



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT THE MONTHLY REPORT

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



Santa Clara County Firefighters Save Lives On and Off Duty

On July 25, Probationary Firefighter Aaron Bohnen helped rescue a swimmer caught in dangerous surf and rip currents at Seabright State Beach in Santa Cruz. Bohnen, who works full-time as a new probationary firefighter/paramedic for Santa Clara County Fire Department and part-time as a California State Parks lifeguard, battled extremely rough surf conditions and assisted fellow lifeguard Ryder Williams in bringing the swimmer safely to shore.

On August 17, Bohnen joined Williams and the rescued family at the White House, where President Trump recognized the rescue in the Oval Office.

We are proud of the work our members do both on and off duty. Congratulations to Aaron and the entire rescue community that remains ready to help others when the time calls.



Aaron Bohnen - back row, 3rd from left

HIGHLIGHTS

National Night Out

Aug. 4, 2026

On the first Tuesday in August each year, SCCFD joins our law enforcement partners for National Night Out events across the Fire District. Our Community Education team and firefighters attended over 28 events this year! This annual event fosters community relationships and builds stronger neighborhoods that are ready to work together during an emergency.



Bring Your Kids to Work Day

Aug. 5, 2026

We recently welcomed 20 youth, ages 4 to 17, for a special event at our administrative headquarters for Bring Your Kids to Work Day. Office staff joined their children for engaging presentations and up-close demonstrations with firefighters and their emergency equipment and apparatus. The event wrapped up with interactive games, including fire hose bowling, alongside life-saving Hands-Only CPR training for attendees ages 12 and up.



Wildfire Safety Town Hall

Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga and Congressman Sam Liccardo meet with members of the community to discuss wildfire safety at a town hall meeting held August 12 in the City of Saratoga. Members of the Santa Clara County Fire Department, FireSafe Council, County Parks, Sheriff's Office, Water department, Midpen Open Space District, and members of Community Health Partnership, Listos California and the Consumer & Environmental Protection Agency, all pitched in for a night of conversation and learning.



Hector Estrada
SCC Assistant Chief of
Fire Prevention

Congressman
Liccardo



WWW.SCCFD.ORG



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@sccfiredept

AUGUST EVENTS



MONDAY, AUGUST 8

Firefighters responded to a vegetation fire at Field Sports County Park first reported at approximately 11:52 a.m. Forward progress on the fire was stopped at approximately 32 acres. SCCFD worked in unified command with CAL FIRE SCU and Santa Clara County Parks with support from San Jose Fire Department.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

Timber Fire Deployment: Santa Clara County Fire Department Strike Team 2311 was deployed to assist with suppression efforts on the Timber Fire in Big Sur. Comprised of three Type 3 wildland engines, their firefighters, a Strike Team Leader, and a Trainee, the team answered the call to support our regional partners with this wildfire. State mutual aid agreements ensure that our local fire stations remain at 100% operational capacity at home while our firefighters assist outside our immediate service area.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Firefighters and Midpen Rangers responded to a vegetation fire reported at approximately 3:35 p.m. near Deer Hollow Farm inside the Racho San Antonio Open Space Preserve. Engine 77 from Monta Vista Station was the first to arrive on scene and confirmed a small vegetation fire in an area inaccessible to fire engines. Engine 72, Water Tender and Engine 78, Battalion 74 and Safety Officer 72 all responded along with resources from CAL FIRE SCU. Forward progress on the fire was stopped at approximately 4:35 p.m. without any injuries or structure damage. The public is reminded that most fires like this are caused by humans and are urged to exercise extreme fire safety when spending time in our open space areas.

FIRE CAPTAIN MATTHEW FREEMAN NAMED SARATOGA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

For over two decades, Fire Captain Matthew Freeman has been a cornerstone of public safety in Saratoga. His journey began in 2001 as a paid-call firefighter for the Saratoga Fire District. Driven by a deep commitment to the people he serves, Matt officially joined the ranks as a career firefighter in August 2002, quickly expanding his skills by earning his paramedic credentials to deliver advanced lifesaving care directly to Saratoga residents.

His leadership and technical expertise led to his promotion to fire captain in 2019.

Following his promotion, Matt was briefly assigned to various County Fire stations throughout Santa Clara County, although his heart never left the Saratoga community. Today, Captain Freeman is leading his crew from the downtown Saratoga Station.

Beyond his daily service, Captain Freeman takes a keen interest in rope rescue operations and forcible entry methods and is a recognized specialist in vehicle stabilization and extrication techniques: the vital, high-stakes skills that save lives in moments of crisis. Yet, some of his most impactful work happens behind the scenes, where he fosters strong crew camaraderie and shares his decades of knowledge with the next generation of firefighters in training.

Captain Freeman's unwavering dedication, technical mastery, and heart for Saratoga represent the absolute best of our fire service and the essence of this appreciation award.





SARATOGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

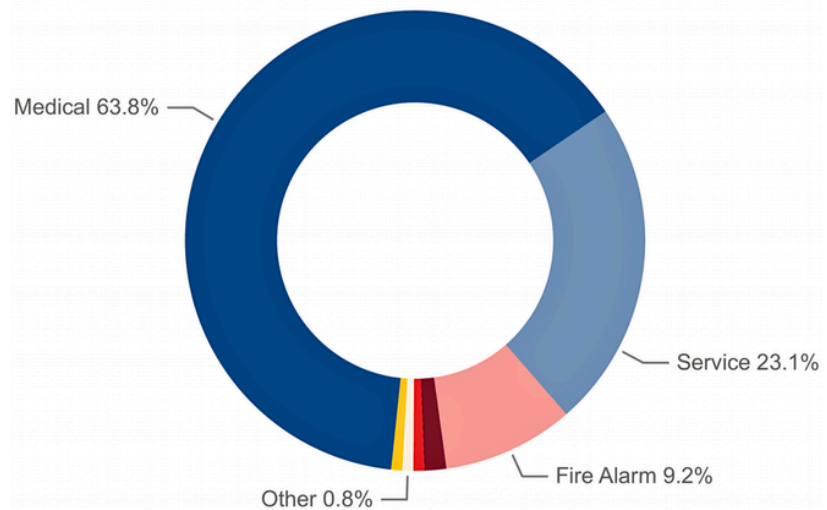
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EMERGENCY AND SERVICE CALLS

Dispatched Incident Type	Incidents	Percentage (%)
Fire - Structure, Veg., Other	1	0.8%
Fire Alarm	12	9.2%
Hazardous Cond./Hazmat	2	1.5%
Medical	83	63.8%
Other	1	0.8%
Rescue	1	0.8%
Service	30	23.1%
Total	130	100.0%

CALL BREAK DOWN

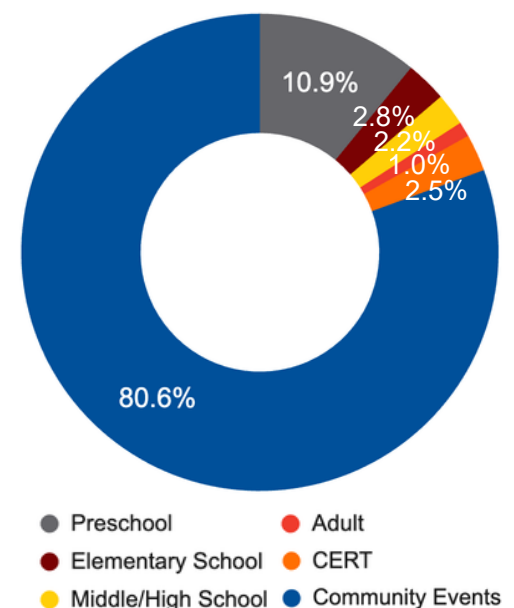


SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

No significant incidents occurred in this month.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION 7/1/26 - 8/31/26

CERRS Classes/Events/Presentations - Saratoga	
Program Type	# Of Attendees
Preschool	130
Elementary School	33
Middle/High School	26
Adult	12
CERT	30
CPR/First Aid/Hands Only CPR/Heart Saver	0
Station Tours	0
Community Events	960
Total Attendees	1191





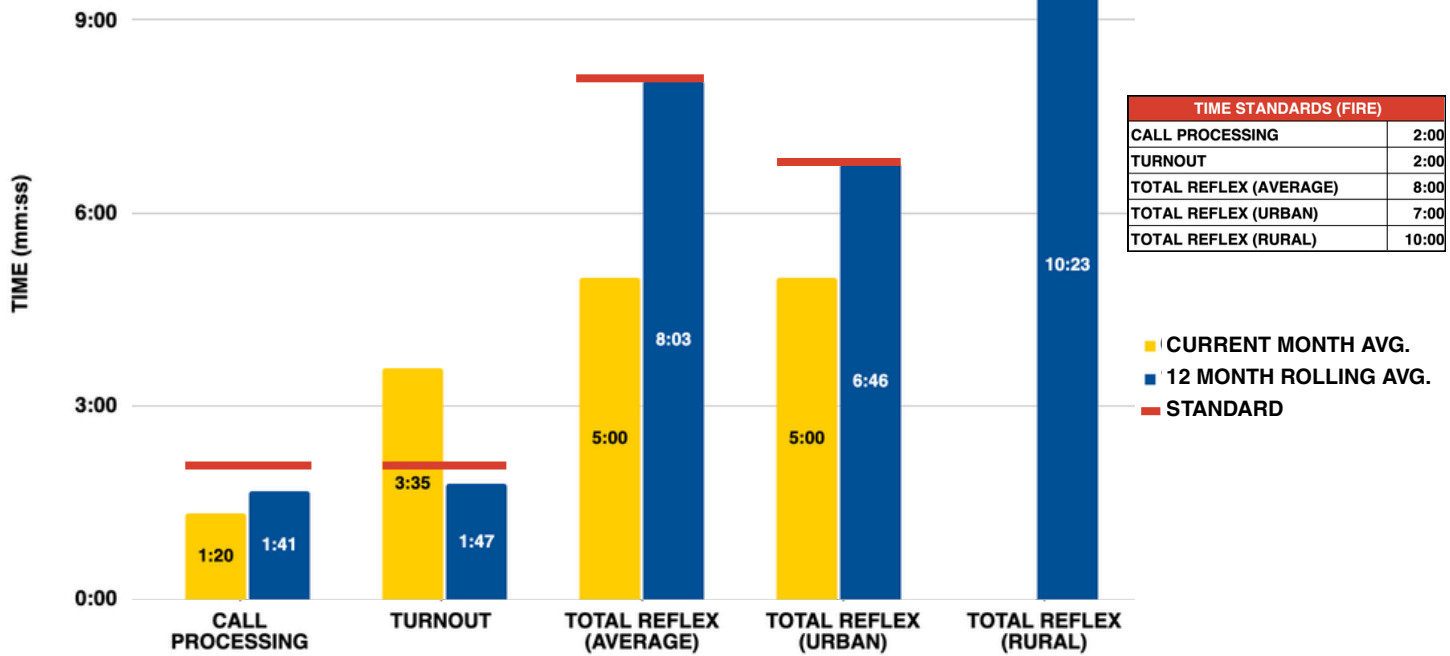
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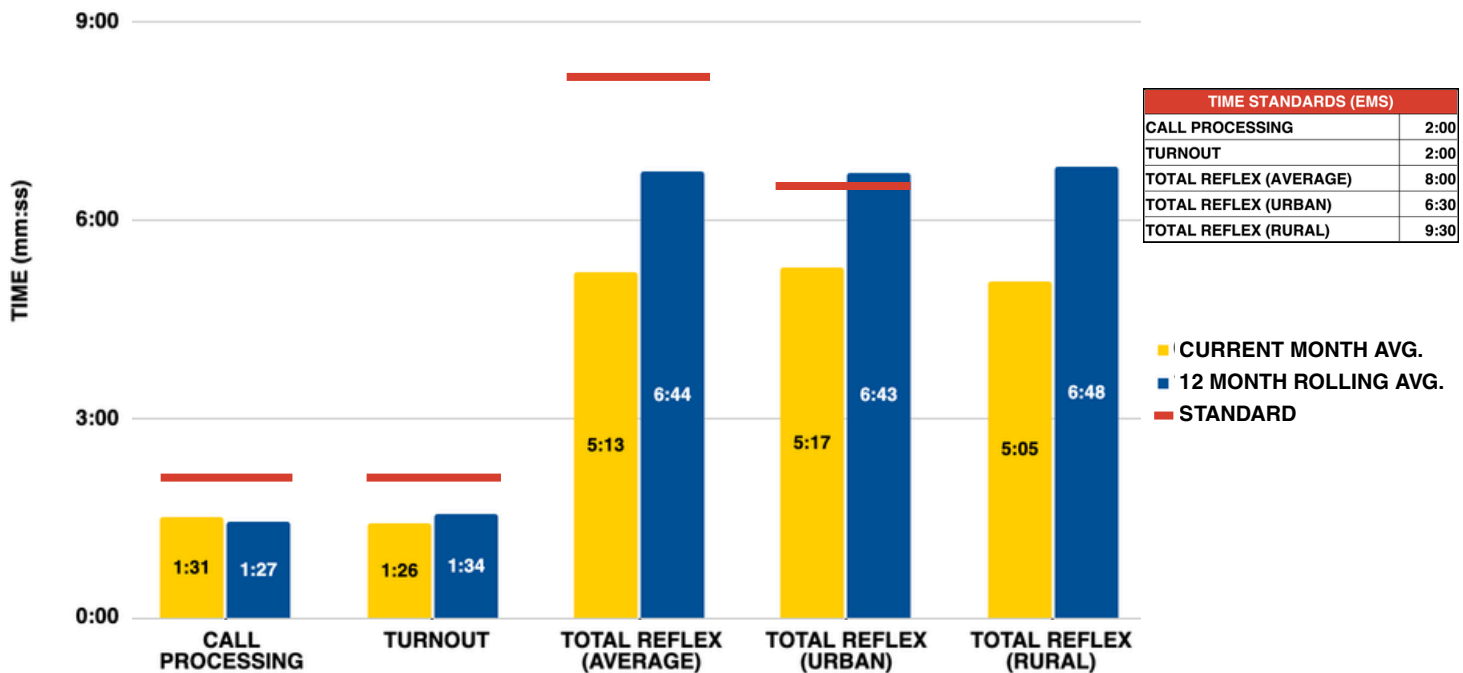
Average Time for Fire Responses

1 Fire Responses in August



Average Time for Fire Apparatus Responding to Medical Emergencies

83 Medical Responses in August



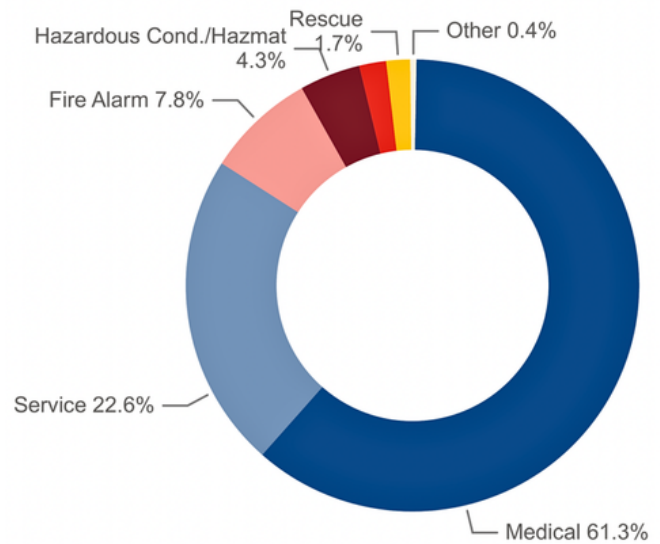


DEPARTMENT TOTAL RESPONSE STATISTICS

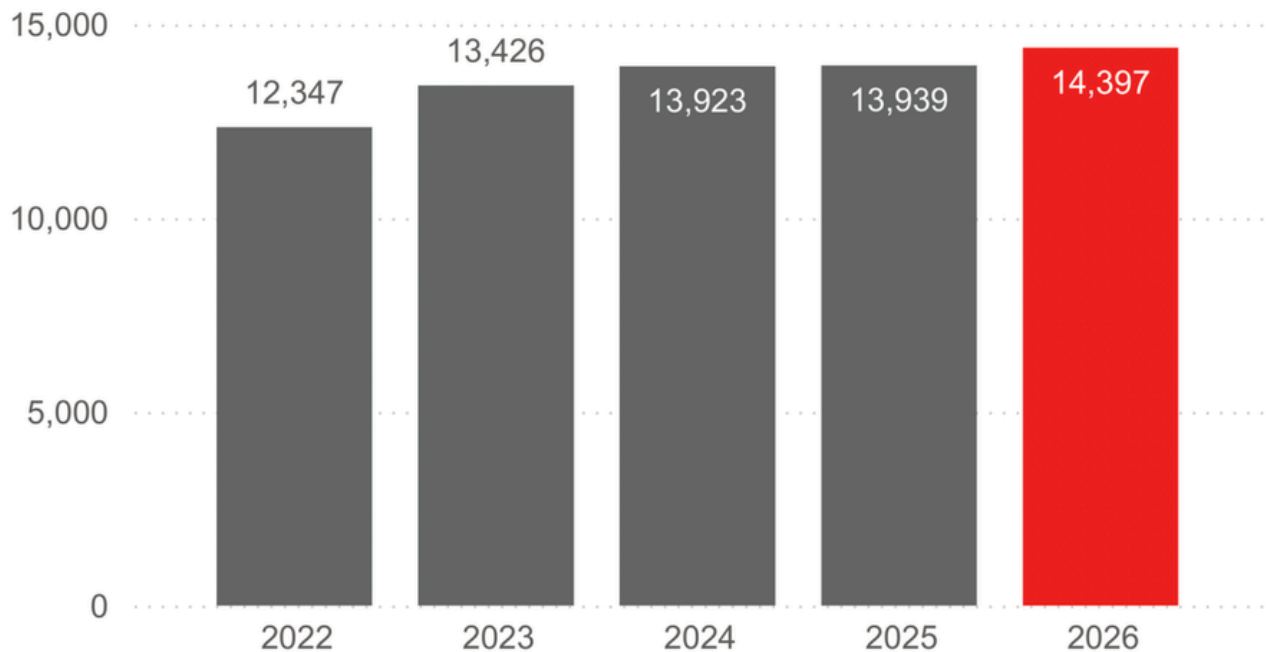
AUGUST 2026

Number of Incidents by Type August 2026

Dispatched Incident Type	Incidents	Percentage (%)
Fire - Structure, Veg., Other	35	1.9%
Fire Alarm	142	7.8%
Hazardous Cond./Hazmat	79	4.3%
Medical	1,116	61.3%
Other	8	0.4%
Rescue	31	1.7%
Service	411	22.6%
Total	1,822	100.0%



Number of Incidents Year to Date Year Over Year - January to August



National Preparedness Month is observed each September to remind communities that disasters, whether natural (wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods) or human-caused (power outages, cyber threats, terrorism), can happen at any time.

FEMA's 2026 theme is *Americans Stand Ready*.

Take Steps to Prepare for Emergencies

Here are four easy things you can do today that may make all the difference in keeping your family safe and helping our whole community recover faster following emergencies:

- **Make a plan:** Talk about how your family will leave home safely in an emergency and agree on a place where you will all meet if you are not together when the emergency hits and phone lines are down.
- **Build an emergency kit:** Collect basic supplies like food, water, first aid supplies, flashlights, medication and a change of clothes to pack in a "go-bag" you can grab fast. Supplies should last for 72-hours for each member of your household, including pets.
- **Stay informed:** Sign up to get fast, free, and official emergency alerts via text and/or phone at AlertSCC.org.
- **Know your zone:** Find out what evacuation area you live in by looking up your address at Protect.Genasys.com. Bookmark the page or download the smartphone app.



Level Up

Take your emergency preparedness planning to the next level.

Watch as Senior Community Risk Specialist Graciela Hernandez dives deeper into:

- 1) Emergency Alerts
- 2) Creating a Disaster Plan
- 3) Building a Go-Bag



Other Ways To Watch:
<https://qrs.ly/6jh7z>

