EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

10900 San Pablo Avenue ▪ El Cerrito ▪ CA ▪ 94530
(510) 215-4450 ▪ FAX (510) 232-4917

www.el-cerrito.org

DATE: November 2026

TO: General Manager and Board of Directors
Kensington Community Services District

FROM: Eric Saylors, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report — November 2026

Cold-Season Heating and Carbon Monoxide Safety

Before turning on the heat: Residents should have furnaces, fireplaces and chimneys inspected and serviced annually by a qualified professional. Check furnace filters and replace them according to manufacturer instructions; keep heating equipment, air intakes and exhaust vents clear of dust, debris and stored materials. These preparations are especially important when equipment has been idle for several months. [1,2]

Recognize warning signs: A brief dusty odor can occur when a heater first operates after a long period of nonuse. However, a persistent or worsening odor, or a smell of burning plastic or electrical wiring, should not be dismissed as normal. Stop using the equipment and arrange a professional inspection. If there is smoke or suspected fire, leave immediately and call 911. [1,3]

Gas odors and carbon monoxide require immediate action: If you smell natural gas, hear a suspected gas leak, or a carbon monoxide alarm sounds, get everyone outside and call 911 from a safe location. Do not operate switches or use a phone inside when a gas leak is suspected. Carbon monoxide is odorless; the absence of a smell does not establish that a home is safe. [3,4]

Check alarms and portable heaters: Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly. Install smoke alarms in bedrooms, outside sleeping areas and on every level; install carbon monoxide alarms outside sleeping areas and on every level. Keep portable heaters at least three feet from combustible materials, plug electric heaters directly into wall outlets rather than extension cords or power strips, and turn them off before sleeping or leaving the room. Never use an oven to heat the home. [1,2,4]

Thanksgiving Cooking and Turkey-Fryer Safety

Holiday meals should begin with an attentive cook. Stay in the kitchen while frying or cooking on the stovetop, turn burners off before leaving, and keep towels, packaging and other combustibles away from heat. For a small, contained pan fire, and only when safe, slide a lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave it covered until cool. Do not move the pan or use water on a grease fire. **When in doubt, get everyone out and call 911.** [5]

Choose a safer alternative to deep-frying a turkey. Outdoor, gas-fired fryers containing large amounts of hot oil can overturn, overflow or ignite and cause severe burns. The National Fire Protection Association discourages their use. Oven roasting, purchasing a professionally prepared turkey, or using an oil-free cooking appliance according to its instructions avoids the large-pot hot-oil hazard. [6]

Residents who nevertheless use an outdoor turkey fryer should place it on a sturdy, level surface at least 10 feet from the home and away from combustibles, never in a garage, on a wooden deck or under roof eaves. Do not use it in rain or snow. Completely thaw and dry the turkey, follow the manufacturer's oil-fill instructions, and turn off the burner before lowering or raising the turkey. Monitor oil temperature continuously and never leave the fryer unattended. Keep children and pets away throughout cooking and cooling; hot oil remains dangerous for hours. If a fryer fire occurs, move everyone away and call 911; never apply water or try to move the pot. [5,6]

Holiday Decorations and Safe Gatherings

Use battery-operated candles when possible. Keep lit candles at least 12 inches from combustible materials and never leave them unattended. Inspect holiday lights before use, discard damaged strands, and follow manufacturer limits on connected light strings. Keep decorations and trees out of exit paths. Water live holiday trees daily and keep them at least three feet from fireplaces, heaters and other heat sources. Remove a tree when it becomes dry.[2,7]

El Niño and Winter Storm Preparedness

NOAA's October 8, 2026 outlook identifies an ongoing El Niño expected to persist through the winter. This seasonal outlook is a reason to prepare, not a prediction that a particular Kensington neighborhood will flood. Residents should follow local storm forecasts and warnings rather than rely on the El Niño designation alone.[8]

Prepare drainage before storms arrive: Clear leaves and debris from gutters, downspouts and private drains, and avoid directing runoff onto neighboring properties. Because Kensington is unincorporated, report blocked public storm drains or street flooding to **Contra Costa County Public Works**. Call the Maintenance Division at **925-313-7000** during business hours. For urgent after-hours issues, including weekends and holidays, call Sheriff's Dispatch at **925-646-2441**. Call **911** for an immediate threat to life or safety. Do not enter flowing water, traffic lanes or drainage structures to remove a blockage during a storm.[9]

Obtain sandbags through Kensington's local program: Kensington's sandbag distribution site is at the **north end of the Kensington Library parking lot, 61 Arlington Avenue**. Sandbags are provided for Kensington residents, subject to availability. Check the District's sandbag webpage for current availability and restocking notices before visiting, and obtain supplies before forecast storms. Share this information with neighbors and check on residents who may need assistance.[10]

Stay informed: Register for **Contra Costa County's Community Warning System** and subscribe to Kensington's local Nixle alerts and preparedness updates. Know your evacuation zone, monitor National Weather Service forecasts, and follow official evacuation instructions. Plan how household members will stay in contact and how anyone needing assistance will leave safely.[9,11]

Prepare for power outages: Maintain food, drinking water, medications, flashlights, batteries, charged phones and pet supplies. Use flashlights rather than candles. Operate portable generators outdoors only, at least 20 feet from the home, with exhaust directed away from buildings, doors, windows and vents. **Never operate a generator in a garage, even with the door open.**[2,4,9]

Avoid floodwater and watch hillside conditions: Never walk or drive through floodwater or around road closures. Stay out of flooded rooms where electrical equipment may be energized. Watch for new ground cracks, unusual hillside seepage, or newly leaning trees and retaining walls, and report these warning signs promptly. If flooding or ground movement poses an immediate threat, move to safety when possible and call 911; do not delay to protect belongings.[12]

Review flood insurance now: Most homeowners and renters policies do not cover flood damage. National Flood Insurance Program policies generally have a 30-day waiting period, with exceptions, so residents should review coverage before a storm is approaching.[13]

Our message for November is straightforward: check heating equipment and alarms, keep holiday cooking and decorations under supervision, and complete storm preparations before severe weather arrives. We encourage Kensington residents to share these reminders with family, neighbors and anyone who may need assistance preparing for the season.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Saylors
Fire Chief, El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department

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References and Resident Resources

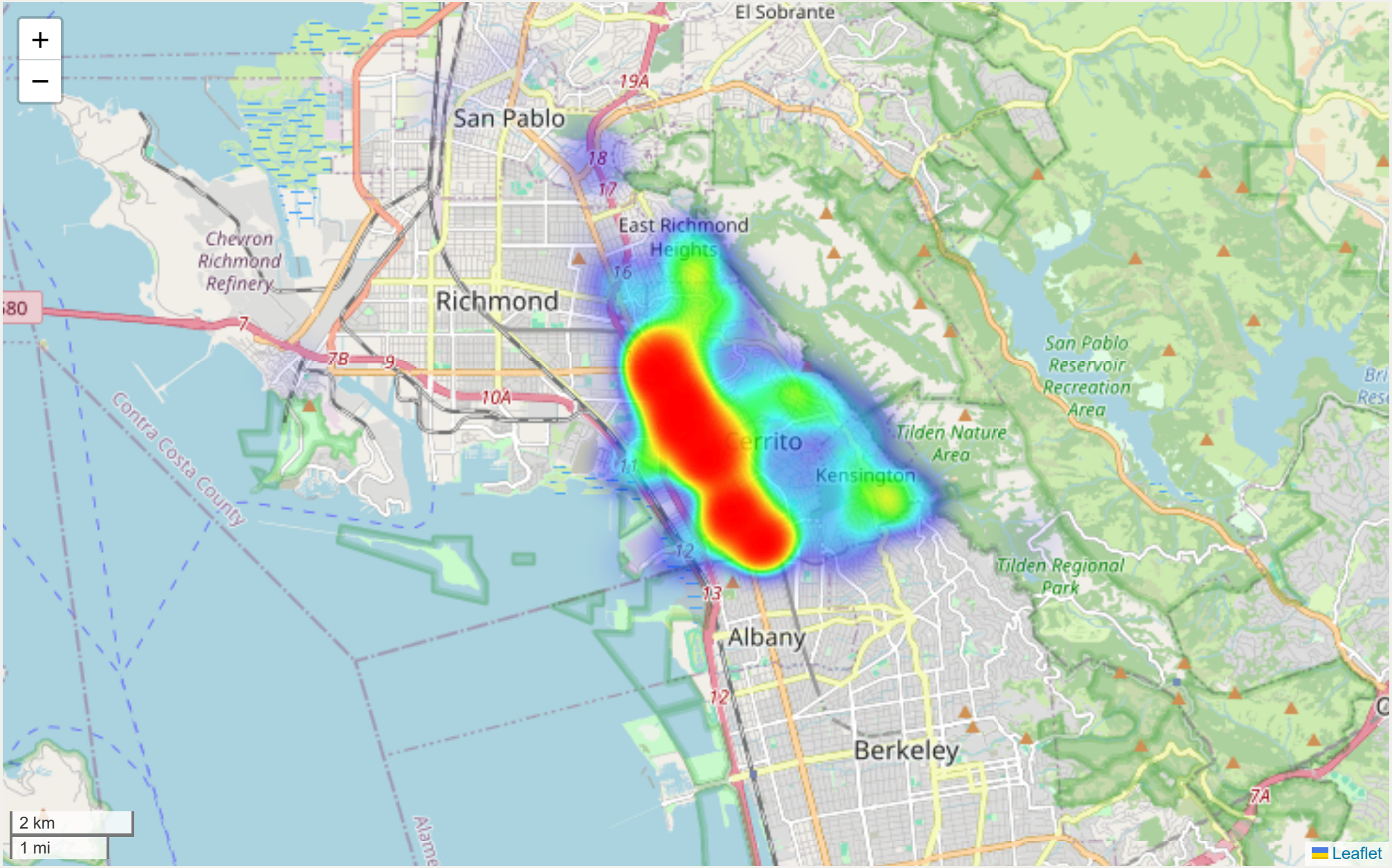
1. U.S. Fire Administration, Heating Fire Safety; Carrier, Furnace Odors.
2. CPSC, Keep Warm and Safe This Winter (January 23, 2026).
3. PG&E, Gas Safety.
4. U.S. Fire Administration, Smoke Alarms; Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention.
5. U.S. Fire Administration, Cooking Fire Safety; CPSC, Turkey-Fryer Safety.
6. National Park Service, Deep Fried Danger; Seattle Fire Department, Holiday Cooking Safety.
7. U.S. Fire Administration, Holiday Fire Safety.
8. NOAA Climate Prediction Center, ENSO Diagnostic Discussion (October 8, 2026).
9. Contra Costa County, Storm Preparedness; Public Works Frequently Asked Questions.
10. Kensington Fire, Sandbags.
11. Kensington Fire, Communication Tools.
12. National Weather Service, During a Flood; USGS, Signs of Landslide Development.
13. FEMA National Flood Insurance Program, Buying a Policy; Flood Insurance 101.

References reviewed October 30, 2026. Weather outlooks, service details and sandbag availability may change.

Item #11a

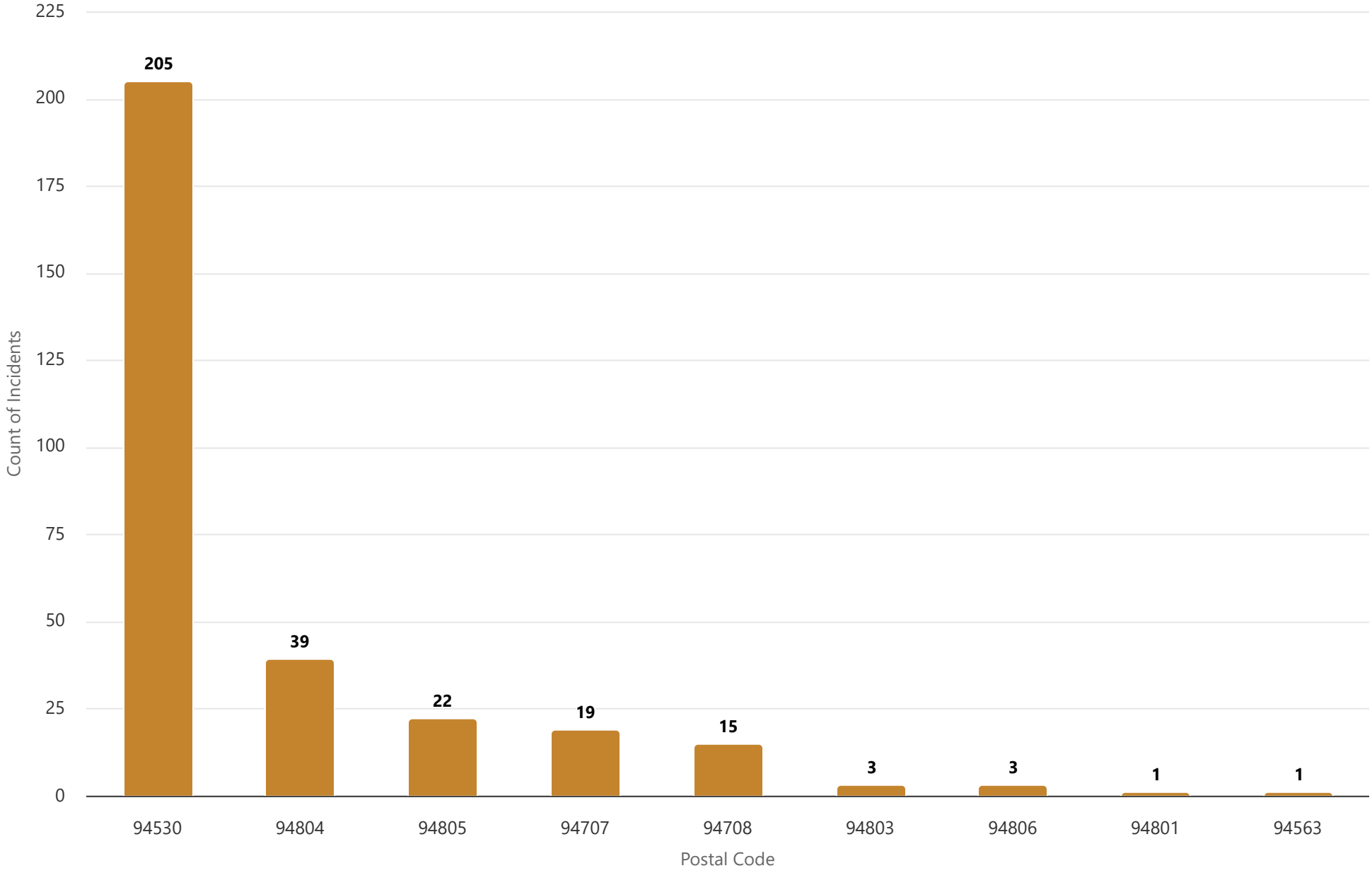
Scene Locations of Fire Incidents

N = 308 Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



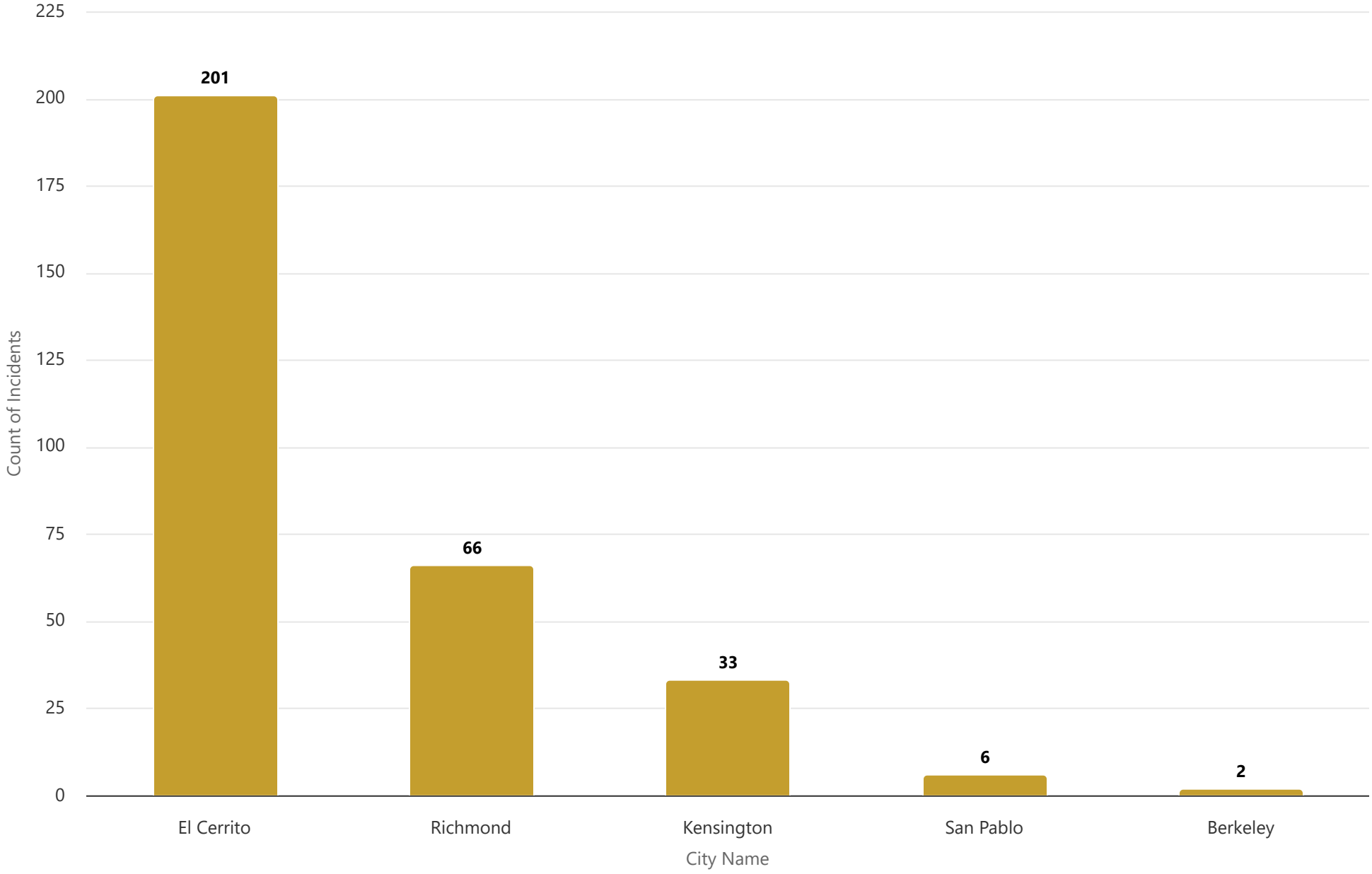
Incidents by Postal Code

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



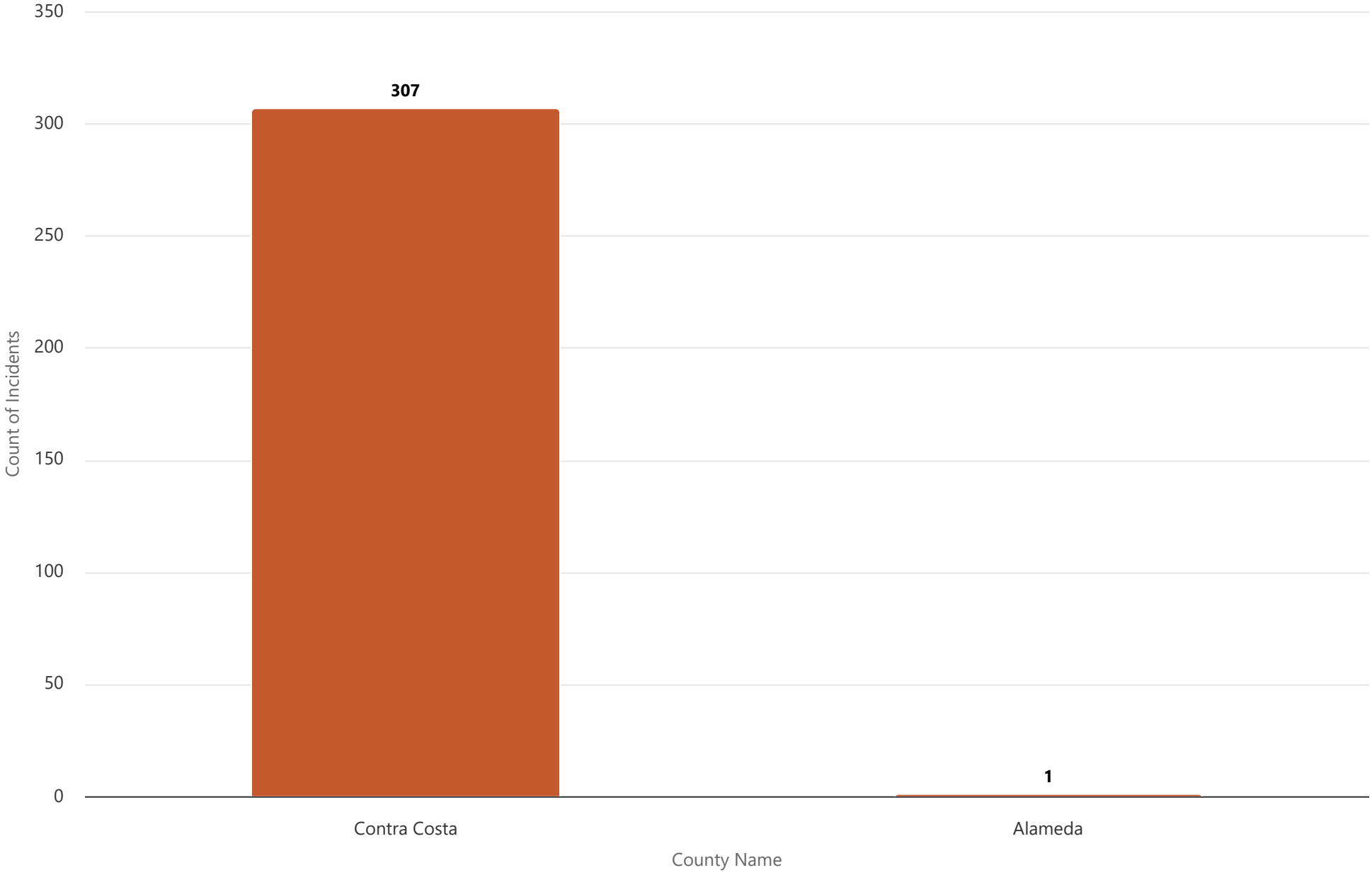
Incidents by City Name (Top 15)

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



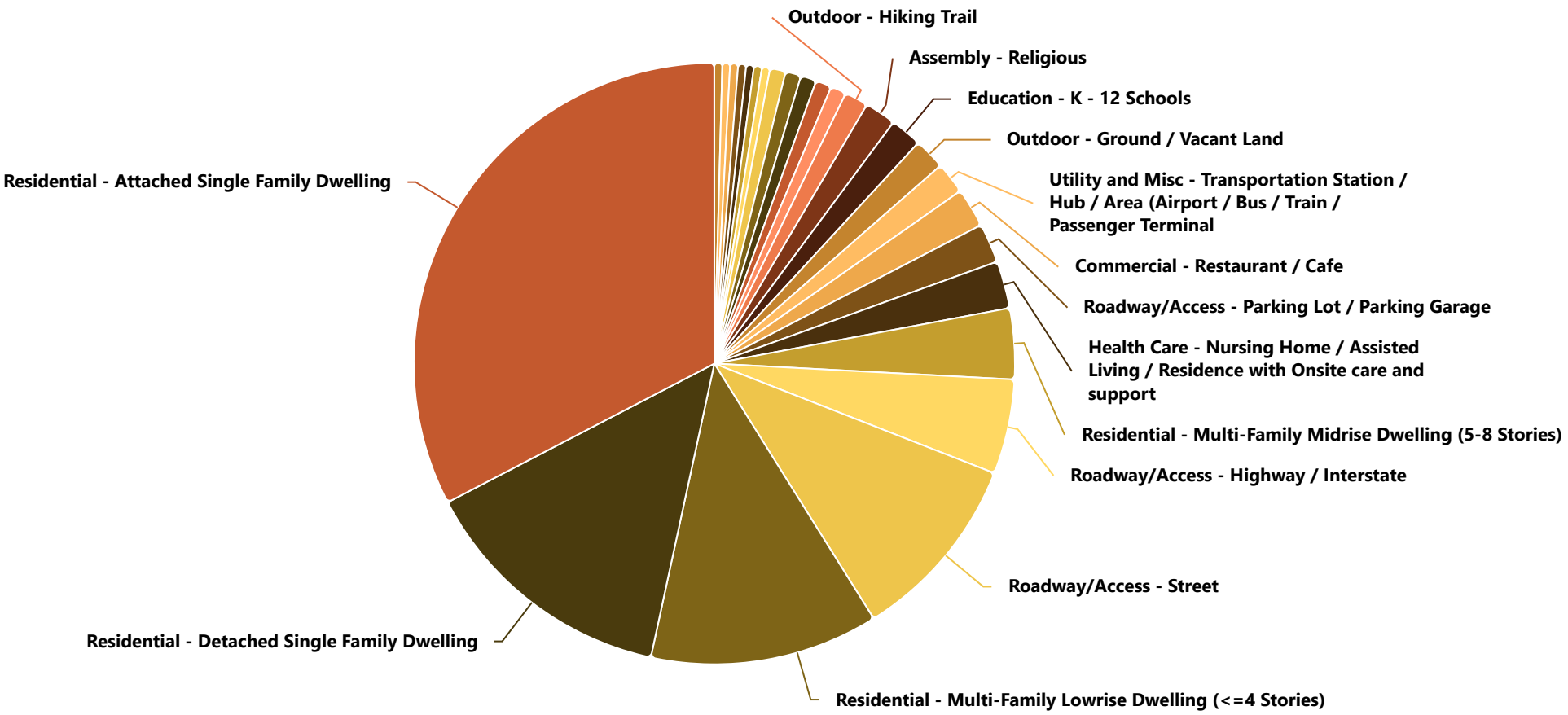
Incidents by County Name (Top 15)

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



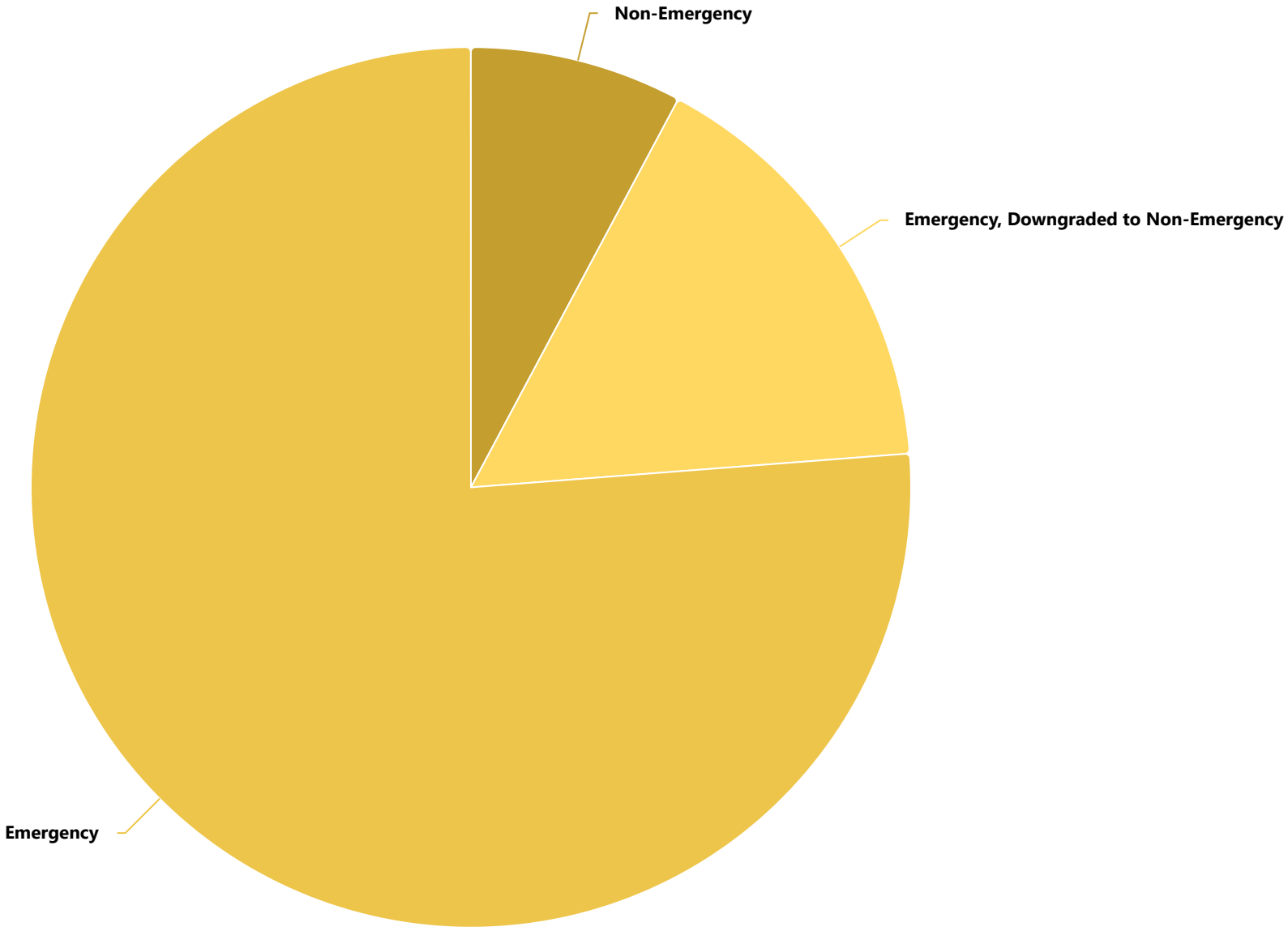
Incidents by Location Use Category

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by Response Mode To Scene

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by District/Zone

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Values

There are no results to display

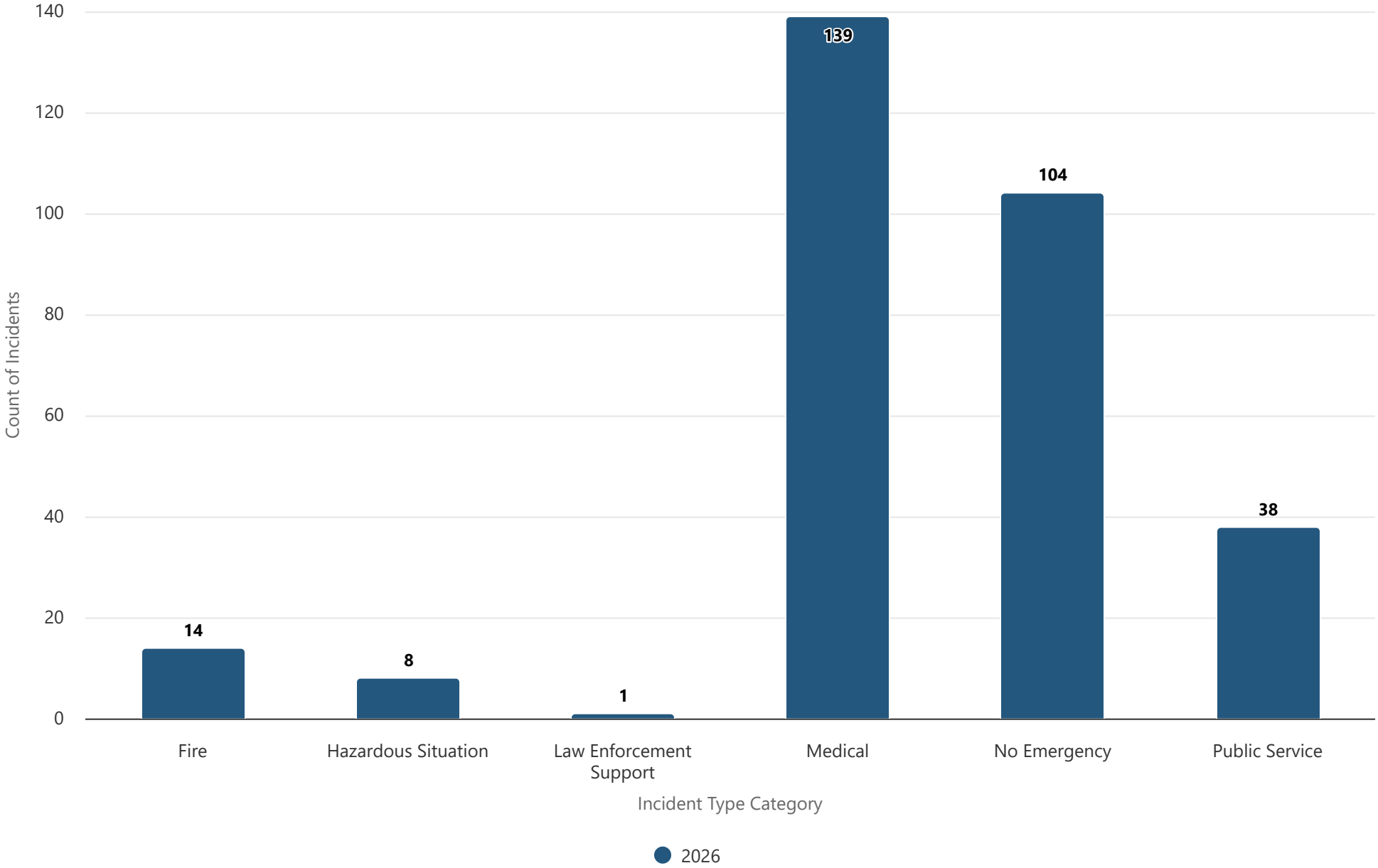
Incidents by District/Zone and Month

Jan 01, 2025 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM

	2026										2026		2025		
Incident Location Zone Number (itfiIncident.008)	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Grand Total - Current**	**% of Total Incidents - Current**	**Grand Total - Previous**	**% of Total Incidents - Previous**	**YTD % Change**
51	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4**	**29.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
52	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	**3**	**21.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
55	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	**7**	**50.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Grand Total	**0**	**4**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**14**	**100.00%**	**0**	**100.00%**	**N/A**

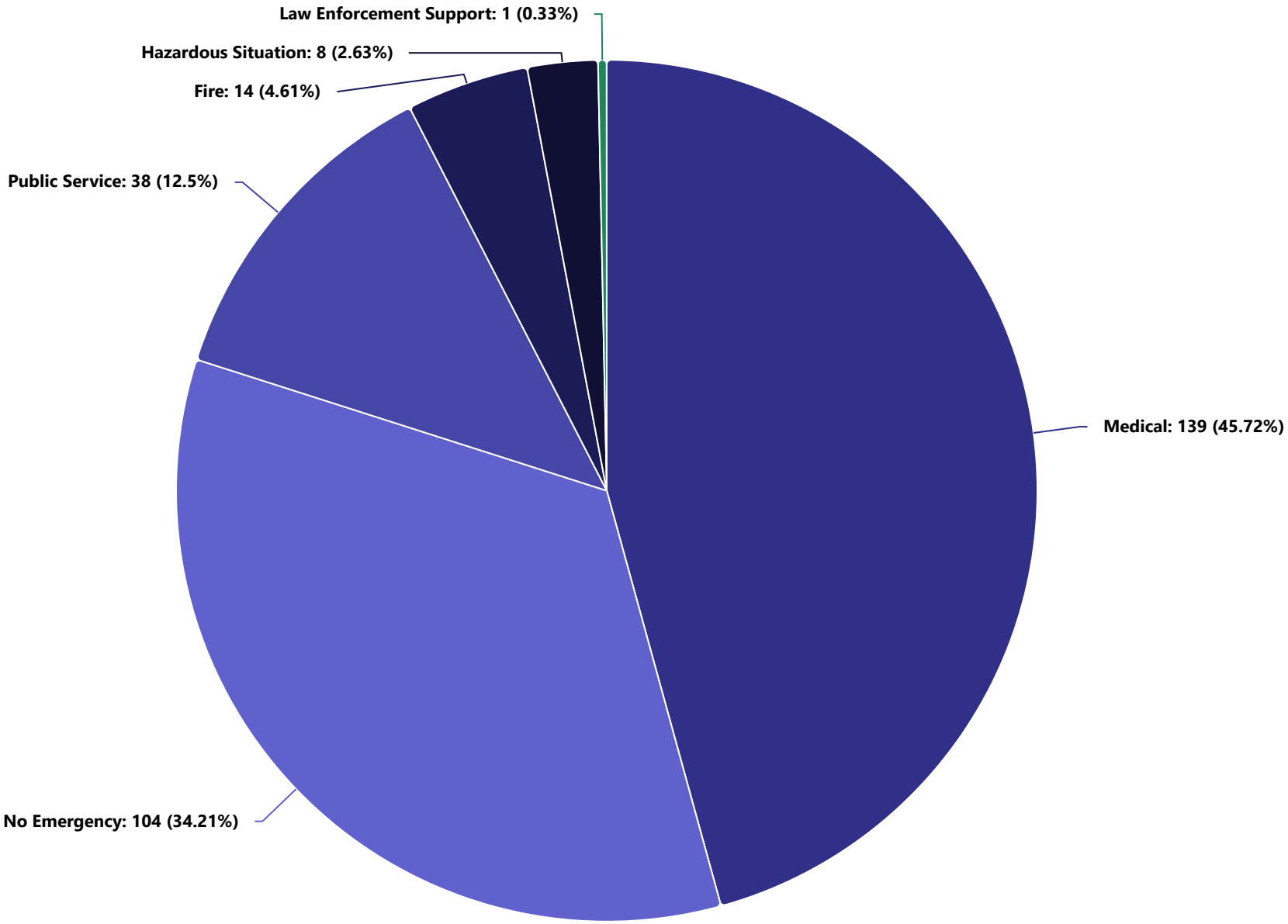
Incidents by Category and Year

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



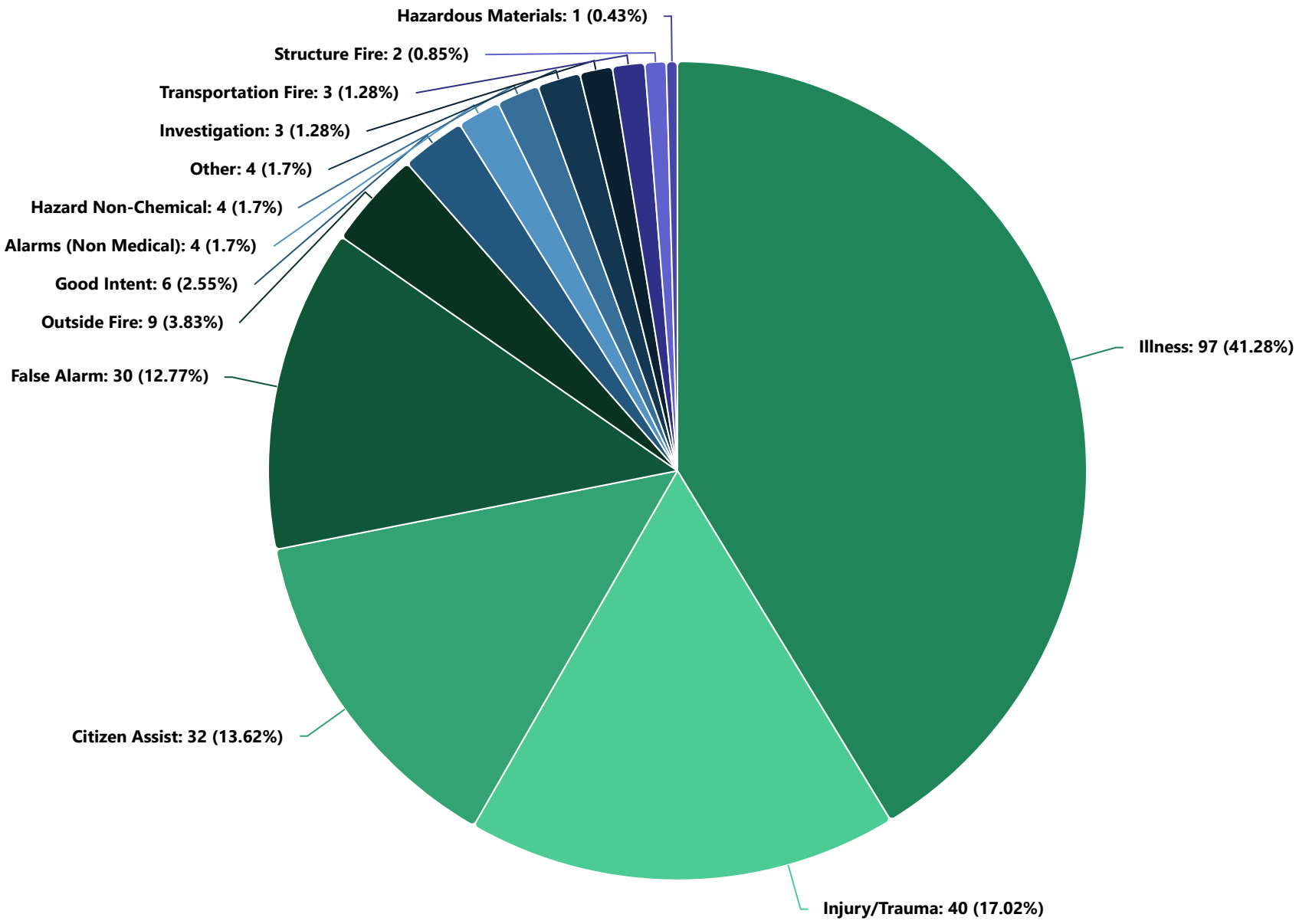
Incidents by Category

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by Type

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



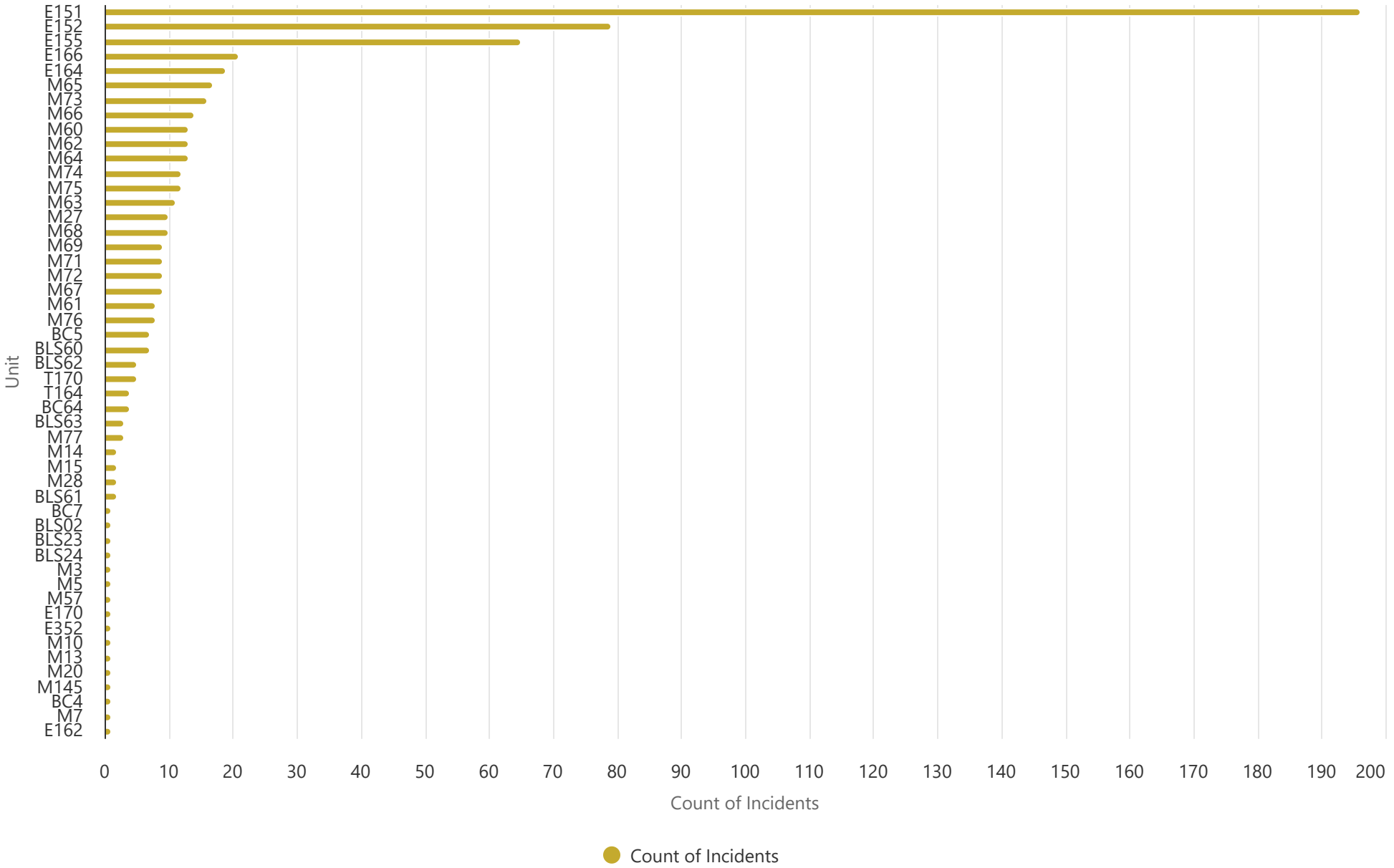
Incidents by Category and Month

Jan 01, 2025 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM

	2026										2026		2025		
Incident Type Primary Category 1 (fiIncident.03)	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Grand Total - Current**	**% of Total Incidents - Current**	**Grand Total - Previous**	**% of Total Incidents - Previous**	**YTD % Change**
fire	0	7	11	6	15	11	11	15	13	14	**103**	**4.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
hazardous situation	0	7	20	13	13	17	12	13	5	8	**108**	**4.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
law enforcement support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**	**0.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
medical	0	125	138	142	121	123	125	122	135	139	**1,170**	**48.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
no emergency	0	72	93	85	72	78	99	87	76	104	**766**	**31.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
public service	0	28	34	36	35	37	26	23	33	38	**290**	**12.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
rescue	0	6	0	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	**13**	**1.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Grand Total	**0**	**245**	**296**	**284**	**257**	**266**	**273**	**262**	**264**	**304**	**2,451**	**100.00%**	**0**	**100.00%**	**N/A**

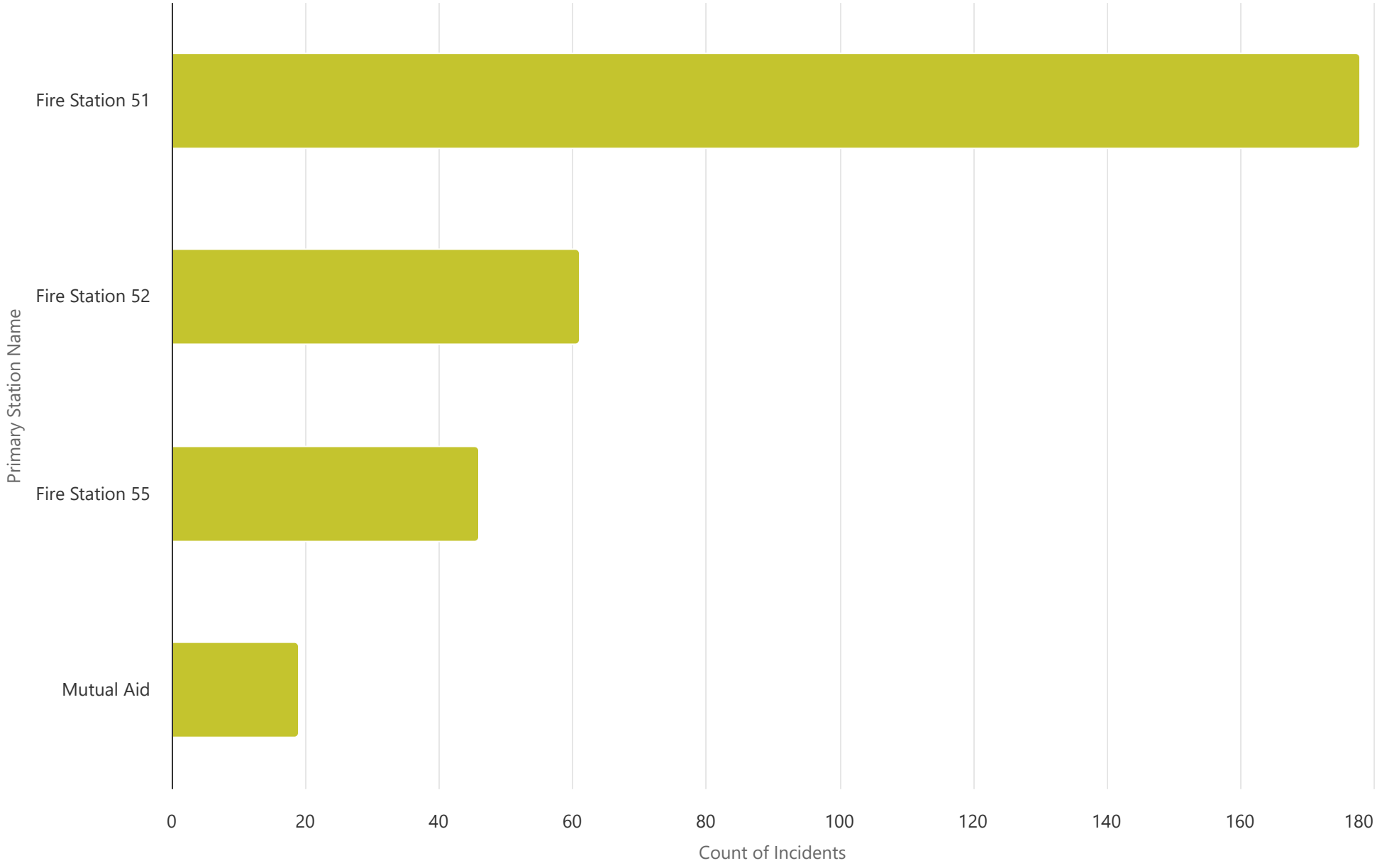
Incidents by Apparatus Resource ID (Top 40)

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by Primary Station Name

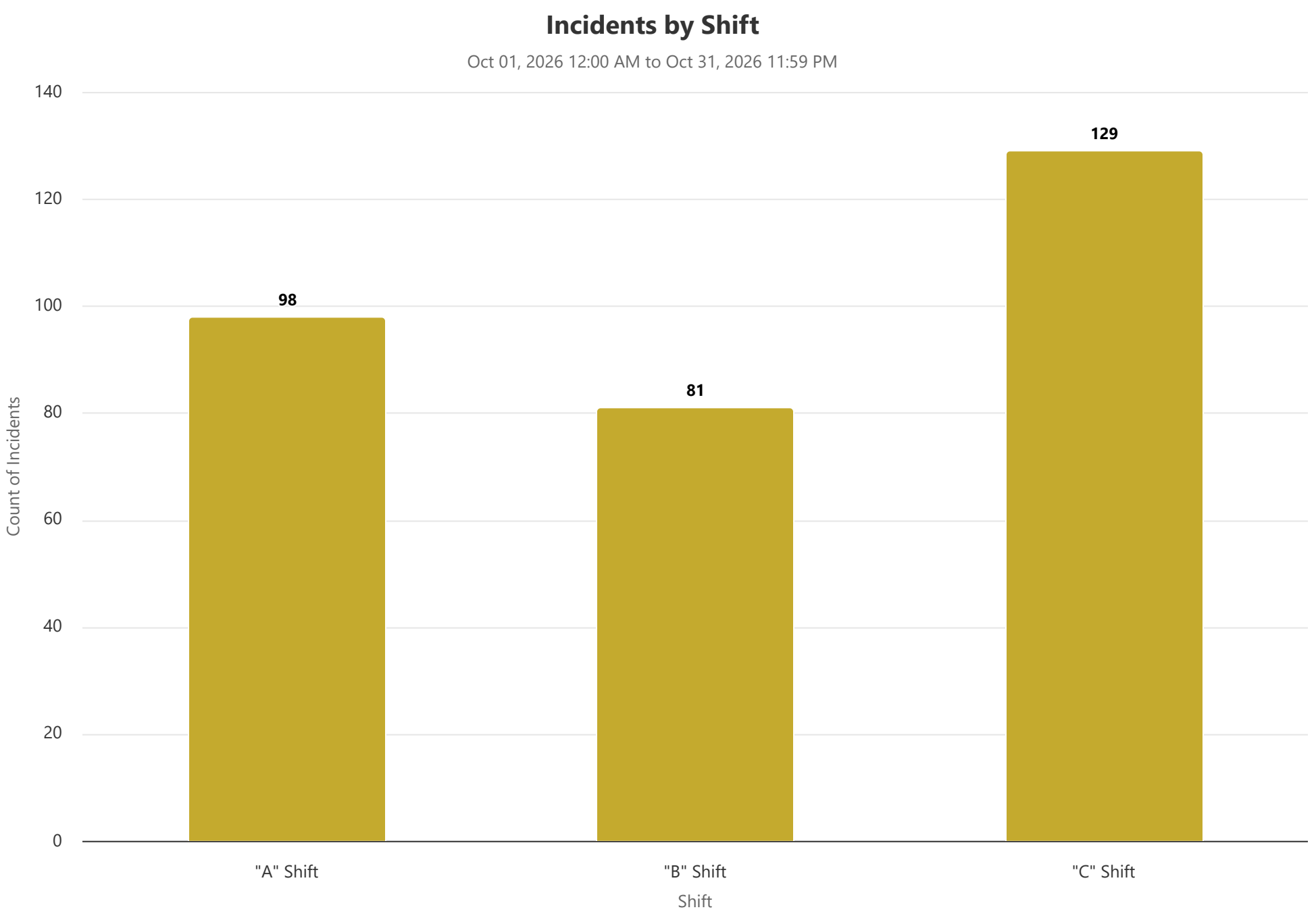
Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Station Summary Report

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Station	EMS Incidents	Fire Incidents	Other Incidents	Total Incidents	% of Total Incidents	Station Reliability	90th Percentile Response Time (PSAP to Arrival)
Fire Station 51	79	11	106	196	57.31%	96.43%	00:08:36
Fire Station 52	32	0	38	70	20.47%	94.29%	00:12:40
Fire Station 55	27	1	29	57	16.67%	100.00%	00:11:08
Mutual Aid	6	5	8	19	5.56%	100.00%	00:17:08
Overall	**144**	**17**	**181**	**342**	**100.00%**	**96.78%**	**00:10:02**


Incidents by Shift
Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Count of Incidents
98
81
129
"A" Shift
"B" Shift
"C" Shift
Shift

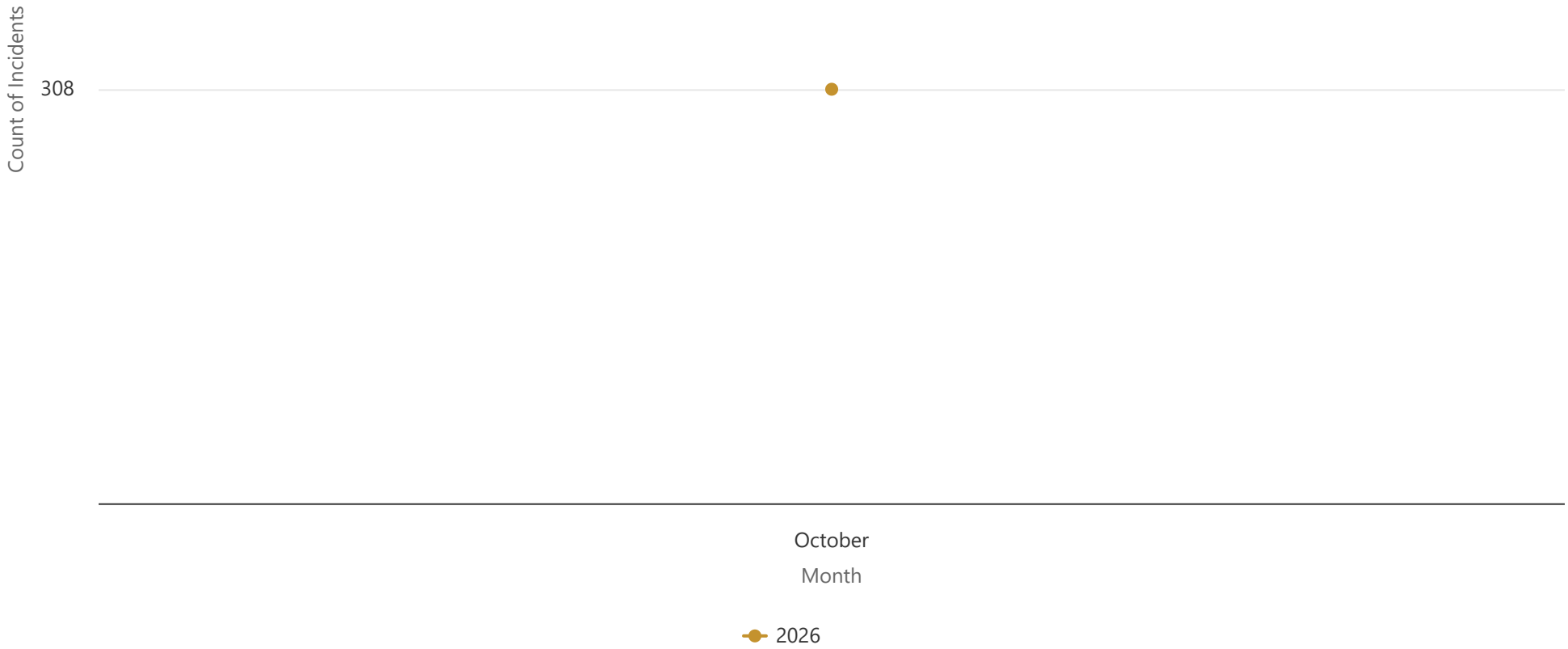
Primary Action Taken Categories by Month

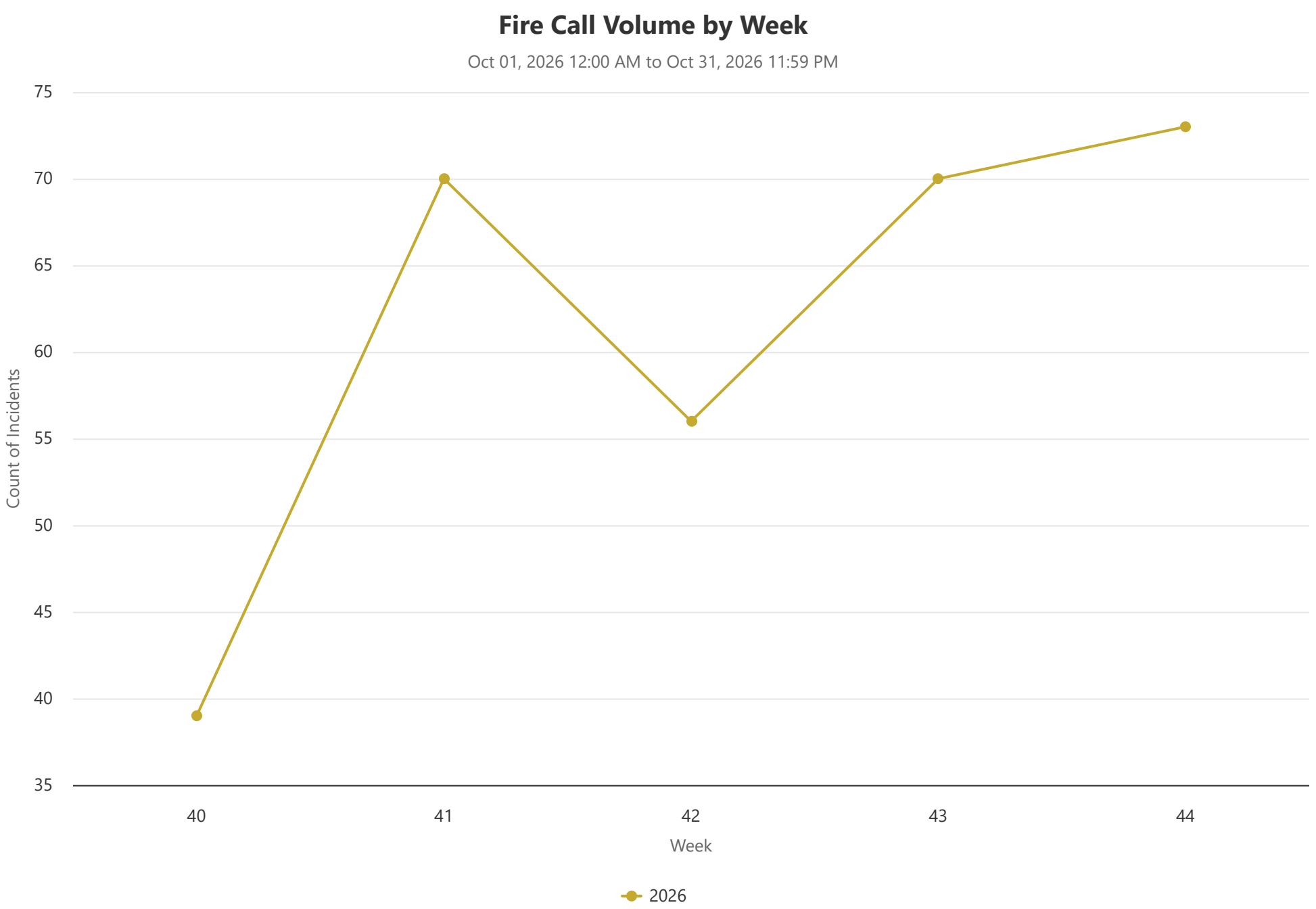
Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Fire Call Volume by Month

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



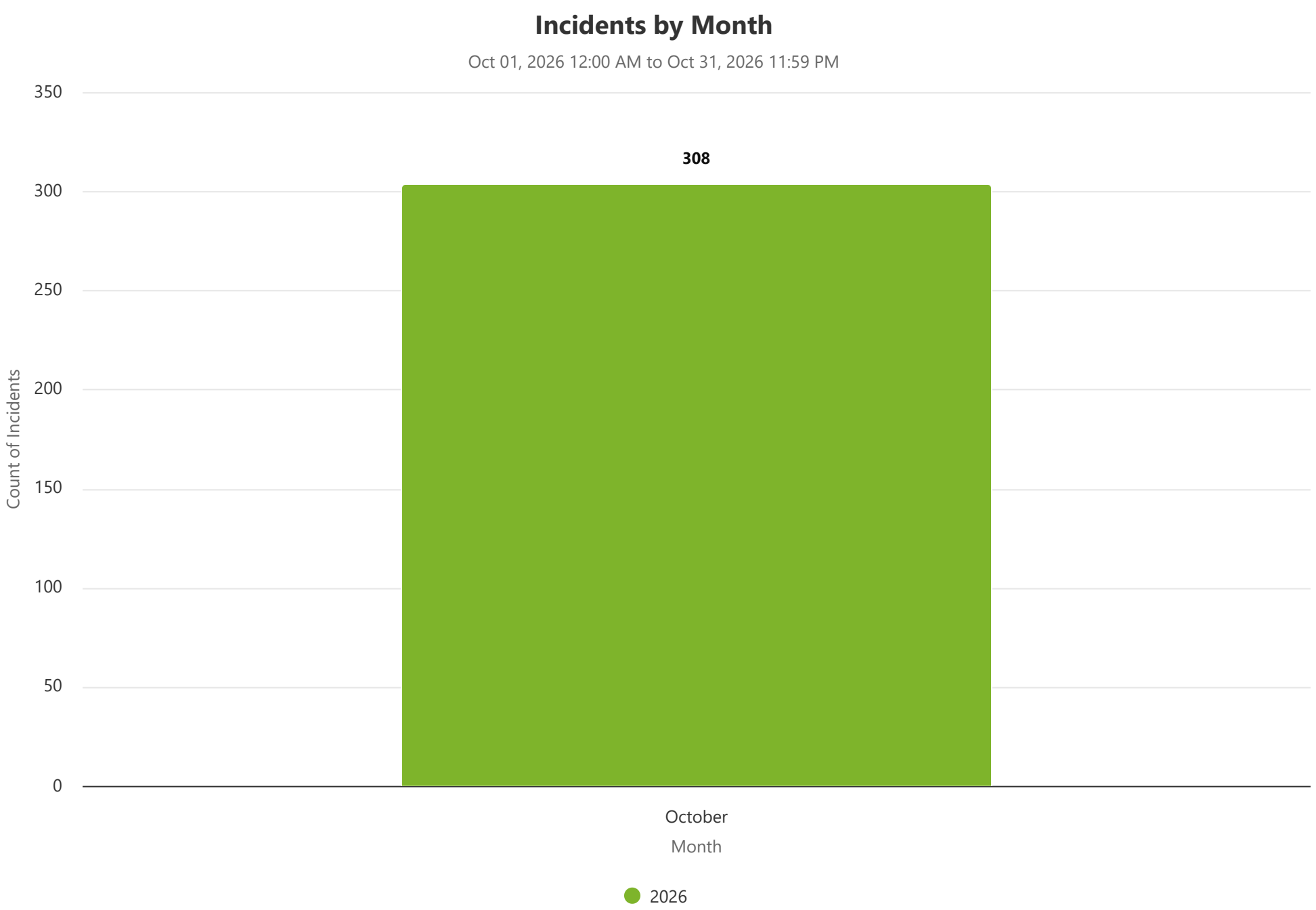

Fire Call Volume by Week
Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40
35
Count of Incidents
40
41
42
43
44
Week
2026

Fire Call Volume by Day

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM

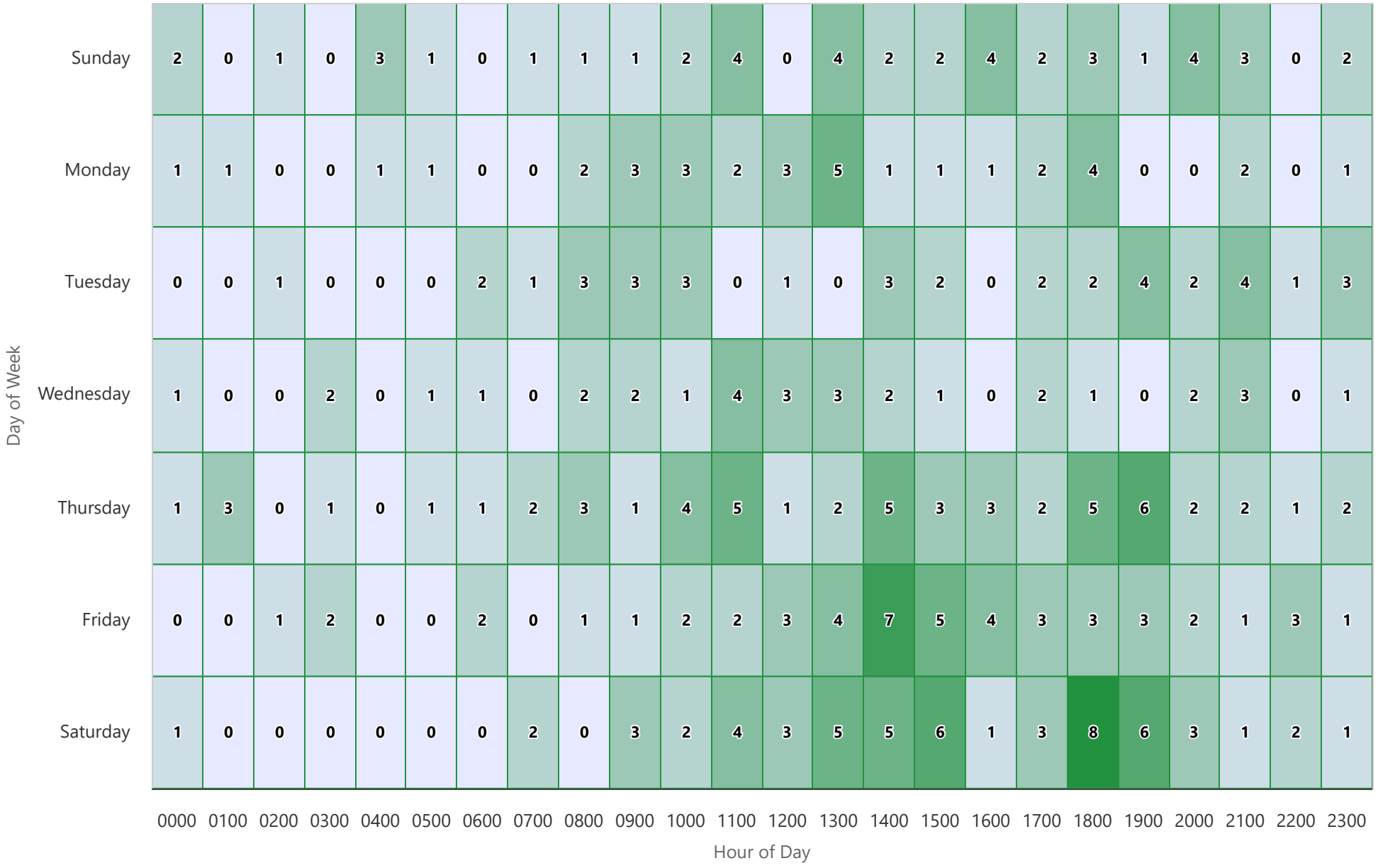
Upper Control/Average/Lower Control




Incidents by Month
Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
Count of Incidents
308
October
Month
2026

Incidents by Day and Hour

Oct 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Monthly Call Volume Year over Year

Jan 01, 2025 12:00 AM to Oct 31, 2026 11:59 PM

	2026		2025		
Incident Month Name	**Grand Total - Current**	**% of Total Incidents - Current**	**Grand Total - Previous**	**% of Total Incidents - Previous**	**YTD % Change**
february	**245**	**10.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
march	**296**	**12.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
april	**284**	**12.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
may	**258**	**10.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
june	**268**	**11.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
july	**274**	**11.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
august	**264**	**11.00%**	**0**		**N/A**
september	**264**	**11.00%**	**0**		**N/A**
october	**308**	**13.00%**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Grand Total	**2,461**	**100.00%**	**0**	**100.00%**	**N/A**

Pin Color Legend

Item #11b

Kensington Fire Service Activity

October 2026 | Kensington incidents and Station 55 service

33	65	00:08:31	100%
Kensington incidents	Station 55 engine incidents	Kensington 90th PSAP-to-arrival	Station 55 reliability in Kensington

Station 55 Engine Deployment

Unit	All scenes	Kensington	El Cerrito	Other
E155 - Type 1 engine	65	30	33	2
E355 - Type 3 engine	0	0	0	0
Station 55 unique incidents	65	30	33	2

Other scene locations: Berkeley: 2.

Stations 51/52 engines in Kensington: 11 of 33 incidents (33.33%); 3 without a Station 55 engine.

Station 55 Response Time by Scene Location

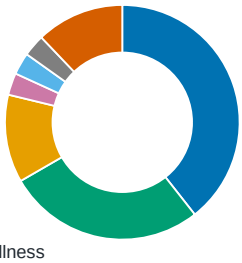
Scene location	Engine incidents	Time recorded	Median PSAP-to-arrival	90th PSAP-to-arrival
Kensington	30	28/30	00:06:42	00:08:30
El Cerrito	33	27/33	00:06:35	00:09:43
Other	2	2/2	00:18:26	00:24:16
All Station 55 incidents	*65*	*57/65*	*00:06:47*	*00:10:14*

Kensington Calls by Category

Category	Count	Share
Fire	1	3.03%
Medical	14	42.42%
Rescue	0	0%
Hazardous Situation	0	0%
Public Service	5	15.15%
No Emergency	12	36.36%
Unspecified	1	3.03%

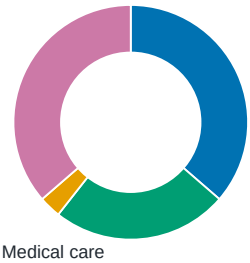
Kensington Incident Detail

Detailed incident types



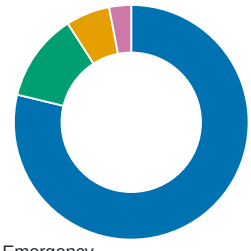
Illness	13
False Alarm	9
Citizen Assist	4
Alarms (Non Medical)	1
Injury/Trauma	1
Other	1
Unspecified	4

Primary actions



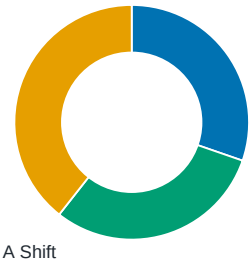
Medical care	12
Provide Services	8
Suppression	1
Unspecified	12

Response mode



Emergency	26
Non-emergency	4
Emergency downgraded	2
Unspecified	1

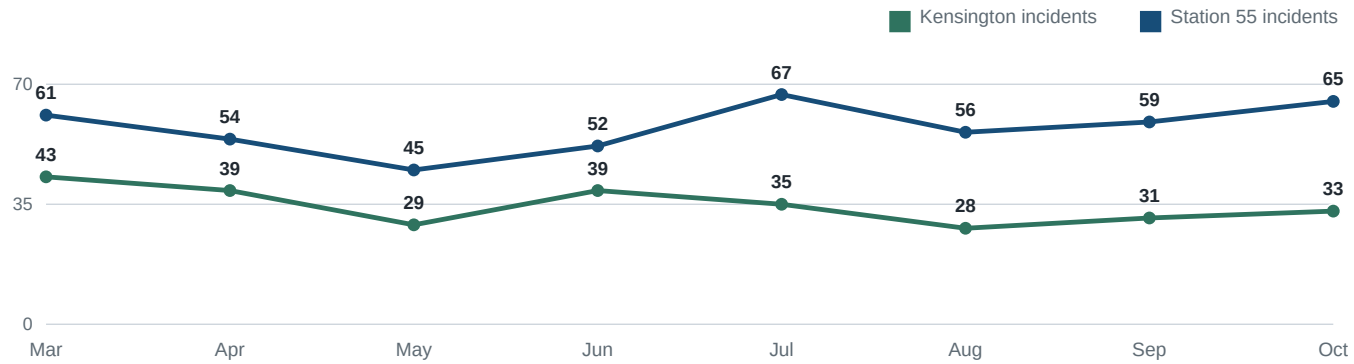
Calls by shift



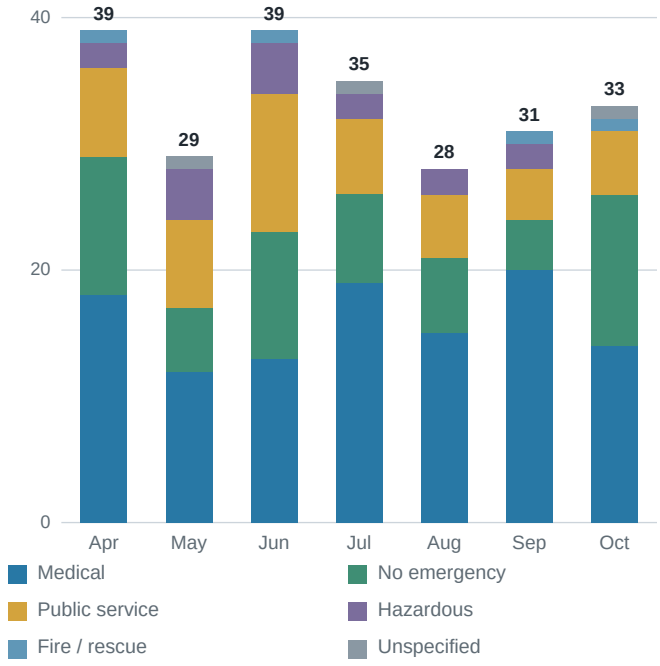
A Shift	10
B Shift	10
C Shift	13

"Other" combines the remaining low-frequency categories.

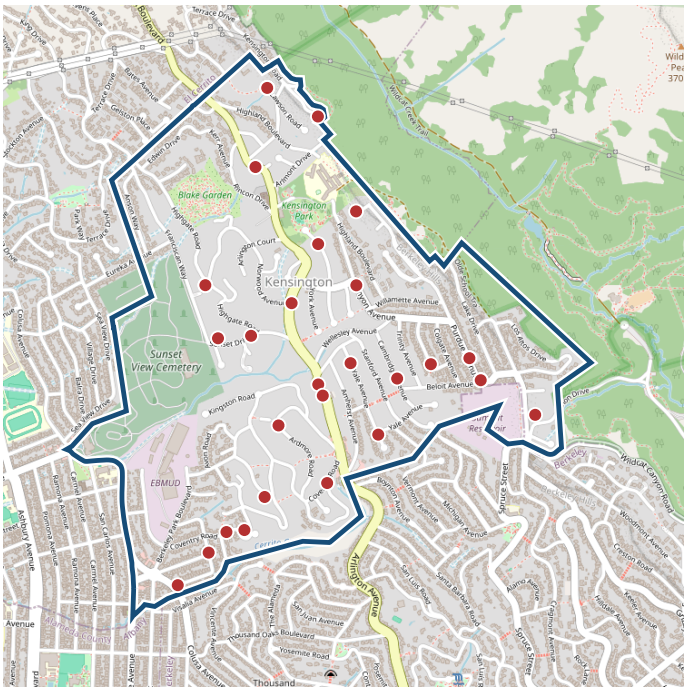
Recent Monthly Activity



Kensington Category Trend



Kensington Incident Locations



Map © OpenStreetMap contributors; boundary from Contra Costa County -K zoning data

Non-Kensington Incidents for EC-K Fire Department

Group	Location or assignment	Incidents	Station reliability	Response records	90th PSAP-to-arrival
El Cerrito	Station 55 primary incidents	16	100%	14/16	00:12:33
El Cerrito	Stations 51/52 primary incidents	182	95.05%	167/182	00:09:01
El Cerrito	Primary station unspecified	3		1/3	00:00:00
EC subtotal	*All El Cerrito incidents*	*201*		*182/201*	*00:09:13*
Other	Non-EC-K Station 55 response	2		2/2	00:24:16
Other	Non-EC-K Stations 51/52 only	71		57/71	00:11:20
Other	Non-EC-K station unspecified	1		1/1	00:07:42
Other subtotal	*All non-EC-K locations*	*74*		*60/74*	*00:12:35*
Non-K total	***All non-Kensington incidents***	***275***		***242/275***	***00:10:05***

Station 55 participated in 15 non-Kensington incidents assigned to Stations 51/52.

Other locations: Richmond 66, San Pablo 6, Berkeley 2.

Reading the Measures

Station reliability is the share of incidents assigned to Station 55 where either E155 or E355 appears among the responding units.
PSAP-to-arrival is the time from when the call is received at dispatch until the first responding unit arrives at the scene.