



SWATARA FIRE-RESCUE

Monthly Report

May 2026

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



Executive Summary

During May 2026, Swatara Fire-Rescue continued to experience increasing demand for emergency services while maintaining response performance and operational readiness throughout Swatara Township, Paxtang Borough, and our regional mutual aid response area.

The department responded to 164 incidents during the month, compared to 127 incidents during May 2025, representing a 29 percent increase. Year-to-date, the department has handled 722 incidents, compared to 592 incidents during the same period in 2025. This sustained increase continues to reflect growing demand for emergency services throughout the region.

Incident activity remained diverse and included structure fires, hazardous materials incidents, law enforcement support, medical emergencies, public service calls, and fire alarm activations. Crews managed 40 overlapping incidents during the month, the highest monthly total of the year, highlighting the continued importance of maintaining reliable staffing and apparatus availability across the township.

Swatara Township accounted for 111 incidents during May and remains the primary area of service demand. The department also remained heavily engaged in the regional mutual aid system, participating in 60 mutual aid incidents, including 37 responses provided to neighboring communities and 25 incidents where assistance was received.

Response performance remained within established operational benchmarks despite increased call volume and simultaneous incident activity. Average response time for May was 5 minutes and 14 seconds, remaining below the department's six-minute benchmark. Continued in-station staffing and apparatus availability remain key contributors to maintaining acceptable response performance.

Staffing reliability at Station 91 remained strong throughout the month, while Station 91-5 continued to experience challenges maintaining consistent three- and four-person staffing levels. These staffing gaps continue to contribute to understaffed apparatus responses and remain an area of operational focus moving forward.

Department personnel contributed more than 4,750 staffing hours during May, bringing year-to-date staffing hours to more than 23,000 hours. The combination of career and volunteer staffing continues to provide the operational flexibility necessary to meet increasing service demands while maintaining coverage throughout the community.

Training, professional development, and specialty team operations remained active throughout the month. Members continued to participate in company training, recruit development, hazardous materials training, fire officer development, and emergency medical training. The department's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program also remained active, supporting both operational and training missions.

Overall, May was another exceptionally busy month for Swatara Fire-Rescue. Increasing incident volume, growing numbers of overlapping incidents, and continued regional response demands reinforce the importance of maintaining dependable staffing, supporting volunteer recruitment and retention efforts, and continuing long-term planning initiatives that ensure the department remains capable of meeting the evolving needs of the community.

Michael A. Joberson

**Fire Chief
Swatara Township**



SWATARA FIRE-RESCUE

OVERVIEW | MAY 2026

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

DATA DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

164
INCIDENTS IN MAY

127 in May 2025 ↑ 29.1%

722
YTD INCIDENTS

592 in 2025 YTD ↑ 22.0%

40
OVERLAPPING INCIDENTS

28 in April 2026 ↑ 42.9%

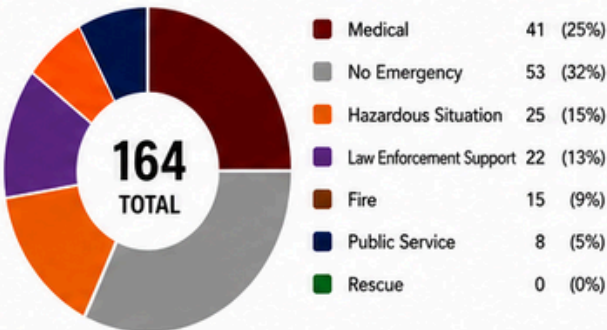
60
MUTUAL AID INCIDENTS

37 Given | 25 Received

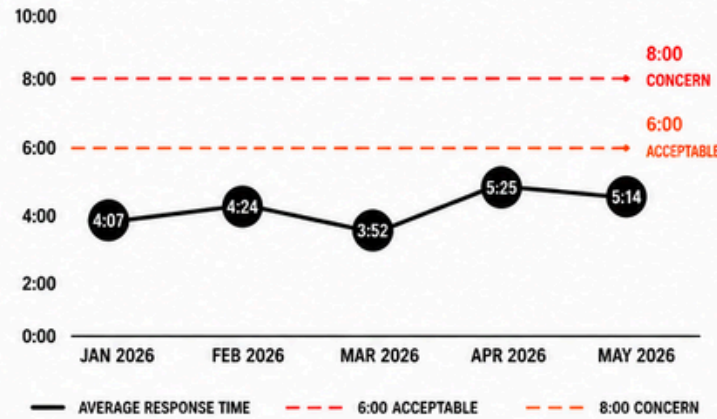
5:14
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (MM:SS)

Goal: < 6:00 ON TARGET

INCIDENTS BY TYPE – MAY 2026



AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME TREND (MM:SS)



Average response time in May was 5:14 and remains within our 6:00 acceptable benchmark despite increased call volume and overlapping incidents.

STAFFING HIGHLIGHTS – MAY 2026

69
ACTIVE PERSONNEL

4,757
STAFFING HOURS IN MAY

STAFFING HOURS – YTD 2026 (THROUGH MAY)

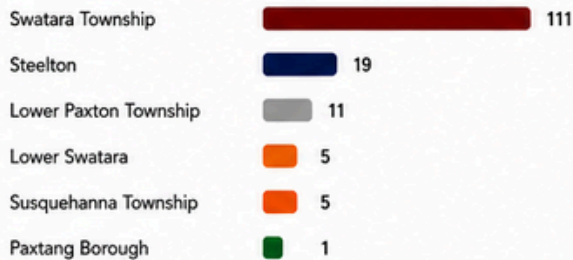
CAREER
3,985
HOURS
20%



VOLUNTEER
19,233
HOURS
80%

Career staffing hours include paid personnel only. Volunteer hours include all recorded volunteer time.

INCIDENTS BY AREA – MAY 2026

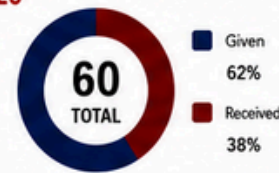


Total incidents include all areas.

MUTUAL AID BREAKDOWN – MAY 2026

Mutual Aid Given
37

Mutual Aid Received
25



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION – YTD 2026 (THROUGH MAY)

12
EVENTS

DETECTORS

	26	Smoke Detectors Checked
	5	CO Detectors Checked
	14	Smoke Detectors Given
	26	Smoke Detectors Installed
	5	CO Detectors Given
	8	CO Detectors Installed

KNOXBOX
 31/142
PROPERTIES CHECKED

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

DATA DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

STFR91.COM

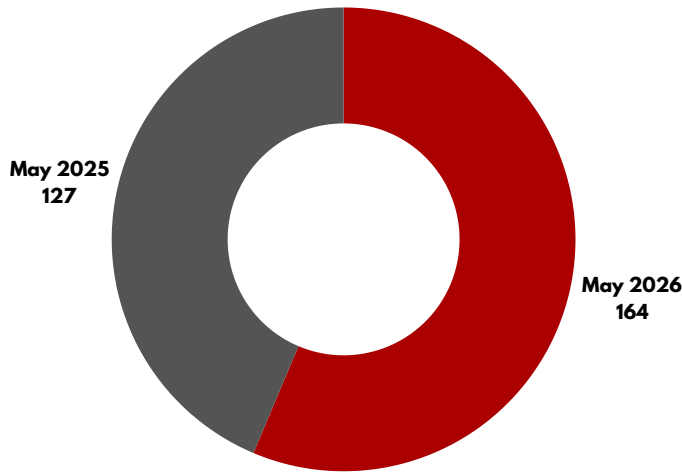




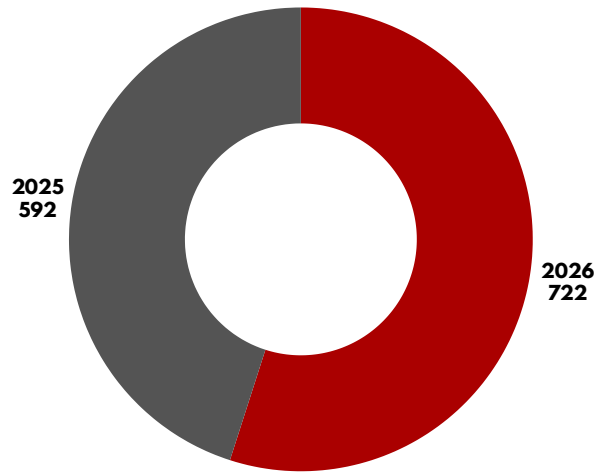
Operations

Incident Volume & Trends

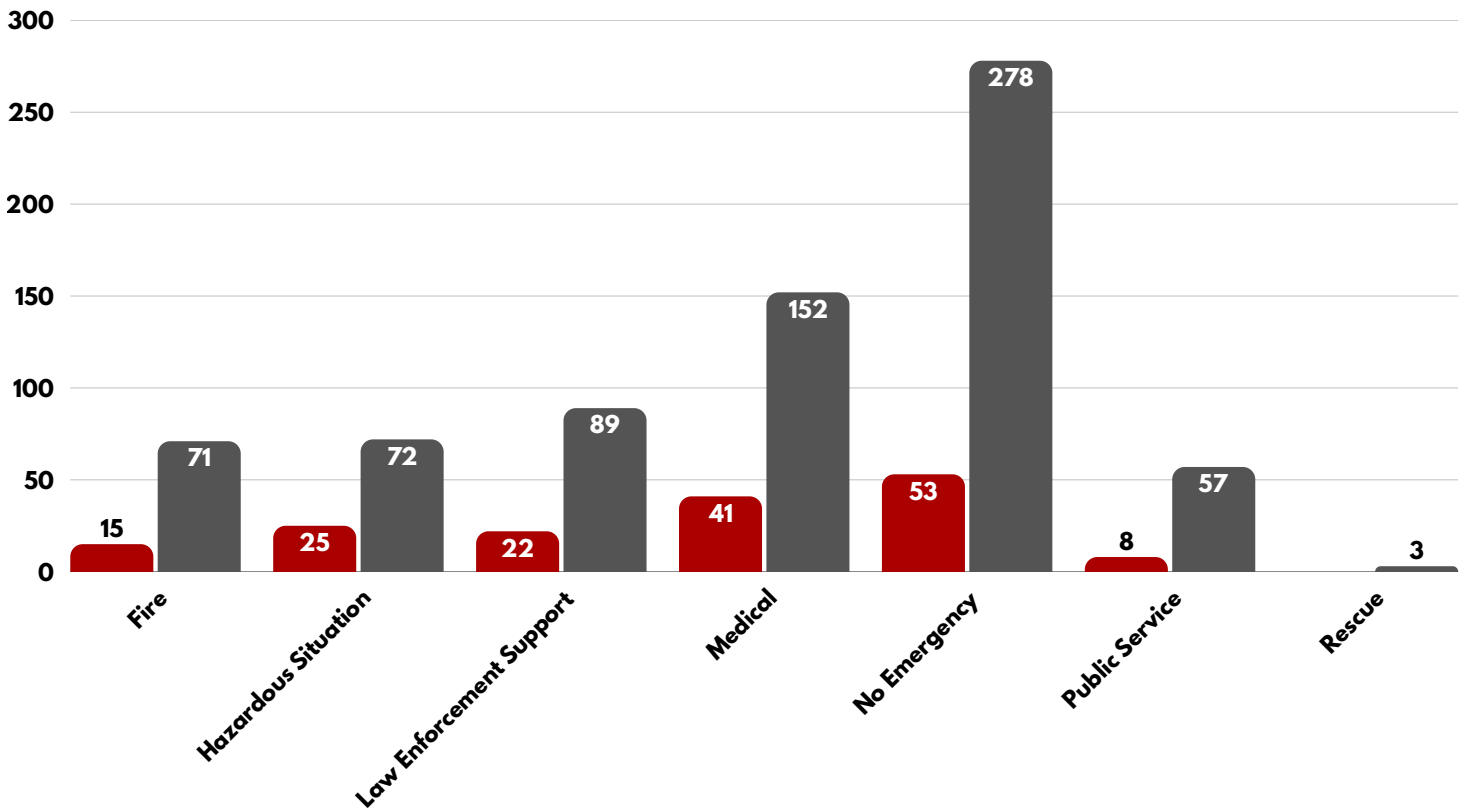
Previous Year Month Comparison



Previous Year to Date Comparison



● May 2026 ● 2026 Year to Date



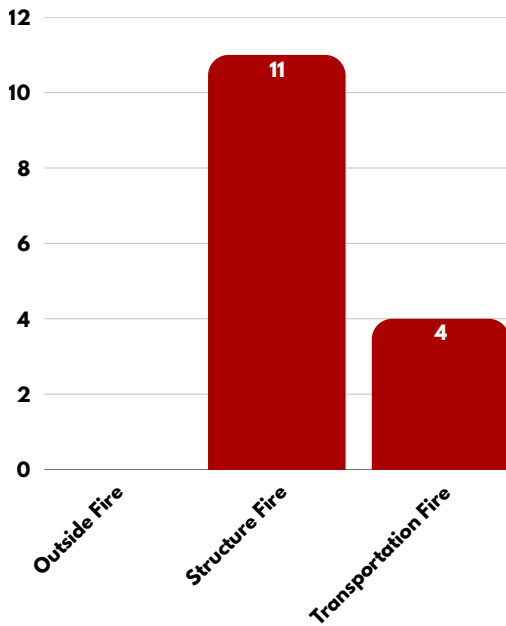


Operations

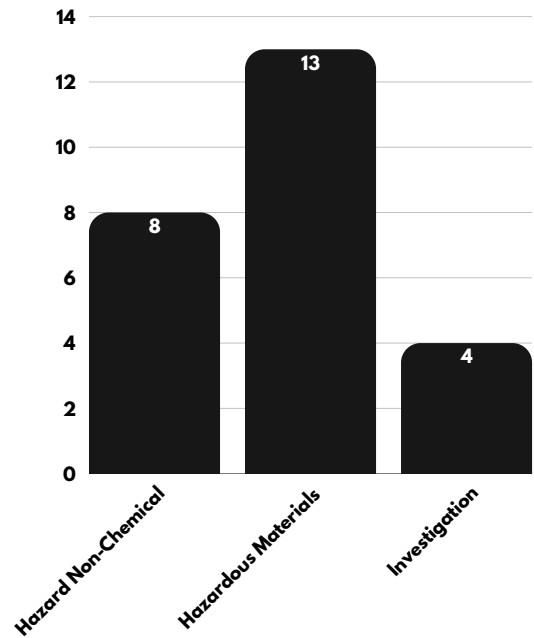
Incident Volume & Trends May 2026

Primary Incident Breakdown

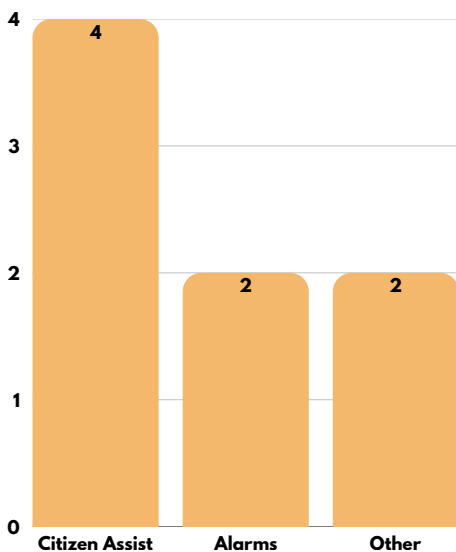
Fire



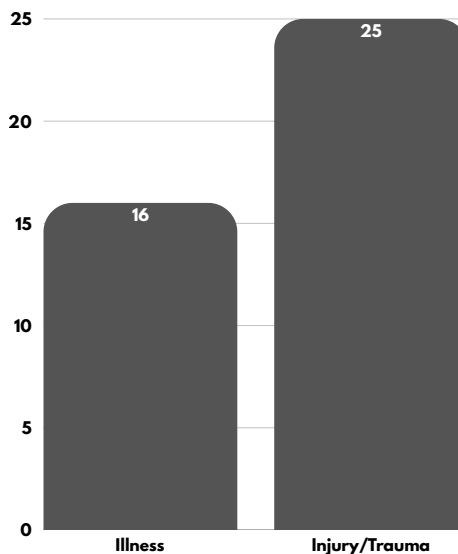
Hazardous Situation



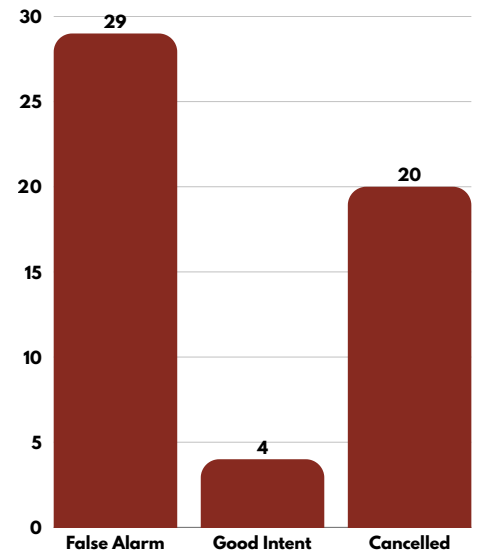
Public Service



Medical



No Emergency

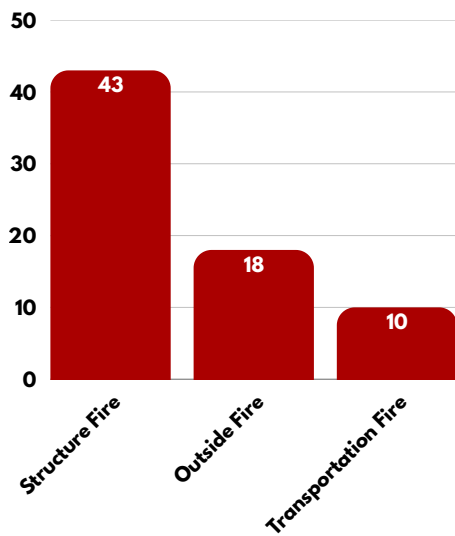




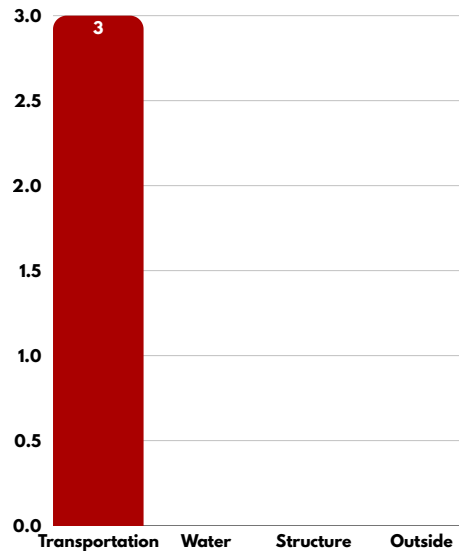
Operations

Incident Volume & Trends 2026 Year to Date Incident Breakdown

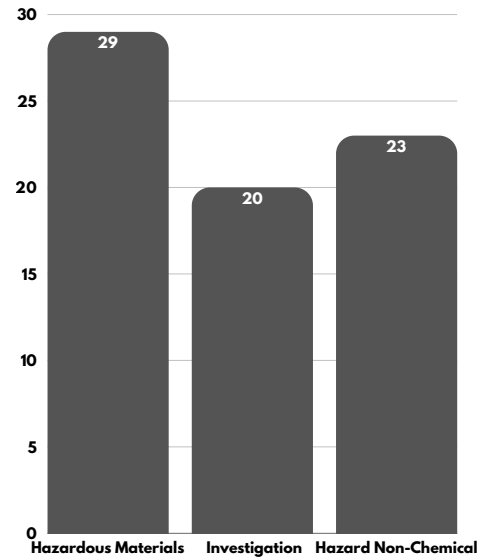
Fire



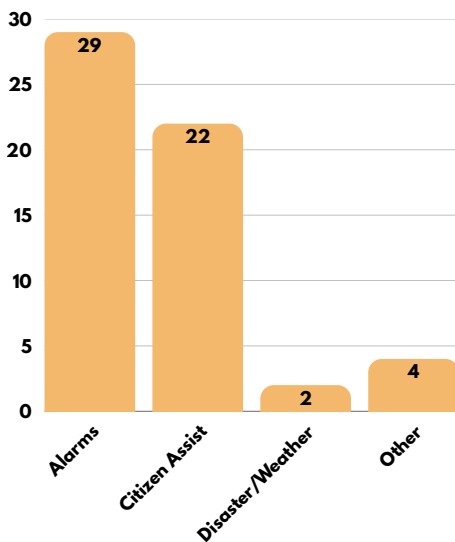
Rescue



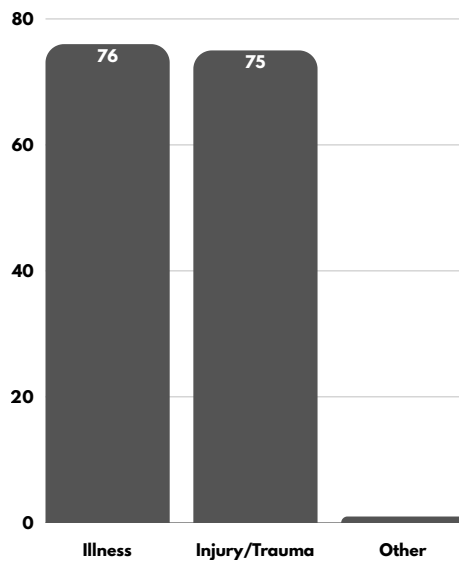
Hazardous Situation



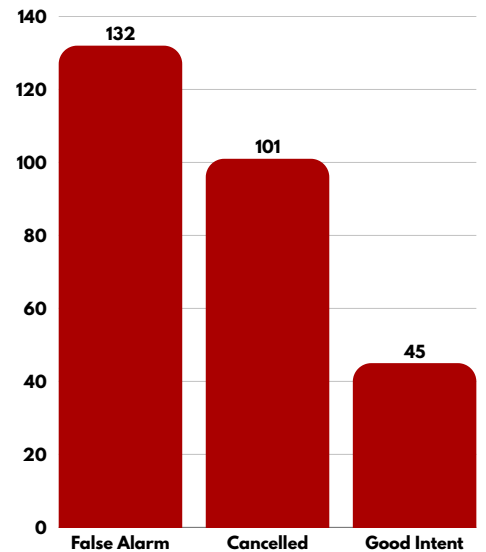
Public Service



Medical



No Emergency

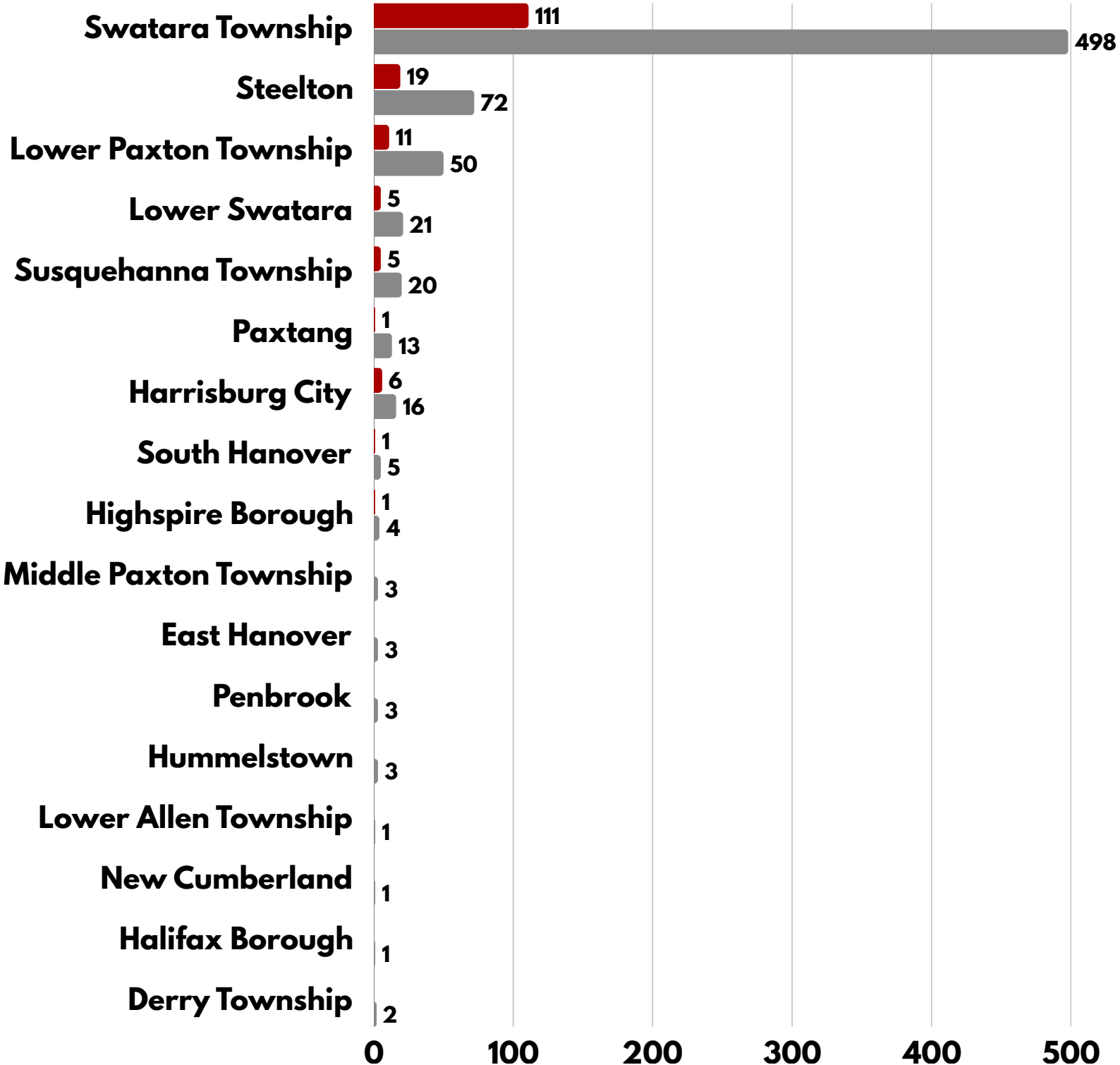




Operations

Emergency Response & Service Delivery

● May 2026 ● 2026 YTD





Operations

Emergency Response & Service Delivery

40

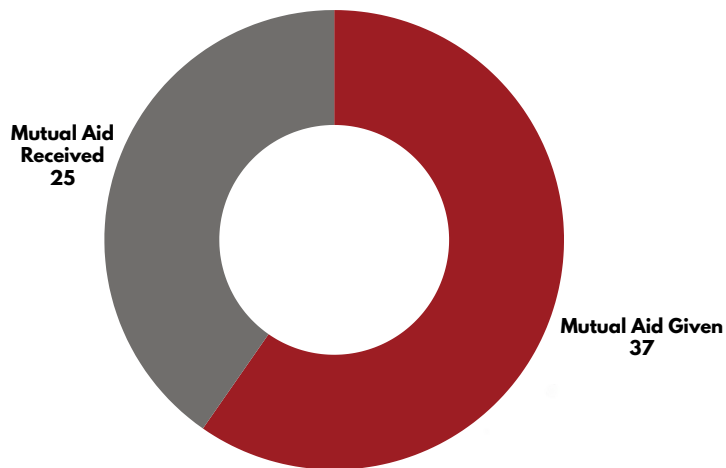
Overlapping Incidents

60

Mutual Aid Incidents

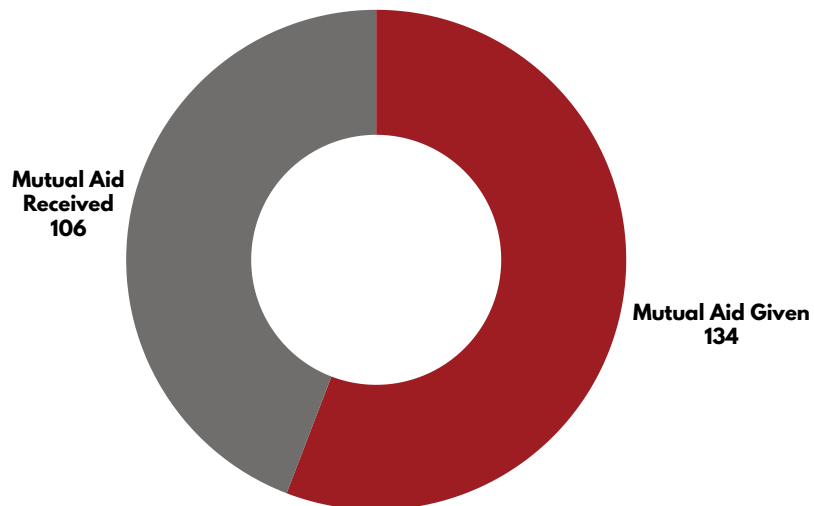
May 2026 Mutual Aid Breakdown

- 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.

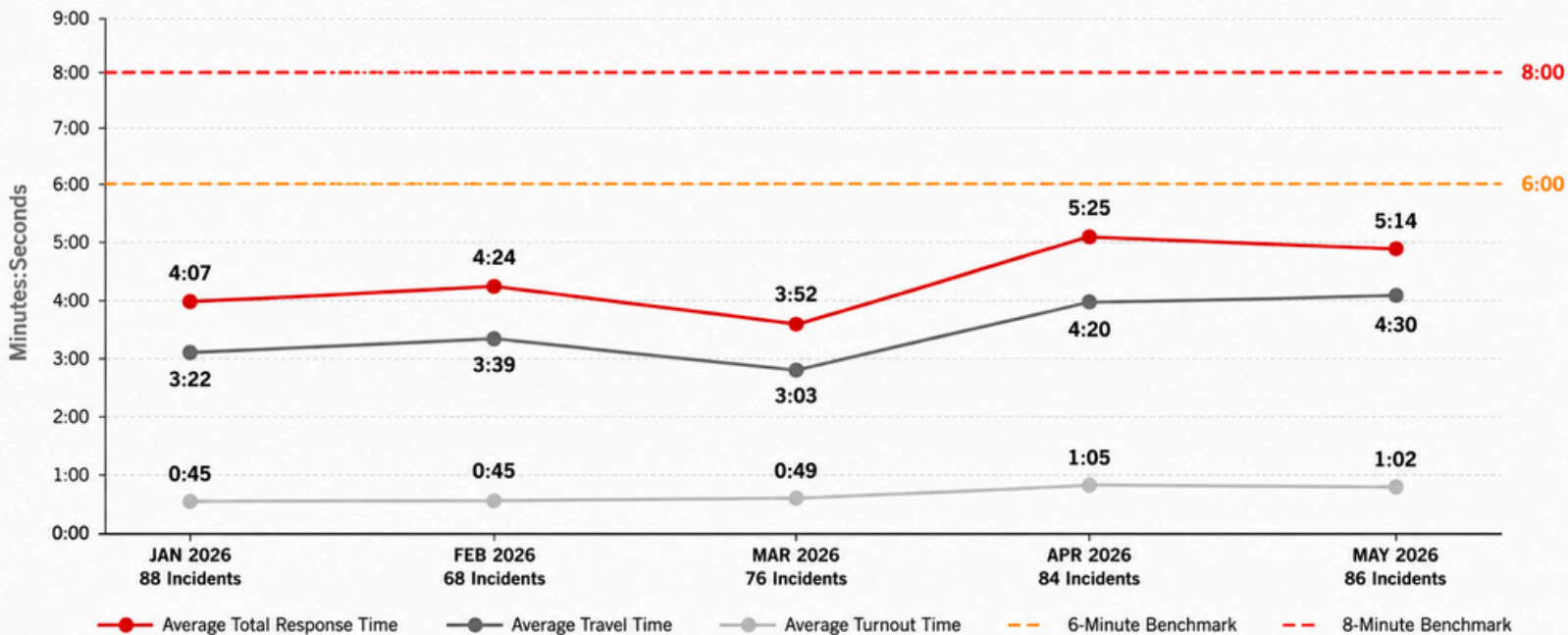
While average response time is useful for identifying trends and assessing system performance, it has limitations. It does not fully capture factors such as call complexity, simultaneous incidents, or variations in staffing levels. Most importantly, it does not show where gaps occur when units are not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



SWATARA FIRE-RESCUE

Average Response Time Trend | Swatara Township & Paxtang Borough | Class 1 Incidents



Report note: Average total response time remains below the 6-minute benchmark year-to-date. Latest month: 5:14.

Source: First Due response-time export. Total response time includes turnout and travel time.

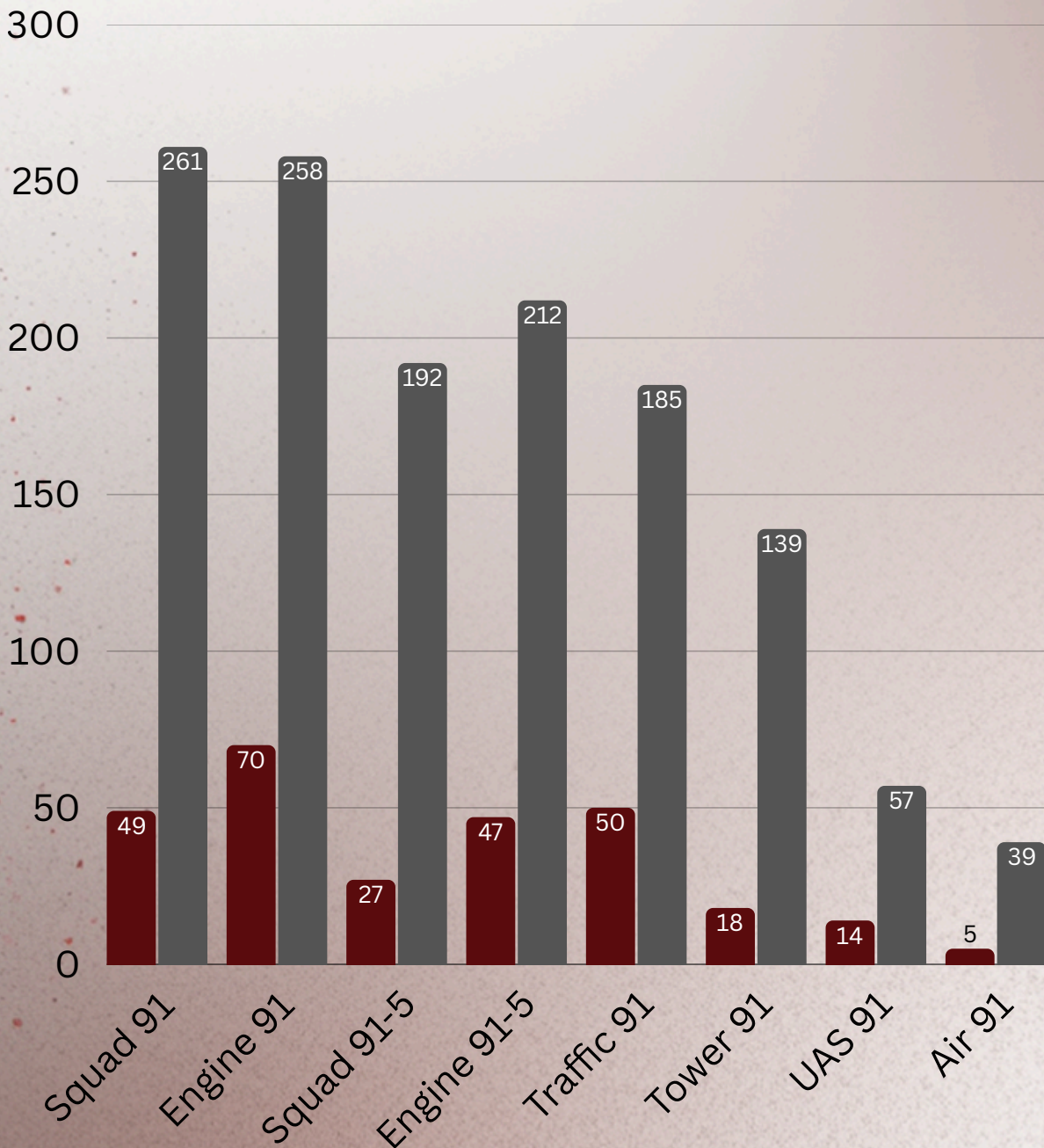


Operations

Response Distribution & Demand

Apparatus Responses

● May 2026 ● Year to Date



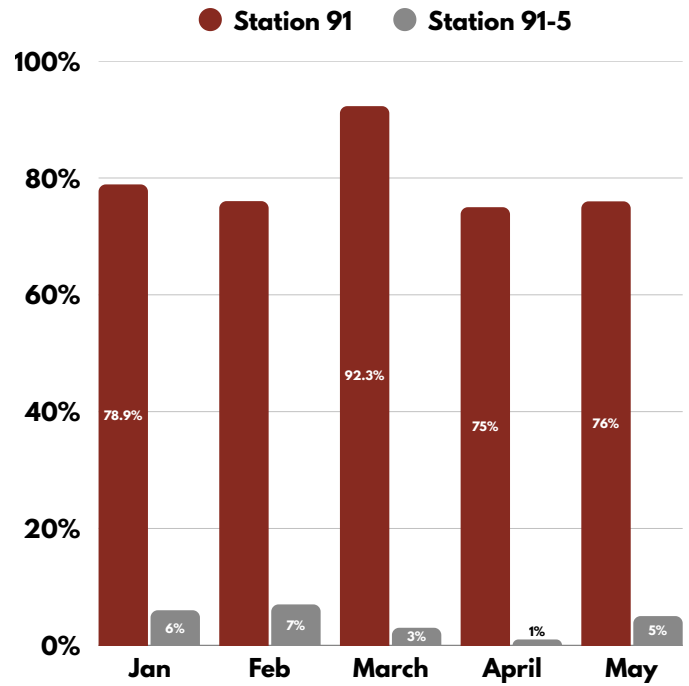
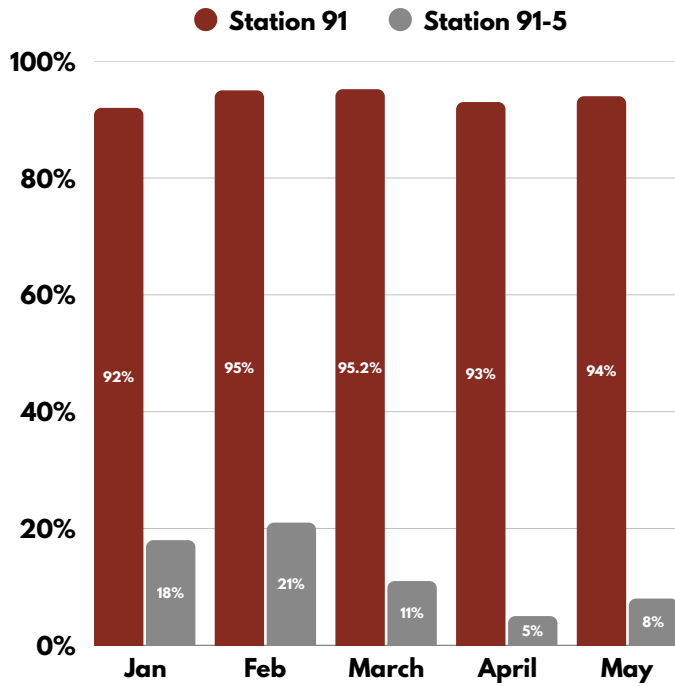


Staffing

Coverage Reliability

Staffing Reliability 2026
3 Personnel

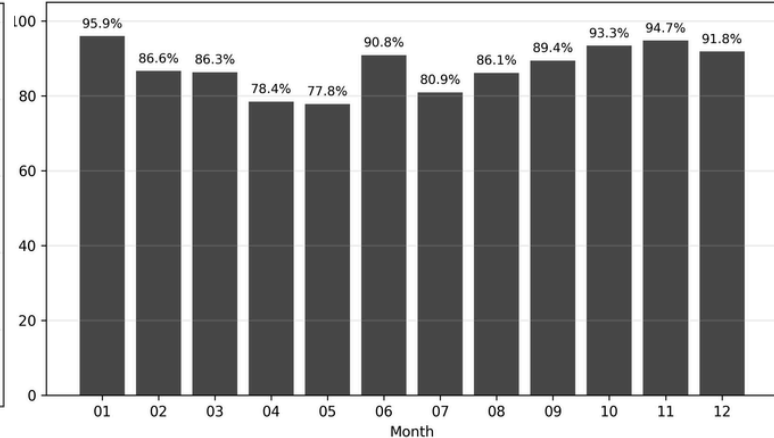
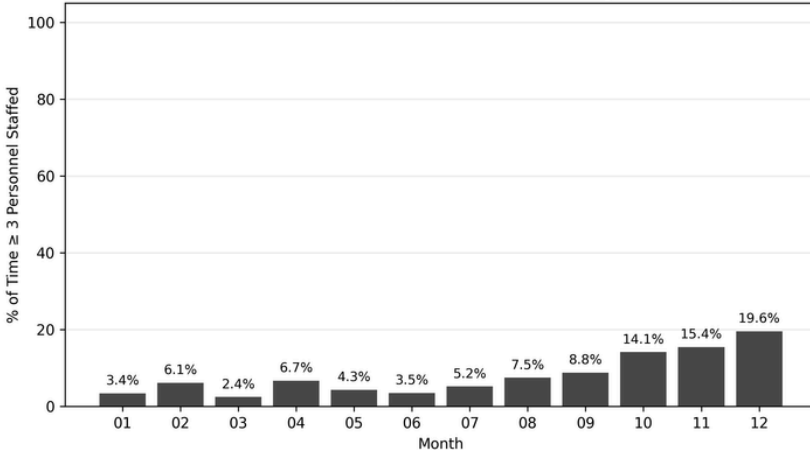
Staffing Reliability 2026
4 Personnel



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.

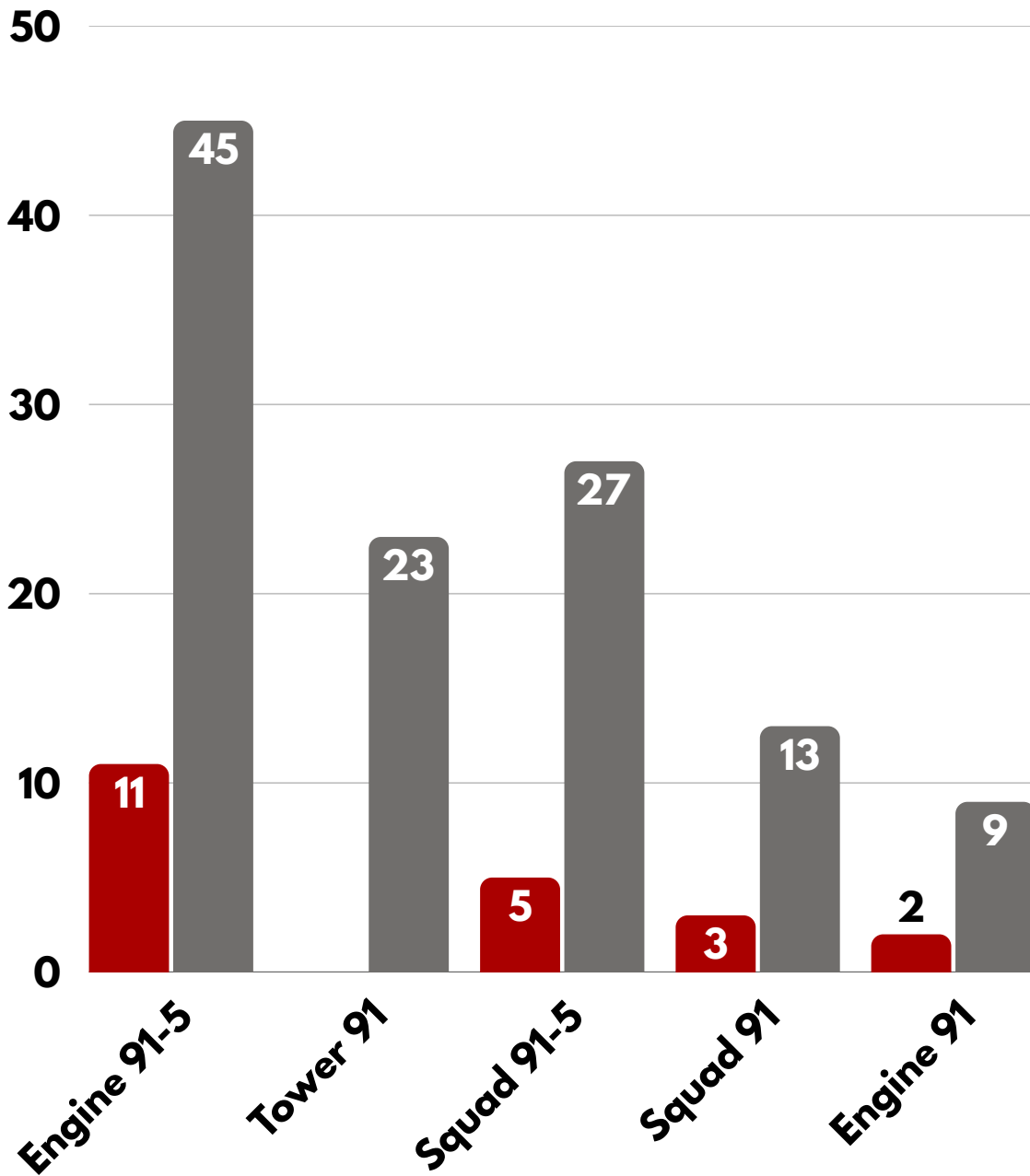


Staffing

Understaffed Responses

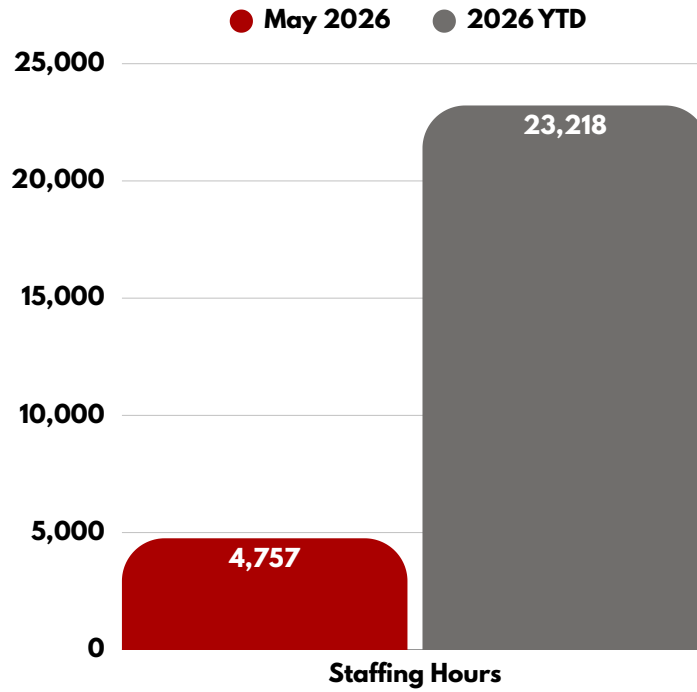
Apparatus Responses with less than 3 personnel

● **May 2026** ● **2026 YTD**

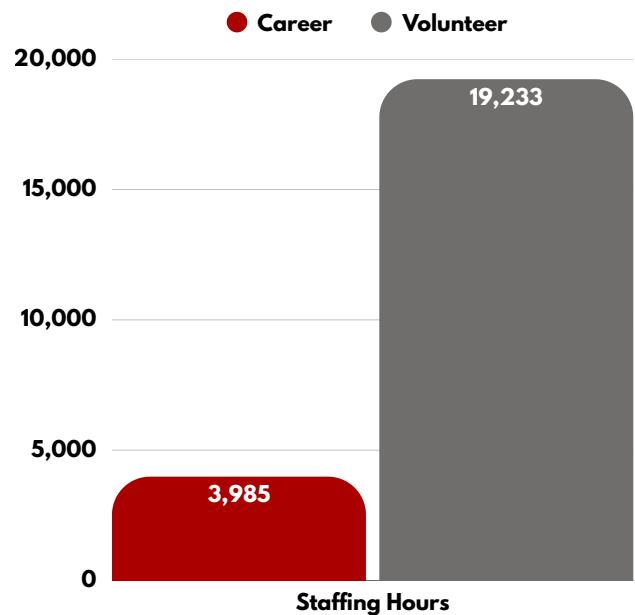




Personnel Report



Career Vs Volunteer Staffing Hours YTD



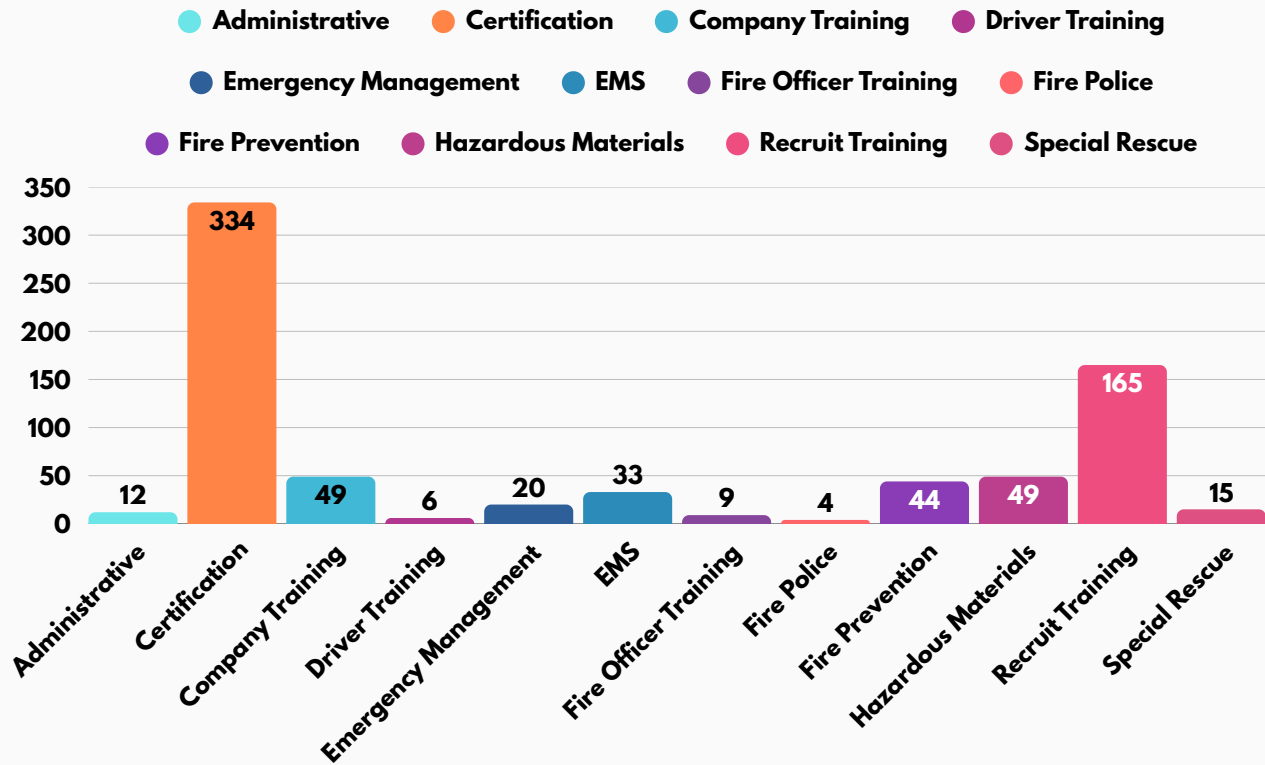
Active Personnel
69



Training & Professional Development

745
Training Hours YTD

Training Hours By Category Year to Date



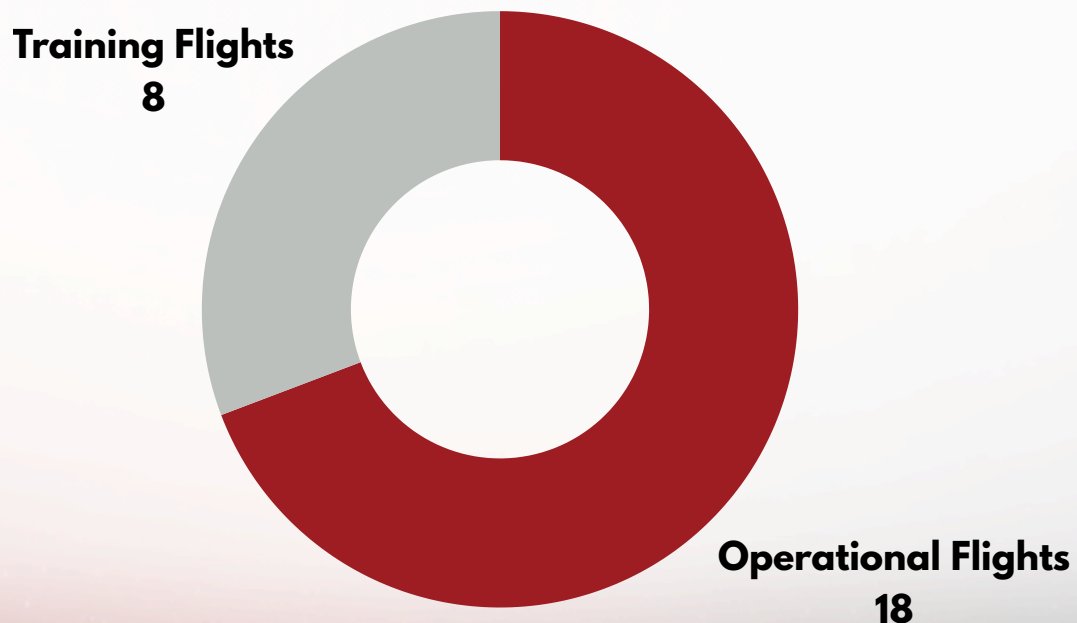




Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Program

Drone

Number of Flights May 2026





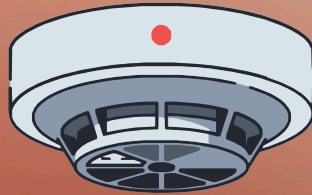




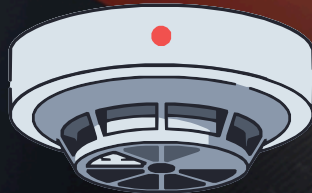
Community Outreach

12
Events

26
Smoke
detectors
checked



14
Smoke
detectors
given



26
Smoke
detectors
installed



8
CO
detectors
installed



5
CO
detectors
checked

5
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