

CITY OF ASHLAND

DIVISION OF FIRE

2006

ANNUAL REPORT

THE MISSION OF THE
ASHLAND FIRE
DEPARTMENT IS TO BE
A COMMUNITY
LEADER IN SAFETY
AND PROPERTY
PRESERVATION
THROUGH
DEDICATION,
TRAINING AND
EDUCATION.

The 2006 run volume for the Division increased slightly. There were 553 fire runs and 3041 EMS runs. The percentage of non-emergency transports has decreased over the years. This is due to changes in health care reimbursements and to private sector services becoming available within the city. The fees collected from EMS transports goes into the General Fund to help offset the Division's budget.

Prevention is the key to making the public safe. If fires can be prevented, the community is better off. The loss of life and the economic impact of fire can devastate a community. The total fire loss for 2006 was \$1,291,520. The Prevention Bureau has partnered with the local schools to provide students pre-K through third grade with fire safety education. This has reduced the number of fires started by our youth. Education and training does not stop with the school systems. Local business and industry take advantage of the Division's public education opportunities. Fire extinguisher training and CPR training are the most popular activities.

The number of total runs does not provide the complete picture for the need for minimum staffing and overtime. There were 325 times in 2006 that two squads were out at the same time. Three or more squads were out 37 times. The minimum on station staffing is six. Calling in off duty firefighters is the current method for covering the additional staffing needs. 2006 showed an increase in the number of times call back did not maintain minimum staffing levels. Fewer firefighters are taking call.

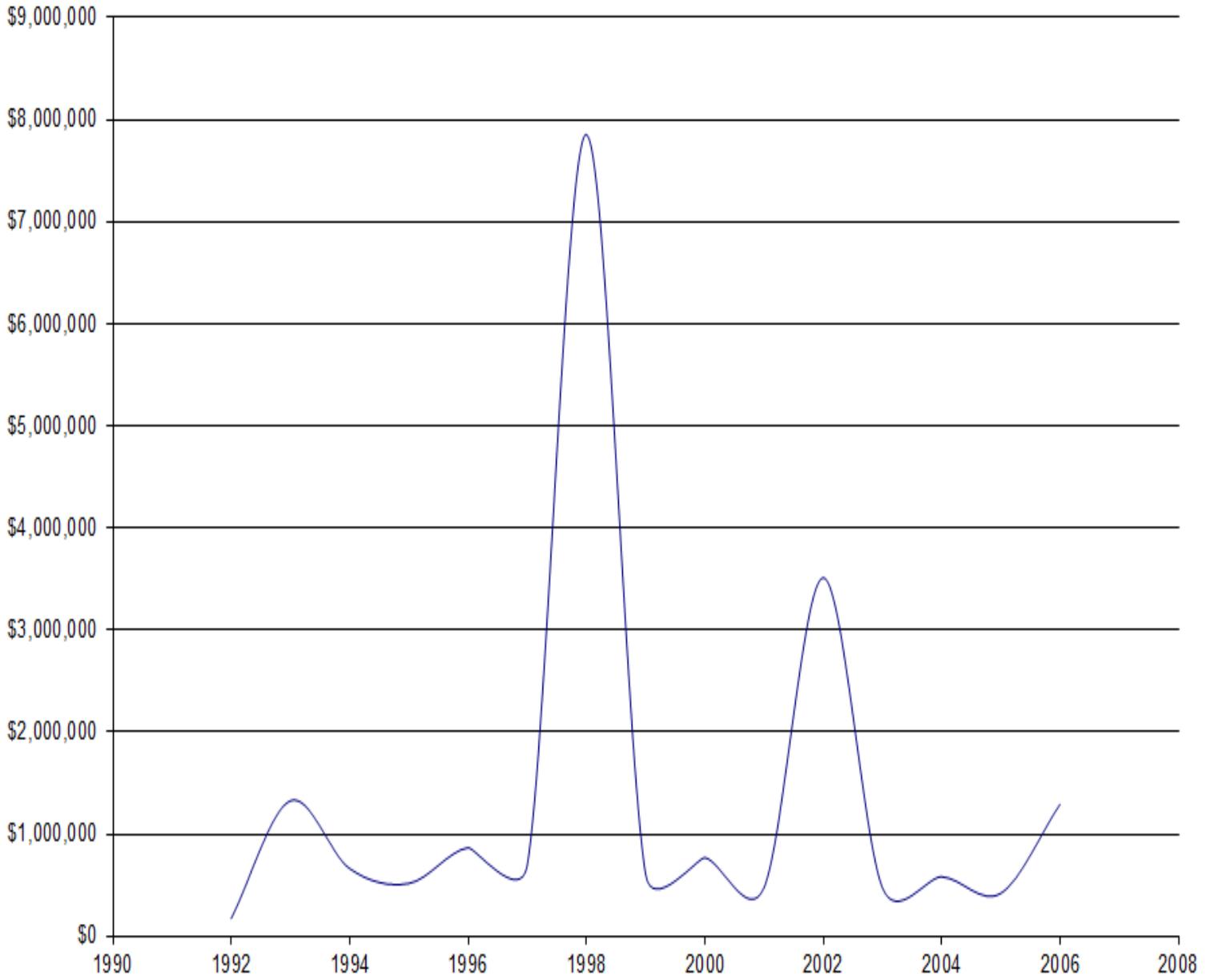
The firefighters worked with the City's Water Distribution team in testing fire hydrants. Hydrants should be tested twice annually. The partnership worked well with the only limiting factor being the number of firefighters on duty. Minimum staffing prevents firefighters from being able to be away from the station.

The year 2006 presented many challenges. Most of the firefighters and officers embraced these challenges and creatively resolved them. The fire service lives for challenges. Whether a fire, a rescue or taking care of the ill patient, firefighters continue to provide the best service possible.

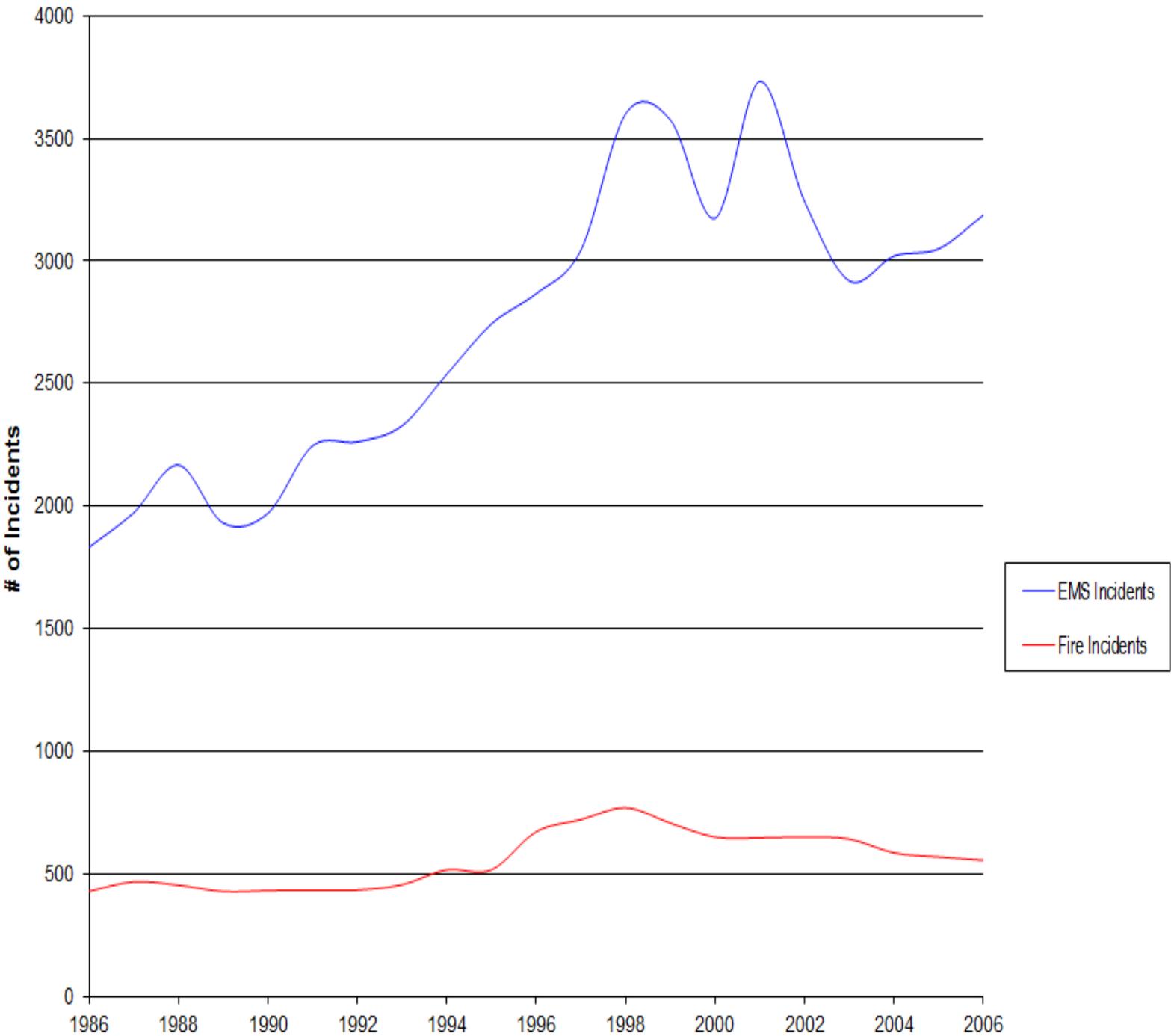


FIRE SUPPRESSION

FIRE LOSS COMPARISON

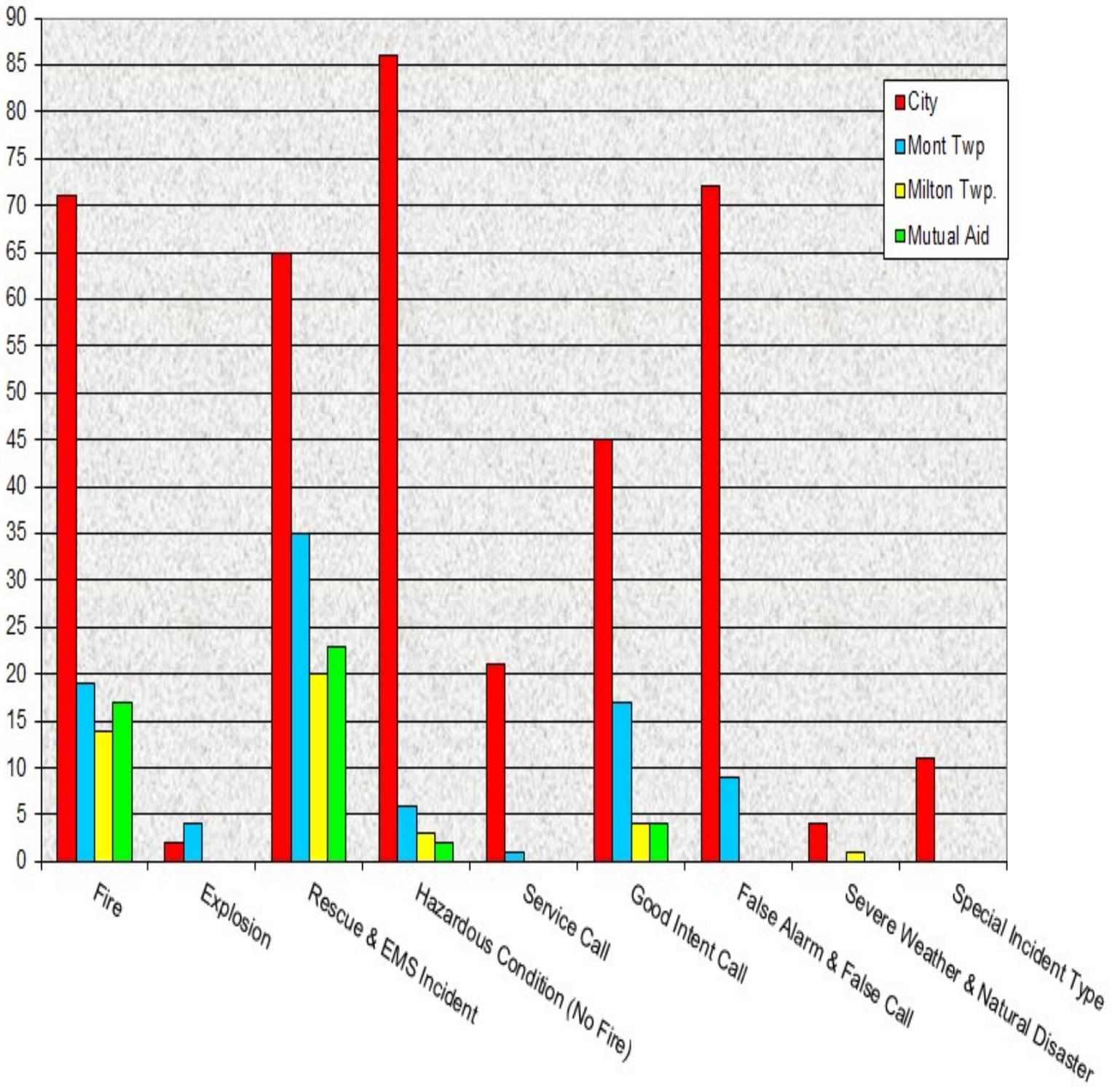


Run Volume Comparison

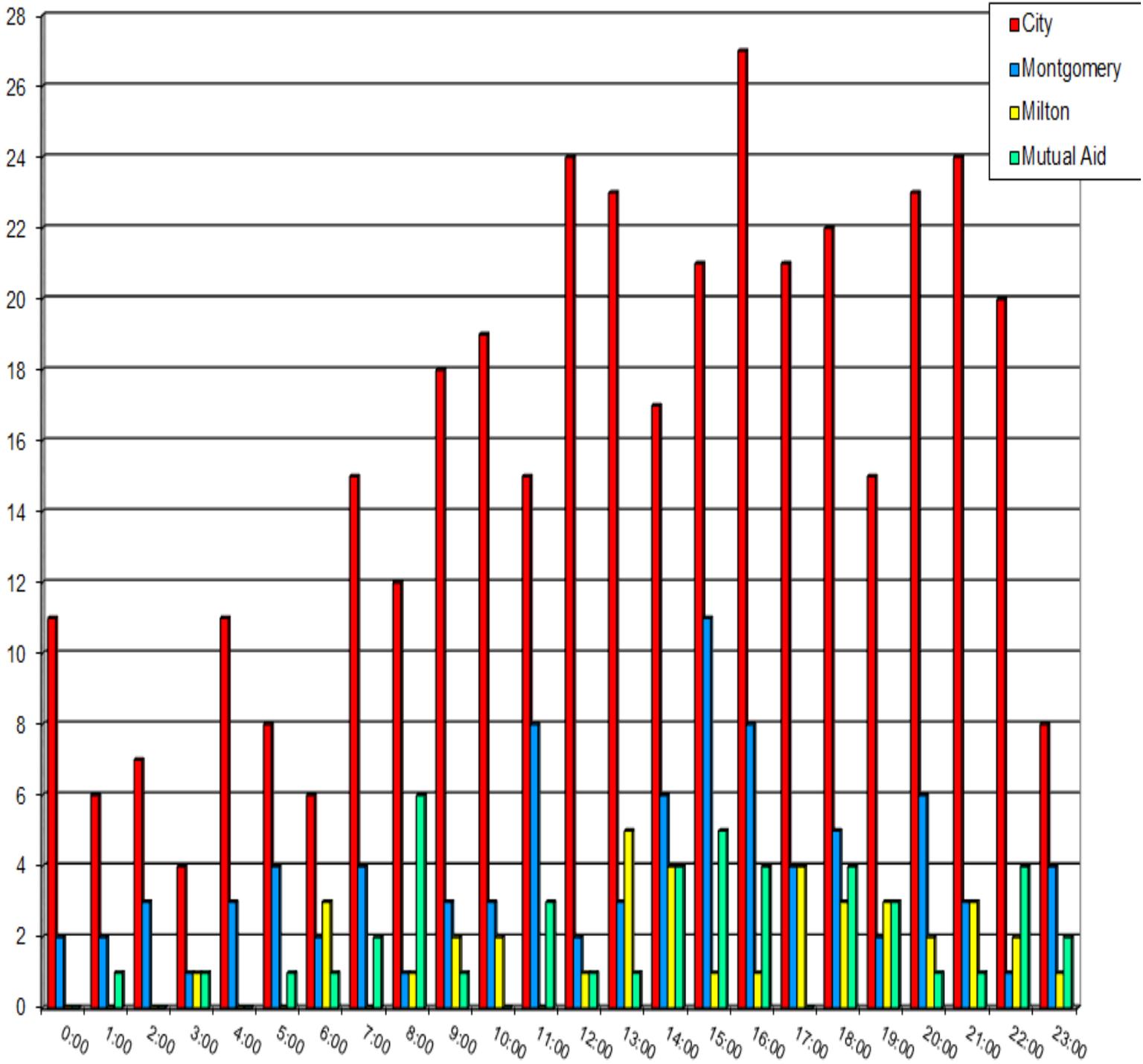


Number of Incidents

Fire Incident Type

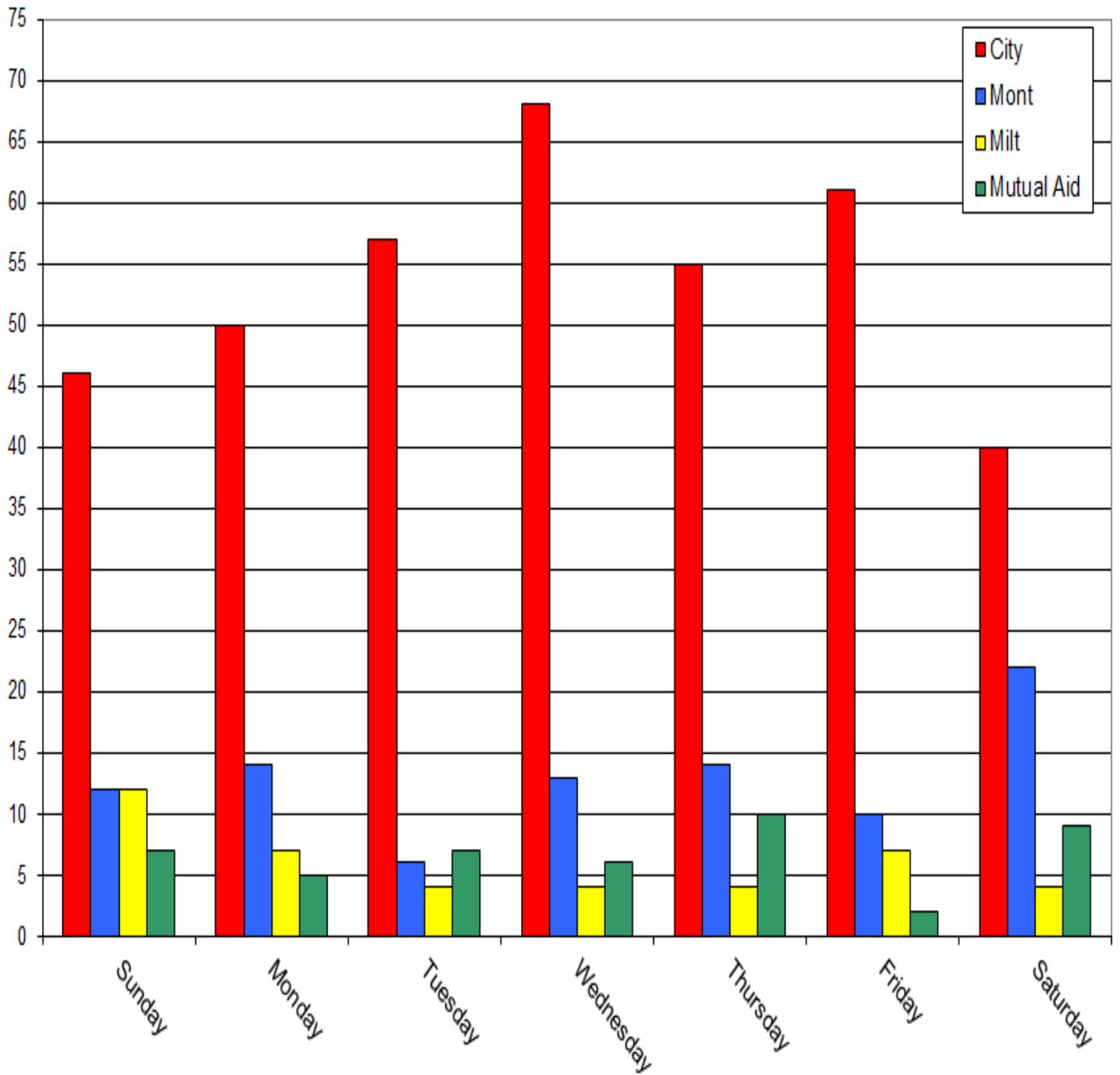


Fire Incident Alarm Times



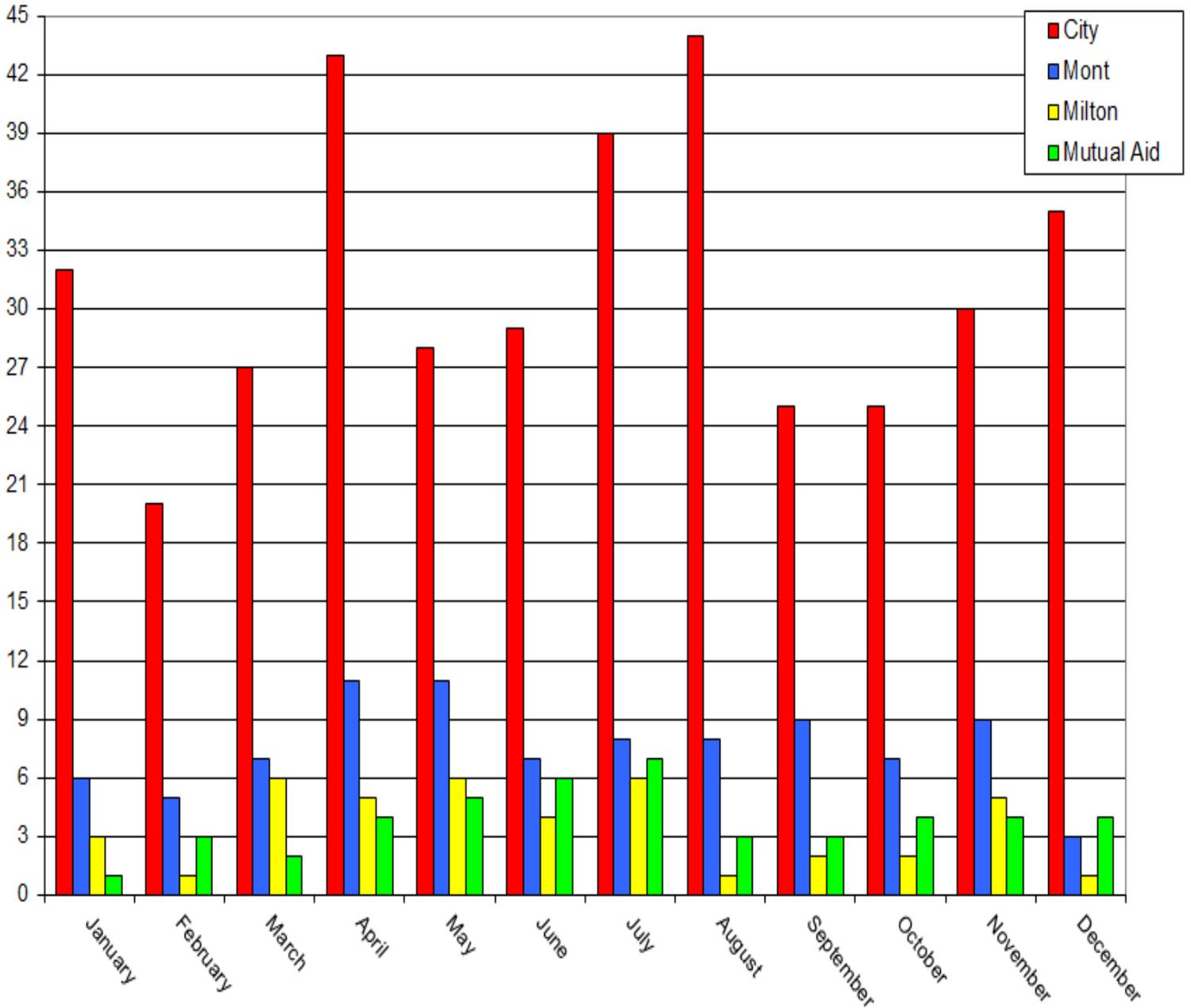
Fire Incidents by Day of Week

Number of Incidents



Fire Incidents by Month

Number of Incidents





TOTAL FIRE LOSS

\$ 1,291,520

TOTAL VALUE*

\$ 19,305,800

LOSS PERCENTAGE OF VALUE

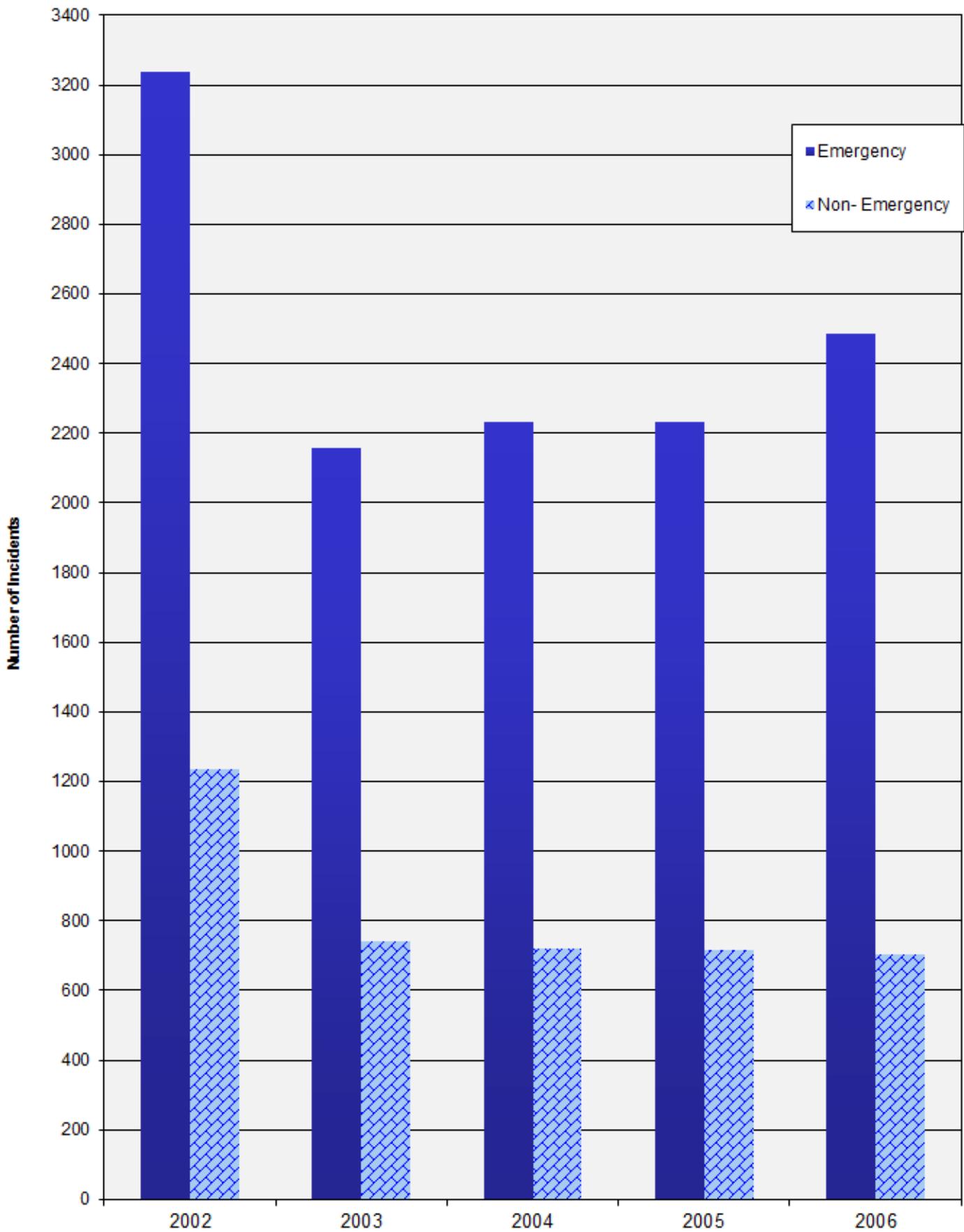
6.69%

* Estimated value of structure or items where fire occurred.

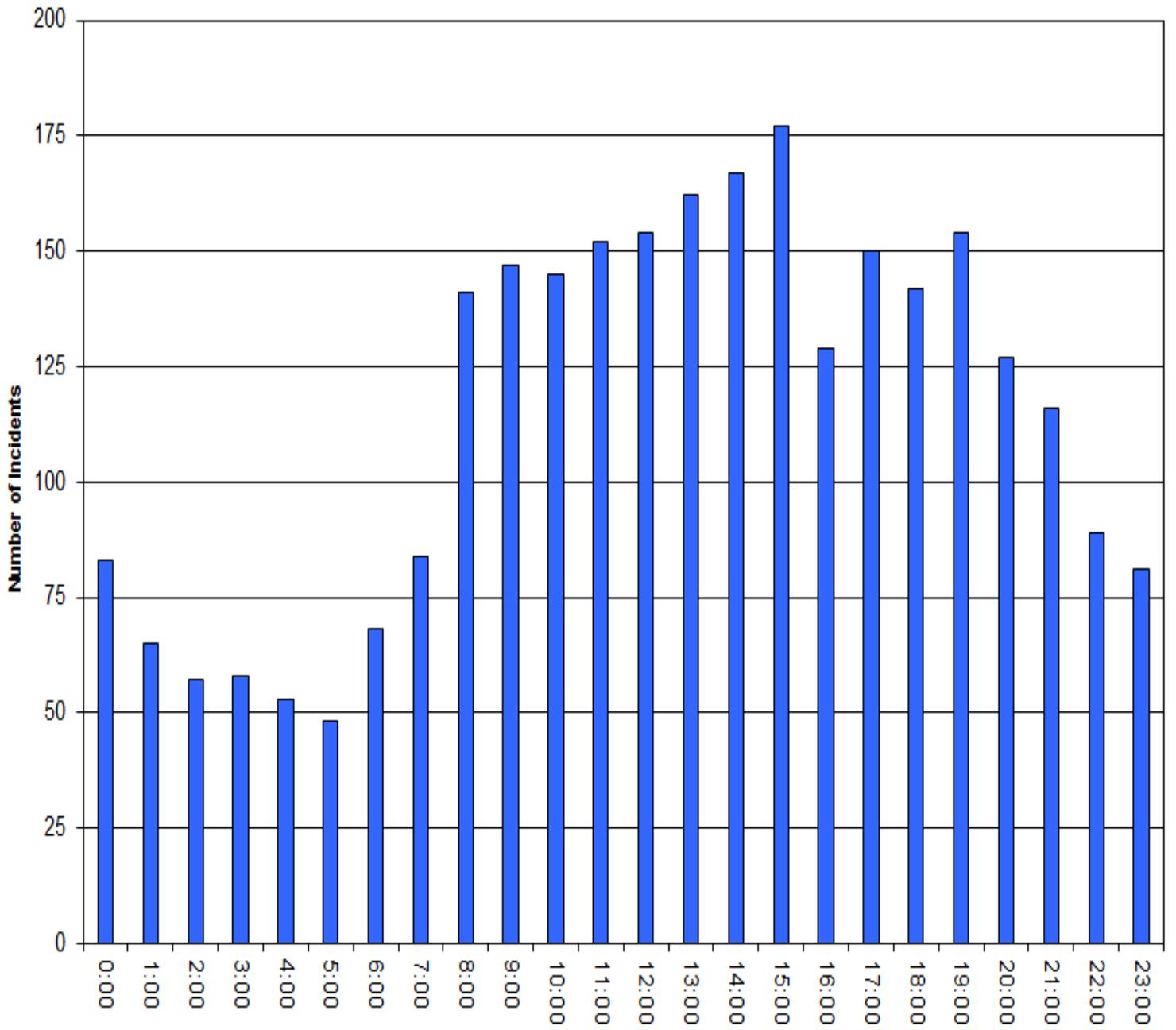


EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES

Emergency vs. Non-Emergency

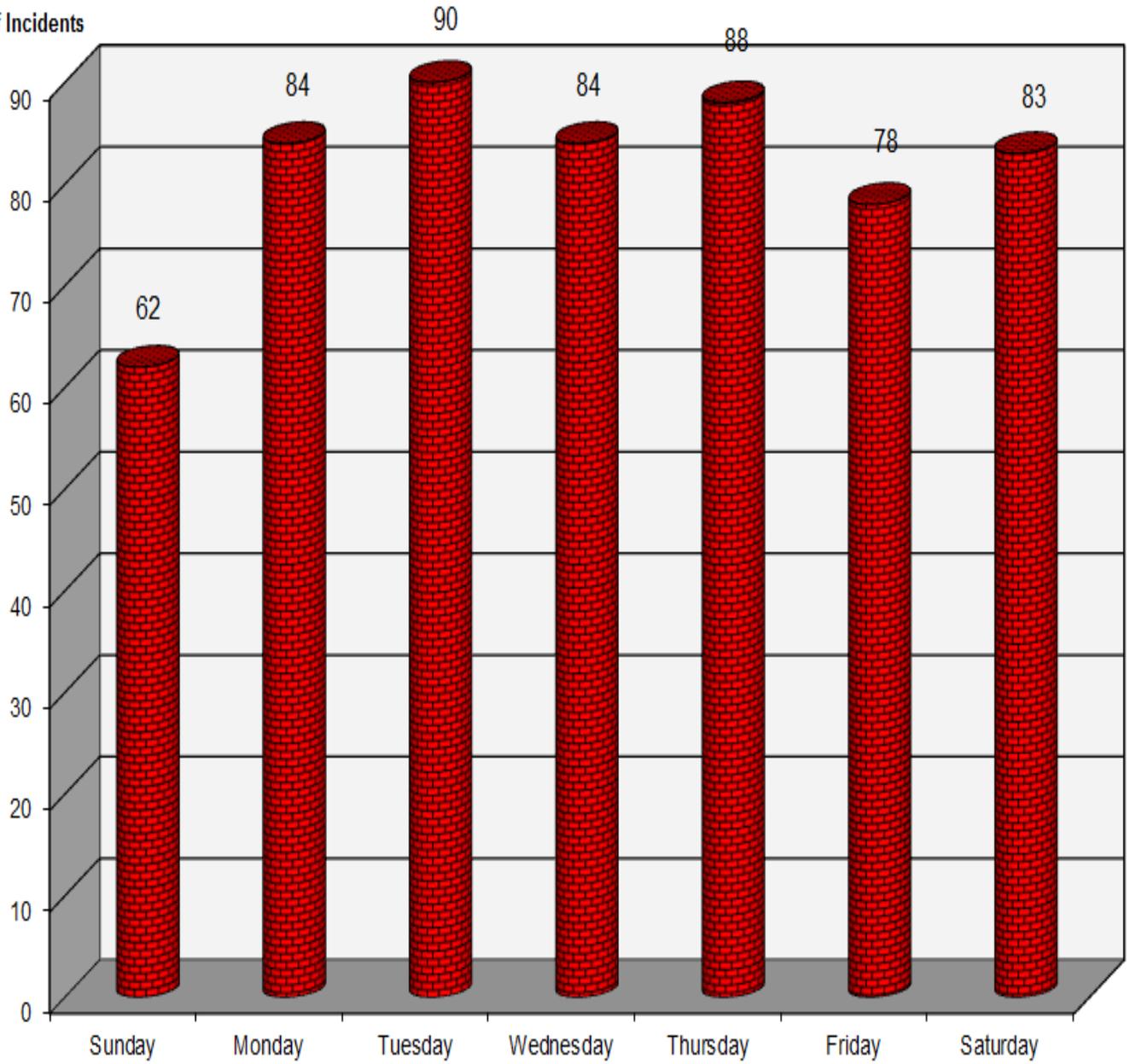


City EMS Incident Alarm Times

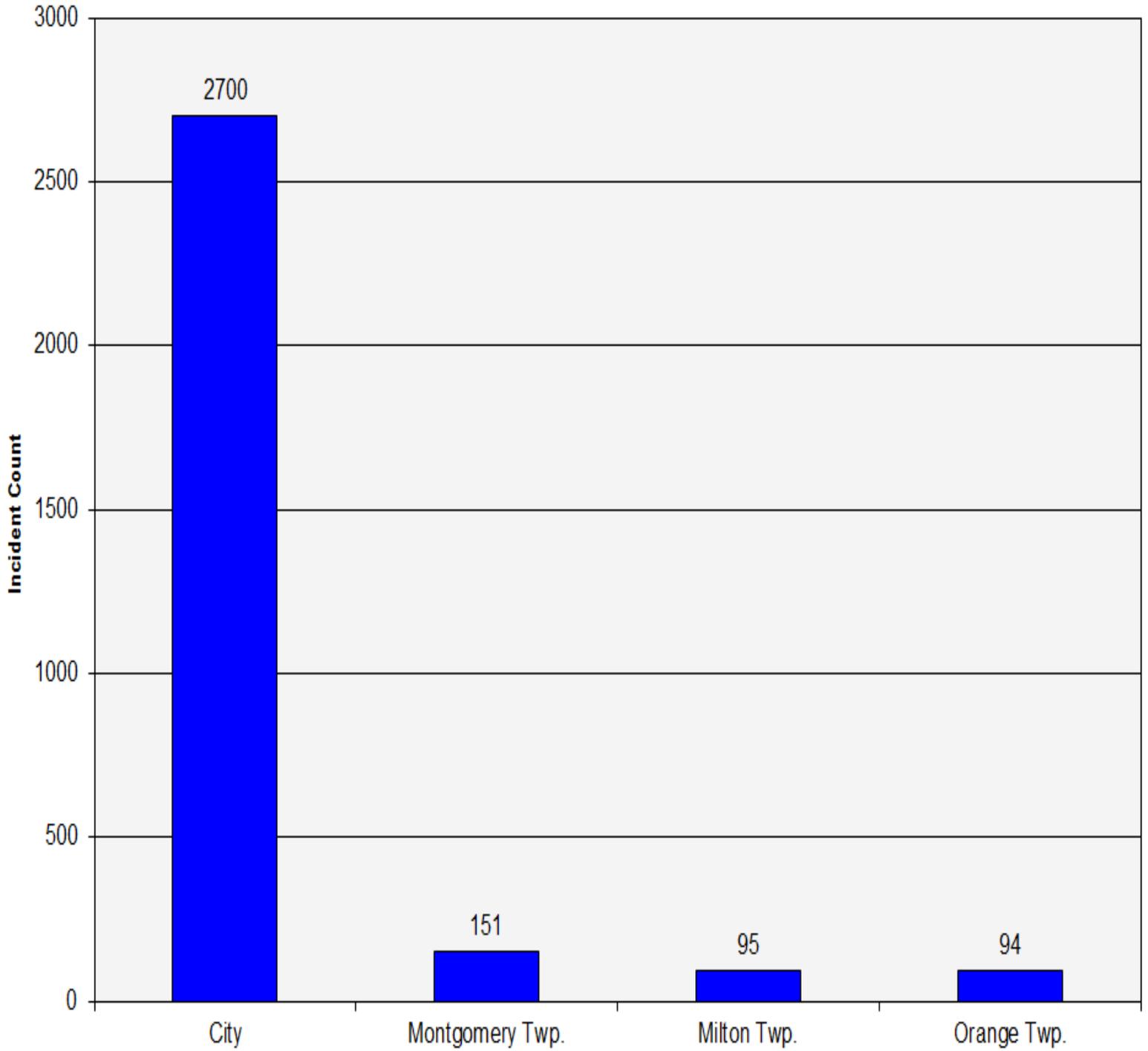


Fire Incident By Day of Week

Number of Incidents

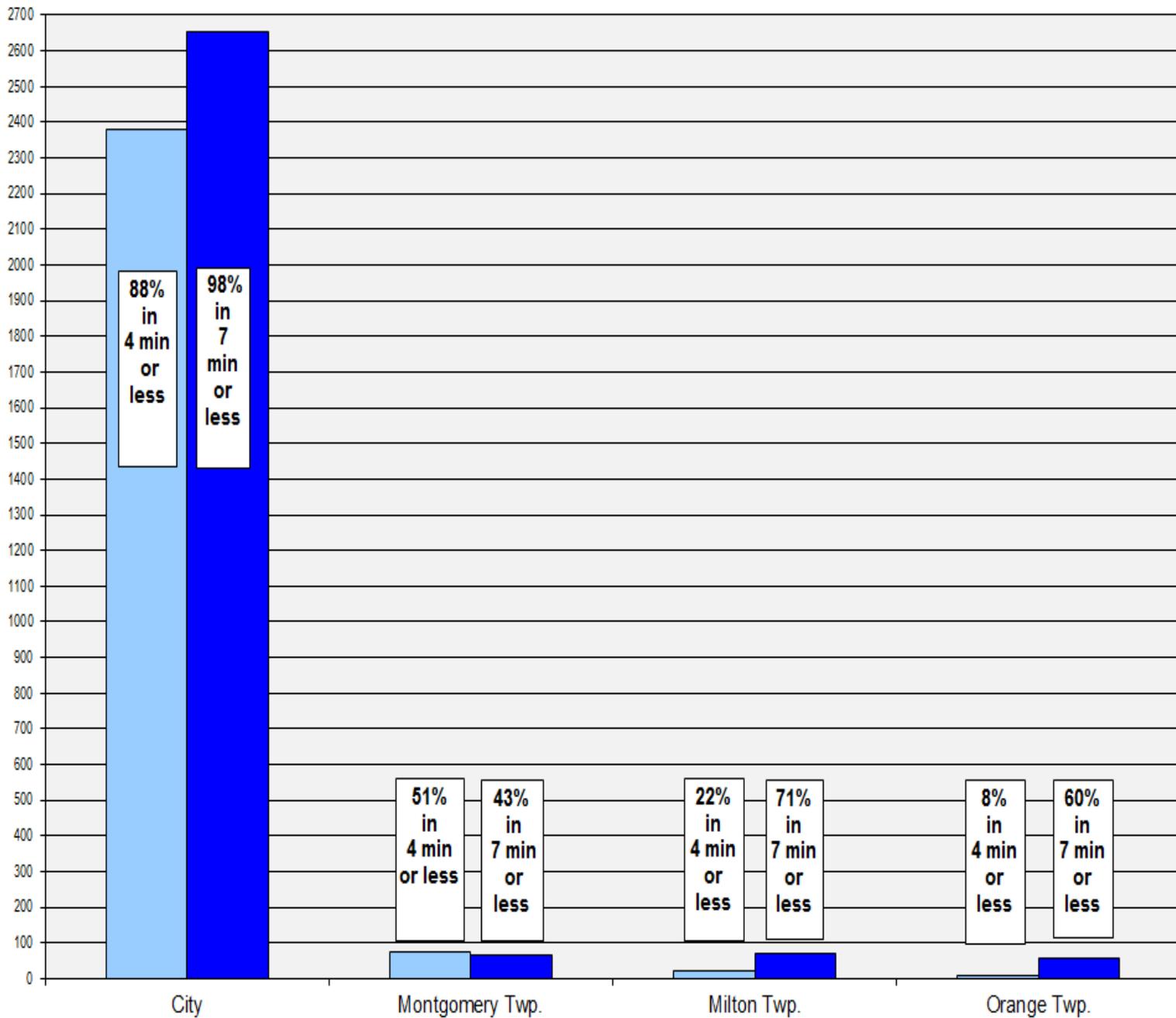


2006 EMS Incident Totals



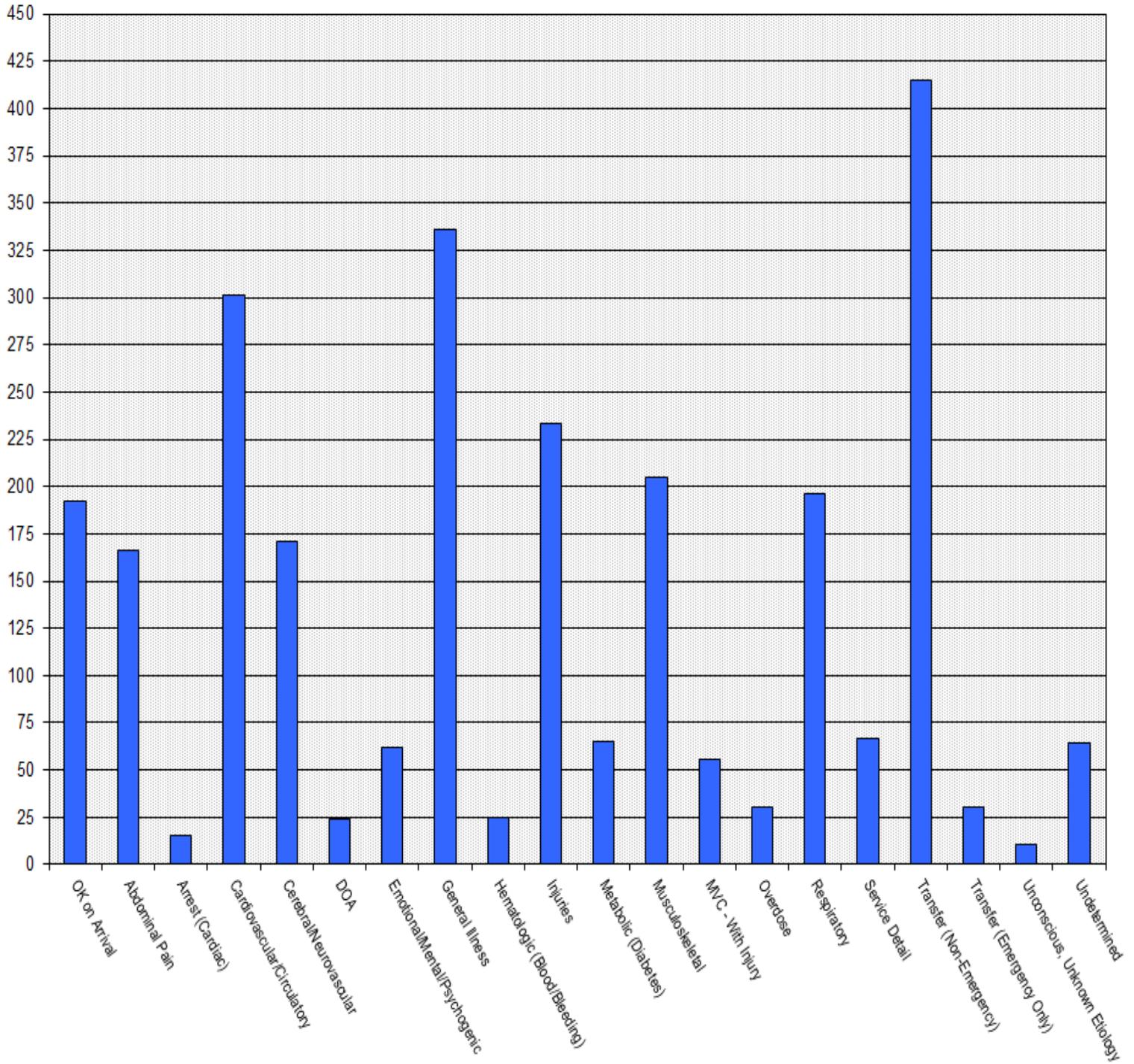
Number of Incidents

EMS Incident Totals and Response Analysis



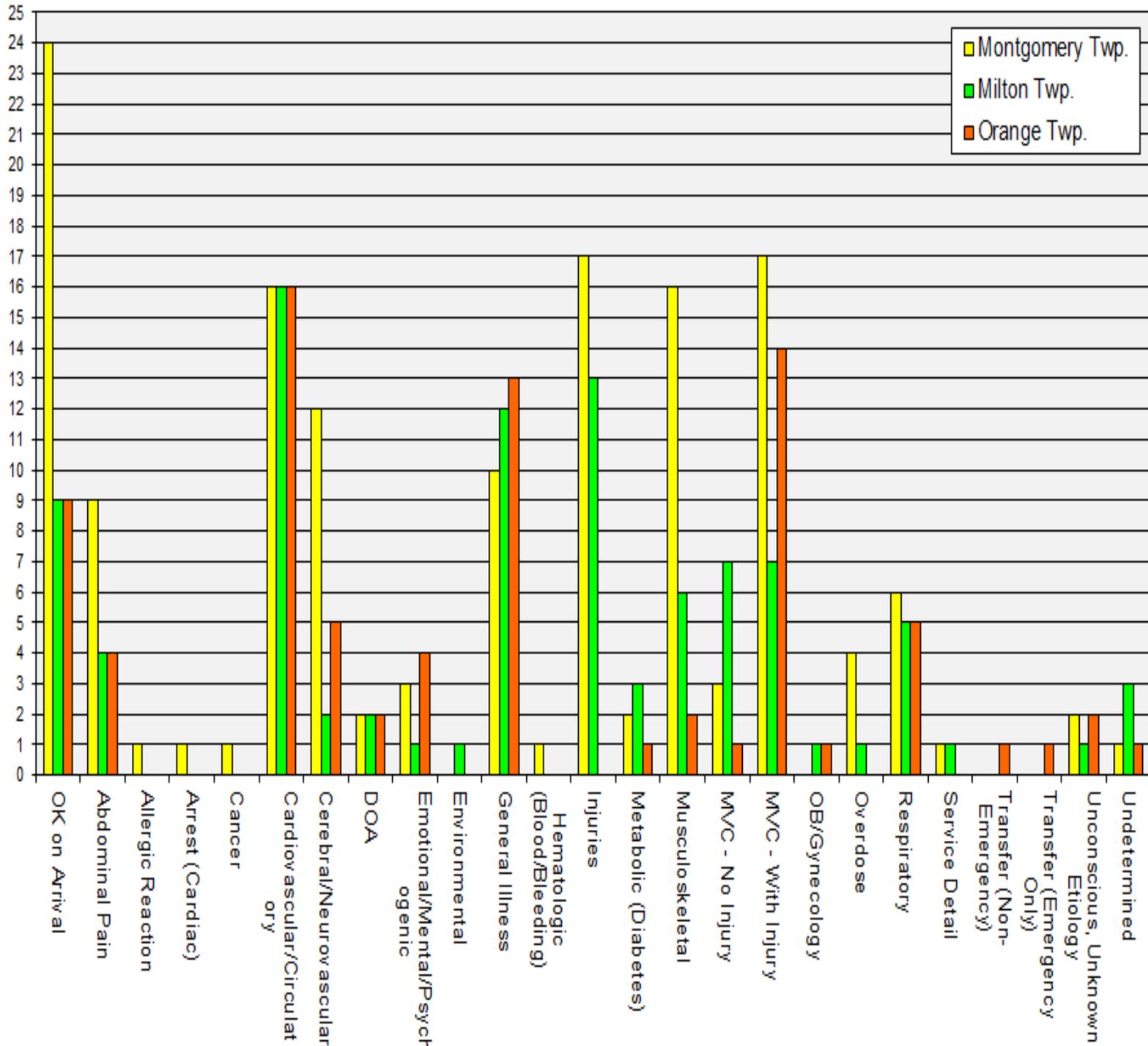
Number of Incidents

Incident Type for City



Incident Types for Contractual Townships

Number of Incidents



The Division of Fire has four Advanced Life Support Ambulances with 25 Paramedics, 5 Intermediate EMT's and 4 Basic EMT's staffing them. In 2006 the Division responded to 2486 emergency medical calls within the city and it's three contractual townships. This area is equal to 96 square miles. In addition to the EMS calls the Division did 703 non- emergency inter-facility transports.

As a result, The Division often responds to multiple calls simultaneously. Multiple calls occur when more than one Medic unit is out at the same time. This occurred 325 times with two units out, 34 times with three units out, and 3 times with all units out. Multiple calls can delay response times, affecting patient care. To minimize the effects of delays caused by multiple calls, The Division equips two of its engines and its command vehicle with ALS equipment and can provide immediate care to the patient until an ambulance is able to respond.

In addition to EMS response, The Division trains nearly 600 people annually in CPR. We recognize that early CPR is critical in a patient's outcome. Training the citizen's of our community is a top priority. In 2006, The Division trained all City of Ashland employees as well as the entire staff of the Ashland City School District. The Ashland Fire Division is a certified EMS training site, and trains it's staff to the most current standards, maintaining a commitment to provide the highest level of care possible to our community.

We will strive to maintain the highest level of care possible, while in the future looking for more ways to improve our service. Our immediate goals are to replace four Lifepack 12 heart monitors, which are now seven years old, within the next two years. Another goal is to continue to reach out to our community and train more citizens in life safety. To do this we need to purchase CPR and defibrillator equipment and pay manpower to teach these classes.

This is our professional and personal commitment to the people we serve.

A Symbol Of Commitment.



Ashland Fire Department

www.ashlandohiofire.com

FIRE

PREVENTION

BUREAU

Fire Prevention Bureau Summary

2006 was a year of transition for the Fire Prevention Bureau. There are a number of significant career events for everyone in the fire service. Each Firefighter will always remember the day they were sworn in, their first big fire, the day they were promoted, and eventually the day they retired. Captain Thomas Smith retired on October 13th, 2006 after over 25 years of full-time service to the Ashland Fire Department. Captain Smith was promoted February 8th, 1996 and spent the next 12 years in the Fire Prevention Bureau until his retirement. Tom continues to serve as a Volunteer Assistant Chief at the Polk-Jackson Township Fire Department.

Firefighter Mark Miller was promoted to the rank of Captain on August 1st, 2006 and assumed the duties of the Fire Prevention Bureau. Captain Miller has been a full-time firefighter since December 5th, 1999. The Fire Prevention Bureau requires a number of different technical certifications and Captain Miller has been attending classes to complete advanced training. Captain Miller has completed Ohio's 80 hour *Certified Fire Safety Inspector* course and has recently completed the Basic and Advanced course of *The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation*. Future courses include the Ohio Fire Academy's *Fire Investigative Law Enforcement Course*, *Juvenile Firesetters*, and *Fundamentals of Sprinkler System Design and Testing*.

The goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to incorporate elements of education, code enforcement and investigation to the mission of the Ashland Fire Department; "To be a community leader in safety and property preservation through dedication, training, and education."

Fire prevention begins with early education. The Prevention Bureau instructs an average of 1,800 students annually at presentations conducted in their classrooms. Beginning as early as pre-K students are taught the fundamentals of fire safety and those concepts are reinforced every year as the children continue up through middle school. Department personnel also assist in education with on duty tours of the fire station throughout the year.

In 2006 the program "Pennies for Prevention" was introduced to Ashland elementary schools by Ashland Fire and the Firefighters 1st TEAM. Each class within the school competed to raise the most money to purchase smoke detectors for low-income individuals or families. The "winning" classes were treated to a VIP tour of the fire station and a pizza lunch with the firefighters donated by local businesses. The "Pennies for Prevention" program raised a total of \$3,023.05. Ashland Fire Department conducts fire safety classes in both public and private schools.

Fire Prevention Bureau Summary (con't.)

Fire Safety and Fire Extinguisher classes are also taught to target the adult age groups with education. An average of 2,300 adults each year are trained as part of many local companies required employee safety programs. The Prevention Bureau is also invited to speak at various civic groups to emphasize the importance of specific fire safety issues throughout the year.

The goal of code enforcement, or inspections, is to minimize the risk of life safety and property loss from fire. By inspecting, observing, making recommendations and controlling or eliminating hazardous conditions, the Prevention Bureau can make major strides towards accomplishing this goal before a fire occurs. The common view of the fire inspector's role is one of an "enforcing" or "policing" authority. However, when the job is properly performed, the inspector is just as much an *educator* as anything else. Inspections help to educate occupants in ways to control hazards, in proper evacuation methods, in overall fire safety practices, as well as new construction testing.

Investigation of fires is a key component in fire prevention and fire protection. Accurate determinations of cause, reason for spread, and performance of fire protection equipment are vital in prevention of future, similar occurrences. Investigation is also the primary means for detecting arson and securing evidence for conviction of arsonists. The knowledge that every fire will be thoroughly investigated in itself is a powerful influence for fire prevention. We are proud that interagency cooperation with Federal, State and local law enforcement has always been a key component in many successful investigations.

2007 Fire Prevention Bureau Goals

- Upgrade computer systems to include portable reporting
- Expand the "Pennies for Prevention" and education programs
- Organize detailed local occupancy database
- Increase specialized Investigator certification / training
- Conduct departmental company level inspection course
- Develop departmental continuing education for Investigators
- Certify department investigator in *Computer Voice Stress Analysis*



TRAINING



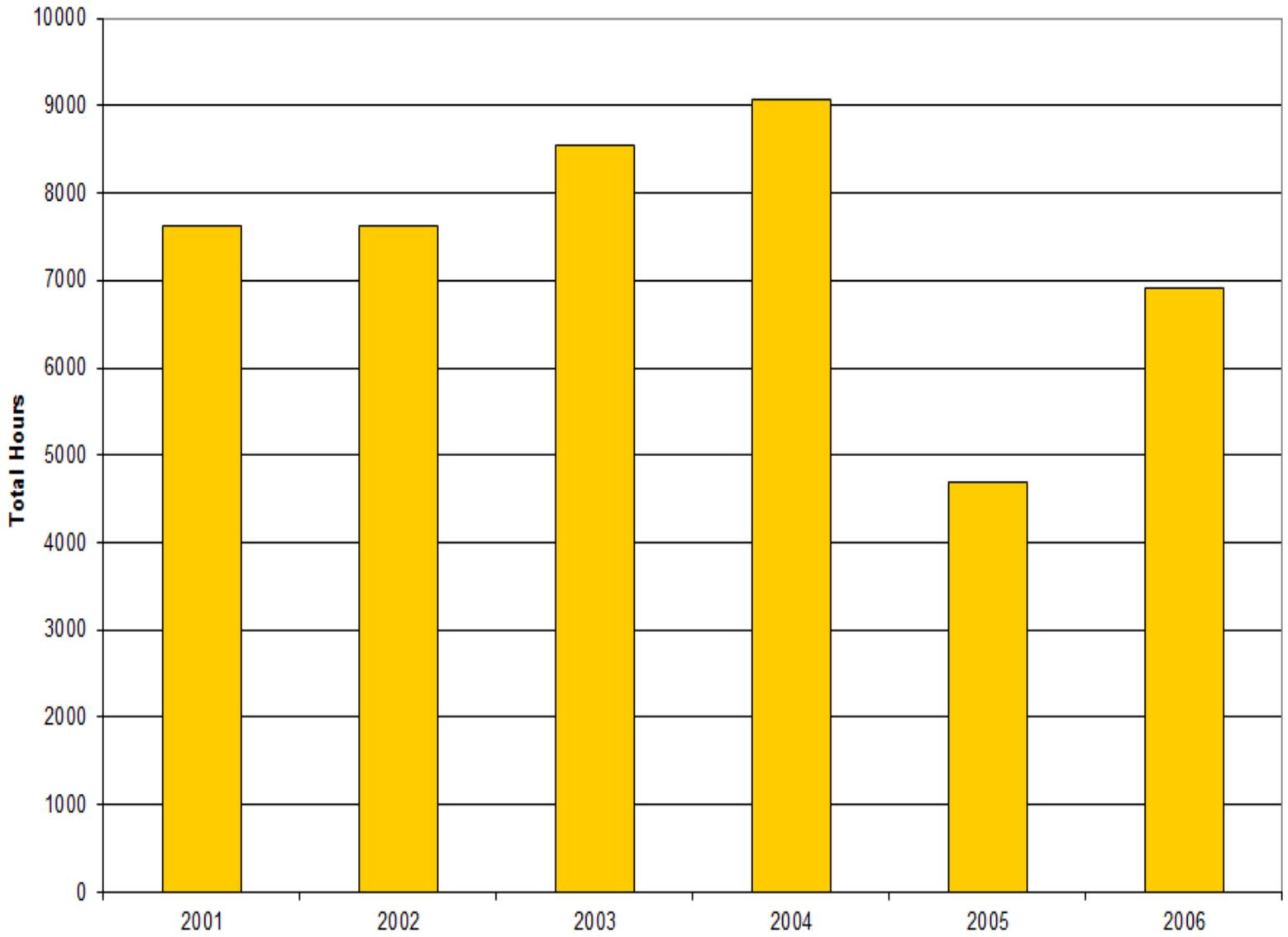
AHSLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTORS

Chief Mark Burgess
Assistant Chief Adrian Bull
Assistant Chief Duane Fishpaw
Assistant Chief Ronald Workman
Captain Fred Schwan
Captain Chris King
Captain Raymond E. Miller Jr.
Firefighter Dan McFarlin
Firefighter Richard Williams
Firefighter William Davisson

ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS

Assistant Chief Rick Anderson
Firefighter Chad Buzzard
Firefighter Andrew Ferguson
Firefighter Douglas Hootman
Firefighter Travis Pickering
Firefighter Dan Raudebaugh
Firefighter Kevin Rosser
Firefighter Chris Schmidt

Six Year Training Hours Comparison



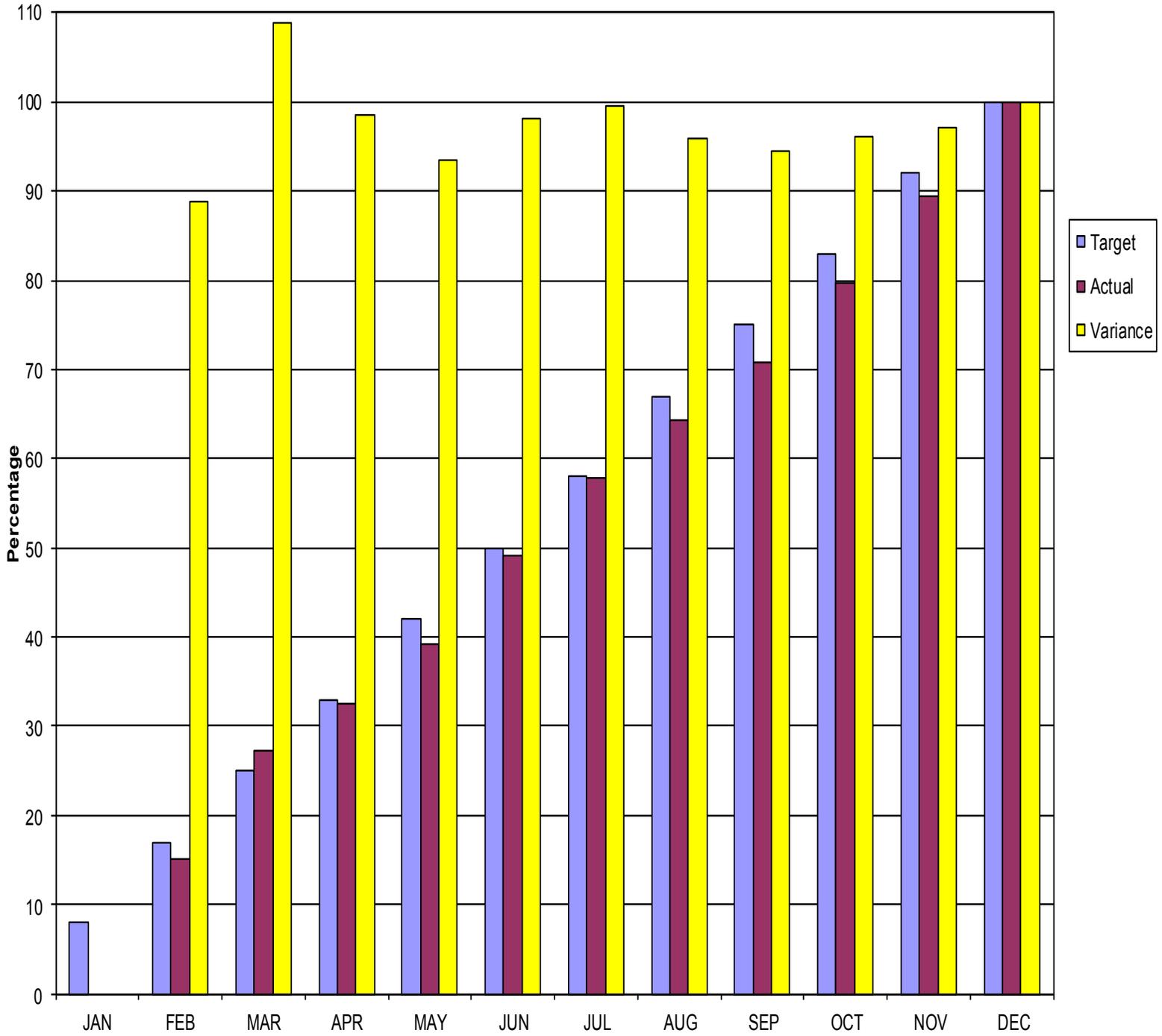
2006 TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- **NIMS 100, 200, 700, 800**
- **Quality Initiative (Baldrige program)**
- **Substance Abuse (training & awareness)**
- **Advanced Trauma Extrication**
- **School Bus Extrication**
- **Northern Ohio Arson Seminar**
- **Live Fire Training (PumpHouse burn, 13 structures)**
- **Ohio Fire Executive Class #4 – 1 graduate**
- **Trench Rescue - Awareness/Operations**
- **Structural Collapse – Awareness**
- **Occupancy Tours**
- **Advanced Cardiac Life Support**
- **Hazardous Materials Technician – Refresher**
- **Hazardous Materials – Incident Command**

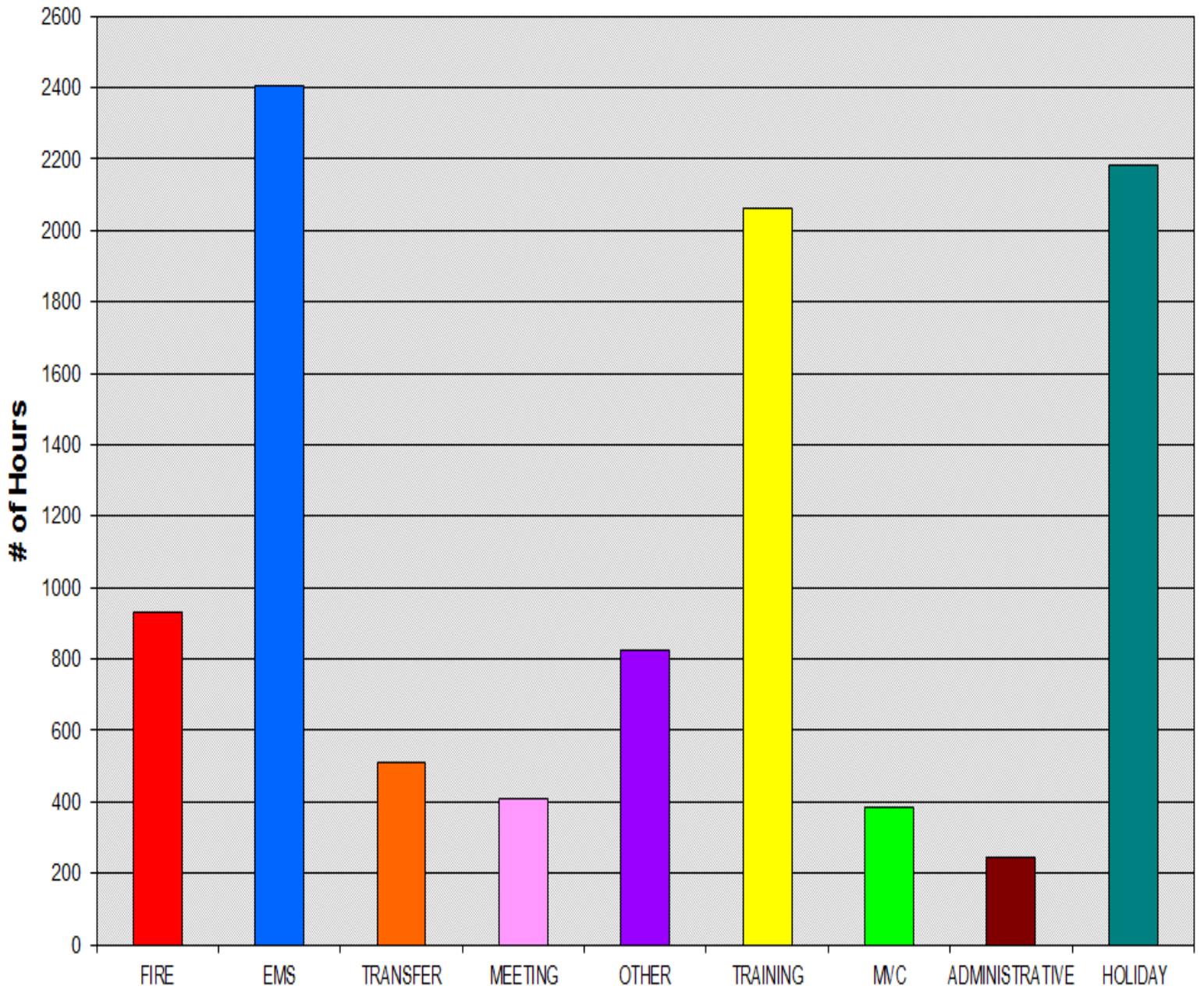


ADMINISTRATIVE

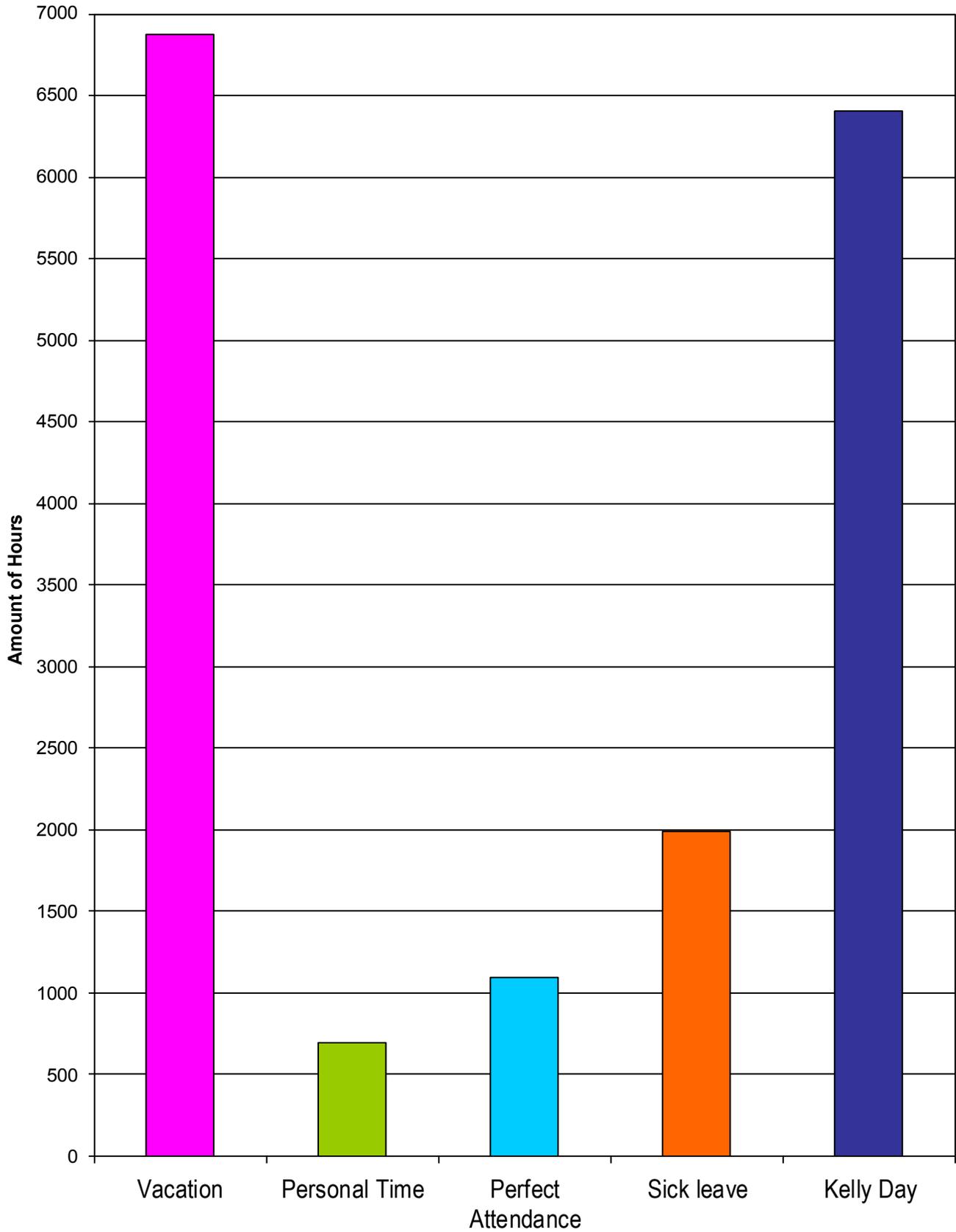
2006 BUDGET VARIANCE



Overtime Hours



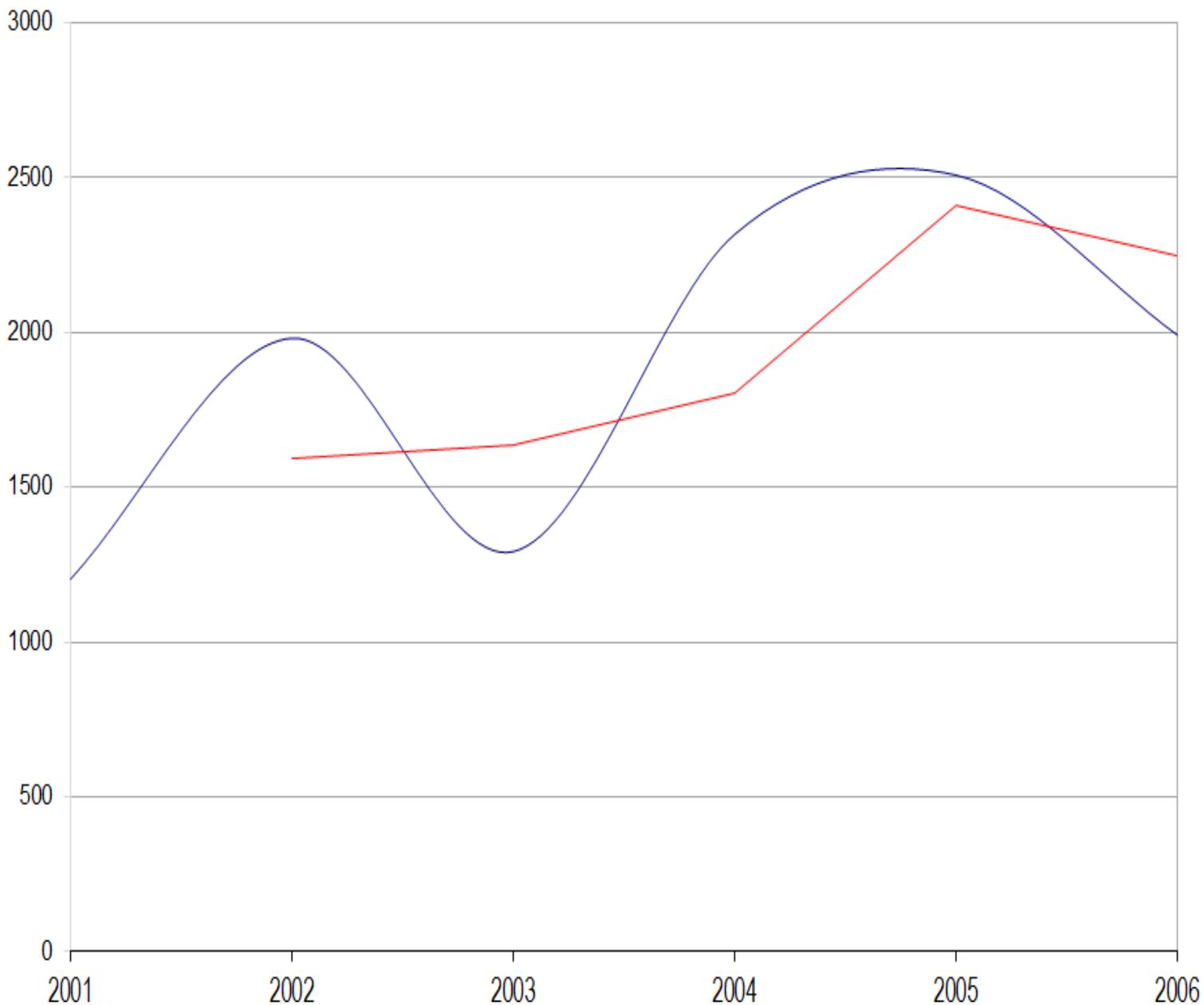
Time Off Hours Used



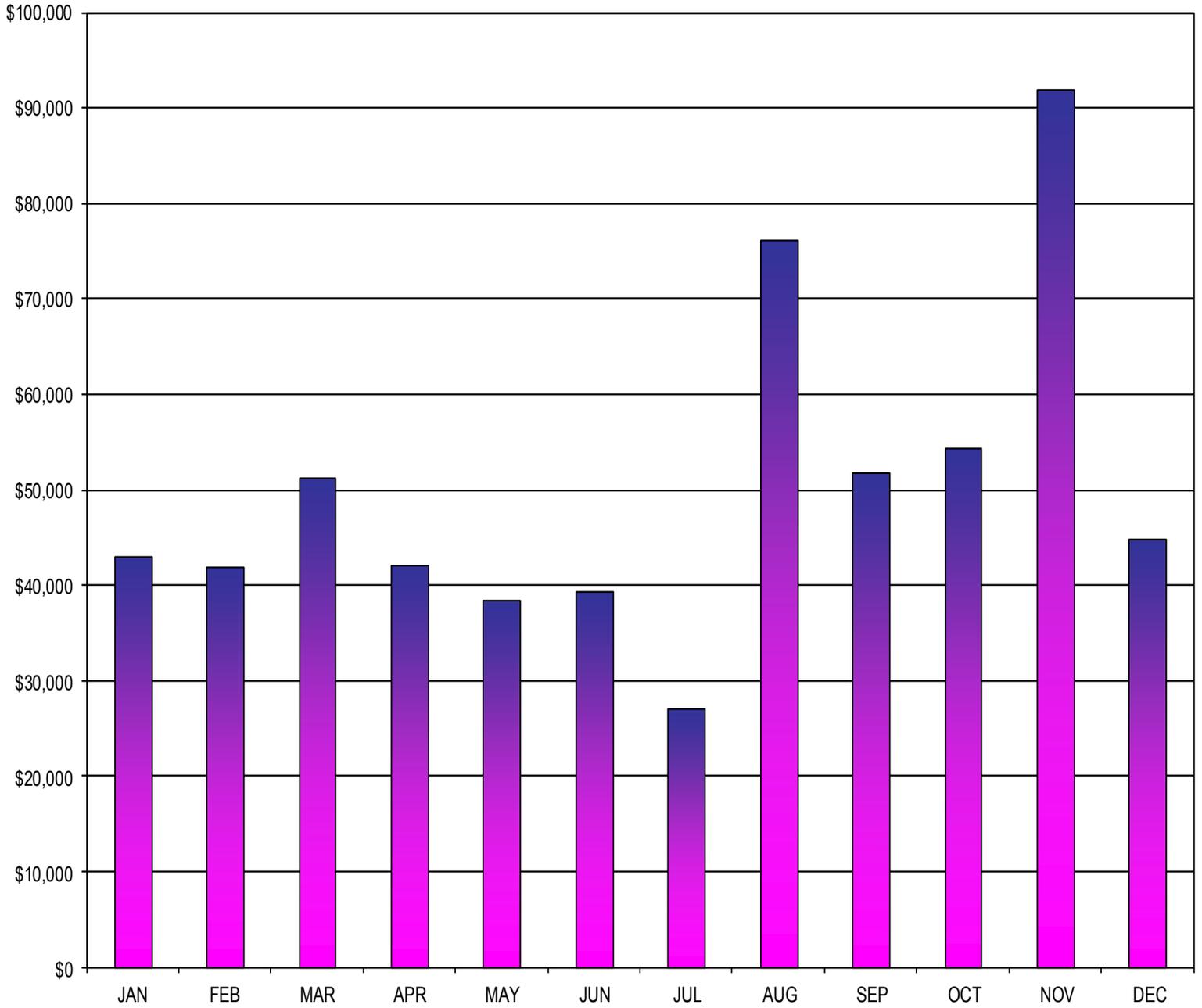
Sick Leave Use

of Hours

Red line
represents
moving average
trendline

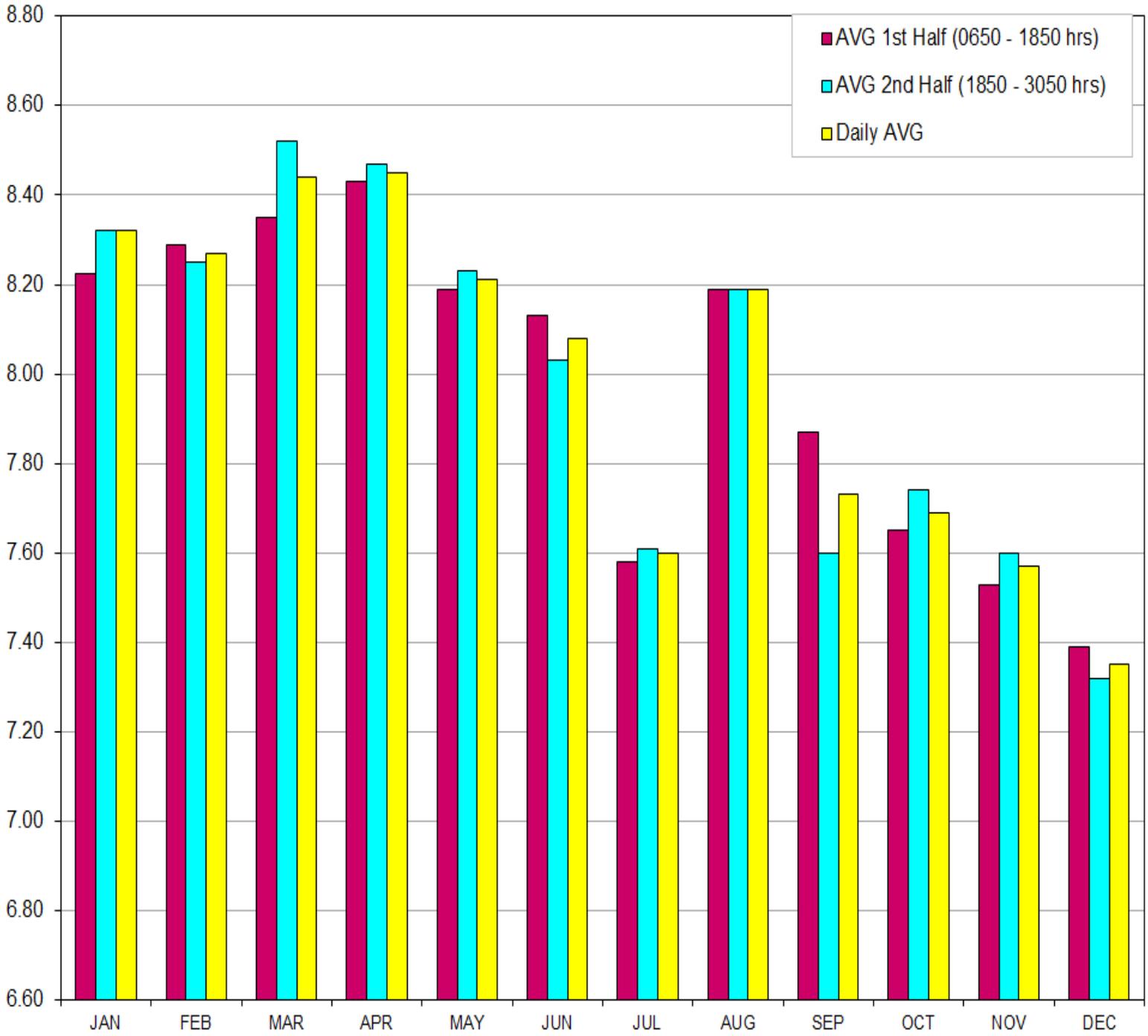


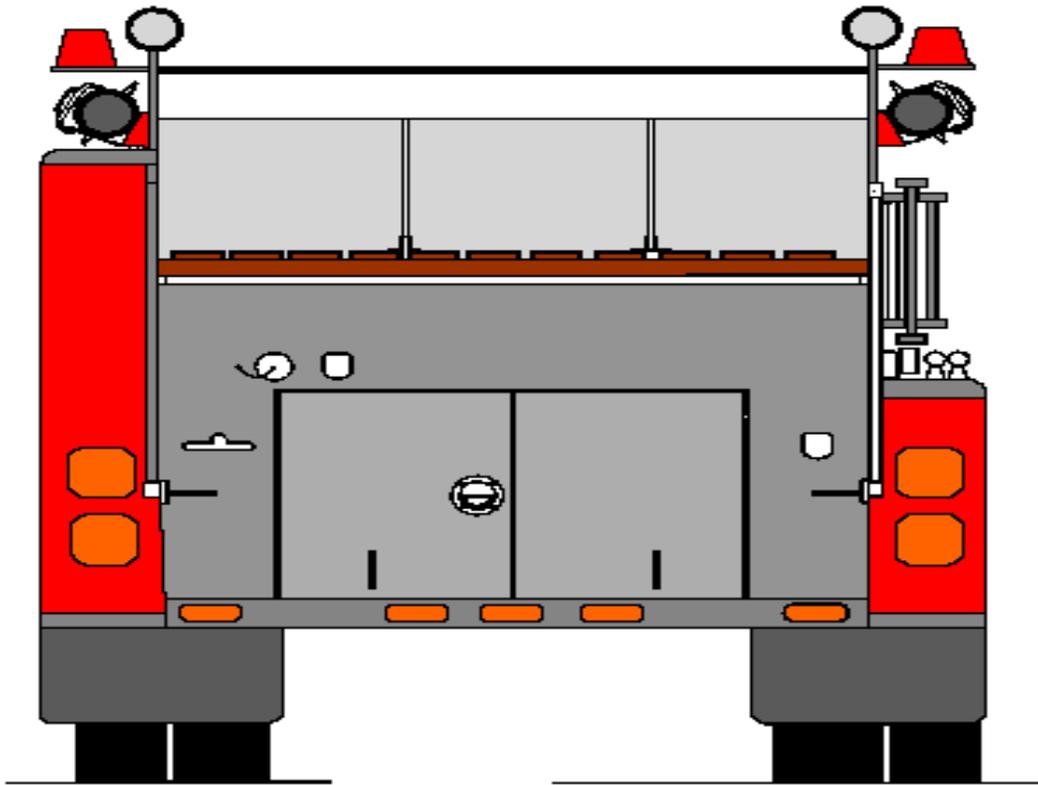
2006 EMS REVENUE



Firefighters On Duty

Manpower Levels





CONCLUSION

THE ROLE OF THE FIRE SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO EXPAND. WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FIRE SUPPRESSION, RESCUE AND PREVENTION SERVICES. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FILL THE GAPS BETWEEN PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE, HEALTHCARE INSURANCE, LOSS OF INCOME AND THE HOSPITAL. HOMELAND SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE GROWN TO INCLUDE AREAS OUTSIDE THE CITY AS WELL AS NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS. THE DIVISION IS LOOKING AT MORE OF A REGIONAL APPROACH TO MEET THE SERVICE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE CITY HAS STARTED. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE YOU.

**PROFESSIONALS SERVING
SOMEPLACE SPECIAL**