



RINCON VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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MISSION-VISION-VALUES



Vision

Vail will be a safe place.

Mission

Prepare, Prevent, and Protect our Community from Harm.

Values

Our values define how we interact with each other. They influence how we conduct ourselves and conduct business of the District each day. We strive to keep our values in mind with everything we do. These values shall be used to drive our policies, decisions, and actions based on what is equitable for all of our stakeholders.

Rincon Valley Fire District members are:

Responsible

We hold ourselves and each other accountable. We seek self-improvement to better serve our customers. We care for people, internally and externally, to the best of our abilities and with professionalism. We conduct ourselves ethically with honor and pride.

Versatile

We deliver the highest level of service by using our resources wisely. We adapt and overcome. We are resilient. We are dynamic to ensure we are prepared for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Fair

Because people are our greatest resource, we create opportunities for all members to succeed. We develop healthy and productive work relationships to accomplish our mission. We respect the contributions of all members. We understand that we are better because of our diverse backgrounds.

Dedicated

We commit ourselves for the betterment of the District and our members. We will make sacrifices that provide for the health and safety of our community. We uphold our oath each day.

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

We appreciate your taking the time to review the Rincon Valley Fire District's 2023 Annual Report. The Rincon Valley Fire District was established in 1985 and serves the greater Vail area with various emergency response services, including fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials mitigation, and technical rescue.

In 2023, our fire district began the process of becoming an accredited organization. In Arizona, only 12 career fire departments have achieved accreditation. To become accredited, agencies must have a peer review of their organization's response model and documents, complete an onsite assessment, and participate in a public hearing before the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Only 13% of the U.S. population is protected by an accredited agency. Our pursuit of accreditation underscores our commitment to delivering unparalleled service to our community.

Furthermore, 2023 heralded several other noteworthy achievements. We strengthened budgetary oversight to uphold fiscal responsibility and harnessed financial software platforms to enhance efficiency. The collaboration between the District's executive leadership and the Vail Firefighters Association, L-5100, has reached unprecedented levels, thanks to an inclusive and collaborative approach between labor and management. Lastly, we modernized our fleet by acquiring a new pumper and ambulance to replace aging units at Station 291.

In November 2022, I officially took over the reins from Jayme Kahle, who had served as the District's Fire Chief since 2012. I can genuinely say that it is an honor to lead the district I have served for the past 18 years. Our member's work ethic and dedication, combined with the support of our elected fire board, provide the foundation for our commitment to customer service and our pursuit of continuous improvement. Since our formation in 1985, our role and services have dramatically changed, but our commitment to the community remains steadfast.

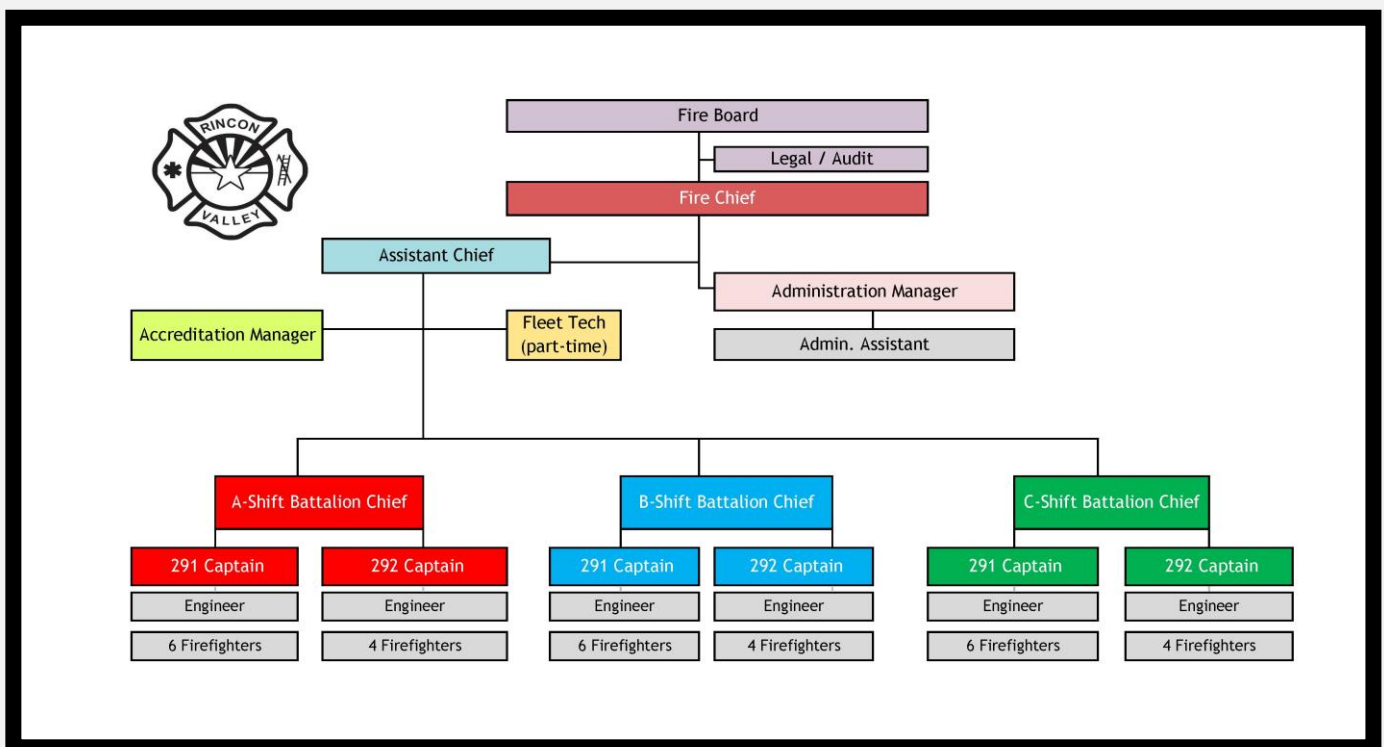


DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Established in 1985 by residents of the southeast metropolitan Tucson area, Rincon Valley Fire District serves the community of Vail, nestled amidst the Rincon Mountains to the north, the Santa Rita Mountains to the south, and the City of Tucson to the west. Currently, the district provides essential emergency and community services to a population of 20,000 across an expansive area of more than 43 square miles. Rincon Valley Fire District provides Emergency Medical Services to an additional 265 square miles, catering to an additional population of 15,000.

Rincon Valley Fire District offers a comprehensive suite of services to both residential and commercial property owners. The district strategically stations paramedic-equipped units to deliver advanced life support during medical emergencies, ensuring swift and efficient transportation to hospitals. Operating with 50 employees, the District manages two fully equipped fire stations. Fire code enforcement services are effectively administered through an intergovernmental agreement with the Northwest Fire District.

The District maintains daily staffing levels between 12 and 15 firefighters per shift to ensure operational excellence. This allows staffing for two fully equipped engine companies and up to three ambulances.



DISTRICT GOVERNING & PENSION BOARD

Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board

A five-member board governs the Rincon Valley Fire District, each elected through an at-large electoral process. Board members hold staggered terms of four years, ensuring continuity and effective governance. The Rincon Valley Fire District Board convenes public meetings on the third Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM. These meetings occur in the RVFD community room at 14550 E. Sands Ranch Road. We warmly invite the public to attend these meetings, as your engagement and input are valued.

Chairperson: Jennifer Spears

Clerk: Kevin McKinley

Member: Lora Gruner

Member: Christopher Klasen

Member: Matt Messmer

Rincon Valley Fire District Pension Board

The Local Pension Board is established to meticulously oversee the administration of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System for the dedicated full-time paid firefighters within the Rincon Valley Fire District. The selection of board members adheres strictly to the provisions outlined in ARS§38-847, ensuring a process of election or appointment that upholds the highest standards of integrity and competence. Currently, the District has identified one vacancy within the esteemed ranks of the pension board, thereby underscoring the importance of identifying a qualified individual to fulfill this pivotal role.

Chairperson: Kevin McKinley

Secretary: Laura Bucklin

Member: Vacant

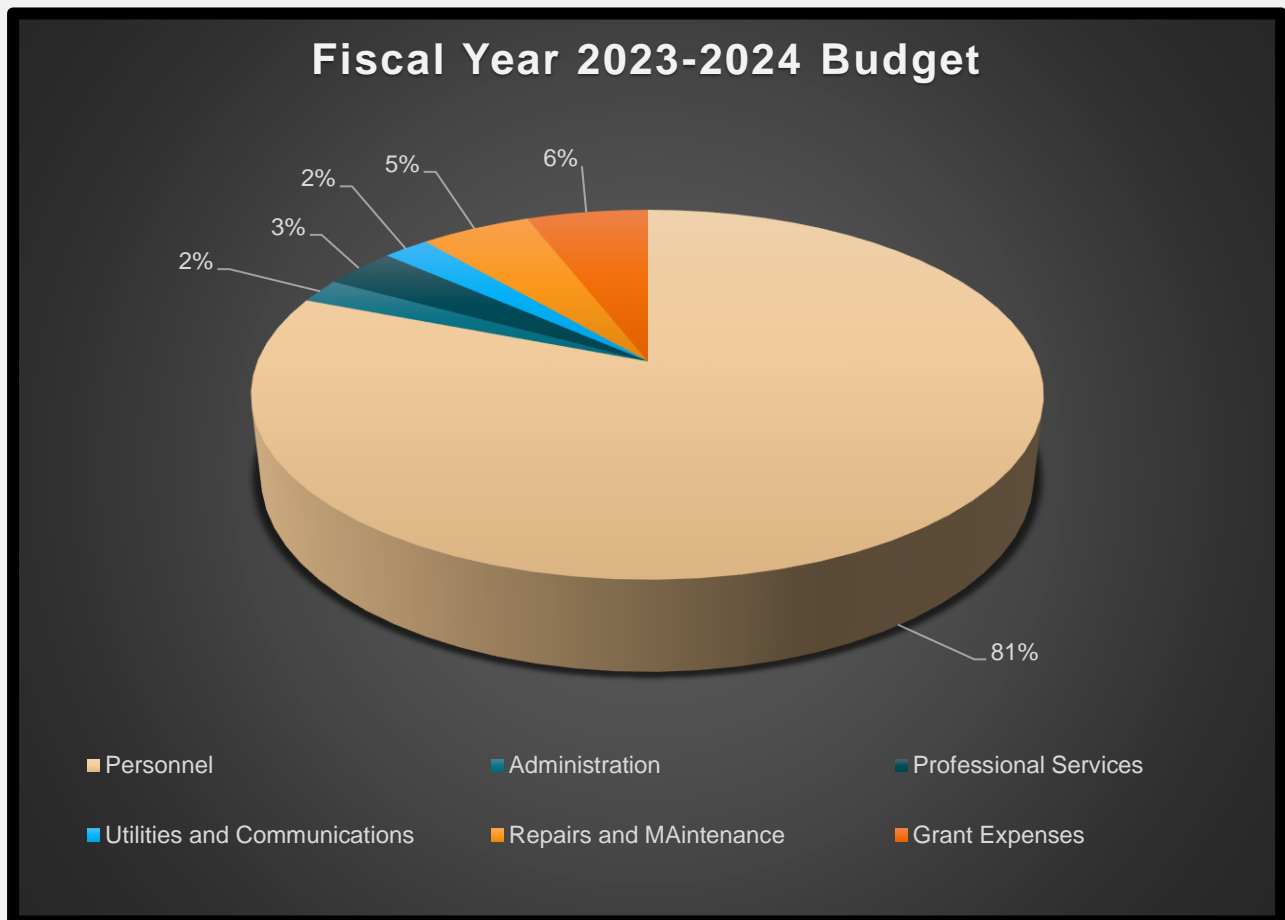
Member: Jeremy Curtis

Employee Member: Cameron McQuillen

Employee Member: Richard Reed

DISTRICT BUDGET

As a local governmental entity, Rincon Valley Fire District relies on the support of its local taxpayers. Funding is derived from secondary property taxes, a portion of the personal property tax, and service fees. Notably, the tax rate remains consistent with the previous fiscal year, at \$2.7834. Meanwhile, the bond rate has experienced a slight decrease from \$0.1309 to \$0.1164, resulting in a corresponding reduction in the total combined tax rate from \$2.9143 to \$2.8998. The total budget allocated for FY 2023/2024 amounts to \$7,209,506.



SERVICE DELIVERY

Rincon Valley Fire District responds to a wide variety of emergency incidents. Emergency medical and rescue incidents comprise the majority of the response followed by service and fire incidents. In 2023 the District responded to 2,791 incidents and transported 1,093 sick or injured patients to local hospitals. The District also provides emergency medical transport services to neighboring Corona de Tucson Fire District. To enhance our service delivery, Rincon Valley Fire District has mutual aid agreements with Corona de Tucson Fire District and Rural Metro Fire Department. Incident volume is expected to steadily increase with the continued area growth.

STATION 291

8850 S. Camino Loma Alta

Engine 291

Paramedic 291

Paramedic 299

Brush 291

Squad 291



STATION 292

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

14550 E. Sands Ranch Road

Battalion 292

Engine 292

Paramedic 292

Tender 292

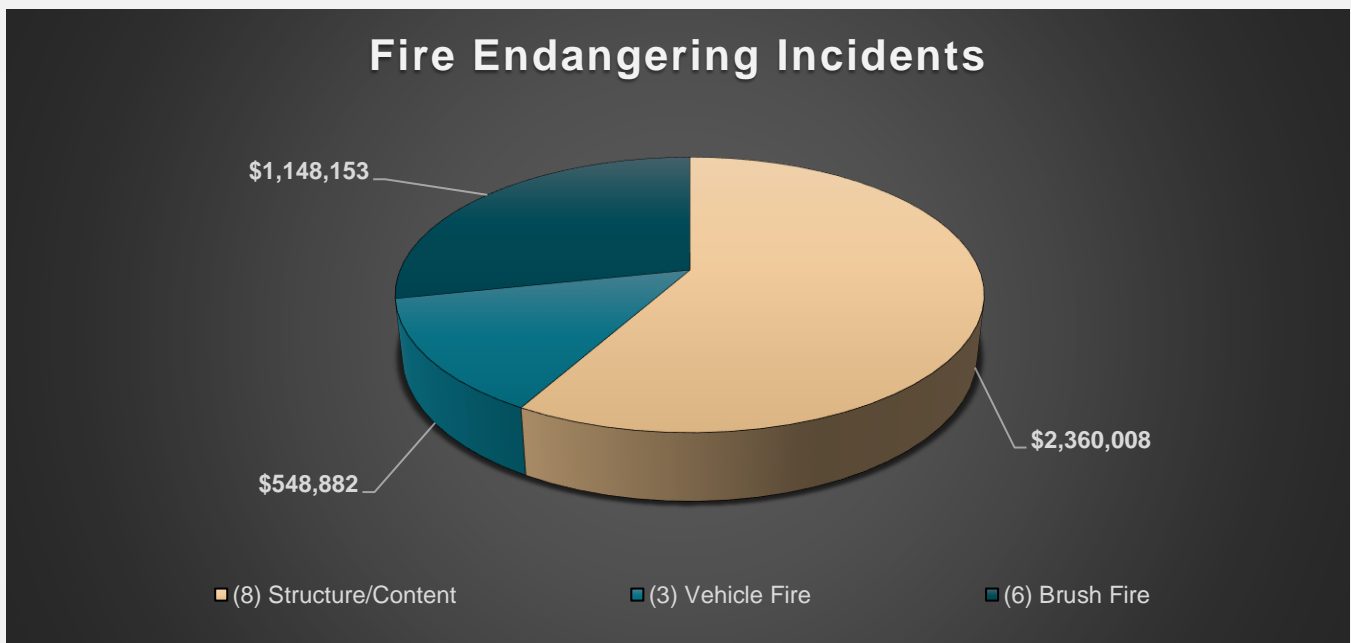
PROTECTING PROPERTY

Of the 2,791 incidents our firefighters responded to in 2023, 17 fires posed a significant threat to property. These fires encompassed a variety of scenarios, including structure fires, vehicle fires in close proximity to structures, and brush fires adjacent to residential areas.

Rapid Extinguishment and Commitment to Community Safety

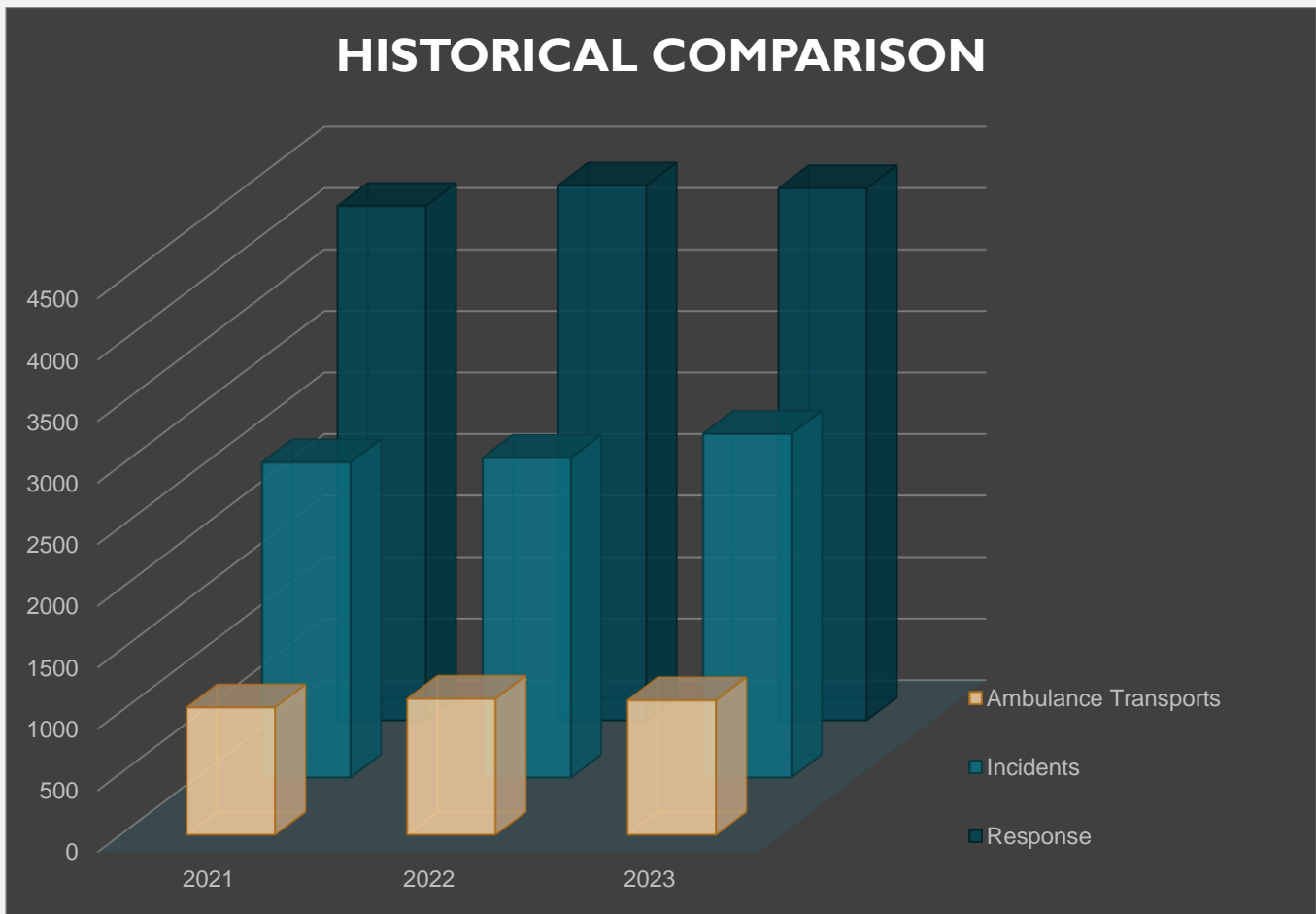
Thanks to the swift and coordinated efforts of our firefighters, we were able to mitigate the impact of these fires and safeguard property values. Our firefighters saved over four million dollars in property values through quick response times and efficient extinguishment techniques.

This accomplishment highlights Rincon Valley Fire District's unwavering commitment to protecting lives and property within our community. Our dedicated firefighters remain vigilant and ready to respond to emergencies, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents at all times.



INCIDENT & RESPONSE COMPARISON

The incident count is the number of calls for service the District receives, while the response count is the number of units required to handle the incident. For instance, a public assist incident may only need one unit, while a fire incident may require five or more units to handle the workload. The incident count for 2023 increased by 7.47% and is expected to continue increasing at this rate. Unit response and emergency ambulance transports slightly decreased by 0.5%. This decrease is contributed to a more targeted medical care approach, reflecting the District's ability to provide effective on-site care thereby reducing the need for further medical intervention.

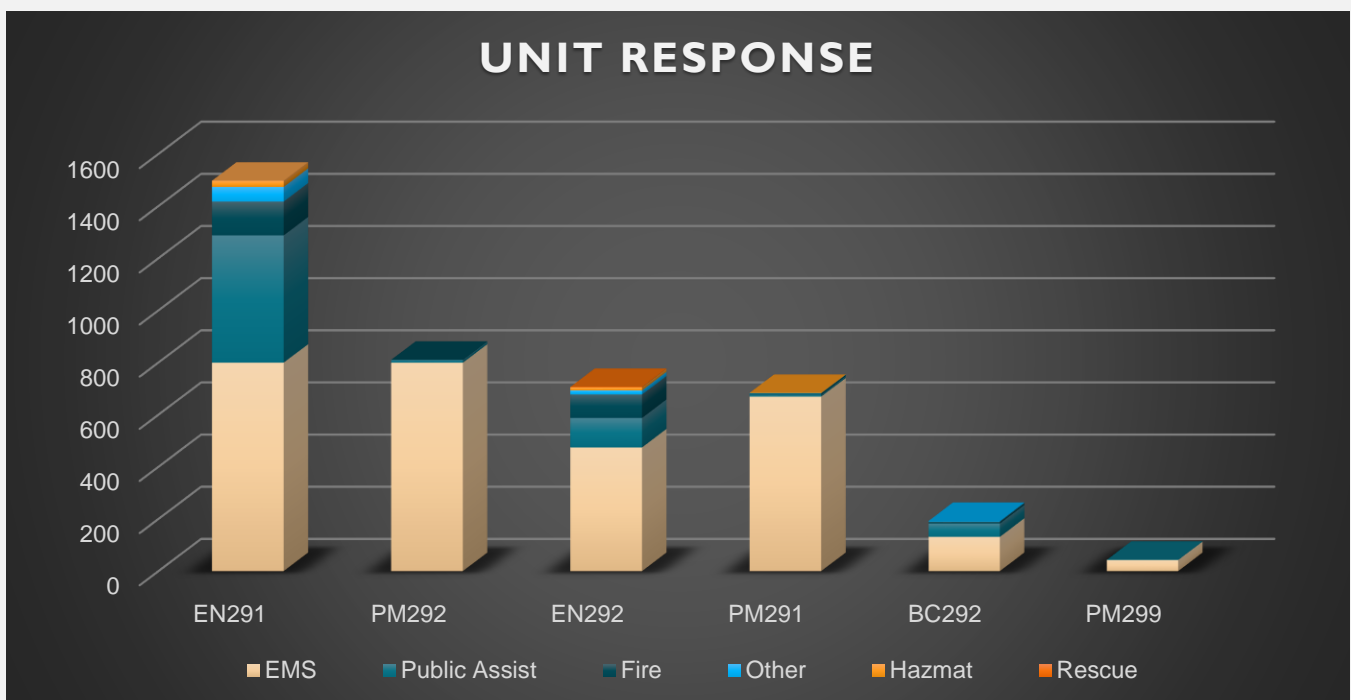


UNIT RESPONSE COMPARISON

Rincon Valley Fire District's primary response units encountered a variety of emergencies, categorized under Emergency Medical Services, Public Assists, Fire, Hazmat, Rescue, and miscellaneous incidents. The breakdown of incidents across these categories provides insights into the operational landscape of the district and highlights areas of focus for emergency response efforts.

The prominence of the Emergency Medical Services category underscores the District's dedication to providing critical medical assistance. Meanwhile, the distribution of incidents across other categories like Fire, Hazmat, and Rescue offers insights into specific challenges faced by the district in addressing various emergencies.

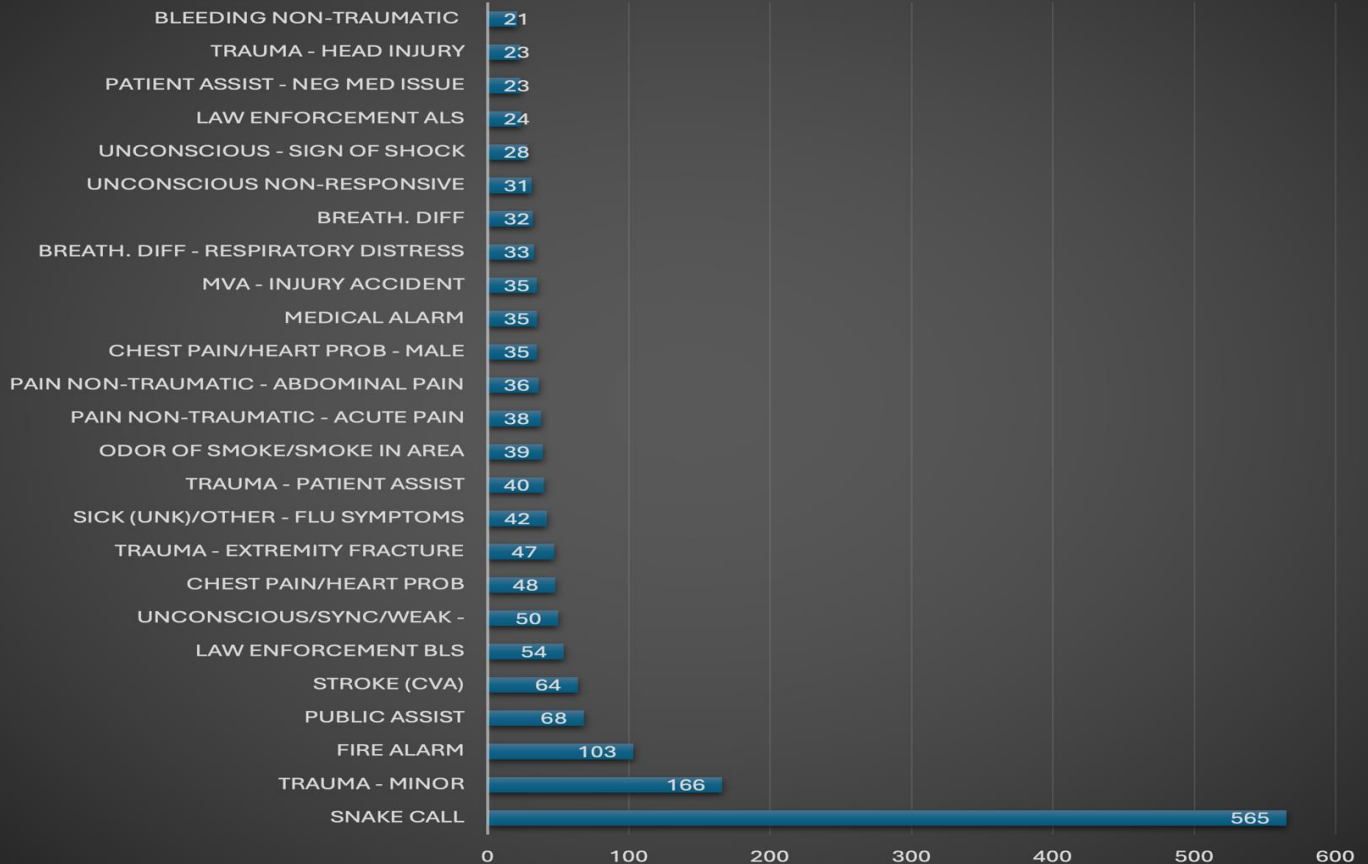
Additionally, the inclusion of a category for miscellaneous incidents reflects the dynamic nature of the emergency response. Overall, analyzing these categories helps the district identify trends and allocate resources effectively to enhance emergency response capabilities.



TOP 25 INCIDENT TYPES



TOP 25 INCIDENT TYPES



CARDIAC ARREST RESPONSE REPORT

Rincon Valley Fire District responded to a total of 28 cases of Cardiac Arrest. Notably, bystander Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was administered in 43% of the cases we attended. Through diligent public education efforts and the prompt initiation of bystander CPR, our Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) achieved a Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) in all patients transported while in cardiac arrest. This achievement underscores the importance of early intervention and public awareness in improving outcomes for cardiac arrest patients.

Patient Recovery Rates

Data analysis from transported cardiac arrest patients reveals a significant recovery rate, with over 60% of these patients successfully recovering from the event and being discharged to return home. These findings underscore the critical role of rapid response, effective resuscitation efforts, and coordinated emergency medical care in improving survival rates and outcomes for cardiac arrest patients.



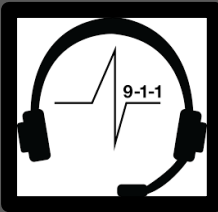
UNIT RESPONSE TIMES

ANATOMY OF A 911 CALL



CALL

Someone calls 911



DISPATCH

The call is processed and the units are dispatched.



TURNOUT

The time between the dispatch and crews leaving the station.



TRAVEL

The time between departure and arrival at the emergency.



TRANSPORT

The amount of time it takes to leave the incident location and arrive at the hospital.

Call Processing Time

Average – 75 seconds

90th Percentile – 129 seconds

Turnout Time EMS Incidents

Average – 71 seconds

90th Percentile – 103 seconds

Turnout Time Fire Incidents

Average – 95 seconds

90th Percentile – 134 seconds

Travel Time to the Incident

Average – 6 minutes

90th Percentile – 9 minutes

Transport Time

Average - 24 minutes

STRATEGIC PLANNING OVERVIEW

The Rincon Valley Fire District has successfully finalized its 2020-2024 strategic plan, highlighting its dedication to a community-driven approach that effectively guides operations. This plan serves as a dynamic management tool, offering short-term guidance, fostering a shared vision, documenting goals and objectives, and enhancing resource allocation. Importantly, strategic planning serves as a cohesive force, aligning management, employees, and the community toward collective objectives.

Accomplishments - 2023

During the fiscal year 2022-2023, Rincon Valley Fire District successfully achieved the following strategic objectives:

- 1. E - Explore potential consolidation/contract options as well as other partnerships
- 1. F – Develop trigger points for the addition of services such as units and stations
- 2. D - Develop a pay plan that is competitive with metro Tucson fire agencies
- 2. E - Create a five-year staffing plan based on the results of a wide job task analysis of the current and five-year needs
- 3. A - Begin tracking saves as well as losses to better communicate the value of RVFD to the community

Forward Planning - 2024 and Beyond:

Looking ahead to 2024, Rincon Valley Fire District remains committed to enhancing its service delivery to the community. We will embark on developing a new set of strategic objectives to guide our operations over the next five years, ensuring that we continue to uphold the highest standards of excellence and meet the evolving needs of those we serve.

TRAINING



Rincon Valley Fire District places utmost importance on providing continuous employee training opportunities throughout the year. Our comprehensive training program encompasses a variety of methods, including physical drills, hands-on exercises, and computer simulations for both

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire.

In 2023, our dedicated team completed over 16,000 training assignments, accumulating nearly 13,000 training hours. This equates to an impressive average of 282 training hours per firefighter annually, further broken down to 24 hours per month and 2.4 hours per shift.

Highlighted training initiatives included participation in the International Association of Firefighter Fire Ground Survival Program, Pima County Regional Hazmat training drills, Utility Vehicle Operator Instruction, Annual Firefighter Safety Stand Downs, Certification Courses for Drone Pilots, State Fire School, and



National Fire Academy.



Such rigorous training underscores Rincon Valley Fire District's unwavering commitment to serving our community and staying abreast of the latest advancements in technology and best practices in firefighting and emergency response.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN



The District proudly participates in many community events, including Vail Pride Day, Vail Fest, and Tis' the Season. Through these events, we are able to connect with thousands of residents and share our message of fire prevention and safety.

Our range of services are designed to address the diverse needs of our residents. From ensuring smoke detectors are in working order to conducting thorough home safety assessments and reptile removal, aiding with vehicle lockouts, and providing car seat installation education. We strive to offer practical support where it's needed most.



We aim to cultivate a safer, more cohesive community where everyone feels valued and supported. With dedication and collaboration, we're building a stronger future for all.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

RETIREMENT

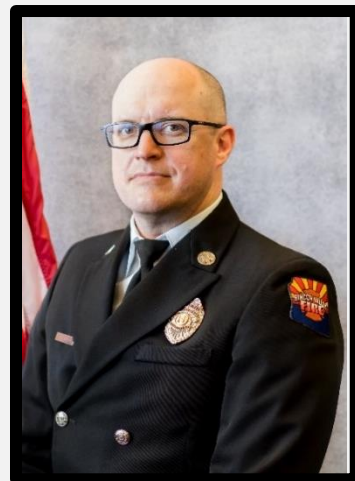


Retired Chief Jayme Kahle, 10 years of Service

25 YEARS of SERVICE



Captain Richard Reed



Captain Scott Haller

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

20 YEARS of SERVICE



Captain Cameron McQuillen

10 YEARS of SERVICE



Firefighter Christopher Jaegers



Firefighter Rhett Taylor

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

5 YEARS of SERVICE



Firefighter Michelle Isley



Firefighter Christopher M. Heady

Bachelor's Degree in Fire Administration



Firefighter Rhett Taylor

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

PROMOTIONS



Captain Travis Mooney

PARAMEDIC GRADUATES



Firefighter Richard Graham



Firefighter Luis Montanez

YEAR IN REVIEW



- Incident count increase 7.5%
- New Ferno Gurney to outfit 3rd frontline ambulance
- New Pierce Type I structural Engine to replace Engine 291
- New RepublicEVS Type I Ambulance to replace Paramedic 291
- Transferred ownership of our 2002 Pierce Type I engine to Arivaca Fire
- Increased fire hose inventory to a better-quality hose
- Prioritized staffing to maintain three front-line ambulances
- Four-person engine staffing
- Developed a mentoring program
- Implemented a Drone Program
- Implemented the Utility Vehicle (UTV) Off-Road Program
- Wildland Training (Prescribed Burn at Station 291)