



CITY OF ASHLAND
2007
DIVISION OF FIRE
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.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2007 run volume for the Division increased slightly. There were 592 fire runs and 3336 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. Over \$550,000 was collected from EMS transports. This money goes into the General Fund to help offset the Division's budget. The Division is investigating methods of improving this revenue stream while keeping our citizens in mind.

Prevention is the key to making the public safe. The loss of life and the economic impact of fire can devastate a community. No fire loss is our goal. The total fire loss for 2007 decreased from \$1,291,520 in 2006 to \$398,750. The Prevention Bureau has partnered with the local schools to provide students pre-K through third grade with fire safety education. 980 children were instructed. 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 (1,278 people) and CPR training (740 people) 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 469 times in 2007 that two squads were out at the same time. Three or more squads were out 69 times. The minimum on station staffing is six. Responding to fires with six firefighters is well below national standards and is risky. Calling in off duty firefighters is the current method for covering the additional staffing needs. 2007 showed an increase in the number of times call back did not maintain minimum staffing levels. The station did not have the minimum of six firefighters 261 times in 2007.

The firefighters continue to work with the City's Water Distribution team in testing fire hydrants. Hydrants should be tested twice annually. The partnership has 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY_(con't.)

The year 2007 presented many challenges. Most of the firefighters and officers embrace these challenges and creatively resolve them. As our community grows, the demand for service increases and the complexity of community needs changes. Additional staffing is needed to meet these demands. Increases in response times may necessitate the need for additional stations. Economic constraints limit the improvements that can be made.

The fire service lives for challenges. Whether a fire, a rescue or taking care of the ill or injured patient, firefighters continue to provide the best service possible.

The Division of Fire's annual report is changing. The Division continues to improve the report in order to provide useful information to the public. Decision makers everywhere need accurate information in order to make informed decisions. Your feedback is vital to the improvement process.

Please take a moment and visit this website to enter your feedback. <http://www.egovlink.com/ashland/action.asp?actionid=5224>

This link takes you directly to the correct form to complete your feedback.

If you would like to access the City of Ashland's website, please go to

<http://www.ashland-ohio.com/>

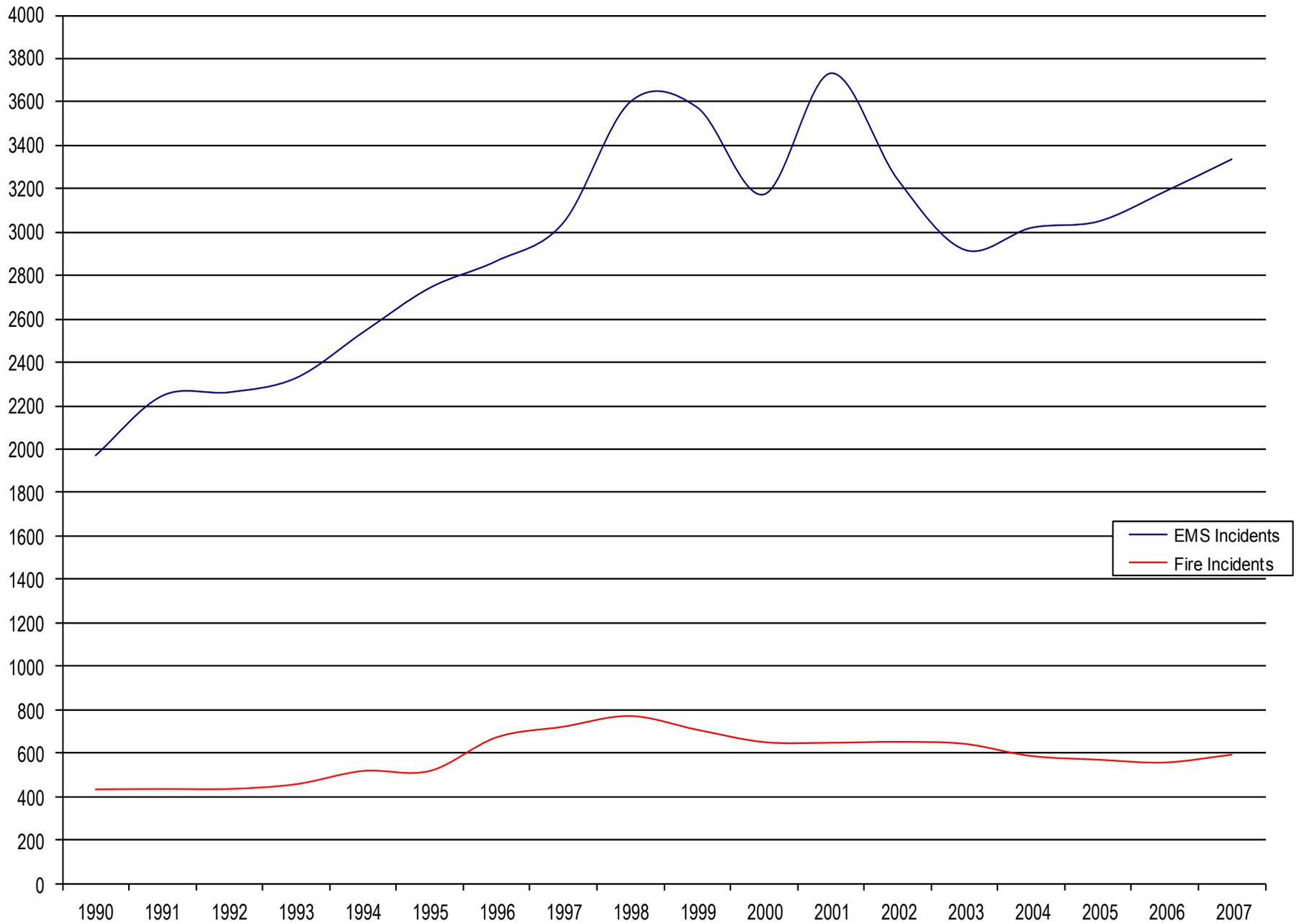
From this website you may then access the fire department's webpage by clicking on *Fire Department* located on the left hand column. The annual report may be viewed from this site as well.



FIRE SUPPRESSION

EMS vs. Fire Run Volume

Number of Incidents





2007 TOTAL FIRE LOSS
\$ 398,950.00

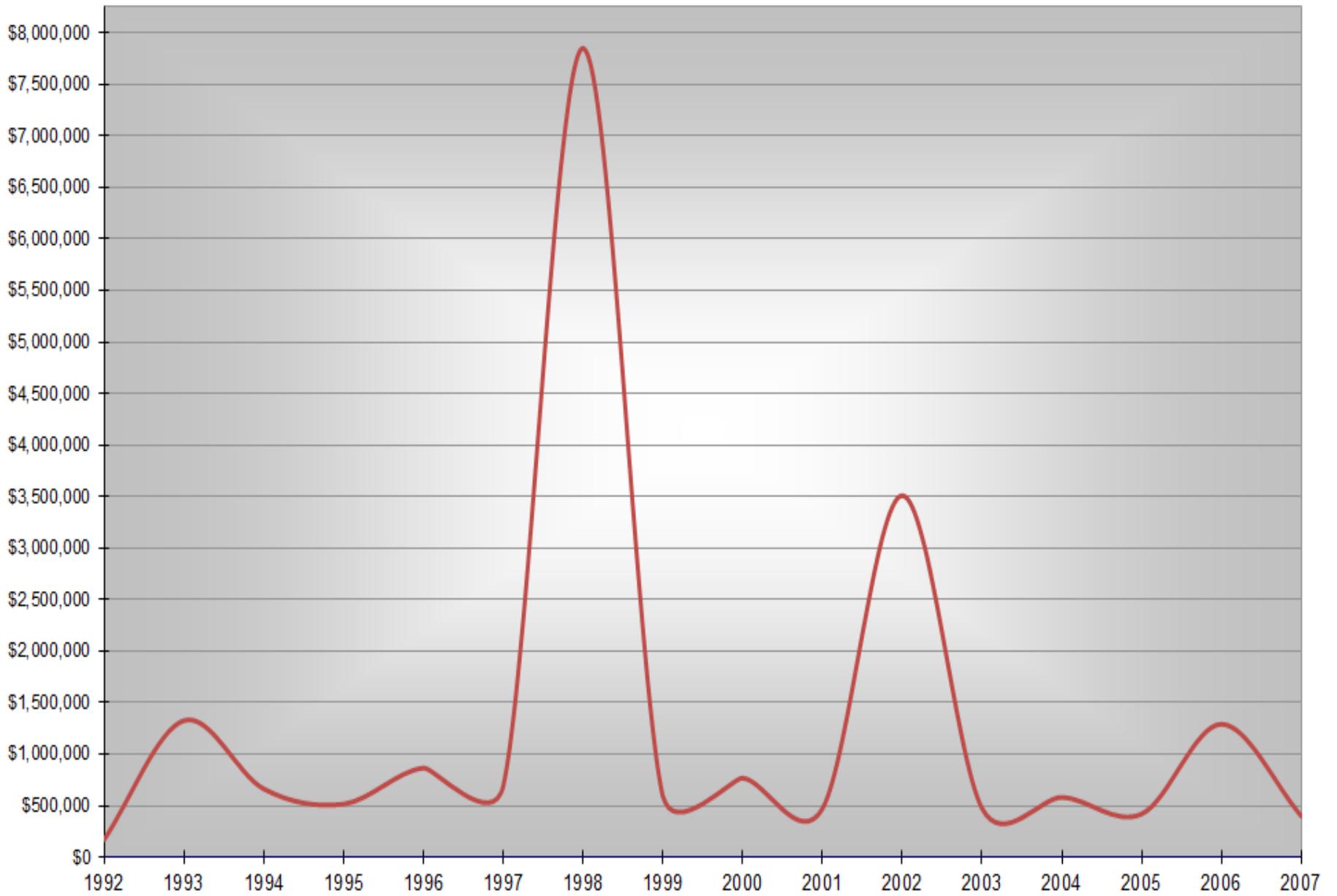
TOTAL VALUE*
\$ 2,906,750.00

LOSS PERCENTAGE OF VALUE
13.72%

* Estimated value of structure or items where fire occurred.

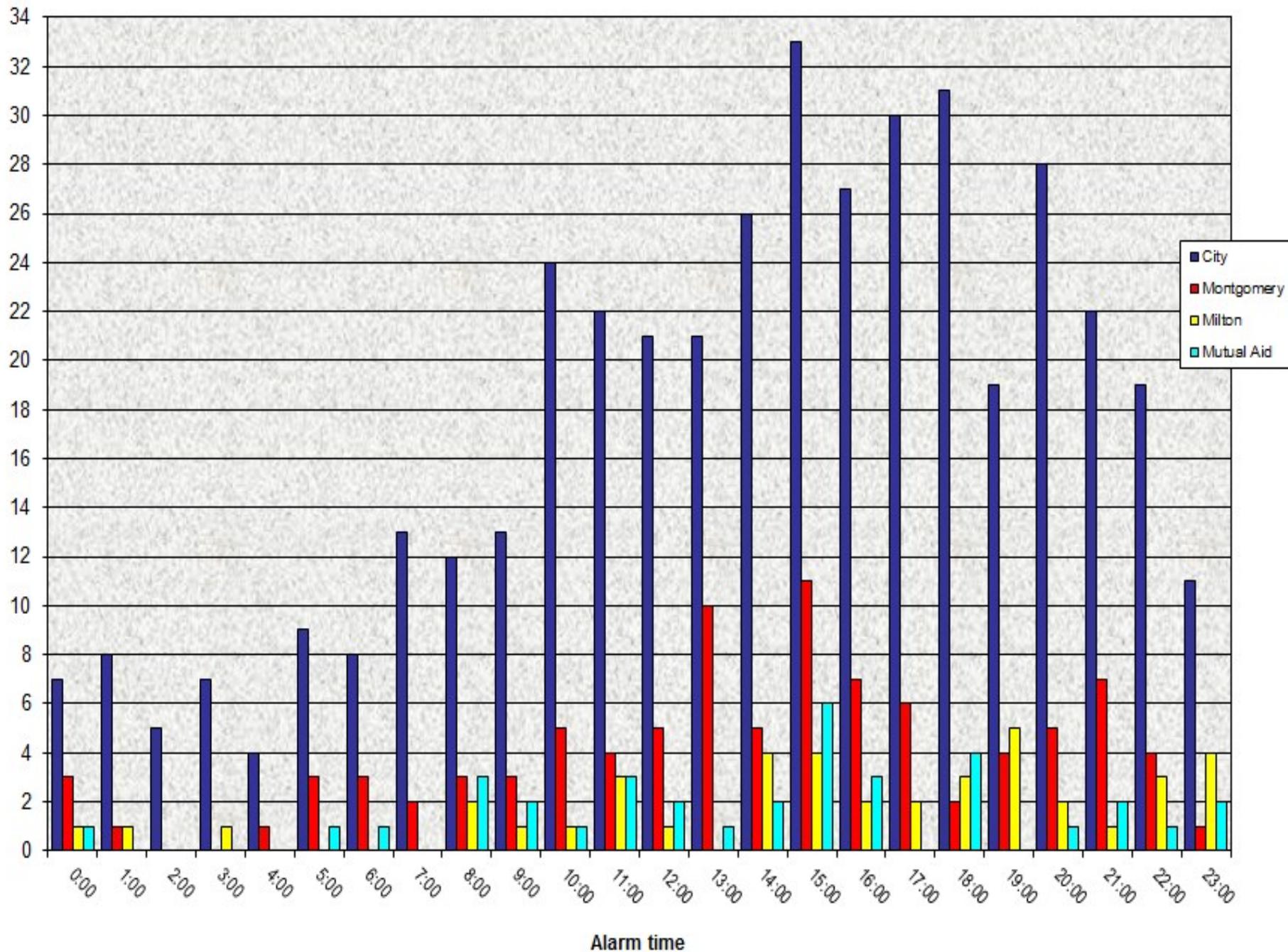
Fire Loss Comparison

Estimated Dollar Loss Value

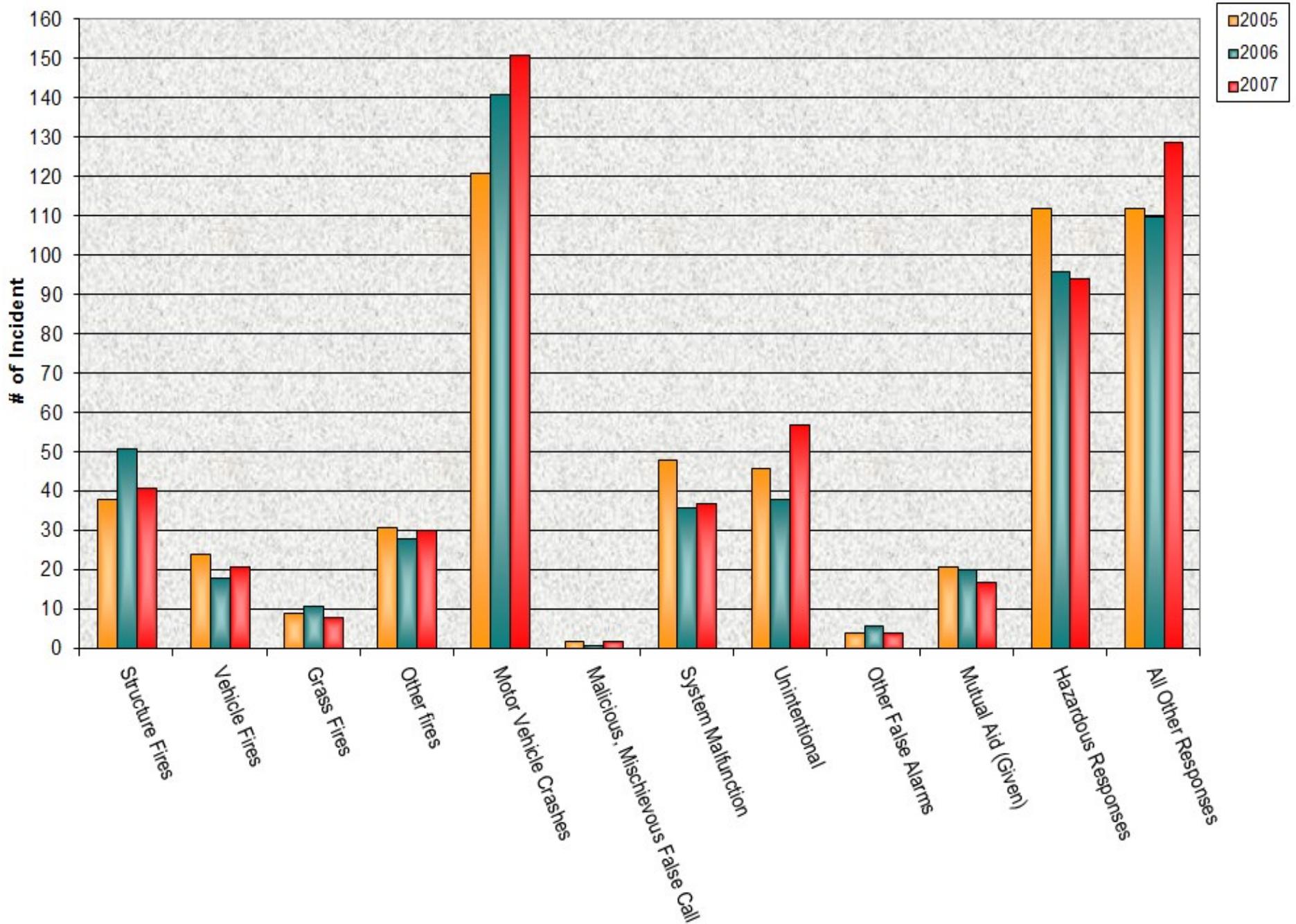


Number of Incidents

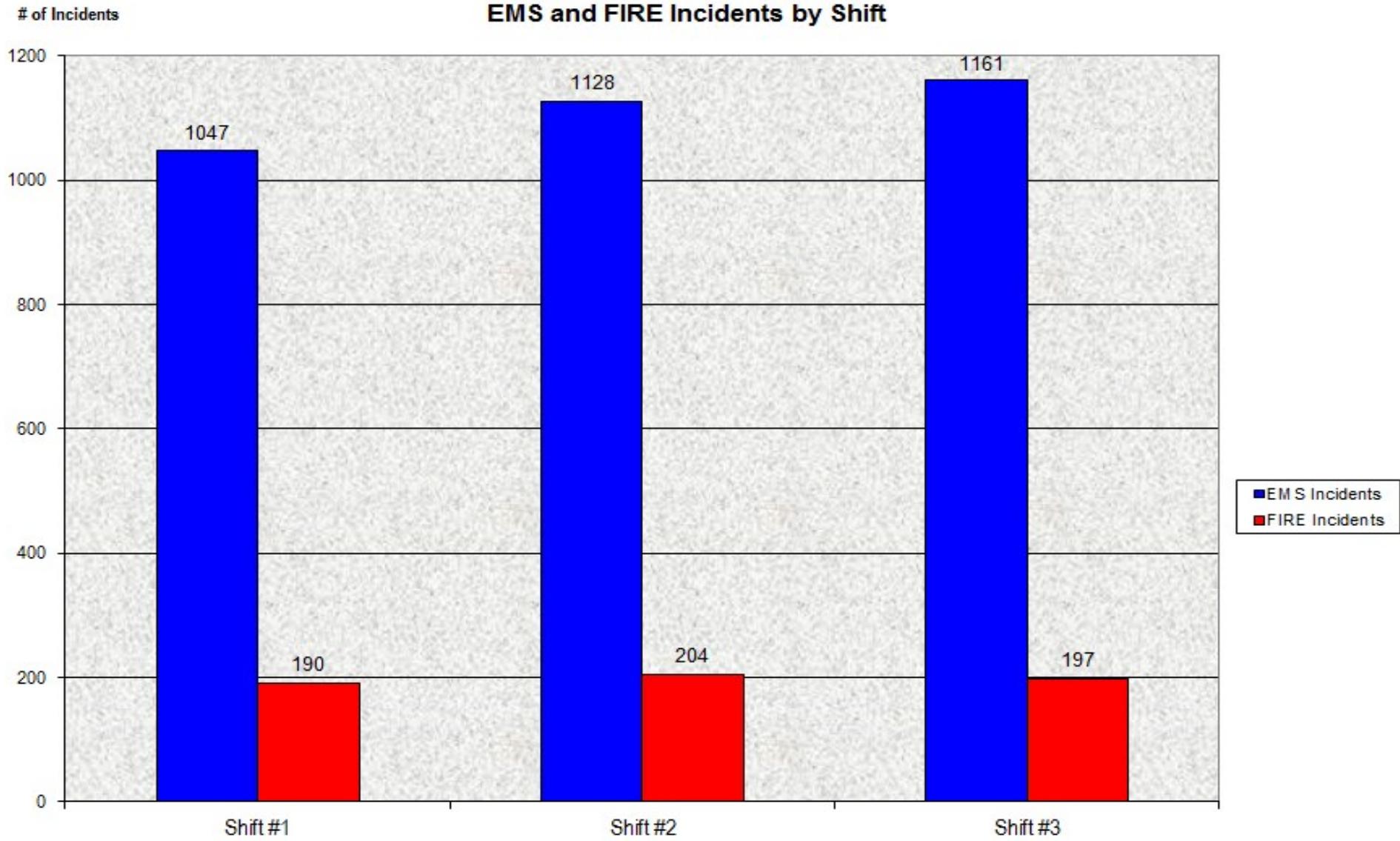
Fire Incident Alarm Times



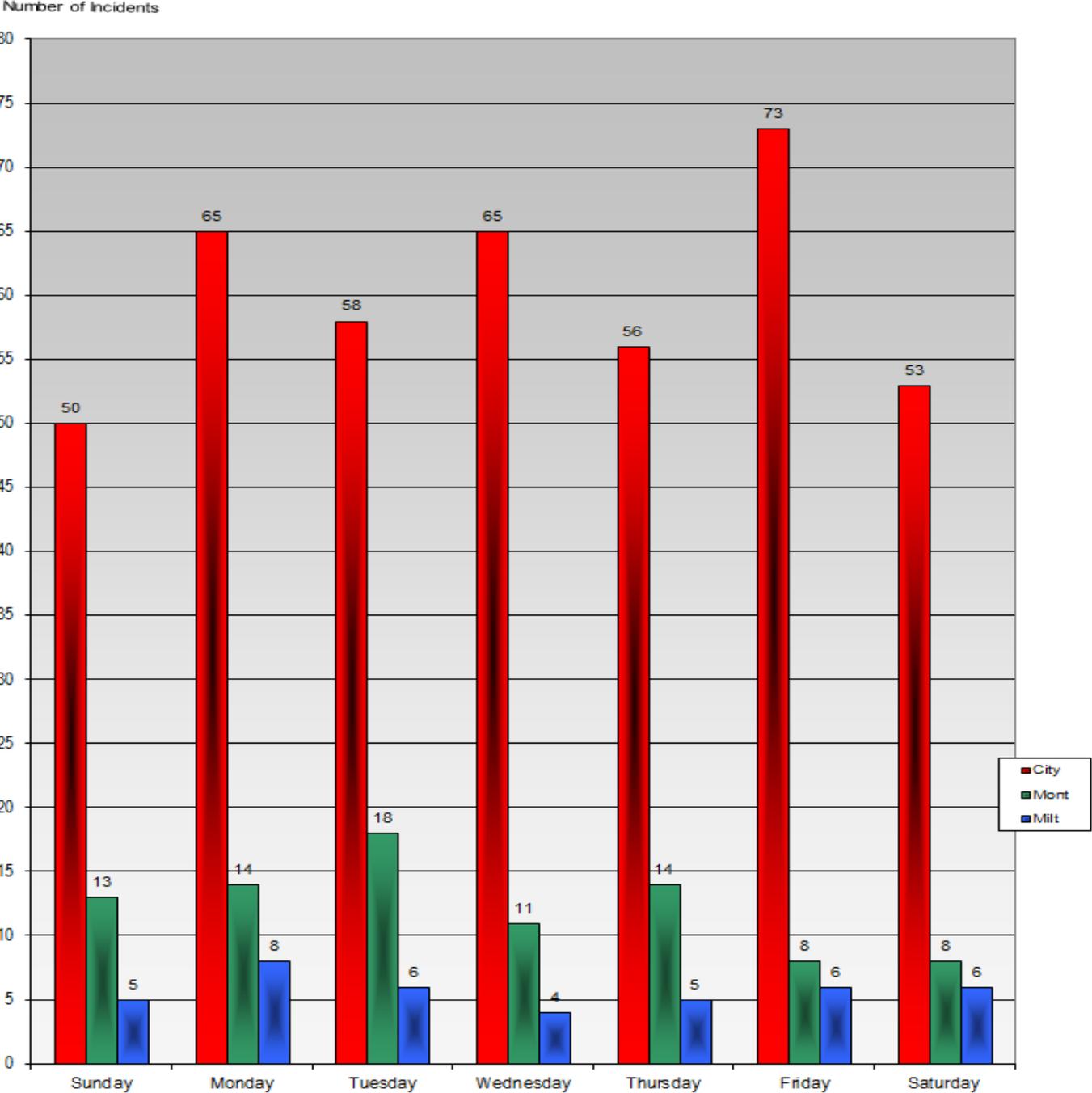
Fire Incident Type for City, Contractual Townships and Mutual Aid



EMS and FIRE Incidents by Shift

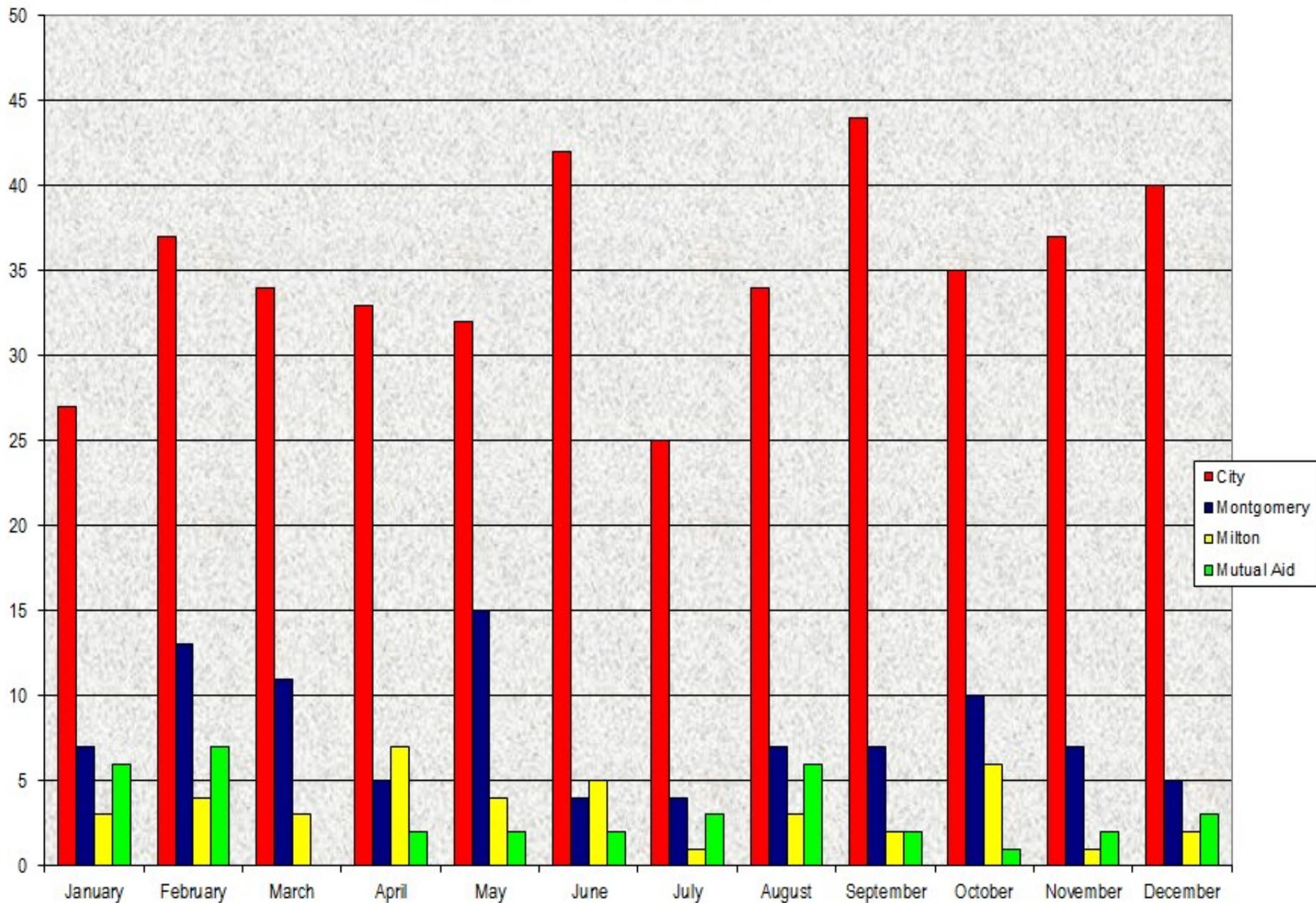


Fire Incidents by Day of Week

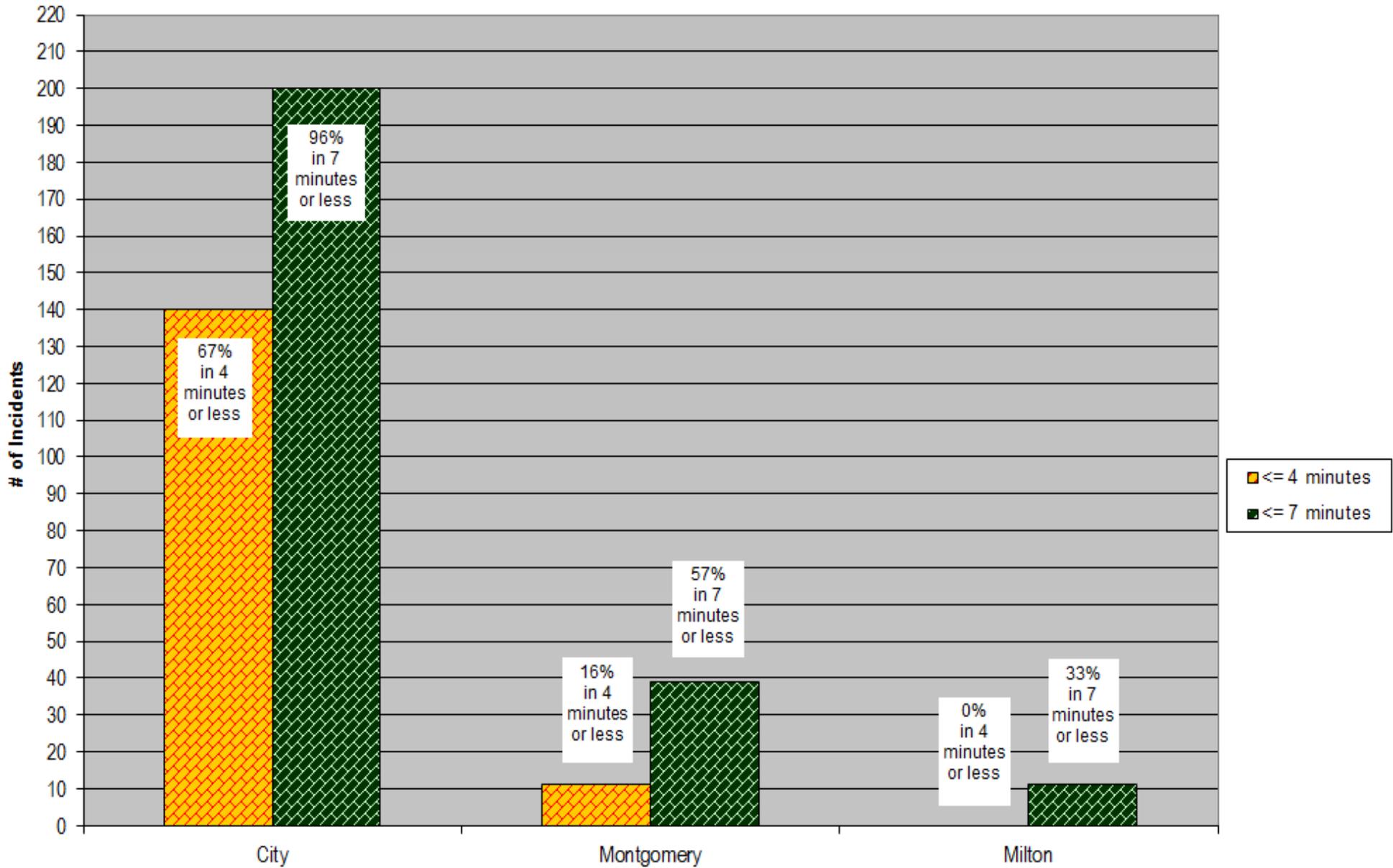


of Incidents

Fire Incident Totals by The Month



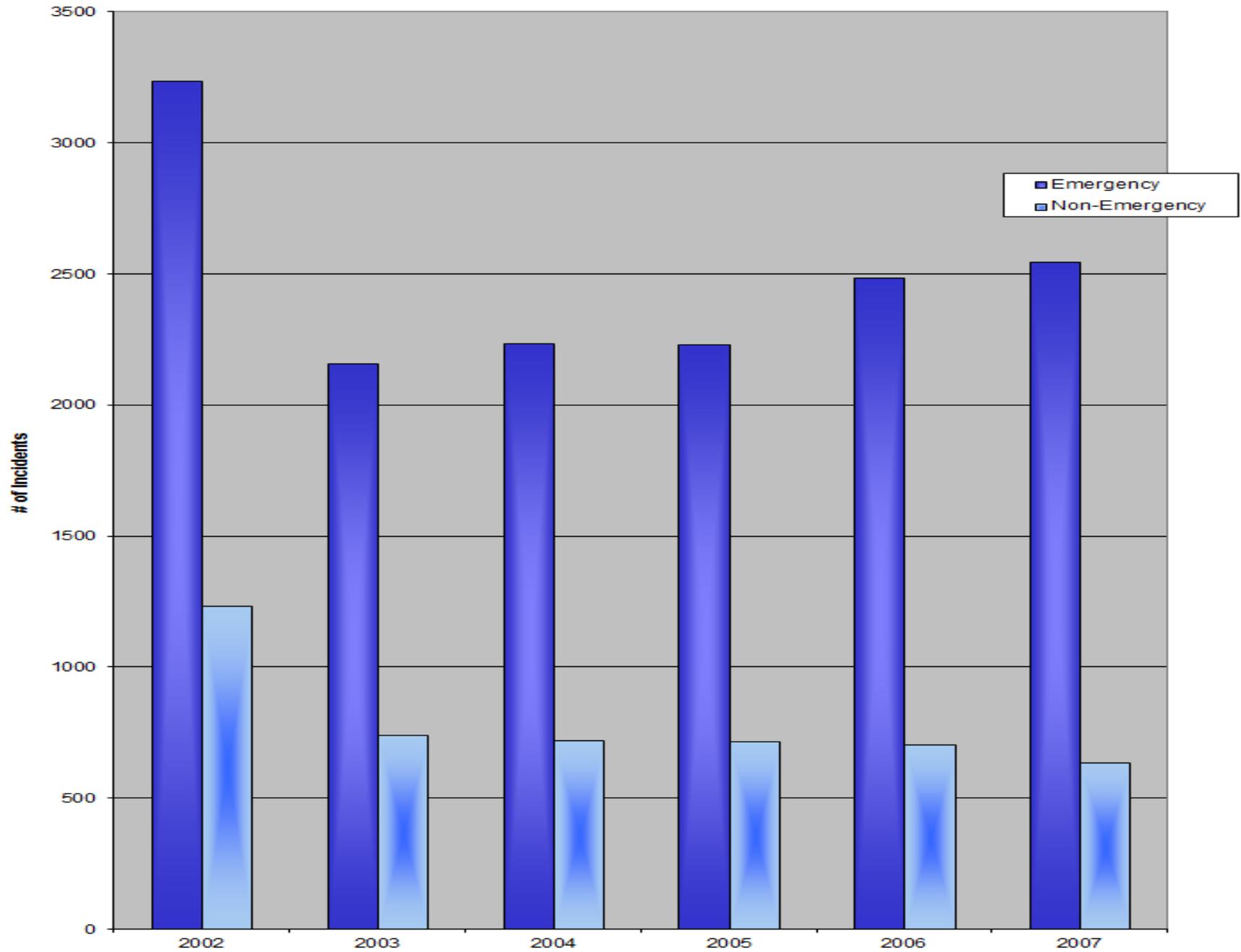
Fire Incidents Response Time Comparison



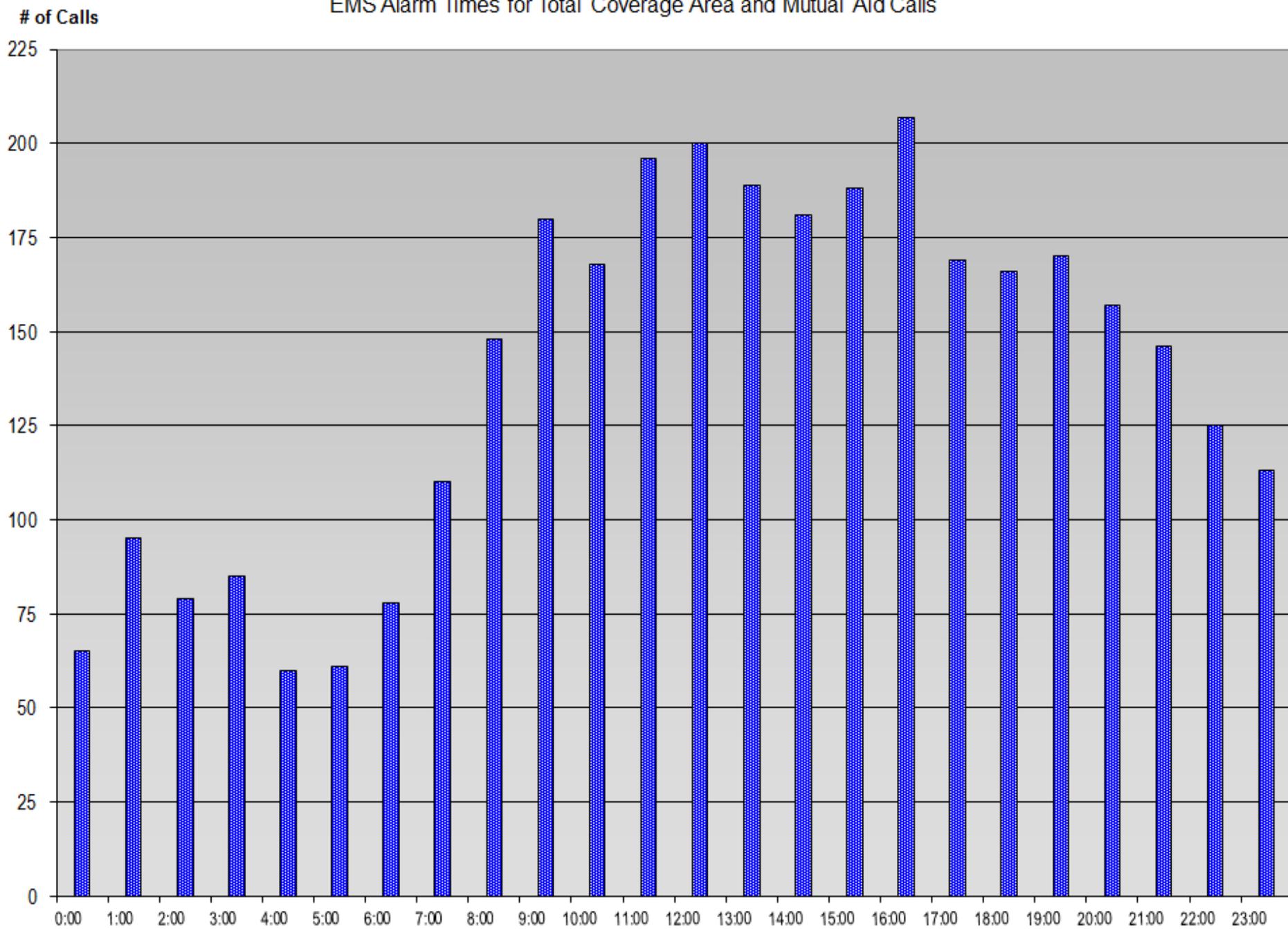


***EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES***

Emergency vs. Non-Emergency

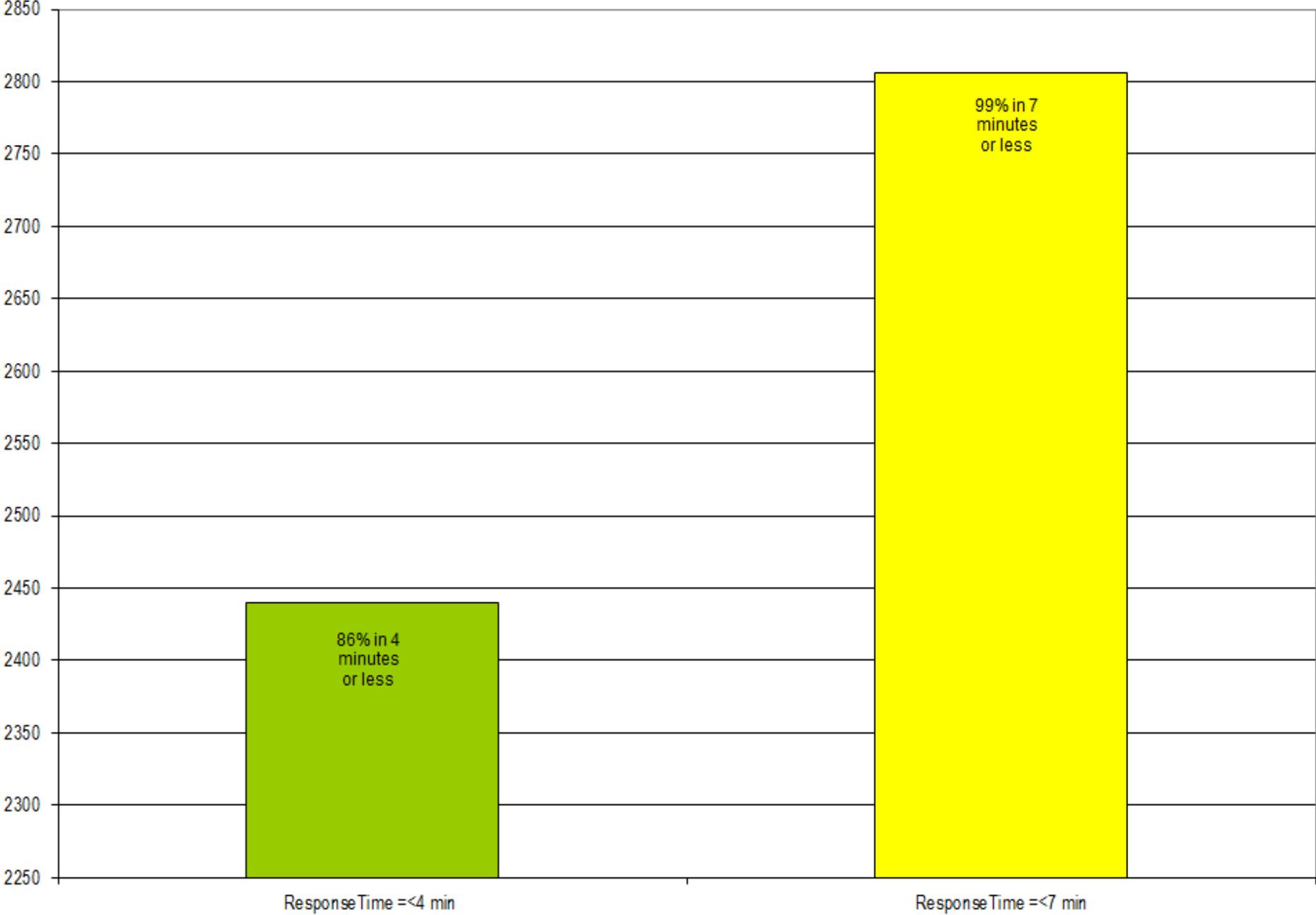


EMS Alarm Times for Total Coverage Area and Mutual Aid Calls



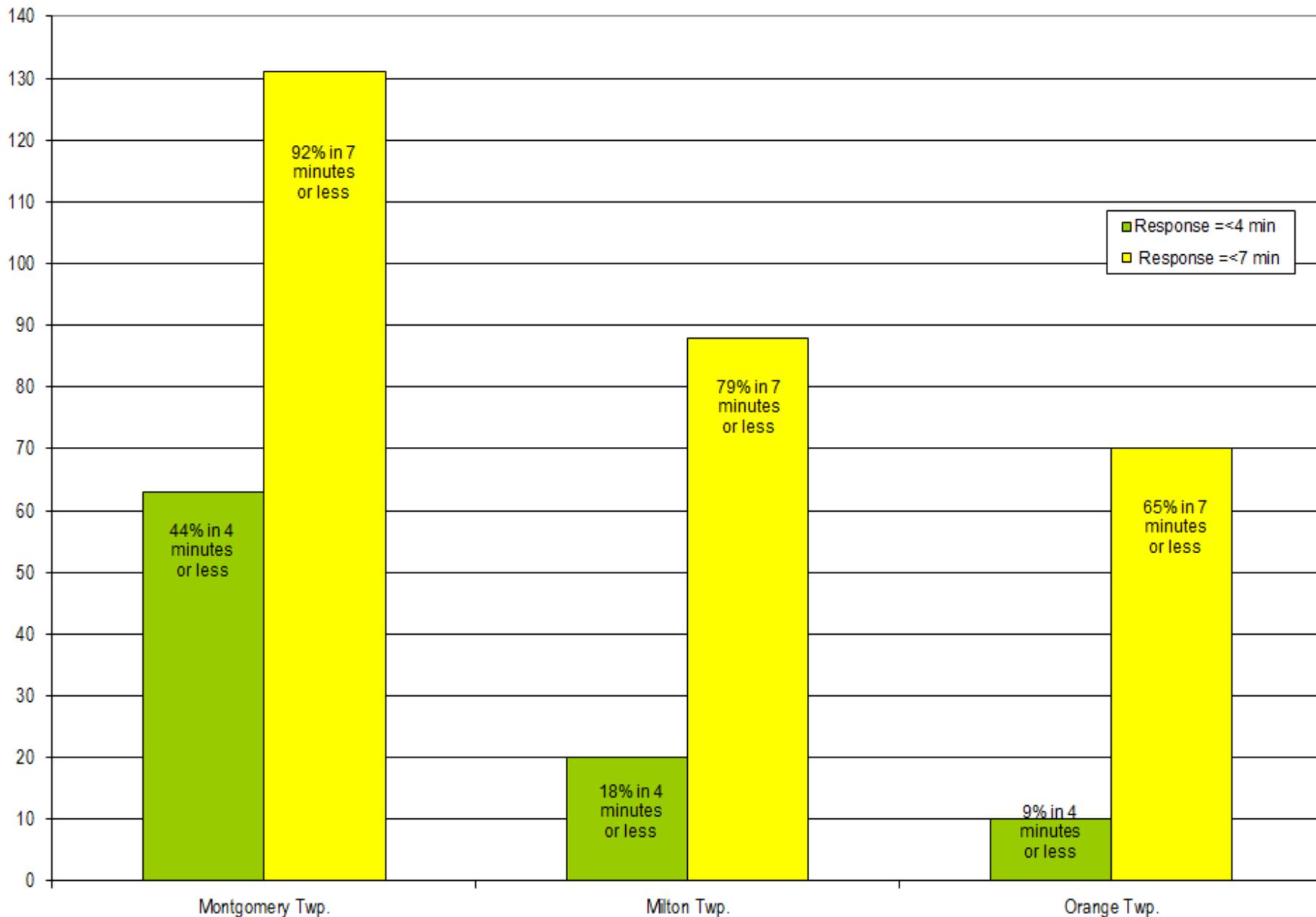
EMS City Response Time Comparison

of Incidents



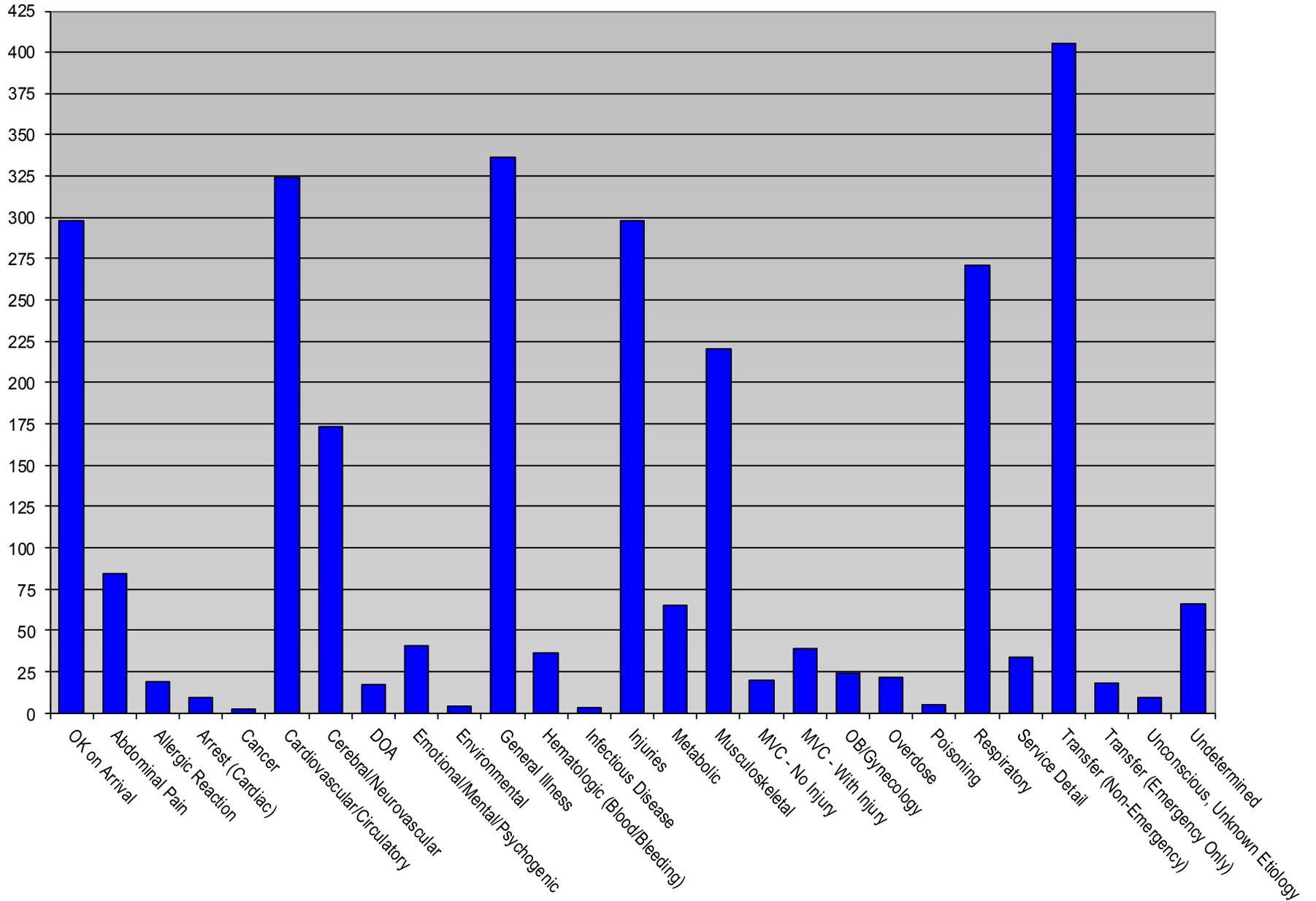
EMS Response Time Comparison for Contractual Townships

of Incidents



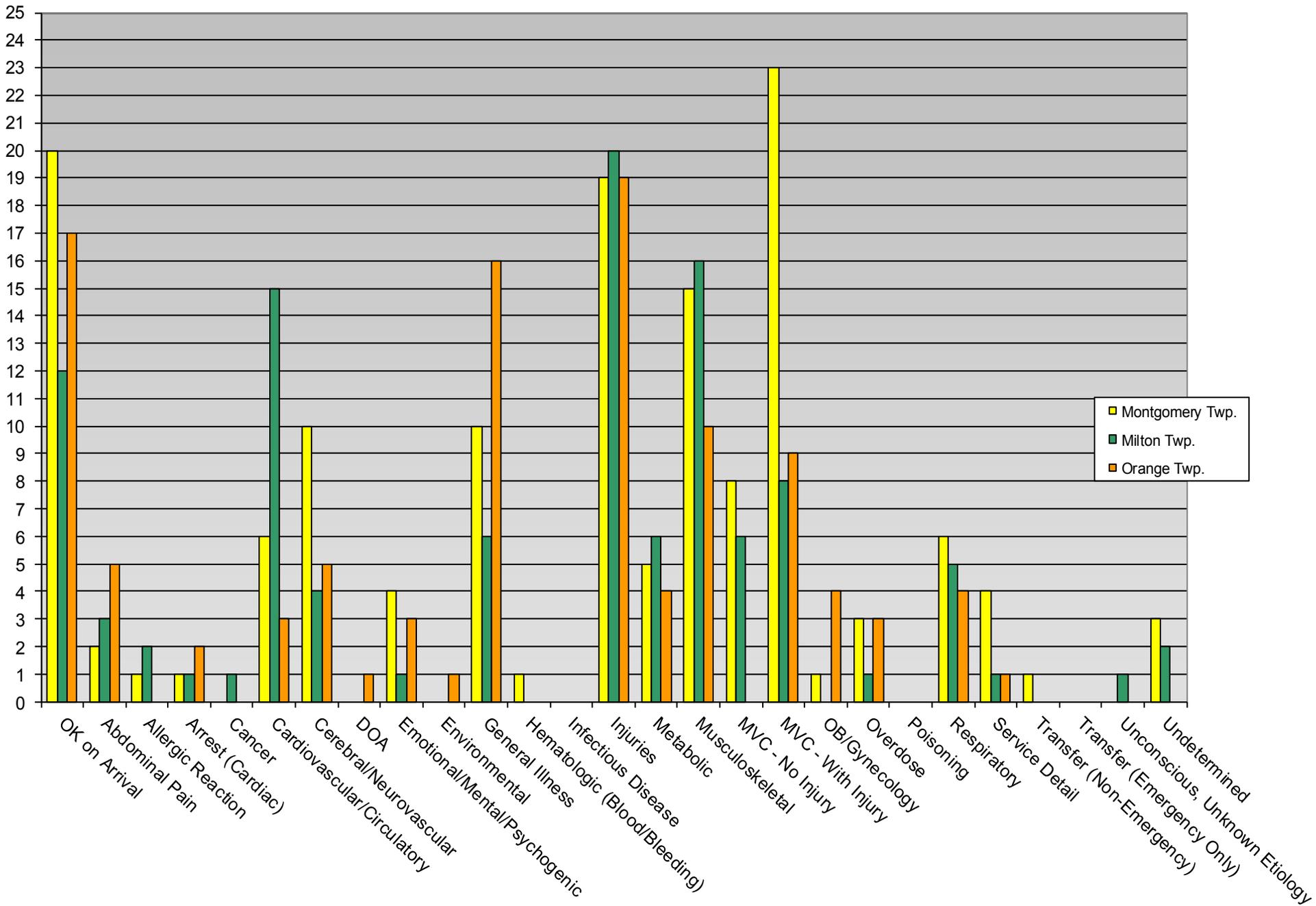
Incident Type for City

of Incidents



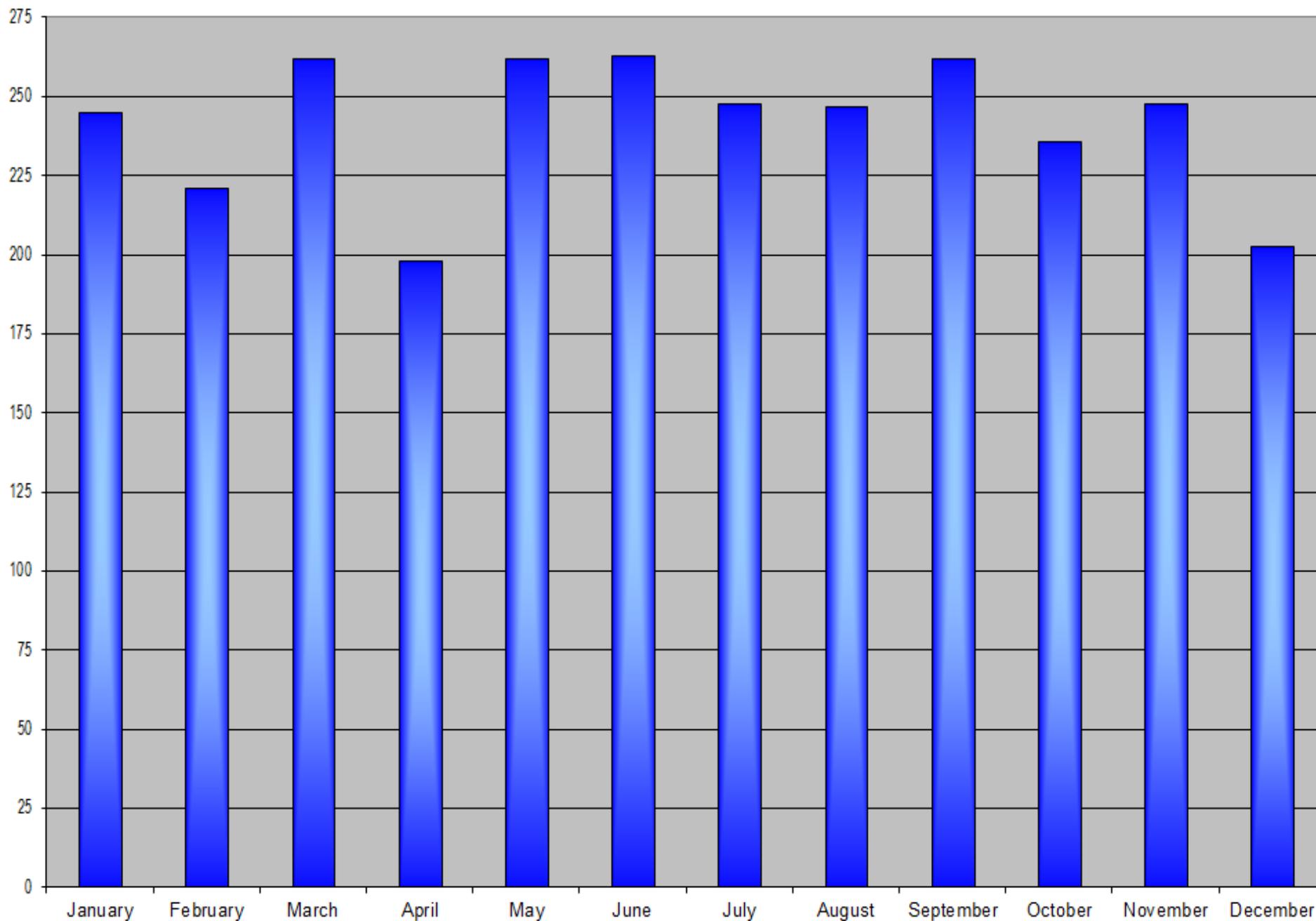
of incidents

EMS Incident Types for Contractual Townships



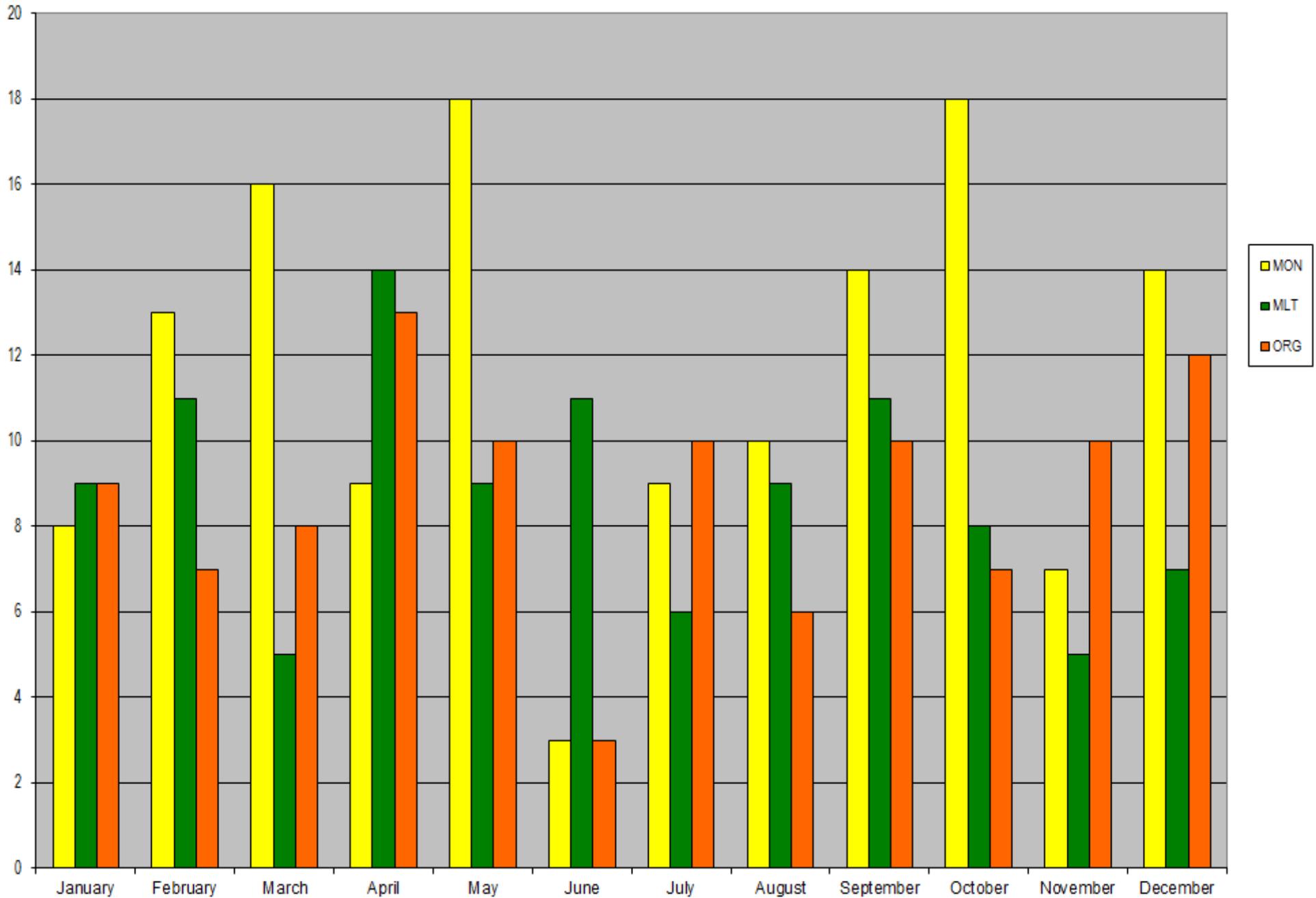
City EMS Incidents By Month

of Incidents



of Incidents

Township EMS Totals By Month



EMS Instructors

Christopher King

Bill Davisson

Dan McFarlin

CPR/ ACLS Instructors

Christopher King (CPR/ACLS)

Bill Davisson (CPR/ACLS)

Dan McFarlin (CPR)

Mark Timmons (CPR)

Rick Williams (CPR)

Chad Buzzard (CPR)

Rob McCrea (CPR)

Rob McClaran (CPR)

Dan Raudebaugh (CPR)

Chris VanHesteren (CPR)

Travis Pickering (CPR)

Ken Gardner(CPR)

EMS Summary and Goals

The Division of Fire has four (4) Advanced Life Support Ambulances staffed by 28 EMT-Paramedics, 4 EMT-Intermediates and 5 EMT-Basics. All Fire Department personnel are cross-trained as Firefighters and EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians). In 2007 the Division responded to 3336 medical calls within the city and its three (3) contractual townships. This area is equal to 96 square miles covered by one central station.

The Division of Fire often responds to multiple calls. Multiple calls occur when one or more ambulances are out at the same time. In 2007 this occurred 469 times when two ambulances responded to simultaneous calls. In addition, 62 times the Division had three units out and 7 times when all units were out at once. Multiple calls can delay response times, affecting patient care. To minimize the effects caused by multiple calls, the Division equips two of its Fire Apparatus and a Command vehicle with ALS equipment that can provide immediate care to a patient until an ambulance is able to respond.

Utilizing key grant opportunities proved to be very beneficial in 2007. The Fire Division was able to introduce new and advanced equipment to our Medical Protocols. Having advanced equipment is necessary to handle the increased number of patient calls and help improve patient outcomes along with reducing scene times. One piece of equipment implemented was the EZ-IO drill. This equipment is essential for gaining immediate vascular access when conventional iv access is difficult or impossible. The drill uses lithium battery power which can provide up to 750 insertions. Another piece of equipment that has been improving patient outcomes dramatically is CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure). CPAP is a non-invasive device that provides respiratory support for patients who are in enough distress that they need more than supplemental oxygen. CPAP is primarily used in treating patients with CHF (Congestive Heart Failure); however it can be beneficial in cases of COPD and Asthma. CPAP therapy can help avoid the need for intubation and alleviate symptoms while medications work to correct the underlining problem.

EMS Summary and Goals (con't.)

Another concern that is currently being addressed is making patient transport safer. Through the Bureau of Workers Compensation the Fire Division has been awarded a Safety Grant. This Grant will help to purchase four (4) Stryker Power Pro cots, an investment that will reduce both employee and patient injuries. The Stryker Power Pro Cot uses battery powered hydraulics to lift up to 750 pounds. Before Paramedics were forced to call back for help when lifting heavy patients. This often placed additional equipment and manpower out of service thus increasing overtime and patient transport times. The projected savings in Workers Compensation expenditures alone will more than offset the purchase of this equipment in approximately two years.

In 2007, The Division of Fire continued its commitment to the community by implementing new programs and continuing to expand on our current CPR training program. In 2007 we trained CPR to over 740 people, a new record. We also assisted in implementing many new AED programs throughout the city including local churches, civic groups, and municipal agencies. By recognizing the importance of early defibrillation and CPR, we help improve our patient outcomes dramatically. A new program in collaboration with Catholic Charities has allowed the Ashland Fire Department to become a local distribution site for the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Child Safety Seat Program. This program is intended primarily for eligible low income families whose child has outgrown the infant car seat. We currently have 10 Car Seat Technicians that assist with questions and car seat installs.

The Ashland Division of Fire is a Certified Continuing Education Site and trains its staff to the most current standards. Time spent training will continue to increase as this profession becomes more and more technical. We will strive to maintain the highest level of care possible while continually looking for ways to improve our service.

2008 Goals

- Upgrade 8 year-old cardiac monitors
- Purchase additional CPR Equipment
- Purchase two additional EZ-IO power drills
- Continue ambulance replacement program
- Utilize EMS Supervisor vehicle

A Symbol Of Commitment.



Ashland Fire Department
www.ashlandohiofire.com

FIRE
PREVENTION
BUREAU

2007 Fire Prevention Bureau Summary

The Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with several different responsibilities which support the mission of the Ashland Fire Department. Fire Code enforcement or inspections, public education and fire investigation are all incorporated into the duties of Prevention Bureau to complete the mission; *"To be a community leader in safety and property preservation through dedication, training, and education."*

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 223 fire safety inspections in 2007. Fire safety inspection is a means of discovering and eliminating or correcting deficiencies that pose a threat to life or property. Inspections are conducted at schools, churches, businesses, factories, daycare facilities, and adoption or foster care homes. A vital part of the inspection process is discussing the problems or violations discovered and their potential solutions with owners, property managers, architects, engineers, lawyers, contractors, vendors and representatives from the insurance industry.

A key component of fire prevention is education. In 2007 the Fire Prevention Bureau trained 1,278 adults in the use of fire extinguishers. Fire extinguisher training is scheduled at the request of employers as part of safety training or preparedness programs at numerous factories, civic organizations, or businesses. The training can be conducted at the employer's facility to minimize lost working time and consists of both classroom and hands-on training in the effective use of fire extinguishers. Instructors and training materials are provided by the Division of Fire at no cost, however, facilities must provide their own fire extinguishers.

The Fire Prevention Bureau also instructed 980 elementary school students during Fire Prevention Week. Beginning as early as Pre-K, children are taught the fundamentals of fire safety and those concepts are reinforced every year as the children continue up through middle school. Fire Safety presentations are delivered to students in their classrooms in October during the National Fire Prevention Week as well as at the fire station throughout the year.

Several elementary schools participated in the second year of the Firefighters 1st TEAM program "Pennies for Prevention". Each class in the school competes to raise the most money in change to purchase smoke alarms for low-income individuals or families. The "winning" class at each school is treated to a VIP fieldtrip tour of the fire station and a pizza lunch with the firefighters, pizza being donated by Dor-Lo's Pizza. This year the "winning class" was doubled to include a new Best Effort category. The Best Effort winners had firefighters bring pizza to them for lunch right in their classroom. The Pennies for Prevention program raised \$2586.95 in 2007 to purchase smoke alarms.

Investigation of fires is a key component in fire prevention and fire protection. Accurate determinations of origin and 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.

The Fire Investigation Team completed a total of 393 hours of continuing education in 2007. All members of the Fire Investigation Team are required to complete quarterly online training modules presented by the IAAI (International Association of Arson Investigators). The IAAI has created this interactive training in order to share expertise and deliver consistent and credible web based courses to fire investigators. The Fire Investigation team also certified 4 investigators in the *Reid Technique of Interview and Interrogation* in 2007.

2008 Fire Prevention Goals

Expand the "Pennies for Prevention" and education programs.

Increase specialized Investigator certification/training.

Conduct departmental company level inspection course.

Complete National Fire Academy Fire Investigation Course.

Certify department investigator in *Computer Voice Stress Analysis*.



Training



ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS

Chief Mark Burgess

Assistant Chief Duane Fishpaw

Assistant Chief Ronald Workman

Captain Chris King

Captain Raymond E. Miller Jr.

Captain Chris Van Hesteren

Firefighter Dan McFarlin

Firefighter Richard Williams

Firefighter William Davisson

**ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT
INSTRUCTORS**

Assistant Chief Rick Anderson

Captain Kenneth Gardner

Firefighter Chad Buzzard

Firefighter Andrew Ferguson

Firefighter Travis Pickering

Firefighter Dan Raudebaugh

Firefighter Kevin Rosser

Firefighter Chris Schmidt

Firefighter Tyler Smith

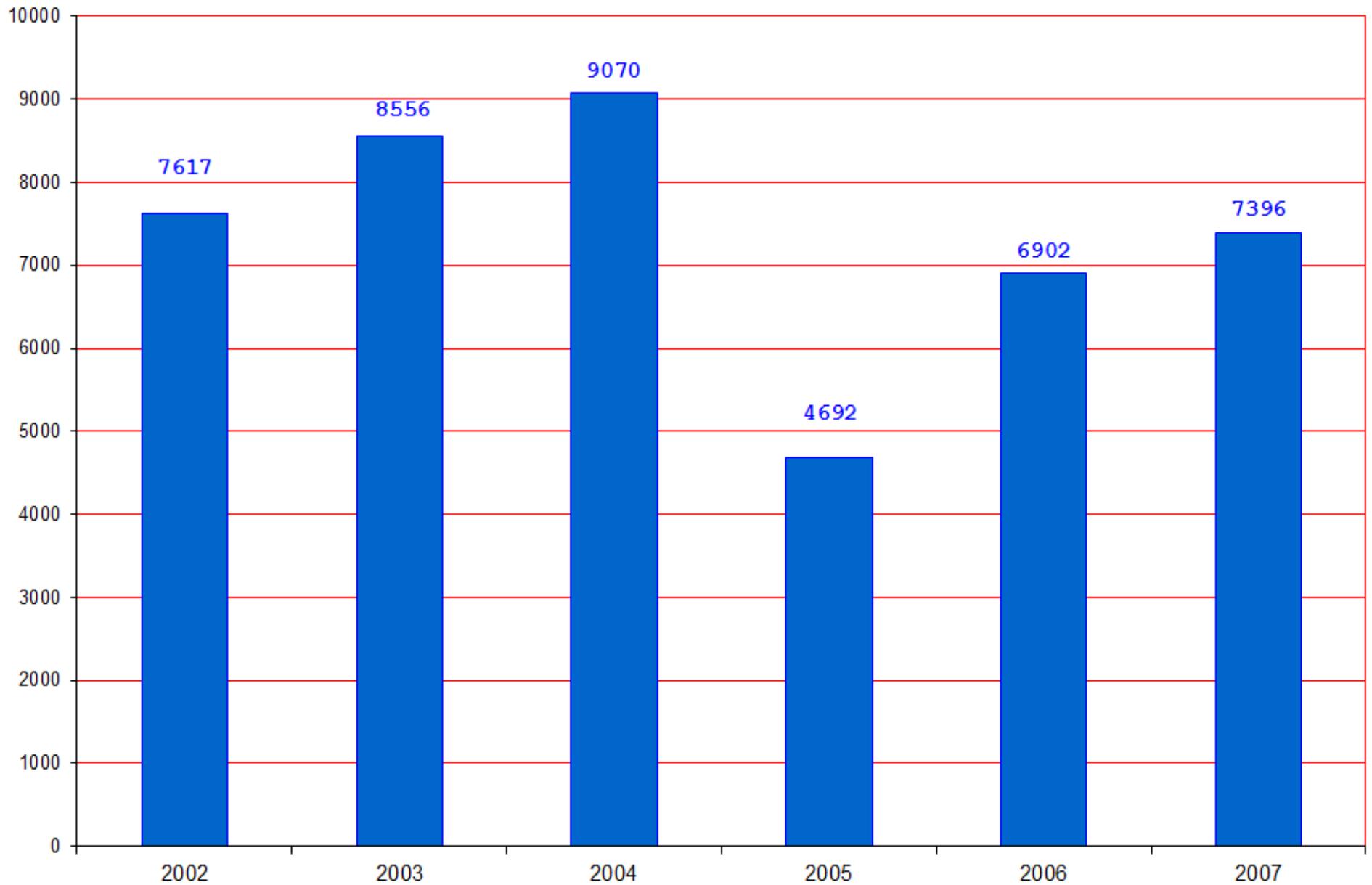
Firefighter Brian Stichler

2007 TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Addition of 45 hour/week Training Captain**
- **NIMS 100 & 700 = 100% Compliant**
- **Pictometry Program**
- **Substance Abuse (training & awareness)**
- **Northern Ohio Arson Seminar**
- **Live Fire Training (Airport House)**
- **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**
- **Ohio Fire Executive Class #7 – Captain Campbell attending**
- **Buckeye Girls State Program**
- **Ass't Chief Fishpaw graduated 2006/07 Leadership Ashland Class**
- **Full Scale Chemical Explosion Exercise**
- **Annual Driver Training**

SIX YEAR TRAINING COMPARISON

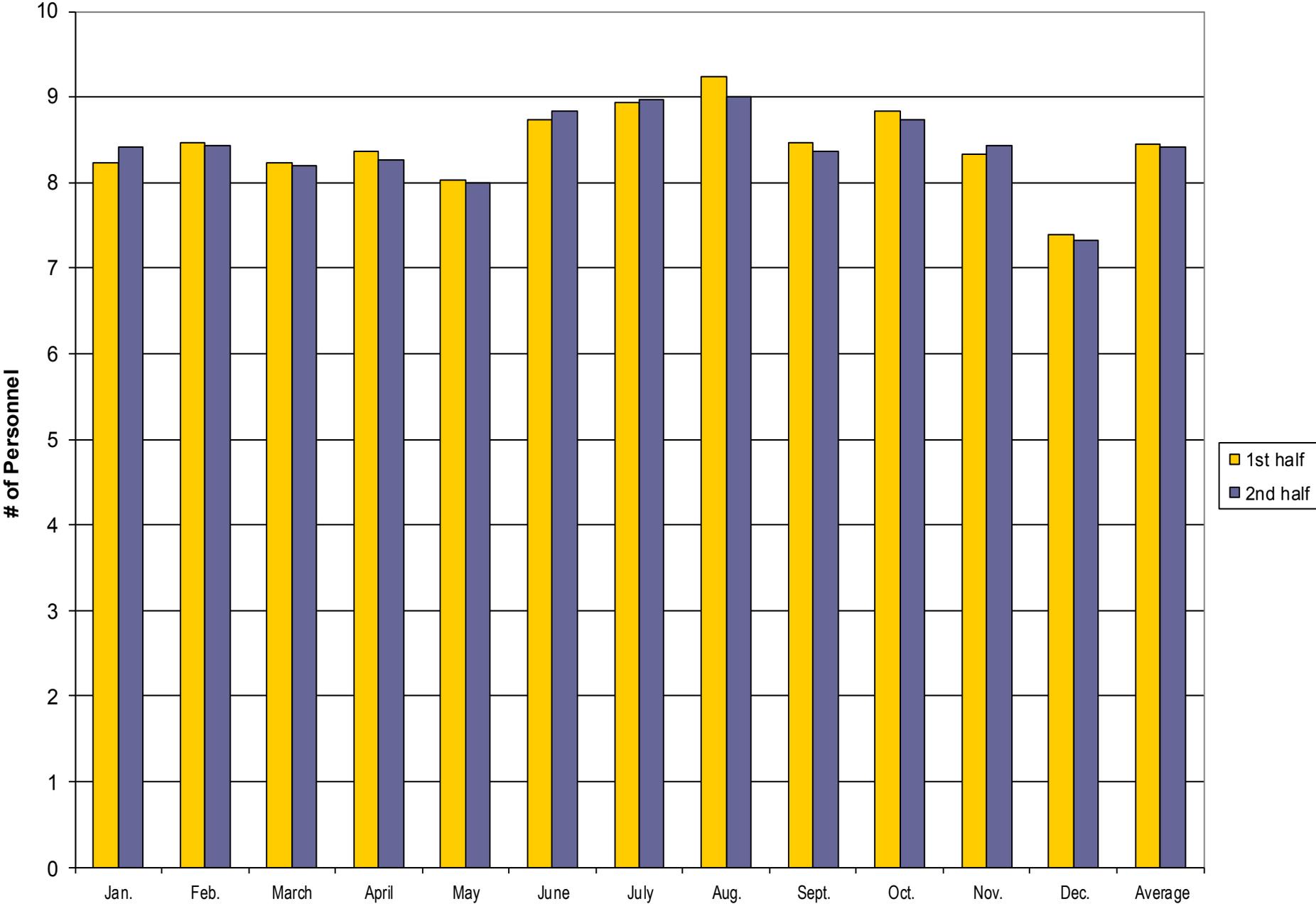
TOTAL TRAINING HOURS





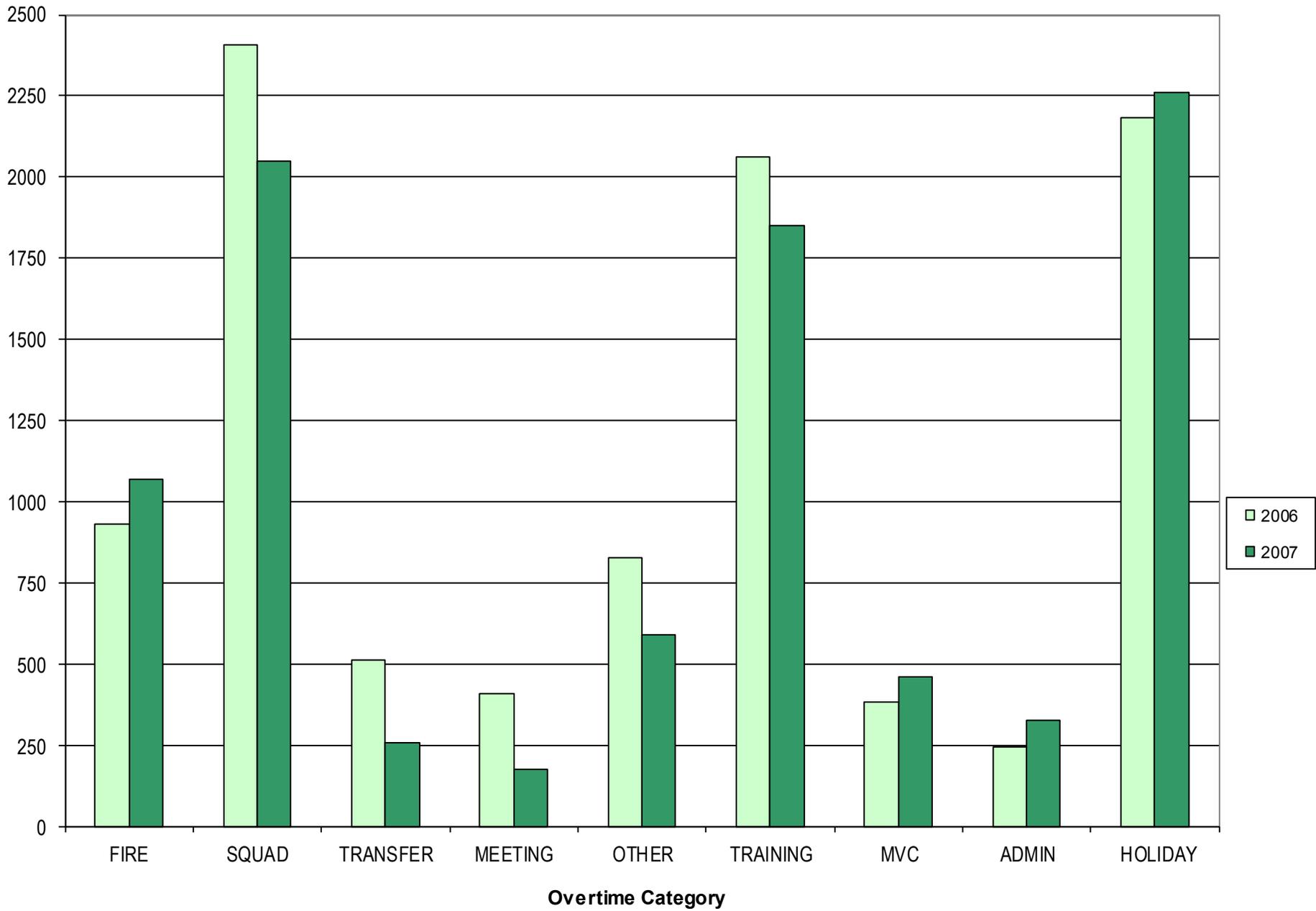
ADMINISTRATIVE

Daily Manpower Levels

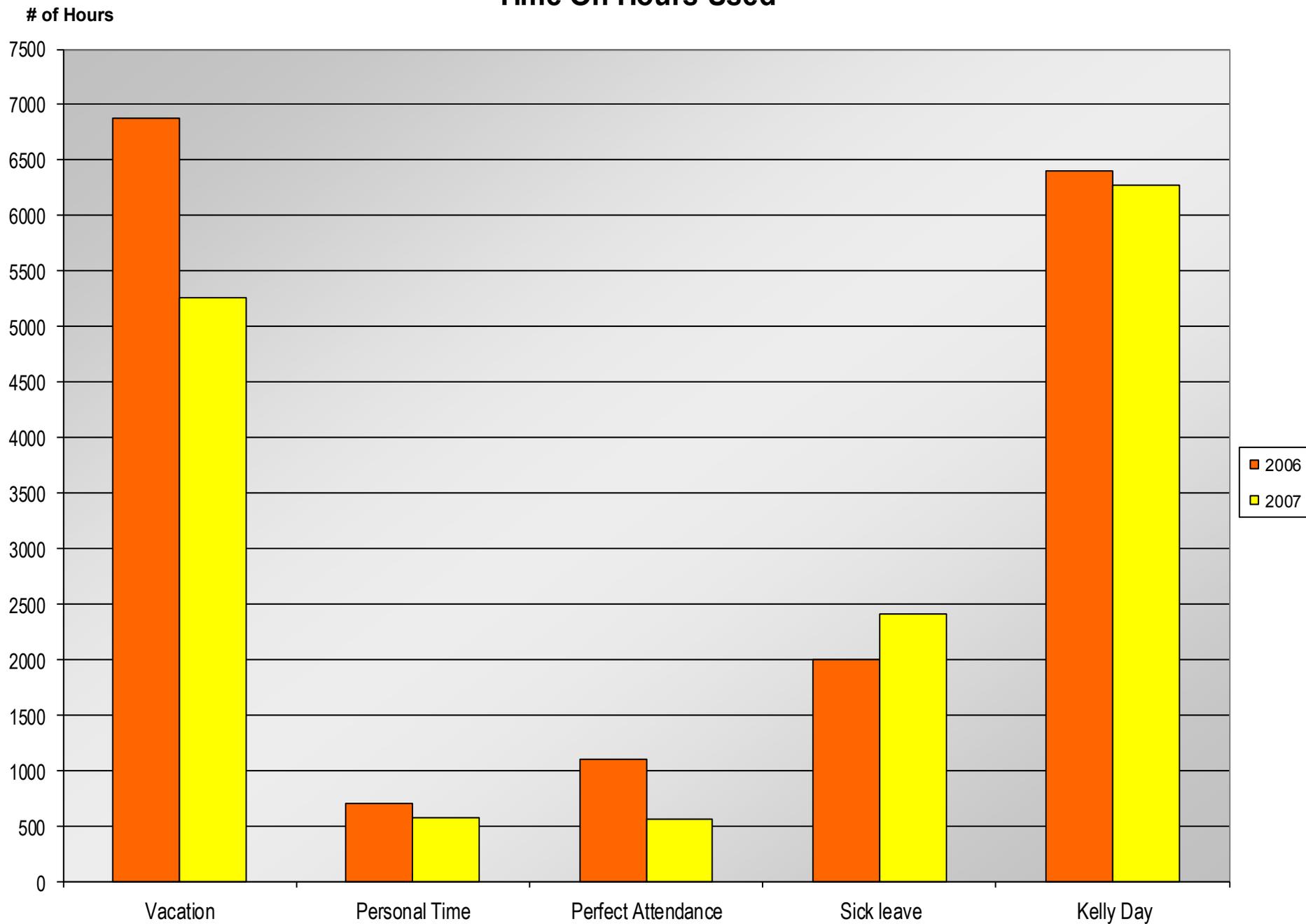


Overtime Hours

of Hours Paid



Time Off Hours Used



CONCLUSION

THE ROLE OF YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUOUSLY EXPANDS. WE PROVIDE FIRE SUPPRESSION, RESCUE, PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION. NEW CONSTRUCTION PLANS REVIEW AND INSPECTIONS HELP IMPROVE PERFORMANCE DURING EMERGENCIES.

PRE-HOSPITAL CARE FILLS THE GAP BETWEEN HEALTHCARE INSURANCE, LOSS OF INCOME AND THE HOSPITAL. PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE WILL PLAY AN EXPANDING ROLE IN EMS AS SEEN ON THE FIRE SIDE.

HOMELAND SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE COMBINED WITH NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION FOR AN ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH TO BIG EVENTS. REGIONALIZATION IS A METHOD OF ENSURING RESOURCE AVAILABILITY FOR THESE BIG EVENTS. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF "IF" BUT A QUESTION OF "WHEN."

AVERAGING OVER 10 CALLS PER DAY KEEPS THE FIREFIGHTERS BUSY. OVERTIME IS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN THE MINIMUM STAFF OF SIX. STRATEGIC DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SERVICE LET ALONE TO MAKE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.

OUR CITIZENS DESERVE CONTINUOUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE YOU.

**PROFESSIONALS SERVING
SOMEPLACE SPECIAL**