



CITY OF ASHLAND
DIVISION OF FIRE
2008
ANNUAL REPORT

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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 2008 run volume for the Division decreased slightly. There were 595 (592 in 2007) fire runs and 3021 (3336 in 2007) EMS runs. The percentage of non-emergency transports continues to decrease. The percentage has changed from 39% in 2001 to 9% in 2008. This is due to changes in health care reimbursements and to private sector services becoming available within the city. Over \$640,000 was collected from EMS transports. This money goes into the General Fund to help offset the Division's budget. The Division started the process of changing from internal ambulance billing to having a vendor provide the services. The change will improve compliance with Medicare rules and increase revenue.

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 2008 increased to \$1,298,840 (\$398,750 in 2007). The Pump House Fire in FEB was a major loss. The Prevention Bureau has partnered with the local schools to provide students pre-K through third grade with fire safety education. 990 children were instructed. Education and training does not stop with the school systems. Local businesses and industries take advantage of the Division's public education opportunities. Fire extinguisher training (1153 people) and CPR training (680 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 433 times in 2008 that two squads were out at the same time. Three or more squads were out 53 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. There were less than six on station more than 275 times in 2008.

The year 2008 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 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 at: <http://www.egovlink.com/ashland/action.asp?actionid=5224>
This link takes you directly to the correct form to complete your feedback.

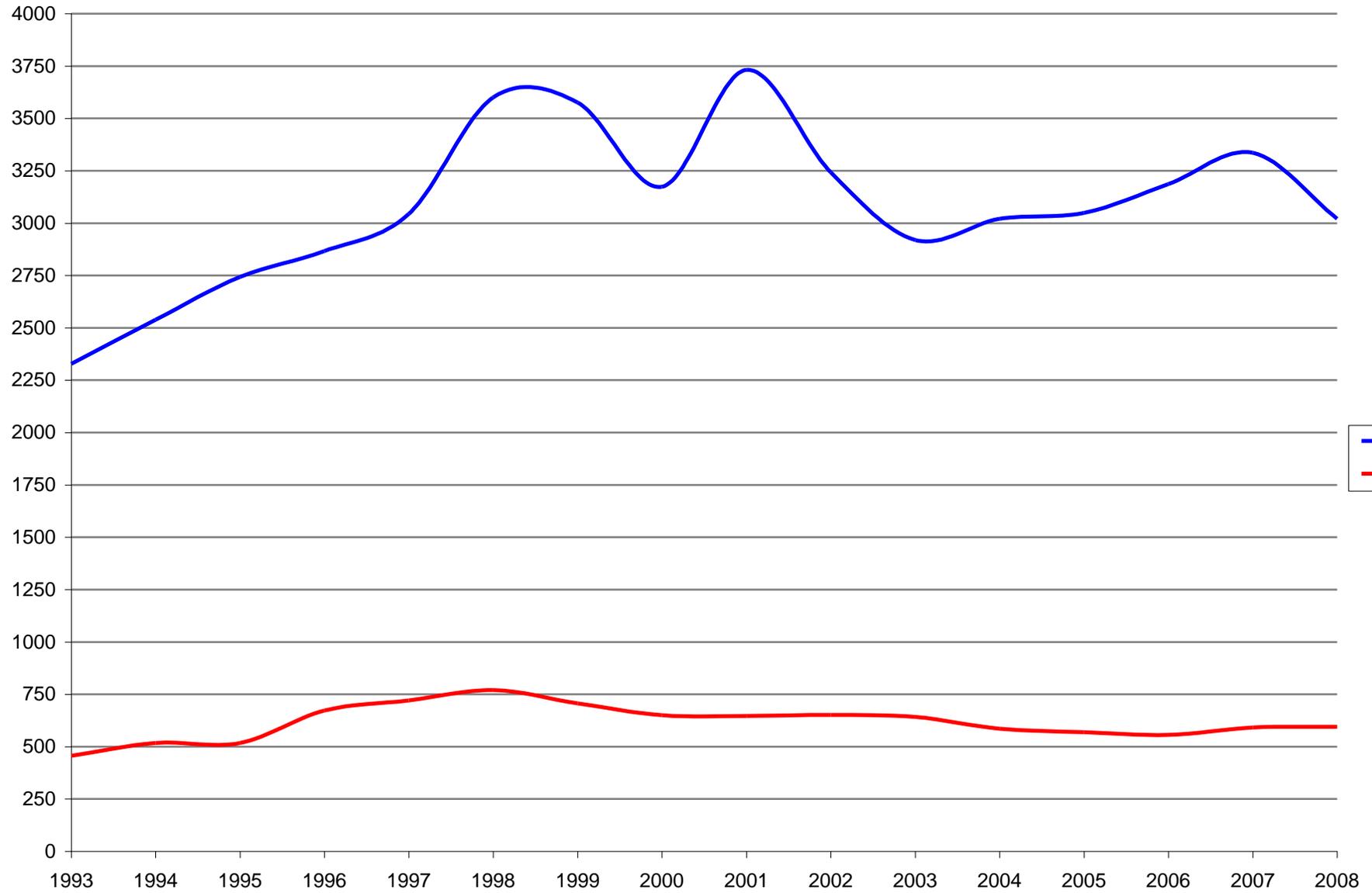
If you would like to access the City of Ashland's website, please go to: <http://www.ashland-ohio.com/>



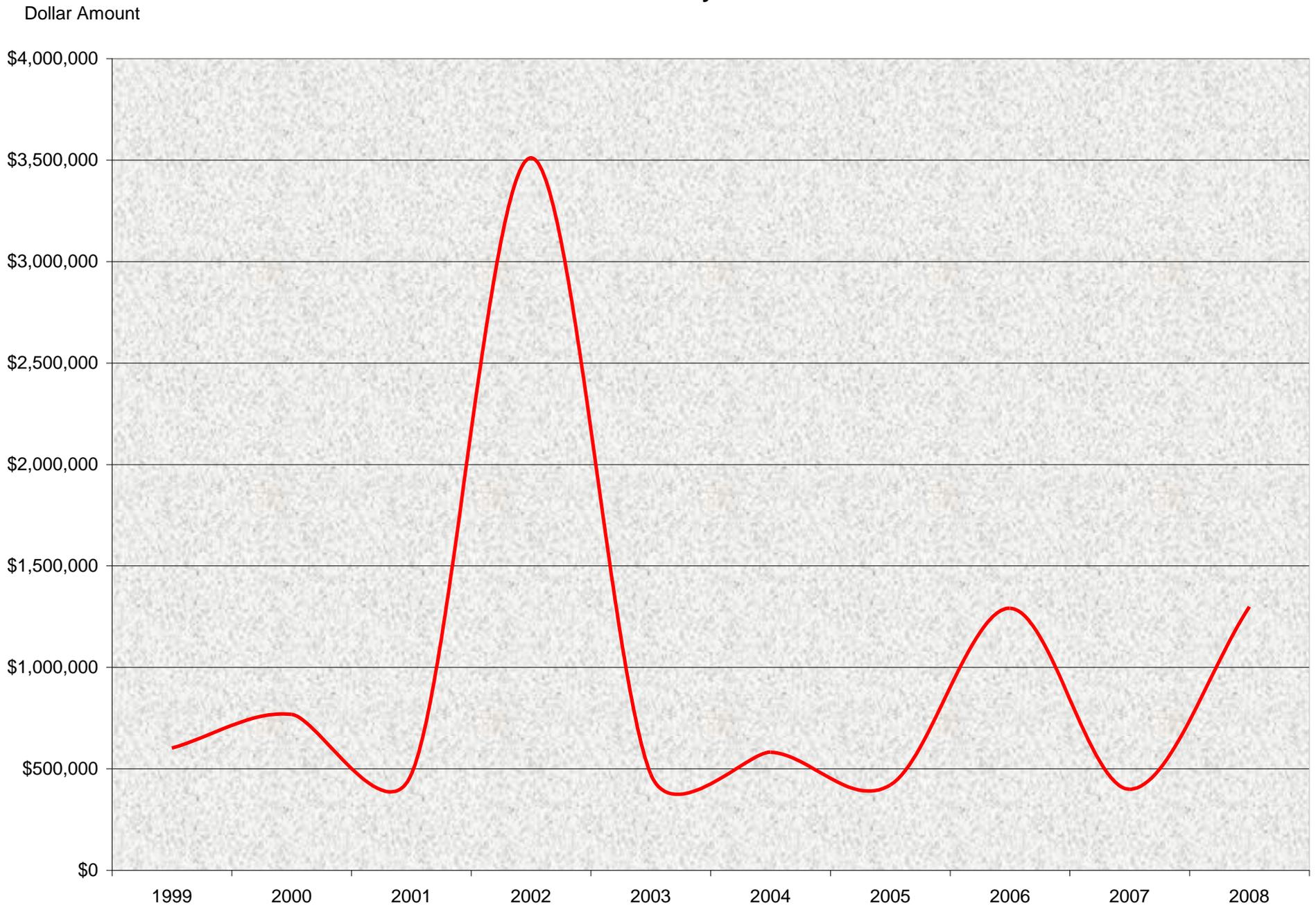
FIRE SUPPRESSION

Number of Incidents

Fire vs EMS Run Volume

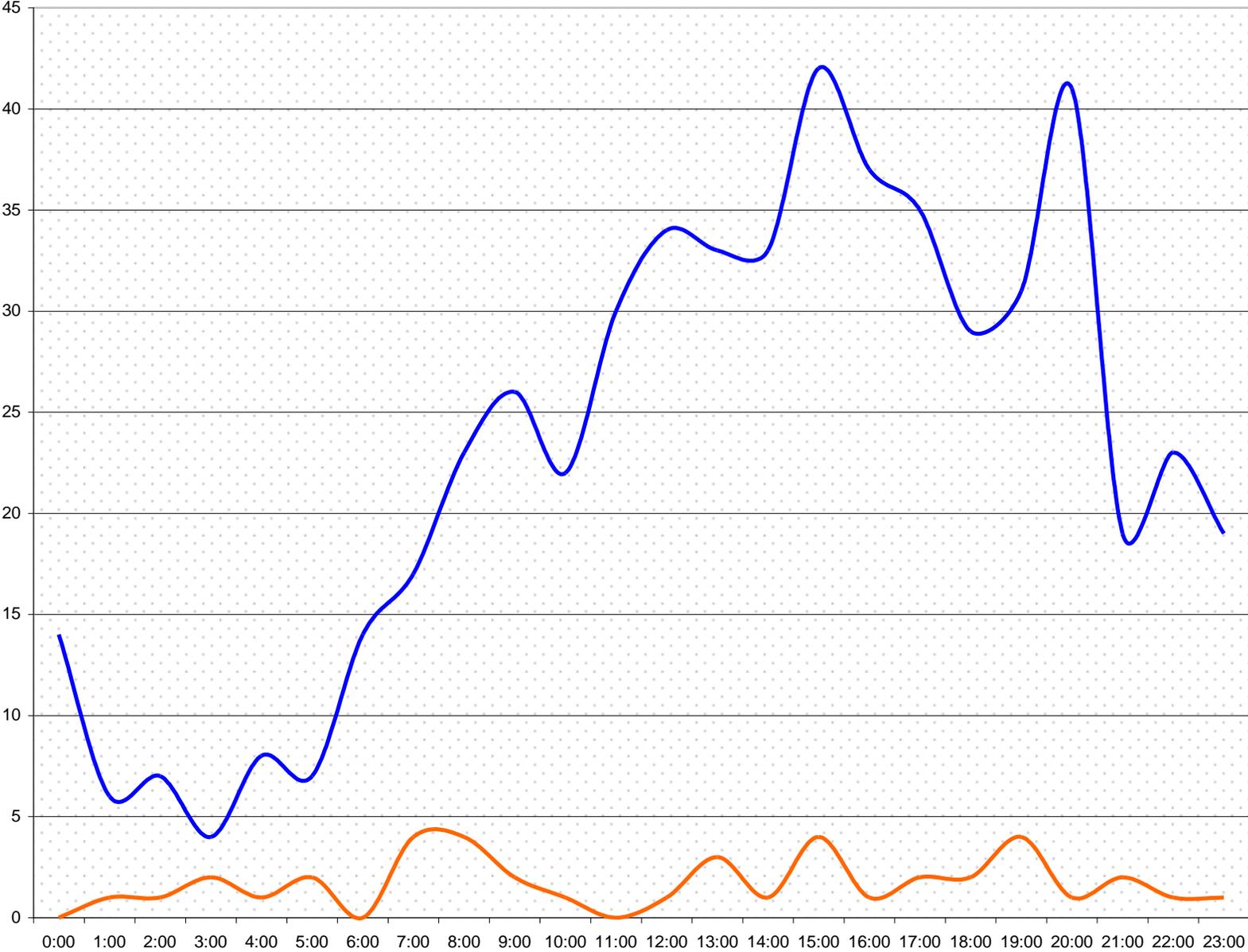


Fire Loss Totals By Year



Fire Incident Alarm Times

Number of Incidents



City, Montgomery & Milton
Mutual Aid

Fire Incident Type Terminology

FIRE – Structure, building, cooking fire, equipment fire, outside rubbish, brush fire.

OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (no fire) – Overpressure rupture, overheat, explosion, excessive heat.

RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT - EMS incident, motor vehicle accident with injuries, extrication, EMS standby.

HAZARDOUS CONDITION (no fire) - Hazardous condition, combustible condition, flammable liquid spill, gas leak, carbon monoxide incident, power line down, vehicle accident cleanup, bomb removal, electrical wiring problem, overheated motor.

SERVICE CALL – Person in distress, smoke or odor removal, water problem, animal rescue, assist police or other governmental agency, unauthorized burning.

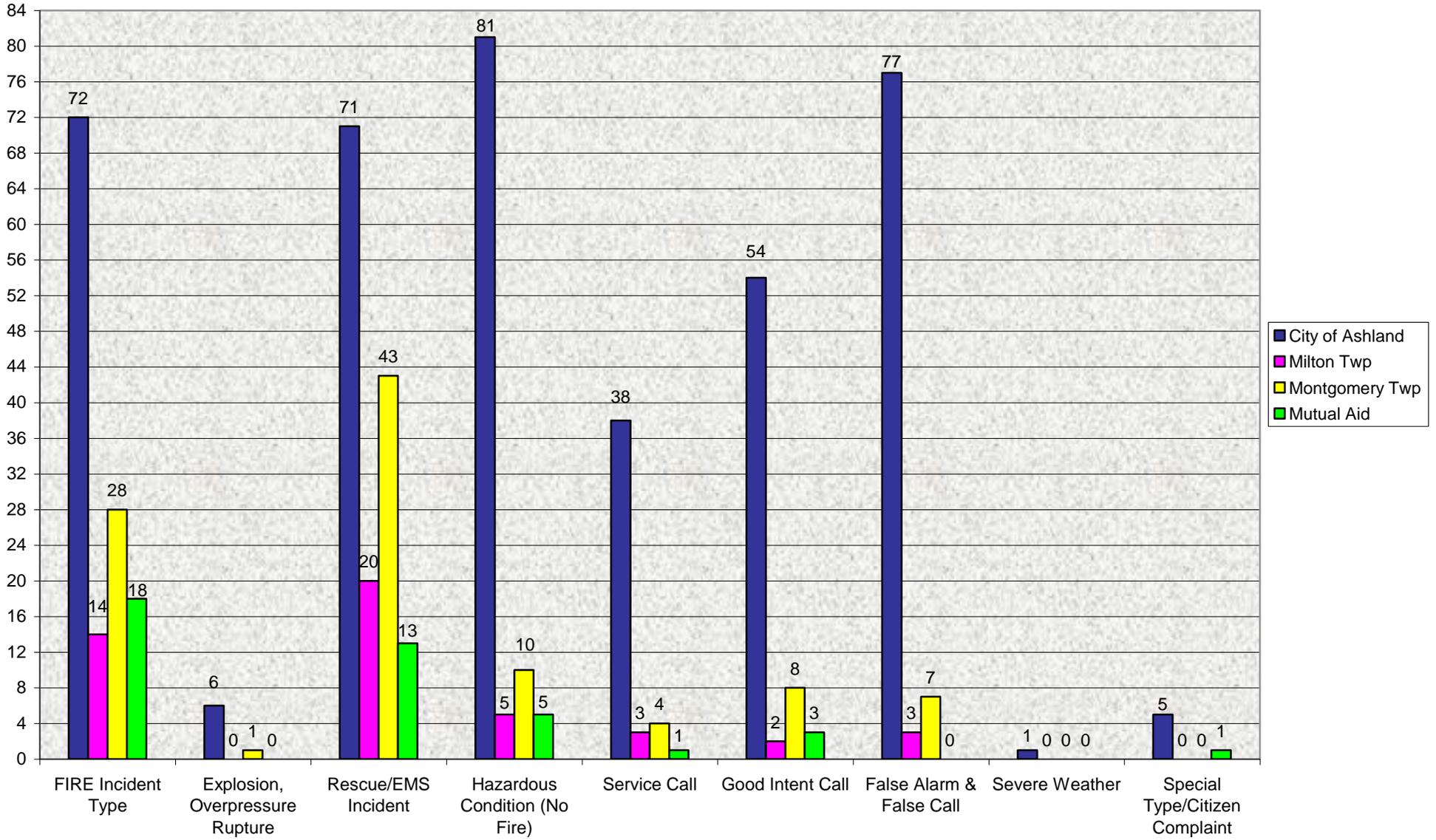
GOOD INTENT CALL - Dispatched & cancelled enroute, no incident found upon arrival, authorized controlled burning, smoke scare, hazmat release investigation w/no hazmat, good intent call.

FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL - False alarm or false call, telephone, malicious false alarm, system malfunction, smoke detector activation, alarm system sounded due to malfunction, unintentional transmission of alarm, smoke detector-no fire, carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.

SEVERE WEATHER & NATURAL DISASTER - Lightning strike (no fire).

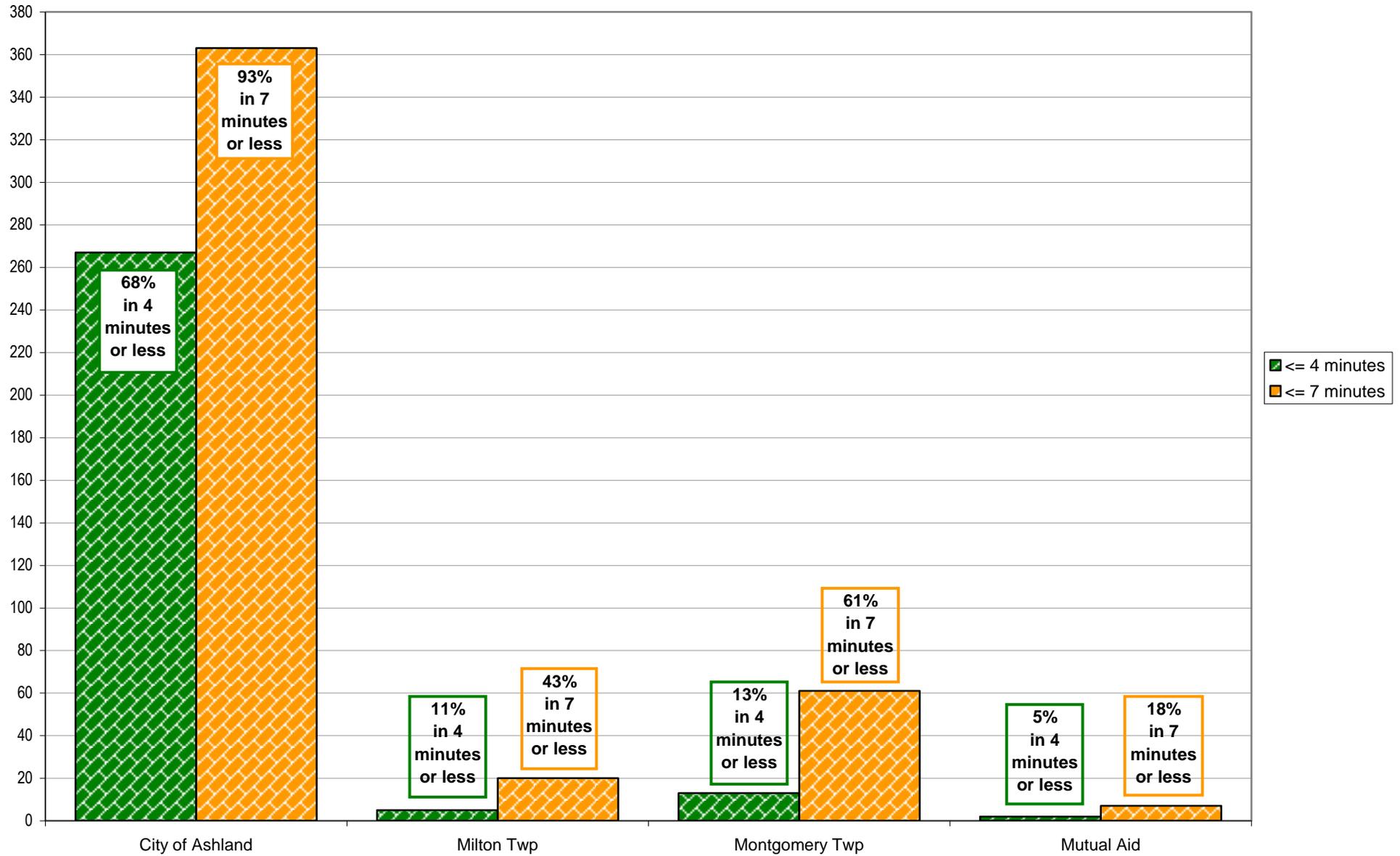
SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE – Citizen complaint, special incident, other.

Fire Incident Type



Fire Incidents Response Comparison

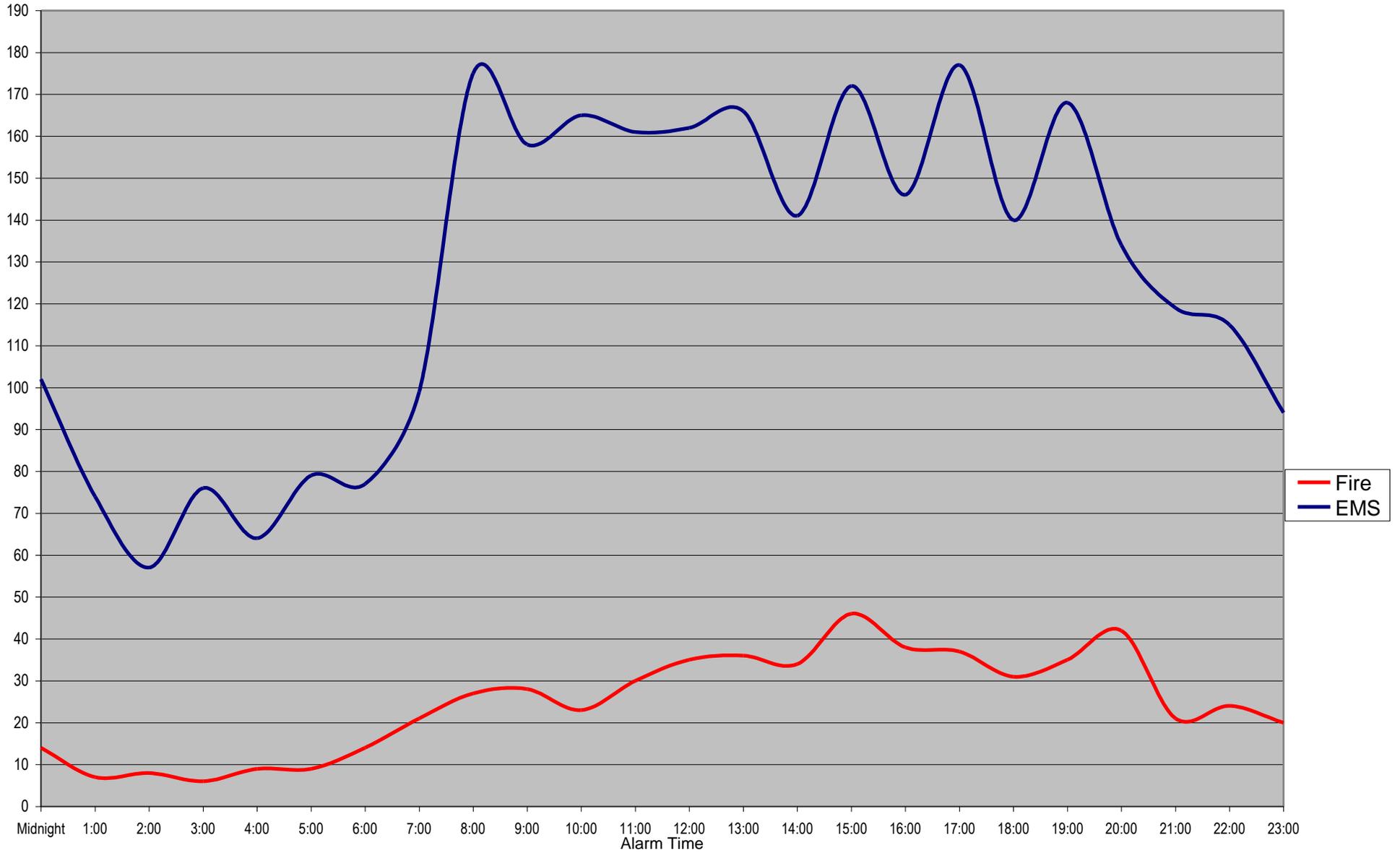
Number of Incidents



Orange Twp is not Contractual for Fire protection, so is included in Mutual Aid total/time.

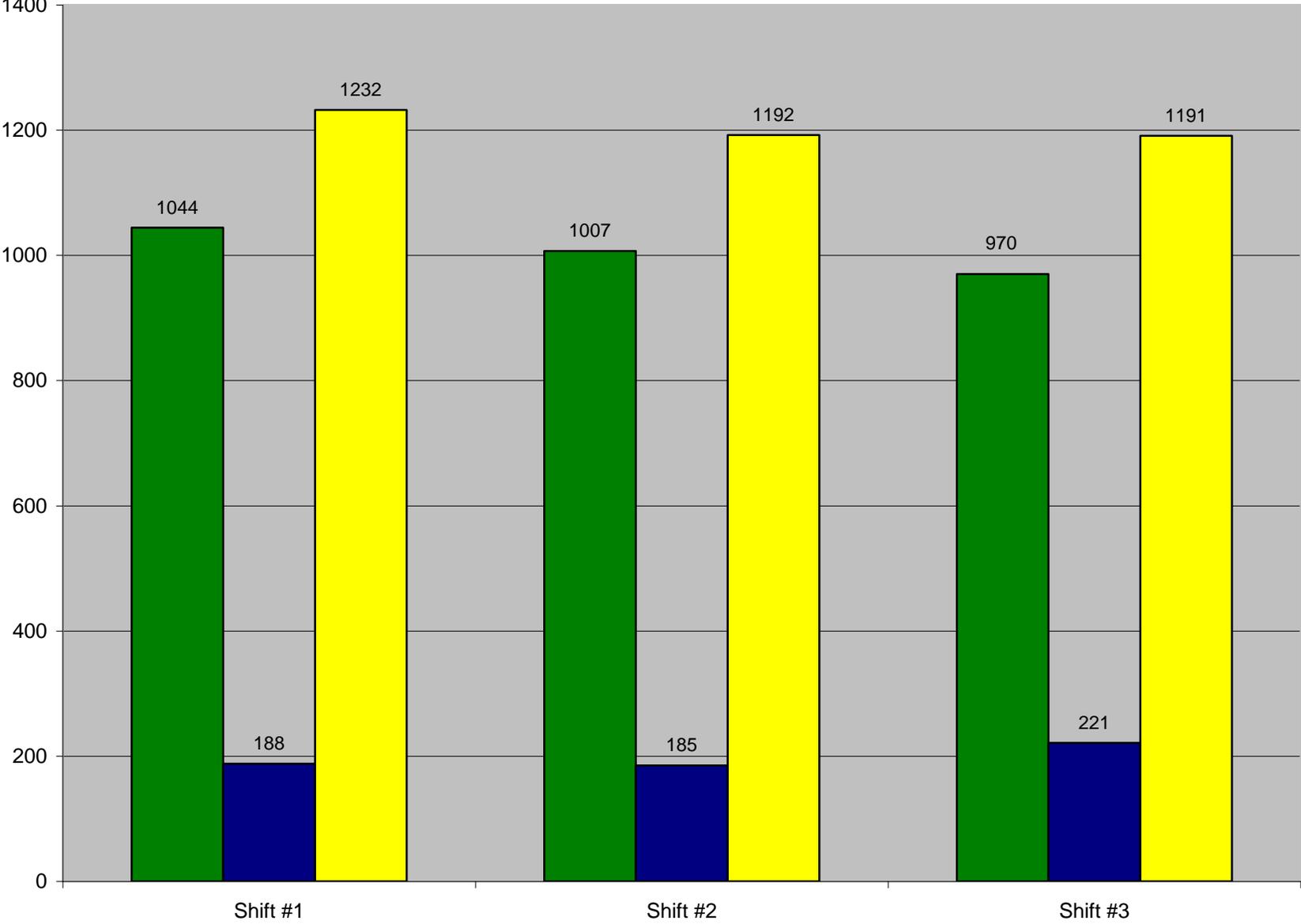
Number of Incidents

2008 Fire and EMS Alarm Times Comparison



EMS & Fire Incidents By Shift

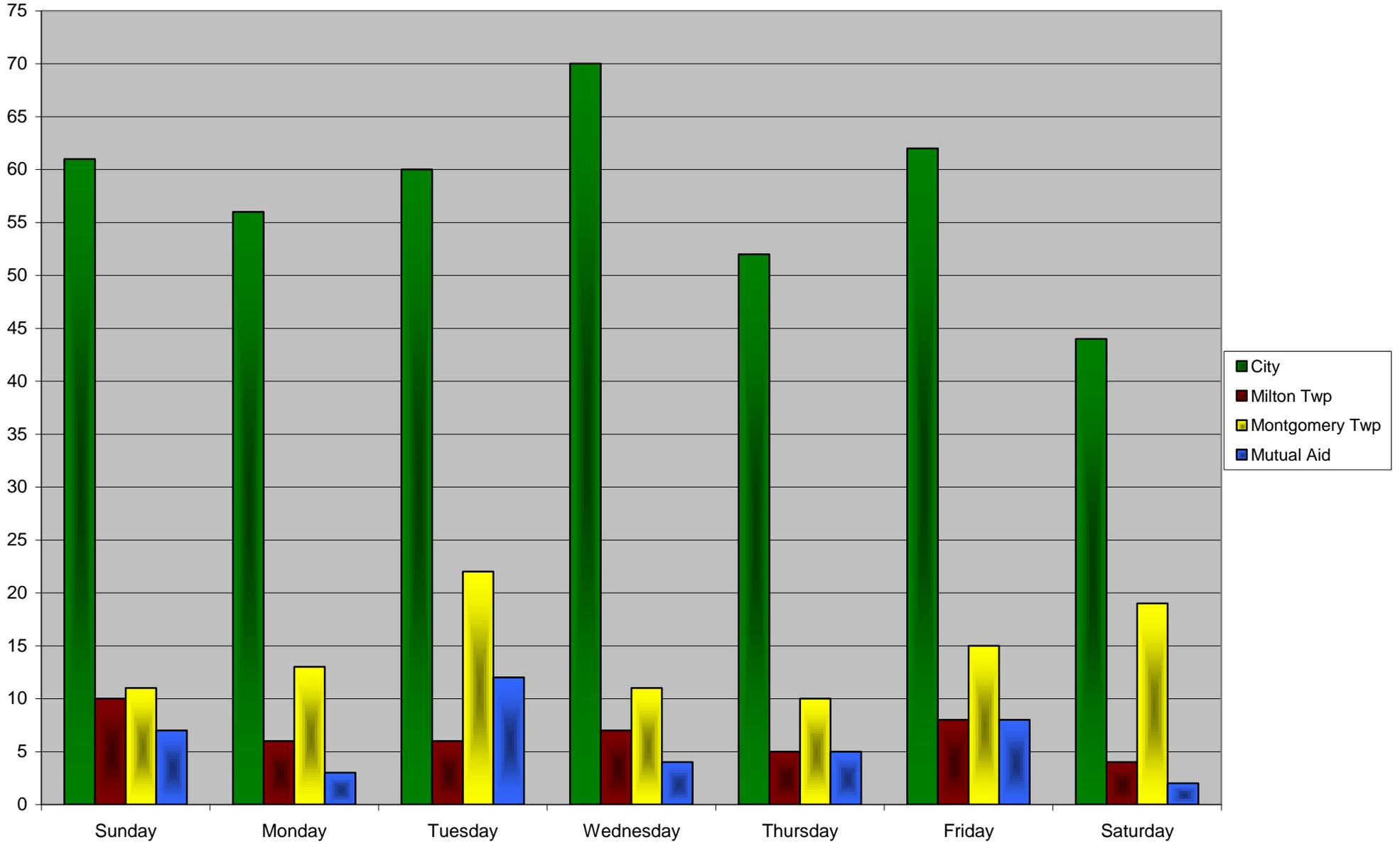
Number of Incidents



- EMS Incidents
- FIRE Incidents
- TOTALS

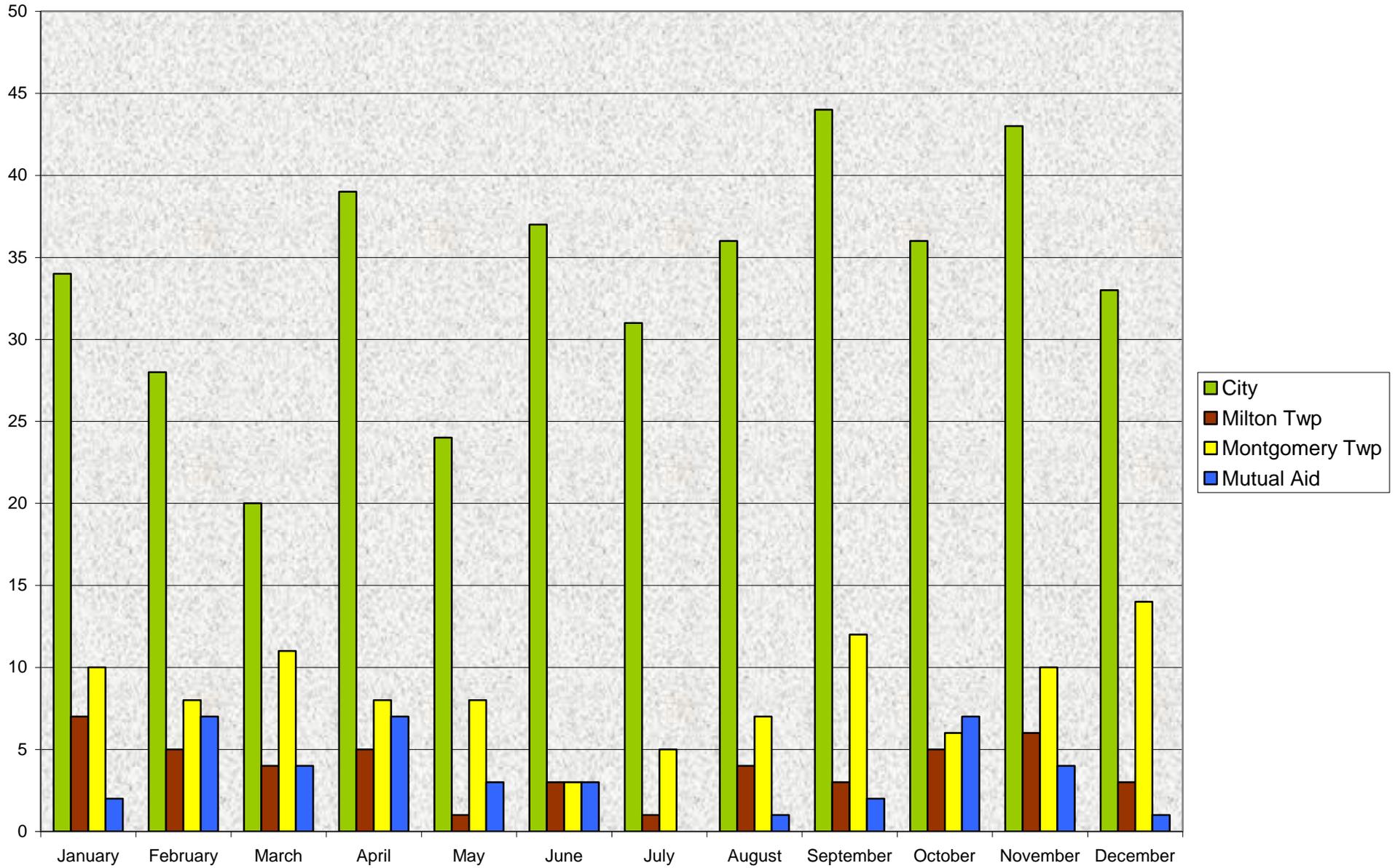
Fire Incidents By Day of Week

Number of Incidents



Fire Incidents By The Month

Number of Incidents





2008 TOTAL FIRE LOSS
\$ 1,298,840.00

TOTAL VALUE*
\$ 9,284,520.00

LOSS PERCENTAGE OF VALUE
13.99%

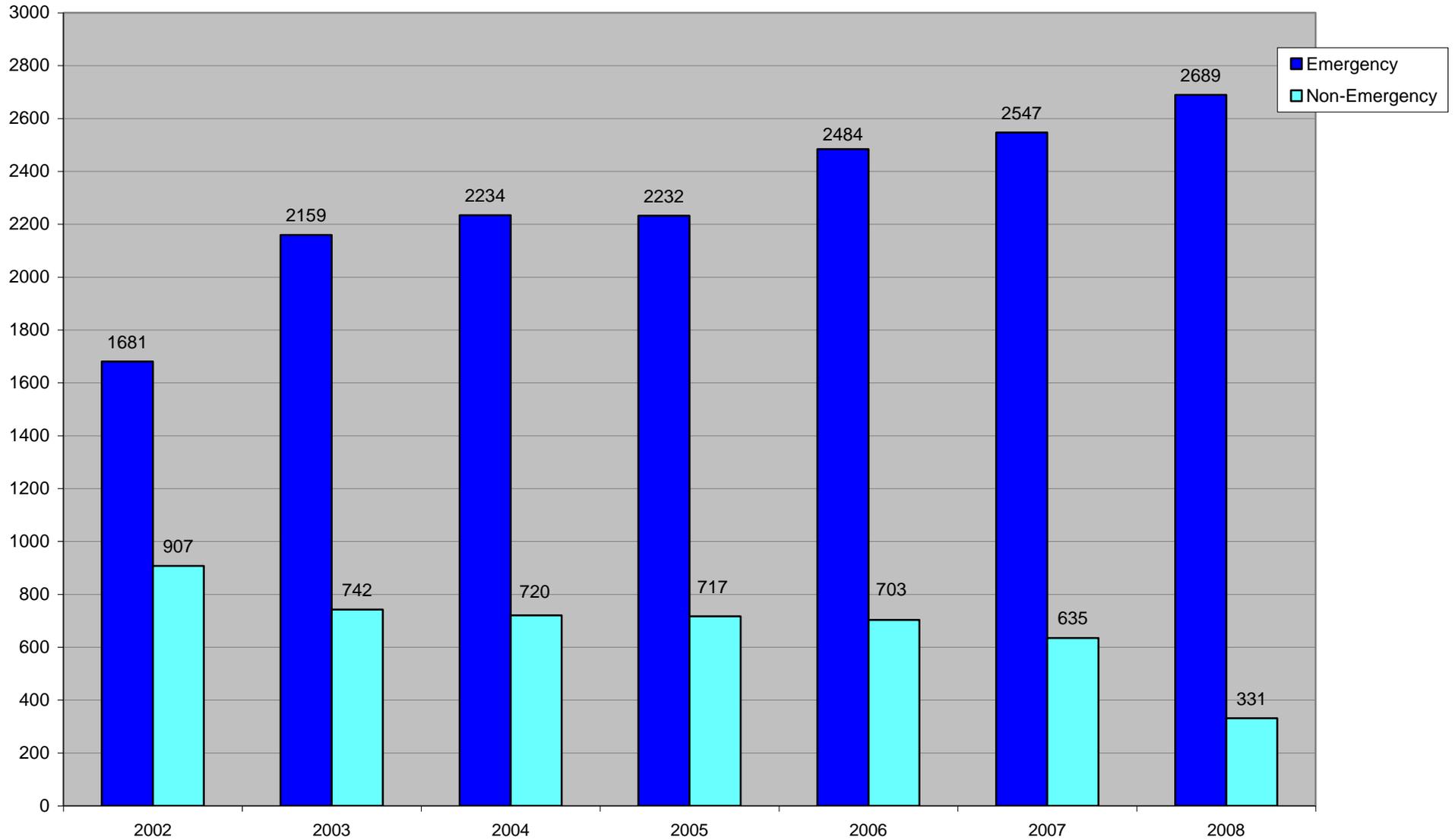
* Estimated value of structure or items where fire occurred.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

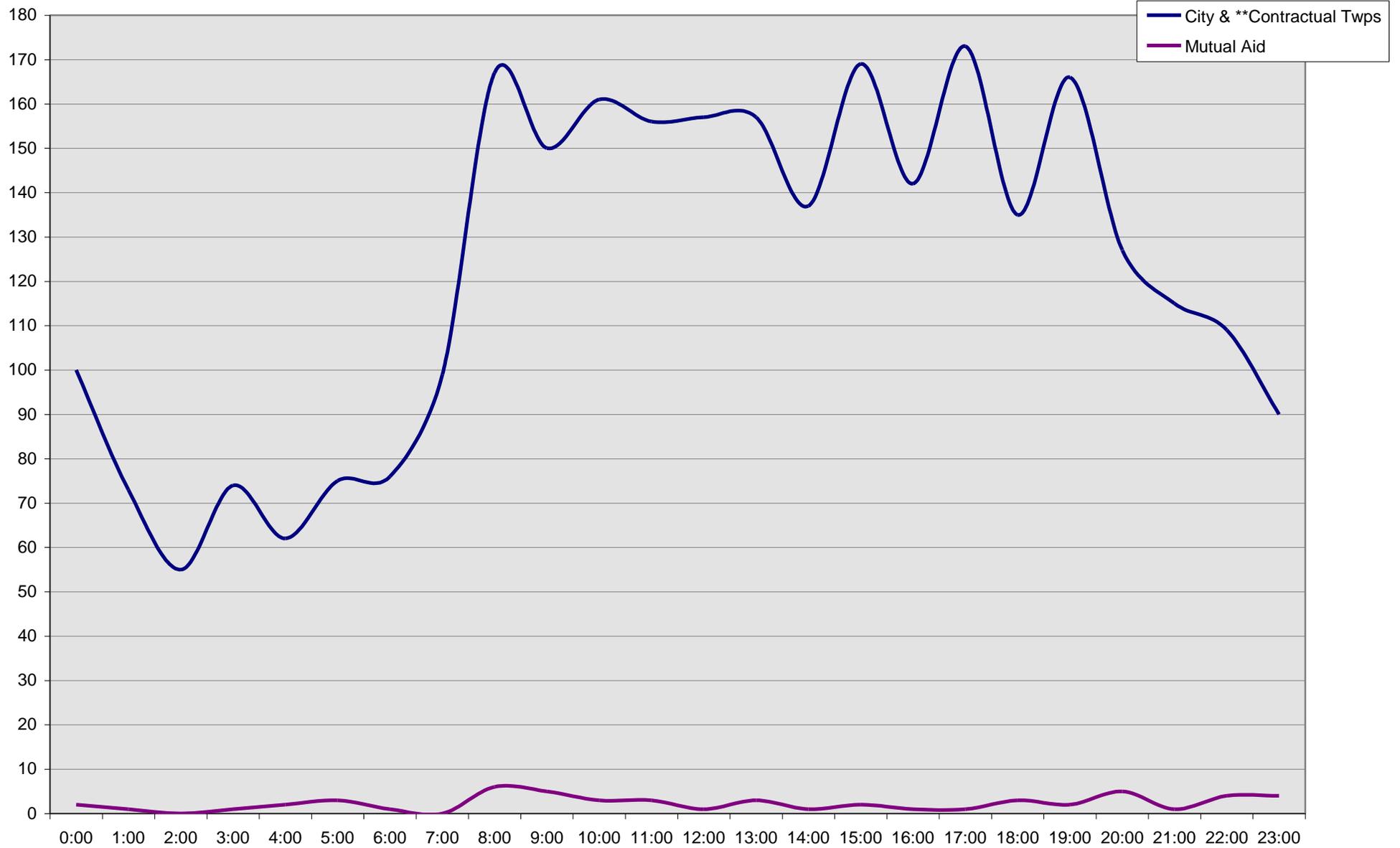
2008 EMS Emergency vs. Non-Emergency

Number of Incidents



Number of Incidents

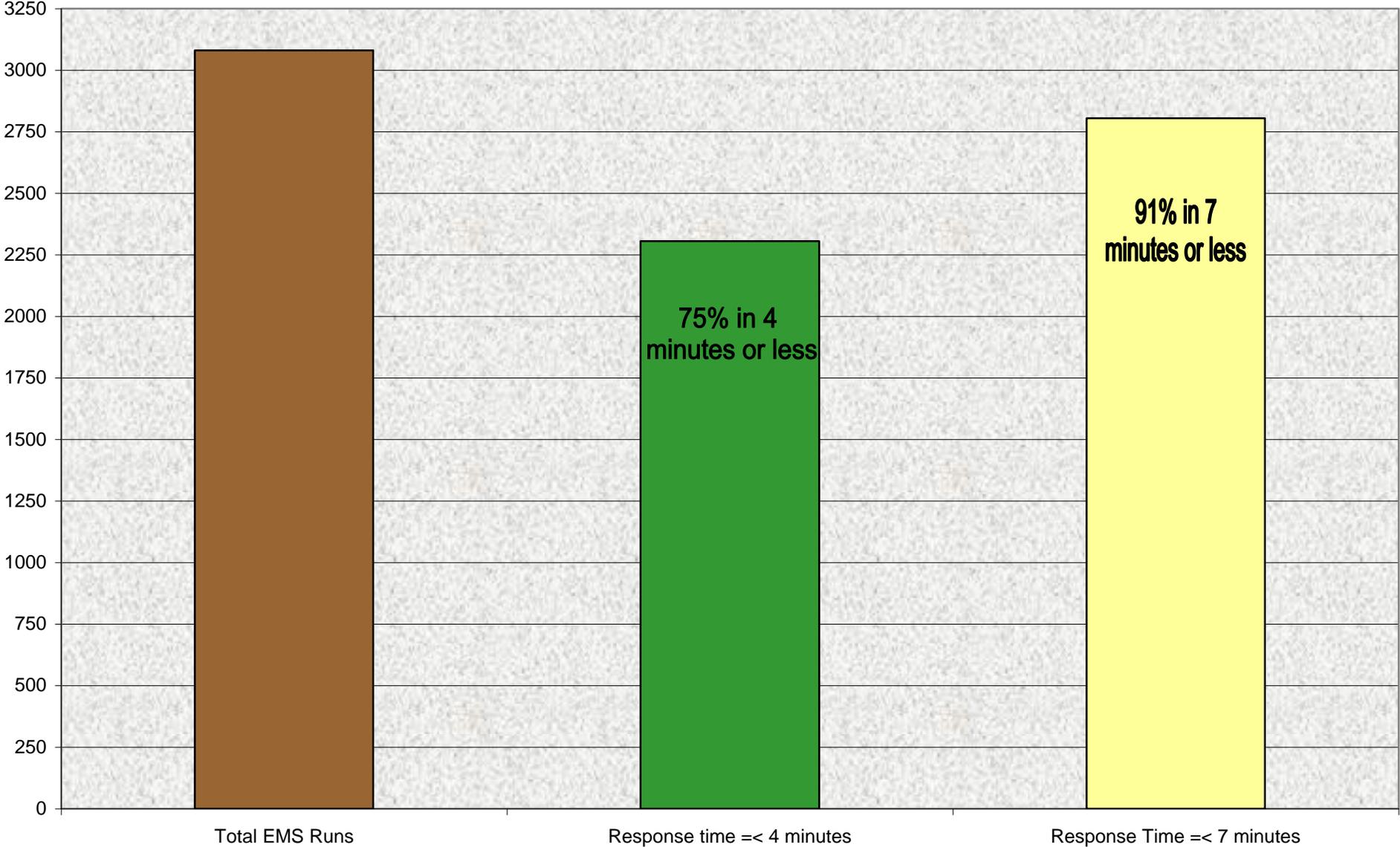
EMS Alarm Times



**Contractual Twps for EMS = Milton, Montgomery & Orange

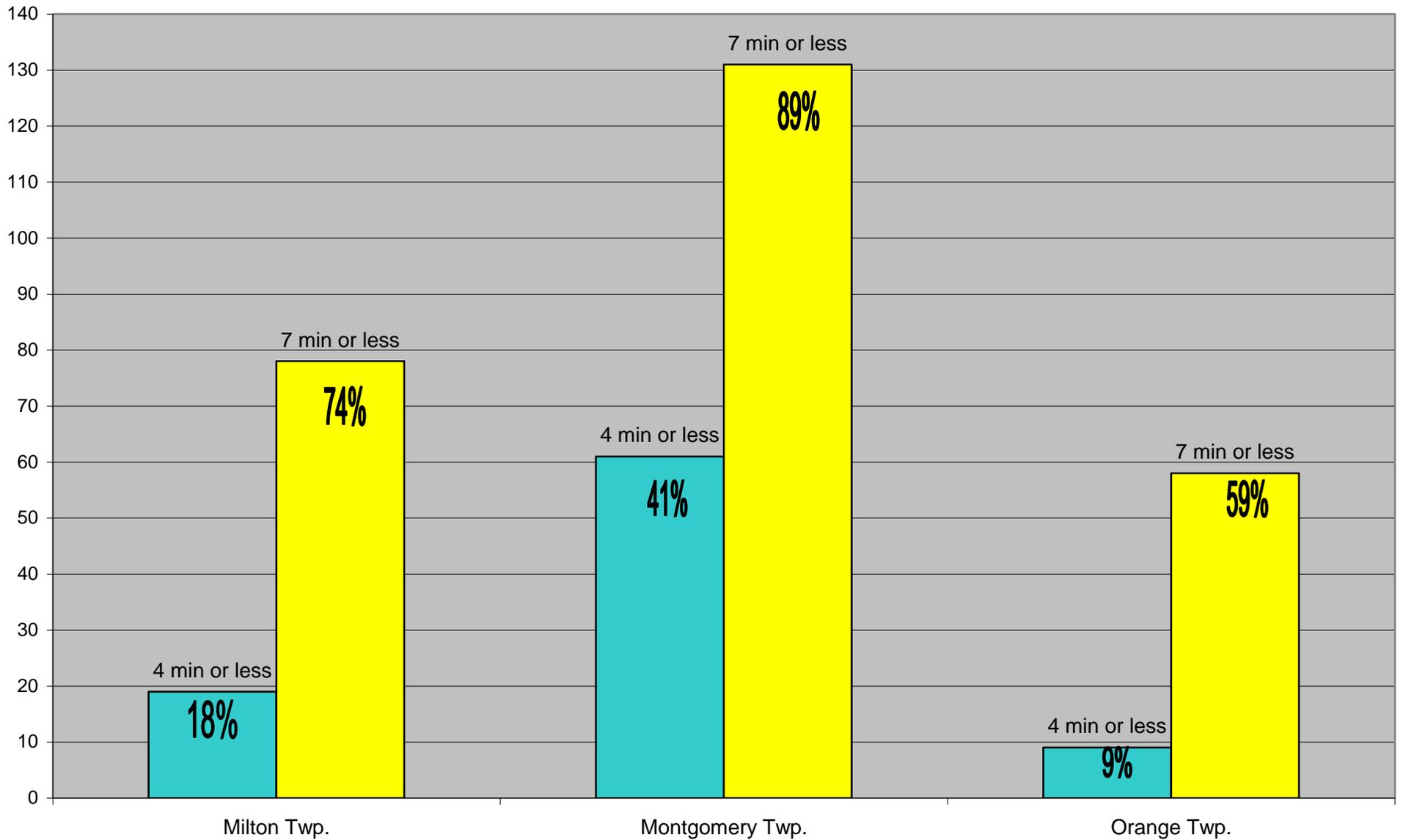
EMS City Response Time Comparison

of Incidents



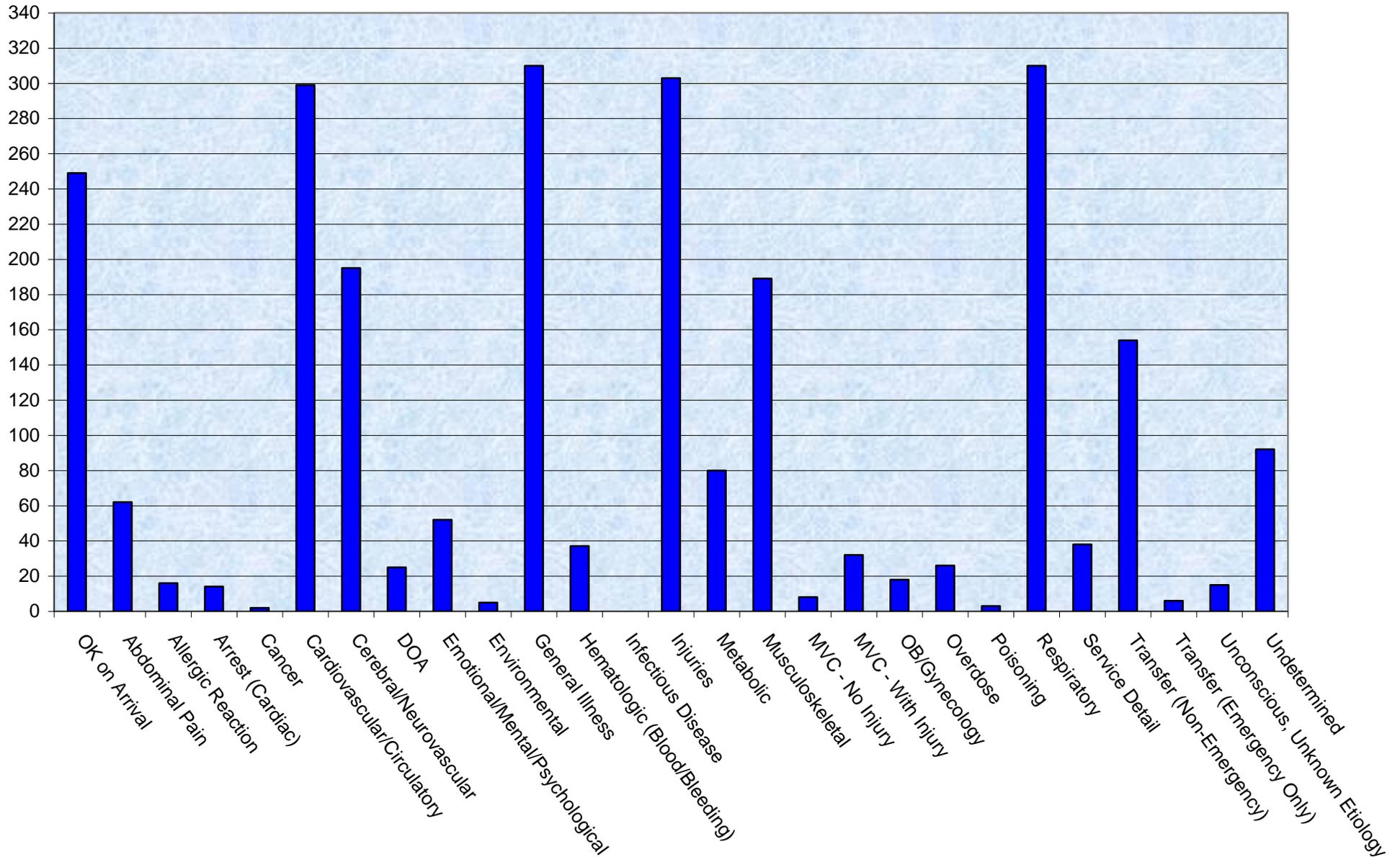
EMS Response Time Comparison for Contractual Townships

Number of Incidents

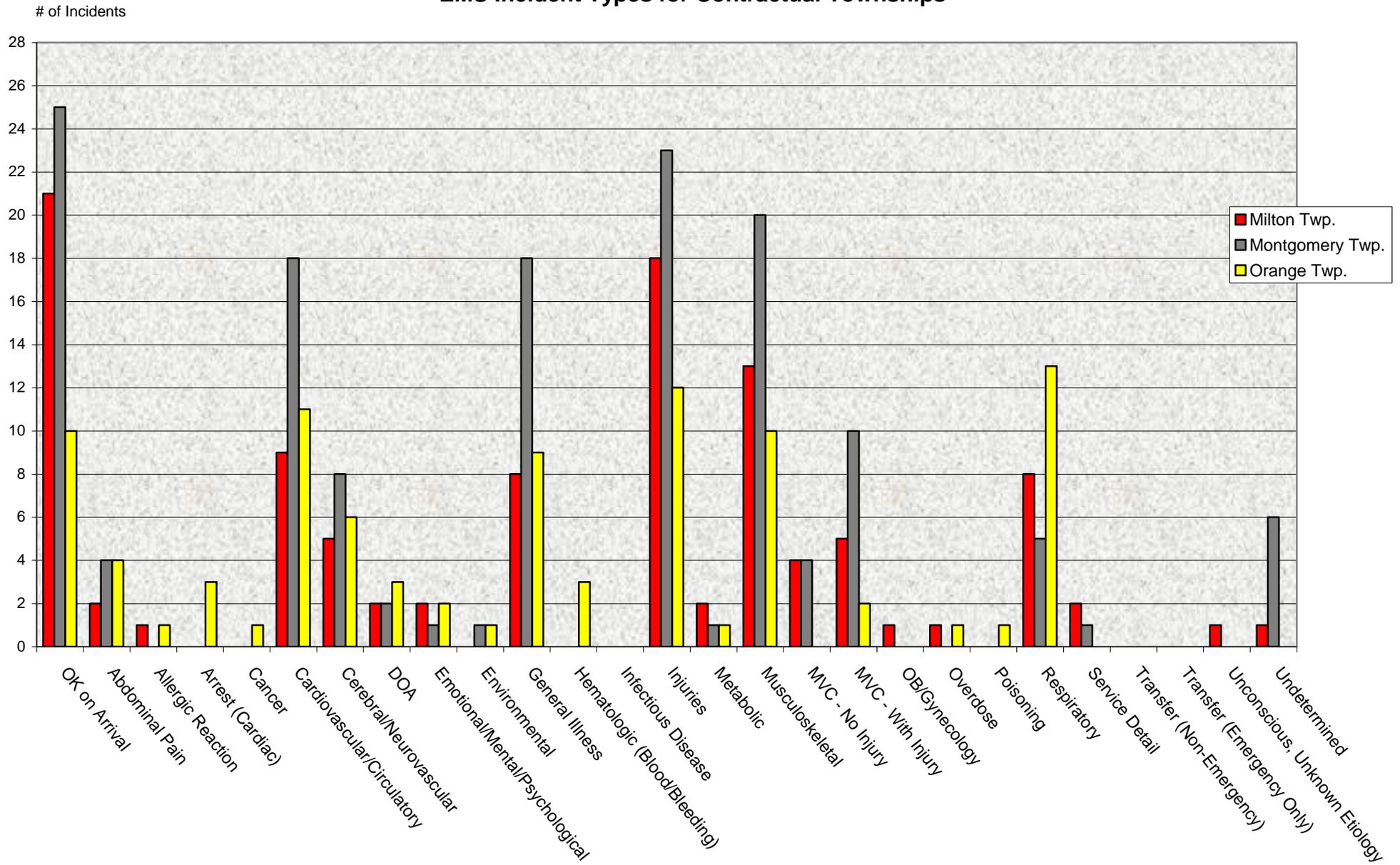


of Incidents

EMS Incident Type for City

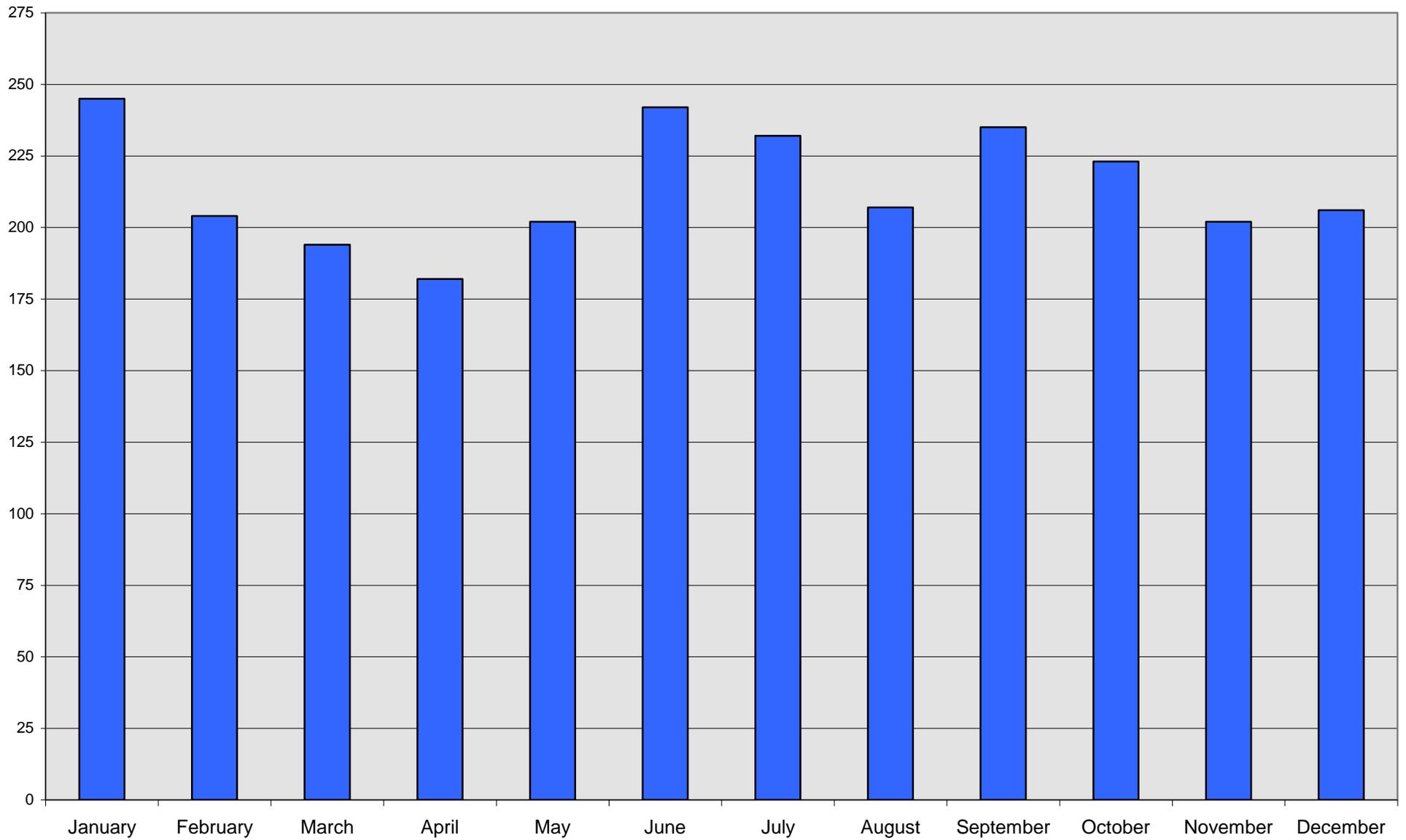


EMS Incident Types for Contractual Townships



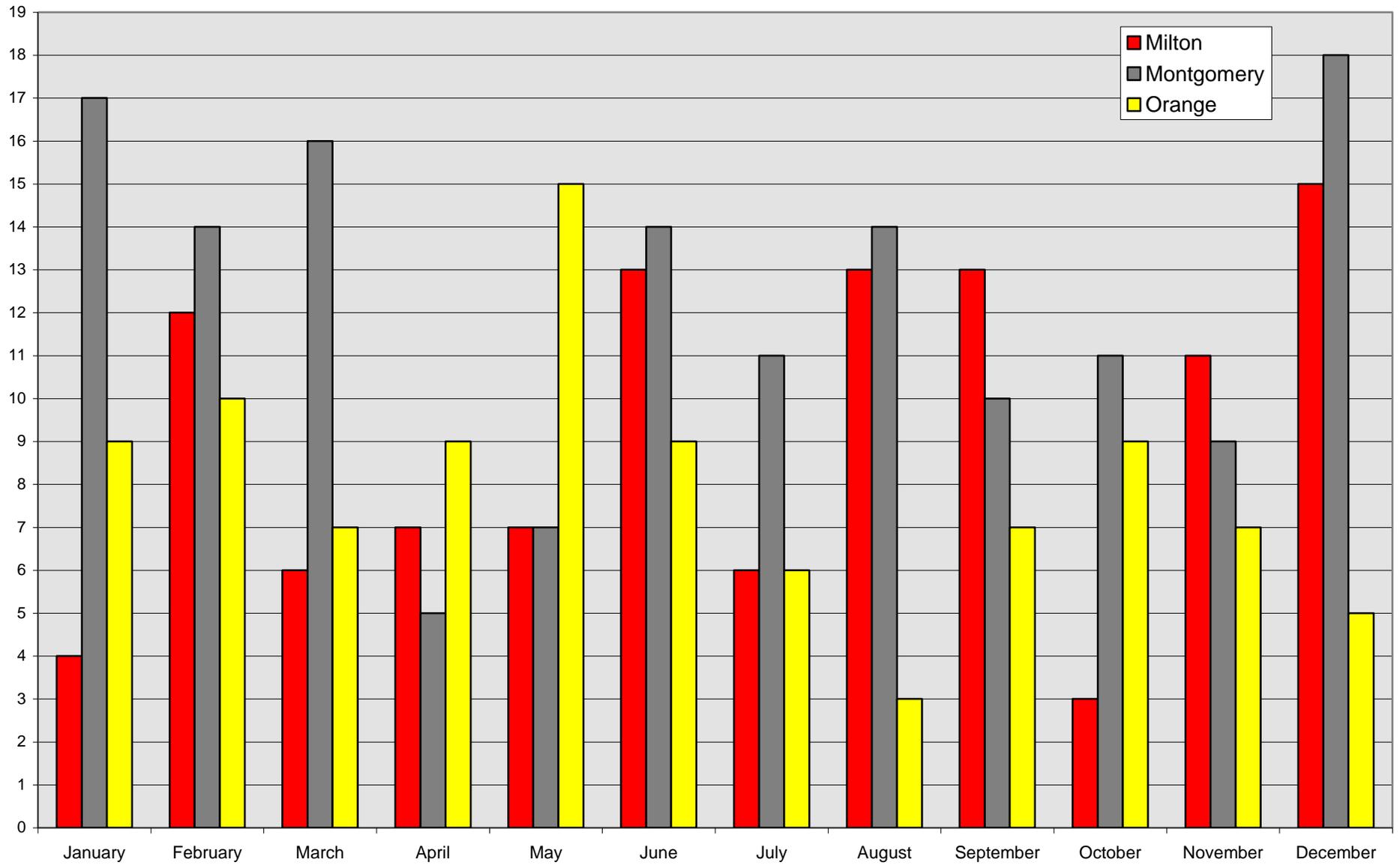
City EMS Incidents By Month

Number of Incidents



Contractual Townships EMS Totals By Month

Number of Incidents



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)

2008 EMS MULTIPLE CALLS

**MULTIPLE CALLS ARE HAVING MORE THAN ONE EMS UNIT OUT ON RUNS AT THE SAME TIME
(DOES NOT INCLUDE FIRE RUNS)**

TWO SQUADS OUT	433
THREE SQUADS OUT	49
FOUR OR MORE SQUADS OUT	4

THIS REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 16% OF ALL OUR EMS CALLS.

THE DIVISION HAS FOUR MEDIC UNITS. WE HAVE PLACED EMS EQUIPMENT ON TWO PIECES OF FIRE APPARATUS. THIS ALLOWS US TO PROVIDE A TIMELY RESPONSE IN THE EVENT ALL OF THE MEDIC UNITS ARE TIED UP. MULTIPLE CALLS MAY RESULT IN DELAYED RESPONSES DUE TO STAFFING SHORTAGES.

EMS Summary and Goals

The Division of Fire has four (4) Advanced Life Support Ambulances staffed by 26 EMT-Paramedics, 4 EMT-Intermediates and 4 EMT-Basics. All Fire Department personnel are cross-trained as Firefighters and EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians). In 2008 the Division responded to 3021 emergency medical calls within the city and its three 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 2008, this occurred 433 times when two ambulances responded to simultaneous calls. In addition, 49 times the Division had three units out and 4 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.

In April of 2008 the Ashland Fire Department was awarded a 50,000 dollar grant from the Bureau of Workers Compensation for the purchase of four new Stryker power cots. The cots are hydraulic powered and can lift up to 700lbs. The cots were only part of a new change to help reduce back injuries and increase patient transport safety. The Department implemented along with the cots a back awareness program designed to promote proper lifting techniques and help educate firefighters of the importance of stretching and muscle conditioning. The overall impact on not only our newly hired FF/Paramedics but also our seasoned veterans has been positive. Furthermore, this program has had a measurable effect on the fire division's BWC claims as related to back injuries sustained while on EMS calls. According to BWC statistics, cot related back injuries were reduced by half from 2007 to 2008.

Another piece of equipment that was purchased in 2008 to help not only protect our citizens but also our Firefighters was the Rad57. The Rad57 is a non invasive instrument with a sensor designed to go on the ring finger and detect possible Carbon Monoxide in the blood. The Rad57 instrument can help determine the need for transport to the hospital by preventing the risk of misdiagnosing unsuspected CO poisoning as the flu or fatigue. The Rad57 can also help protect our Firefighters who may continue to work at a fire even though they may have suspected elevated CO levels that can often be mistaken for fatigue. This Rad57 is fast and accurate and can help eliminate the need to draw blood and wait for costly lab results.

In 2008, The Division of Fire continued its commitment to the community by expanding our current CPR training program to include American Heart Association Certified First Aid. In 2008 we trained CPR and First Aid to over 680 Ashland County residents. We also assisted in implementing many new Automatic External Defibrillator programs throughout the city including local churches, civic groups, and municipal agencies. In February 2008 the Ashland Fire Department responded to the Ohio Department of Transportation for a man down and not breathing. When paramedics arrived they found a male in cardiac arrest and bystander CPR being performed. The paramedics quickly recognized a lethal rhythm and delivered a shock which restored a pulse. The victim was transported to the hospital and returned to work two months later. As a result of this outcome ODOT District 3 and the Ashland Fire Department trained all 80 ODOT employees in CPR/AED and placed AED's in all three ODOT buildings. Furthermore, this may lead to a state wide ODOT CPR/AED program. Recognizing the importance of early defibrillation and CPR, helps improve our patient outcomes dramatically. In 2008 the Ashland Fire Department had bystander CPR performed 59% of the time. More than half of all our cardiac arrest victims received CPR prior to the squad arrival. In addition, the Ashland Fire Department had a 13.6% cardiac arrest survival rate. The National average according to the American Heart Association is less than 10%. That is why this program is so important to our community and is provided at no cost to the residents of Ashland County. The Ashland Fire Department also continued its partnership with Catholic Charities for the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes 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.

2009 Goals

- Upgrade 9 year-old cardiac monitors
- Purchase additional CPR Equipment
- Continue ambulance replacement program
- Utilize EMS Supervisor vehicle

A Symbol Of Commitment.



Ashland Fire Department
www.ashlandohiofire.com

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

2008 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 243 fire safety inspections in 2008. 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. The total number of inspections as well as options for a comprehensive inspection program is limited by a lack of trained inspectors and available budget resources.

A key component of fire prevention is education. In 2008 the Fire Prevention Bureau trained 1,153 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 990 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 third year of the Firefighters 1st TEAM program “Pennies for Prevention”. The program expanded in 2008 to also include St. Edward’s and Ashland Christian Elementary School’s. 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 \$4,288.14 in 2008 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 107 hours of continuing education in 2008. 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.

2009 Fire Prevention Goals

- Continue the “Pennies for Prevention” campaign and education programs.
- Increase specialized Investigator certification/training.
- Conduct departmental company level inspection course.
- Complete National Fire Academy Expert Witness Testimony Course.
- Certify department investigator in *Computer Voice Stress Analysis*.

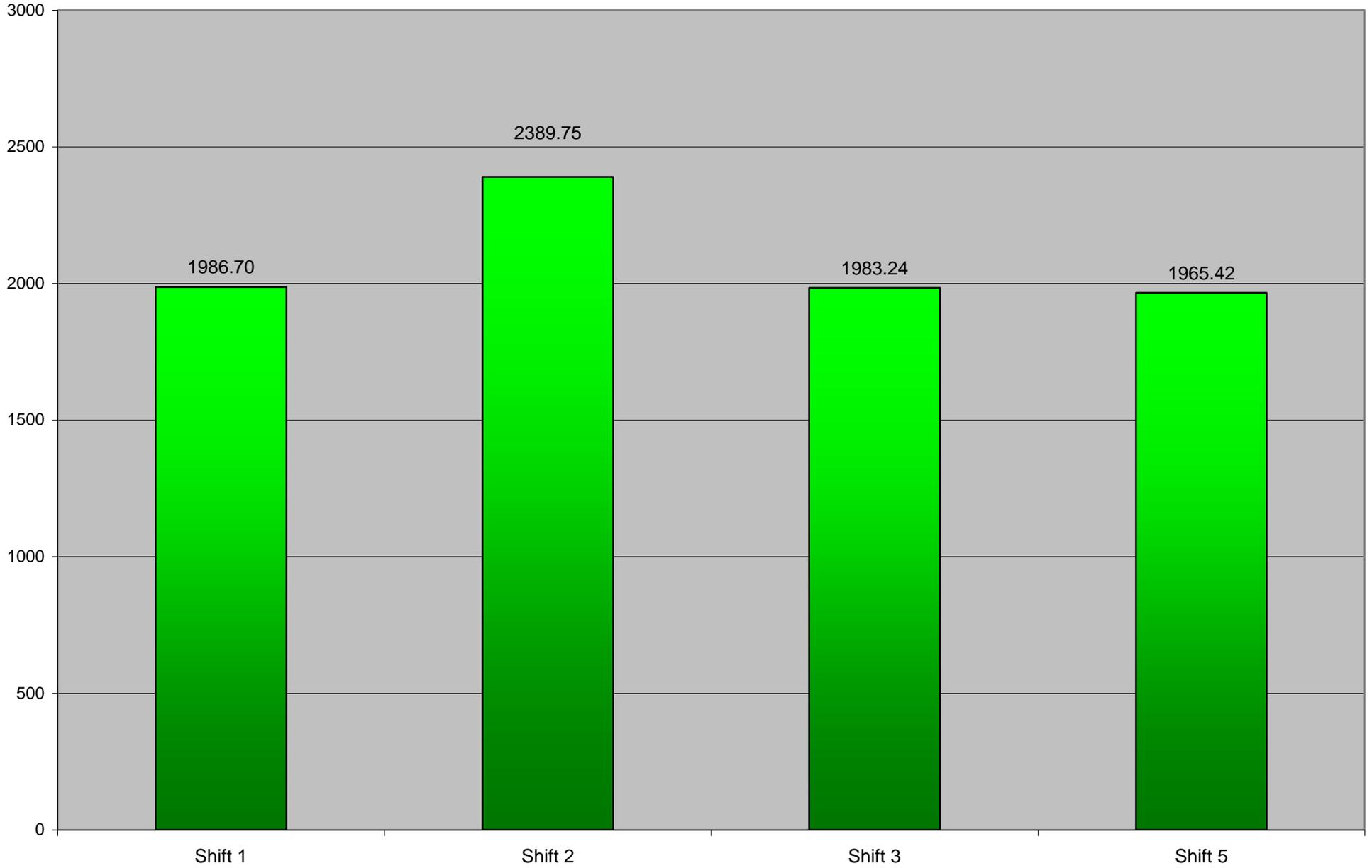


Training



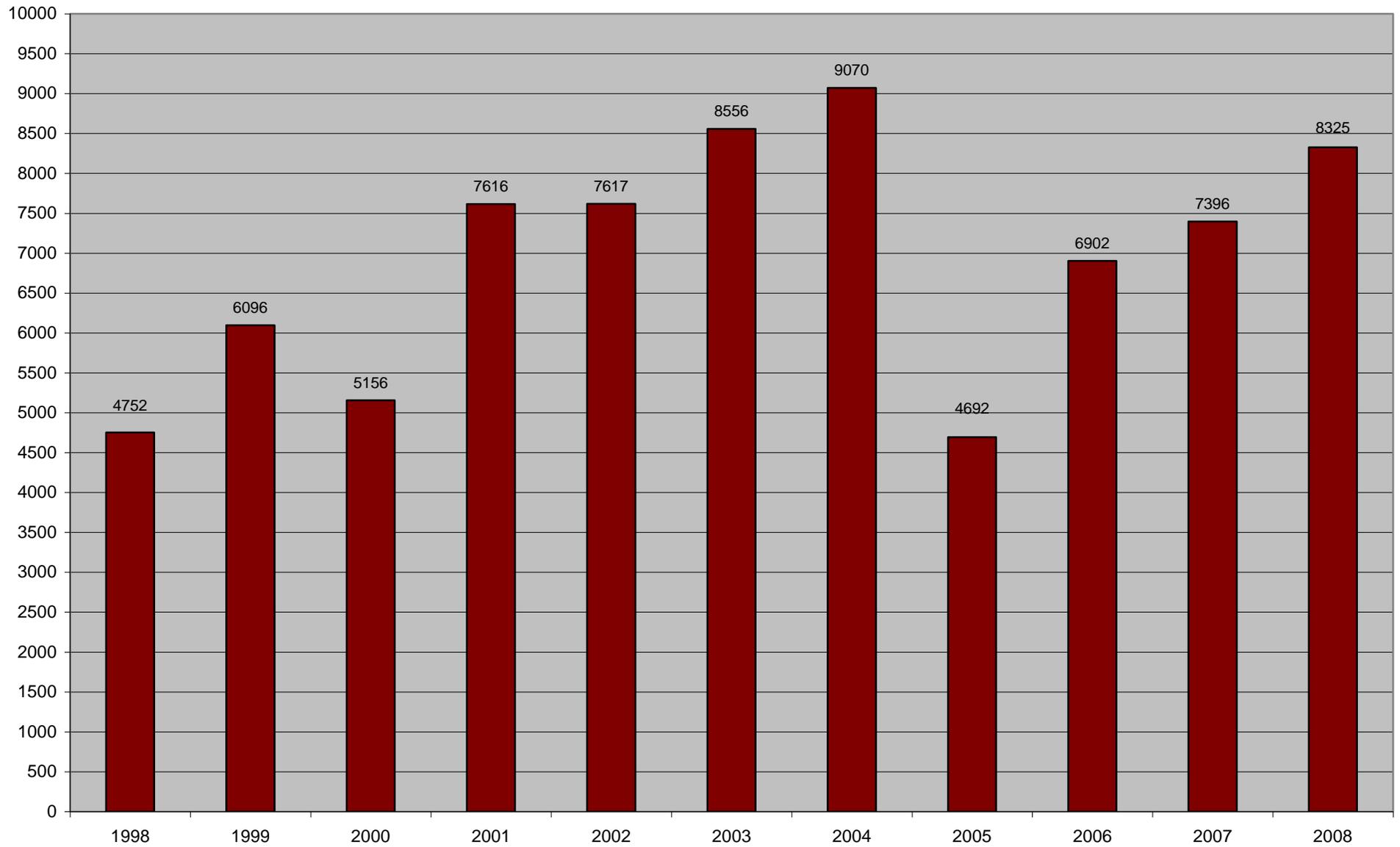
Hours

2008 Total Training Hours By Shift



Training Hours Comparison

Number of Hours



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

2008 TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Noteworthy Training

- New Hire Orientation
- Assisted Ashland University with Dorm Buildings Fire Pump Test
 - Incident Command System (ICS) Training with APD/ACSO/OSP
 - TOMCAR Demonstration
 - 39th Annual Northern Ohio Arson Seminar
 - Ashland County Prom Promise Mock Crash Demonstration
 - Ohio Fire Executive Class - 2 Enrollees
 - Buckeye Girls State
 - Car Seat Technician Refresher
- Administered Ohio Volunteer Fire Fighter Certification Test
 - Annual FF Ability Test
- Acquired Structure Training:
 - *AU Houses - Ventilation, Firefighter Self Rescue, Search & Rescue, Joint Firefighter training with Nankin FD and Jeromesville FD's
 - *Commercial Structure at Hospira - Rope Rescue, Vertical Ventilation, Search/Rescue, Wall Breaching

Occupancy Tours

- NOVATEX
- Samaritan Hospital- New ER
- The Croc Center
- Ohio Electric Control
- Brethren Care Village Complex
- McGraw-Hill - Fire & EMS Pre-planning
- Medical Associates Bldg.
- Ohio Dept. of Transportation
- Philway Products

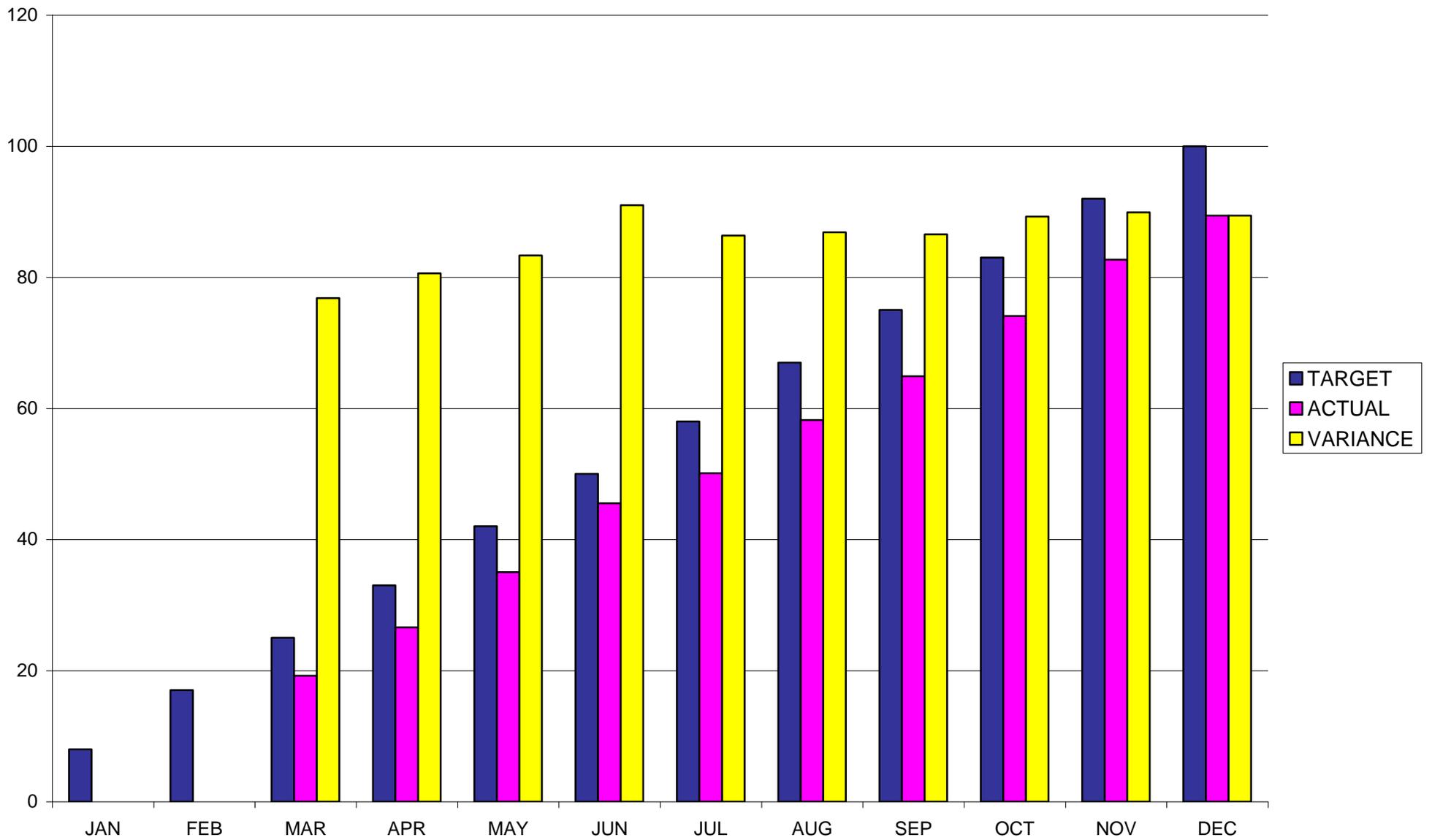
Classes

- Certified Fire Instructor Course
- Certified Ice Rescue Technician - Dive Rescue International
 - Water Safety/Rescue - YMCA
- Firefighter Honor Guard Training - Elmhurst FD, IL
- VFIS Driver Instructor Training - VFIS
- Rescue Airbag Training - TNT Rescue Systems Inc.
- Emergency Vehicle Driver Training
 - Substance Abuse Training
 - High Rise Operations
- Confined Space Technician - CSU
- High Angle Rope Rescue - CSU
- Rope Rescue Class - BGSU
- Fire Officer I & II - BGSU
- Advanced Auto Extrication Course - Howell Rescue Systems
- Hybrid Vehicle Safety Overview - Bill Harris Chevrolet
- Responding to Oil Field Emergencies - Wayne County Fire Training
- HAZMAT Technician & Refresher Course - Finley University
- Back Awareness Training

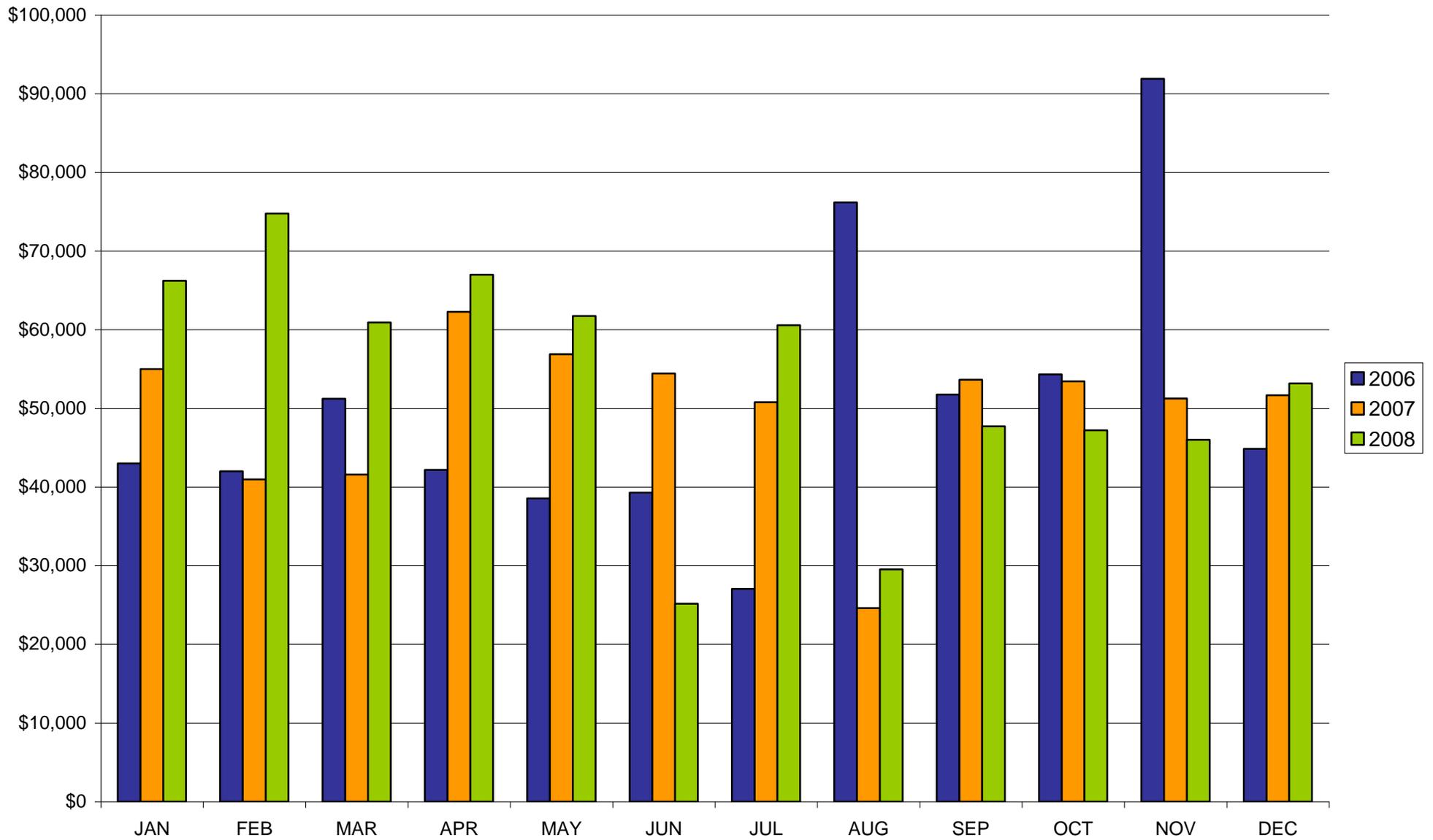


ADMINISTRATIVE

2008 BUDGET VARIANCE

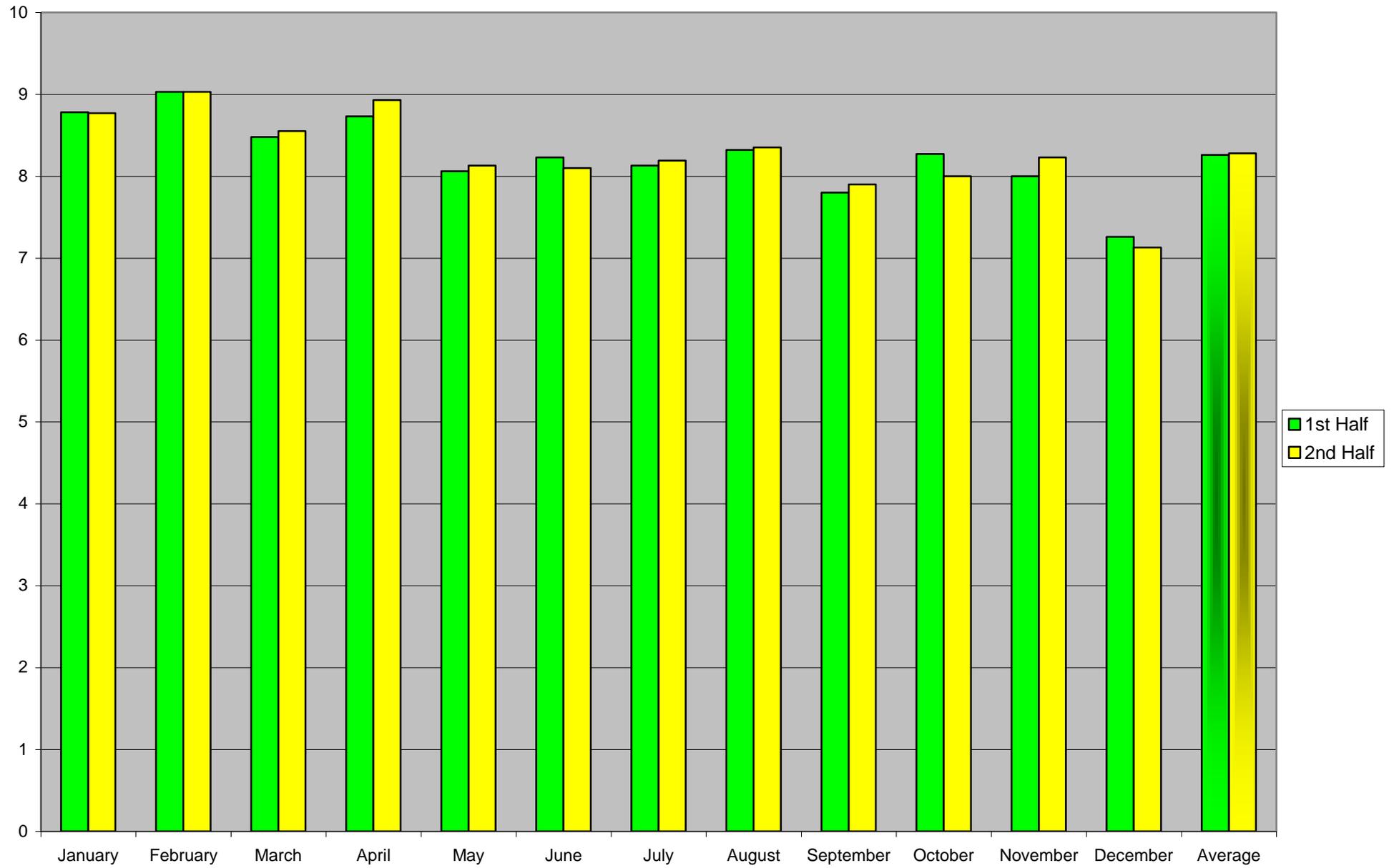


2008 EMS REVENUE



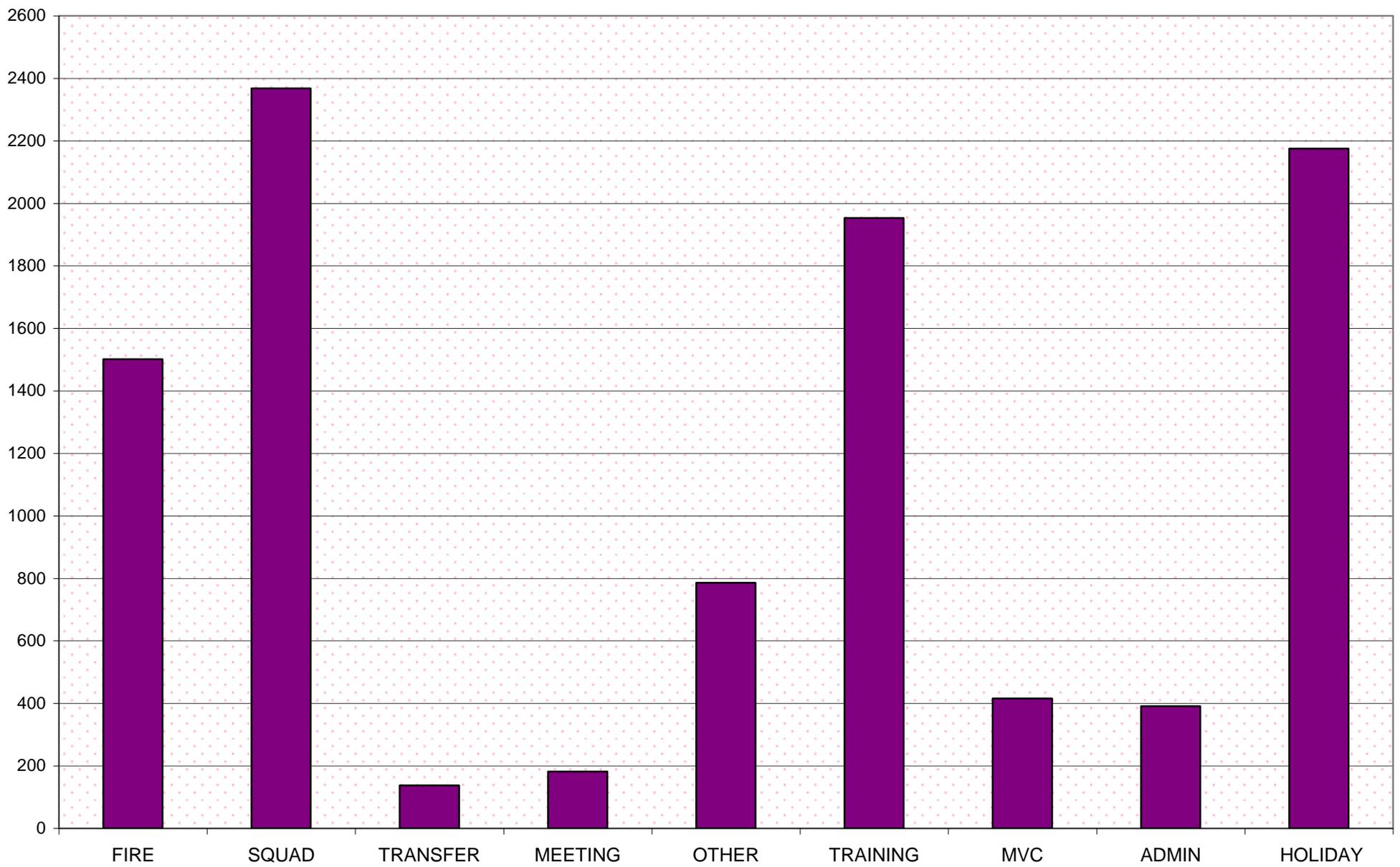
Daily Manpower Level

Personnel Count



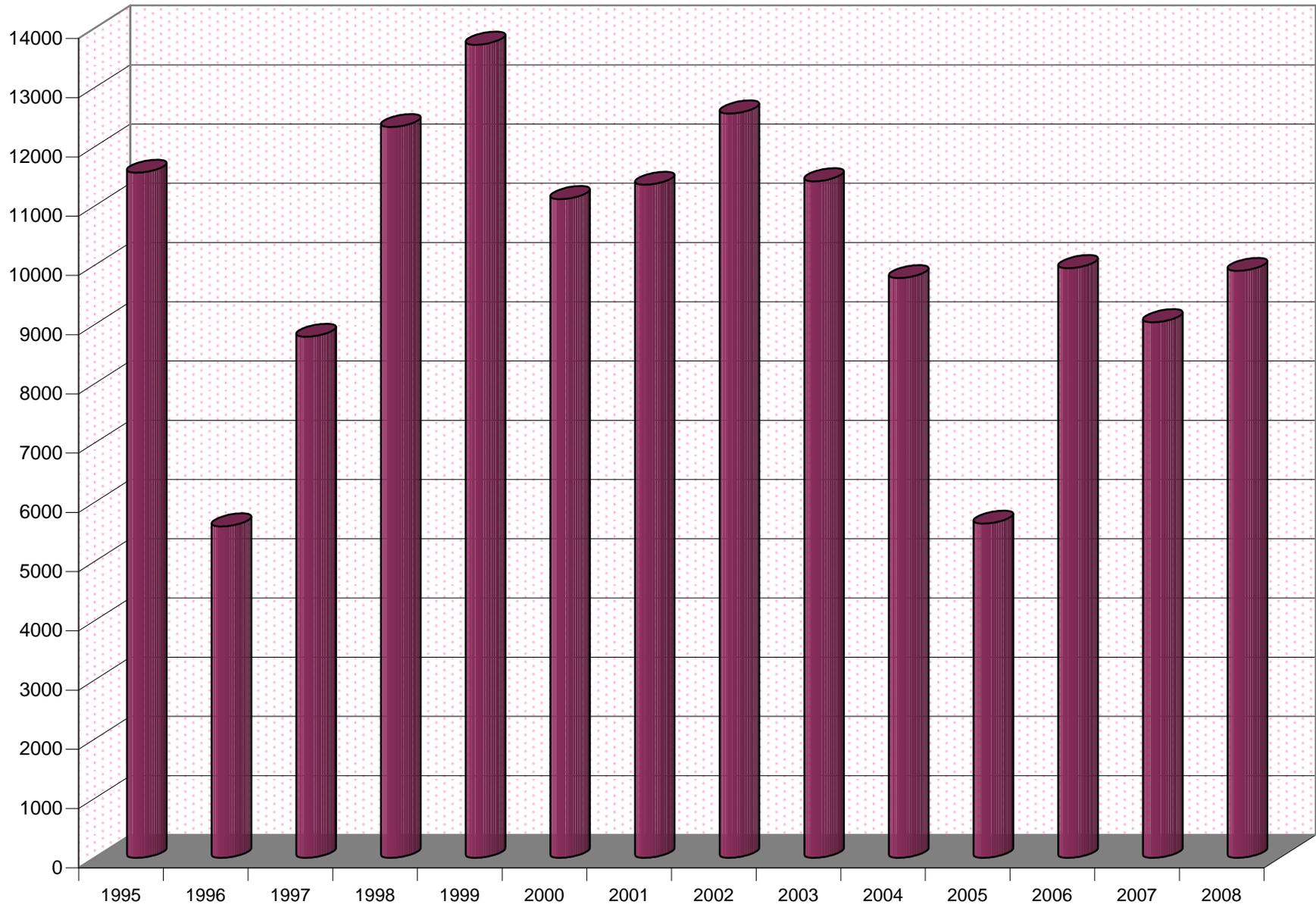
2008 Overtime Hours By Category

Number of Hours Paid



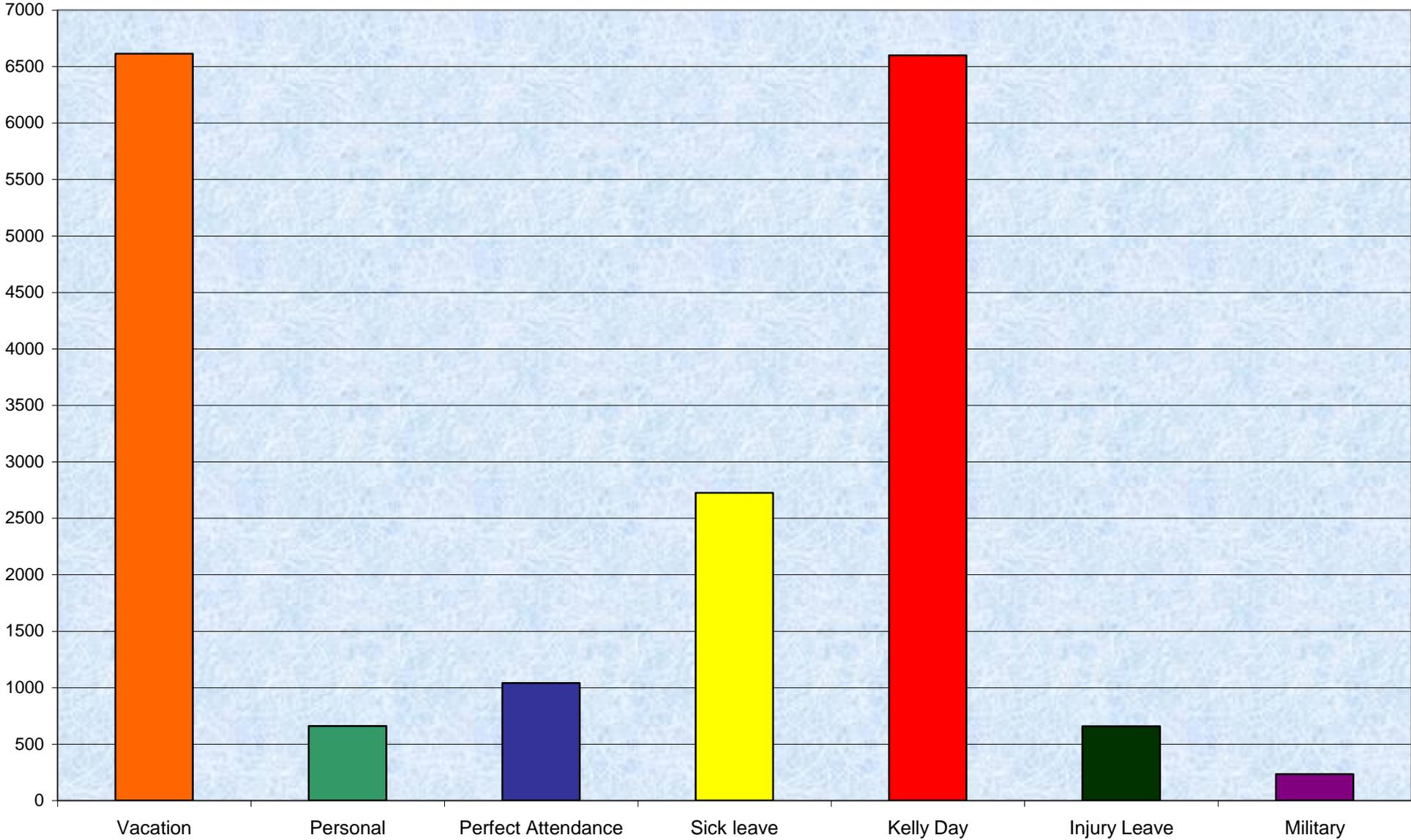
Overtime Hours Paid By Year

Number of Hours



Time Off Hours Used

Number of Hours



CONCLUSION

THE CITIZENS' EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO EXPAND. TRADITIONAL SERVICES SUCH AS FIRE SUPPRESSION, RESCUE, PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING. RESPONSES TO ALL TYPES OF HAZARDS, MANMADE OR NATURAL ARE EXPECTED. REGIONALIZATION IS A METHOD OF ENSURING RESOURCE AVAILABILITY FOR THESE BIG EVENTS. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF "IF" BUT A QUESTION OF "WHEN."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE IS FILLING THE GAP BETWEEN HEALTHCARE INSURANCE, LOSS OF INCOME AND THE HOSPITAL. CHANGES IN HEALTHCARE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IMPACT THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE OUR CITIZENS.

WE HOPE YOU NOTICED THIS STATISTIC, 59% OF OUR CPRS HAD BYSTANDER CPR. THAT MEANS THAT IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE COLLAPSES WITH A CARDIAC EMERGENCY, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT A BYSTANDER WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO TO HELP SAVE THEIR LIFE. NOT MANY COMMUNITIES CAN SAY THAT.

AVERAGING 9.9 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**