

ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

2009

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 firefighters are problem solvers. The bigger the challenge, the bigger the payoff. Saving lives has a big payoff. Providing the best service possible is a challenge the Division willingly takes on every day.

You will see that the run volume for 2009 is not statistically different from 2008. The Division continues to average about 10 (9.86) runs per day. The fire loss for the year is down \$390,000 as compared to \$1,298,840. There were no big loss fires in 2009. EMS calls comprise over 86% of the workload for the Division. When not responding to emergencies, the firefighters are training or are providing public education.

Preventing fires and reducing the need for paramedics are two priorities of the Division. A safe community is the result. Approximately 600 adults were trained in CPR. Fire extinguisher training was provided for 1,018 adults. Education in the school system continues. Currently, this training is provided to our citizens free of charge.

The minimum staffing level for the Division is six. Emergency recall of off duty firefighters was eliminated again this year. Only when there is a significant emergency are a limited number of firefighters called in. The limited staffing requires the officers to make some difficult decisions. Out of town transports to other hospitals cannot be provided when staffing levels are low. Emergencies are the priority. There were two (2) squads out at the same time 341 times, three (3) squads out 36 and four (4) squads out 2 times. We dropped to three vehicles to save money.

The City of Ashland, Division of Fire website can be viewed at: <http://www.ashland-ohio.com>

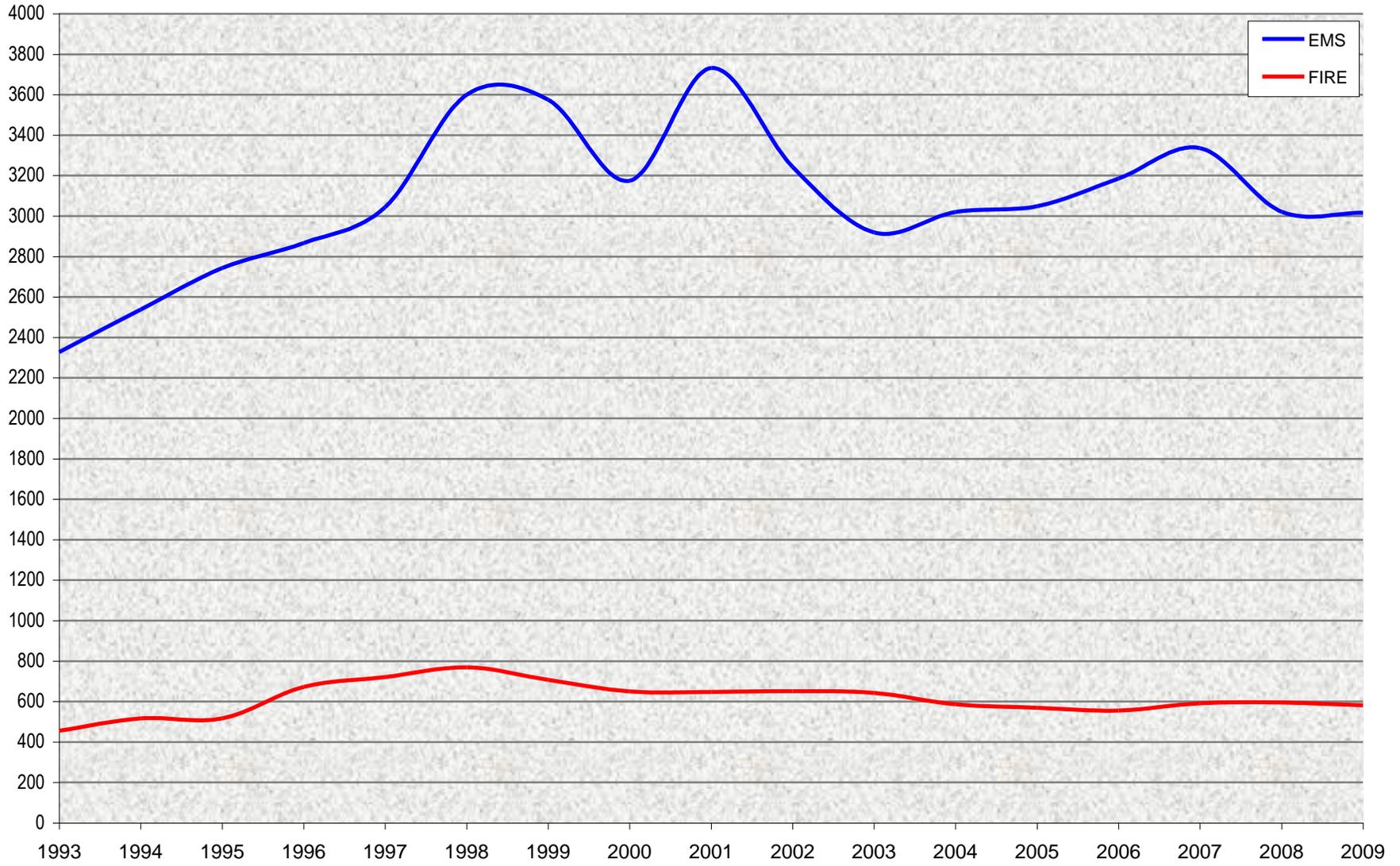
FIRE



SUPPRESSION

of Incidents

FIRE vs EMS Run Volume





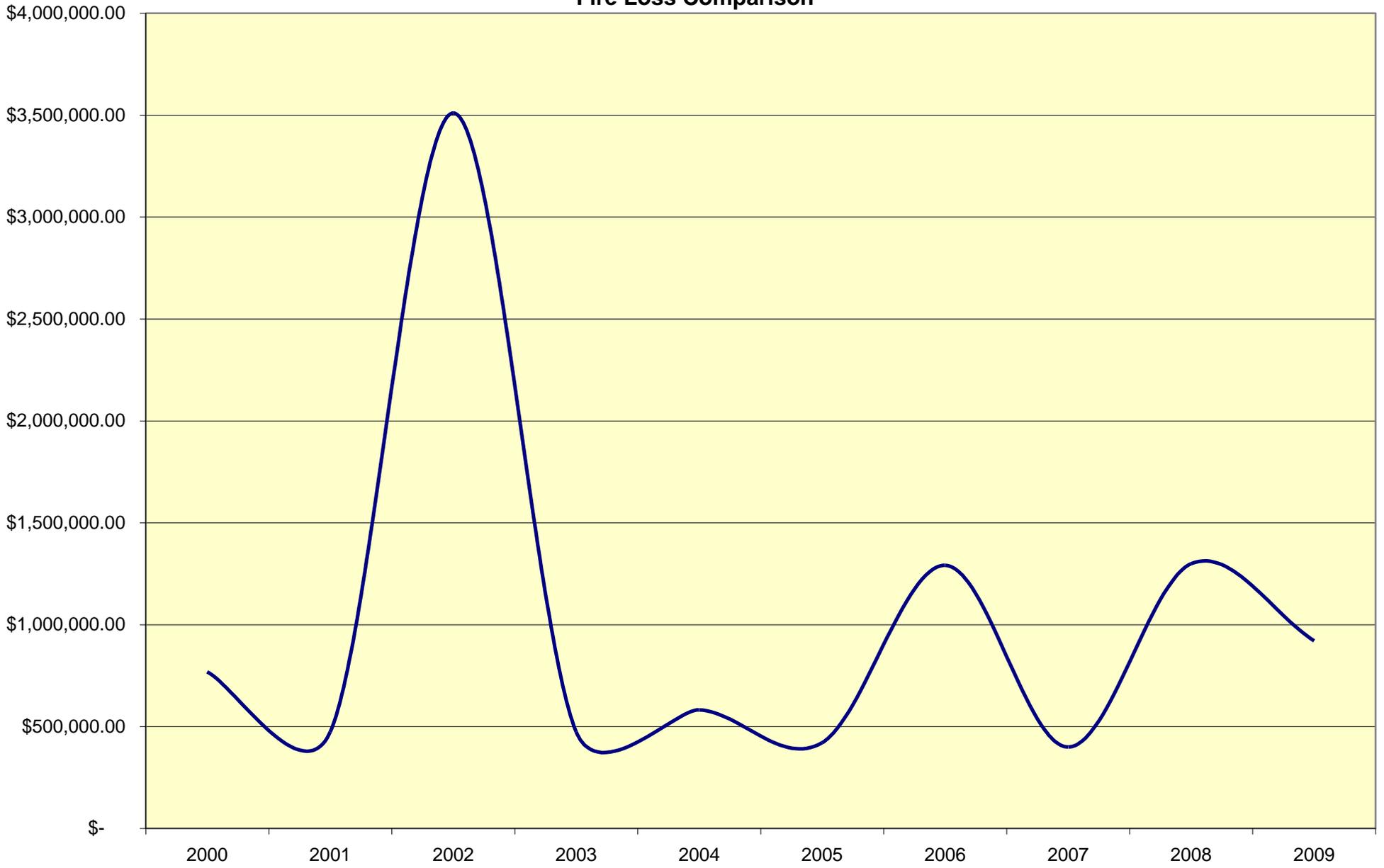
2009 TOTAL FIRE LOSS
\$ 919,800.00

TOTAL VALUE*
\$ 11,215,170.00

SAVED PERCENTAGE OF VALUE
91.80%

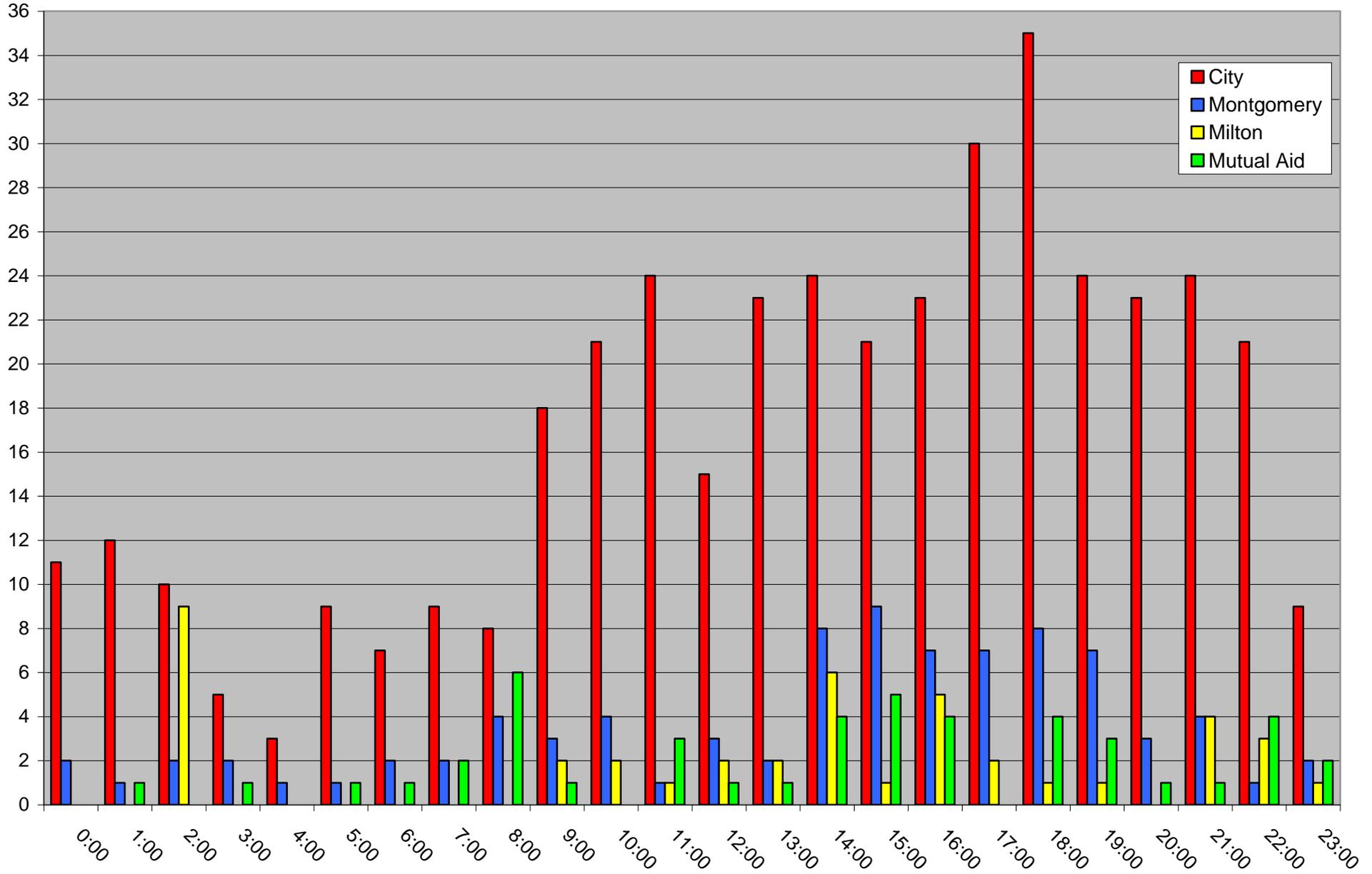
* Estimated value of structure or items where fire occurred.

Fire Loss Comparison



of Incidents

Fire Alarm Times



Fire Incident Type Terminology

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

OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (no fire) – Overpressure rupture, overheating, 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.

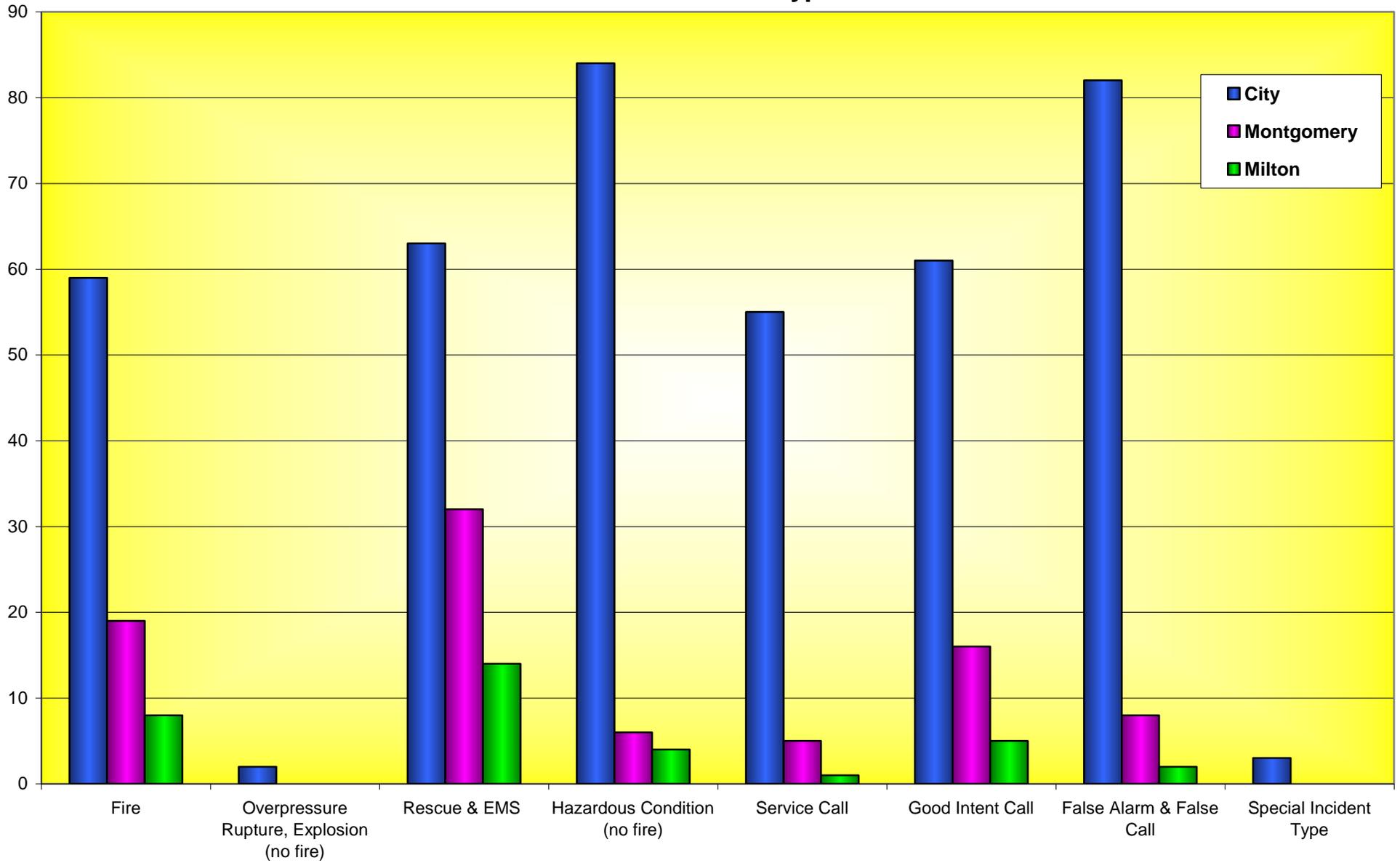
FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL - False alarm or false call, telephone, malicious false alarm, system malfunction, smoke detector activation, alarm system sounded due to malfunction, unintentional transmission of alarm, smoke detector-no fire, carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.

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

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

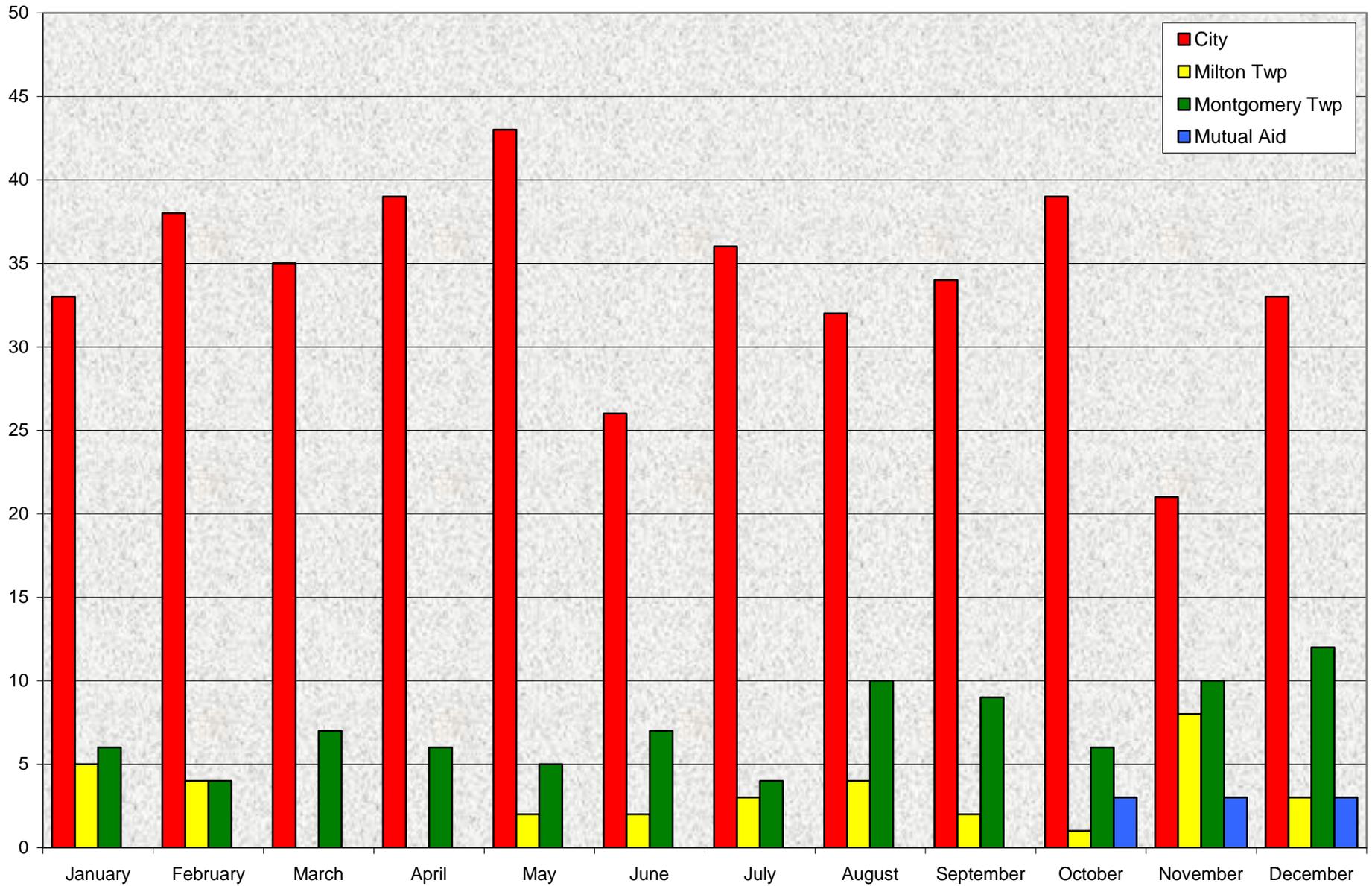
of Incidents

Fire Incident Type



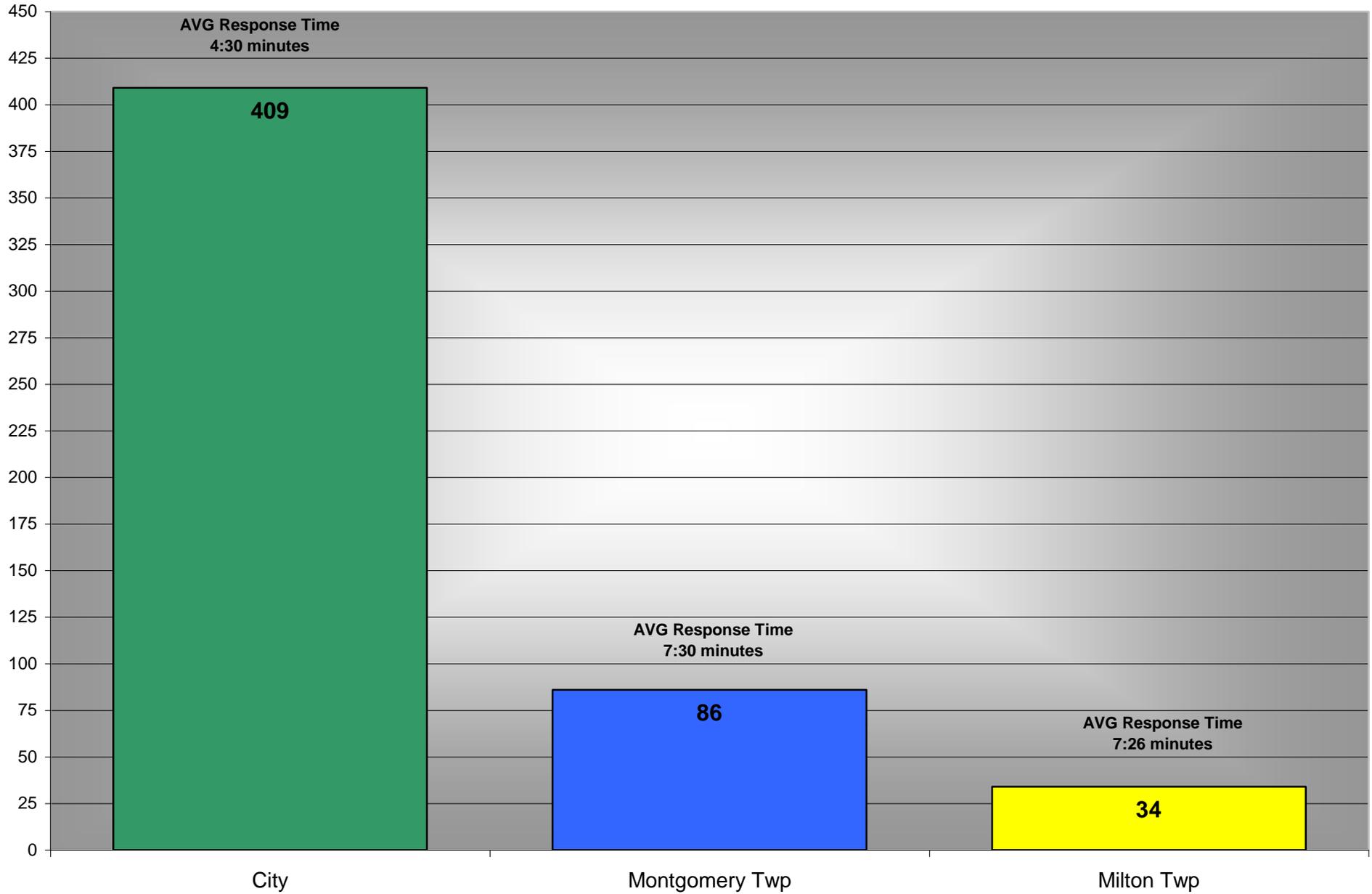
Number of Incidents

Fire Incidents By The Month



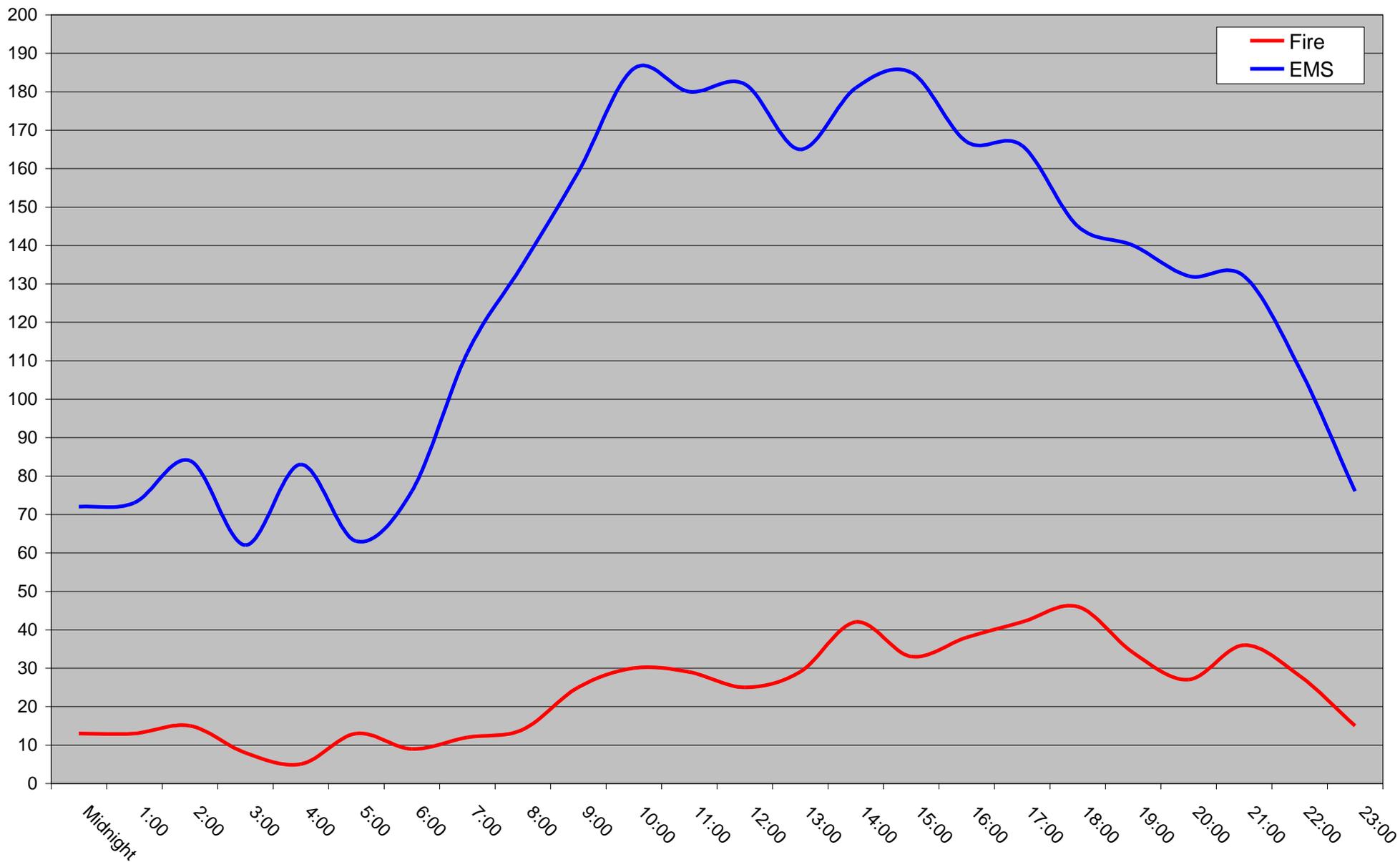
of Incidents

City & Contractual Twps Average Fire Response Times



of Incidents

FIRE & EMS Alarm Times

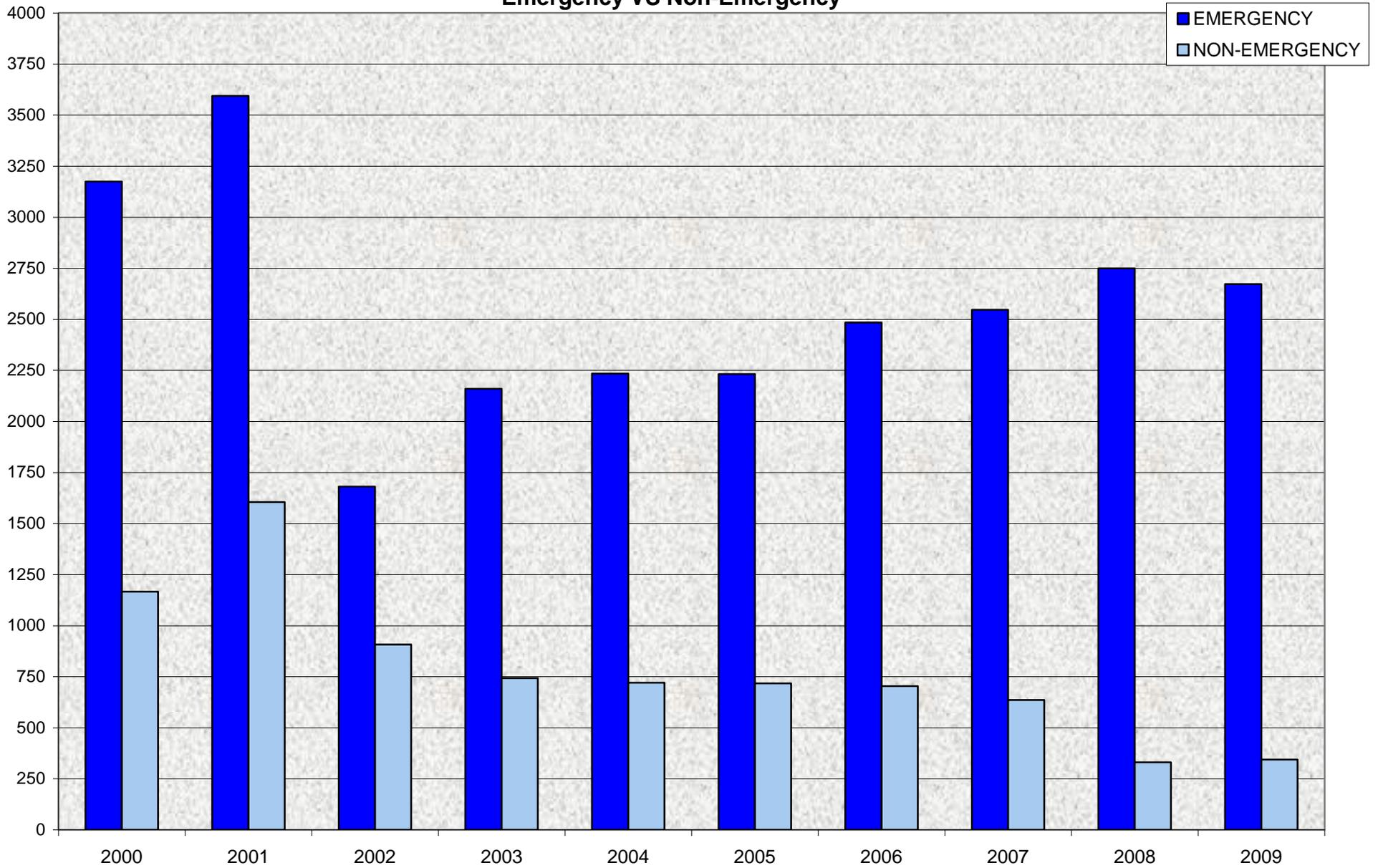




EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

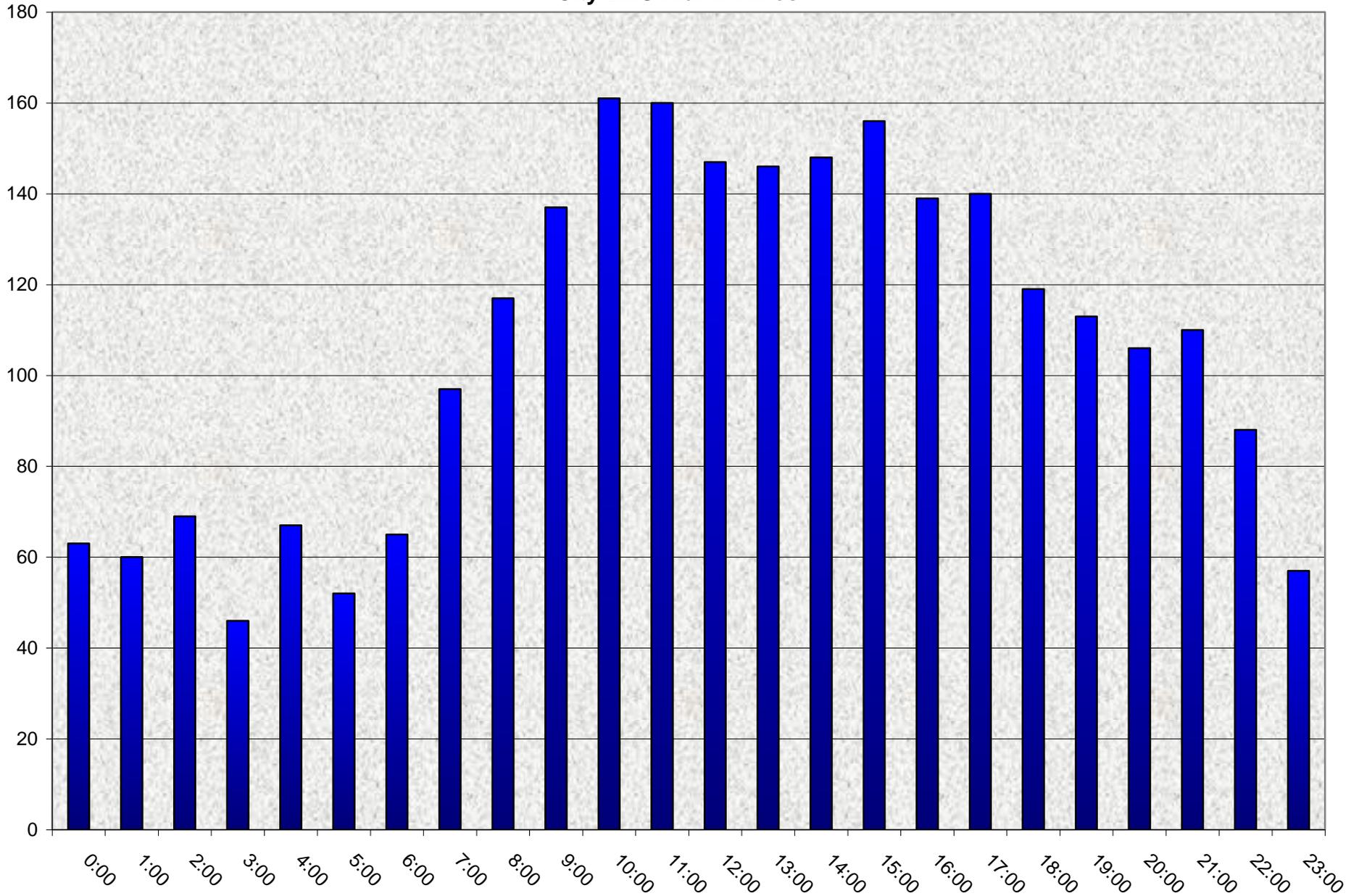
of Incidents

Emergency VS Non-Emergency



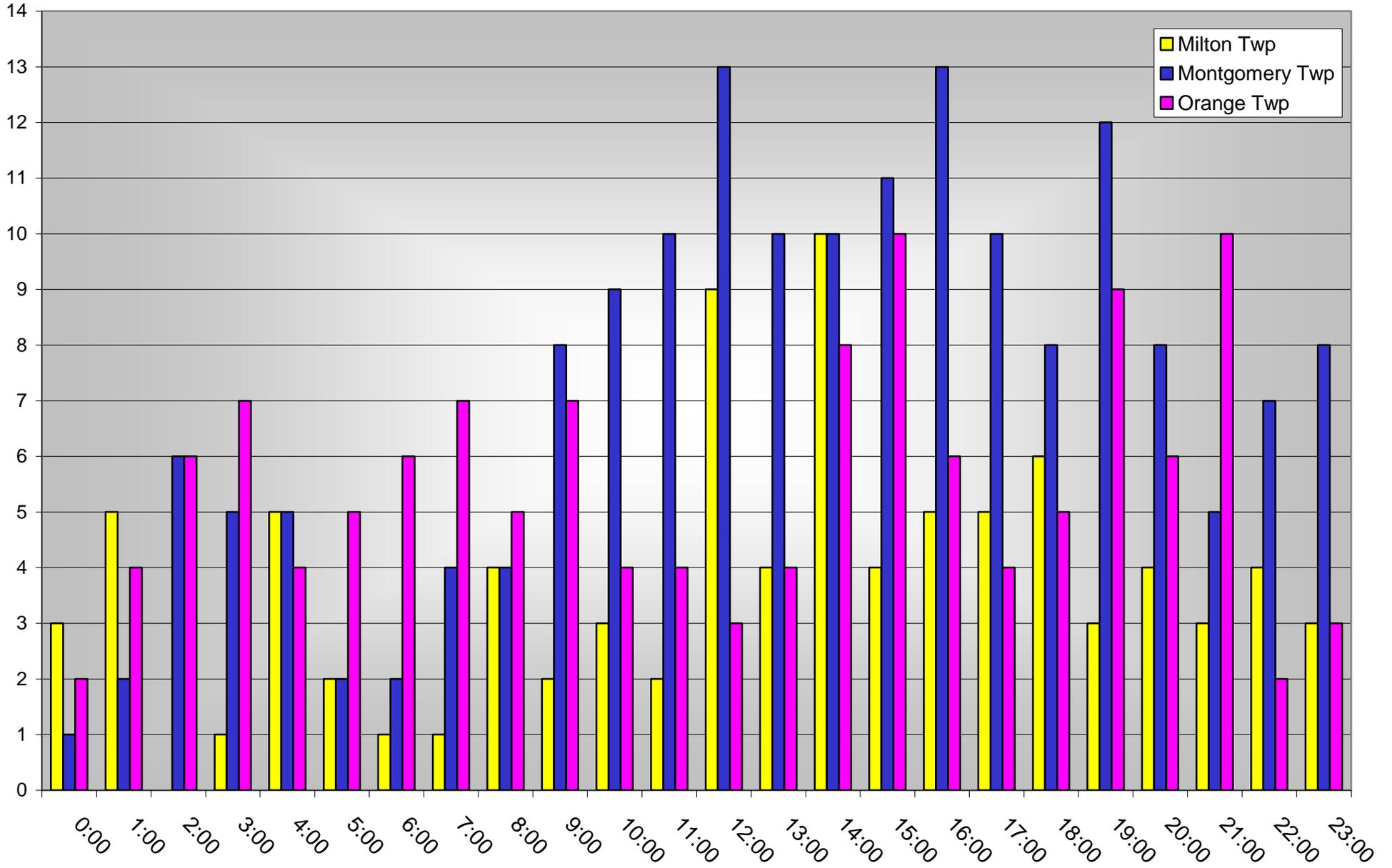
of Incidents

City EMS Alarm Times



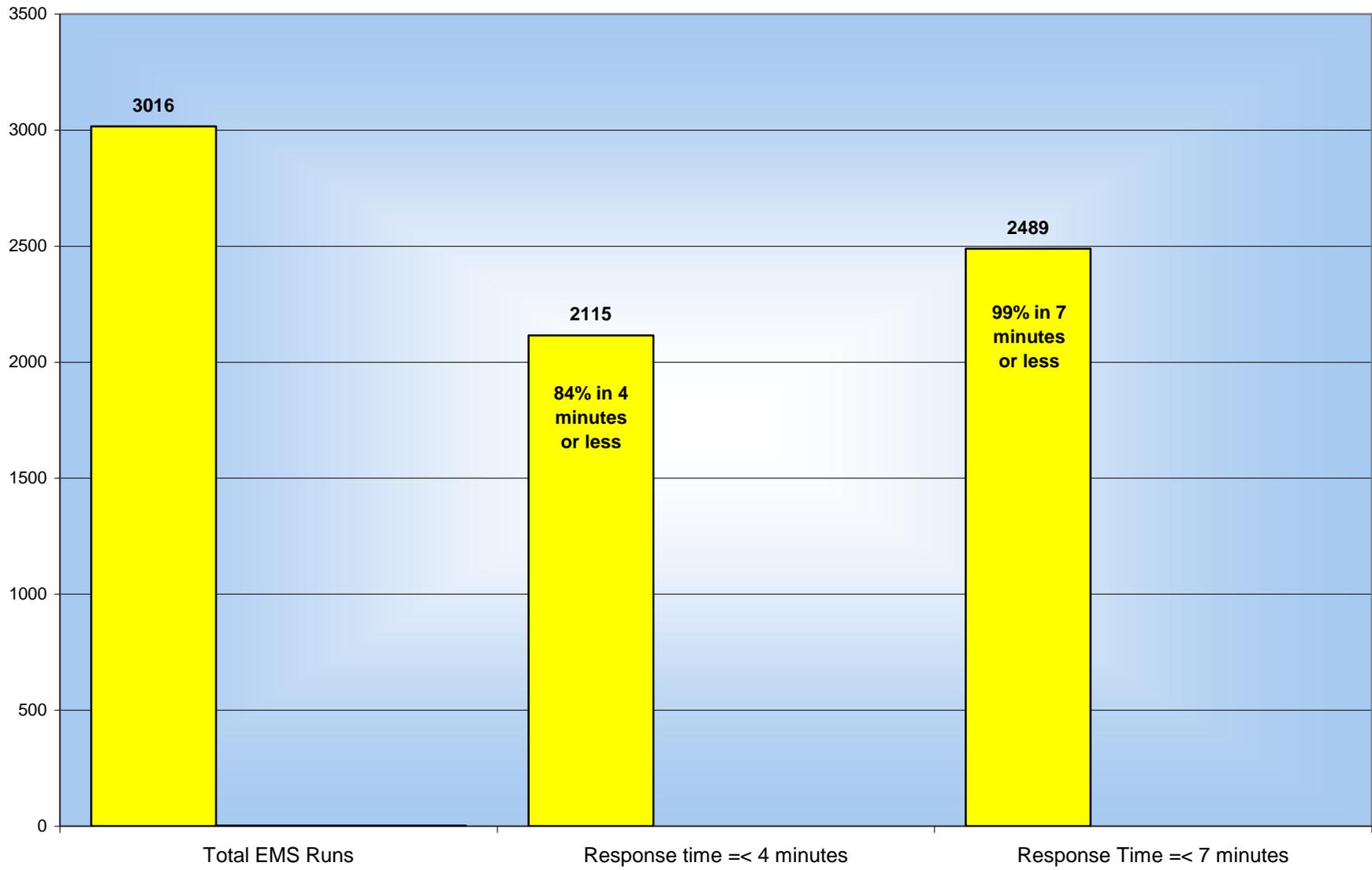
of Incidents

Contractual Townships EMS Alarm Times



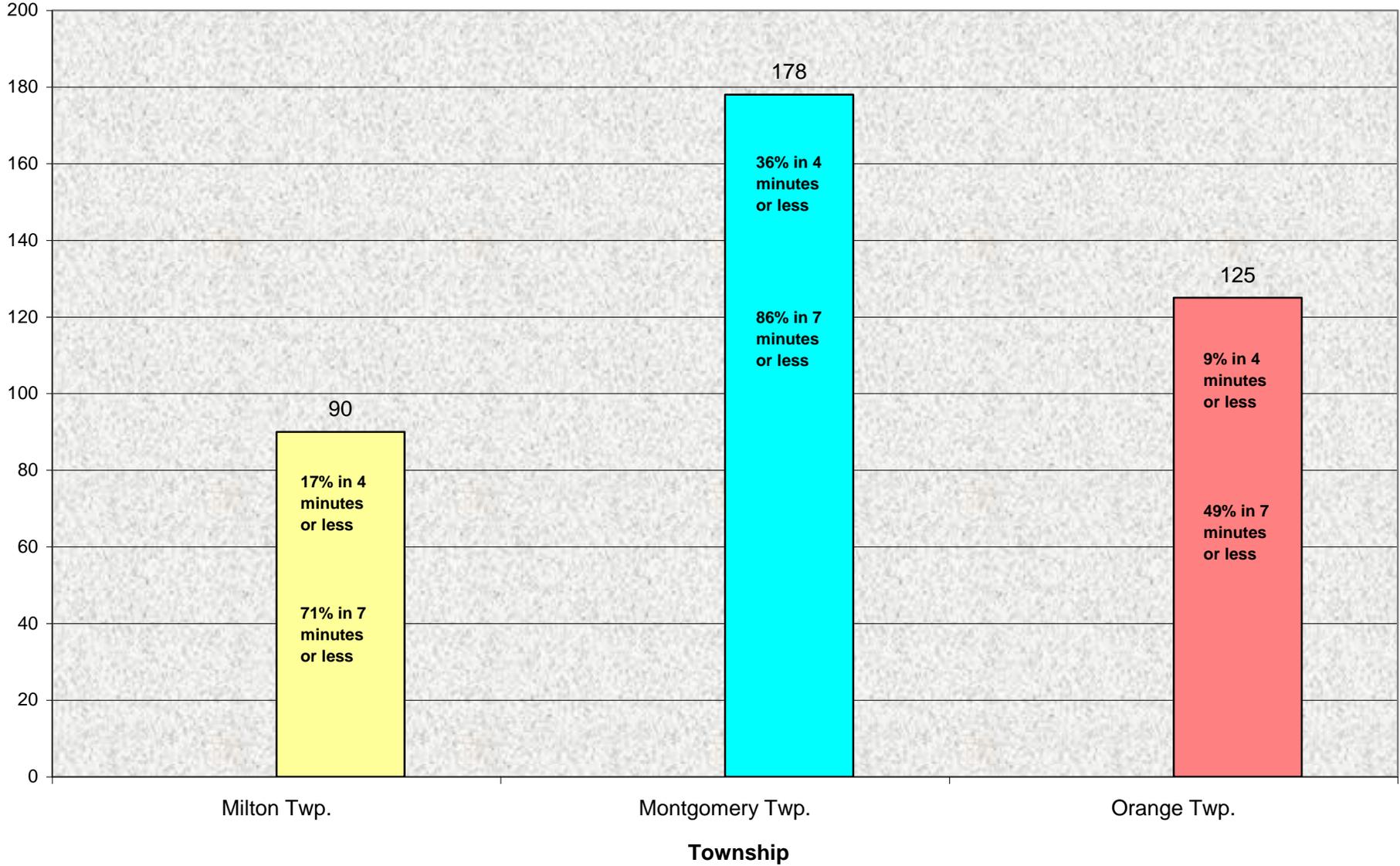
of Incidents

EMS City Response Time



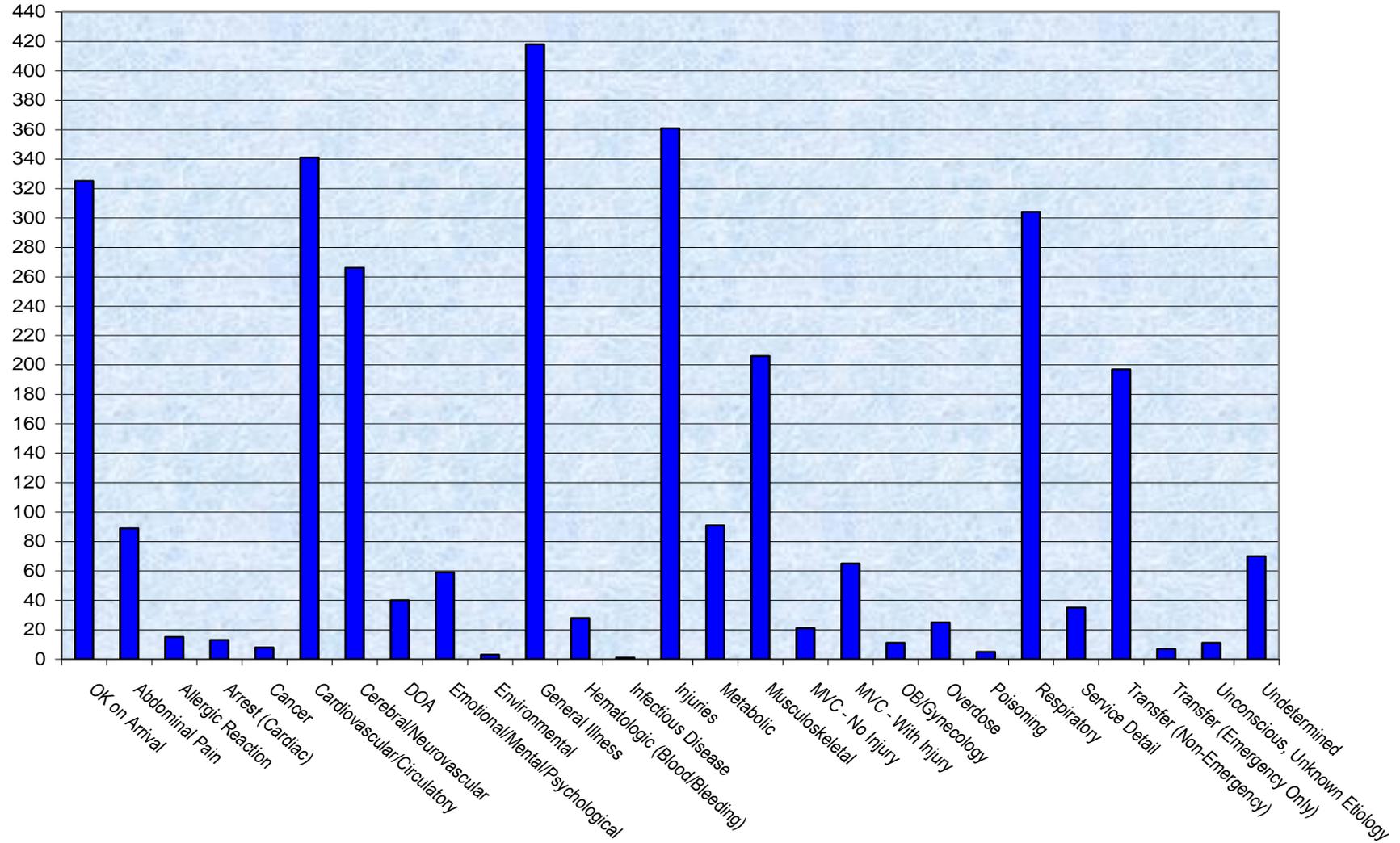
Contractual Twps Response Time

of Incidents



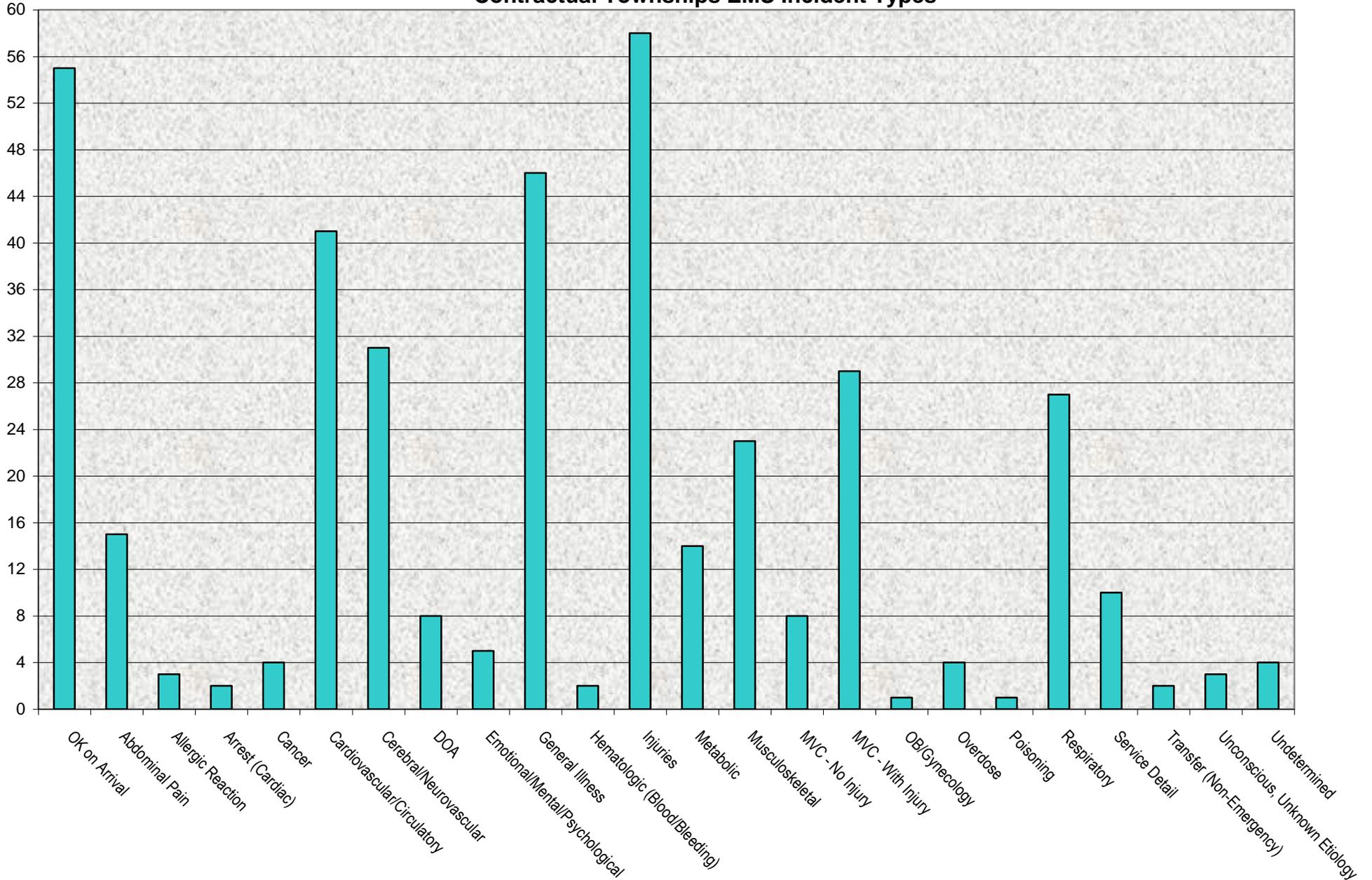
of Incidents

Incident Type for City



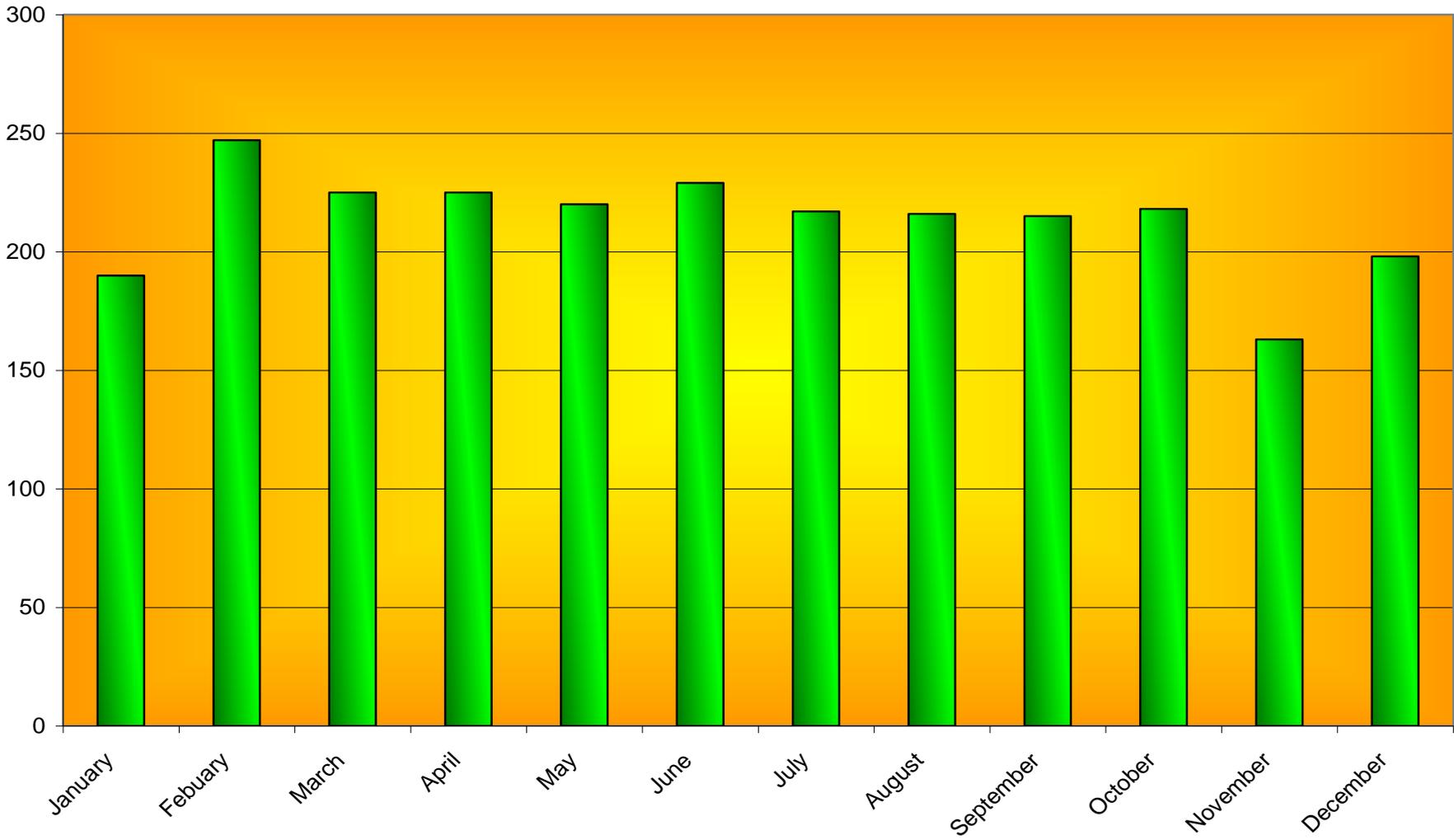
of Incidents

Contractual Townships EMS Incident Types



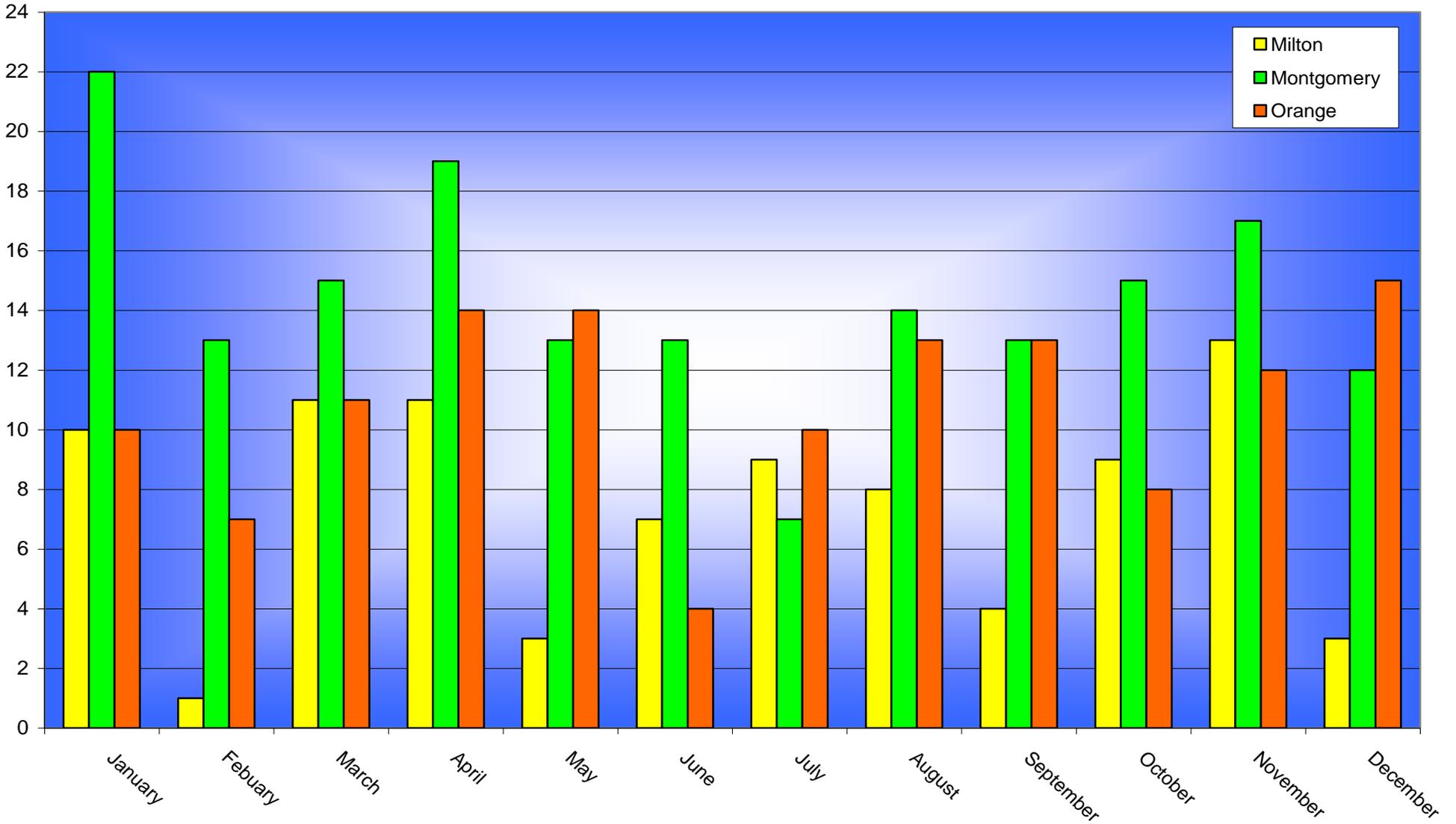
of incidents

CITY EMS Incident Totals by Month



Contractual Townships EMS Incidents by Month

of Incidents



EMS Instructors

Bill Davisson (Paramedic)

Ken Gardner (Continuing Education)

Christopher King (Paramedic)

Daniel McFarlin (EMT)

CPR/ACLS Instructors

Chad Buzzard (CPR)

Anthony Coletta (CPR)

Bill Davisson (CPR)

Ken Gardner (CPR/ACLS)

Christopher King (CPR)

Rob McClaran (CPR)

Rob McCrea (CPR)

Daniel McFarlin (CPR)

Travis Pickering (CPR)

Dan Raudebaugh (CPR)

Mark Timmons (CPR)

Chris Van Hesteren (CPR)

Rick Williams (CPR)

EMS Summary and Goals

2009 marked some significant changes and challenges for the Division of Fire. The Division of EMS is responsible for responding to emergency and non emergency calls for the sick and injured. The way we respond to these calls for help has been typically done with the Division's four (4) ALS ambulances and call back of off duty personnel. One significant challenge the Division faced was how to respond to multiple squad calls with on duty personnel only. Multiple calls occur when one or more of the division's ambulances respond to calls simultaneously. In 2009, the Division of Fire responded 2 ambulances simultaneously 341 times; 36 times the division had 3 units out and 2 times with all squads out at the same time. Multiple calls can delay response times and affect patient care.

To help minimize the effects of multiple calls the Division has outfitted fire apparatus with ALS equipment and changed how we respond to calls for help in the county. A paramedic intercept vehicle was put in service in August 2009. The primary purpose of a Paramedic Intercept is to meet an outlying EMS unit either at the scene or enroute to the hospital of an injury or illness call. The EMT-P can provide advanced life saving skills when a patient may require more sophisticated care utilizing ALS equipment and medications. This has enabled the Division to keep an EMT and an ambulance on station and in-service thus not wasting resources. Since its inception in August 2009, the Division has responded to 36 paramedic intercepts in the county. This has also helped reduce the number of multiple calls the division responds to annually.

Another significant change initiated in June of 2009 was a six month trial of responding to EMS calls with only 3 of the divisions 4 ambulances. This trial period was a beta test of the division's resources and the effectiveness of its implemented programs. Implemented programs include not calling in off duty firefighters/EMTs to man the station, and equipping fire apparatus with ALS equipment that can respond with limited personnel and equipment to stabilize a patient until an ambulance can arrive to transport. The Division responded 4 times with alternative equipment in the coverage area and initiated stabilizing a patient until a squad became available to transport. The end result of the trial period revealed the Division could reduce its current ambulance fleet to 3 with minimal interruption of service or delay of care to the community we serve.

The purchasing of new and advanced equipment was an important goal of the division in 2009. Some of the equipment purchased in 2009 was two (2) Life Pak 12 cardiac monitors. With the use of Capnography, paramedics, for the first time, have the ability to measure the effectiveness of CPR during a cardiac arrest. This technology is very beneficial to patient outcomes and treatment modalities. Another feature of the Life Pak 12 monitor is its ability to transmit diagnostic quality 12 lead ECG to the hospital. Through a cooperative effort with Samaritan Hospital we will soon have the equipment necessary to initiate a STEMI alert protocol. The STEMI Alert will allow doctors and paramedics the ability to communicate about the cardiac patient. This is very important to the STEMI patient who may need to be transported to a Cath lab without delay. It is with this technology and the division's heart safe commitment to the community we can truly make a difference in saving lives. Another purchase the division made with the help of the LEPC was an electronic protocol. This new protocol in easy algorithm format will be available to the paramedic in the ambulance on a touch screen computer. The protocol will give the paramedic a fast, reliable reference during a call. The protocol allows paramedics access to accurate drug calculations, burn percentages and pediatric references. This program will soon be implemented county wide with many fire departments following the lead of the Ashland Fire Department.

The division remains a Certified Continuing Education Site and continued its commitment to the CPR/AED program, training over 600 people free in CPR/First Aid. We continue to work with Catholic Charities with our car seat program and in 2009 we worked very closely with the Ray and Joan Kroc Center to help increase Fire and EMS awareness programs to the community.

2010 Goals

- Purchase fourth LP12 monitor
- Purchase additional CPR equipment
- Continue Ambulance replacement program
- Utilize EMS supervisor vehicle



**FIRE
PREVENTION
BUREAU**

2009 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 127 fire safety inspections in 2008, a nearly 48% decrease from 243 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. There are 4 current Certified Fire Safety Inspectors.

A key component of fire prevention is education. In 2009 the Fire Prevention Bureau trained 1, 018 adults in the use of fire extinguishers at 17 different locations. 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 the facility must provide their own fire extinguishers.

The Fire Prevention Bureau also instructed 660 elementary school students on basic fire safety during Fire Prevention Week. Beginning as early as Pre-K, children are taught the fundamentals of fire safety and those concepts are reinforced every years as the children continue up through elementary school. Fire Safety presentations are delivered to the students at their school during October during the National Fire Prevention Week as well as at the fire station throughout the year. The 24 hour shift fire fighters have taken a larger role in conducting fire safety education.

Local elementary schools participated in the fourth year of the Firefighters 1st TEAM program "Pennies for Prevention". Each participating school competes to raise the most money in pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to purchase smoke alarms for low-income individuals or families. The top class at each school is treated to a VIP fieldtrip to the fire station and a pizza lunch with the firefighters, pizza being donated by Dor-Lo's Pizza. The second place class, or "Best Effort" class has firefighters bring pizza to them for lunch in their classrooms. The participating elementary schools raised \$3,500.00 through the "Pennies for Prevention" campaign in 2009 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. Basic origin and cause investigations can sometimes be performed by shift personnel. Detailed fire investigations are conducted by the Fire Prevention Bureau's Fire Investigation Team. The Fire Investigation Team conducted 14 detailed origin and cause investigations in 2009.

The Fire Investigation Team currently has 10 members. The Fire Investigation Team completed a total of 183 hours of fire investigation continuing education in 2009 and four (4) members of the Fire Investigation Team completed IAAI (International Association of Arson Investigators) Fire Investigation Technician certifications. All members of the Fire Investigation Team are required to complete quarterly online training modules presented by the IAAI. The IAAI has created this interactive training in order to share expertise and deliver consistent and credible web based courses to fire investigators.

NAFI Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator

Mark D. Miller

IAAI Certified Fire Investigation Technician

Mark D. Miller
Richard E. Williams
Robert B. McCrea
Daniel A. Raudebaugh
Travis C.L. Pickering

Ohio Certified Fire Safety Inspector

Mark G. Burgess
Duane E. Fishpaw
Richard A. Anderson
Mark D. Miller

2010 Fire Prevention Bureau Goals

- Train additional Certified Fire Safety Inspectors.
- Fire Investigation Team NAFI CFEI certifications.
- Fire Investigation Team IAAI FIT certifications.
- Increase specialized Investigator training.
- Complete IAAI Certified Fire Investigator requirements.
- Certify department investigator in *Computer Voice Stress Analysis*.
- Continue the "Pennies for Prevention" campaign and education programs.



Live Fire Exercise

Trench Rescue



Training

Ice Rescue



FIRE INSTRUCTORS

Chief Mark Burgess

Assistant Chief Duane Fishpaw

Assistant Chief Ronald Workman

Assistant Chief Rick Anderson

Captain Chris King

Captain Raymond E. Miller Jr.

Captain Gabe Campbell

Captain Kenneth Gardner

Captain Chris Van Hesteren

Firefighter Dan McFarlin

Firefighter Richard Williams

Firefighter William Davisson

Firefighter Robert McCrea

Firefighter Dan Raudebaugh

Firefighter Chad Buzzard

Firefighter Joseph Coseno

Firefighter Tyler Smith

ASSISTANT FIRE INSTRUCTORS

Firefighter Andrew Ferguson

Firefighter Travis Pickering

Firefighter Kevin Rosser

Firefighter Chris Schmidt

Firefighter Brian Stichler

2009 TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

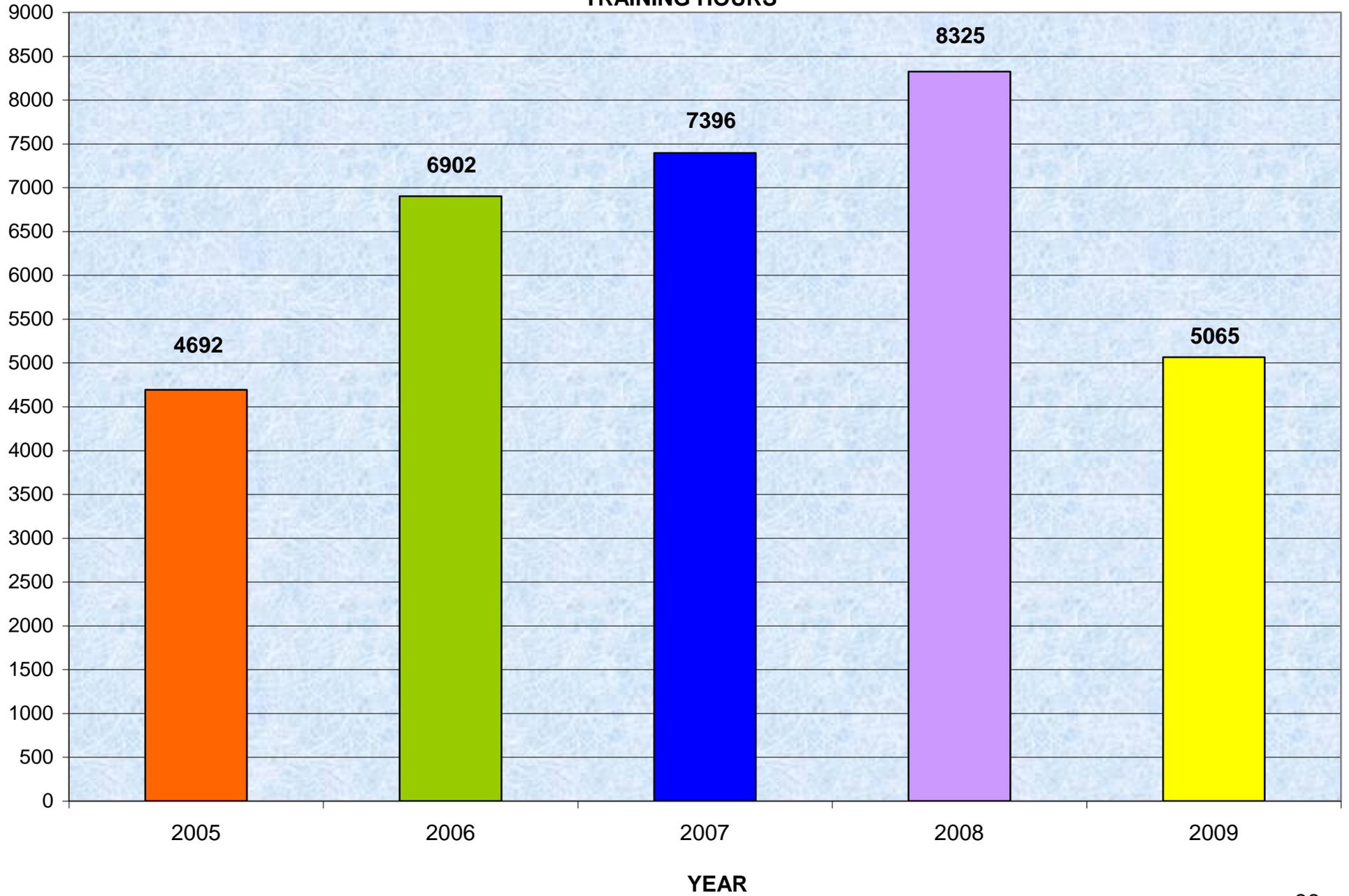
- **Riley Barn – Live Fire Training**
- **Substance Abuse (training & awareness)**
 - **Northern Ohio Arson Seminar**
- **Ohio Fire Executive Class – 1 Graduation**
 - **Advanced Cardiac Life Support**
 - **Ice Rescue – Technician**
 - **Buckeye Girls State**
 - **Honor Guard Training**
- **Fire Origin & Cause – 1 attendee at the National Fire Academy**
 - **R.I.T. Training**
 - **HazMat – LEPC Functional Exercise**
 - **Car Seat Technician Class**
- **Trench Rescue – Operations Re-cert class**
 - **Kroc Center – Live Fire Training**

OCCUPANCY TOURS

- **Kingston Nursing Home**
 - **Kroc Center**
 - **Caraustar**
 - **Journey Athletics**
- **Ashland University – Stadium Complex**

NUMBER OF HOURS

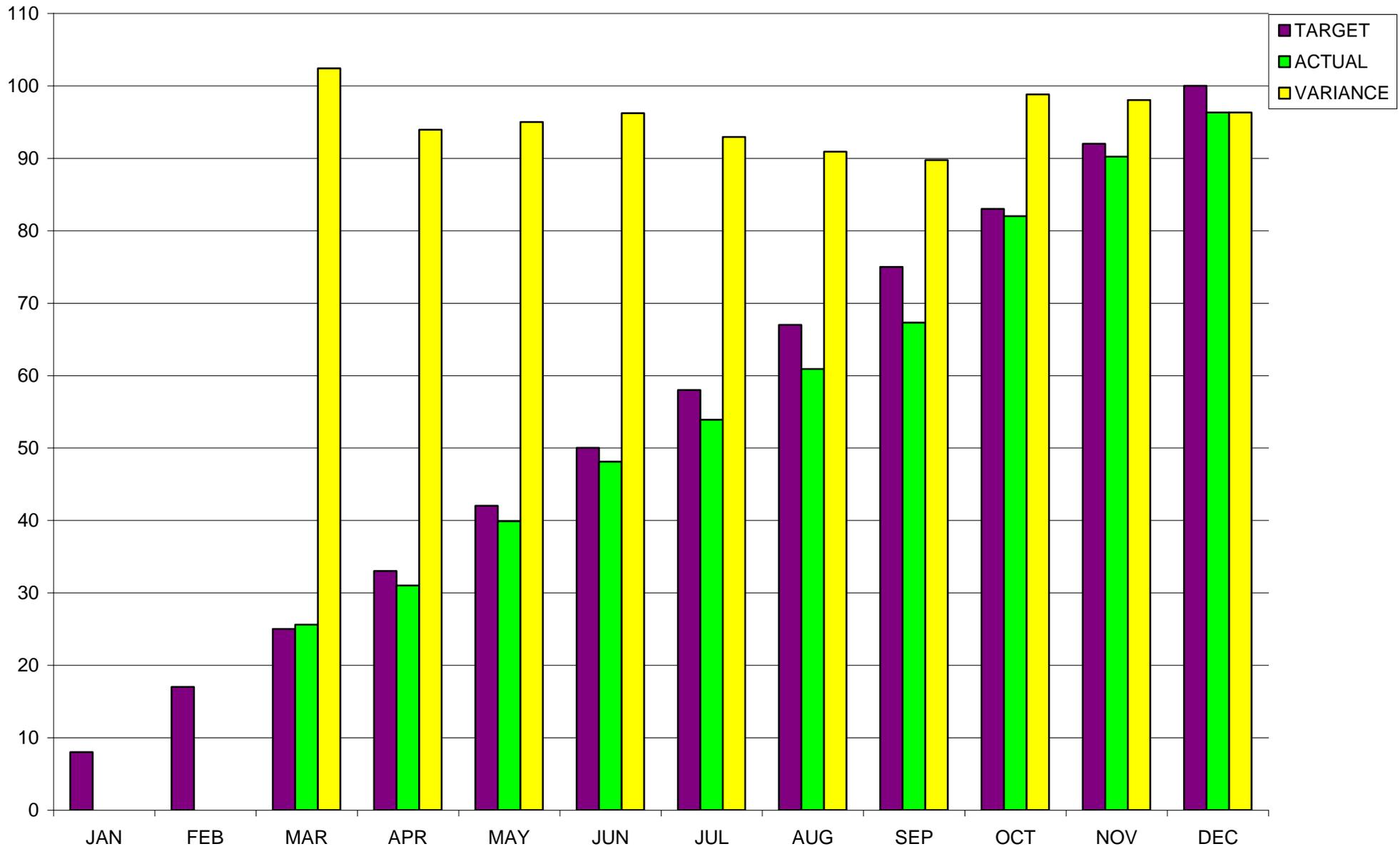
TRAINING HOURS





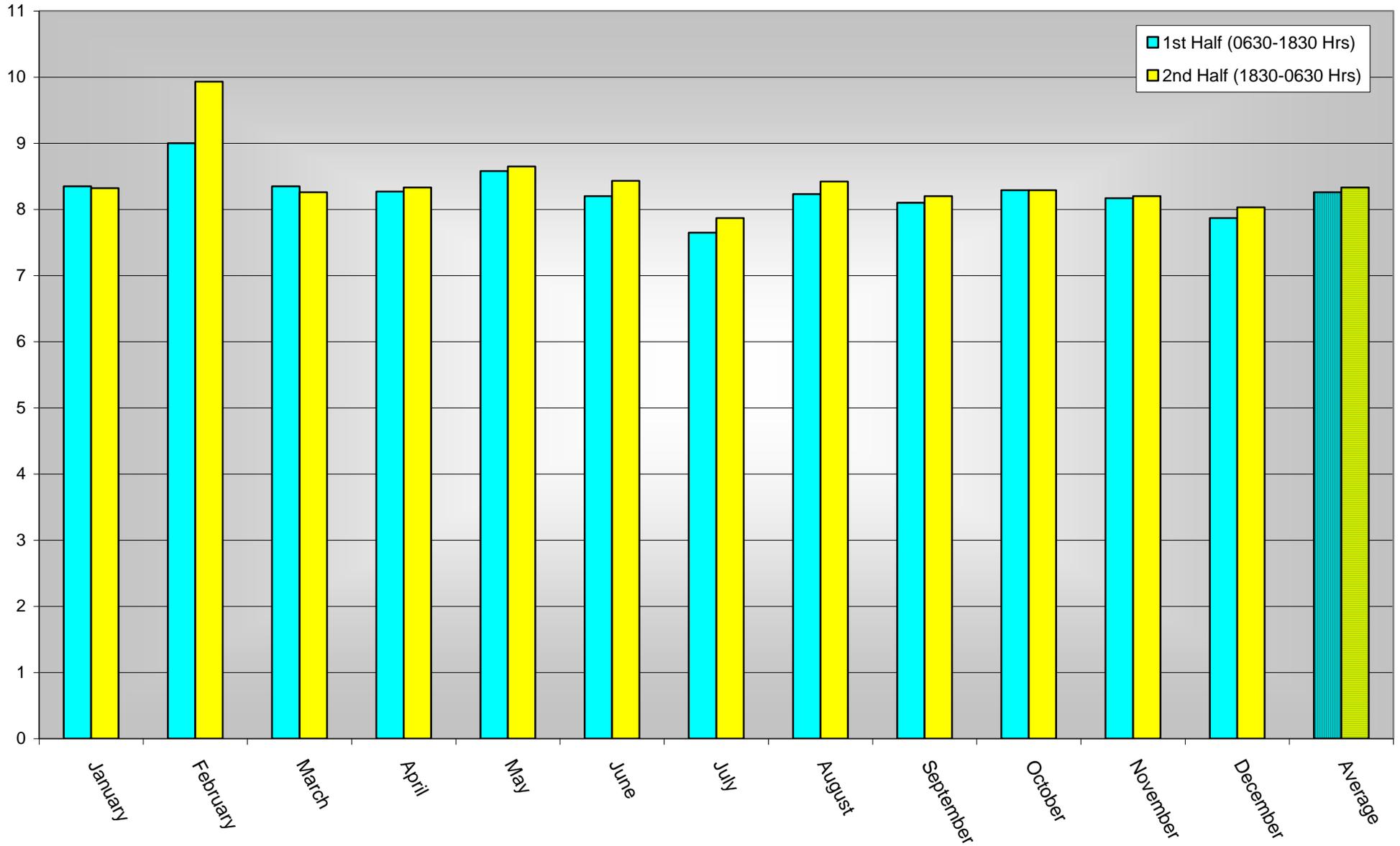
ADMINISTRATIVE

2009 BUDGET VARIANCE



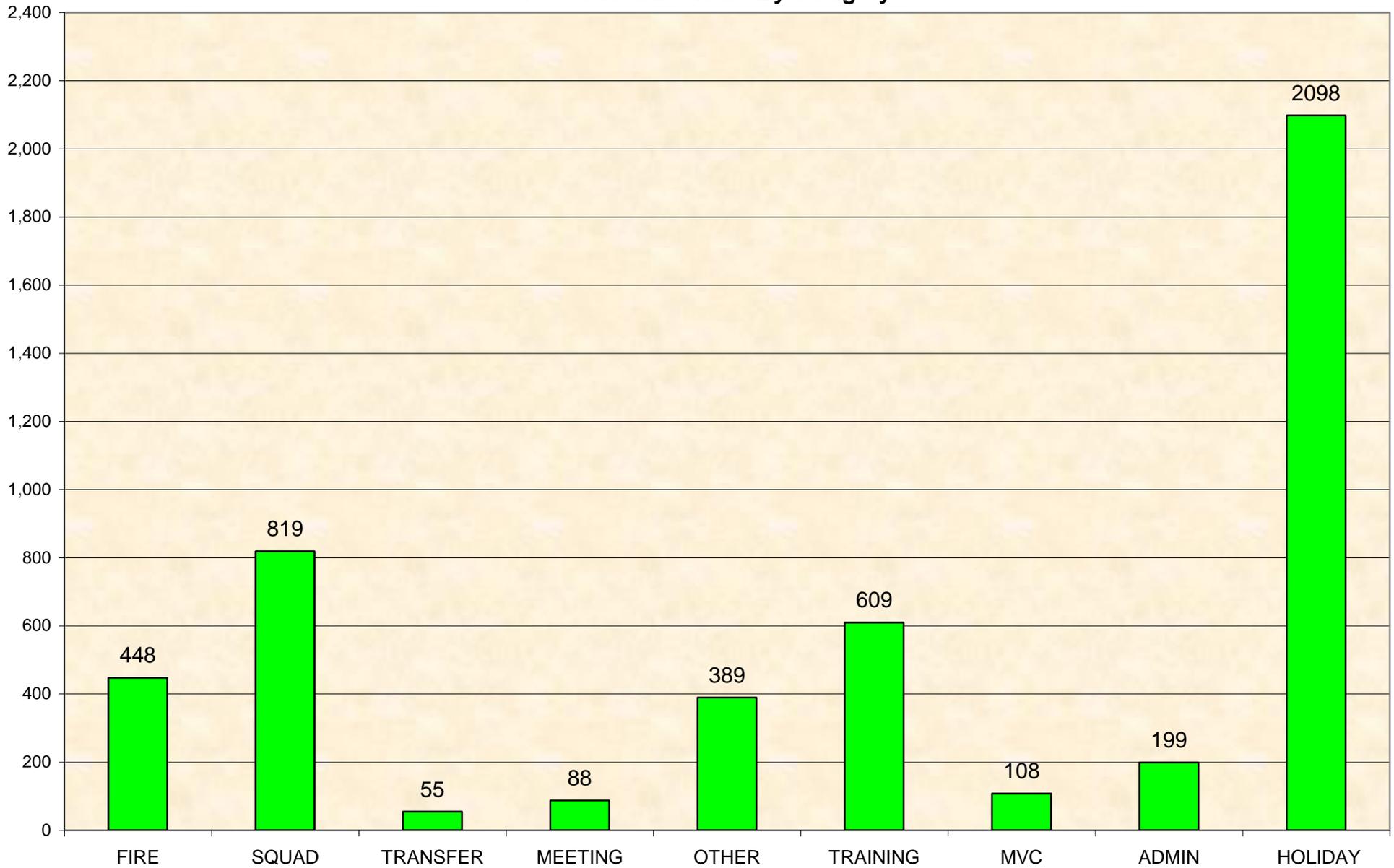
of Firefighters

Daily Manpower Levels



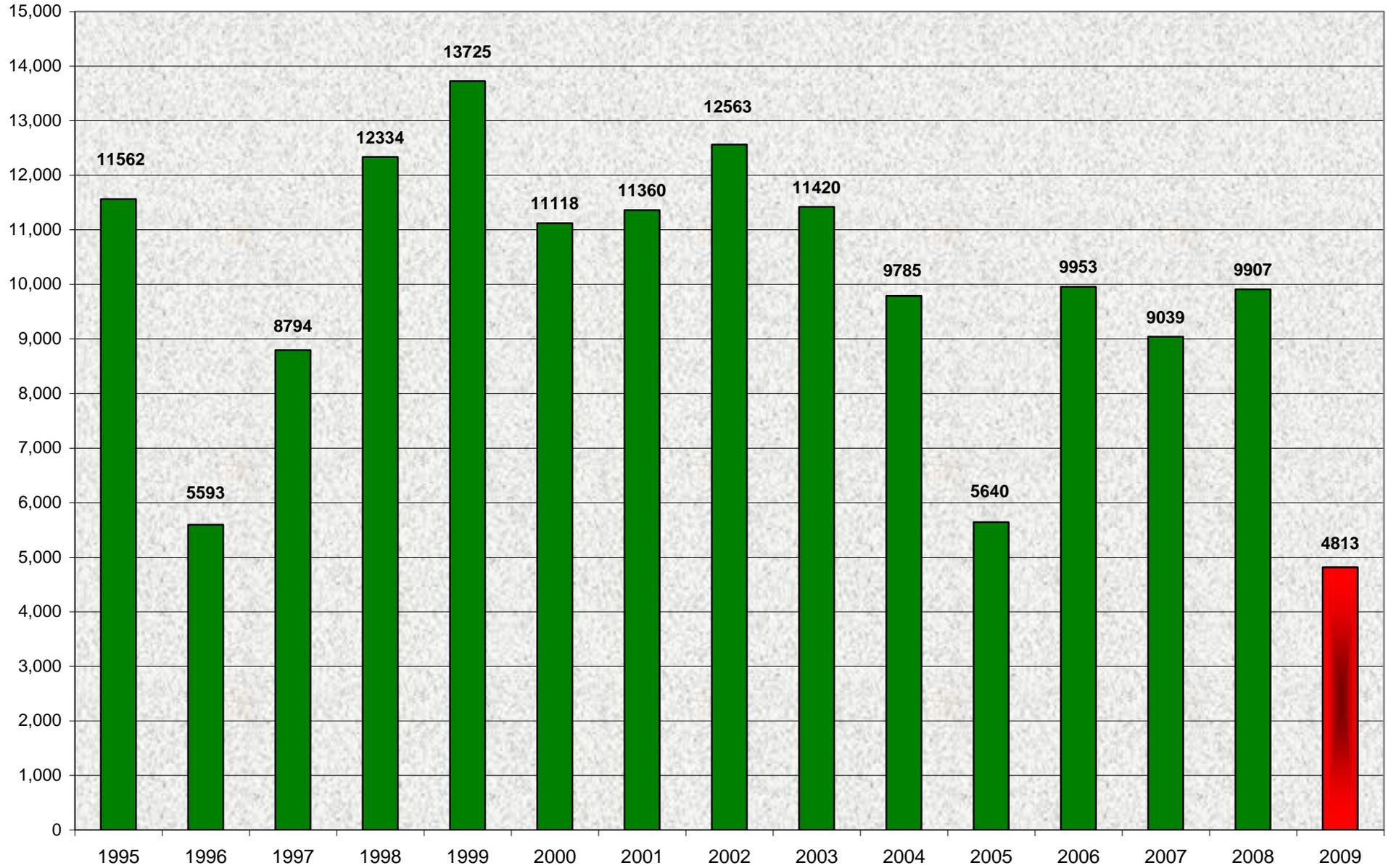
of Hours

Paid Overtime Hours By Category



of Hours

Yearly Overtime Hours Comparison



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**