



PALM BEACH GARDENS FIRE RESCUE

2023 SECOND QUARTER REPORT



During the department's first Push-Back Ceremony, new Ladder 61 was placed into service after being dedicated to Captain Brian Wolnewitz on May 5, 2023.

PATIENT CARE SATISFACTION RATING: 97.08%

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION SATISFACTION RATING: 100%

CPR ATTENDEES: 418

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the second quarter of 2023, Fire Rescue responded to **3,666** emergency calls, **69%** of which were medical calls.

The department received notification from the **Public Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) Program** that the City received a total of \$169,000 from Medicare and from Medicaid. The Medicare and Medicaid PEMT programs provide supplemental payments for enrolled agencies who have eligible transports.

Members of the PEER Support Team attended a lecture from **Travis Howze**, a nationally recognized expert on first responder mental health and PTSD. Additionally, two members from the Health & Wellness Committee and two members from the PEER Support Team attended a two-day **Firefighter Cancer Awareness and Mental Health Symposium** sponsored by the Florida State Fire Marshal's office at the Florida State Fire College.

The department has partnered with the University of Kentucky's Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion to participate in a **Safety, Health, and Injury Prevention in Firefighter Training (SHIFT)** research study. This study will provide critical information to maximize the safety and readiness of firefighters while reducing the number of musculoskeletal injuries.

Community Risk Educator Cline and Fire Inspector Perez attended a conference hosted by the Florida Association of Fire and Life Safety Educators and the Florida Fire & Explosion Investigators Association.

Deputy Chief Ippolito earned his Chief Fire Officer credential from the Center for Public Safety Excellence's **Commission on Professional Credentialing**.

Chief Bessette gave a lecture to students in the **Pre-Medicine Program at Palm Beach Gardens High School**. He provided valuable information on how to become an EMT, paramedic, and firefighter and gave an overview of the firefighting profession. Fire Chief Bryer spoke with residents at **La Posada** about the different services offered by the department.

The department hosted an intern from the **Suits for Seniors** program. He spent several days shadowing the different Fire Rescue divisions to learn more about the services that are provided to the City.

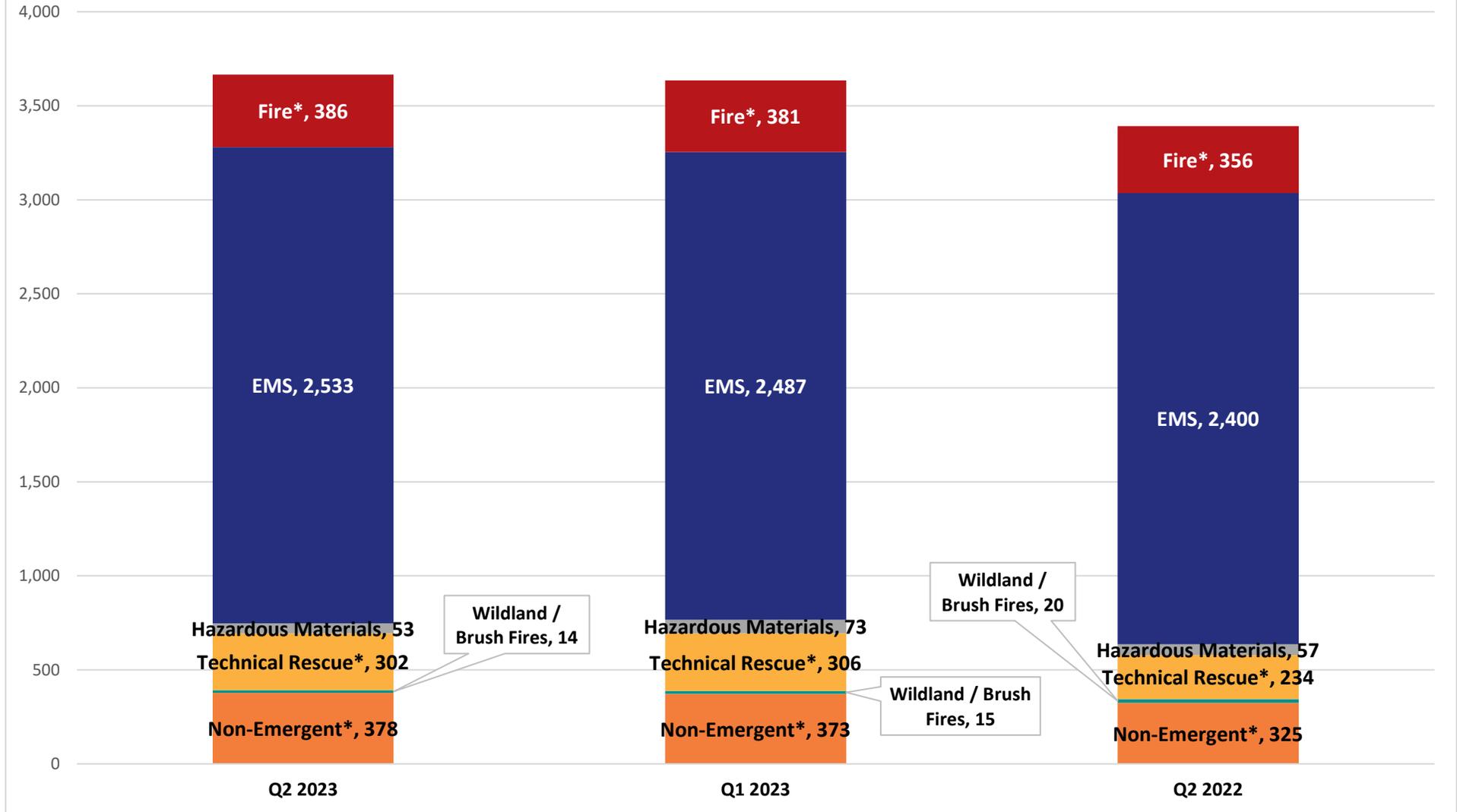


Travis Howze Lecture

OPERATIONS DIVISION

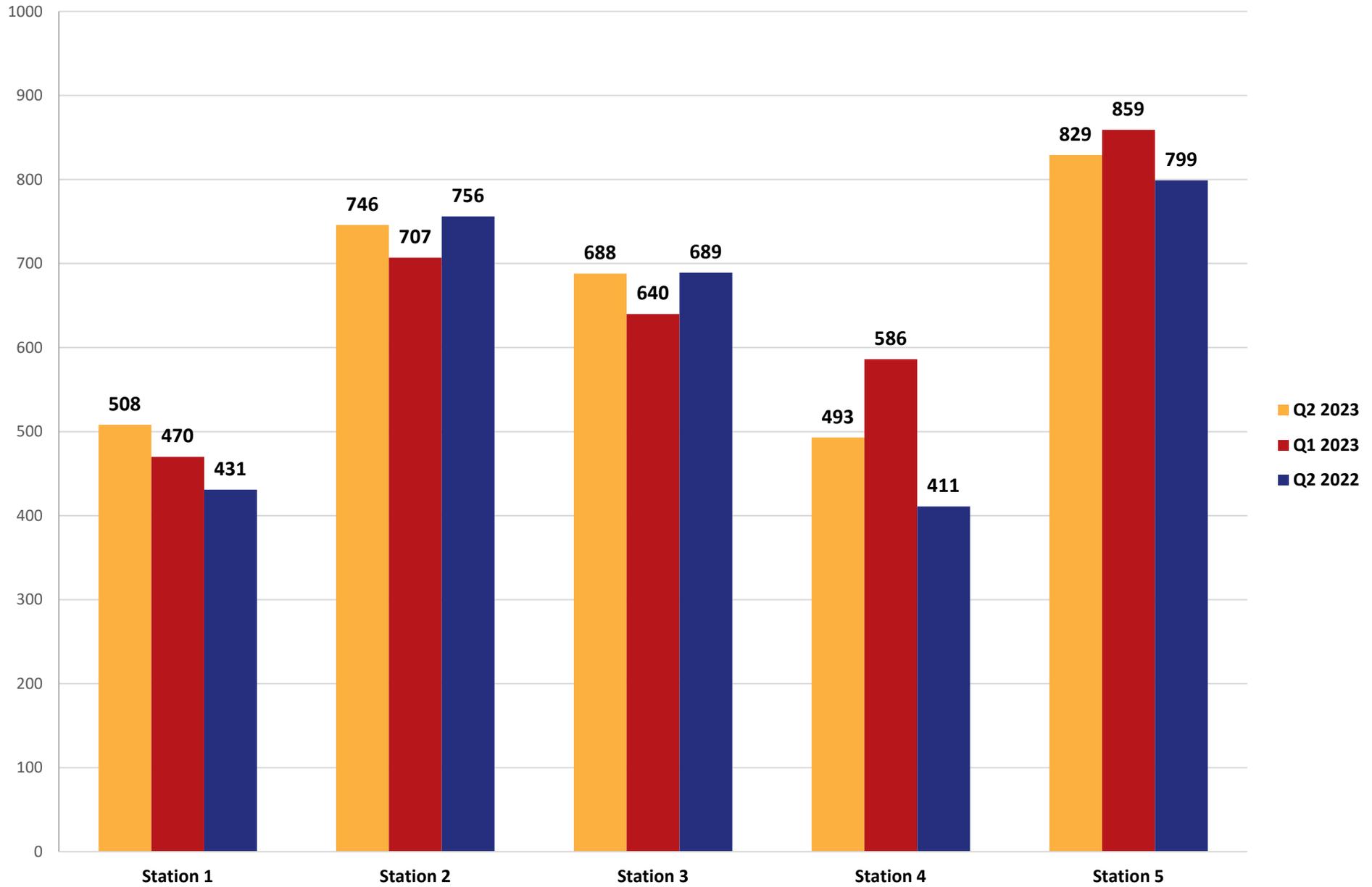
Dispatched Call Types

(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



Calls Inside and Outside of City Limits



EMS DIVISION



Fire Rescue crews received the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce **Call of the Year** at the annual Valor Awards ceremony in May. These personnel were recognized for their actions in resuscitating a newborn found in cardiac arrest. One year later, the child has fully recovered and is meeting all developmental milestones!

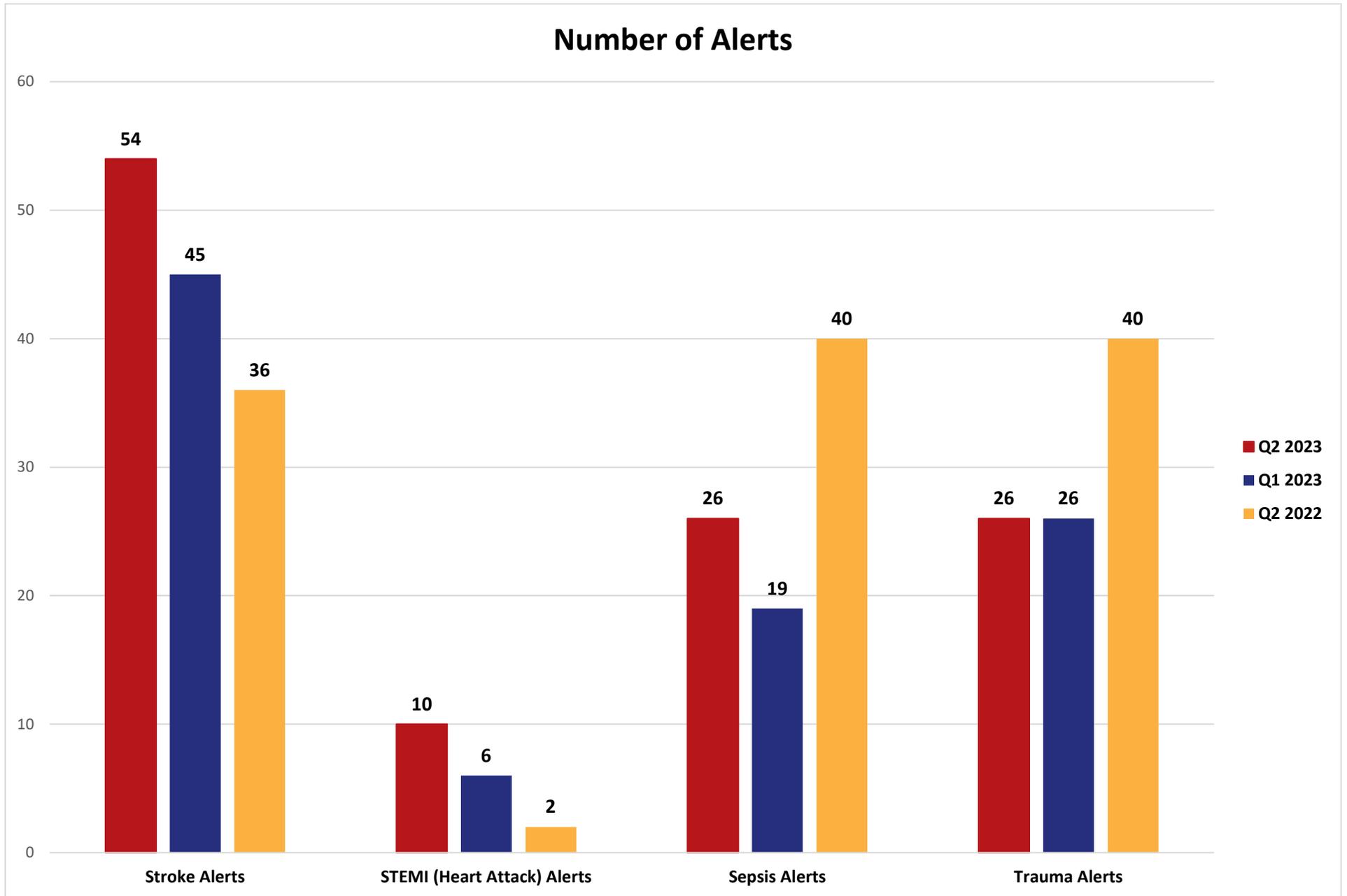


During Stroke Awareness Month in May, the department conducted **201 stroke risk assessments** and **271** residents participated in stroke awareness activities throughout the month. Chief Bessette gave a stroke awareness lecture at the Oaks East community.



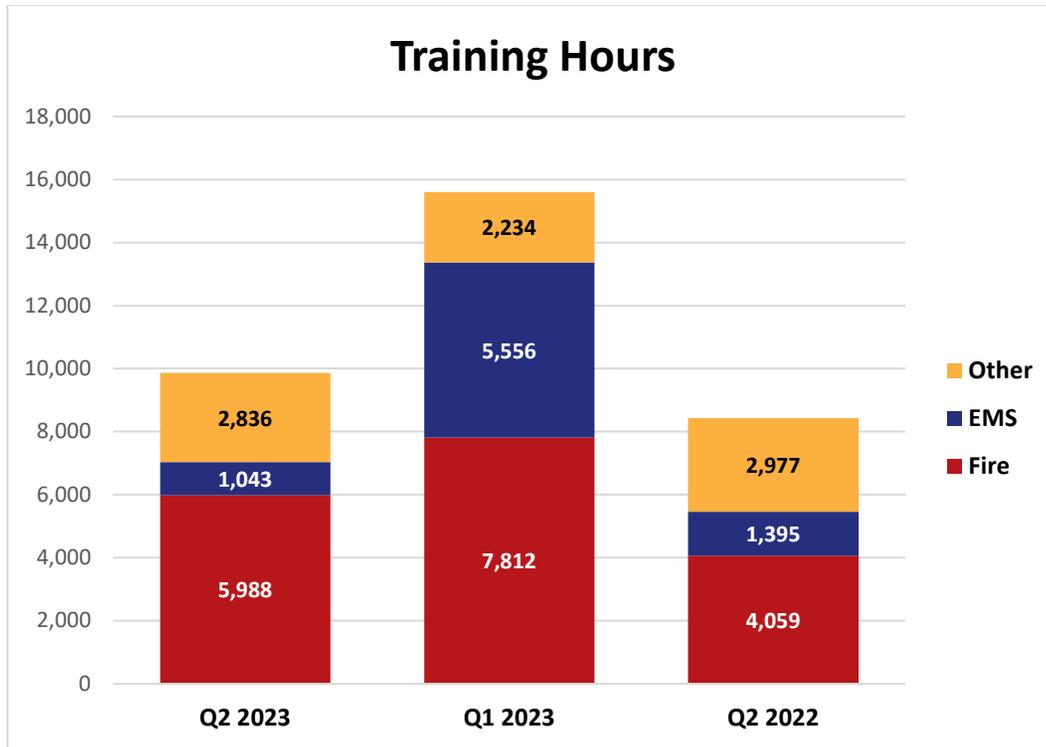
The department attended the **Goodnight to Child Abuse** event hosted by St. Mary's Medical Center. The hospital's Non-accidental Trauma Team, local law enforcement and fire rescue agencies, and the Department of Children and Families came together to bring awareness and shed light onto the combined efforts to "say goodnight" to this preventable act.

Number of Alerts



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 ≤ 10 minutes. Hospitals are notified early so that they can prepare to receive the patient upon Fire Rescue’s arrival.

TRAINING DIVISION



Recruit Academy 02-2023 completed their rescue swimmer course at the City pool. This training focuses on the skills necessary to perform surface water rescues.

- The Department participated in the national **Safety Stand Down**. This year, the focus was on first responder safety during incidents involving lithium-ion batteries. These types of fires are becoming more prevalent and pose new risks and challenges for firefighters.
- Personnel who recently became eligible to be on the promotional list for the EMS District Captain position attended advanced airway training. Training includes managing patients with difficult airways, advanced airway techniques, and administering sedation and paralytic medications to facilitate intubation.
- Other training hours include activities such as ‘hot wash’ discussions to review significant calls, officer development academies, and daily physical training.



In preparation for the implementation of the technical rescue team, 30 members of the department attended rope rescue operation and rope rescue technician classes, totaling 80 hours of rope rescue training per person.



The department recently received a training prop for fighting LPG fires.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION



Department personnel provided stroke risk assessments for residents at the Gardens Green Market during stroke awareness month in May.



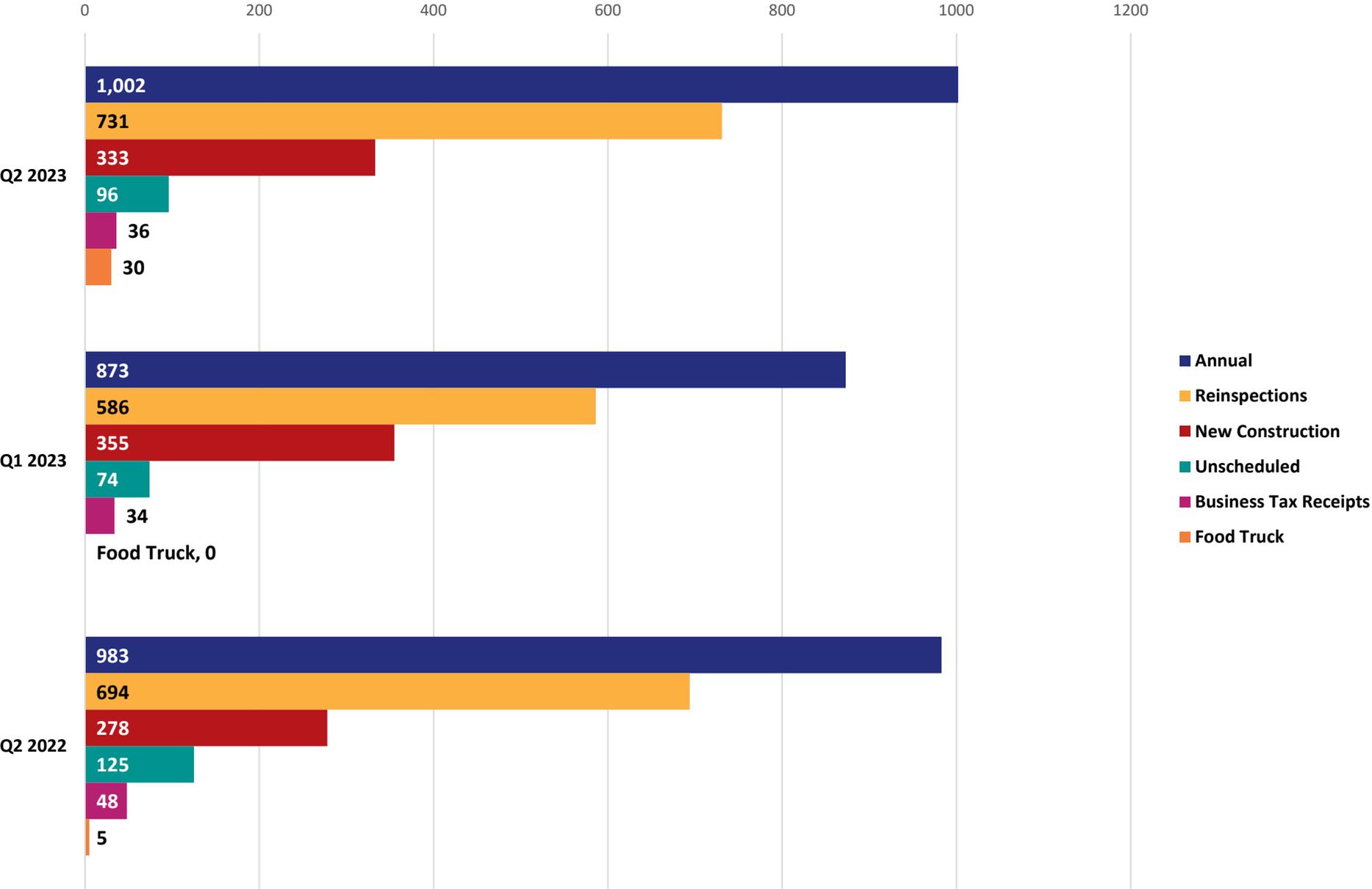
A future firefighter learns the essentials of the job during a “Firefighter Experience” day.



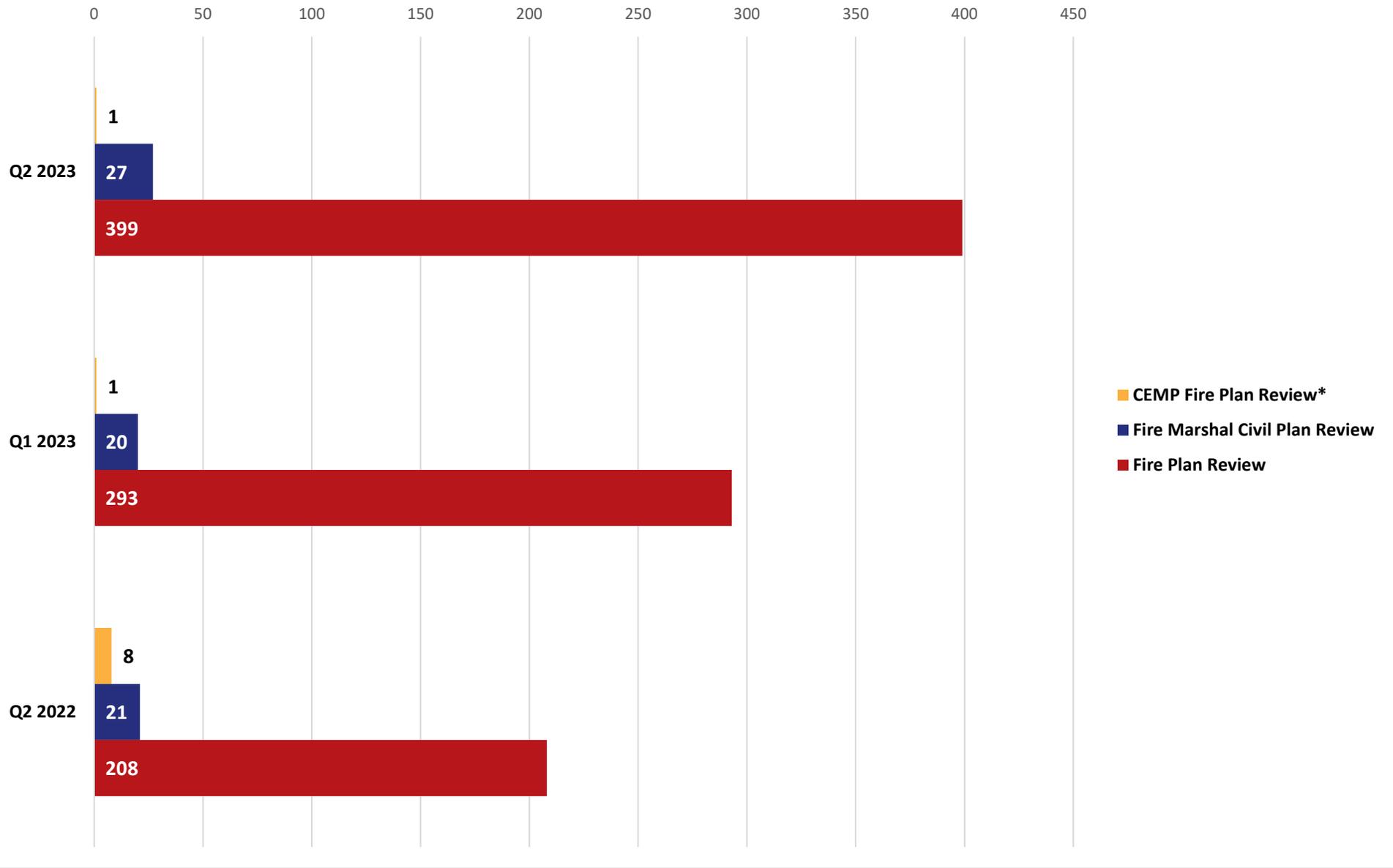
The department trained **418 attendees** in hands-only CPR in a total of 13 classes throughout the quarter. Attendees of the Ball Stars Youth Basketball Camp and employees at TBC Corporation, in partnership with The American Heart Association, learned this lifesaving skill.

The Community Risk Reduction Division installed **87 smoke alarms** and **16 carbon monoxide alarms** for residents in 19 different homes, including in the Villa D’Este neighborhood in PGA National, in this quarter.

Inspection Activities

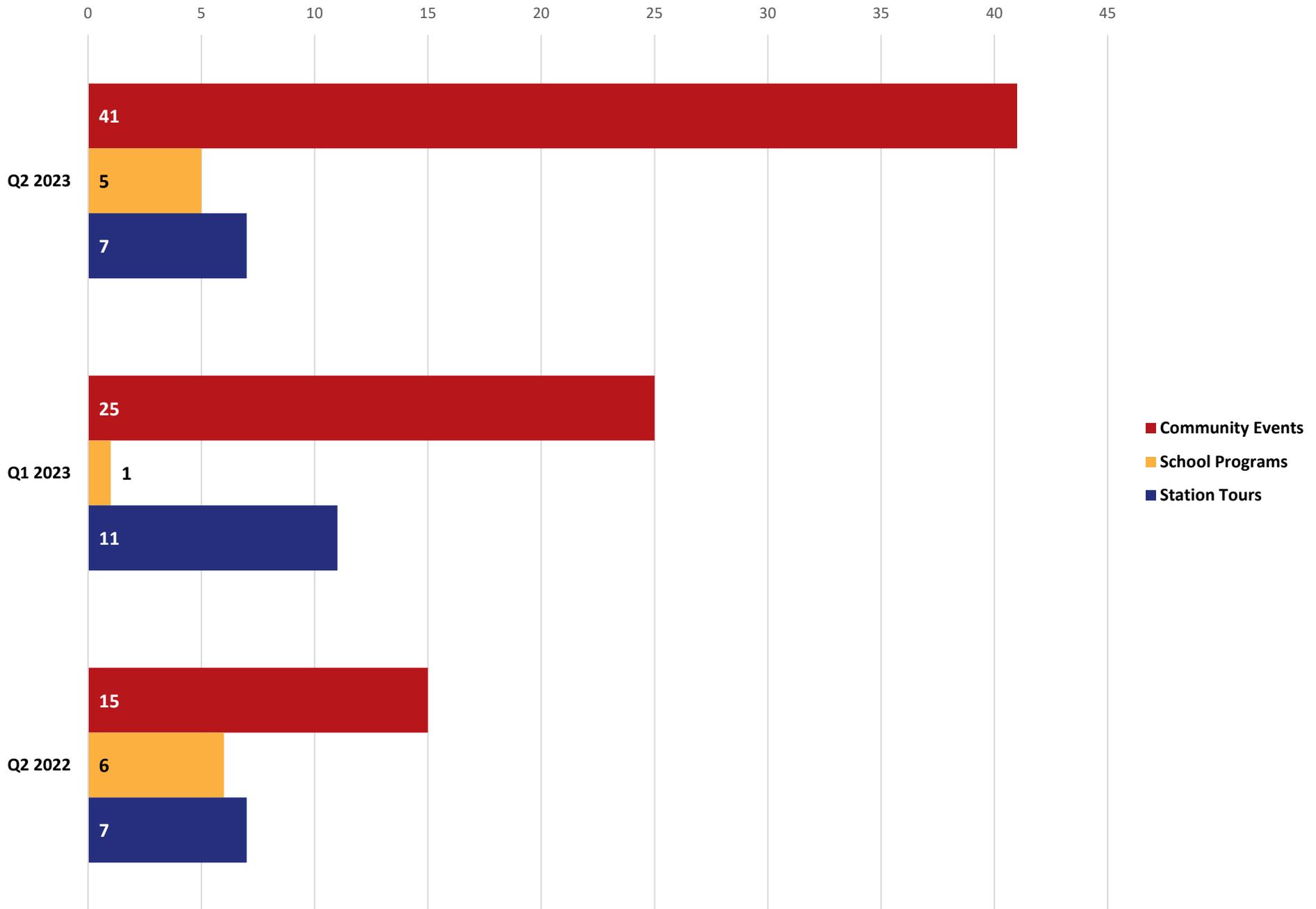


Plan Review

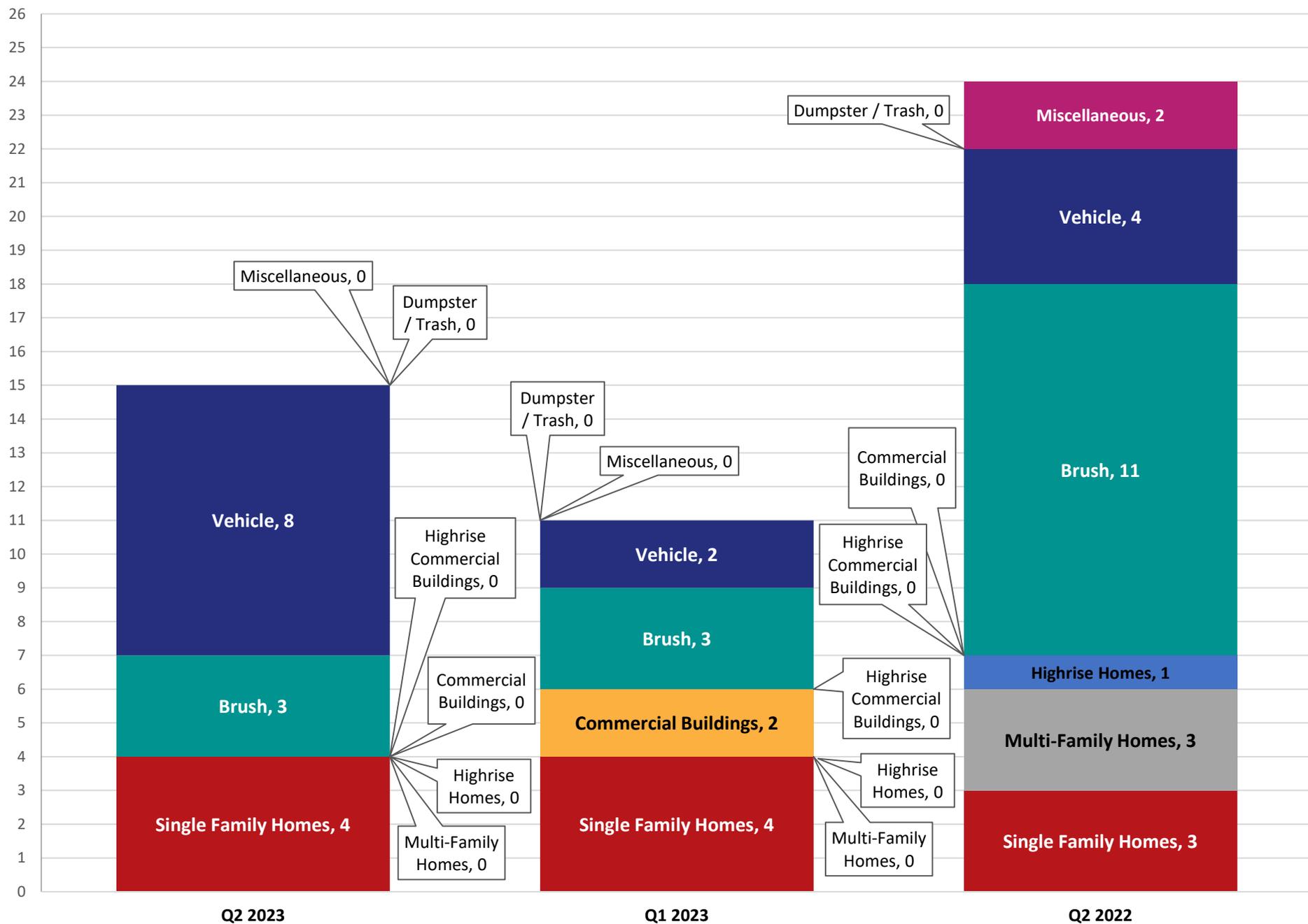


**Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (“CEMP”) are required by all healthcare occupancies. They are designed to help mitigate any type of threat to their operations.*

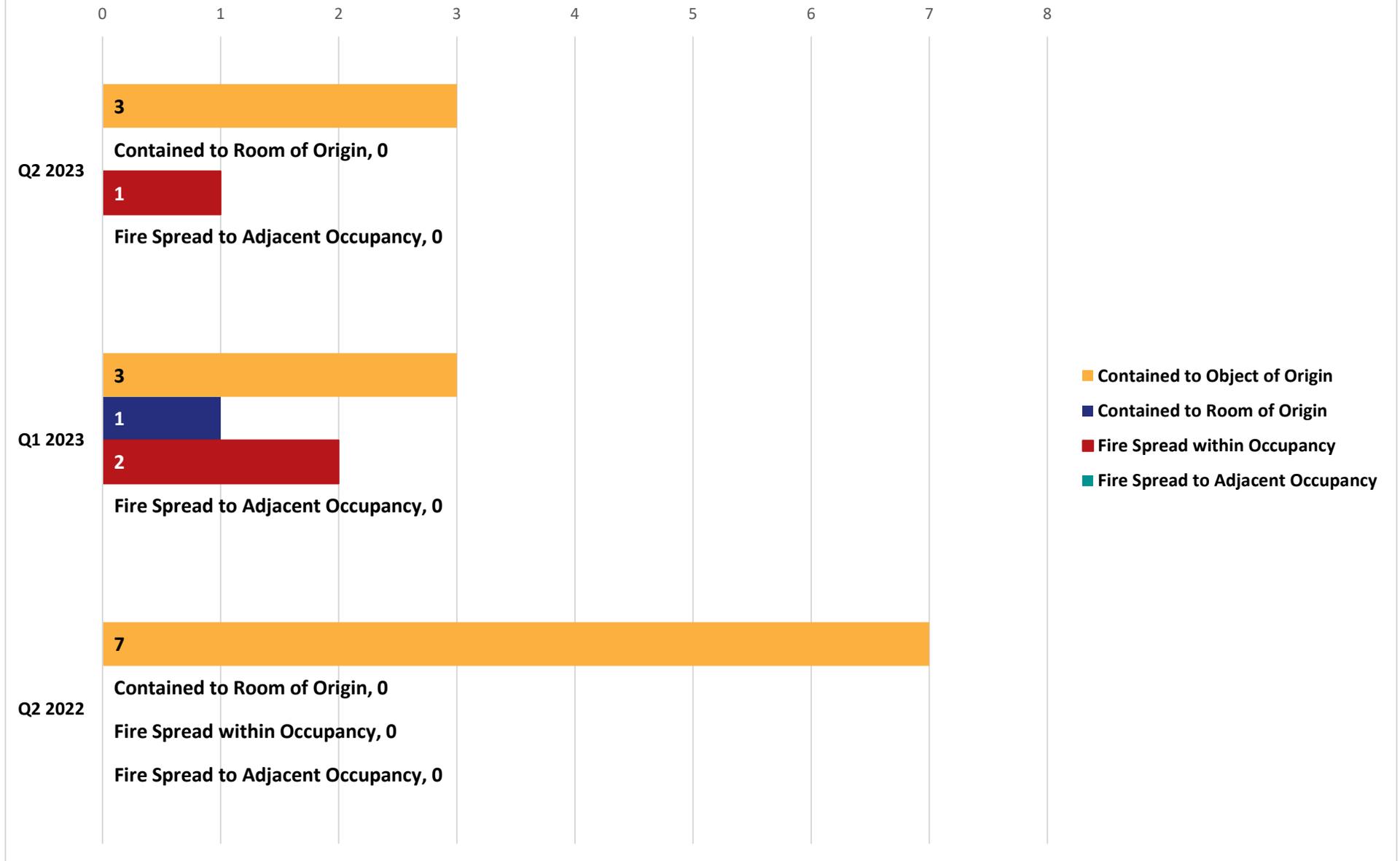
Community Education Events



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

2nd Quarter 2023

- *Total Dollar Loss: \$77,000*
- *Potential Loss: \$1,852,691*

1st Quarter 2023

- *Total Dollar Loss: \$393,780*
- *Potential Loss: \$7,147,715*

2nd Quarter 2022

- *Total Dollar Loss: \$7,150*
- *Potential Loss: \$1,233,006*

- **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: RETIREMENTS, PROMOTIONS, & NEW HIRES



EMS District Captain

Richard Jimenez

Years of Service: 29

District Captain Jimenez honorably served the City for 29 years. During his tenure, he served as a driver/engineer and then as a district captain for the majority of his career. He received numerous awards, commendations, and praise from his supervisors and the public he proudly served. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Meritorious Award for his countless contributions to the EMS Division.



Ryan Winkelman,
promoted to **EMS**
District Captain



Fire Medic Jon Cragg

Years of Service: 24

Fire Medic Cragg honorably served for 24 years. He received several commendations from grateful citizens over the years and returned to work as the quartermaster for Fire Rescue following his retirement.



Welcome to **Recruit Class 02-2023**

Mariana Acevedo, Firefighter

Jared Chaloux, Firefighter

Sarah Harper, Firefighter

Jagger McCoy, Firefighter

Jack Badalamenti, Firefighter

Jesse Foertmeyer, Firefighter

Bailey Lewis, Firefighter

Joseph Schults, Firefighter