



# **SWATARA FIRE-RESCUE**

## **Monthly Report**

### **March 2026**

**A comprehensive overview of emergency response, staffing, training, and community service in Swatara Township and Paxtang Borough.**



# Executive Summary

During March 2026, Swatara Fire-Rescue continued to deliver reliable and professional emergency services to Swatara Township, Paxtang Borough, and our mutual aid partners while managing sustained growth in call volume and operational demand.

The department responded to 141 incidents in March, an increase from 123 incidents in March 2025. Year-to-date, Swatara Fire-Rescue has handled 409 incidents, compared to 351 during the same period in 2025, reflecting a continued upward trend in service demand across our response area.

Incident activity remains diverse, with the largest categories including medical emergencies, public service calls, hazardous conditions, and fire incidents, reinforcing the all-hazards nature of our service delivery. Crews managed 24 overlapping incidents during the month, demonstrating the increasing complexity of operations and the importance of consistent staffing and resource availability.

The majority of incidents (94 calls) occurred within Swatara Township, with additional responses supporting neighboring municipalities through mutual aid. The department participated in 40 mutual-aid incidents, providing assistance regionally while also receiving support when needed.

Staffing remains a critical factor in operational performance. Station 91 continues to demonstrate strong staffing reliability; however, Station 91-5 continues to experience significant challenges, with low reliability in both three- and four-person staffing benchmarks. This results in a higher number of responses with fewer than three personnel, particularly on units assigned to the Rutherford station, and reinforces the need for continued focus on staffing improvements and system balance.

Personnel contributed 5,015 staffing hours in March and 15,084 hours year-to-date, supported by 69 active members across a combination of career and volunteer personnel. This model continues to provide flexibility, but also highlights the importance of expanding in-station staffing to ensure consistent service delivery.

Training and professional development remain a priority, with members completing 516 training hours year-to-date across a wide range of disciplines, including company training, certifications, hazardous materials, and recruit development. These efforts ensure operational readiness and maintain high professional standards. The department's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program continues to enhance operational capabilities, completing 15 operational flights and 14 training flights in March, supporting both incident response and training initiatives.

Community risk reduction efforts also remained strong, with personnel conducting outreach events and completing smoke and carbon monoxide detector checks and installations to improve life safety throughout the community.

Overall, March reflects continued growth in demand for services, coupled with strong operational performance. However, ongoing staffing challenges, particularly at Station 91-5, and the frequency of simultaneous incidents highlight the need to continue strengthening in-station staffing and improving system-wide coverage reliability to meet increasing service demands.

*Michael A. Joberson*

**Fire Chief  
Swatara Township**

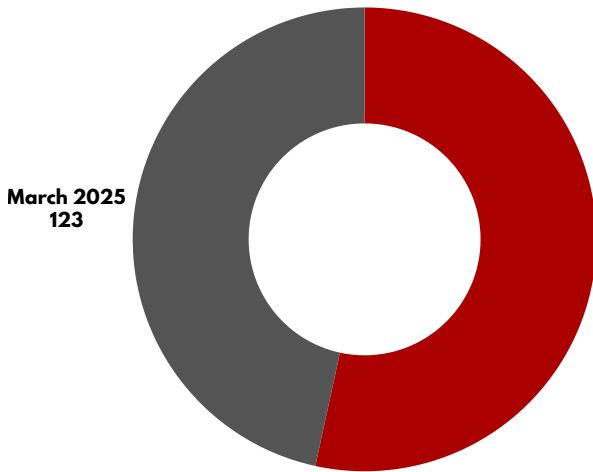




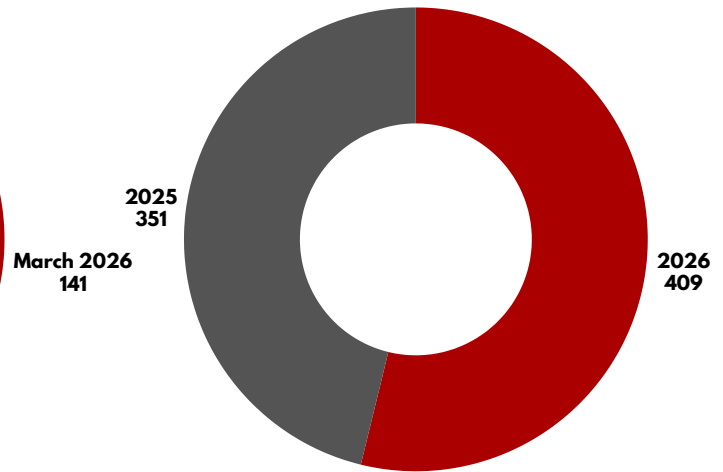
# Operations

## Incident Volume & Trends

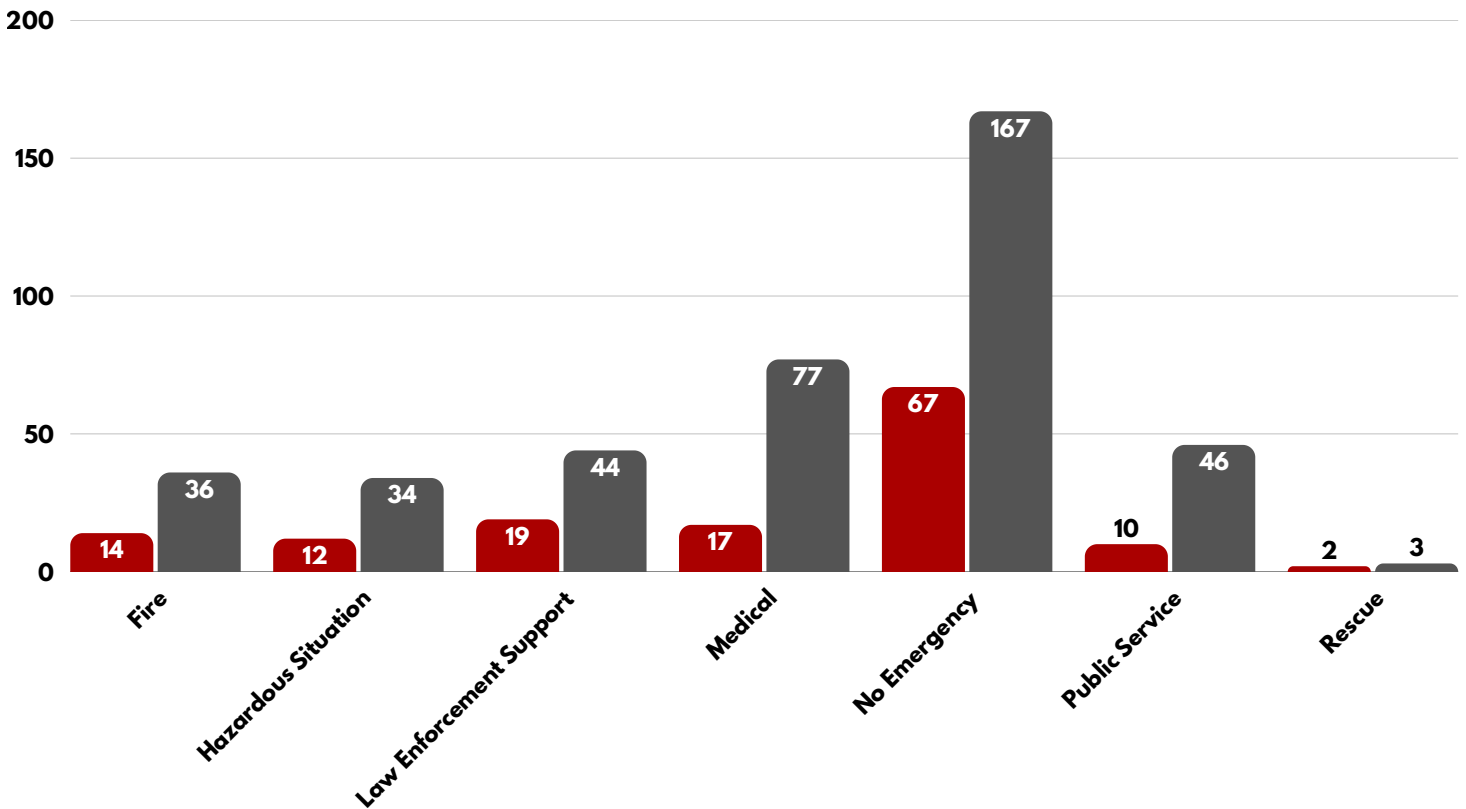
### Previous Year Month Comparison



### Previous Year to Date Comparison



● March 2026 ● 2026 Year to Date



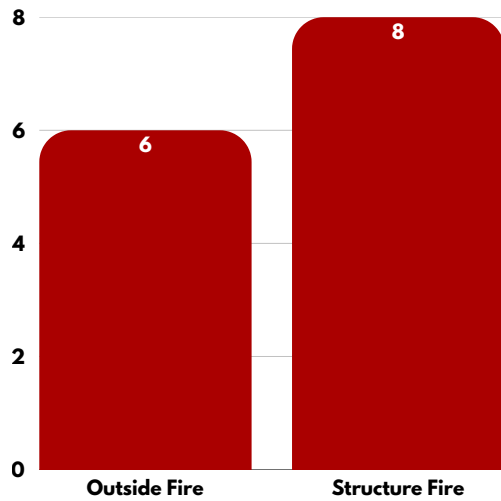


# Operations

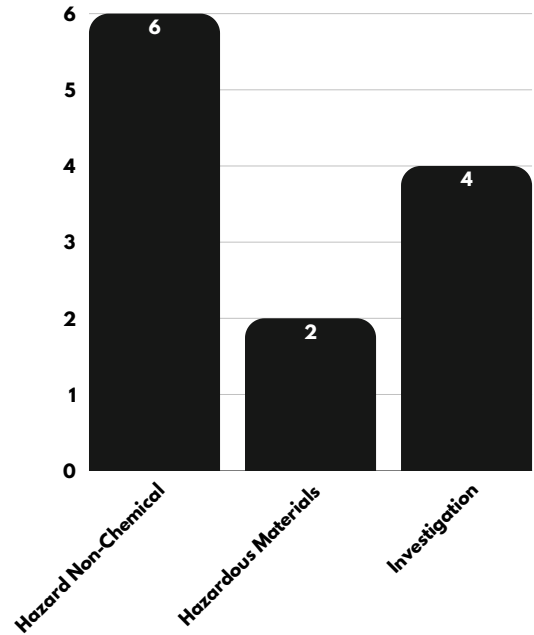
## Incident Volume & Trends March 2026

### Primary Incident Breakdown

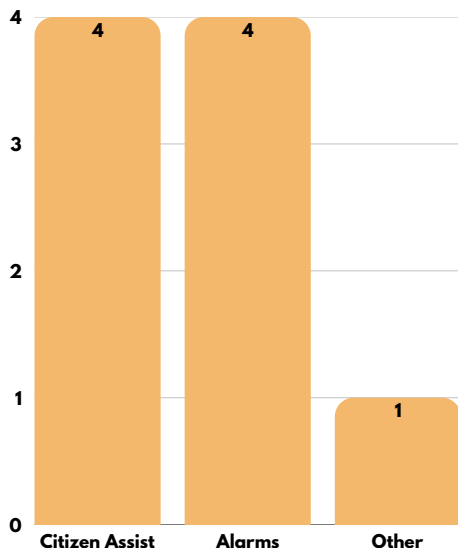
#### Fire



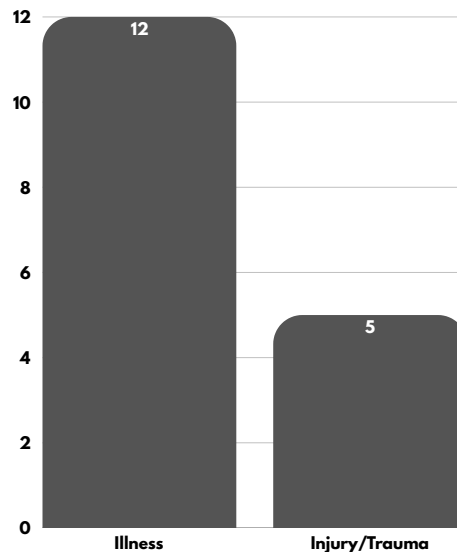
#### Hazardous Situation



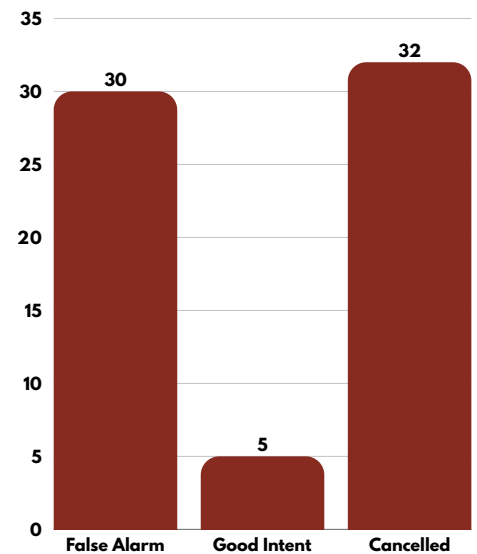
#### Public Service



#### Medical



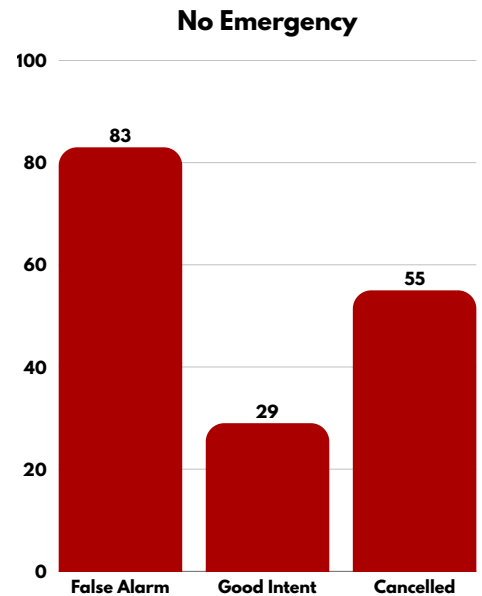
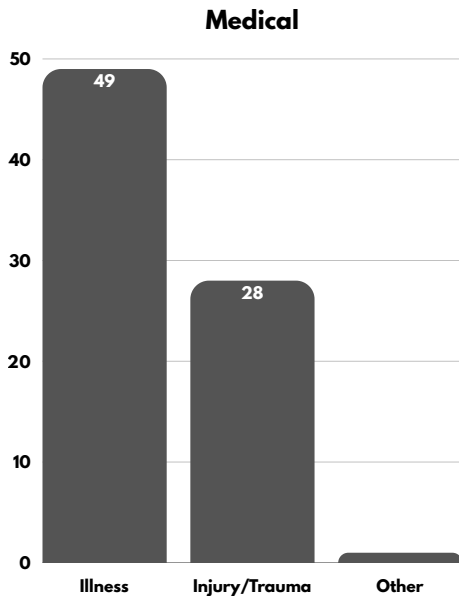
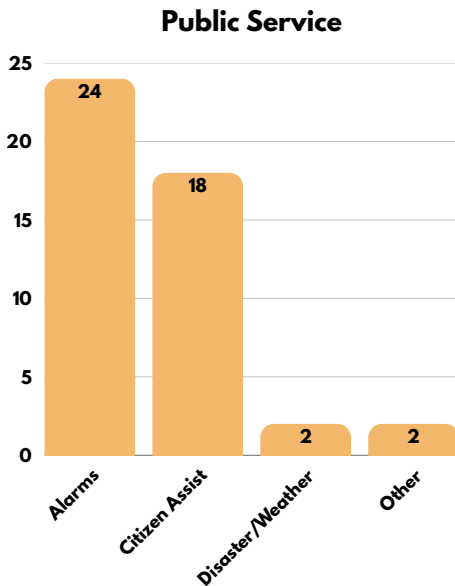
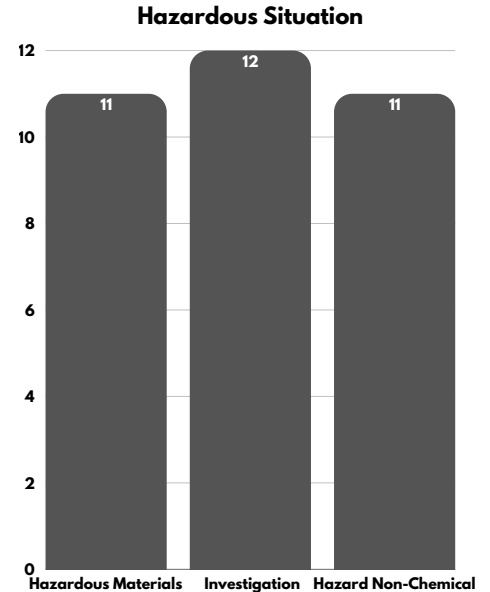
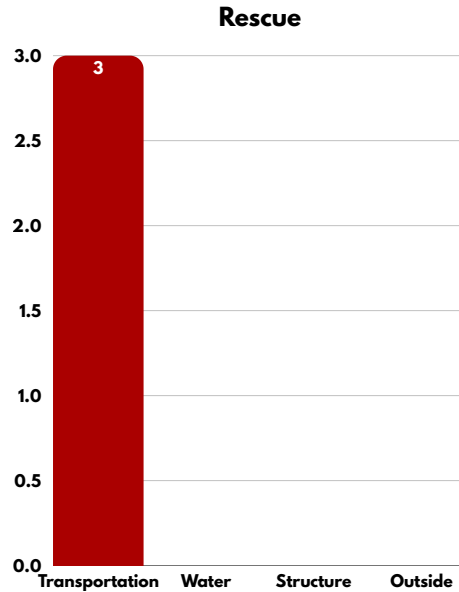
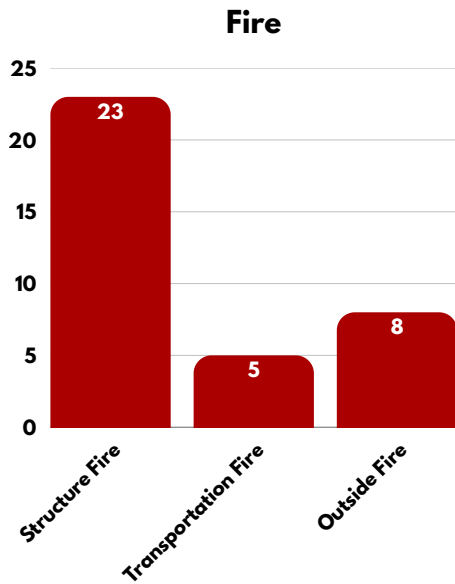
#### No Emergency





# Operations

## Incident Volume & Trends 2026 Year to Date Incident Breakdown

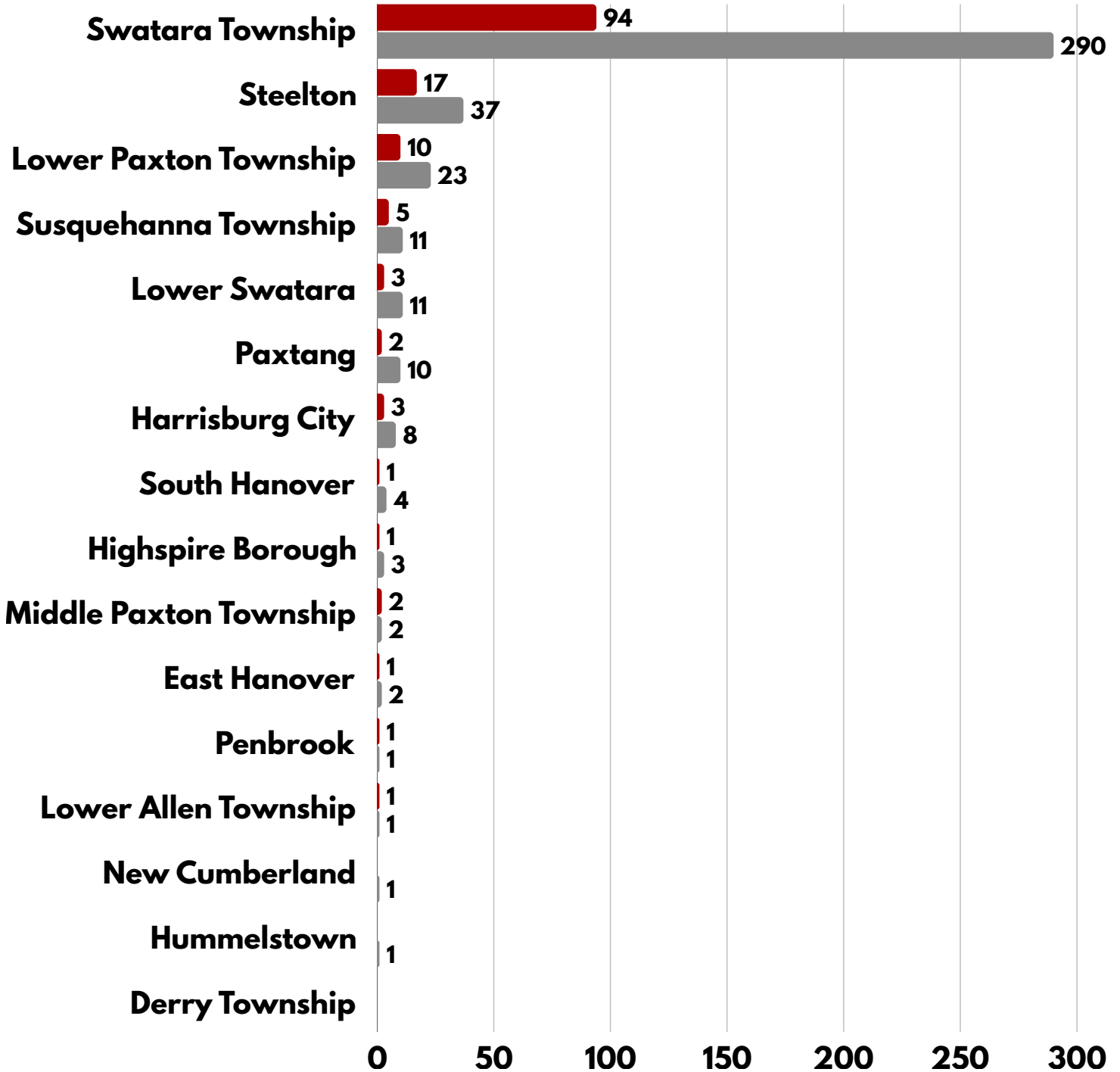




# Operations

## Emergency Response & Service Delivery

● March 2026    ● 2026 YTD





# Operations

## Emergency Response & Service Delivery

24

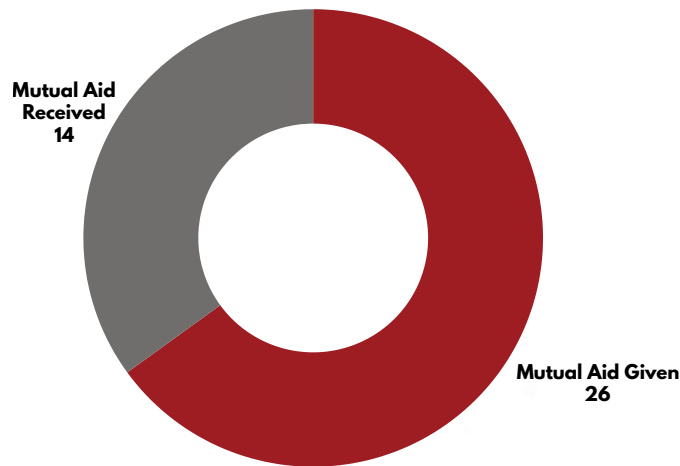
Overlapping Incidents

40

Mutual Aid Incidents

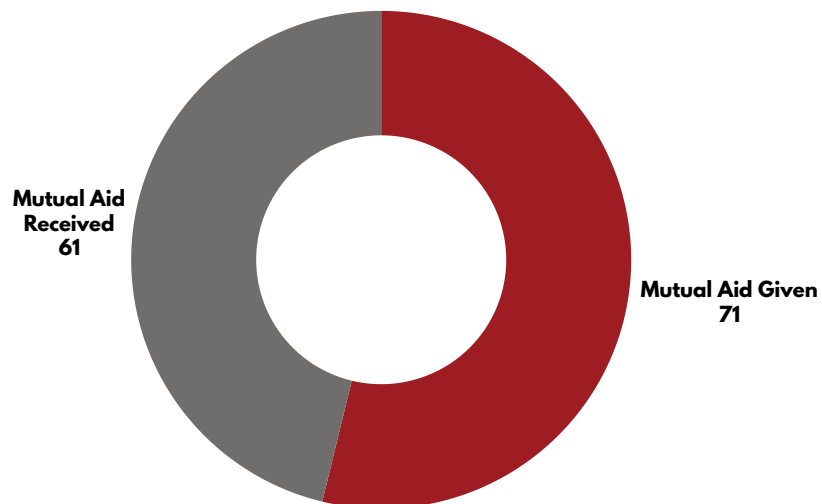
### March 2026 Mutual Aid Breakdown

- Mutual Aid Given
- Mutual Aid Received



### Year to Date 2026 Mutual Aid Breakdown

- Mutual Aid Given
- Mutual Aid Received





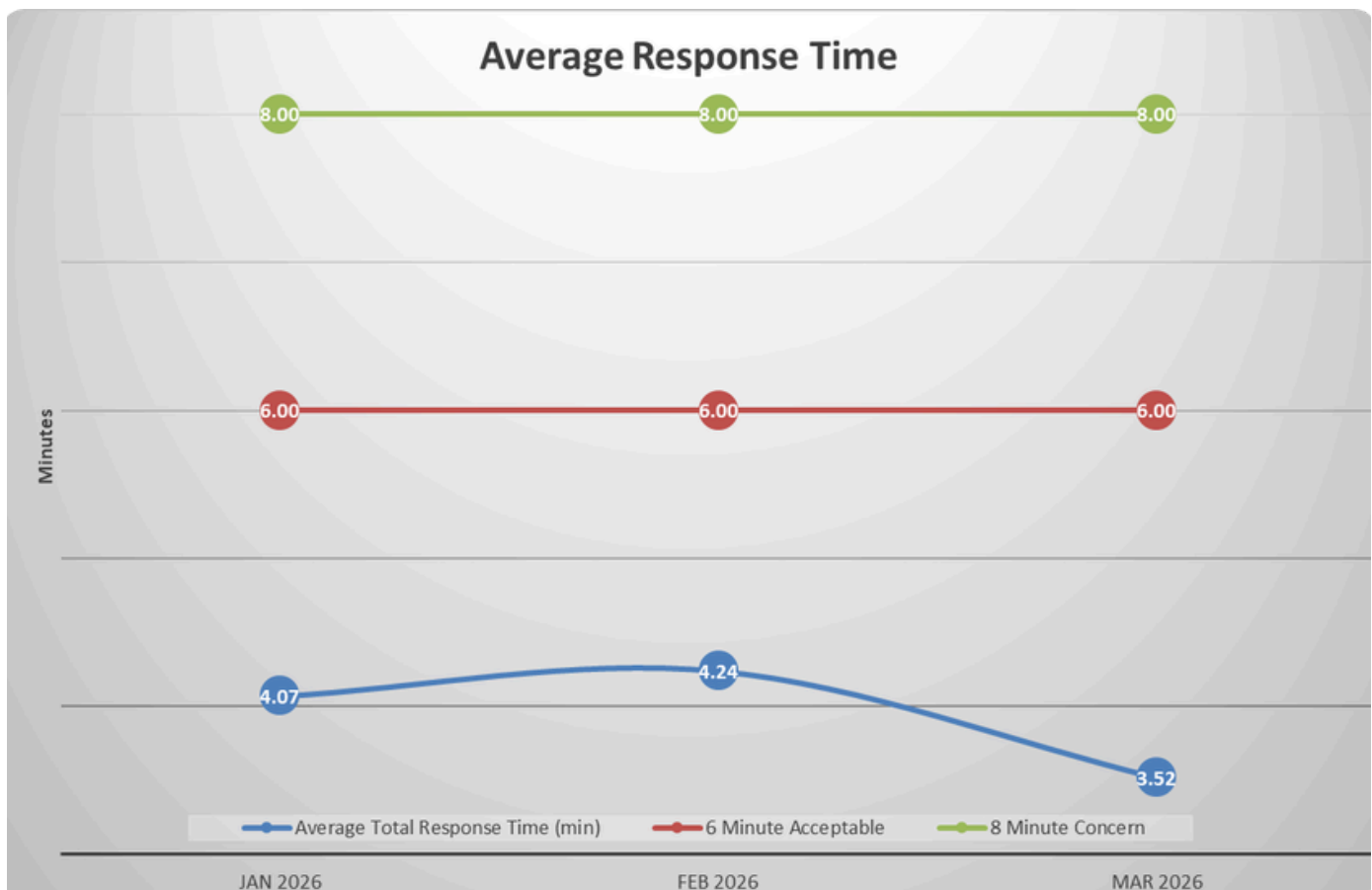
# Operations

## Emergency Response & Service Delivery

Average response time measures the time from dispatch to unit arrival on scene, providing a clear indicator of how quickly Swatara Fire-Rescue is delivering service across the township. This metric is particularly important as it reflects the impact of staffing, station location, and unit availability.

While average response time is useful for identifying trends and assessing system performance, it has limitations. It does not fully capture factors such as call complexity, simultaneous incidents, or variations in staffing levels. Most importantly, it does not show where gaps occur when units are not staffed in-station or when coverage must be shifted between stations.

Swatara Fire-Rescue considers a response time of 6 to 8 minutes acceptable under current conditions. As average response times approach 7 minutes, it becomes a concern and often indicates reduced in-station staffing or increased reliance on volunteers responding from home. Sustained averages of 8 minutes or more are considered unacceptable, as they can negatively affect incident outcomes and indicate system strain. Consistent in-station staffing, at both stations 91 & 91-5 has been shown to significantly reduce response times by improving turnout and travel efficiency. We need to maintain and expand this staffing model to keep response times within acceptable ranges and ensure reliable service delivery across the township and Paxtang. This data should be evaluated alongside staffing levels, unit availability, and call volume to provide a complete picture of system performance and to guide future staffing and deployment decisions.



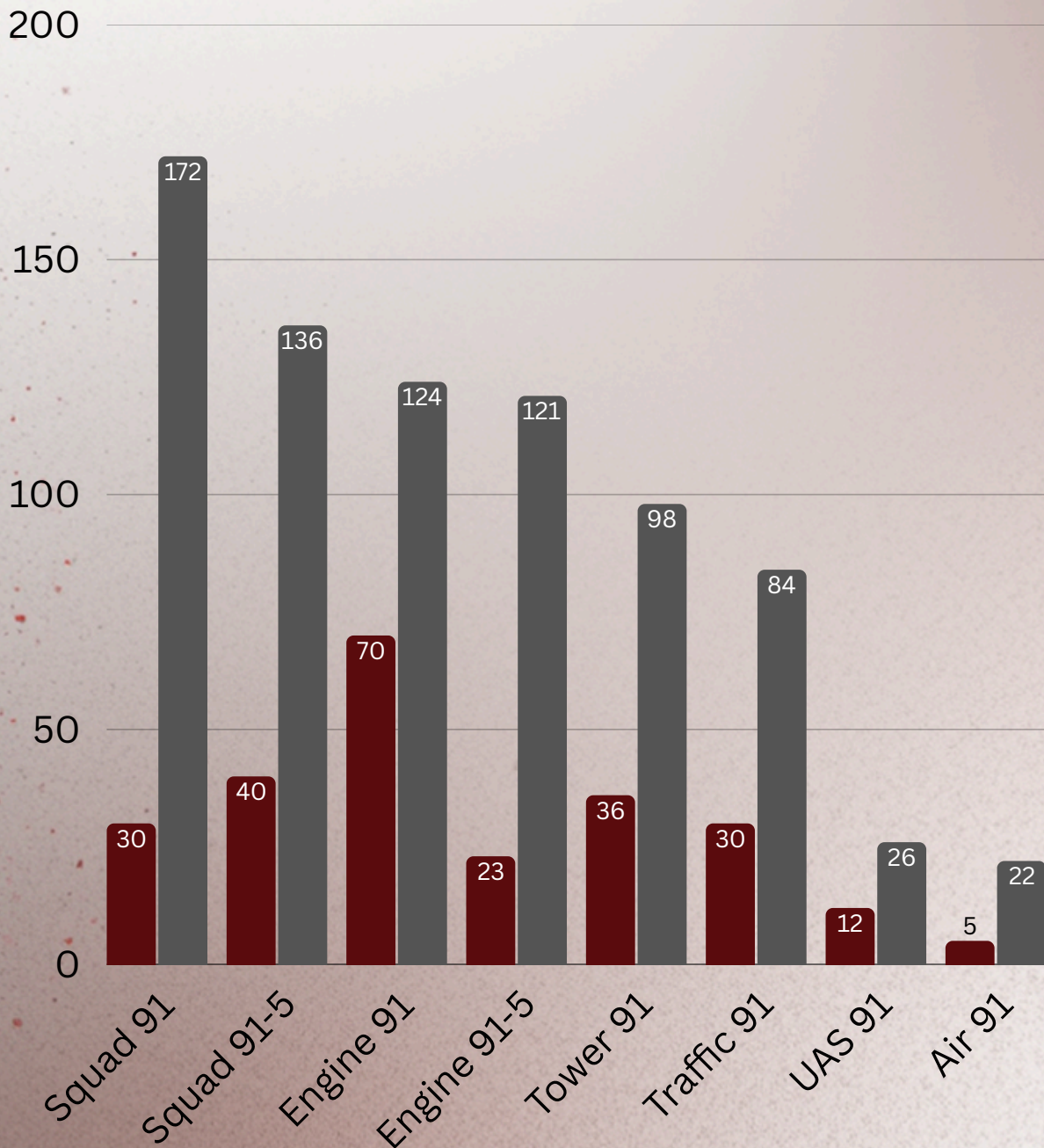


# Operations

## Response Distribution & Demand

### Apparatus Responses

● March 2026    ● Year to Date



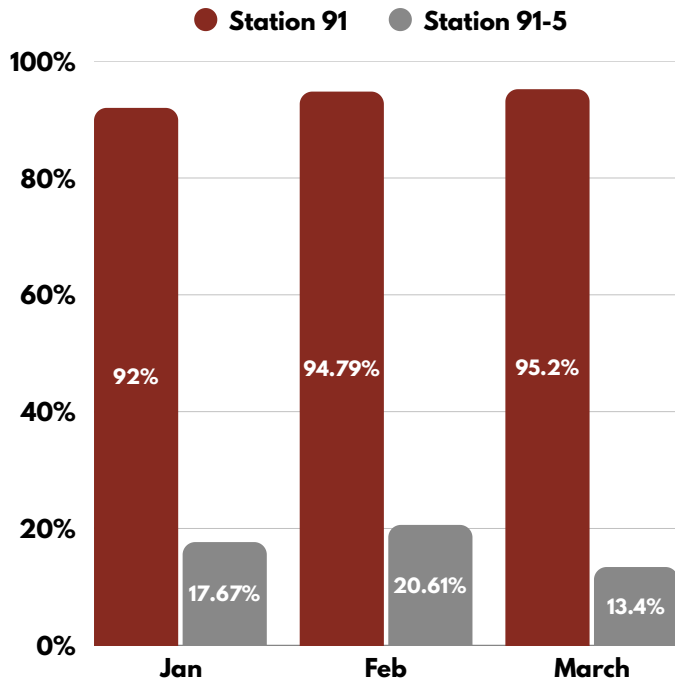


# Staffing

## Coverage Reliability

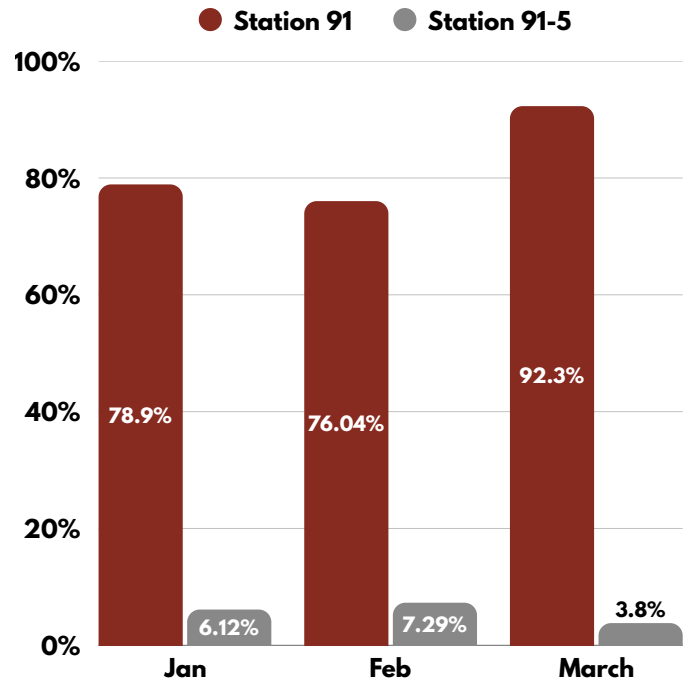
### Staffing Reliability 2026

3 Personnel



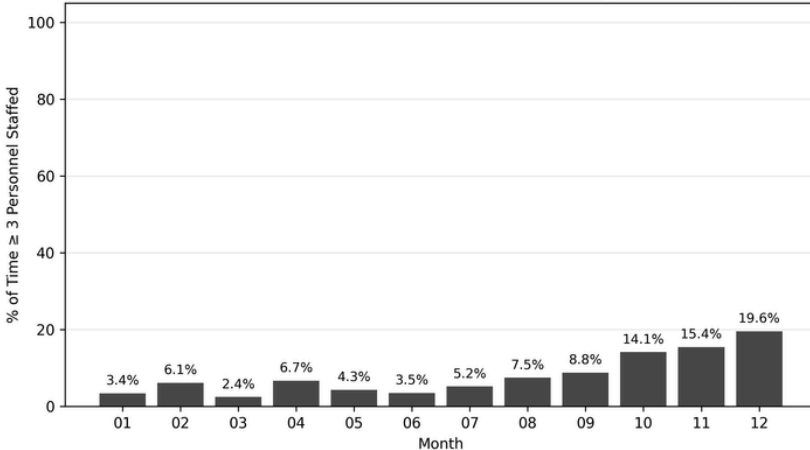
### Staffing Reliability 2026

4 Personnel

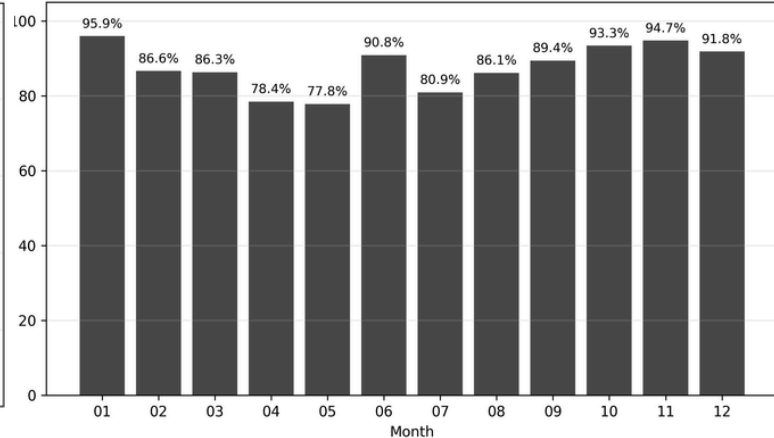


## 2025 Staffing Reliability

Station 91-5 - Monthly Minimum Staffing Reliability



Station 91 - Monthly Minimum Staffing Reliability



Minimum staffing defined as ≥3 personnel. NFPA recommends 4 personnel for initial engine company operations.

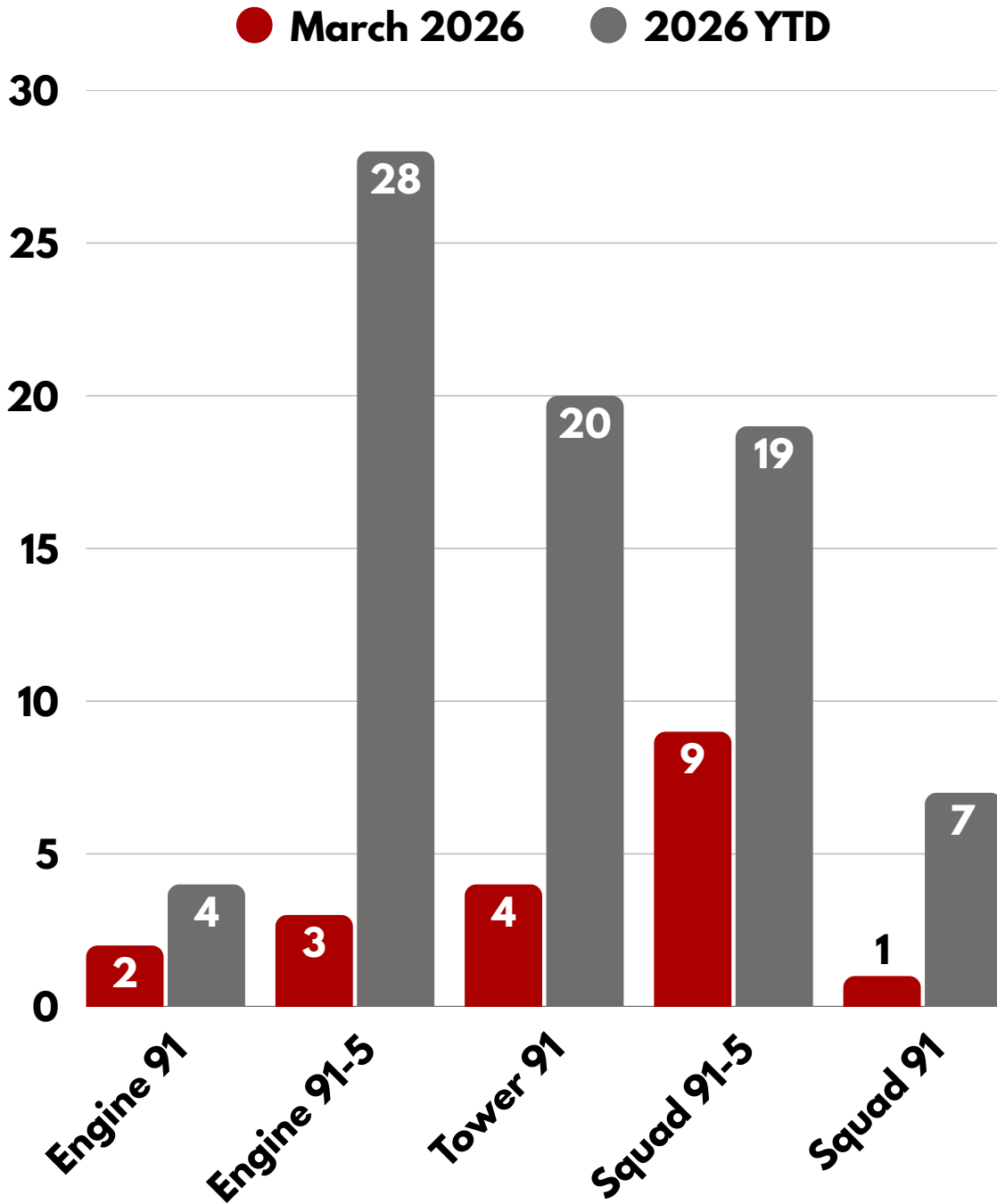
Minimum staffing defined as ≥3 personnel. NFPA recommends 4 personnel for initial engine company operations.



# Staffing

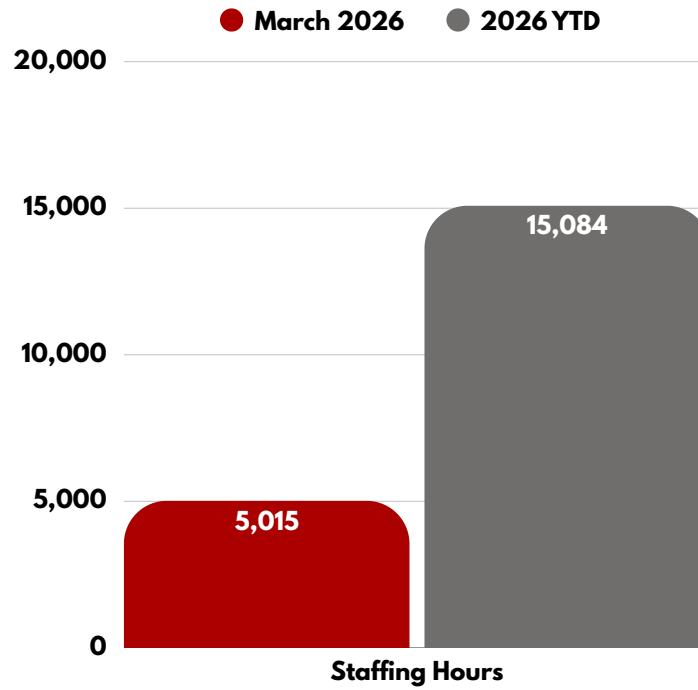
## Understaffed Responses

Apparatus Responses with less than 3 personnel

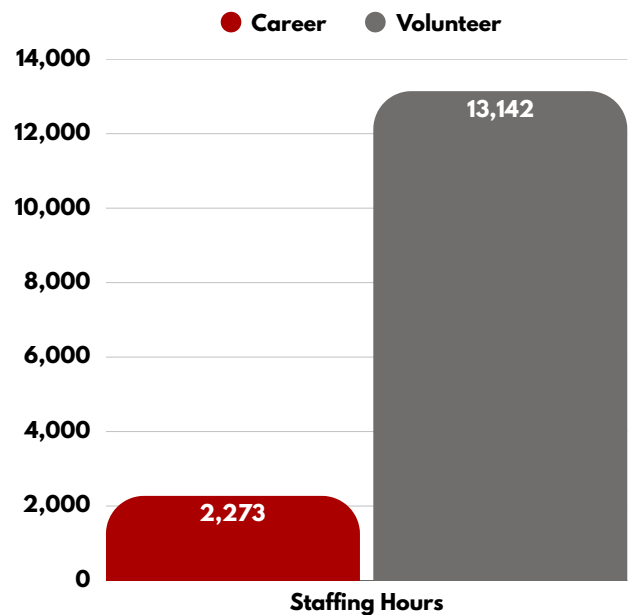




# Personnel Report



## Career Vs Volunteer Staffing Hours YTD



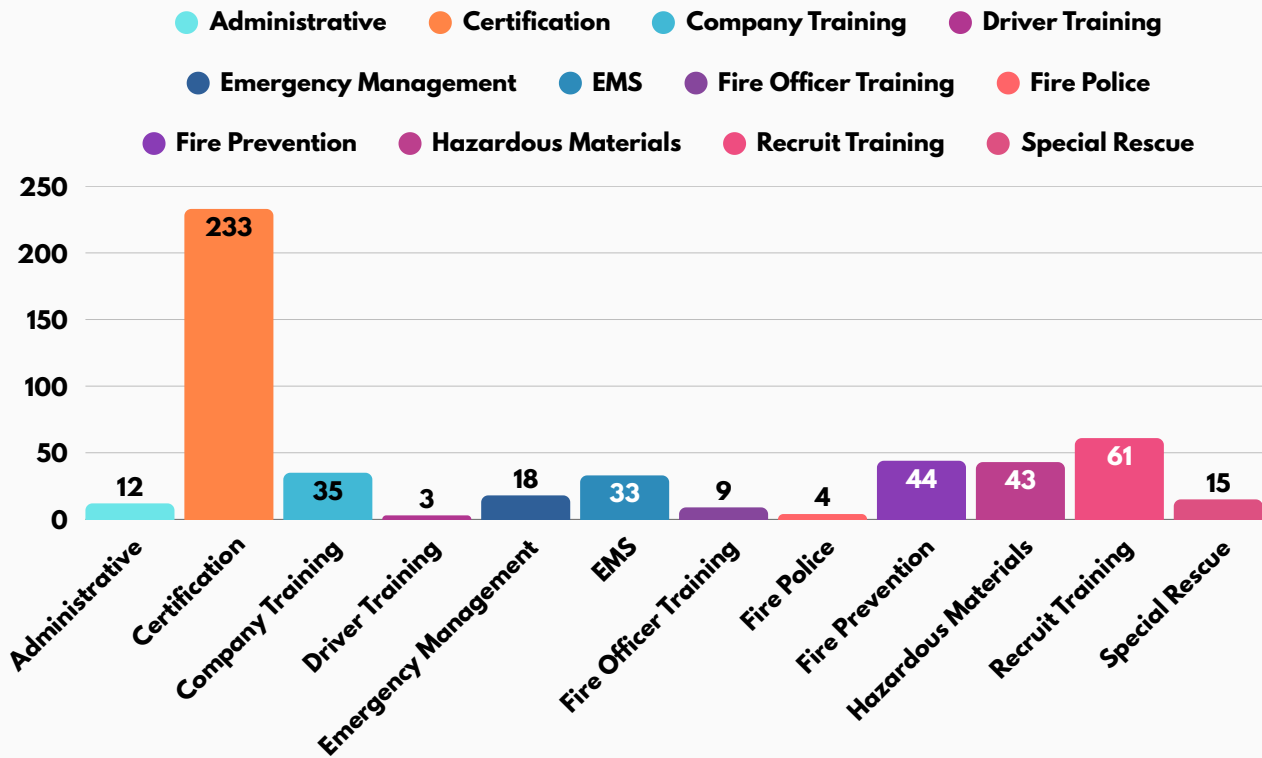
**Active Personnel**  
**69**



# Training & Professional Development

**516**  
Training Hours YTD

## Training Hours By Category Year to Date





# *Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Program*

**Drone**

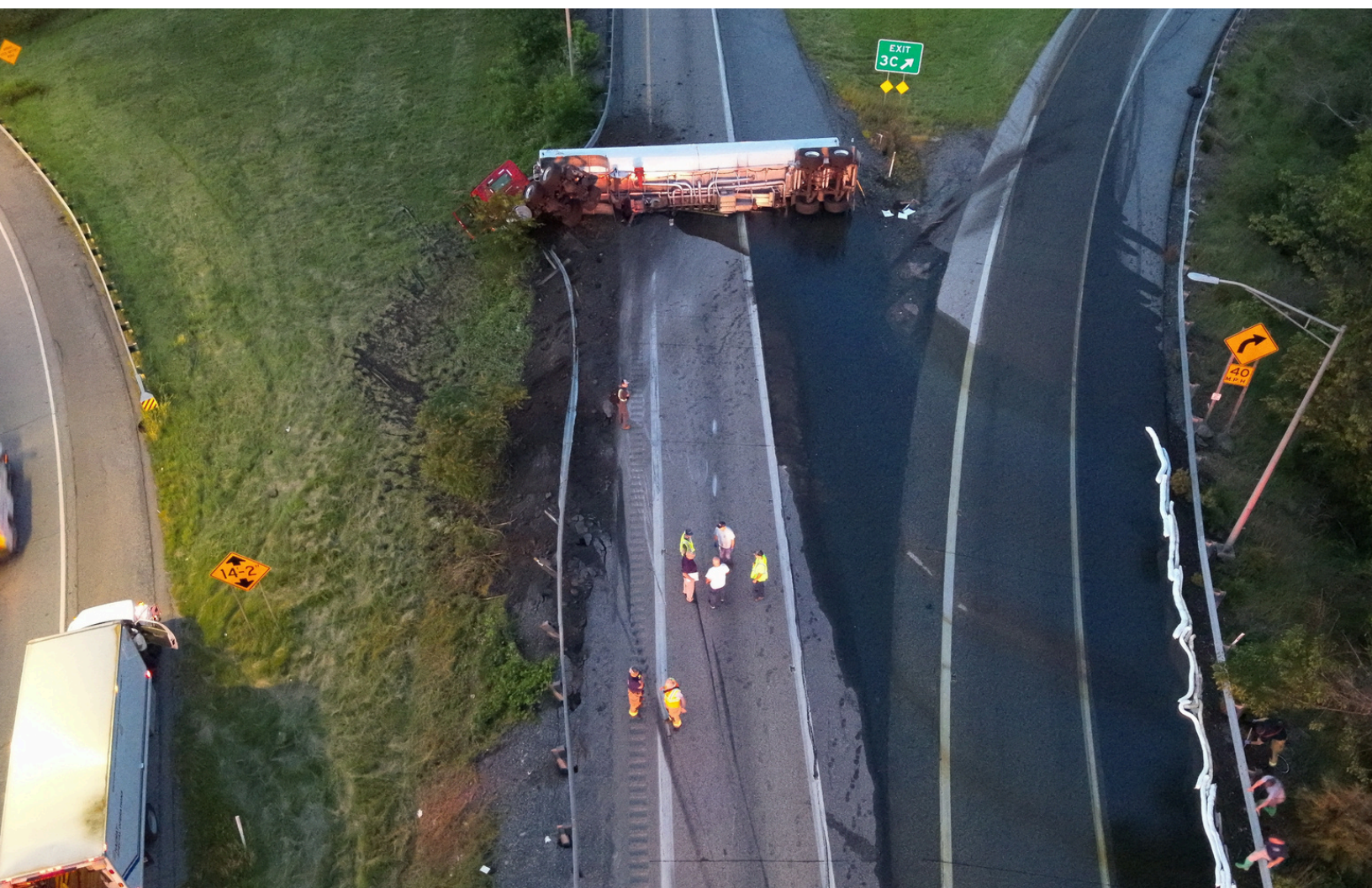
## **Number of Flights**

**March 2026**

**Training Flights**  
**14**



**Operational Flights**  
**15**

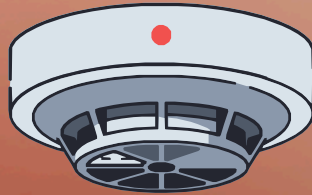




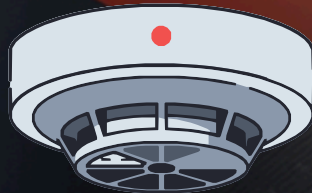
# Community Outreach

**3**  
Events

**12**  
Smoke  
detectors  
checked



**8**  
Smoke  
detectors  
given



**8**  
Smoke  
detectors  
installed



**4**  
CO  
detectors  
installed



**2**  
CO  
detectors  
checked

**4**  
CO  
detectors  
given

# VOLUNTEER TODAY!

When you volunteer at Swatara Township Fire Rescue, you have access to our unbeatable incentive program.

Incentives you can earn with us:

- Monthly + certification cash incentives
- Top-of-the-line turnout gear provided
- A family environment
- Free gym membership
- Discounted cell phone and satellite TV program
- Free online and in-person training
- Life Insurance
- Supplemental AD&D- Accidental Death and Disability Insurance
- ....and More!



LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET  
STARTED AT

**STFR91.COM**

717-564-2551



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

With our smoke & carbon monoxide detector program, we will come to you and ensure your detectors are properly installed to keep you and your loved ones safe.



**Smoke & Carbon  
Monoxide  
Detector Program**

For fire prevention information, life safety visits, station tours, guest speakers, and other requests, please utilize the event request form.



**Event  
Request  
Form**

If experiencing difficulty with the QR codes, these resources are also on our website at [www.stfr91.com](http://www.stfr91.com)