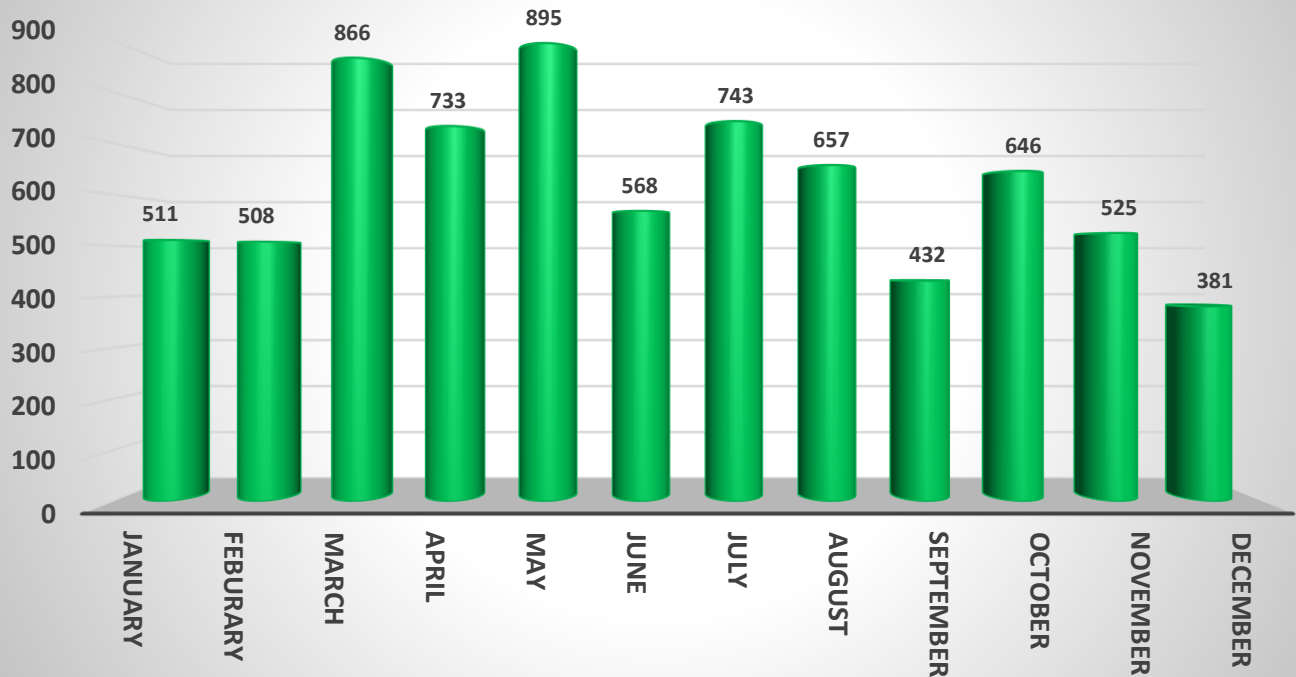
Total Training Hours by Month



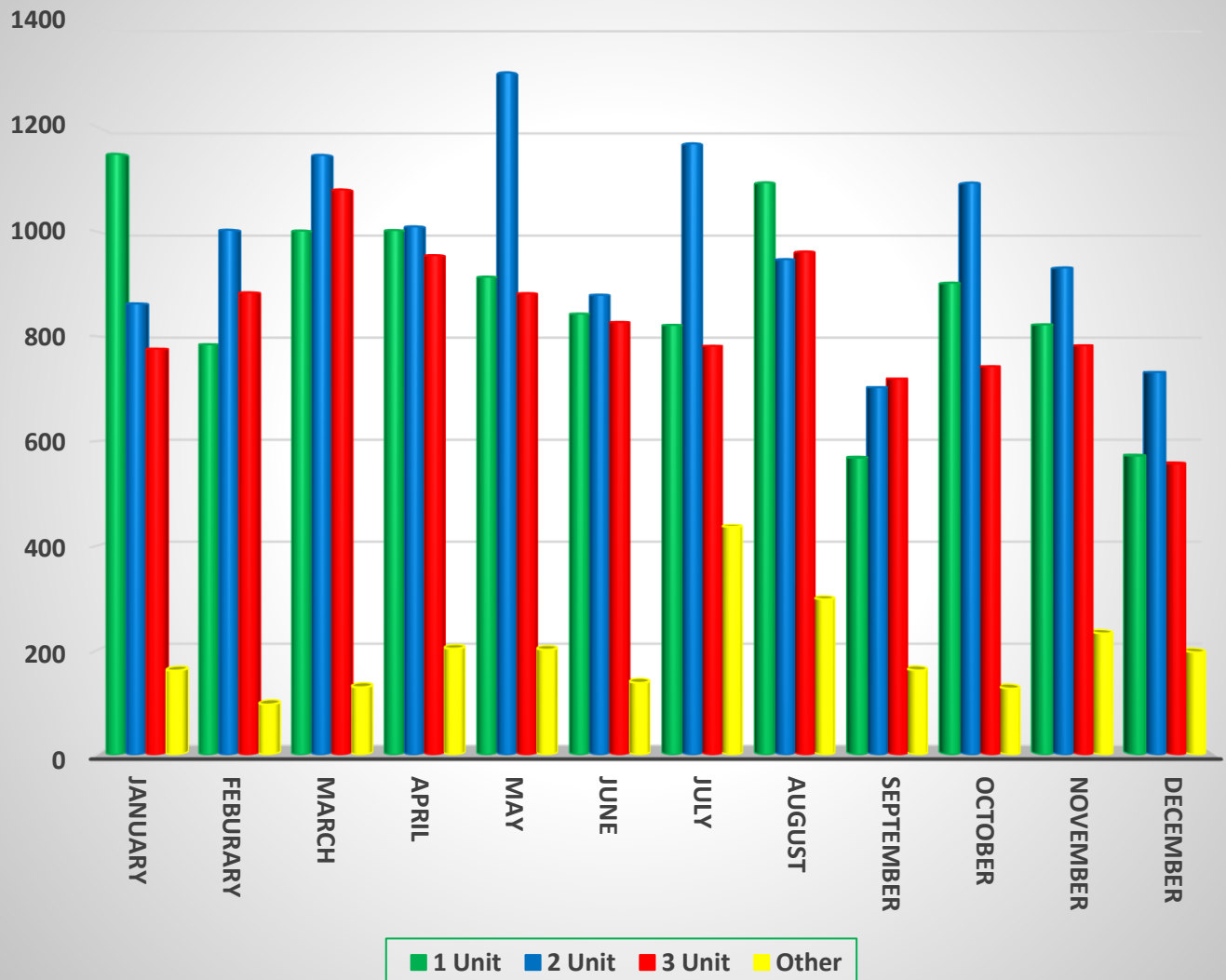
Average Training Hours by Person



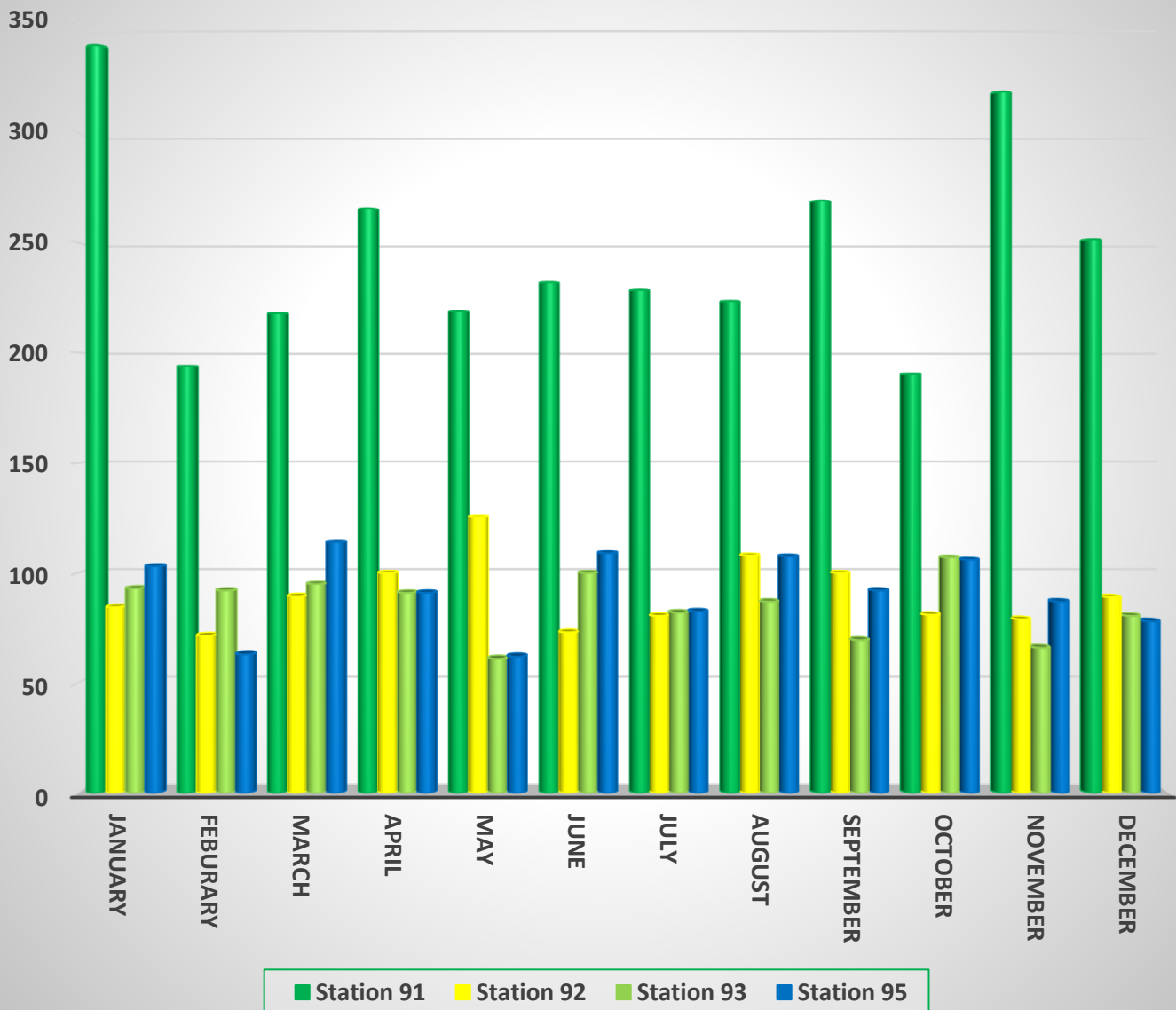
Total Classes by Month



Total Training Hours by Shift



Total Training Hours by Station per Month





Prevention

The Washington Township Fire Prevention Bureau is staffed by five (5) full-time fire inspectors, including a Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal, along with one (1) Community Safety Liaison. In 2025, Fire Prevention Bureau personnel conducted one thousand nine hundred twenty-seven (1,927) fire safety inspections. These inspections included fire protection system installations, new construction inspections, ongoing compliance inspections for existing commercial occupancies, re-inspections, and home safety inspections.

Of the total inspections completed, three hundred ninety-three (393) were new construction inspections conducted in coordination with the City of Dublin Building Department. Construction inspections are performed throughout the construction process and conclude when the Building Department issues an occupancy certificate to the property owner.

Fire inspectors also conducted thirty-nine (39) special event inspections to ensure code compliance for tents, inflatable attractions, and other temporary structures at public and private events held on public property within the City of Dublin and Washington Township.

In addition to inspections, Washington Township Fire Prevention staff conducts plan reviews for all new and remodeled commercial facilities within the City of Dublin. During 2025, the Bureau completed four hundred sixty-six (466) plan reviews.

Fire Prevention staff also delivered multiple training sessions to Washington Township Fire Department personnel focused on unique construction features and fire protection systems within the coverage area. This training included hands-on instruction with fire alarm and fire suppression systems, as well as pre-incident planning for large-scale special events such as the Memorial Golf Tournament and the Dublin Irish Festival.

The Washington Township Fire Department (WTFD) Fire Preventing Bureau investigates the origin and cause of all fires occurring in the WTFD coverage area. In 2025, the Fire Prevention Bureau investigated twenty-six (26) fires, including structure fires, vehicle fires, and outside fires of unknown origin.

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2025 fire investigation accomplishments include:

- Two (2) cases presented to the Franklin County Grand Jury
- Renewing access to the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) to assist in fire investigations
- Increasing the tools and safety equipment to assist Fire Investigators in conducting fire investigations
- Attending multiple fire investigation trainings to ensure WTFD Fire Investigators remain current with modern fire investigation practices

All fire investigations conducted in 2025 by a Washington Township Fire Investigator were conducted via the scientific method as well as utilizing NFPA 921 as a reference guide to ensure consistency in investigations. The Fire Prevention Bureau increased the capabilities of its Fire Investigators by purchasing a cache of fire investigation tools and equipment.





Community Involvement

Over the past year, significant progress was made toward expanding community risk reduction efforts and achieving the 2025 public education goals. Work to grow the community CPR program focused on increasing the number of CPR instructors, strengthening partnerships with schools, and expanding outreach to new audiences through community events and local businesses. Training needs were assessed to support these efforts, with an emphasis on identifying and developing qualified CPR instructors. These steps will help ensure the long-term sustainability and continued growth of the CPR program while strengthening the overall capacity of public education initiatives moving forward.

Exploring the potential for a fire safety education program for local schools was identified as a key goal; however, this effort was not completed during the reporting period. Initial conversations occurred internally to assess feasibility, define program scope, and identify resource and staffing considerations. While outreach to schools has not yet begun, this goal will continue into the next year, with plans to engage school partners, assess interest, and develop age-appropriate educational materials to support a sustainable and effective school-based fire safety program.

Communication and engagement with Dublin Homeowners Associations (HOAs) were strengthened through close coordination with the City of Dublin. An updated list of HOAs was obtained to enhance outreach and improve communication efforts. Participation in the City of Dublin's biannual HOA meetings provided valuable opportunities to share fire and life safety information, build relationships with HOA leadership, and identify community needs. To enhance resident education and support data-driven outreach efforts, the age of smoke alarms being replaced is now documented during resident inquiries and assistance requests. This information helps identify neighborhoods with aging smoke alarms and allows education efforts to be targeted where they are most needed. One example of this outreach includes the development of a community-specific smoke alarm flier, created to help residents understand which replacement alarms are compatible with their existing systems and what to purchase. Additional outreach efforts included working directly with residents to provide smoke alarm education and attending neighborhood block parties, allowing for meaningful face-to-face engagement and increased visibility within the community.

Modernizing public education materials remained a priority, with an emphasis on improving clarity, accessibility, and relevance. Existing resources were reviewed and updated, and strong partnerships

were established with local schools to support translation efforts. These collaborations created a pathway for developing and providing multilingual fire and CPR education materials, helping ensure outreach efforts are inclusive and accessible to the broader community. To further improve access to information at community events, tabletop QR code banners were purchased, allowing residents to quickly connect to digital resources and educational materials.

In addition, an “After the Fire” packet was developed to guide residents through the recovery process, along with a newly created “After the Fire” kit containing essential comfort and hygiene items. These kits include items such as a first aid kit, blanket, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, hairbrushes, and other necessities to support immediate needs following a fire. Development of an “After Death” pamphlet is nearing completion and will provide clear, compassionate guidance for residents during times of loss.





Disaster Preparedness

The Township has fire department members that serve on the Dublin City Schools Safety Task Force, which met three (3) times to discuss safety response issues and plans with school officials, Fire Prevention personnel, and local law enforcement tasked with responding to events in the school district. The department took over the responsibilities of lead CPR/First Aid educators for the Dublin City Schools' high school students. While the department pays the personnel for the time instructing the students, reimbursement is received from Dublin City Schools. The Department planned events with the Dublin Police Department and the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC) on an Active Violence Incident, as well as a Structural Collapse scenario. Additionally, the department held a tabletop drill focused on an IT Ransomware Attack, testing the response plan that is in place.

Additional trainings attended by department personnel included the Ohio Counterterrorism Conference, Fire Prevention personnel attended the Post-Blast Investigation class and Initial Response to Terrorist Bombing class in New Mexico; four members attended the TEEX Sports and Special Events Incident management; the Ohio Tactical Officers Association's Active Shooter conference; two members attended the THIRA class at the FCHSEMA; one member attended the Highway Emergency Response Specialist course; and helped plan the Ohio University Disaster Day, teaching Stop the Bleed.

As a regional partner, department personnel participated in the Union County Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) meeting, assisted the Delaware Tactical Unit in drills, and were active as Incident Liaison Officers, attending the Annual Conference. Battalion Chief Riebel and Lieutenant John Guegold, as lead on the department's Domestic Preparedness program, attended the OTOA Active Shooter Response Conference.

The department plans to continue to partner with Dublin City Schools in teaching CPR/First Aid to students, staff and faculty. This will be accomplished by increasing the total number of instructors by five (5) in 2026. The department will continue to serve on the Dublin City Schools Safety Committee, providing insights and recommendations from the fire department perspective. The department plans to continue revising and training on the Active Violence

Incident Response Plan, and to hold quarterly training on various aspects of the Disaster Response Plan.



Facilities

Washington Township experienced another active year in facilities management. Major projects completed included kitchen cabinet replacements at Stations 92 and 93, parking lot resealing, HVAC system replacement at the Administration building, and bay door replacements at Station 91.

Significant facility-related expenditure for the year included:

- Parking lot resealing: \$20,861
- Cabinet replacements: \$58,150
- HVAC replacement: \$86,900
- Bay door replacements at Station 91: \$67,450
- Exterior façade repair and painting: \$11,242.41
- Fence repair and replacement: \$10,130

Looking ahead to 2026, the township will evaluate opportunities to reorganize the facilities maintenance program, including improvements to the system used to report and track maintenance issues. Additionally, consideration should be given to proactively replacing the oldest generator at Station 91 to modernize the system and reduce the risk of malfunction or failure.





Fire Station 91

6255 Shier Ring Rd.
Dublin Ohio 43016

Fire Station 92

4497 Hard Rd.
Dublin Ohio 43016



Fire Station 93

5825 Brand Rd.
Dublin Ohio 43016

Fire Station 95

5750 Blazer Parkway
Dublin Ohio 43017



Township Administration

6200 Eiterman Rd.
Dublin Ohio 43017



Apparatus Maintenance

In 2025, the Fire Department received and placed Engine 92 into service. The former Engine 92 was refurbished and designated as a viable backup apparatus, allowing the department to maintain two spare engines. The department also received two (2) new Braun EMS vehicles in late December 2024, which were placed into service in early 2025 as M92 and M93. M/Sq91 was received and placed into service in late 2025. The former M92 and M93 were moved to reserve status, the former Sq91 was reassigned to replace the dive truck, and M95 and M96 are being sold. These changes allow the department to maintain two (2) reserve EMS transport units.

All apparatus underwent annual fire pump testing and ladder testing performed by Command Fire Testing in accordance with NFPA guidelines. Prior to annual aerial ladder testing, all aerial ladders were serviced by Sutphen Corporation. Preventive maintenance was completed on all fire department apparatus at designated intervals: every 250 hours of operation for engines, ladders, rescue units, and EMS transport apparatus, and every 5,000 miles of operation for all other apparatus. Total maintenance expenditures are \$304,229.40.



Personal Protective Equipment

The Fire Department's turnout gear program remains progressive and continues to reflect the department's strong commitment to firefighter safety and operational readiness. During the year, the department successfully purchased 23 sets of LION turnout gear as part of the established replacement cycle and new-hire outfitting program. The department continues to utilize the NAS-T turnout gear common specification, enabling participation in cooperative purchasing and securing discounted pricing through LION.

During the hiring process for two new full-time members, the department was able to acquire two sets of turnout gear from another NAS-T department, ensuring there was no delay in issuing required protective equipment to new personnel. Additionally, through a successful \$15,000 Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) grant awarded in 2024, the department issued more than 100 protective hoods. All NFPA-rated escape/ladder belts purchased at the end of 2024 were also issued, further enhancing the functionality of the turnout gear ensemble and improving firefighter safety.

NFPA-compliant turnout gear inspection, cleaning, and repair services continued to be provided by Turnouts LLC. The department anticipates further improvements to this process in 2026 with the planned implementation of liquid CO₂ (LCO₂) cleaning technology, along with the addition of hood inspection and cleaning services. In support of a complete and standardized gear ensemble, the department also purchased 125 Stream light Survivor flashlights for personnel use.

Significant investments were made throughout the year in turnout gear purchases, gear rental, and third-party inspection and repair services. Total expenditure for the year amounted to \$152,619.96.



Major expenditure included:

- 23 sets of LION turnout gear
- 2 sets of LION turnout gear acquired from another NAS-T department
- 19 structural firefighting helmets
- 18 pairs of structural firefighting boots
- 125 Stream light Survivor flashlights
- 6 NFPA-rated escape/ladder belts
- 216 sets of turnout gear inspected by Turnouts LLC



Tools and Equipment

The Small Tools Program completed several projects and equipment upgrades in 2025. Notable accomplishments included the outfitting of the new Engine 92. The primary focus of the program during 2025 was the replacement of aging and damaged equipment to maintain operational readiness.

Key replacements included the purchase of a new Bullard QXT thermal imaging camera for Engine 95 to replace an aging unit. New Paratech medium-pressure air bags were acquired to replace trench cushions that had reached the end of their service life. A new chain saw was purchased for Ladder 91, replacing a nearly 20-year-old unit. Additionally, new appliances were purchased to improve continuity and standardization across the department's standpipe kits. Numerous other minor purchases were made to update and sustain the department's overall equipment cache.

The program also ensured that all annual testing for hydraulic rescue tools was completed through MES service contracts. These tools were utilized in seven (7) vehicle extrications during 2025. Department members assisted with the repair and rebuilding of damaged equipment, resulting in cost savings to the department.

High-priority goals for 2026 include the replacement of one Bullard thermal imaging camera and one personal thermal imaging camera, as well as updates to Rope Rescue equipment on Rescue 91. Additional objectives include replacing aging water and ice rescue suits and personal flotation devices (PFDs), along with the replacement of another aging gas-powered saw.



Grants

During the year 2025, the Washington Township Fire Department Grant Writing Program successfully streamlined the identification, application, and management of grant opportunities to support departmental operations, training, and equipment needs. Under the leadership of Fire Chief Donahue and Lieutenant Jeffrey Larger, the program submitted multiple competitive grant applications and achieved a strong success rate.

The department secured \$10,386.36 through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to support officer development training, \$29,468.76 from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for the purchase of a Polaris Ranger Crew XP to support special event EMS operations, and \$3,500 from the State of Ohio EMS Grant for critical EMS equipment. Additional grant efforts included applications for cardiac monitors, fire prevention initiatives such as Knox Box installations, and coordination with regional partners on homeland security funding opportunities.

Overall, the program demonstrated strong performance, with most grant objectives successfully achieved, minimal direct impact on the departmental budget beyond required matching funds, and continued positioning of the department to pursue future funding opportunities supporting fire prevention, EMS services, and community safety initiatives.



Information Technology

Washington Township contracts with the MAXTech Agency to provide comprehensive information technology services. MAXTech delivers 24/7/365 support based on a priority response system and maintains an on-site presence three (3) days per week. Technology plays a critical role within the Fire Department by supporting record management systems essential to service delivery, maintaining hardware and network infrastructure, enabling communications (email, phone, and video), and supporting data analysis.

In 2025, the Department completed and initiated several key technology projects, including the planned replacement of desktop computers, laptops, and computer monitors; establishment of a backup internet provider; implementation of Microsoft 365; and initiation of ImageTrend Fire/EMS records management and TCP/Aladtec scheduling software, both scheduled for a go-live on January 1, 2026. Additional efforts included beginning implementation of the WTWPDublinOH.gov domain, installing a new server at the DartPoints data center, and conducting a HIPAA compliance audit. The Department also collaborated with the City of Dublin in the evaluation of a new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and facilitated the implementation of a community drone program that provides live video feeds to incident commanders.

In 2026, the Department plans to continue its collaboration with the City of Dublin on the implementation of a new CAD system, with a targeted go-live in 2027. Additional objectives include executing Business Associate Agreements (BAAs) with all applicable agencies to ensure HIPAA compliance, completing implementation of the Department's HIPAA policy, and conducting quarterly backup system restore tests. The Department will also continue to invest in training initiatives, including regional cybersecurity training, internal user education, copyright compliance training, and email phishing awareness training.



Dive Team

The Washington Township Dive Team is composed of Washington Township firefighters who are committed to ongoing training and dedicated to ensuring the safety of Washington Township residents, as well as supporting mutual aid districts during underwater emergency operations. The team continues to actively recruit qualified personnel and is working toward adding three (3) additional divers in 2026.

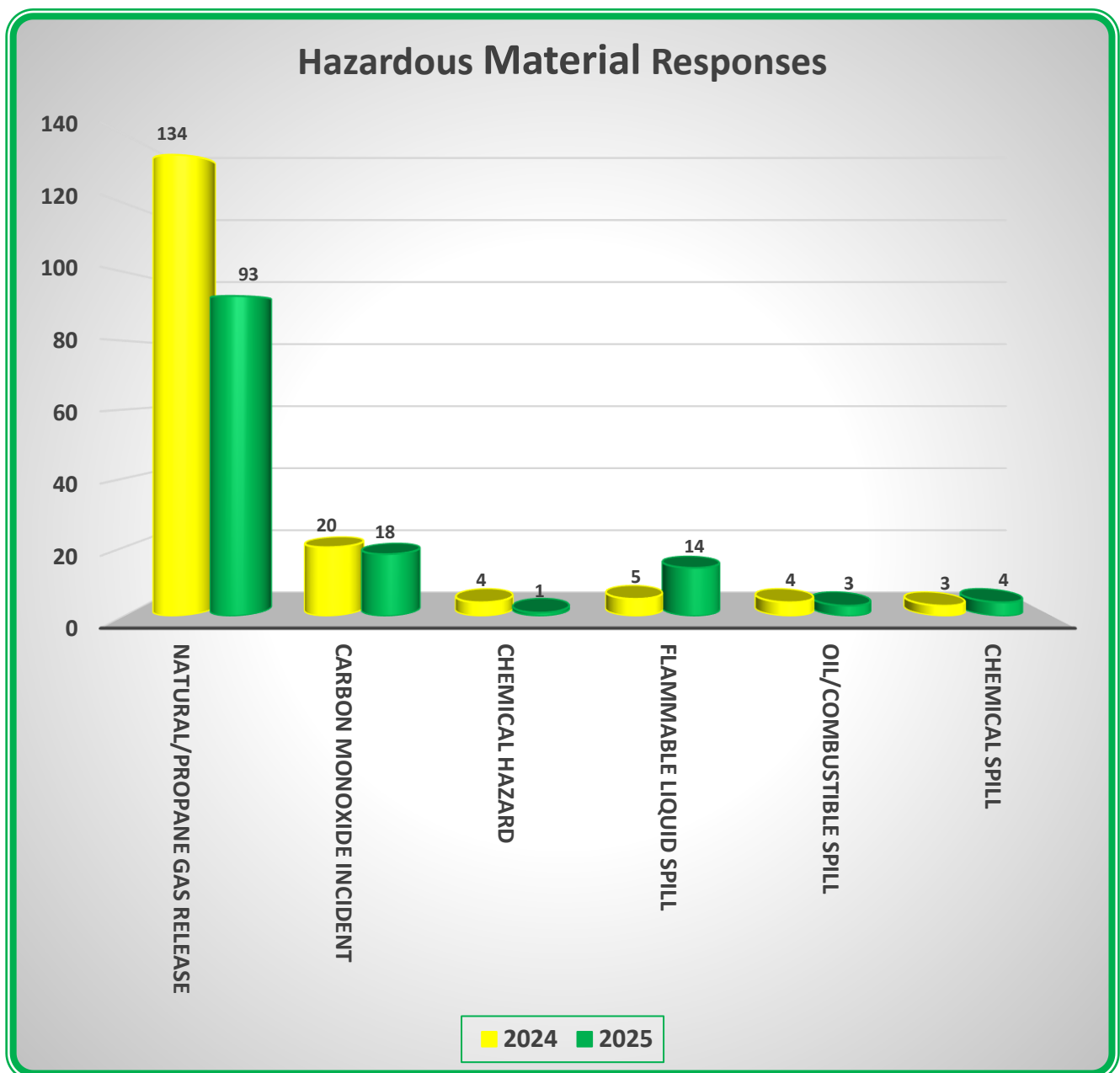
The Dive Team will continue to advocate for the issuance of individually assigned dry suits for its members. Properly fitted dry suits enhance diver safety, improve comfort and performance, and are expected to reduce overall repair and maintenance costs in 2026.

Throughout the year, the Washington Township Dive Team maintained all assigned equipment and documented more than 600 hours of training. In addition, the team responded to five (5) dive-related incidents in 2025, further strengthening operational experience and readiness.



Haz-Mat

In 2025, the hazardous materials program emphasized preparedness, procedural consistency, and strong collaboration with regional partners to ensure safe and effective incident response. The department responded to routine hazardous materials incidents—including fuel spills, gas leaks, carbon monoxide alarms, and unknown odor complaints—which were mitigated safely and in accordance with established response guidelines.



Training efforts centered on regular company-level instruction to reinforce foundational hazardous materials skills and ensure all personnel maintained a working level of competency. To enhance monitoring capabilities, new radiation detection equipment was purchased and will be placed into service upon finalization of the associated operating procedures. The department also maintained close coordination with regional hazardous materials teams and partner agencies, particularly during joint training activities and special events.

Program funding was managed responsibly, with a focus on maintaining response readiness, supporting equipment maintenance, and planning for future operational needs. Looking ahead, the hazardous materials program will continue to advance through targeted training initiatives, selective equipment upgrades, and ongoing regional cooperation to support responses across the full spectrum of hazardous materials incidents.



Technical Rescue

The diverse demographics within Washington Township require a broad range of specialized skill sets to effectively deliver emergency services beyond traditional fire and EMS responses. The Technical Rescue Program provides an additional layer of capability for incidents requiring advanced knowledge, training, and specialized equipment to safely rescue individuals in hazardous environments. Technical rescue responses include high-angle rope rescues, vehicle and machinery extrications, confined space incidents, trench rescues, elevator rescues, swift water and surface water rescues, and structural collapses.

The program emphasizes both initial and recurring training for personnel, as well as the inspection, maintenance, and readiness of technical rescue equipment.

2025 Technical Rescue Incident Activity

- Auto Accidents: 213 injury-related incidents and 138 non-injury incidents, for a total of 351 auto accidents or pedestrian-involved incidents
- Working Extrications: Seven (7) auto accident incidents involved eight (8) working extrications, with an average extrication time of 7 minutes and 28 seconds
- Building Collapses: Three (3) incidents involving vehicles striking structures, resulting in damage that required shoring; five (5) temporary shores were constructed
- Elevator Rescues: Thirty (30) incidents required the removal of occupants from stalled elevators
- Water Rescues: The dive team was dispatched to six (6) incidents, including two (2) vehicle-into-water responses requiring diver deployment; one (1) victim was recovered

On-duty personnel completed a total of 2,078 hours of technical rescue training in 2025. Training topics included rope rescue, swift water rescue, ice rescue, dive rescue, vehicle extrication, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and structural collapse rescue. The department hosted a Rope Rescue Technician certification course for seven (7) members. Additionally, twenty (20) WTFD personnel completed certification courses through external agencies, including rope operations and technician, swift water operations and technician, auto extrication technician (passenger and heavy vehicle), confined space operations, trench rescue operations, and

structural collapse operations.

The Washington Township Fire Department also maintains representation on several regional, state, and federal technical rescue teams, including the Upper Scioto Water Rescue Team, Region 4 Central Ohio Strike Team (COST), and Ohio Task Force One. Members assigned to these specialty teams completed a combined 295 hours of training and administrative support during 2025.



Honor Guard

The Washington Township Fire Department Honor Guard provides a formal drill and ceremony unit for funerals of current or retired members, other department functions, and color guard for requested civic events. Over the course of 2025, the group added one member to bring the current roster to nineteen (19) members.

The Honor Guard participated in ceremonies at five different events, including assisting with two funerals for firefighters from neighboring departments and the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. The group performed Color Guard duties for opening ceremonies at the Washington Township Annual Awards Banquet and for the Dublin Irish Festival Parade.

Regular meetings and training sessions occurred quarterly, with 14 members participating in a total of 46 hours of training.



Bike Patrol

The EMS Bike Patrol maintained a roster of twenty (20) personnel and continued its partnership with Trek of Dublin for all maintenance needs. The Bike Patrol provided coverage at four (4) City of Dublin special events: the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Memorial Tournament, the Fourth of July Parade and related festivities, and the Dublin Irish Festival. During the year, the Bike Patrol incurred \$1,150 in outsourced maintenance costs.

Looking ahead, the EMS Bike Patrol aims to expand beyond special event coverage and be integrated as a staffed apparatus during the riding season when staffing allows. Goals for 2026 include maintaining a current roster of twenty (20) personnel; completing preventive maintenance on all bicycles in preparation for the 2026 special events season; participating in all major City of Dublin events; purchasing two (2) new bicycles and initiating a long-term bicycle replacement plan; continuing to explore grant opportunities for e-bikes; and implementing a structured continuing education program that includes a written examination and hands-on skills assessments prior to the early spring riding season.



Hydrants

The Washington Township Fire Department continued to enhance the exchange of information related to fire hydrant maintenance, location, clearance, and identification. Ongoing improvements in communication and coordination with the City of Dublin ensure hydrant data remain accurate, consistent, and current.

The implementation of the City works program in 2023 significantly improved the department's ability to maintain accurate hydrant records, track hydrant status, and streamline communication with the City of Dublin. Additional City works features made available to field crews in 2025 further increased efficiency in data collection and repair coordination while remaining a user-friendly platform.

During the spring, a total of 3,633 hydrants were flushed, pumped, and lubricated. In early fall, 387 dead-end hydrants were flushed, pumped, and lubricated. Additionally, 3,363 hydrants were checked and lubricated in the fall, and 363 hydrants underwent flow testing during early fall operations.



Fire Hose

The Fire Hose Program tested and documented 26,700 feet of fire hose in 2025. The program continued to follow the established replacement plan while also taking advantage of discounted purchasing opportunities when available. During the year, the program took delivery of 1,100 feet of hose for the new Engine 92, along with 400 feet of reserve 5-inch hose designated for use on ER91 in 2026.

The program also led department-wide training focused on 2-inch hose deployment, hose capabilities, and individual proficiency in hose handling techniques.



