



#### **Glendale City Council**

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#### **City Manager**

Scott Ochoa

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#### **Harold Scoggins**

*Fire Chief*

#### **Thomas Marchant**

*Battalion Chief – A Platoon*

#### **Ron Gulli**

*Battalion Chief – B Platoon*

#### **Vince Rifino**

*Battalion Chief – C Platoon*

#### **Thomas Propst**

*Training & Safety Chief*

#### **Greg Fish**

*EMS Battalion Chief*

# GLENDALE FIRE & RESCUE NEWS

3rd Quarter- 2013

## A Note From the Fire Chief

### Community First



Community Paramedics or Community Health Programs, what are they and what do they mean to our community? These are relatively new terms that have been used over the past few years to describe a new line of services that are being provided by both public and private paramedics across the country. I believe the changes in the health care system, the aging population, the needs of the underserved, and the rising cost of health care have revealed a need for change in the way we deliver emergency medical services (EMS) to the community. The increasing EMS call load has started the conversation among first responders about a real need to make changes to our 911-emergency medical system. Locally and across the country, many of our EMS calls for service could be prevented or dealt with in ways other than transporting patients to the local emergency room. These programs explore alternative approaches to using our paramedics in different ways to better serve the community.

There have been several recent papers published on the topic and they all focus on prevention, after-care and alternate transportation destination with different layers to each. For example, under a Community Paramedic program, a 911-EMS call for service could result in a transport to an emergency room, a transport to a urgent care/clinic, or no transport, based on the assessment done by the paramedic in the field. Paramedics would be operating under an additional set of protocols that would guide their decision making. Unlike today, if a person calls 911 for an EMS call, our first responders have basically one option, to take the patient to an emergency room or have the patient sign out against medical advice if they choose not to go with EMS responders. I believe it is time for our system to evolve to better serve the community.

Community Paramedic programs also have components that include after-care or follow-up programs. These programs are critical for keeping certain patients with chronic illnesses from being readmitted to the hospitals. In these programs, paramedics visit patients in their homes within 48 to 72 hours of being released from a hospital stay, to evaluate their medical condition and see if they are adhering to the after-care program. These paramedics receive additional training, operate under specific directions from doctors, and have 24/7 access to communicate with the doctors. Paramedics have been critical for the success of these programs across the country; their ability to evaluate patients in the field has been the difference in reducing patient recidivism.

When one thinks about the changes that are being made in EMS with Community Paramedics, you would say they are just common sense. The problem is, in the state of California, we are not allowed to just implement these types of changes in the emergency medical system; we are required to seek approval from our County and State EMSA. The Glendale Fire Department has applied to the County and the State EMSA to participate in two of the pilot studies that have been mentioned above. Specifically, to transport patients who meet the agreed upon protocols to destinations other than emergency rooms. These agreed upon destinations will also have to meet certain requirements to participate. The second pilot will consist of the follow-up component for specific chronically ill patients that have been recently discharged from hospitals.

We are partnering with UCLA, which has submitted the study on our behalf and that of our three local hospitals (Glendale Adventist, Glendale Memorial and USC-Verdugo Hills). Our pilot proposal was submitted and approved by the LA Co. EMSA on September 23 and was forwarded to the State EMSA on September 30. This will be a very long process and I will keep all posted as the process moves along.

We finished the third quarter just like we started, with a fire weather watch. In July, we faced high temperatures with extremely low humidity's and shortly afterward, the many deployments started. We had single resource, water tender and strike teams deployed at the Rim and the American Incidents. These are always challenging times when our personnel are deployed out of our agency; it places a great deal of stress on the remaining members of the organization for local staffing and deployments. Understanding the value in our agreements and our deployments becomes critical for our future success. We can all remember back just a few months ago when our resources were able to swell to over 200 in less than an hour during our Wilson Terrace Incident. We also get to experience and learn our industry's best practices when our personnel are deployed out of Glendale. It is when there is full cooperation amongst our partners that the fire service is at its best; it is when there is full cooperation that the community gets our best!

We also all realize how dangerous all of our responses are in and out of Glendale. We were reminded once again of these dangers on June 30, 2013 when the fire service lost the Granite Mountain Hotshots on the Yarnell Hill Fire. In order for us to continue to grow and learn from tragedies such as this, we must review these incidents and do our best to keep our personnel as safe as we can. Please take the time to review the accident investigation from the following link (<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/YarnellHill>).

This month Deputy Chief Robert Doyle said goodbye after over 26 years of service to the GFD and the community. Chief Doyle provided leadership, discipline and tactical knowledge to our personnel for many years. His goal was to always make sure our people were safe in their operations and that they provided outstanding customer service. We wish Chief Doyle well in the next chapters of his life; he will be missed.

Each day there are so many activities that take place in the GFD to improve the organization and to better serve the community,. There is no way to identify them all, but I want to say ***Thank You*** to each of you for your service. It is your contributions that make the GFD the outstanding organization that it is known to be!

- Harold Scoggins

*Fire Chief*

*"Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time." -Marian Wright Edelman*

### Congratulations to Promoted Fire Engineers Carlsen, Corona, Dawson, & Ellingwood



Photo by Jerry Jacobs



Photo by Jerry Jacobs

### CV Weekly- Congratulations to Station 29!



### Congratulations to Chief Doyle on his Retirement after over 26 Years of Service!



### 9-11 Commemoration



Over the last three months, the Fire Engineering Unit has been very busy reviewing building and fire protection plans related to the Glendale Galleria renovation, Bloomingdale's Department Store construction, and related projects as they near their joint Grand Openings scheduled for Friday, November 8. The Galleria deferred plans (fire sprinkler, fire alarm, signage, fixtures and furniture, etc.), and Bloomingdale's building and fire protection plans were all approved; 71 plans were approved for new or relocated Galleria tenants and the Grand Opening Special Event plans were approved.

Plans for six major multi-family development projects totaling 882 units were approved. Also approved were several significant commercial projects including the Avery-Dennison TI (44,000 sq.ft.), Pirch appliance store (18,000 sq.ft.), new restaurants for Americana at Brand and the Galleria, Grand Central Air Terminal renovation (25,000 sq.ft.), and the Gwynn Chevrolet auto dealership expansion. Plans for significant City development projects were also approved: Alex Theater expansion, Central Library renovation, and the Museum of Neon Art.

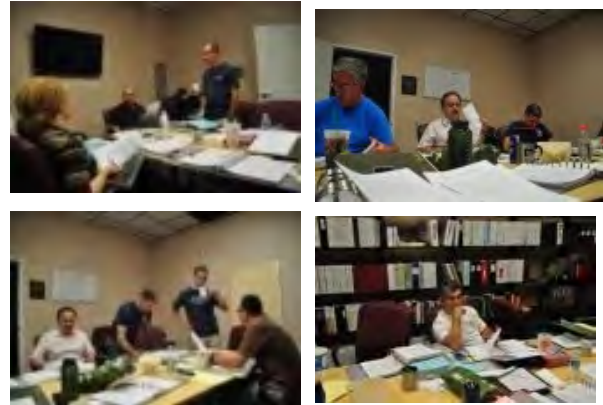
Fire Environmental Safety specialist Keith Kawamoto resigned to become the Fire Technology Department Chair at College of the Canyons. Gabe Reza has been temporarily reassigned to Fire Engineering to assist with plan check duties.

**Increase in Customers Served**

Since January of 2010 there has been an 87.5% increase in the number of customers served at the Fire Counter on a monthly basis. Of those customers served at the counter, 30% are to review building plans, 31% are to review fire protection system plans, and 39% are for general assistance, inquiries, and fire permits. Plans reviewed at the counter are typically less complicated (i.e., single family dwellings) or are rechecks of plans previously reviewed. A total of 949 customers were served at the Fire Counter from July to September 2013, the highest number since data collection began in 2004.

*- Doug Nickles*

**Code Adoption**



Every three years, the State adopts new codes, and every local jurisdiction in turn has to formulate its code adoption ordinance along with any local amendments. The 2013 California State codes will be adopted as the 2014 Glendale Building and Safety Code. FPB staff has been working hard reviewing the new codes and our current amendments to formulate the draft adoption ordinance. The first reading before the Building and Fire Board of Appeals took place on September 18 and went extremely well (to see the hearing, go to [http://glendale.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=10&clip\\_id=4339](http://glendale.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=10&clip_id=4339)). Upcoming dates for the proposed ordinance are: second reading for the Board of Appeals on October 23; first reading for City Council November 5; effective date January 1, 2014.

**FPB and Training Coordinate High-Rise Drills**

Dave Stimson has been busy assisting the Training Section for the high-rise drills scheduled for October and November. Dave helped identify candidate high-rise buildings and coordinated and attended planning meetings with building management and training.



**MGN Five-Star Theaters Completed**



Extensive remodeling and modification to the old 2-plex and 8-plex Mann Theaters and Louise's Trattoria at 128 – 130 N. Maryland were completed and opened recently as the MGN Five Star Theaters. The old Tony Roma's restaurant (126 N. Maryland) is part of this complex but is still under construction.

**New Fire Pumps**

Fire pumps were recently replaced at 101 N. Brand and at 100 W. Broadway. The approval process included a complete commissioning test in accordance with NFPA 20.



**Some of our inspectors in action...Gevorg Nazaryan, Greg Ahern, Jovan Diaz**



**Construction in Your Fire District**

Across the city, development projects abound! To see what is happening in your fire district, go to the interactive map at: <http://g.co/maps/m4r6j>.

*- Jeff Halpert*



## Emergency Medical Services

Hello from the EMS Section. We are looking forward to some opportunities in the near future. The second round of Department EMS Training is coming October 15, 16, and 17. We will be introducing our new Nurse Educator during these sessions.

Recently, EMS had the privilege of training some new Ambulance Operators and sent them out into the field. The new AO's are Ryan Agadoni, Joseph Arambula, Michael Doucette, Joseph Giovinazzo, Cody Letz, Jessica Locke and Pedro Rosas.



As you may have noticed, Verdugo Hills Hospital has recently joined forces with the University of Southern California. The EMS Section believes this will enhance healthcare in our community. We have been in contact with the supervising physician at the hospital and he is completely committed to giving outstanding customer service.

As a reminder, please take the necessary precautions to ensure you are protected during EMS incidents. Safety glasses, gloves and masks can only work if you use them. With the large variety of incidents we see, we need to be vigilant towards personal safety. Take nothing for granted and please don't allow complacency to compromise your standards.

- BC Greg Fish

### Dispatches of BLS Ambulances (April - May - June 2013)

Unit	Dispatches	Transports	% of all Transports
BLS21	957	587	24%
BLS22	356	240	10%
BLS25	925	585	24%
BLS26	880	518	21%
BLS27	331	221	9%
BLS29	465	304	12%

On average, there were about 43 dispatches of BLS units and 27 transports per day during these months.

### Dispatches of Glendale Fire Engines (April - May - June 2013)

Unit	# of Dispatches	% of Engine Dispatches
E21	847	19%
E22	699	15%
E23	89	2%
E24	340	8%
E25	753	17%
E26	756	17%
E27	577	13%
E28	186	4%
29	271	6%

There were about 49 dispatches of Glendale Engines per day, some involving mutual aid to other jurisdictions.

### Total Incidents: Jul.-Sept. 2013

Category	In Glendale	Outside Glendale (Mutual Aid)	Subtotal By Category
Fire	376	66	442
Medical	3,520	120	3,640
Service	163	11	174
Other	3	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,062</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>4,260</b>



### Tech Upgrades in Progress

A variety of technology upgrades and other projects are in progress at the Verdugo Fire Communications Center:

- A network upgrade in collaboration with an outside vendor and City ISD staff will improve network security, provide improved connections for agencies that access data on Verdugo servers, and facilitate access for ongoing maintenance by Verdugo IT staff. Verdugo servers, PCs and printers have been moved behind the new firewall and “tunnels” to the individual agencies will be established in the coming weeks and months as time and staffing permit.
- An update to the geofile (map database) in the computer aided dispatch system that covers the 12 cities of the Verdugo System and surrounding areas is nearly finished. One major change is the level of detail provided for Verdugo’s newest contract agency, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority Fire Department. Runways, building footprints, access roads and gates were all added, in part to assist outside fire departments that might be called upon to respond to the airport in the event of a major incident.
- Two of the radio channels within the Verdugo communications system are benefiting from the addition of battery backups purchased by Verdugo and installed by City of Glendale Radio Shop staff members Chuck Karayan and Rand Jeffrey. Approximately 12 hours’ worth of battery support at the South Pasadena and Monrovia sites where these two channels are based should cover the vast majority of electrical outages that might occur in those areas, allowing communications to continue without interruption and bridging the gap until power is reestablished.



### Operator Honored for Drowning Save

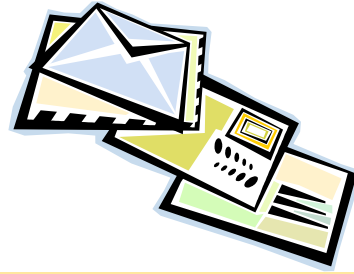
Fire Communications Operator Imelda Domingo received a commendation from the City of Alhambra related to a near-drowning incident that occurred during the summer months. The vital role of the 911 operator is often overlooked in the chain of events between an emergency occurring and help arriving on scene, but lives can literally be saved by the highly trained assistance of these professionals.

The commendation reads, “The Alhambra City Council, on behalf of the citizens of Alhambra, hereby commends Fire Communications Operator Imelda Domingo for your assistance and performance during a critical medical incident that happened on June 11, 2013, which resulted in the successful resuscitation of three-year-old Ryan Ruggeri from a near drowning. Your expertise and teamwork had a first-hand impact on Ryan’s full recovery. This will be forever reflected in the life of Ryan Ruggeri whose future was on the line that day. You are to be commended for your professional and exemplary service to the city of Alhambra and the citizens we serve.”



*From left to right, Imelda Domingo, Don Wise, Ryan Ruggeri and his parents, Alhambra Fire Chief Bill Walker, and Manny Soto. (Photo provided by the City of Alhambra)*

### Correspondence from the Community



Station 21,

Thank you again for taking the time to train our lab personnel about fire extinguisher safety, we greatly appreciate it.

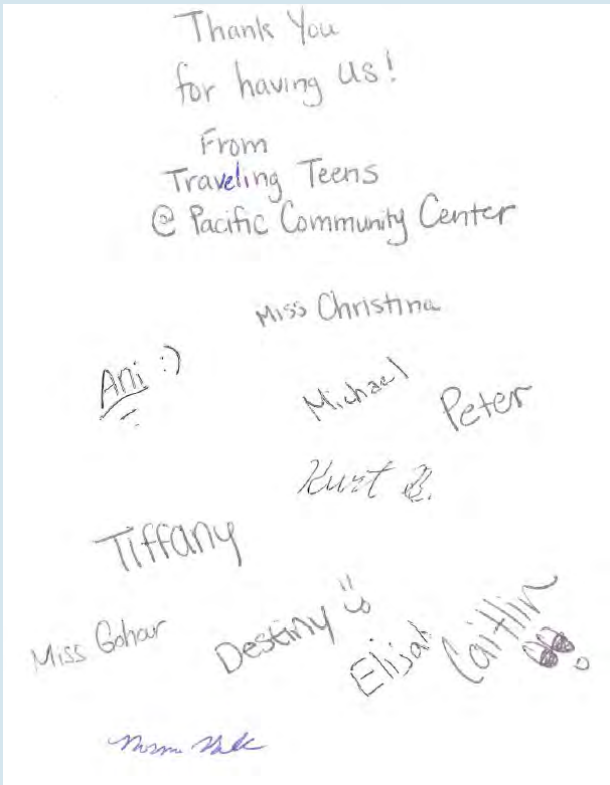
- Serena Martin  
Glendale Police Department

Dear Captain Guerrero,

My husband, daughter and I wish to thank you and your crew for your kindness and hospitality this past weekend when we toured the fire station. I think Sienna would like to come and visit again sometime in the near future. You all really helped to humanize your job and make it a little less scary for one young girl. Thank you again, we couldn't have hoped for a nicer experience.

Thank you again,  
Alisa & Family

Thank you to Captain Bush and Fire Station 21A for the Station Tour!





Hello,

Thanks to all the firemen and policemen who helped preserve our lives and property.

On May 3, 2013, we were informed by local fire and police about the need to evacuate due to the fire hazard on the hill behind our home. The fire and police were very helpful and we were able to evacuate within 20 minutes with our 4 cats.

We were very glad to see that the fire, which had been within 40 feet of our home, was quickly knocked back, our home was saved and we were able to return home that night.

The fire truck on station at the end of cul-de-sac greatly eased our minds as well as the presence of the firemen who spent the night walking up and down the hill.

Please give all the firemen and policemen our heart-felt thanks. We did not suffer any damage to our home. We especially appreciated the courtesy and professionalism of all whom we encountered on that tense and dramatic day.

- Kenneth & Patricia Loar

A little girl named Bella stopped by the station with an emergency. It was a hot day and her inflatable pool did not have any air.



Firefighter/PM James Rohrig fixed her problem and she and her grandmother were able to walk the pool home to use. Bella returned later with a sweet thank you card.



Dear Chief Scoggins:

I would like to personally express my appreciation for the professionalism shown by Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Brooks while assigned to the Powerhouse Fire in the Angeles National Forest. I was fortunate enough to have been assigned with Firefighter Brooks to Division M of the incident for 9 days.

Firefighter Brooks represented the Glendale Fire Department with professionalism, enthusiasm, and adeptness. Jeff proved himself an asset to the incident on several instances such as planning for firefighter emergencies, hiking into remote locations to stay close to Firefighters on our Division, and displaying ability and a willingness to perform work beyond the requirements of his position.

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to recognize Jeff for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Kevin Fetterman, Fire Captain/Paramedic  
Orange County Fire Authority  
Fire Station 75

Hi Chief Propst,

On behalf of the Bywood Drive residents, I want to thank you, Captain Dearden and the crew of Fire Station 25B who came and celebrated with us our annual Block Party. Their presence was the highlight of the party and their treat to the kids was just amazingly fun.

I hope we can do this celebration again next year.

Thanks.  
Sam Adarme

**GFD Family News**

**CALENDAR**



**COMMAND STAFF MEETINGS:**

- 2ND & 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**GFFA MEETINGS:**

- 2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**CPR TRAINING:**

- 2ND & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH



On July 6, at 4:41 am, Jose and Melanie Escobedo welcomed Aiden Axel Escobedo into the world! He was 7lb-1oz, 20” long. Mel, Aiden, and Jose are all doing great! Congratulations to the Escobedo

family! - Jeff Brooks



The Flahavan family has a new addition, Illiana Flahavan. She was born on July 16, weighing 7 pounds and 6 ounces. Everyone is doing fantastic! Congratulations to the Flahavan family!

- Scott McMahon

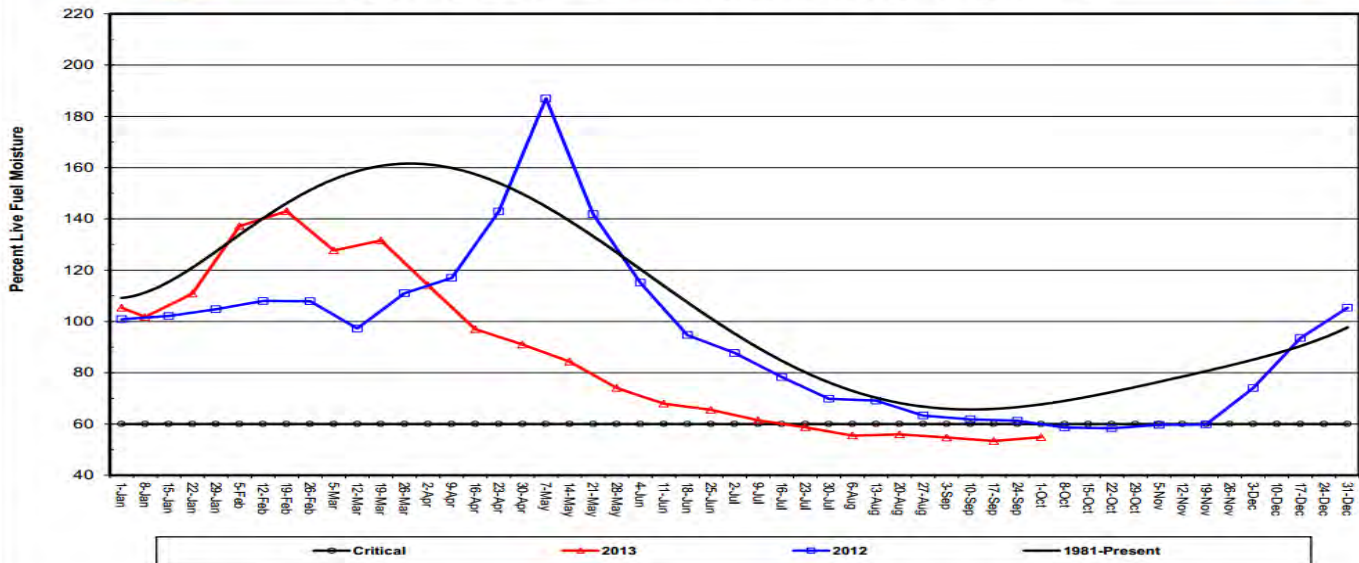
Congratulations to Mike and Colleen Coley on the birth of their 8 pound 16 ounce baby boy, Tanner. Tanner arrived on August 15 healthy and happy. If you are thinking of a gift for Tanner, a chain saw or a sledge hammer would do as he might just take after his dad! Cheers!

- Matt Luchetta



**Vegetation Management Program  
Live Fuel Moisture 1981-2013**

All Areas, All Fuels - Chamise, Ceanothus, Sages, Sagebrush



<http://fire.lacounty.gov/Forestry/FireWeatherDangerLiveFuelMoistureAllAreas.asp>

## Glendale Incidents

July - August - September 2013

Description	Category	Total	Description	Category	Total
FIRE ALARM	Fire	204	MEDICAL ALARM	Medical	30
APPLIANCE FIRE - MAJOR	Fire	2	MOUNTAIN RESCUE	Medical	3
APARTMENT HOUSE FIRE	Fire	6	NOSE BLEED NON-TRAUMATIC	Medical	10
EXPLOSIVES/BOMB THREAT	Fire	2	PERSON NOT BREATHING	Medical	65
BRUSH FIRE	Fire	3	OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGIC	Medical	18
CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM	Fire	9	OVERDOSE	Medical	60
ELECTRICAL FIRE	Fire	1	PEDIATRICS 0-36 MONTHS	Medical	48
FIRE NOW OUT	Fire	7	PSYCHIATRIC	Medical	54
GARAGE FIRE	Fire	1	RESCUE	Medical	3
HOUSE FIRE	Fire	11	RESCUE ON THE FWY	Medical	15
ILLEGAL BURNING	Fire	8	PERSON IN SEIZURE	Medical	31
MISC OUTSIDE FIRE	Fire	6	PERSON SICK	Medical	29
MISC OUTSIDE FIRE ON TRAIL	Fire	2	PERSON STABBED	Medical	4
TRANSFORMER/STREET LIGHT	Fire	7	HOSPITAL TRANSFER	Medical	7
REFUSE FIRE	Fire	11	CVA-NEUROLOGIC	Medical	39
FIRE ALARM RESET	Fire	5	SYNCOPE/FAINTED NOW COLLAPSE	Medical	64
SMOKE IN A STRUCTURE	Fire	12	TRAFFIC COLLISION	Medical	147
SMOKE IN THE AREA	Fire	22	TRAFFIC COLLISION W/BICYCLE	Medical	8
STRUCTURE FIRE	Fire	10	INJURY TO WITH FUEL SPILL	Medical	2
UNKNOWN TYPE FIRE	Fire	1	TRAFFIC COLLISION ON THE TRAIL	Medical	53
ELECTRICAL VAULT FIRE	Fire	1	TRAFFIC COLLISION W/MOTORCYCLE	Medical	7
VEGETATION FIRE	Fire	2	TRAFFIC COLLISION W/PEDESTRIAN	Medical	23
VEGETATION FIRE ON TRAIL	Fire	2	TRAFFIC COLLISION-RESCUE	Medical	10
VEHICLE FIRE	Fire	23	VEHICLE INTO A STRUCTURE	Medical	3
VEHICLE FIRE ON THE TRAIL	Fire	16	INGESTION-POISONING-INHALATION	Medical	16
VEHICLE FIRE IN A STRUCTURE	Fire	2	SEVERE TRAUMA	Medical	48
ABDOMINAL PAIN - ALS	Medical	57	MINOR TRAUMA	Medical	65
ABDOMINAL PAIN - BLS	Medical	85	PERSON UNCONSCIOUS-UNIDENTIFIED	Medical	182
ALLERGIC REACTION	Medical	20	UNKNOWN MEDICAL	Medical	72
ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS	Medical	134	INVESTIGATE THE WELFARE	Medical	1
ASSAULT VICTIM	Medical	54	SPECIAL EVENT	Other	2
BACK PAIN	Medical	58	FIREWORKS VIOLATION	Other	1
ANIMAL/STINGS - ALS	Medical	1	ANIMAL RESCUE / ASSIST	Service	4
ANIMAL/STINGS - BLS	Medical	5	ARCING WIRES	Service	2
BLOOD PRESSURE PROBLEM	Medical	117	BIOHAZARD INVESTIGATION	Service	2
SHORTNESS OF BREATH	Medical	401	CHEMICAL OUTSIDE	Service	6
CHEST PAINS - HEART ATTACK	Medical	308	DAMAGE INVESTIGATION	Service	4
PERSON CHOKING	Medical	9	ELEVATOR RESCUE	Service	28
DIABETIC PROBLEM	Medical	49	MISC RESPONSE FOR 1 ENGINE	Service	1
PERSON DIZZY	Medical	55	MAJOR FLOODED CONDITION	Service	8
PERSON DOWN	Medical	104	FUEL SPILL	Service	4
DROWNING/DIVING INCIDENT	Medical	2	ODOR OF NATURAL GAS INSIDE	Service	11
EMS CALL -- NO DETAILS	Medical	12	ODOR OF NATURAL GAS OUTSIDE	Service	4
EMER MEDICAL SVC ON TRAIL	Medical	6	INVESTIGATE A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Service	12
EXPOSURE	Medical	8	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE	Service	2
EYE INJURY	Medical	2	FLOWING/GUSHING/SHEARING	Service	6
FALL MAJOR	Medical	206	PD ASSIST/STAND-BY	Service	2
FALL MINOR	Medical	208	PERSON LOCKED IN - LOCKER	Service	16
G.I. BLEED	Medical	22	MALFUNCTION	Service	4
GUNSHOT WOUND	Medical	1	MISC. ODOR INVESTIGATION	Service	8
PERSON HANGING	Medical	1	PUBLIC ASSIST	Service	6
HEAD PAIN	Medical	23	ROOF CHECK 2 STORIES & ABOVE	Service	3
HEART PROBLEM	Medical	118	MISC. RESPONSE FOR A TRUCK	Service	2
ASSIST THE INVALID	Medical	39	MINOR FLOODING	Service	12
PERSON THREATENING TRAIL	Medical	1	WIRES DOWN	Service	9
MISC MEDICAL	Medical	177	BROKEN WATER MAIN	Service	7