

# REPORT

SAN LUIS OBISPO FIRE





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## ADMINISTRATION



## Chiefs Message

With the passing along of another year, it's only fair to reflect back on what we have accomplished and where we are going. In 2023 a lot happened, and we got a lot done.



2023 provided a pivotal transition of leadership in the SLOFD. Beginning with seven new probationary Firefighters, an Engineer, a Captain, a Battalion Chief, a Deputy Chief and Fire Chief. Along with the retirement of our Fire Marshal, this year was about transition for our organization. I am proud to say that a year into bringing on new personnel and growing into new positions, the team has performed admirably in service to the community.

Starting January 9th, the City opened the EOC for the first of three major events in 2023, including two significant floods and a major fire. It was during these impactful events that we saw a new team flourish. Communication, collaboration, hard work, and incredible competency lead to successful outcomes for our new team.

2023 also saw continued successful implementation of the Mobile Crisis Unit (MCU). After 6 months of piloting the program, the Mobile Crisis Unit found its niche in the community, logging over 200 individual calls for service; reuniting homeless individuals with families and services, and by taking about 5% of the call volume at 40 Prado from the emergency response resources.

SLOFD also finalized the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan which will focus on six key initiatives as we support the major city goals.

## Chiefs Message con't.



#### **COMMUNITY FOCUSED SERVICE**

Continuous improvement of service delivery based on data analysis and community expectations.



#### **DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

We accomplished a lot of growth in 2023. Continued commitment to training and education is a must for our workforce.



#### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

We, the workforce, are the most valuable asset the organization has, lets make sure we are physically, mentally and emotionally prepared for the rigors of the job.



#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Preparation for all manner of emergencies, large and small is a must in our community. We will continue refine this effort.



#### **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

This will be a pivotal year as shift towards a new holistic and synergistic model.



#### **TECHNOLOGY**

We continue to see technological trends in our industry. It is incumbent upon us to leverage those technologies towards an efficient deployment of exceptional service.

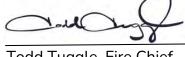
The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to steer our efforts with limited resources. These 6 initiatives have been determined as the priorities in achieving the major city goals:

- 1. Economic Resiliency, Cultural Vitality, Fiscal Sustainability
- 2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- 3. Housing and Homelessness
- 4. Climate Action, Open Space and Sustainable Transportation.

As we move through 2024, I will be prioritizing projects, efforts and budget towards our strategic plan to foster a healthy organization capable of supporting the City and the Community.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2024. I look forward to this next year, and many more to come, as we grow and refine our skills to provide exceptional service.

Thank you for a fantastic 2023 and looking out to a phenomenal 2024.



Todd Tuggle, Fire Chief

## SAN LUIS OBISPO CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Competence - Courage - Compassion

## MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance and protect the lives, environment, and property of our community and its visitors.

## **VALUES**

S - Service

**L** - Loyalty

O - Ownership

F - Family

I - Integrity

R - Respect

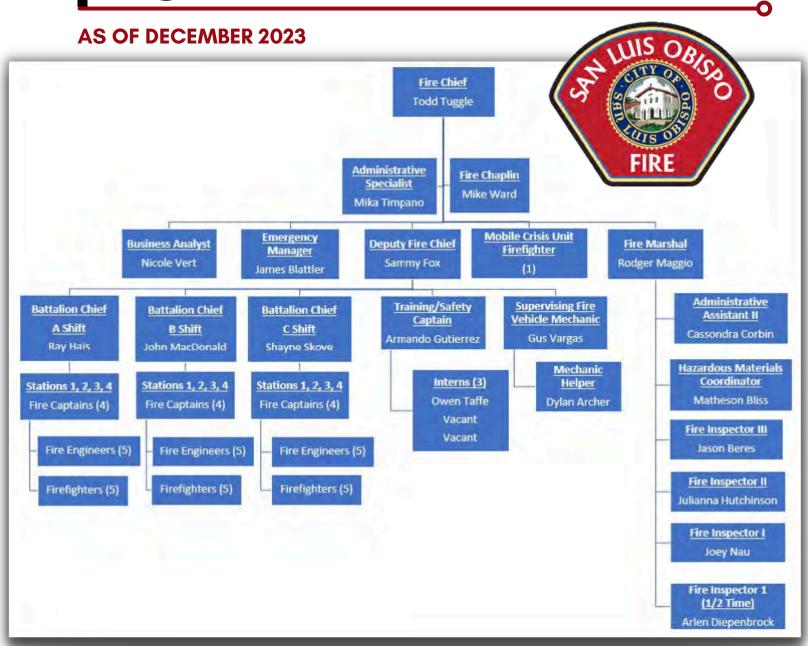
E - Excellence

## VISION

To be a progressive organization that leads the community in public safety and preparedness demonstrated through an unwavering commitment to the protection of lives, property and our environment.

The service we provide will be of the highest quality recognized against local, state and federal standards.

## Organizational Chart



## Financial Summary



The San Luis Obispo City Fire Department is comprised of nine budgeted programs, of these, **6** are staffed.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24 the department received a total budget of \$15,54,163 with \$14,369,586 or 92.5% dedicated towards staffing for the 60.5 full-time members of the department, leaving 7.5% or \$1,089,577 for non-staffing operational costs.

Non-Staffing \$1,089,57/7/ Staffing \$14,369,586

Department Program	Staffing	Contract Services	Operating	Total
Fire Administration	\$929,298	\$6,600	\$245,552	\$ 1,181,449.55
Emergency Response	\$11,881,072	\$19,353	\$155,727	\$12,056,152.22
Hazard Prevention	\$968,897	19,500	\$58,893	\$ 1,047,289.25
Training Services	\$0	\$49,964	\$62,784	\$ 112,748.00
ire Apparatus Services	\$270,203	\$29,235	\$191,162	\$ 490,600.80
Fire Station Facility Support	\$0	\$13,800	\$30,657	\$ 44,457.32
Emergency Management	\$180,724	\$4,133	\$21,030	\$ 205,887.28
Mobile Crisis Support	\$139,392	\$126,672	\$54,515	\$ 320,578.96
	\$14,369,586	\$269,257	\$820,320	\$ 15,459,163.39

## **Grants**

To support the City and Department's goal of fiscal responsibility the Fire Department seeks out grant opportunities to help both maintain and improve the level of service provided to San Luis Obispo. In 2023 the Fire Department leveraged grant programs which provided over \$147,406 in funding assistance:

\$108,000 To allow 3 Firefighters to attend Paramedic school increasing the number of paramedics on staff in the department improving pre-hospital care.

\$39,406

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program to purchase Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) equipment to support the department's ability to conduct complex and technical rescues.

## Newly Funded Programs & Projects

#### **Engine 6 Replacement**

Engine 6 is a wildland engine used primarily for fires in hilly and mountainous Wildland Urban Interface. In 2023 it reached the end of its useful life and is in the process of being replaced.





#### SCBA Replacement

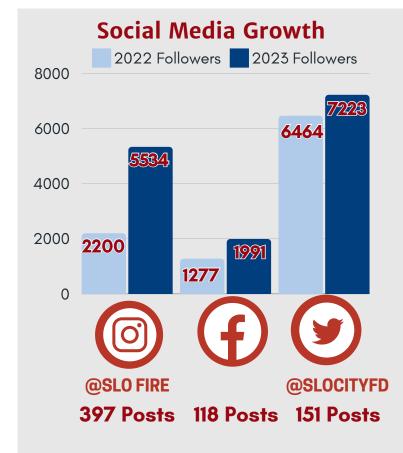
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus are vital for firefighter safety while fighting fires. After a year-long process that including decision making, testing, receiving quotes and finally placing an order, new SCBA's were placed into service.

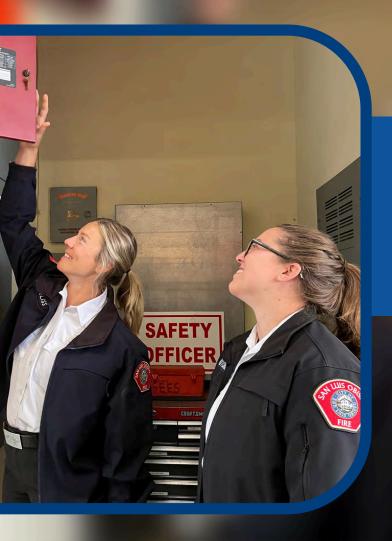
## **Public Information**



Public Information plays a critical role in educating the public to reduce the severity of emergencies and allows the public to make the right decisions during an emergency

SLOFD continued to increase Public Information services in 2023. This was accomplished by expanding the Department's communication through increased social media presence and activity, utilizing an updated and comprehensive social media calendar which was integrated into the City's master communications calendar, and an ongoing bi-weekly standing segment with KVEC radio to discuss department programs, safety tips, and disaster preparedness information. With the PIO role being formalized at the end of 2019, the department has continually increased its ability to provide the media and public with accurate and timely incident information. In 2023, the department's Instagram account saw a 142% percent increase in followers. Per Instagram analytics and insights, nearly 50% of the department's followers are local residents. Additionally, two extensive public outreach campaigns were conducted in 2023 to promote Wildfire Readiness Night in the summer and Community Flood Readiness night in the fall.





# PREVENTION



## **Inspections**



## **Multi-Dwelling**

### **545** Inspections

Under the direction of the Fire Marshal, the Fire Prevention Bureau inspects all multi-dwelling properties (three or more units) in the City to ensure that they meet a reasonable degree of fire and life safety. This state-mandated program helps safeguard residents and visitors who patronize local hotels and generates approximately \$350,000 in annual revenue that offsets implementation costs. The Fire Prevention Bureau completed 545 inspections of apartments, hotels, and fraternity/sorority houses in 2023.

## Fire & Life Safety 1328 Inspections

SLOFD completed 1,328 fire and life safety inspections for businesses in 2023. Of this inspection total, Fire Prevention Bureau staff completed 4 assisted living centers, 3 school, 2 hospital, and 12 day care centers inspections and 43 large public assembly occupancies. A portion of these inspections resulted in Fire Code operating permits, which generates about \$100,000 in annual revenue.

## Self-Inspections 53 Inspections

In January of 2021 the Fire Department implemented the Fire and Life Safety Self-Inspection Program which allows certain business in San Luis Obispo complete these inspections in lieu of a fire department staff member or engine company. Businesses that qualify for this program have been chosen due to the low hazard associated with their business practices. These include small professional offices and some low hazard retail establishments. Of the 1,248 qualifying businesses, only 53 chose to participate in 2023. Additional resources may be necessary to effectively follow up on these inspections.

#### Haz-Mat

#### 233 Inspections

The Fire Prevention Bureau serves as a "Participating Agency" in the County's Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). Businesses that use or store hazardous materials in an appreciable quantity, generate hazardous wastes, or operate underground or aboveground petroleum storage tanks are subject to inspection. The Hazardous Materials Coordinator conducted 233 facility inspections in 2023. This program generated approximately \$217,000 in revenue in 2023.

## Vegetation Management

With the addition of a half-time fire inspector, the Fire Prevention Bureau was able to take a proactive role in Weed Abatement. The Bureau mailed out 75 courtesy letters to property owners with a history of enforcement issues. Due to the early notification only 24 required follow up enforcement, leading to compliance within 30 days. The Fire Department continued to support Natural Resources and Parks and Recreation Ranger Service in the fuel reduction projects in Cityowned Open Space and creek corridors.

In 2023, the Fire Department also worked closely with the County Fire Safe Council to support future vegetation management projects into 2024 including both planning and fuel reduction projects to help reduce the wildfire threat surrounding the city with a large focus on the Irish Hills, Miossi Ranch, and Reservoir Canyon areas. Grants through the fire safe council were secured to fund hazardous tree removal throughout the city and grazing along San Luis Obispo and Prefumo creeks.



#### **Fuel Reduction Efforts**

- Bob Jones Bike Trail
- San Luis Obispo Creek
   (Between Prado and LOVR)
- San Luis Drive
- Bowden Ranch Open Space
- Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve
- Removal of invasive Arundo plants west of LOVR



RODGER MAGGIO
Fire Marshal
Years of Service

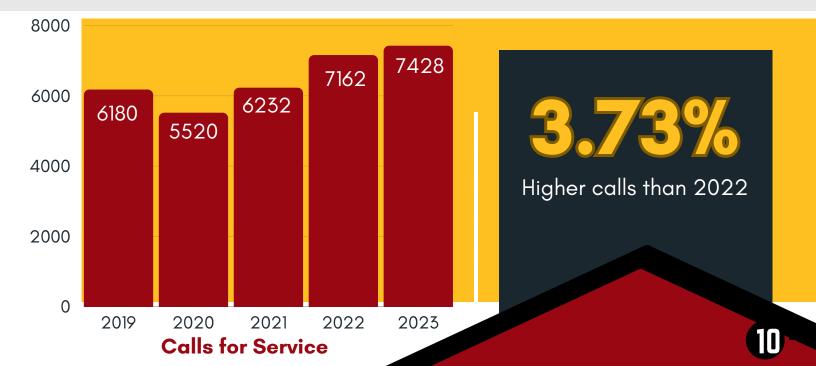


## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

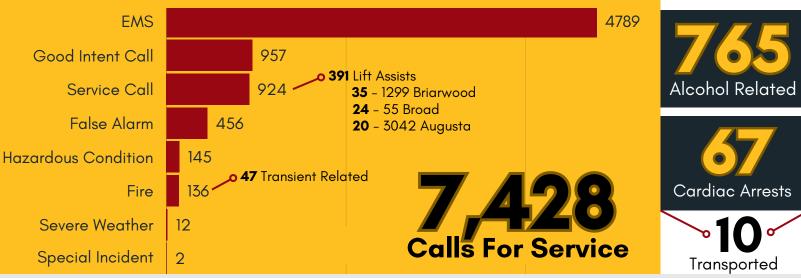




In 2023, SLOFD responded to **7,428** incidents from four strategically placed fire stations throughout the city. Emergency response was accomplished with daily minimum staffing of 14 sworn personnel. To help maintain the daily minimum of emergency response personnel, the city has continued its investment in two important programs including a functional movement program to reduce the occurrence and severity of physical injuries and a Peer Support Team Program to maintain the mental health and wellbeing of department personnel.











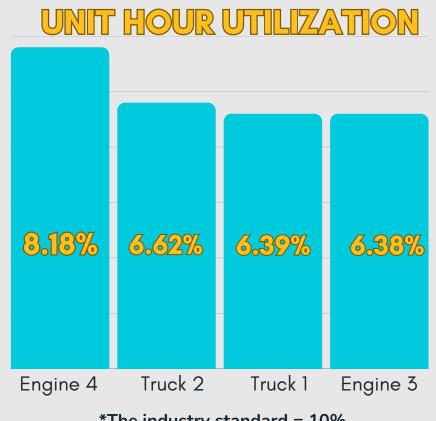
#### Incidents by Day and Hour - 2023

Sunday 59 47 32 28 26 16 21 30 34 51 40 49 48 58 55 45 47 45 36 50 45 42 40 32 Monday 22 22 27 23 18 26 26 45 73 61 72 68 79 61 71 64 64 53 49 50 33 40 37 33 Tuesday 23 18 16 8 22 18 19 40 46 57 66 65 66 45 74 73 62 3 4 5 5 6 38 4 5 2 18 19 40 46 57 66 65 66 45 74 73 62 3 4 5 5 6 39 49 42 42 38 24 Thursday 27 17 23 15 18 13 22 45 62 58 69 71 68 66 88 63 62 44 56 51 47 42 29 17 Friday 33 36 26 23 19 23 29 39 39 57 73 70 66 66 53 58 62 61 38 56 45 36 56 47 Saturday 52 47 33 24 16 21 25 34 42 35 60 42 50 45 56 38 64 46 51 54 53 48 44 58

BUSIEST DAY
OF THE WEEK
THURSDAY
2PM - 4PM

0000 0200 0400 0600 0800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 2200

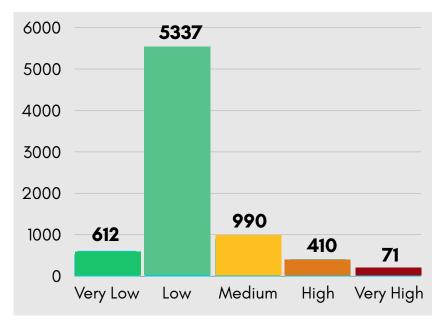
# 1 2080 Truck 1 1819 Truck 2 1916 Truck 3 1 2153 Truck 4

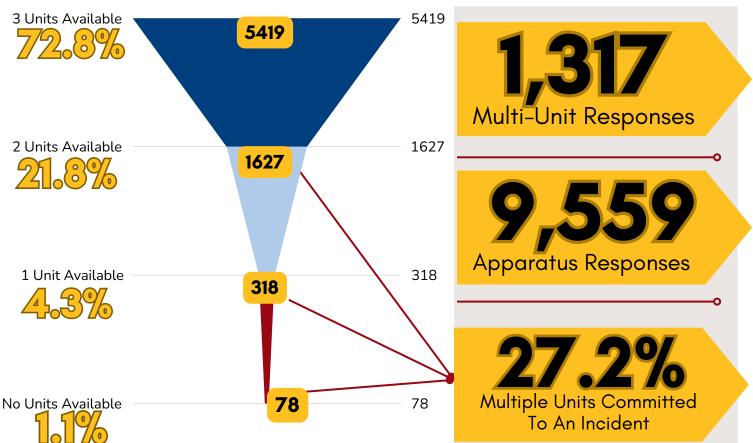


\*The industry standard = 10%

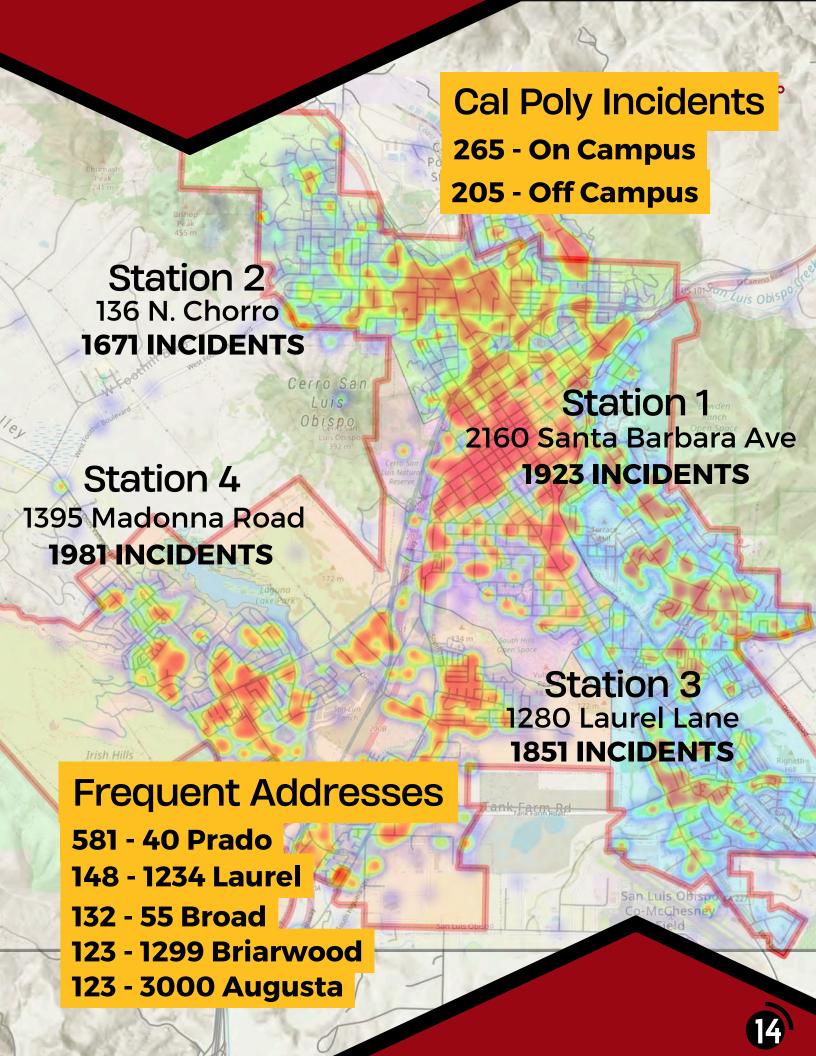
#### **Incident Severity**

The incident severity compares the number of incidents to the number of responses as an indicator of the number of units assigned to various incident types. The number of resources assigned to an incident type is a good proxy for the severity/risk/hazard of an incident. For instance, an incident that only uses 1 resource is low severity. An incident that uses all 4 City resources plus automatic aid is the most significant risk factor the department responds to, therefore the severity will be much higher.









TOP 3
Property Loss

**198 SOUTH** 

\$113,832

1132 OLIVE

\$111,062

1132 BUCHON

\$50,903



## Total Property Loss

\$438,668

## Total Property Saved

\*NOT INCLUDING LIZZIE FIRE

\*NOT INCLUDING CAL POLY BLDG

## \$2,271,015

Property Saved-CP BLDG 172

\$874,421,798

Property Saved-Lizze Fire







\$60,059,984.20

\$9,880,648.20 PRIVATE PROPERTY \$50,179,336 SLOHS & ADULT SCHOOL

## Statistics

In 2017, after transitioning to ImageTrend, the Fire Department's data and report management system, SLOFD has an increased ability to analyze response data including response times. The city's 2023 safety element references the fire department's master plan objective to respond to all lights and sirens emergencies within 4 minutes or less 90% of the time. New ImageTrend Continuum software deployed in 2023 has allowed the fire department to further study its response times using key performance indicator dashboards and special study analysis on unique populations like students and the unhoused. The fire department plans to join the County of San Luis Obispo's patient care reporting system in 2024, unifying most emergency medical service providers in the county on a common platform. The fire department deployed field fire inspection data collection tools in 2023 using new software that combines fire reporting with fire inspections.

## RESPONSE TIMES 90th Percentile

**ALARM HANDLING** 

Goal: 1:00

1:37

**TURNOUT TIME** 

Goal: 2:00

2:14

TRAVEL TIME

Goal: 4:00

**5:53** 

#### **TOTAL RESPONSE TIME**

Goal: 7:00





## US&R



In 2023, the Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team continued to play a vital role in protecting the lives of both visitors and citizens alike. Members of the USAR Team receive specialized training in complex and technical rescue operations and also take part in the San Luis Obispo County Regional USAR Team. In January of 2024, the department will be expanding the USAR Team from six members to nine. This will increase the likelihood that multiple USAR specialists will be on duty on any given day, thereby increasing the department's level of operational readiness.

The team participates in quarterly training. In February, SLOFD and the SLO County US&R team conducted a training drill on in Downtown SLO that focused on responses to earthquakes.



#### Significant Rescues

- Madonna Mountain
- Bishops Peak
- Irish Hills
- Cal Poly
- Reservoir Canyon
- Oceano



US&R Responses





The Fire Department's open space rescue programs continue to develop. Many of the open space rescues, especially in the area of Bishop Peak, require the use of a helicopter to locate, access, and transport victims. The department works closely and trains frequently with the California Highway Patrol, which operates the rescue helicopter in this county. In addition to the cooperation with CHP for air resources, two key contributors to the continued success of the fire departments open space rescue program have been both the E-Bike Program, which was implemented in 2020, and the Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) program. Both pieces of equipment have been invaluable to locating, transporting, and caring for people in open space in a very timely manner. Our UTV program is also utilized through Mutual Aid to assist our neighboring fire departments.







The San Luis Obispo City Fire Department participates in the state-wide mutual aid system where local, state and federal agencies rely on the assistance of local governments to effectively manage large scale incidents. The costs associated with responding to these incidents are reimbursable under the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) and a direct contract with the Los Padres National Forest. During 2023 Fire Season, SLOFD deployed on many requests for Mutual Aid throughout the state all while maintaining adequate resources locally to provide service to the City of San Luis Obispo. While a quieter fire season than the previous years, SLOFD still responded to 8 incidents totaling over 3,500 personnel hours.



3504

Personnel Hours Assigned to Incidents

Mutual Aid Incidents Supported

Employees Who Responded to Mutual Aid

20



## MOBILE CRISIS UNIT





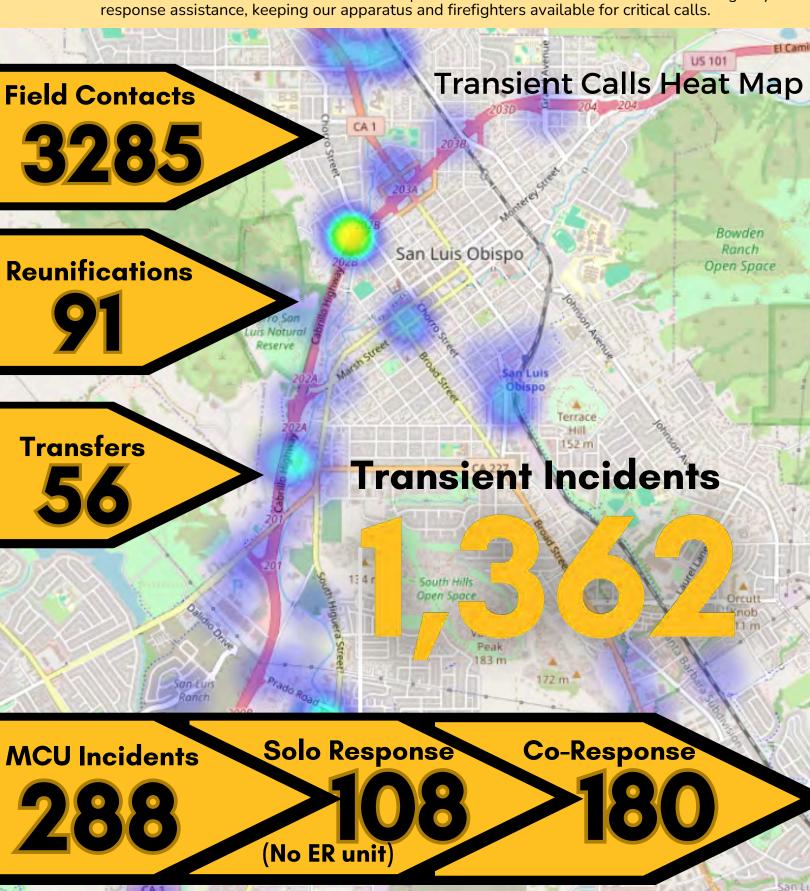


The Mobile Crisis Unit (MCU) continues to operate in the community and provides response to behavioral health incidents in both a proactive and reactive manner. The MCU has been funded for a two-year trial period. Law Enforcement (LE) and Fire Service (FS) resources are often summoned for persons in crisis within communities across the nation, as a one size fits all solution for a broad spectrum of problems ranging from homelessness to mental illness to addiction. As a result, these individuals in crisis often do not get connected to the most appropriate resources available to provide them assistance. To help provide a more tailor-fit service to our community members in crisis, the MCU pairs a mental health professional with a fire department EMT or paramedic to respond to these types of incidents. The benefits of this new service increase the level of service to those in need and decrease the reliance on emergency law enforcement and fire service resources who have limited options and tools to address the individual in crisis. Having a fire department EMT or paramedic as part of the MCU team gives them the ability to recognize and identify individuals having acute medical emergencies, allowing them to summon the most appropriate resources.

A leading MCU goal is to provide an alternative resource program to handle non-emergency 911 calls for service to increase capacity of both police officers for more urgent criminal emergencies and fire personnel for higher acuity emergencies. The program seeks to respond to the root issues through shelter, medical care, or behavioral health support and services to decrease the number of arrests, county jail time, fines, hospitalization, and nuisance fires.



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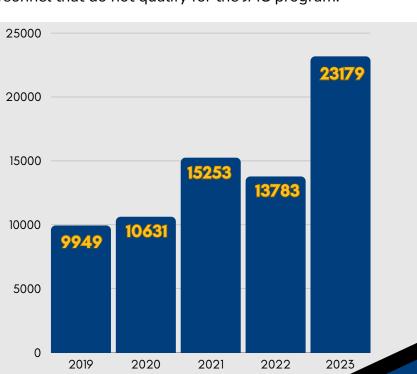


# TRAINING



## Statistics

Fire Department employees logged over 23,000 hours of training in 2023. Employees who are eligible to participate in the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) registered a total of 16,298.25 hours in 2023. JAC provides reimbursable funds back to the department. The JAC training resulted in over \$36,000 in funds returned to the department in 2023, a \$8,000 increase from 2022. These funds are held by the JAC program and can be utilized to support the department's training program upon approval from the sub-JAC committee which is comprised of department and labor group leadership. Increased training results in a higher skilled and educated professional firefighter. The department has also reached an Instructional Service Agreement (ISA) with Allan Hancock College, which allows the department to receive compensation for the training of personnel that do not qualify for the JAC program.







#### **TOTAL TRAINING HOURS**



#### **INTEGRATED CLASSES**

#### **Active Shooter Training**

- With SLOPD
- At Laguna Middle School

#### **County WUI Drill**

How to respond to wildland emergencies in Urban Areas

At Camp Roberts

#### **County Impact Burn**

How to utilize fire to assist with control and containment of fires

#### **Confined Space**

How to respond to emergencies at City lift stations

With SLO City Utilities

#### **Open Space Rescue**

Specialized training on how to extract victims from remote locations

With SLO County US&R team

#### **Cal Poly**

Training on rescue at dormitory style residences













#### **HOSTED CLASSES**

Haz-Mat IC

Company Officer 2A

Company
Officer 2B

Company
Officer 2C

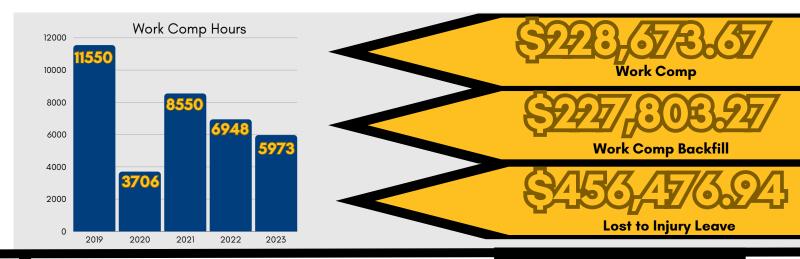
\$90,269 worth of training for only \$4,510

+

\$6,790 from outside agency attendance

## **Injury Prevention Program**

The Training Captain oversees the Injury Prevention Program, which has continued to show success in reducing hours lost to work-related injuries. Prior to the start of the program, work comp hours totaled 11,550. In 2023, work comp hours decreased to 5,973. The Training Captain provides consistent and reliable administration and coordination of all mandatory, recertification, and recommended in-service training and safety programs for emergency response, which is necessary as the complexity and changing service demands call for specialized instruction. In addition, the Training Captain responds to emergency incidents in the primary role of operational support and as the incident safety officer to identify and cease preventable accidents or potentially unsafe situations.



## Intern Program

In 2023, the Fire Department employed three interns, sponsoring one intern through a Firefighter 1 academy at Allan Hancock College. The Fire Intern Program has assisted staff with the firefighter recruit academy, special projects, administrative duties, public education, facility maintenance, and station logistical support.

## Recruit Academy

The SLOFD Recruit Fire Academy is ten weeks long and is delivered through a distributed learning model. The curriculum covers 15 areas of core firefighter competencies within five blocks of instruction, with each block consisting of two weeks. Each block of instruction is delivered through classroom lecture and daily manipulative skills on the drill ground. At the end of each block, recruits are tested utilizing a block written examination and multiple manipulative skills examinations. Each block of instruction builds upon the previous block and becomes increasingly more difficult. Throughout the ten-week academy, recruits are evaluated within the three domains of learning: cognitive, psychomotor, and affective. This is to ensure proper retention, recognition, and application through real time scenarios and live burn operations throughout the academy and gives them opportunity to apply and perform their newly attained skills in high stress situations. Upon successful completion, the recruit firefighter has met the NFPA 1001 standard for professional qualifications for firefighting. SLOFD completed one academy in 2023, training seven firefighters and firefighter/ paramedics to deliver exceptional service to the community.









# APPARATUS



## Major Repairs

Battalion Chief Vehicle Build



Mechanic 1 Service Truck Build



320
Training Hours





Mobile Radio Programing and Replacement

T-1, E-4, E-6, Medic Rescue



**Engine 4** 

Deck gun complete overhaul and air conditioning



DC vehicle code -3 lights updated





## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



## **Accomplishments**





#### **SEMS and NIMS Training**

Ensured all City employees completed proper SEMS and National Incident Management system courses



#### **EOC Activation**

Activated 3 times

- January Storms Level 2
- March Storms Level 3
- Lizzie Fire Level 3



#### **Preparedness Education**

Public Events to improve disaster and emergency readiness

- Wildfire readiness night
- Community flood readiness night
- Fire Prevention Week and Open House
- Parks and Recreation Monday Meet-Ups

Emergency Preparedness and Response ensures that City and all relevant City departments have adequate planning, organization, and resources for emergency preparedness and emergency response.

## **Promotions/New Hires**



**Sammy Fox** Deputy Chief



**John MacDonald**Battalion Chief



**Richie Barrett**Fire Captain



**Dane Hutslar** Fire Engineer



**Mika Timpano** Admin Specialist



Nate Greenelsh Firefighter/Paramedic



**Jaden Davis**Firefighter/Paramedic



**Jake Barkhimer**Firefighter/Paramedic



**Keanu Morrison** Firefighter/EMT



Casey DeLeuw Firefighter/Paramedic



**George Kaperonis**Firefighter/Paramedic



**Maren McClanahan**Firefighter/Paramedic





## 2024: STRATEGIC PLAN

## COMMUNITY FOCUSED SERVICE

MAINTAIN EXCEPTIONAL
COMMUNITY FOCUSED PUBLIC
SERVICE DELIVERY. TO MEET THE
DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE,
UTILIZE RESPONSE DATA TO
PROVIDE ACCURATE, RELIABLE
FORECASTING AND QUALITY
BUSINESS ANALYTICS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

ENHANCE A HEALTHY, SAFE,
AND PRODUCTIVE WORK
ENVIRONMENT.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

ENHANCE PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT,
ORGANIZATION
DIVERSITY AND
ORGANIZATION SAFETY
THROUGH TRAINING
AND EDUCATION.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS FOR ALL PERSON MADE AND NATURAL LARGE-SCALE DISASTERS TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

FIRE PREVENTION
DIVISION RISK REDUCTION
IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

## TECHNOLOGY & DATA

MAINTAIN AND
IMPROVE FIRE
DEPARTMENT
TECHNOLOGY AND
INFORMATION SYSTEM
THAT MEET THE
CURRENT AND FUTURE
NEEDS OF THE
DEPARTMENT.





**WWW.SLOCITY.ORG/FIRE**