



# PALM BEACH GARDENS FIRE RESCUE

## 2024 FOURTH QUARTER REPORT



*Congratulations to our EMT Paramedic Class of 2024*

**PATIENT CARE SATISFACTION RATING: 95.41%**

**COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION SATISFACTION RATING: 100%**

**CPR ATTENDEES: 620**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the fourth quarter of 2024, Fire Rescue responded to **3,644** emergency calls, **66%** of which were medical calls.



Health and Safety Conference

Driver Engineer McCall and Toler, representing the Health and Wellness Committee, joined Captain Kuczynski and Fire Medic Dudley from the PEER Support Team, in attending the **Health and Safety Conference** in Orlando. The conference provided a unique opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of the latest safety practices, regulations, and emerging trends. They participated in a variety of workshops, seminars, and networking events designed to enhance workplace health and safety standards, with a focus on improving both physical and mental well-being for first responders.

The **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Palm Beach Gardens Police & Fire Foundation Golf Tournament** took place at The Country Club at Mirasol on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This annual tradition continues to strengthen community ties and support the Foundation's mission to enhance the safety of our community.

Assistant Chief Lamb, Lieutenant Pye, and Fire Medic White attended the **Florida Firefighter Memorial Ceremony** to honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The ceremony included a solemn procession, the reading of names, and a moment of silence to pay tribute to the fallen firefighters. It was a powerful occasion that brought together first responders, their families, and the community to recognize the bravery and sacrifices made by those who gave everything in service to others.

Division Chief Lezza took part in the **Suits for Seniors** initiative, a program designed to help high school seniors achieve their fullest potential in both career and life after graduation. The program was offered at both Palm Beach Gardens High School and Dwyer High School.



Health and Safety Conference



Fire Administration Manager Stuglik was presented with a **Volunteer Appreciation Certificate** in recognition of her outstanding service to the **Florida Consortium for Fire & EMS Accreditation and Credentialing**. Her efforts have significantly impacted fire and emergency services, particularly through her leadership in driving continuous quality improvement initiatives.



Division Chief Held, along with Logistics Coordinators Orr and Diaz and Quartermaster Preston, successfully completed the **Advanced Cleaning and Inspection** course in accordance with NFPA 1851 standards. The course covered detailed cleaning procedures, proper product concentrations, and certified inspections of turnout gear, ensuring our personnel are equipped with well-maintained and safe equipment.

Fire Rescue partnered with The Benjamin School to help them achieve their "**Heart Safe School**" designation through Nicklaus Children's Hospital and the Project Adam Program. The program includes training schools to establish an Emergency Action Plan, ensure CPR certification for all staff, and have AEDs readily accessible for use. The school successfully passed their evaluation and earned the "Heart Safe School" status—an exceptional accomplishment.



The Benjamin School is the first school in Palm Beach Gardens to achieve the 'Heart Safe School' designation.



The department celebrated the arrival of **Engine 63** and **Engine 65** with a **Push-Back Ceremony**, honoring the traditions of our fire service. Department members, city staff, and community supporters came together to officially place the new engines into service. The event served as a tribute to our history while highlighting the department's commitment to excellence, blending time-honored customs with modern advancements in firefighting.



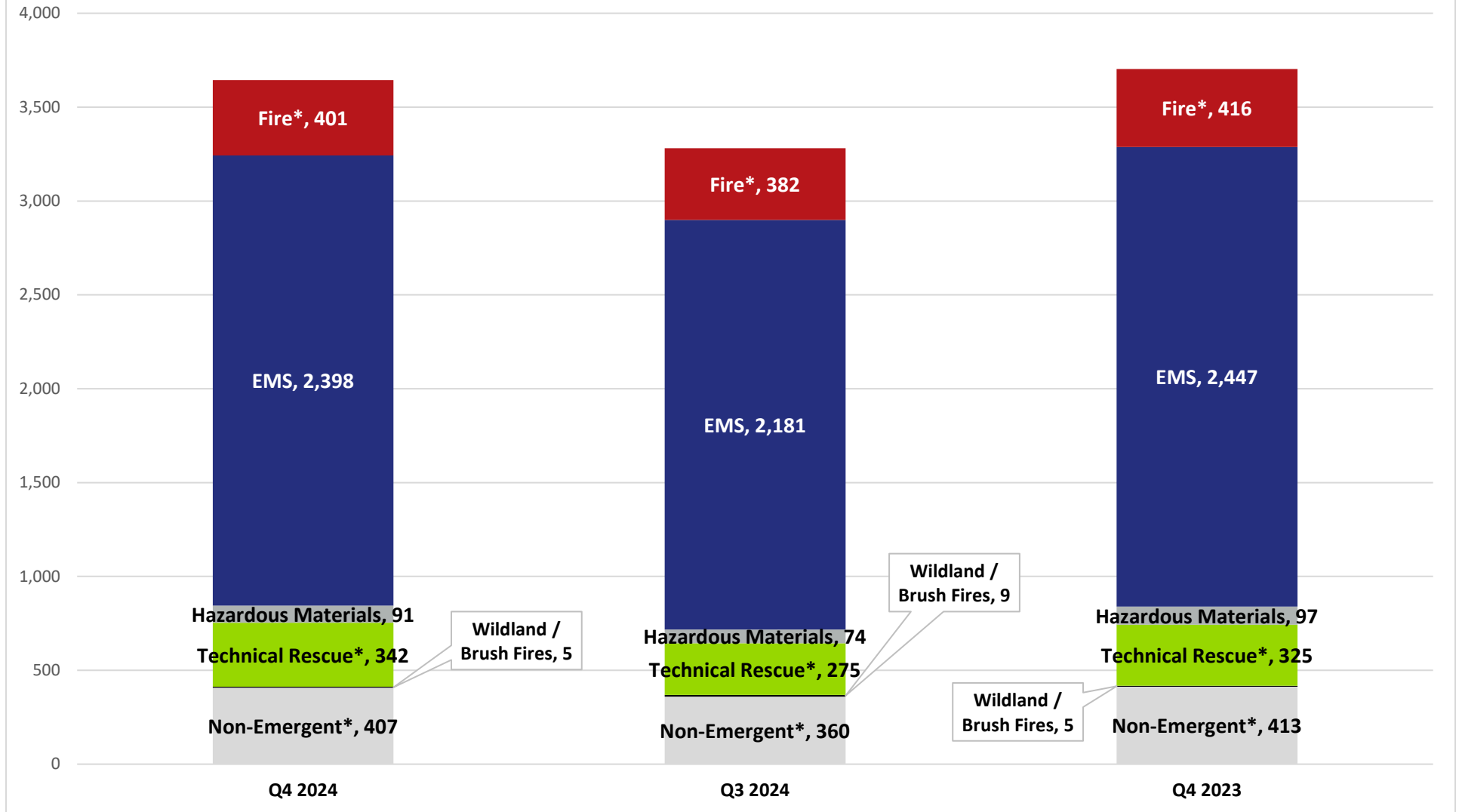
*Pictured from left to right: Retired Division Chief of Training Olsen, Retired Division Chief of Support Services Boniewski, and Retired Captain Gillins.*



# OPERATIONS DIVISION

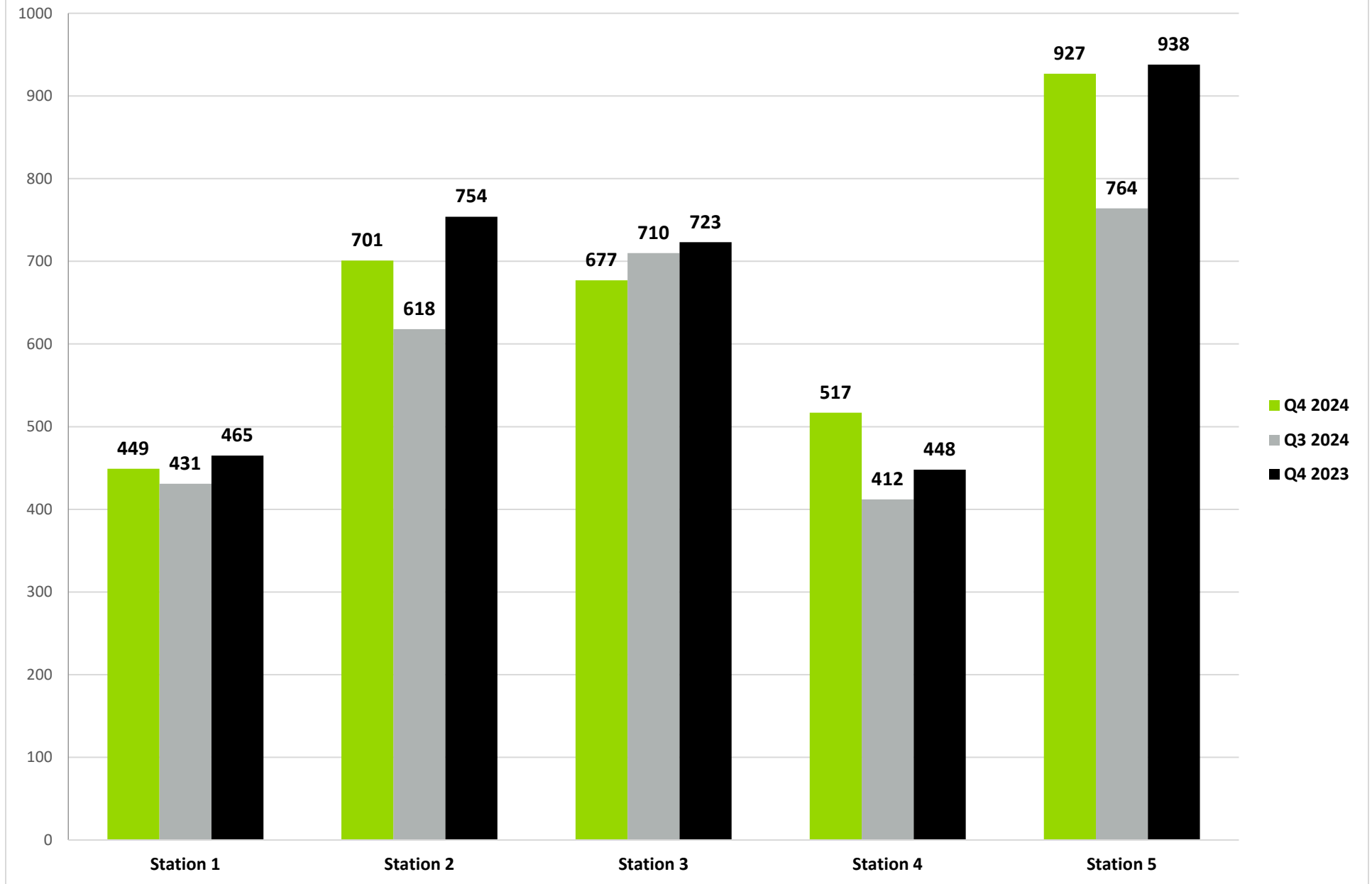
## Dispatched Call Types

(may be different than the actual call type found on arrival)



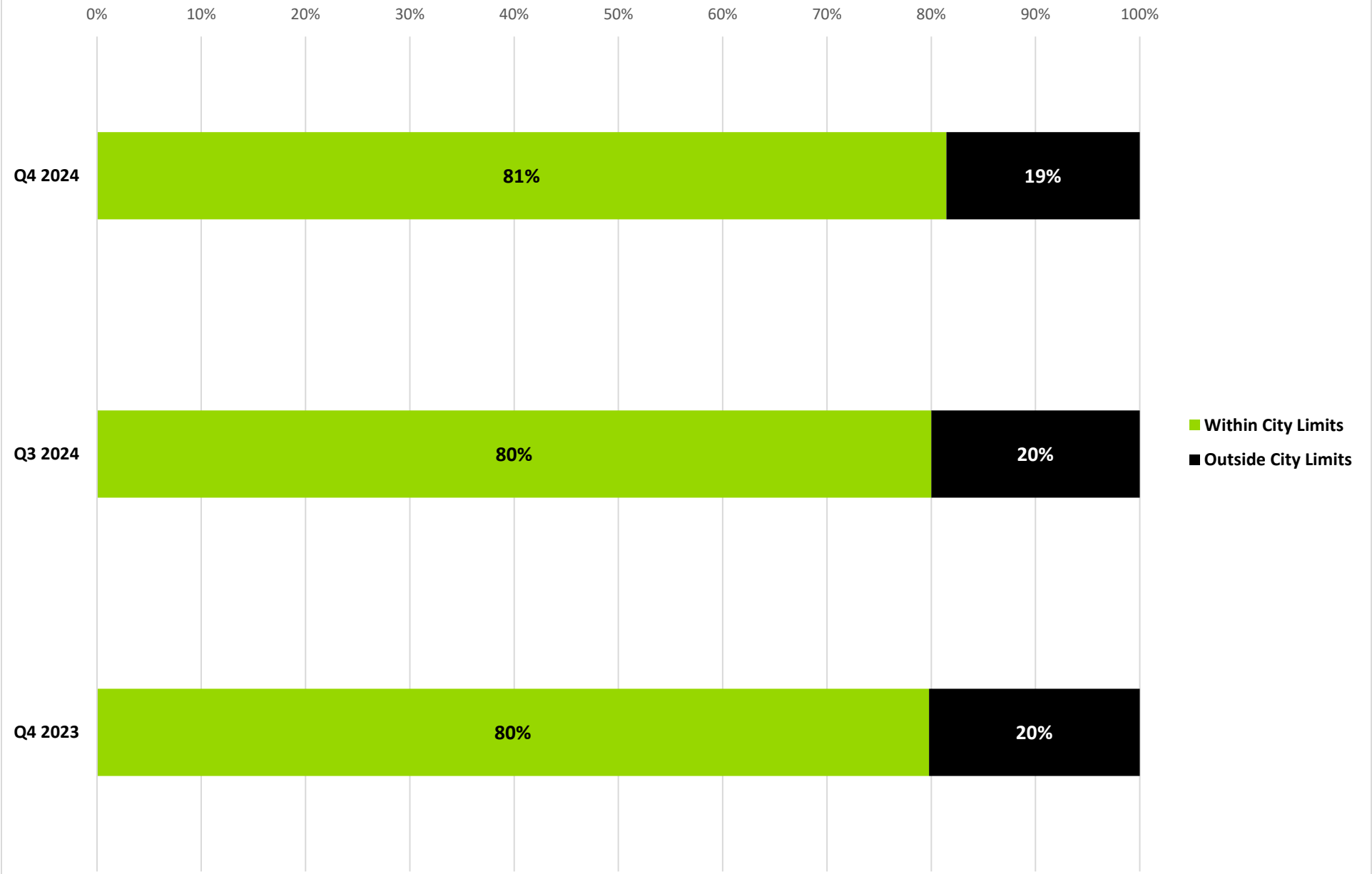
\*Fire calls include responses to fire alarms. Technical rescue emergencies include car accidents, construction accidents, open water incidents, high-angle rescue, and industrial accidents. Non-emergent responses include calls such as public assists, investigations, or falls without injuries.

## Total Call Volume by Station Zone

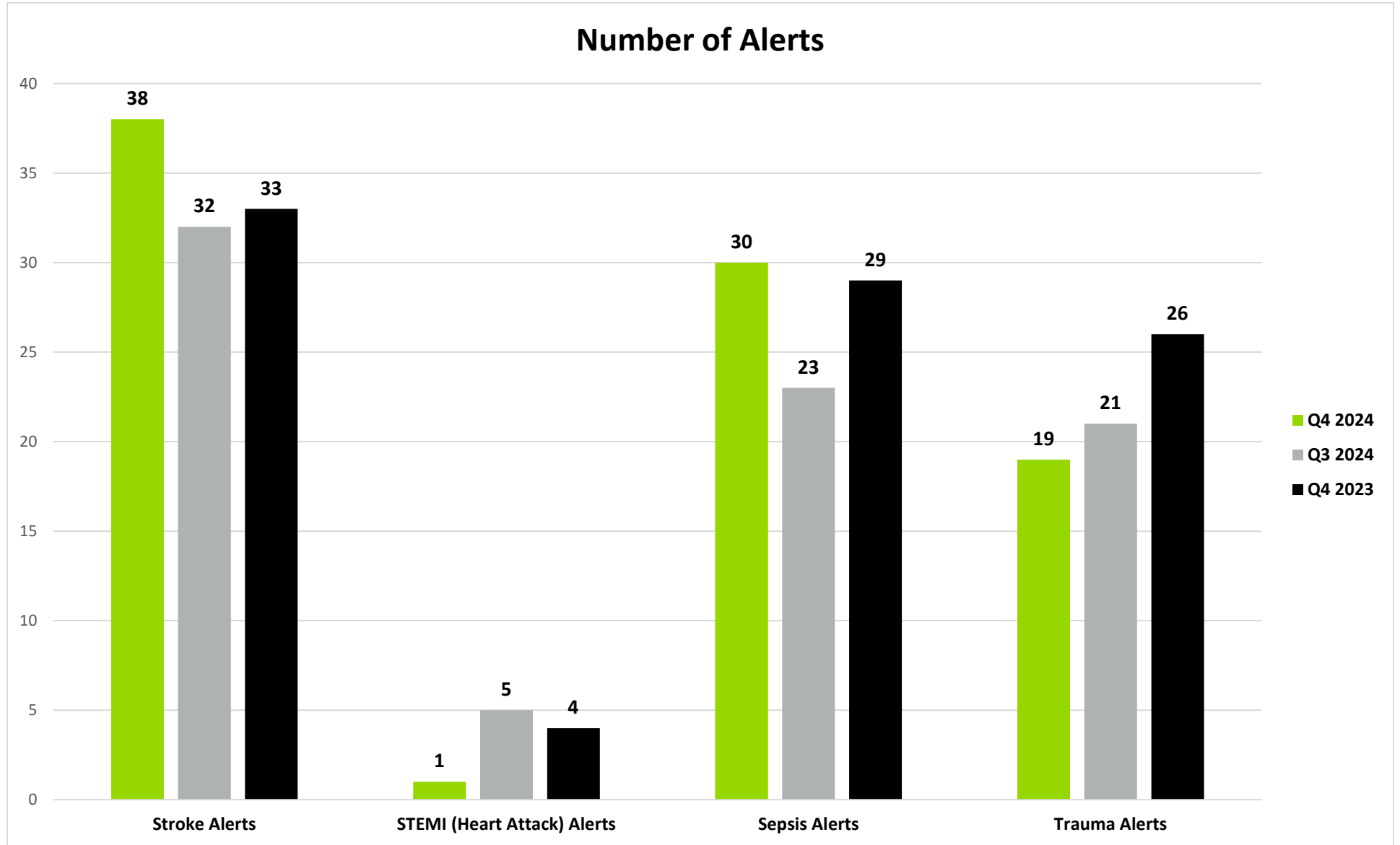


Please refer to Page 16 of our "2023 Annual Report" for a detailed list of fire station locations.

# Calls Inside and Outside of City Limits



# EMS DIVISION



*Patients that meet “alert” criteria are critically ill and require rapid transport to specialty hospitals so that they can receive the best possible care to decrease morbidity and mortality. The goal is to provide rapid stabilization and short on-scene times of  $\leq 10$  minutes. Hospitals are notified early so that they can prepare to receive the patient upon Fire Rescue’s arrival.*

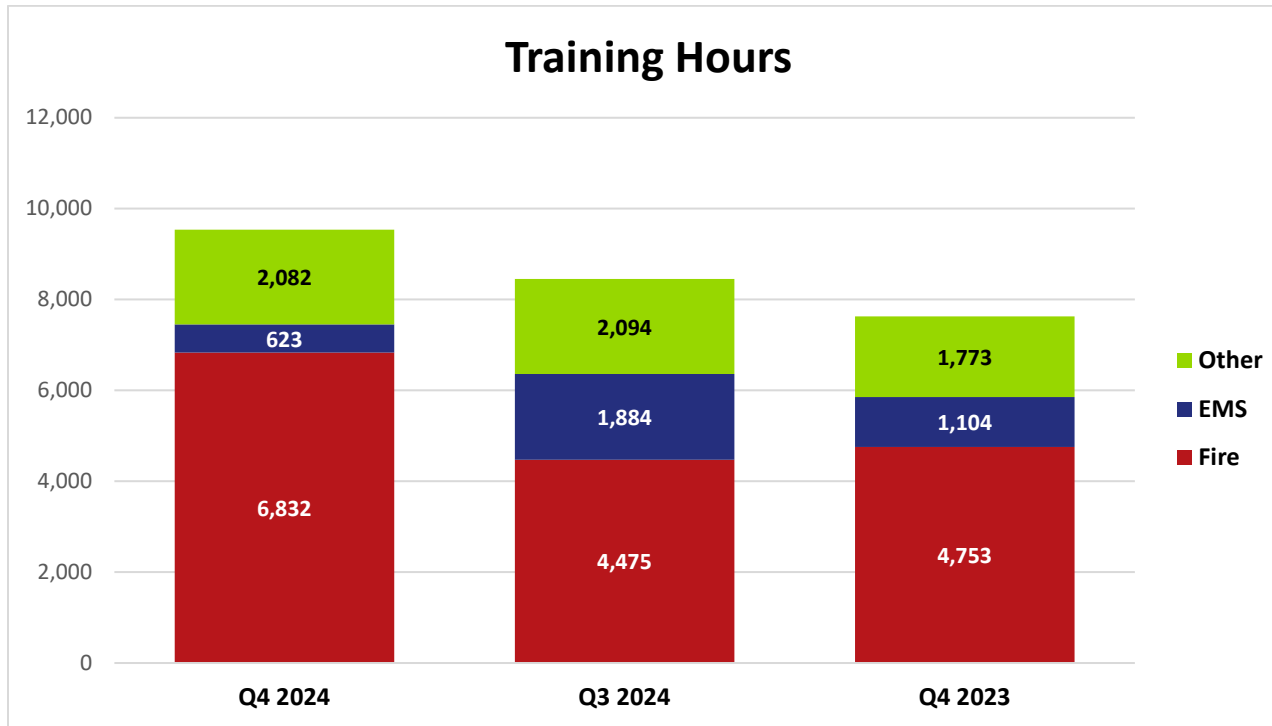




Department personnel were recognized at three **Life Saving Ceremonies** as part of the HEARTSafe program, which honors Fire Rescue teams who successfully resuscitate cardiac arrest patients while preserving neurological function upon discharge. These ceremonies bring together dispatchers, survivors and their families, and hospital staff to celebrate the collaborative efforts and dedication that contribute to life-saving outcomes.



# TRAINING DIVISION



- The Department participated in **Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)/Mayday training** focused on RIT/RIC operations, proper MAYDAY declarations, firefighter packaging, and safe extractions from Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) environments. Composed of two or more firefighters, RIT teams are responsible for locating and rescuing individuals who are lost, trapped, injured, or unaccounted for during emergency operations. This training prepares firefighters to respond swiftly and effectively in critical rescue situations.
- Department personnel conducted a **Hazmat Training** session to review the Emergency Response Guide (ERG) and gain hands-on experience with hazardous materials and fuel leak equipment. The session provided team members with the necessary skills and confidence to effectively respond to emergencies involving hazardous materials or fuel leaks.
- Station 61 conducted **Extrication Training** at Trademark Metals Recycling, focusing on advanced techniques for safely removing individuals from vehicles after accidents. The hands-on session allowed personnel to practice using the latest tools and strategies to ensure rapid and safe extrications in real-world emergency situations.
- Other training hours include activities such as ‘hot wash’ discussions to review significant calls, officer development academies, and daily physical training.





The department sponsored a three-day **Live Fire Flash Over Training** in December with **North Palm Beach Fire Rescue**. Firefighters participated in live fire simulations, learning to recognize and respond to flashover scenarios. The training focused on fire suppression techniques, ventilation control, and personal safety to prepare firefighters for high-intensity fire conditions.





**A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) competition course** was built to train fire personnel the skills to rescue downed or trapped firefighters in emergencies. Completing the course improves the team's ability to respond quickly and effectively in life-threatening situations.



New firefighter recruits underwent intensive training to equip them with the essential skills and knowledge needed to perform under pressure. The training covered fire suppression, emergency medical procedures, and effective teamwork in high-stress situations. Recruits were also trained in safety protocols and decision-making under pressure. By the end, each recruit was fully prepared to contribute to the team with confidence and dedication.





The department hosted a **Live Fire Training** demonstration at the Training Tower, welcoming approximately 50 residents from the Old Palm and BallenIsles neighborhoods. The event was sponsored by the Palm Beach Police & Fire Foundation.





# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION



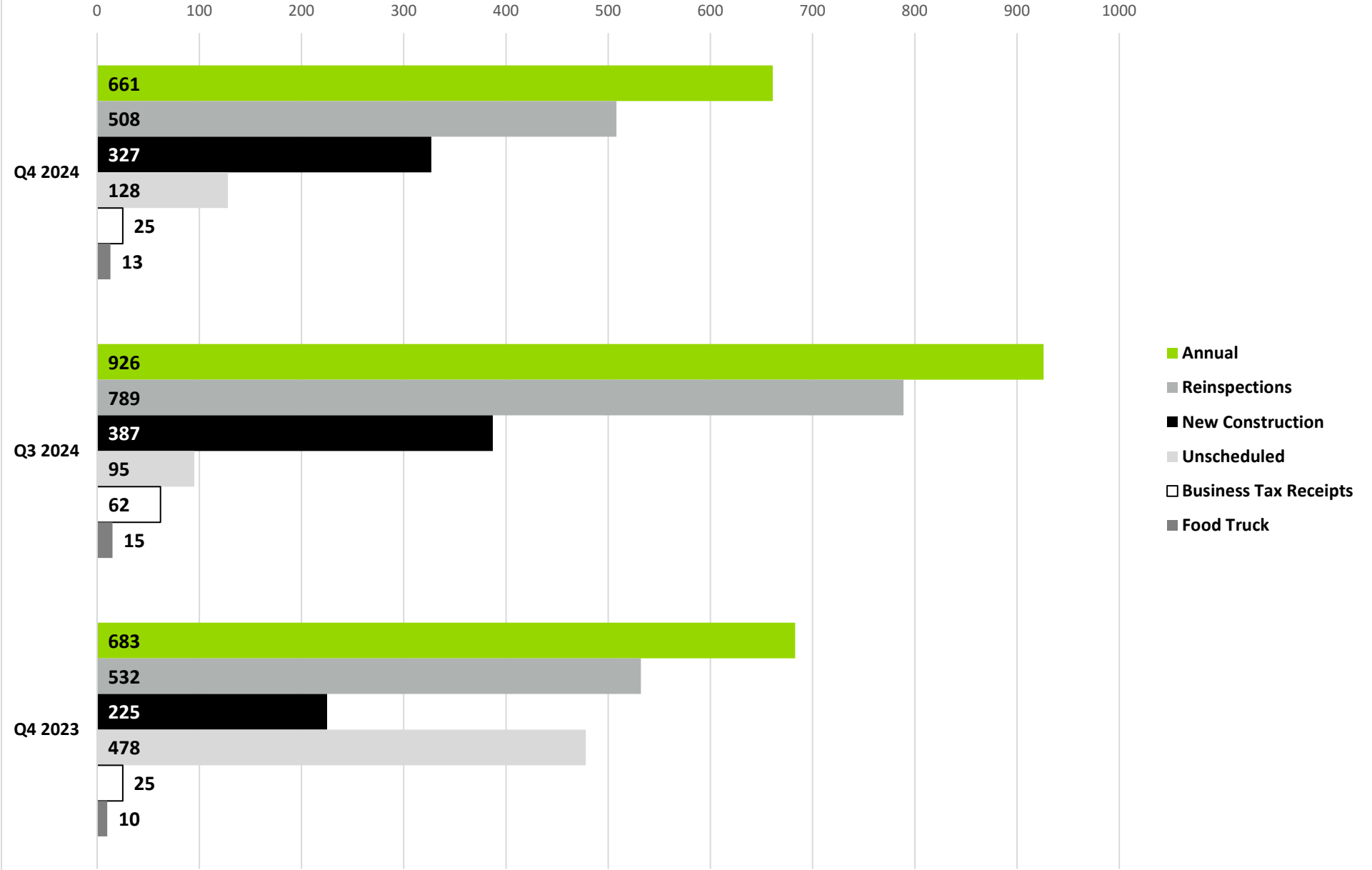
*A key highlight of this quarter was offering a CPR class to all faculty and staff at The Benjamin School. This unique session emphasized the vital role of emergency preparedness in school environments.*



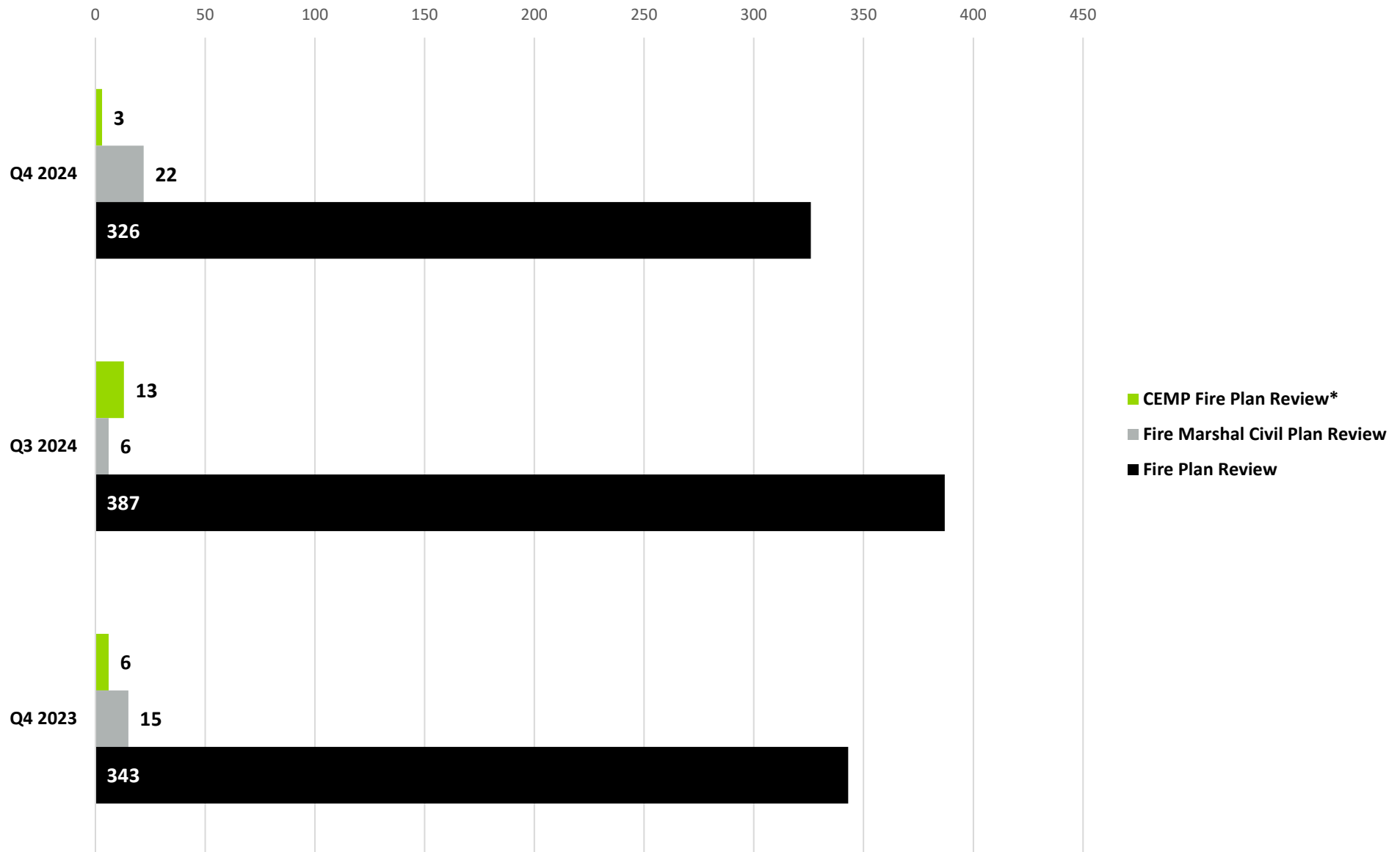
Our Community Risk Team successfully taught hands-only CPR to **620 participants** across various locations and events, including Frenchman's Creek, PGA National, Hampton Cay, and Duncan Middle School.

Additionally, the team conducted CPR training at two major city events—**Fall Festival** and the **Gardens Trailblazer 5K**—both hosted at Gardens District Park. These events provided a valuable opportunity to engage with the community and promote critical lifesaving skills.

# Inspection Activities



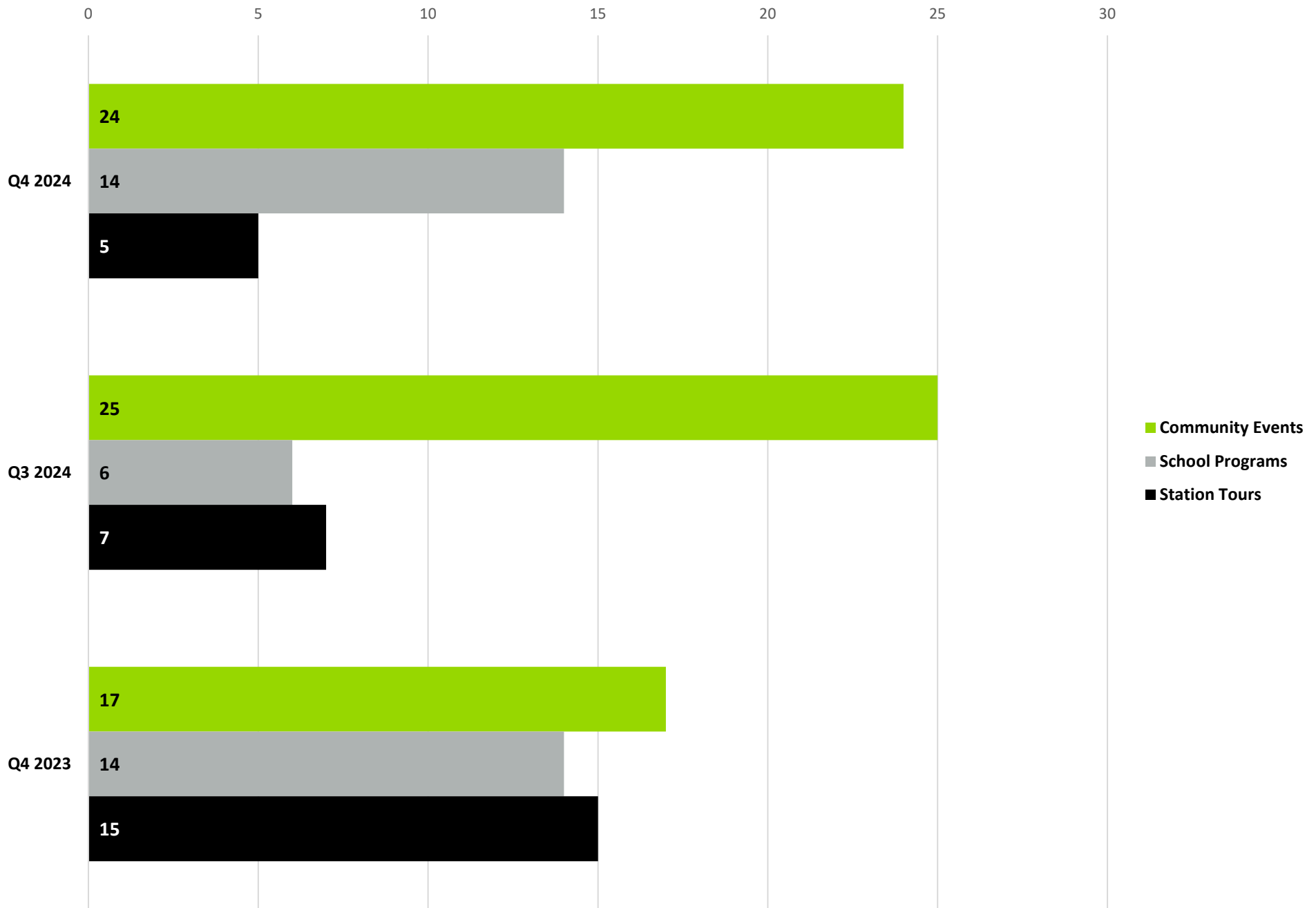
# Plan Review



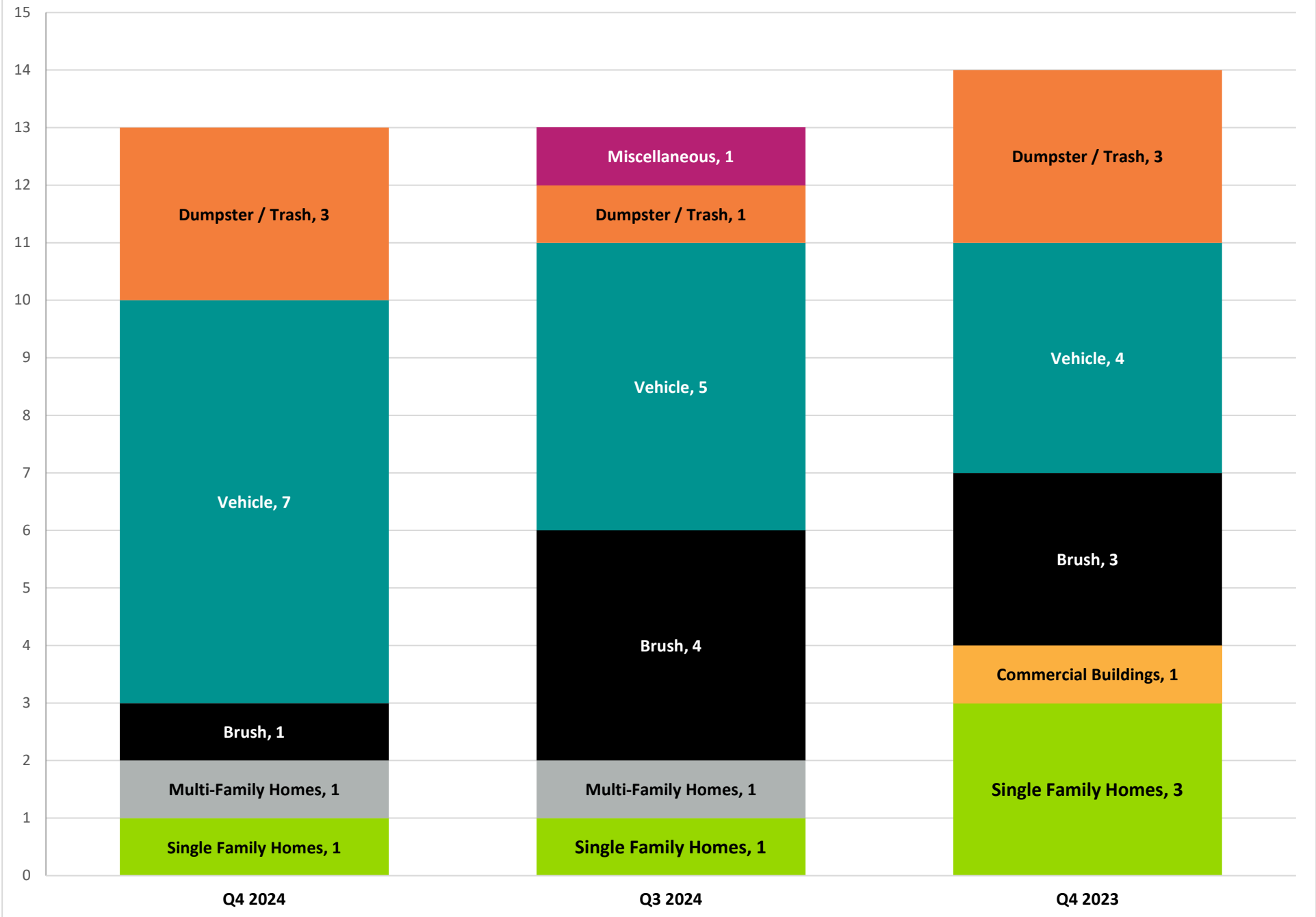
*\*Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (“CEMP”) are required by all healthcare occupancies. They are designed to help mitigate any type of threat to their operations.*



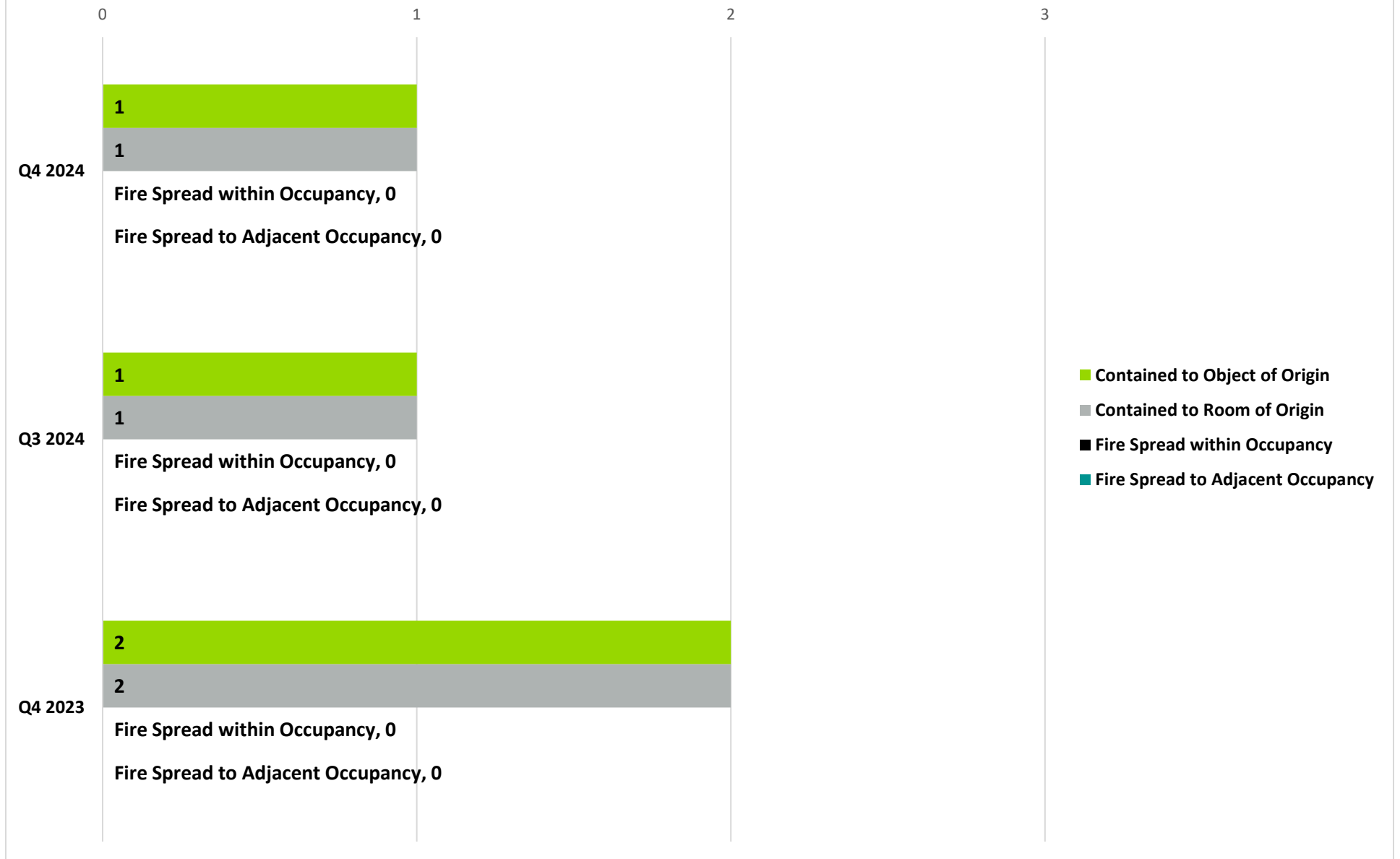
# Community Education Events



# Fire Activity Within City Limits



## Structure Fire Containment



Structure fires occur in single family homes, multi-family homes, high-rise homes, commercial, or high-rise commercial buildings. The object of origin is the item identified that first caught fire. The room of origin is the space identified where the fire started.

## ***STRUCTURE FIRE LOSS***

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024***

- *Total Dollar Loss: \$150,500*
- *Potential Loss: \$500,000*

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2024***

- *Total Dollar Loss: \$195,000*
- *Potential Loss: \$570,000*

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023***

- *Total Dollar Loss: \$3,000*
- *Potential Loss: \$4,907,651*

***Total Dollar Loss:*** *defined as the dollar amount of the property plus contents.*

***Potential Dollar Loss:*** *defined as the dollar amount of the property and contents that was saved.*



# DEPARTMENT NEWS: RETIREES, PROMOTIONS, & NEW HIRES



**Driver Engineer Steve Medford**  
**Years of Service: 29.5**

Steve Medford began his career with the department as a Firefighter on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1995. He was promoted to Driver Engineer on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999. After 29.6 years of dedicated service, Medford retired on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



**Assistant Chief Shon Broedell**  
**Years of Service: 25**

Chief Broedell started his career as a Firefighter and advanced to Driver Engineer, Fire Captain, and Division Chief of Training. He was later promoted to Deputy Fire Chief and reclassified to Assistant Fire Chief. After 25 years of service, he retired, leaving a lasting impact on the department.

Welcome to: **Courtney Preston**, hired as **Quartermaster**



## Promotion Ceremony

Front row, from left to right: Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Carsillo, Driver Engineer Bergeron, EMS District Captain Egert, Assistant Fire Marshal Seay, and Captain Hubert

Second row, from left to right: Rescue Lieutenant Hewitt, Captain Wohlitka, and Driver Engineer Walukiewicz



## Recruit Class 04-2024

Jeffrey Angotti, Justin Gorski, Michael Greco, Arthur Grossard, Mason Schocken, and Lee Yokota



**S. Ladewski** promoted to  
**Administrative Chief - Administration**

**Alex Lamb** promoted to  
**Assistant Chief – Operations**

**D. Markle** promoted to  
**Administrative Chief – Operations**



**Jesse Egert** promoted to  
**Battalion Chief**



**David Terrana** promoted to  
**EMS District Captain**



**Benjamin Carter** promoted to  
**Captain**



**Nicolas Bergeron** promoted to  
**Rescue Lieutenant**



**Michael Bordner** promoted to  
**Driver/Engineer**



**Jeysan Carvalho** promoted to  
**Driver/Engineer**



**Corey Williams** promoted to  
**Driver/Engineer**