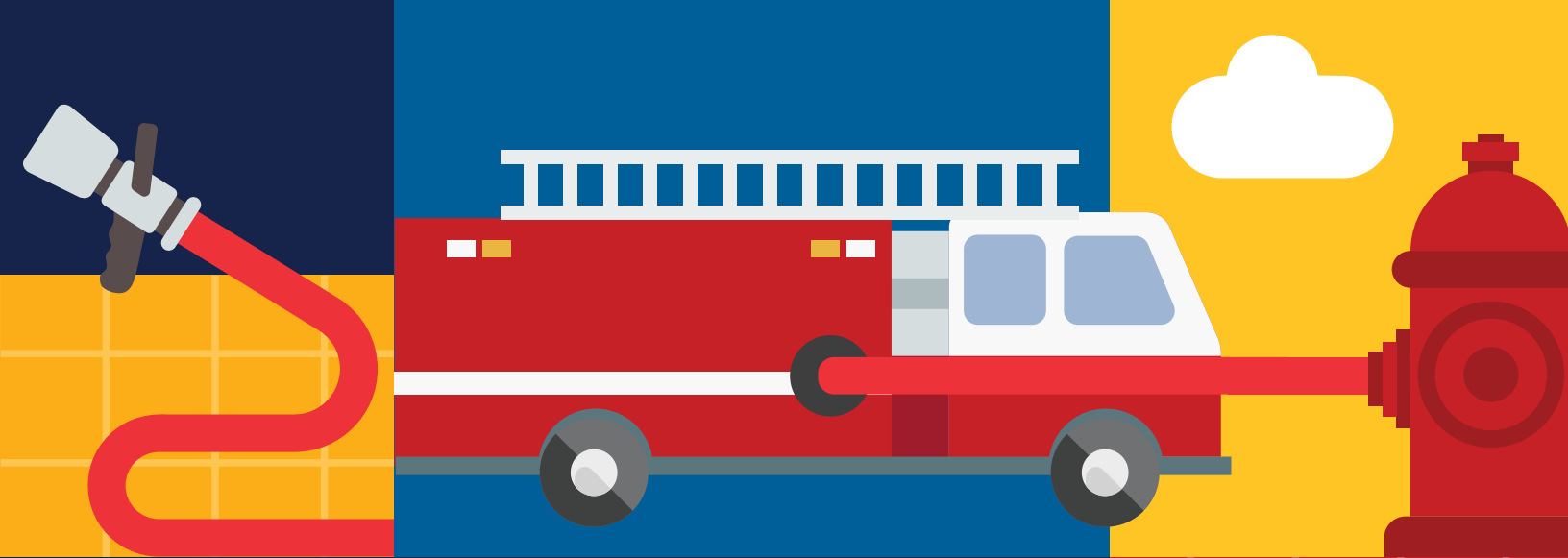


HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE
& EMERGENCY 2022 – 2023

Annual Report



HALIFAX



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Message From the Chief

I am pleased to present Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency's (HRFE) 2022/23 Annual Report. The past year has been one of significant achievements for HRFE.

The impact of Hurricane Fiona demanded an exceptional response from our entire team. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was operational for nearly a week, and HRFE deployed the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) Task Force 5 team to Cape Breton and Pictou in the aftermath of the hurricane.

We introduced a FireSmart strategy to mitigate the increasing Wildland Urban Interface risk, with efforts in internal training and public education and awareness across the municipality advancing steadily.

A Service Level Agreement with Corporate Fleet was finalized, and a new performance dashboard is under development to ensure the operational effectiveness and readiness of HRFE's emergency fleet.

An Evaluation Committee has been established to procure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) as the current equipment approaches the end of its useful life.

Furthermore, HRFE has been accepted as a registered agency with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, marking the initial step in the fire service accreditation process. Achieving this prestigious certification will place HRFE among a select group of Canadian and American fire services recognized for excellence.

Despite the delays in the release of this report due to the challenges faced following the fiscal year, I am proud to share our accomplishments. The dedication of our members has been instrumental in reaching these milestones.

Thank you for your ongoing support and taking the time to review HRFE's 2022/23 Annual Report.

Kenneth Stuebing
Executive Director, Fire Chief

Who We Are

OUR MISSION

Our members are dedicated to enhancing and preserving quality of life, property and environment through education, leadership, partnerships and effective response to emergencies to ensure the residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality live in safe, inclusive and welcoming communities.

OUR VALUES - SPIRIT

SAFETY: Commitment to a safe community and workplace.

PRIDE: In our performance, the service we provide and the communities we serve.

INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY: In everything we do, an organization that is trusted by those we serve.

RESPECT: The uniqueness and diversity of others. All our actions and interactions with others reflect on HRFE.

INNOVATION: Building a sustainable emergency service strategy for the future and remaining relevant in a changing landscape.

TEAMWORK and COMMUNICATION: Together we are better. Open, honest, timely and respectful communications are always welcome.

OUR CORNERSTONES

1. Public Safety and Trust

2. Workplace Safety

3. Performance and Brand Integrity

4. Teamwork and Leadership

MUNICIPAL DIRECTION

The [*Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Administrative Order*](#) is available to read on our website, where it outlines the fire and emergency services HRFE is responsible for fulfilling. It also outlines our Fire Prevention responsibilities for providing a system of inspections to provide for fire safety, ensuring compliance with the *Fire Safety Act*, as the Local Assistant to the Fire Marshal with respect to fire code inspections, enforcement and fire investigation.

The full administrative order as well as [E-100 the Emergency Management By-law](#), and [F-100 the Fire Prevention By-law](#) are all available on HRM's website under City Hall documents.

In 2023, Emergency Management was moved from HRFE to a newly created Business Unit, Safe Communities. These documents will be updated in time to reflect this move.

Budget

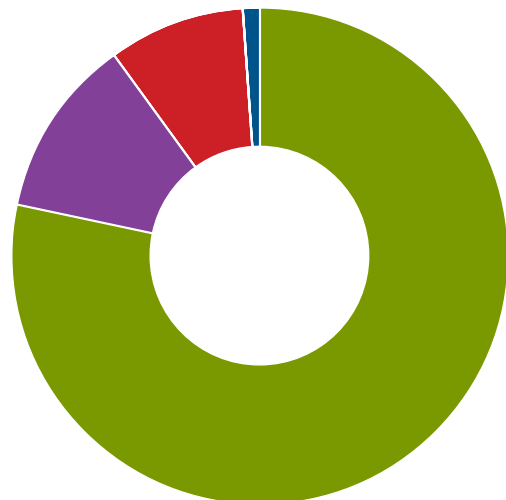
Total Budget: \$77,646,700

Service Area	2022/23	%
Fire Chief's Office	500,000	1%
Performance and Safety	5,264,100	7%
Operations	64,451,600	83%
Community Risk Reduction, Professional Development, Logistics & Medical	7,431,000	10%
Expenditures	2021/22*	2022/23
Building Costs	215,600	215,600
Compensation and Benefits	73,126,900	74,574,500
Equipment & Communications	568,800	563,800
External Services	312,500	343,900
Office	239,700	239,700
Other Fiscal	15,000	15,000
Other Goods & Services	1,022,900	1,047,900
Supplies	929,000	899,000

*Expenditure numbers appear smaller than in some categories, compared to what was reported in the 2021/22 Annual Report. This is due to how the Finance Department cost centre expenditures are calculated with the Emergency Management division having moved to Community Safety, despite that Business Unit not yet existing in 2021/22.

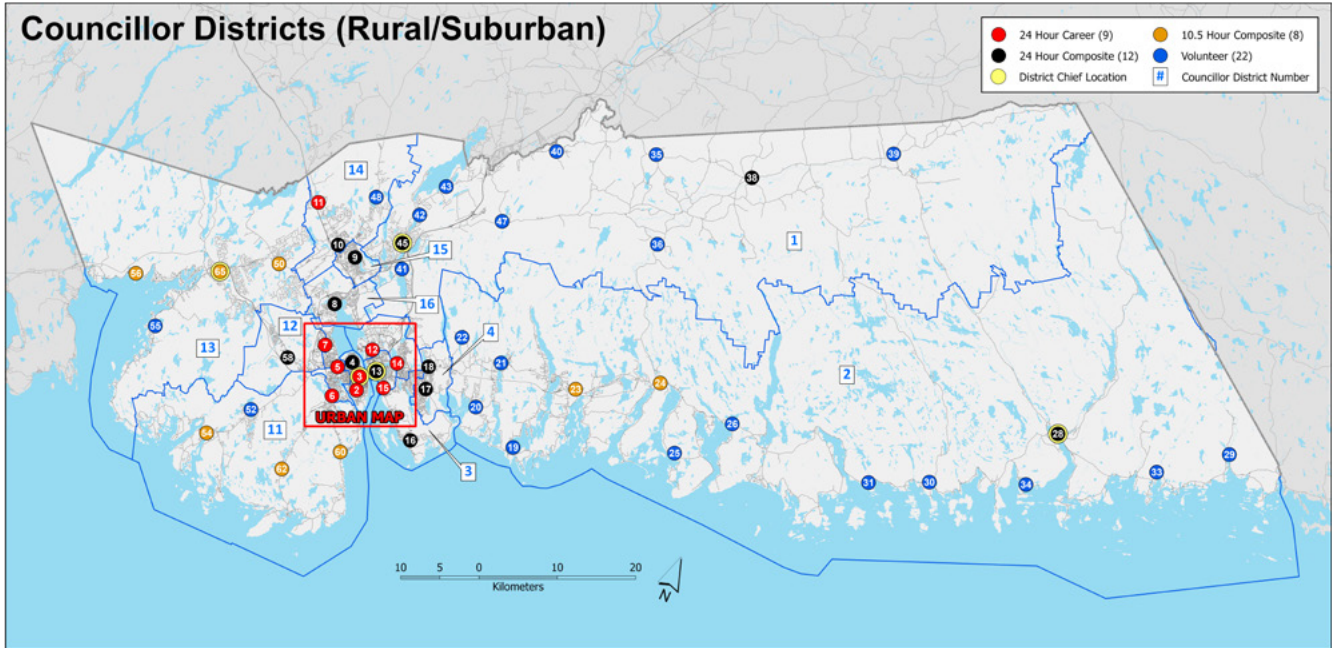
2022/23 OPERATING BUDGET BY SERVICE AREA

- Office of the Fire Chief (including Senior Administration)
- Performance and Safety
- Operations
- Community Risk Reduction, Professional Development, Logistics & Medical



Response Areas

Councillor Districts (Rural/Suburban)



- #1 40 Alderney Dr, Dartmouth (HQ)
- #2 5988 University Ave, Halifax
- #3 5663 West St, Halifax
- #4 5830 Duffus St, Halifax
- #5 7090 Bayers Rd, Halifax
- #6 245 Herring Cove Rd, Halifax
- #7 45 Knightsridge Dr, Halifax
- #8 15 Convoy Run, Bedford
- #9 1 Metropolitan Blvd, Sackville
- #10 1156 Sackville Dr, Sackville
- #11 479 Patton Rd, Sackville
- #12 45 Highfield Park Dr, Dartmouth
- #13 86 King St, Dartmouth
- #14 1 Second St, Dartmouth
- #15 331 Pleasant St, Dartmouth
- #16 1807 Caldwell Rd, Eastern Passage
- #17 1150 Cole Harbour Rd, Cole Harbour
- #18 690 Highway 7, Westphal

- #19 2385 Crowell Rd, East Lawrencetown
- #20 2931 Lawrencetown Rd, Lawrencetown
- #21 3035 Highway 7, Lake Echo
- #22 8 Cain St, North Preston
- #23 5543 Highway 7, Chezzetcook
- #24 32 Riverside Ave, Musquodoboit Harbour
- #25 1765 Ostrea Lake Rd, Ostrea Lake
- #26 51 Old Trunk Rd, Oyster Pond
- #28 22835 Highway 7, Sheet Harbour
- #29 28975 Highway 7 Moser River
- #30 17559 Highway 7, Tangier
- #31 15750 Highway 7, East Ship Harbour
- #33 26291 Highway 7, West Quoddy (Three Harbours)
- #34 22 Powers Rd, Mushaboom
- #35 39 Corbett Rd, Cooks Brook
- #36 4413 Highway 357, Meaghers Grant
- #38 36 Glenmore Rd, Middle Musquodoboit
- #39 14 Highway 336, Upper Musquodoboit

- #40 36 Logan Rd, Dutch Settlement
- #41 2433 Highway 2, Waverley
- #42 4132 Highway 2, Wellington
- #43 22 Lakeside Dr, Grand Lake
- #45 1359 Fall River Rd, Fall River
- #47 2040 Old Guysborough Rd, Goffs
- #48 1581 Beaver Bank Rd, Beaver Bank
- #50 2050 Hammonds Plains Rd, Hammonds Plains
- #52 2101 Prospect Rd, Hatchet Lake
- #54 3610 Prospect Rd, Shad Bay
- #55 11229 Peggys Cove Rd, Seabright
- #56 8579 St Margarets Bay Rd, Black Point
- #58 26 Myra Rd, Timberlea (Lakeside)
- #60 40 Latter Pond Lane, Herring Cove
- #62 2417 Old Sambro Road, Williamswood
- #65 17 Scholars Rd, Upper Tantallon

Emergency Response Time Targets

We strive to respond to emergencies as quickly and with the most effective response team as possible, striving to maintain 90 per cent of Regional Council approved response standards annually for services outlined in our administrative order. At the end of the 2022-23 year, HRFE created a video to help explain more about these standards.





Community Risk Reduction, Professional Development, Logistics & Medical

The Community Risk Reduction, Professional Development, Logistics & Medical Pillar supports council priorities through the provision of:

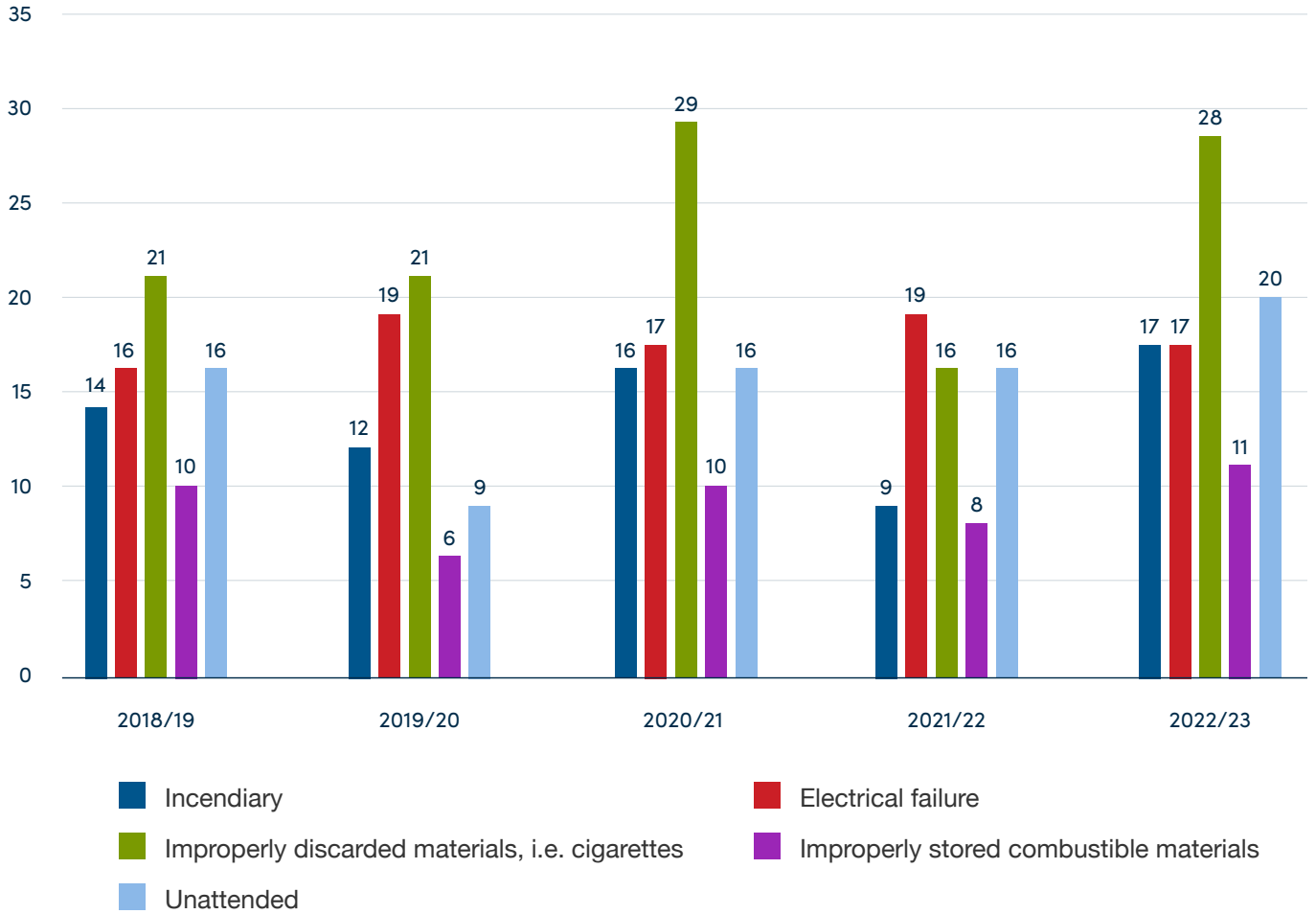
- Public safety education and information
- Fire Code inspections and enforcement
- Professional development
- Logistical services

Operating from several satellite locations across the Halifax Regional Municipality, significant progress was made on many of the pillar’s goals in 2022/23. A second-story addition and stairway for the Sea Can Training Props at Stations 24, 28, 35, and 65 were completed. Vehicle Exhaust Extraction Systems were installed in Stations 22 and 42, and 11 hybrid vehicles are now in operation within Fire Prevention, aligning with the municipality’s HalifACT goals.

The Fire Prevention division continued work implementing the recommendations from the Fire Prevention Audit, addressing technology and data concerns, and making structural changes to facilitate additional inspections annually.

At the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year, the municipality made the strategic decision to create a new Business Unit, Community Safety, and emergency management have since been moved to this new unit.

LEADING CAUSES OF STRUCTURE FIRES



In 2022/23, our Fire Investigators investigated 93 significant fires in buildings. The table above shows the leading causes of these structure fires.



Performance and Safety

The Performance and Safety Pillar supports council priorities through innovative, safe, and effective service performance measurement and delivery. In 2022/23, this division was responsible for these four key areas:

1. Health and Safety
2. Technology and Innovation
3. The Volunteer Program
4. Diversity, Inclusion, and Workplace Culture

This year, the safety division began a comprehensive review of the HRFE safety program and initiated a new incident scene rehabilitation program.

The Volunteer Program successfully recruited and onboarded 74 firefighters, reviewed and revised policies and procedures, and coordinated promotional competitions for 29 volunteer officers.

The Culture & Inclusion team piloted an in-person education program for new captains, organized events to build relationships with Indigenous communities, Halifax Pride, African Nova Scotians, and youth programs, and supported Camp Courage. Additionally, free menstrual products are being piloted in HRFE work locations, along with other workplace improvements.

The Firefighter & Family Assistance Program served an average of ten clients per month and deployed the Critical Incident Stress Management Team multiple times following traumatic incidents. Fourteen new peer support team members were added to the roster after successfully completing the Peer Support Agent training program.

The Technology & Innovation team implemented a third-party software tool to analyze emergency response data, started upgrading the paging system for volunteer firefighters, completed an Automated Vehicle Location project to improve response time accuracy, and are now working on the Station Alerting project to enhance dispatch times and provide firefighters with better information.

The team also upgraded internet infrastructure in several rural fire stations and facilitated a new Service Level Agreement with Integrated Emergency Services to improve dispatching services.

Performance and Safety ran a successful Emergency Services Assistance Program (ESAP) cohort. Federally funded by the Government of Canada under the Youth Employment & Skills Strategy, with in-kind contributions from HRFE and the municipality, this program provides at-risk youth with employment skills training and employment opportunity interventions over a 14-week period, in collaboration with social agencies and employers in the community. Since 2000, with available funding, we have run this program. In 2022-23, 17 at-risk youth were assisted, with almost half retaining full-time employment.



HRFE WORKPLACE INCIDENT SUMMARY

Fiscal Year	Incident Type					Total
	Accident	Exposure	First Aid	MVI	Near Miss	
2022/23	19	3	34	59	27	142
2021/22	21	3	33	42	17	116
2020/21	18	9	25	45	33	130
2019/20	19	13	32	65	39	167
2018/19	34	6	31	82	30	183

FIREFIGHTER AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FFAP)

Presenting Issues to FFAP	Count
Mental Health	43
Trauma/Critical Incident Stress	21
Family/Marital	16
Bereavement	13
Other (including workplace stress)	8
Total	101

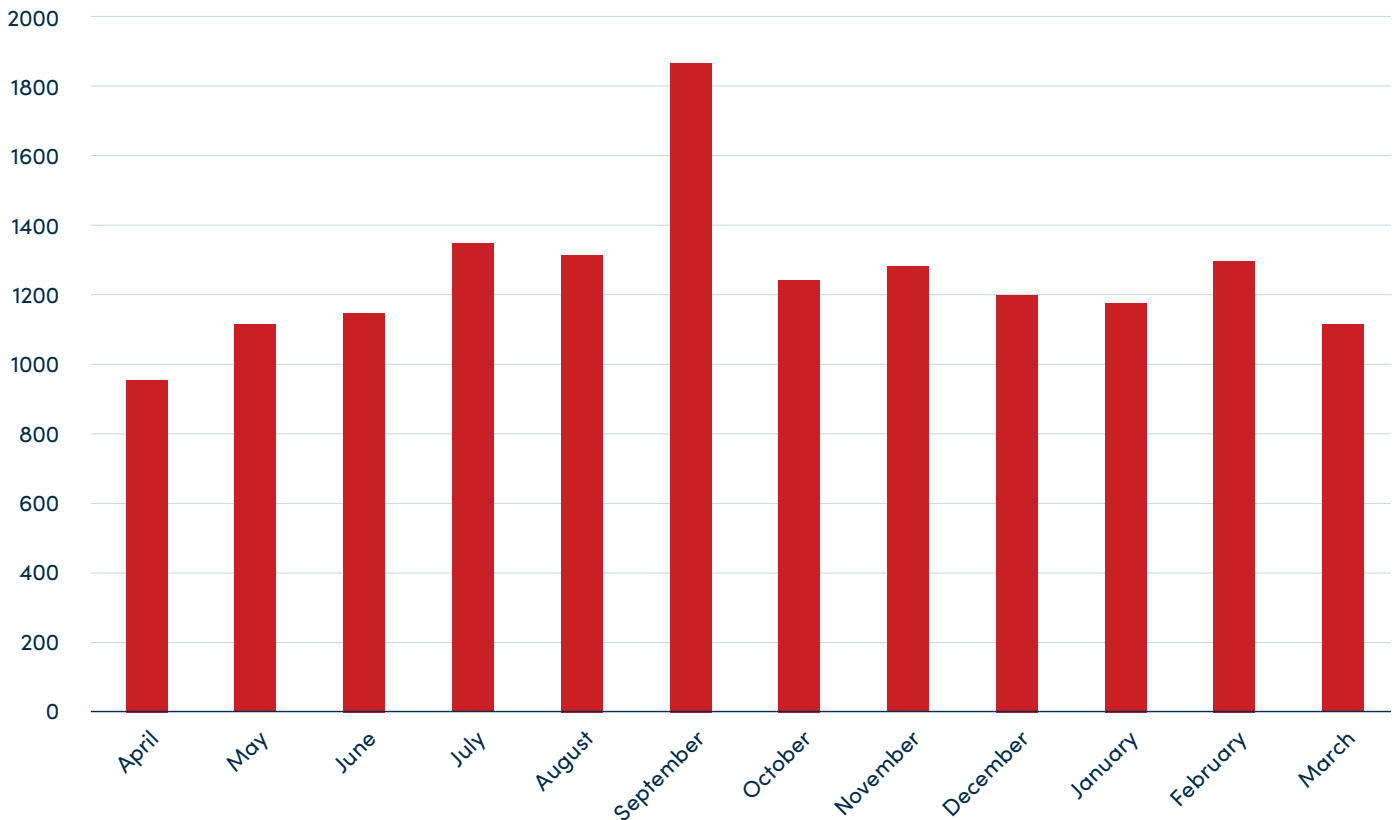
Operations

Operations supports council priorities and serve as the last line of defense through the provision of emergency response by firefighters across the municipality's 51 fire stations. Additionally, they support the first two lines of defense through public education and Fire Safety Maintenance Inspections (FSMI).

Throughout the year, Operations was engaged in numerous projects, including the successful completion of the Fire Underwriters Survey to assess rural water supply, with many firefighters contributing to this achievement. A new quick response strategy was piloted at Peggy's Cove during the peak season to enhance water rescue and medical response capabilities. The hazmat team adopted a new dry decontamination process that reduces water usage.

In 2022/23, as part of our commitment to continuous improvement and the accreditation process, Operations leadership began a comprehensive review of HRFE's specialty programs to identify opportunities and priorities for improvement. Operations capacity was enhanced as HRFE implemented Council's directive to increase staffing in Black Point from two to four firefighters on E Platoon, and to staff two additional firefighters to bolster the effective firefighting force response in the Bedford and Sackville area. Recruits began training in Spring 2023 and were operational by June 2023. The following pages provide more detailed insights into Operations performance.

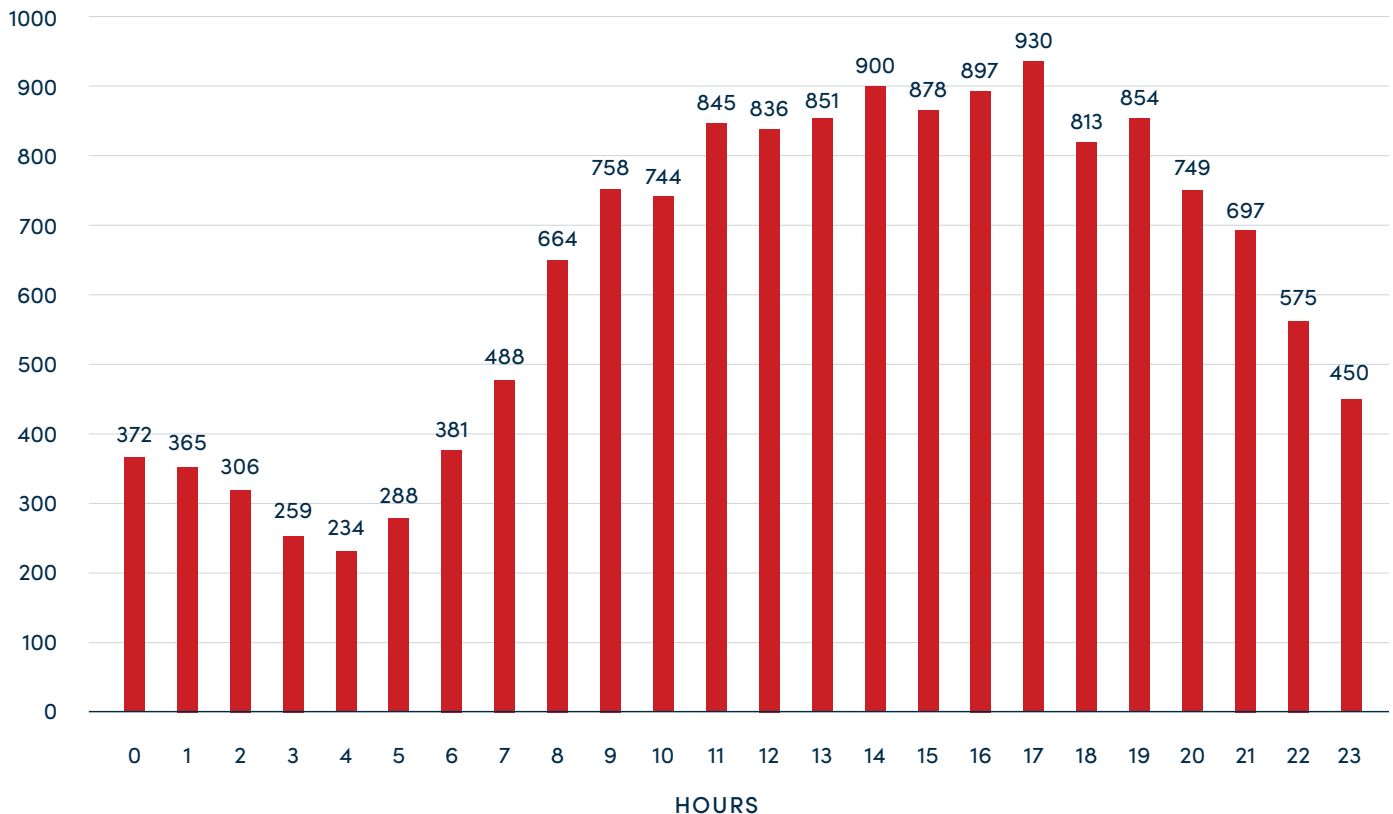
INCIDENTS BY MONTH



OPERATIONS KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

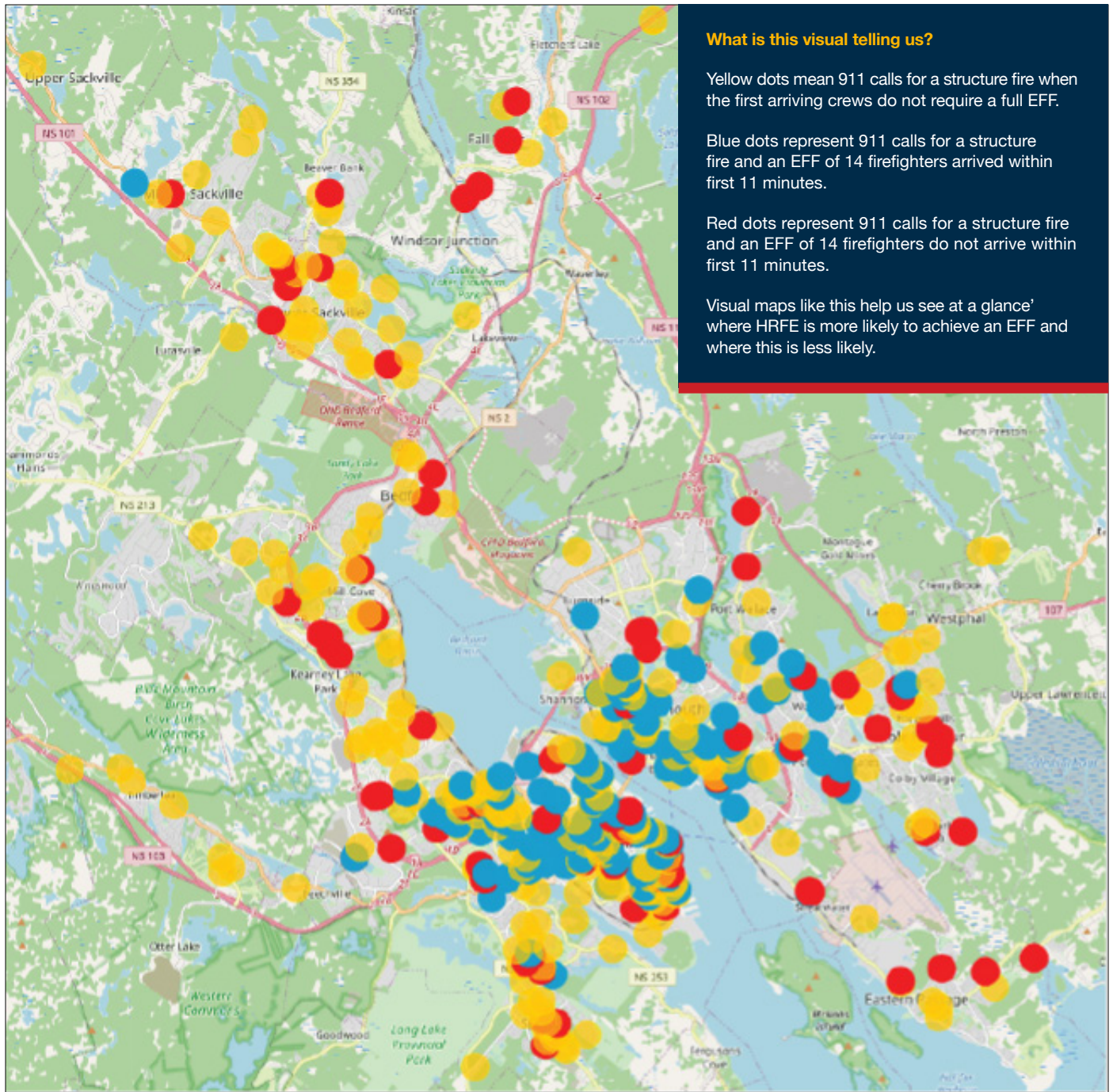
KPIs	Target	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
1st unit on scene to URBAN FIRES	8 mins	74.5%	78.8%	75.4%	76.3%	79.6%
1st unit on scene to URBAN MEDICALS	7.5 mins	77.1%	78.1%	75.7%	69.4%	73.5%
1st unit on scene to RURAL FIRES (Daytime Career)	13 mins	75.0%	85.7%	80.6%	78.9%	81.5%
1st unit on scene to RURAL FIRES (Volunteer)	17.5 mins	70.7%	67.9%	90.0%	67.4%	78.6%
1st unit on scene to RURAL MEDICALS (Daytime Career)	12.5 mins	92.3%	93.1%	77.8%	85.1%	85.1%
1st unit on scene to RURAL MEDICALS (Volunteer)	17.5 mins	84.6%	85.8%	82.1%	74.7%	77.9%
Effective Firefighting Force	14 people in 11 mins	50.0%	60.7%	58.0%	55.5%	62.6%
Supplies	929,000	929,000	929,000	929,000	929,000	899,000

COUNT OF INCIDENTS PER TIME OF DAY



EFFECTIVE FIREFIGHTING FORCE IN URBAN HRM

This map shows when HRFE met its effective firefighting force (EFF) Emergency Response Times Targets (ERTT) that council has set for the urban area – fire protection districts with population density over 100 persons per square kilometer, the target is to have at least 14 firefighters on scene of a structure fire within the first 11 minutes.



EFFECTIVE FIREFIGHTING FORCE (EFF) RESULTS

Category	Count of Incidents	Percentage
Achieved	137	62.6%
Not achieved	82	37.4%
Not required	277	NA

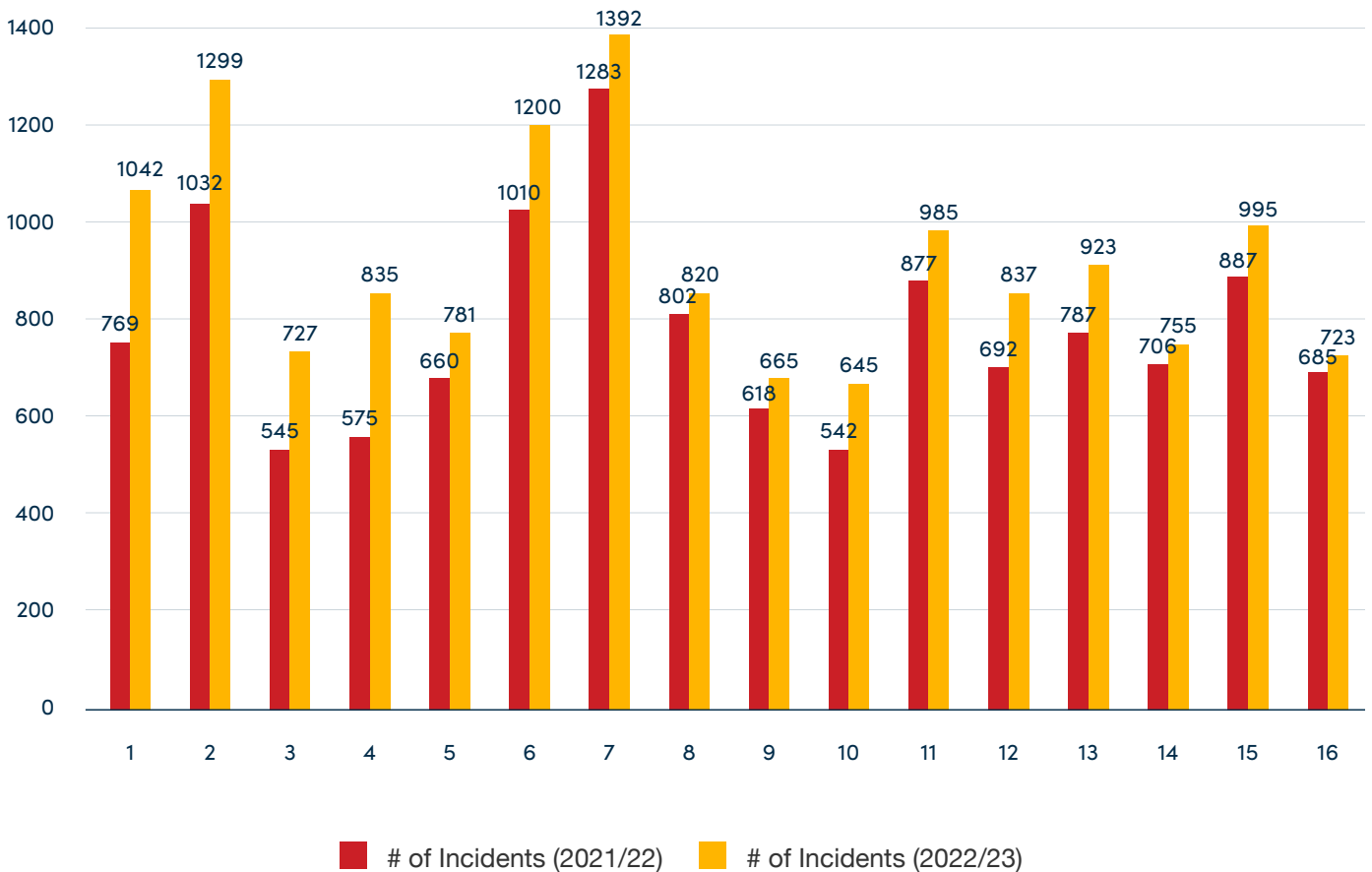
EFFECTIVE FIREFIGHTING FORCE (EFF) BY PRIMARY RESPONSE AREA IN URBAN AREAS

District	Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Required
02	13	7	35
03	24	5	18
04	12	2	5
05	20	7	28
06	3	6	28
07	4	4	18
08	0	10	21
09	0	4	19
10	0	3	15
11	1	1	2
12	18	5	19
13	16	2	19
14	14	3	7
15	6	3	6
16	0	4	6
17	5	9	8
18	1	3	11
45	0	4	4
58	0	0	8



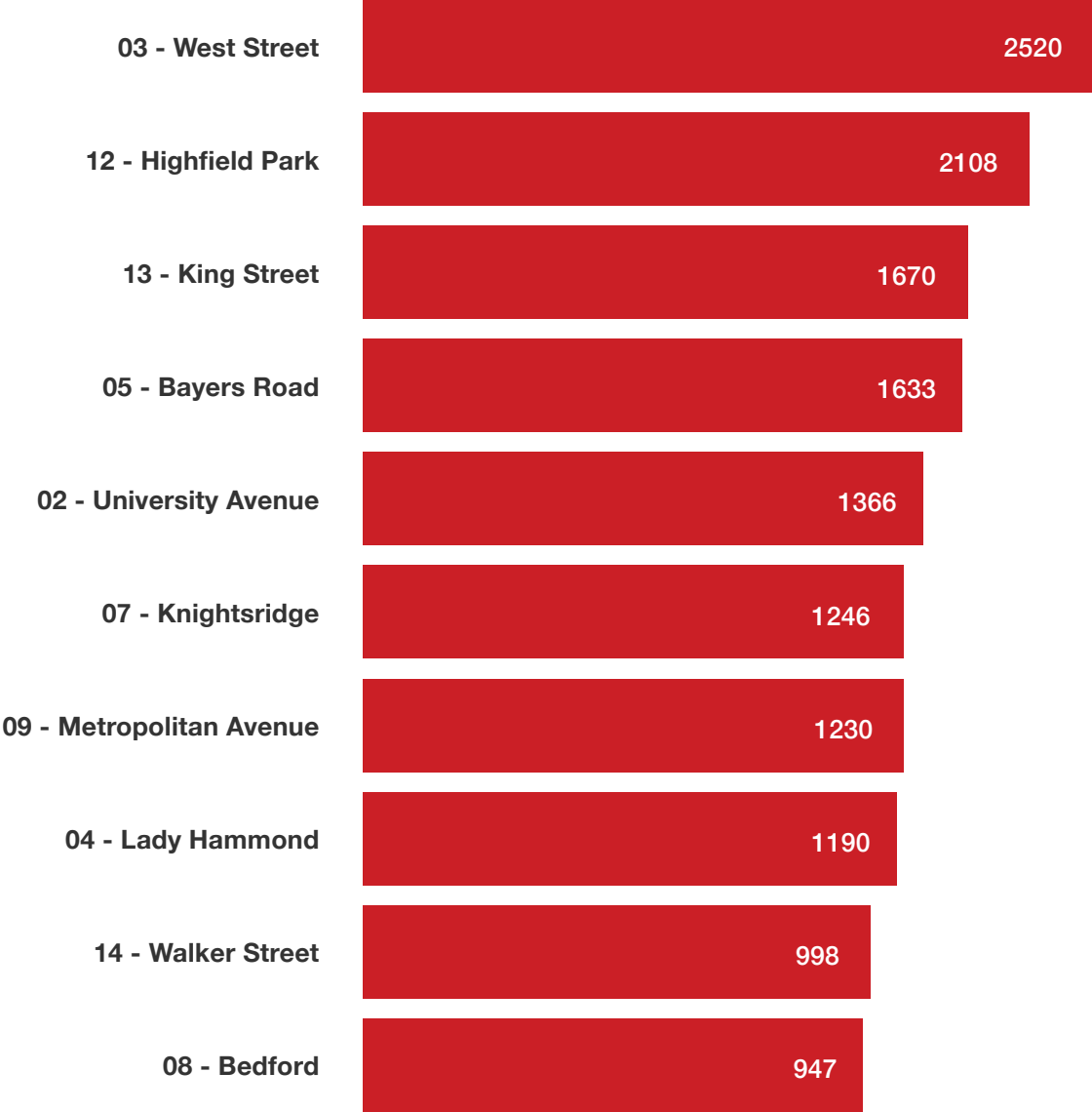


NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ANNUALLY, PER DISTRICT



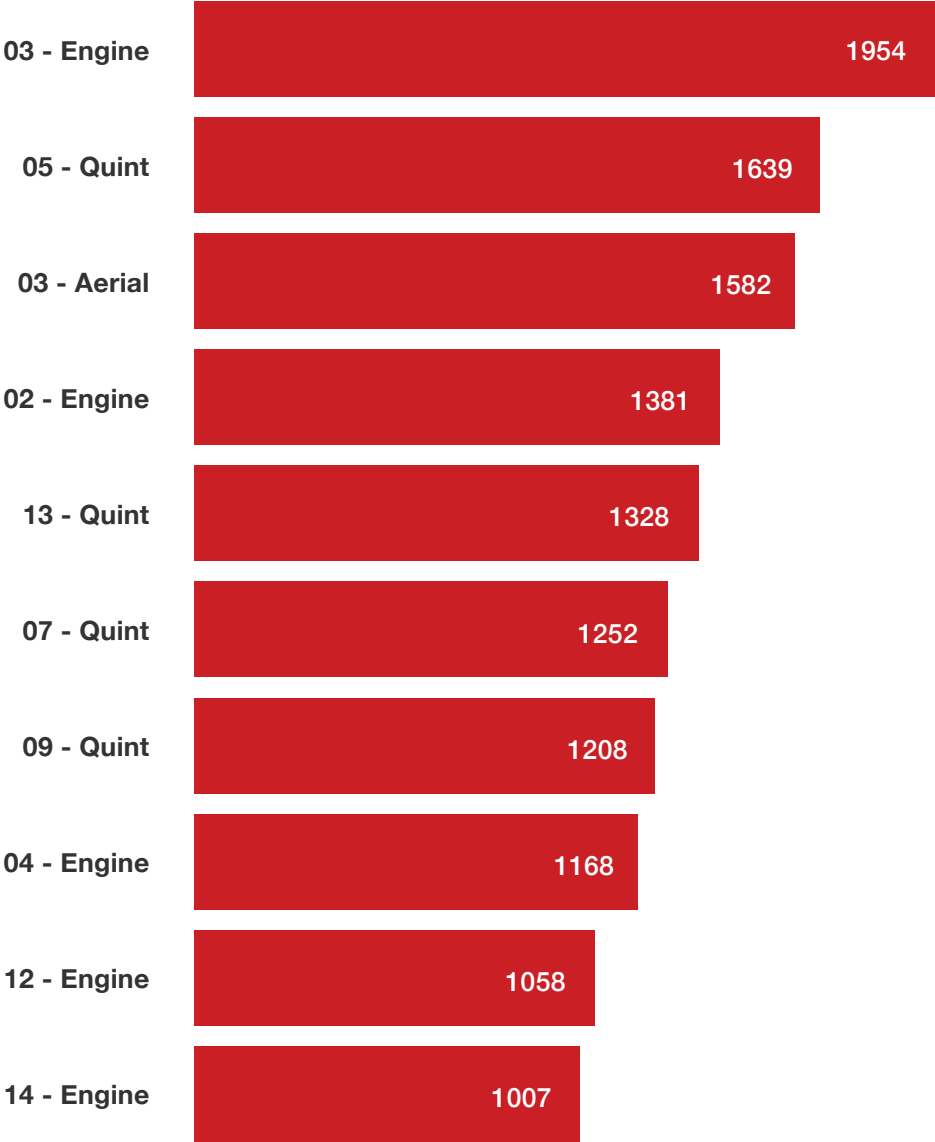
TOP 10 BUSIEST STATIONS

2022/23 Top 10 Busiest Stations



TOP 10 BUSIEST UNITS

2022/23 Top 10 Busiest Units



INCIDENTS BY MONTH

Month	Count of Incidents
April	977
May	1130
June	1163
July	1355
August	1328
September	1877
October	1235
November	1251
December	1198
January	1185
February	1306
March	1129

INCIDENTS BY START HOUR OF A DAY

Start Hour	Count of Incidents
0	372
1	365
2	306
3	259
4	234
5	288
6	381
7	488
8	664
9	758
10	744
11	845
12	836
13	851
14	900
15	878
16	897
17	930
18	813
19	854
20	749
21	697
22	575
23	450



INCIDENTS BY PRIMARY RESPONSE AREA

Station Number	Incidents	Station Number	Incidents
2	1,058	29	15
3	896	30	28
4	373	31	27
5	705	33	32
6	593	34	12
7	750	35	15
8	689	36	12
9	949	38	60
10	564	39	37
11	113	40	46
12	972	41	98
13	418	42	56
14	469	43	23
15	302	45	192
16	427	47	407
17	751	48	142
18	375	50	308
19	63	52	119
20	111	54	150
21	198	55	200
22	53	56	129
23	379	58	413
24	117	60	143
25	33	62	232
26	107	65	338
28	101	Total	14,800

