

# OCEANSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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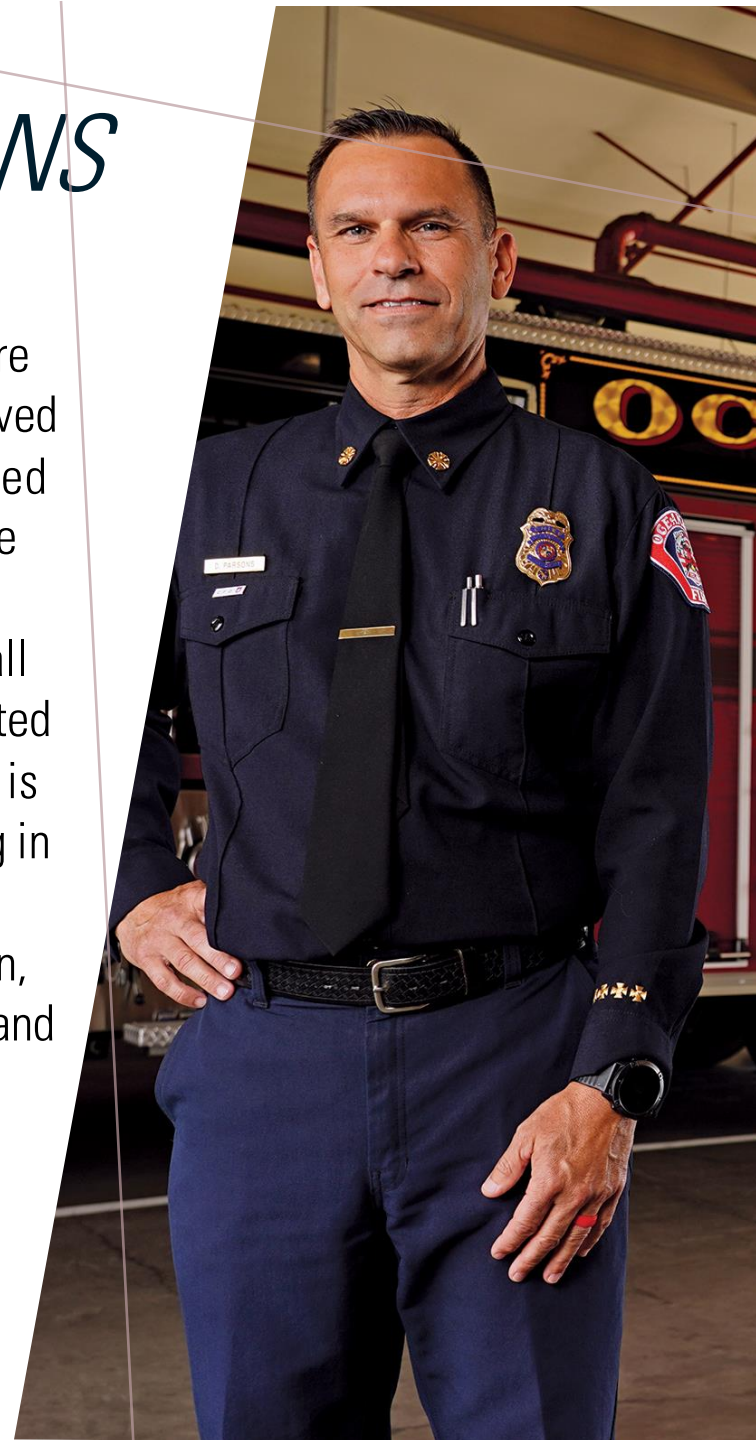
# *MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DAVID PARSONS*

Dear Friends and Families of the Oceanside Fire Department,

We present to you our 2024 annual report. 2024 was a momentous year for the Oceanside Fire Department as we welcomed new faces, happily and thankfully sent a few into a well-deserved retirement, and sadly, lost a few who passed on after having served and retired. We responded to more calls than ever in our history, surpassing 25,000 calls for service. We experienced the biggest single fire in our history based on cost and resources – the Pier Fire, and we successfully saved 93% of the length of the structure. We trained constantly, we inspected all state mandated buildings, we taught classes, we completed a strategic plan, and we presented the Vision 2030 package of guiding documents. There was much more, but the key takeaway is that the OFD is effective, efficient with taxpayer dollars, and highly professional, all resulting in a high-performance organization. We serve Oceanside with honor and humility to meet the mission statement of "embracing families and safeguarding communities." As an organization, we are proud to serve this community, but as a Fire Chief, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride regarding our most important resource – the personnel who do the work.

We thank you for your support, and I thank each member of our amazing staff for their dedication and skill.

Sincerely, David Parsons, Fire Chief



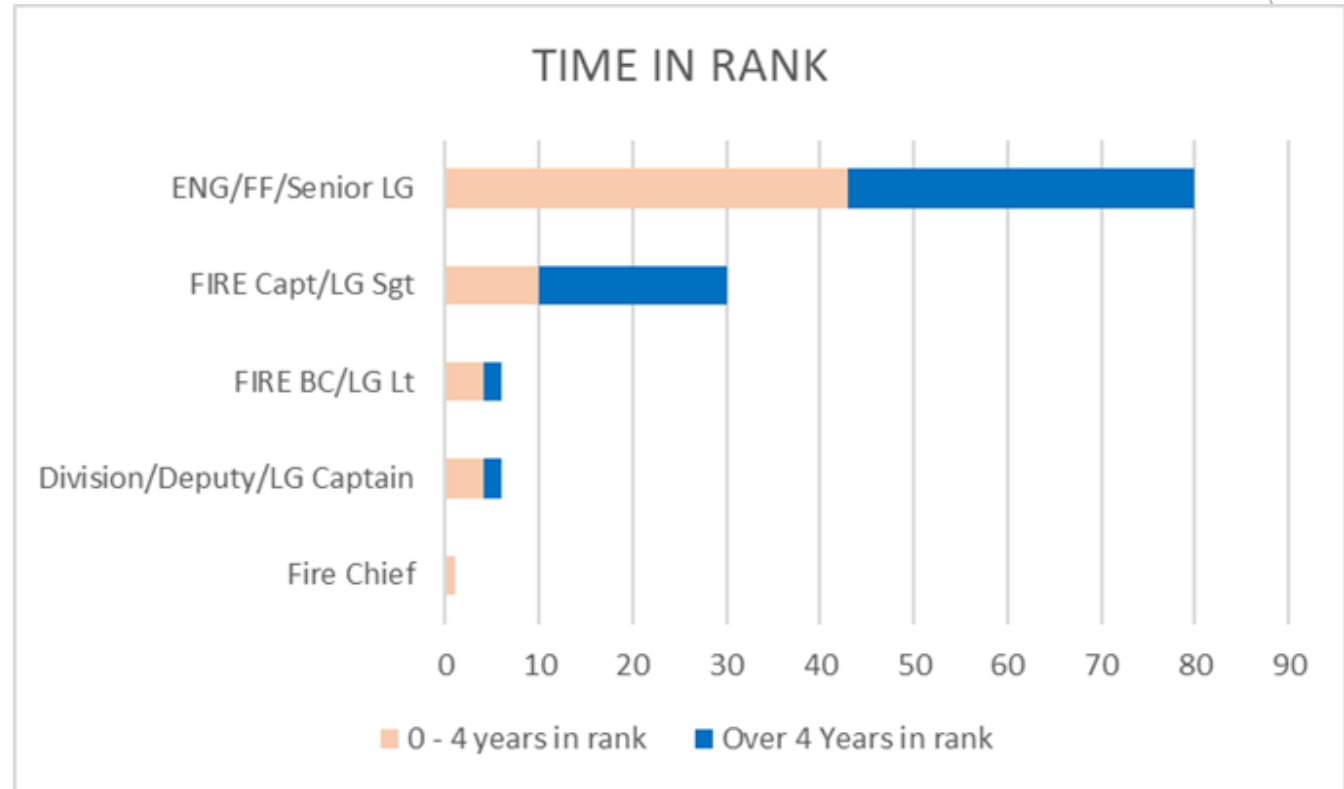
# *OCEANSIDE PIER FIRE*

A blaze erupted on the far west end of the Oceanside Pier on Thursday, April 25, 2024. A collaborative effort by Oceanside first responders and regional partners ensured there were no injuries, and 93 percent of the beloved Pier was successfully saved. Sadly, two structures, a vacant restaurant, and a small to-go food shop, The Brine Box, were lost in the fire.



# ABOUT - OFD PERSONNEL BY THE NUMBERS:

- 1 Fire Chief
- 1 Deputy Chief
- 3 Division Chiefs
- 3 Battalion Chiefs
- 1 Medical Services Officer
- 30 Captains
- 27 Engineers
- 49 Firefighter/Paramedics
- Emergency Medical Technicians:
  - 24 Full-time, 37 Part-time
- 1 Assistant Fire Marshal
- 3 Fire Inspectors/Investigators
- 2 Fire Plans Examiners
- 1 Emergency Management Coordinator
- Administrative Staff:
  - 7 Full –Time, 9 Part-time
- 1 Lifeguard Captain
- 3 Lifeguard Lieutenants
- 8 Lifeguard Sergeants
- 7 Senior Lifeguards
- 70 Part-time Lifeguards



# ABOUT US

## *Our Mission*

Embracing Families  
and Safeguarding  
Communities

## *Our Vision*

Keep Everyone Safe,  
Always

## *Our Values*

- **Teamwork**
- **Resilience**
- **Integrity**
- **Professionalism**
- **Leadership**



# DIVISIONS



Operations	EMS	Administration	Community Risk Reduction	Training	Lifeguards
Deputy Chief Jessamyn Specht	Medical Services Officer Amy Marquez	Division Chief Timothy Scott	Division Chief Blake Dorse	Division Chief Lucifer Keener	Lifeguard Captain Tyler Berry

# OPERATIONS & EMS

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Successfully saved 93% of Oceanside's Pier after it caught fire on April 25, 2024.
- Welcomed our new Medical Services Officer, Amy Marquez, to the OFD Family.
- Increased Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances from 4 to 6 to reduce response times.
- Put three new Type 1 Fire Engines into service as replacements of aging fleet apparatus.
- Opened new Fire Station 1. Photos show the artwork of artist Sasha Furlan, whose work was selected by a Fire Department panel, the Arts Commission, and the Library and Cultural Arts Department.



# OPERATIONS & EMS



## REMS (Rapid Extraction Module Support) TEAM:

- Established a second REMS team to support the state mutual aid system.
- The new REMS side-by-side and trailer are now in service and were heavily utilized throughout the summer providing firefighter rescue services on large wildland fires.
- Supported many large scale fires throughout the state and even into Oregon and Wyoming.






# OPERATIONS & EMS

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Total Medical Calls Assigned: 21,484
- Stroke Responses: 400
- Cardiac Arrests: 170
- Pediatric Patient Responses: 882
- Traumatic Injuries: 3800
- Oceanside Fire EMS once again received the Mission Lifeline Gold Achievement award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association by providing excellent cardiac care utilizing the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the community we serve.



2024 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Recognition

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

**Oceanside Fire Department  
Oceanside, California**

**Mission: Lifeline®-EMS - GOLD with Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll  
Achievement Award**

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes this prehospital provider organization for demonstrating continued success in using the **Mission Lifeline®** program.

Thank you for applying the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the community you serve.\*



**Nancy Brown**  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Heart Association



**Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD, FAHA**  
President  
American Heart Association



\*For more information, please visit [Heart.org/MissionLifeline](https://www.heart.org/MissionLifeline)

# OPERATIONS & EMS

## EVENT:

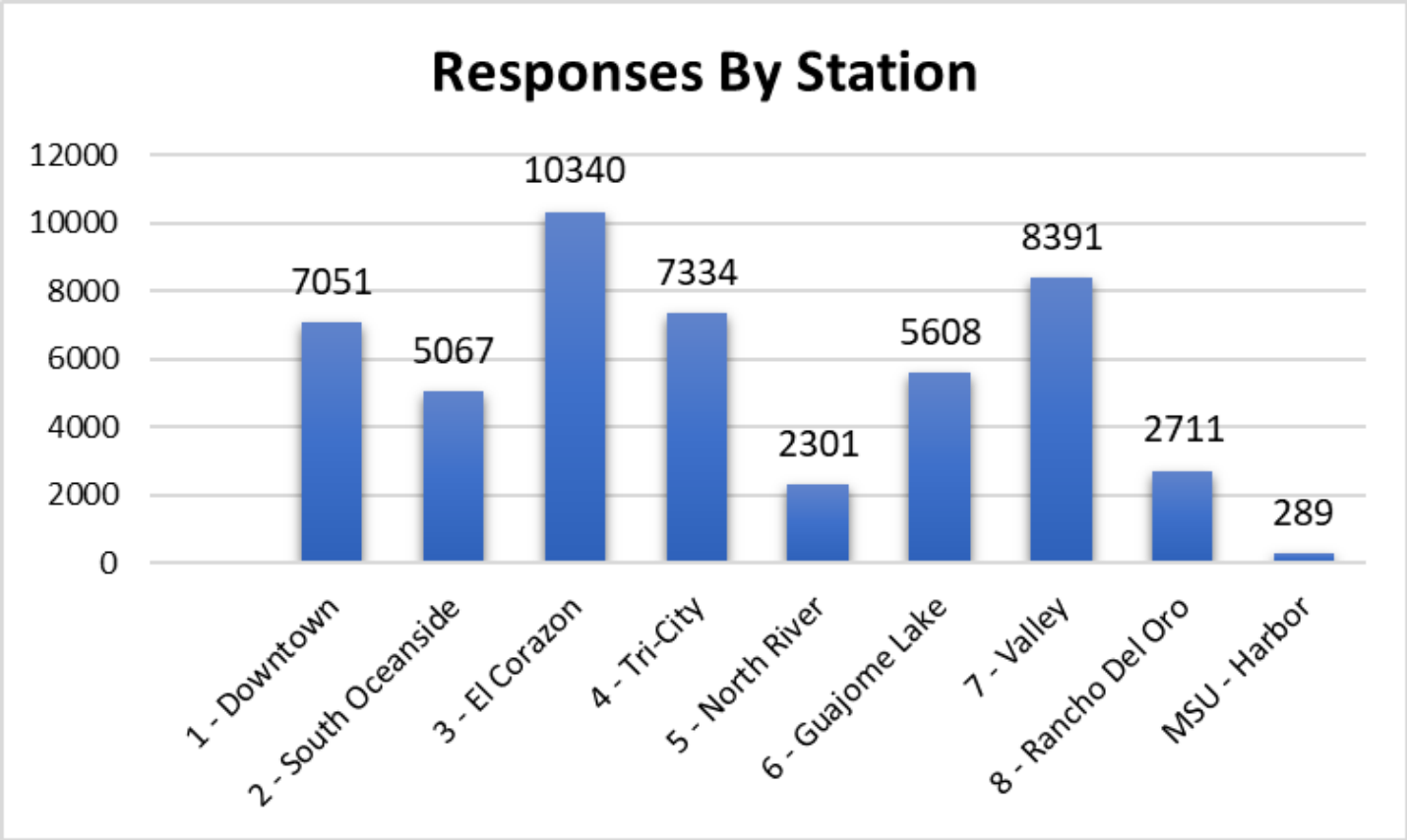
In June, crews were able to have a combined reunion and community CPR event with one of our cardiac arrest survivors at El Camino Country Club. We are committed to the countywide "Revive and Survive" initiative to save lives by training 1 million San Diegans in hands-only CPR.



# OPERATIONS & EMS

*Busiest Station = Station 3  
3101 Oceanside Blvd.*

*Busiest Unit = Rescue  
Ambulance 213*



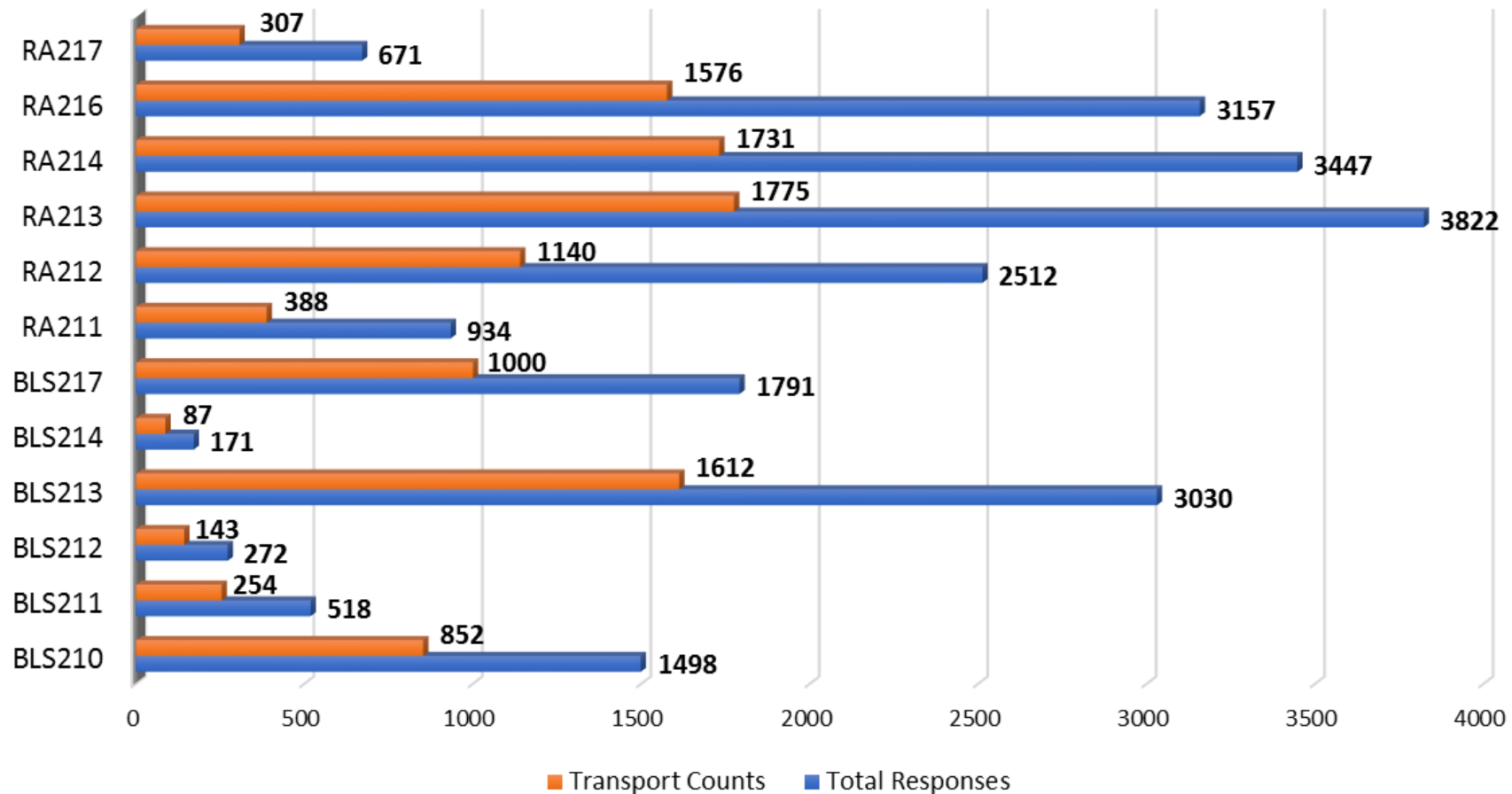
# OPERATIONS & EMS

## Ambulance Responses

\*Only transports which arrive at a destination are counted

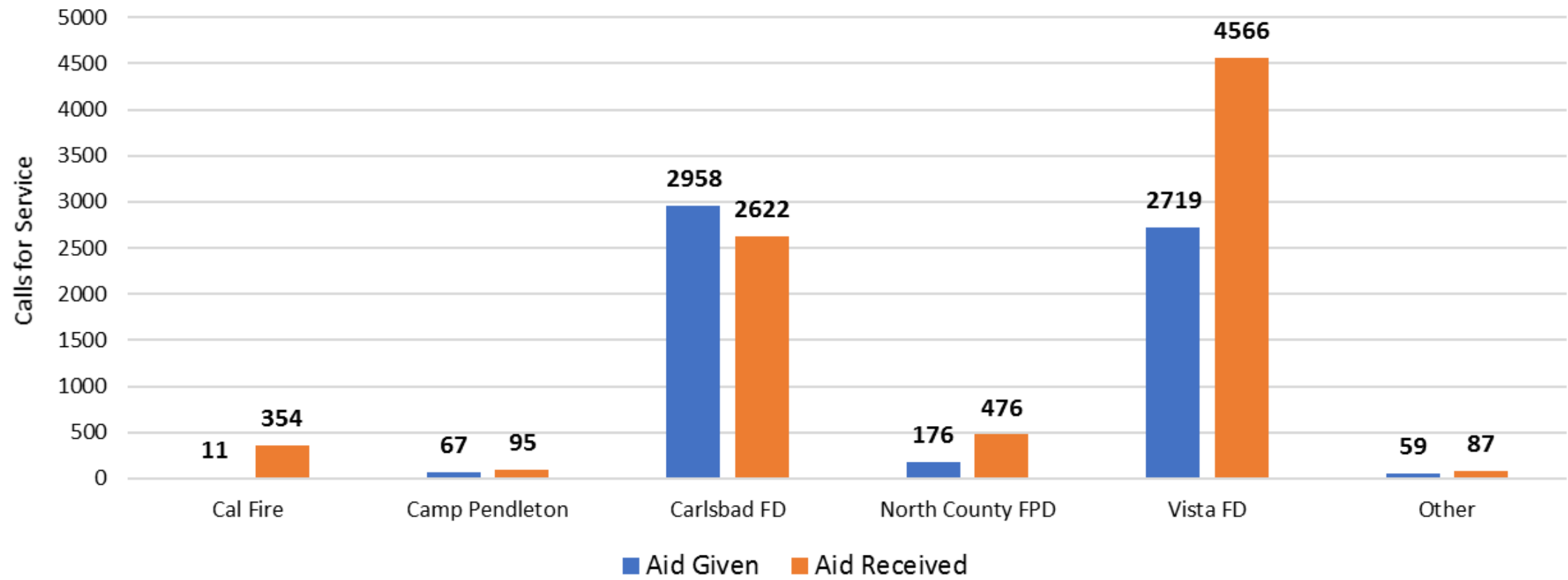
RA - Rescue Ambulance

BLS - Basic Life Support Ambulance



# OPERATIONS & EMS

## Aid Given by Oceanside FD, Aid Received by Oceanside FD



# ADMINISTRATION

## BUDGET

The Oceanside Fire Department maintained fiscal responsibility in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, with expenditures at 99% of the approved budget. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Fire Department budget is \$51,266,371.00. 74% of the budget is personnel, 26% is Maintenance & Operations.

## MEASURE X

In the November election, Measure X was successfully renewed with a 10-year extension. This continued funding provides crucial support for both our delivery system and equipment needs. In addition to helping with increased staffing, a portion of the Measure X funds was allocated this year to purchase wellness equipment, Watchtower lifeguard records management system, hose, personal protective equipment, two new motors for the lifeguard vessel *Guardian*, and swift water equipment for our lifeguards. This support plays a vital role in maintaining our operational readiness and ensuring the safety of both our team and the community.



# ADMINISTRATION

## MUTUAL AID

The 2024 fire season was exceptionally busy, with numerous strike team deployments and a notable increase in the deployment of overhead operational positions, including line medics and Rapid Extrication Module Support (REMS) personnel. Many of our command staff have secured roles with federal incident management teams, contributing in various capacities such as planning, operations, and command positions. As a result, both mutual aid revenue and expenditures are expected to be significantly higher this year.

Revenue from mutual aid, which supports vehicle and equipment purchasing as well as administrative fees, plays a crucial role in supporting our operational needs and ensuring compliance with mutual aid standards. These funds have been used to purchase essential wildland equipment, including helmets, pants, gloves, jet boil sets, sleeping bags, wildland packs, hose clamps, radio harnesses, and flashlights. Additionally, two new Ford F250 diesel light utility trucks have arrived for overhead assignments. Mutual aid funding helped outfit these vehicles and cover any costs not included in the replacement funding for our other vehicles.



# ADMINISTRATION

## GRANTS

We have received a distribution of approximately \$64,000 from the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). Around \$42,000 of this was used to purchase firefighter protective gear for new hires and to meet the new state mandates on the expiration and management of personal protective equipment. The remaining grant funds were allocated to annual hose and ladder testing.

Additionally, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors, through the office of Jim Desmond, awarded the fire department a \$100,000 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program grant. This funding was used to purchase additional sets of electric Holmatro extrication equipment to replace the hydraulic equipment still in use on some of our fire engines. Furthermore, the department was awarded an AFG grant of approximately \$400,000 to update and purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs). These grants continue to play a vital role in enhancing the department's capabilities and ensuring the safety of our personnel.



# ADMINISTRATION

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This year, we successfully introduced a new full-time position in the City dedicated to overseeing the critical area of Emergency Management. This role is essential for bringing the City's emergency operations planning up to date and aligning it with San Diego County's Emergency Planning Standards. In addition, the position will provide much-needed support and oversight for the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, community disaster preparedness, evacuation planning, cost recovery, and several other key functions. This new role will play a vital part in strengthening the City's overall preparedness and response capabilities.

- Began the process to update the Oceanside Emergency Operations Plan.
- Engaged state Office of Emergency Services for disaster assistance for flooding events and the Pier Fire.
- Hosted LISTOS preparedness events. Presented emergency preparedness information to at-risk communities.



# ADMINISTRATION

## FACILITIES

Construction on Fire Station One was completed, and the department moved in during July. Significant work was also done on Fire Station Four last year, with more improvements planned for this year, including painting the station this summer and completing additional concrete work. Fire Station Five is scheduled for a remodel design this year, with plans to relocate the gym to an exterior, climate-controlled building. The current gym and restroom area will be transformed into gender-friendly bathrooms and living quarters. This remodel will allow the station to accommodate five personnel, enabling us to staff an ambulance there.

The design phase for the new Fire Station Eight is nearly shovel-ready. The next priority for this project is securing funding. Finally, Fire Administration underwent a remodel in October, which included fresh paint, new carpet, and new furniture, creating a more updated and functional space for our team.



# ADMINISTRATION



## APPARATUS

This year, we received and placed into service three new fire engines. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the apparatus committee, we were able to update our fleet and address the challenges associated with an aging reserve fleet. Shortly after the four new BLS ambulances were put into service, we also received four new ALS ambulances to further enhance our ambulance fleet. With all front-line ambulances now less than a year old, this marks a significant improvement in our service delivery.

Additionally, we have worked with Public Works and city decision-makers to modify the ambulance service life from 96 months to 60 months. This is inline with industry standards and will help ensure that our fleet stays in top condition as the volume of calls and miles driven continues to increase.



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

### Promotion:

- Division Chief Blake Dorse

### New Hires:

- Colby Manning: Fire Safety Specialist
- Shantal Arango: Fire Inspector (P/T)
- Evelyn Buchanon: Office Specialist (P/T)
- Yamileth Marquez: Public Education Coordinator (P/T)

### Certifications and Items of Note:

- Haley Labrie-Smith: CSFM Certified Fire Investigator, CSFM Fire Inspector II
- Colby Manning: CSFM Certified Fire Investigator, ICC Fire Plans Examiner
- Chelsey Gonzales: ICC Permit Technician

\*\*CSFM: California State Fire Marshal \*\*ICC: International Code Council



## EVENTS:

Partnered with the American Red Cross to hold a Sound the Alarm Program in March. 137 smoke alarms were provided to residents in need.

Hosted the annual Open House in October with over 3,000 attendees at the Fire Training Center.

# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

## EXPLORER PROGRAM:

In 2024:

- 6 new Explorers
- 2 returning explorers
- 5 Explorers graduated from the program
- Individual Volunteer Hours: 145
- Oceanside Explorer Academy graduated in March with 8 graduates

The Fire Explorer Program is free to the public and high school students ages 14 to 18 are welcome to apply. Candidates interviewed each October. Complete an [interest card](#) for more information.



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

## TOTAL FIRE INVESTIGATOR

CALL OUTS: 45

Arson: 9

Electrical: 11

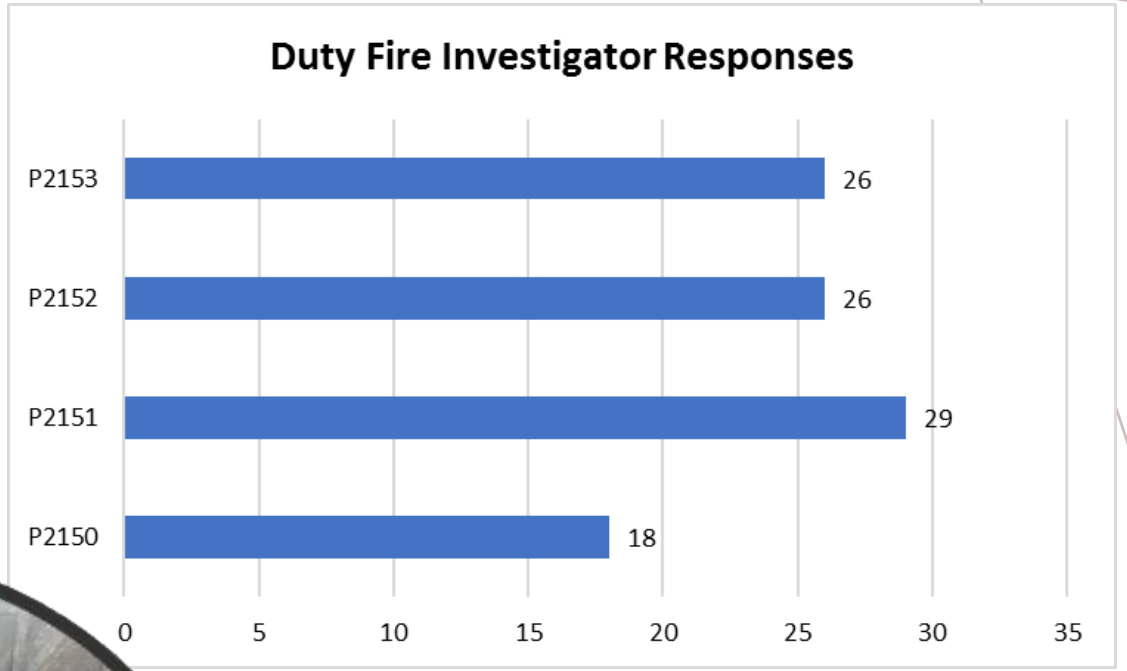
Accidental: 9

Undetermined: 11

Hazmat incident support callout: 5

Mutual Aid

Assistance Provided: 3



# *COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION*

TOTAL STATE MANDATED INSPECTIONS: 833

- R2 (Apartments): 752
- R2.1 (Elderly Care Facilities): 10
- R1 (Hotel/Motel): 34
- E (Public/Private Schools): 35
- High Rise: 1
- I (Jail): 1

TOTAL ANNUAL INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED, INCLUDING REINSPECTIONS: 1,434

COMPLETION PERCENTAGE: 100%



# *COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION*

**TOTAL CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS: 1,156**

Fire Sprinkler: 512

Fire Alarm: 237

Private Underground Fire Lines: 112

Alternative Fire Extinguishing Systems: 29

Hydrant Fire Flow Tests: 33

High Piled Storage Permits: 4

Building Final Inspections: 225



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

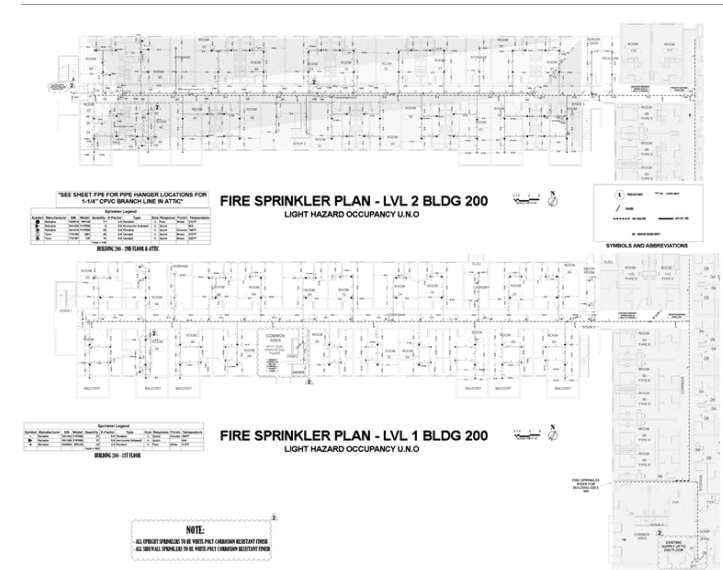
TOTAL PLAN REVIEWS: 1,564

Building Plan Reviews: 825

Fire Protection Plan Reviews: 461

Project Reviews: 162

Grading & Improvement Plan Reviews: 116



# *COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION*

## **TOTAL SHORT TERM RENTAL INSPECTIONS: 412**

First Inspection: 322

Reinspections: 90

## **TOTAL BUSINESS LICENSE INSPECTIONS: 589**

First Inspection: 365

Reinspections: 155

Operational Permits: 71

(places of assembly, high-piled storage, fireworks, etc.)



# *COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION*

## THE COMPLIANCE ENGINE

The Compliance Engine is the tracking database of privately owned fire safety systems in the city.

Fire Alarm Systems: 1,071

Fire Sprinkler Systems: 1,095

Kitchen Suppression Systems: 634

Private Fire Hydrants: 124

Other Fire Systems: 137

TOTAL SYSTEMS SUBMITTED TO THE COMPLIANCE ENGINE IN 2024: 3,061



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

## PUBLIC EDUCATION & PUBLIC SERVICE INSPECTIONS

Smoke Alarm Installations: 259

Carbon Monoxide Alarm Installations: 58

3rd Grade School Presentations: 32

CPR Community Classes: 5

Engine School Site Visits: 17

Service Request: 18

Fire Safety Presentations: 17

Knox Box Request: 42

Special Event Inspections: 44

Defensible Space Real Estate Inspections: 28

Community Request Inspections: 21

Licensed Care Facilities: 36

Burn Permits: 14



# TRAINING

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### Leadership Development

- Captain Mat Price assumed the role of Assistant Training Officer in January 2024.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Kilmer assumed the role of Technical Specialist in January 2024.

### Enhanced EMS Training Integration

- Developed and integrated mentor program for new Firefighter/Paramedics.

### County Certification For EMS Continuing Education

- Received a four-year approval from San Diego County to provide continuing education.

### Innovation And Technology Demonstrations

- Hosted County and State-level classes and demonstrations, showcasing Advanced Technologies for Firefighter Tracking, Victim Search Operations in Fires, and Large Marine Vessel Operations.



# TRAINING

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### Academy Success

- Successfully graduated six Firefighter/Paramedics From Oceanside Firefighter Academy 21.
- Trained and graduated 46 EMTs through Oceanside EMT Academies 12, 13, And 14.

### Search Cadre Development

- Established a Search and Rescue Training Cadre and developed a curriculum based on best practices from the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This curriculum was delivered through a 5-session program to operations personnel.

### Improved Training Grounds Collaboration

- Strengthened a shared-use agreement with Vista Fire Department to enhance collaboration.
- The training tower was extensively used by multiple regional agencies.



# TRAINING

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### Incident Response And Safety Enhancements

- Integrated After Action Reviews, Facilitated Learning Analysis, and Significant Incident/Injury Response Planning across the organization.

### Mid-Rise Tactical Training

- Advanced tactical and command-level training for multi-floor residential buildings (mid-rises), focusing on the effective use of building fire control systems including sprinklers, alarms, and standpipes.

### Collaborative Multi-Agency Training

- Conducted multi-company training evolutions with regional fire agencies to enhance coordination and readiness in commercial structures.



# TRAINING

**413** categories of licenses, certifications, task books and credentials managed for over two hundred individuals within the organization.

**192** average training hours per individual, per year.

**41,483** hours of recorded training last year.



# LIFEGUARDS

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS:

The Oceanside Fire Department Lifeguard Division proudly congratulates Captain Bill Curtis on his retirement after 33 years of dedicated service. Captain Curtis retired on December 30, 2024, and leaves behind a legacy of leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to public safety. His contributions have shaped the division and positively impacted countless lives. We thank him for his exceptional service and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

## Hiring/Promotions:

Sergeant Ian Kistler, Sergeant Daniel Pham

## Hiring/Promotions:

Senior Beach Lifeguards Blake Choate, Ryan Rhoads, Zane Robinson

## Oceanside Chamber of Commerce Heroes Luncheon Awardees:

Lifeguard Captain Bill Curtis, Sergeant Matthew Mattison, Senior Beach Lifeguard Lucas Buckman, Senior Beach Lifeguard Anders Hamborg, Lifeguard I Cooper Edgar, Lifeguard I Tegan Cannon





# *LIFEGUARDS*

## 2024 Lifeguard Division Activity

Preventive Actions	14,858
Ocean Rescues	1,419
Medical Aids	1,635
Boat Assists	73
Found Children	193
Swiftwater Rescue Team Activations	9
Junior Lifeguard Participants	817
Animal Rescues	78

# LIFEGUARDS

## Lifeguard Responses

