

THE RURAL HITCH

A Quarterly Publication of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

LRMFA ASSISTS LOUDON DURING NASCAR EVENT

See Page 6



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From the Chief...

Jonathan M. Goldman, CPE



The second quarter of 2024 was challenging, as an organization we dispatched what seemed to be more fires than the first quarter. It was very busy as an organization. The staff continues to work with the new CAD system and develops the programs for it. Due to some staffing changes, we have had to change around some of the roles and responsibilities that the staff handles. In May the Deputy Chiefs position became vacant, and the team has really excelled since then in picking up the extra duties until we can get the position filled. Dispatcher T. Adam Sattler has taken on the role of CAD Manager and is working through learning everything he needs to learn to better support the staff and the district in managing the CAD system. Dispatcher Brian Dumka has taken on the role of IT and Radio Systems Manager and is also working through learning what he needs to learn to better support the radio system and information technology initiatives. Dispatcher Josh Hansen is working on both teams to help out as well. Lt. Erin Hannafin although working her regular shifts has taken on the role of Interim Operations Supervisor to help manage everything that is going on as well. All the team members have stepped up in different ways and continue to impress me with their commitment to the organization.

The CAD change request will be changing soon, to serve the members of the district better and Dispatcher Sattler will be working on implementation plans and training plans to onboard any agencies that would like to begin to use iPads/Tablet/MDTs in their apparatus. He is also administering the Crew Force application which Chief Officers and apparatus can use to access the CAD. The online Web CAD system is just about to go live. Dispatcher Sattler is working with it, but this is the system departments will be able to use to access their call information and obtain some statistical information. It will not be a public-facing web cad like "the old one" was but it will better meet the needs of the departments.

All in all, it has been a busy quarter, and it is hard to believe we are almost halfway done with 2024...

The Rural Hitch

Is Curated and Published Quarterly by:

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

Chief Coordinator

Jonathan M. Goldman, CPE

Deputy Chief Coordinator

Currently Vacant

Special Projects Coordinator / Rural Hitch Editor

Nicholas Bridle



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Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Training Division:

Upcoming Trainings:

October 8th Communications Procedures

November 9th Rescue Jacks Full Day Training

January 7th Accountability



Training Division Equipment:

Fit Testing: fittesting@lrmfa.org

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PLYMOUTH RESPONDS TO MULTIPLE BUILDINGS ON FIRE

At 9:10 PM on April 20 Lt. Ricky Fowler, and Disp. Adam Sattler began receiving multiple 9-1-1 calls reporting several buildings on fire in Plymouth. Initial reports were one of the buildings was “The Flying Monkey.” They dispatched Plymouth Fire-Rescue and their automatics.

Plymouth Companies arrived to find heavy fire conditions in two commercial buildings-the former Peppercorn Natural Food Store and Downtown Pizza. Captain Peck ordered a second alarm, and Deputy Chief Pierce elevated that to three alarms.

The Flying Monkey Performance Center at 39 Main Street was near capacity for a concert. Approximately 450 patrons and staff were evacuated without incident. A primary search of the involved buildings revealed no occupants.

Containing the fire proved to be a challenge due to the proximity of the buildings, as well as the fact that one building had multiple ceilings, and roof structures that had to be accessed. As the fire progressed in these void spaces, fire personnel were evacuated from the building and a defensive operation ensued. One Plymouth Firefighter was treated at Speare Memorial Hospital for a shoulder injury and released.

Plymouth was assisted by companies on the scene from Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, Ashland, Bristol, Campton-Thornton, Waterville Valley, Holderness, New Hampton, Bridgewater, Hebron, Center Harbor, Meredith, Tilton-Northfield, Sanbornton, Rumney, Warren, Wentworth, and Woodstock. The Lincoln FD, Stewarts Ambulance Service, and Canann FD provided coverage.

Chief Morrison also wanted to thank, NH Electric Coop., Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, Plymouth PD, Plymouth Village Water and Sewer District, NH State Fire Marshals Office, and Speare Memorial Hospital. Companies on the scene also appreciated the food and beverages provided by Chase Street Market, Café Monte Alto, and Chris and Ally (Morrison) Robbins.

Chief Morrison stated “The fire companies are to be commended for holding this fire to the two buildings involved. The Manager of the Flying Monkey is also to be commended for discovering the fire, activating the fire alarm system at that location, and notifying 911.”

The Flying Monkey was able to reopen the following weekend and was grateful for the public safety response. To thank the first responders they hosted a Recycled Percussion “Chaos and Kindness” Concert for the public safety personnel who responded to this incident.



LRMFA ASSISTS LOUDON DURING NASCAR EVENT



As one of only a few FEMA-designated Communications Unit Leaders (COML) in New Hampshire Chief Jon Goldman served as the COML for the NASCAR event held in Loudon on June 22 and 23. The COML is responsible for the Communications Unit and works with other unit leaders within the ICS positions. The COML writes the communications plan and works alongside the Information Technology Services Leader (ITSL) to provide Primary, Alternate, Contingent, and Emergency communications planning and execution for events. Dispatcher Adam Sattler is a Communications Technician (COMT) trainee currently working towards obtaining his COMT designation. Chief Goldman and Dispatcher Sattler worked closely with The Loudon Fire Department, NHMS, and the NH Division of Emergency Services to establish multiple voice radio networks, along with failover planning to help provide continuous uninterrupted public safety emergency communications services for the event.



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GILFORD FIRE RESPONDS TO 3RD ALARM FIRE

Just after midnight on April 9, Lt. LaDuke and Disp. Olisky took a 911 call reporting a building fire in Gilford. Gilford and Laconia companies were quickly dispatched. A neighbor reported to the Dispatchers a large barn was fully involved and that the barn contained cattle and possibly diesel storage tanks, it was later determined there were no cattle in the barn at the time of the fire.

While en route Gilford Engine 2 requested a 2nd alarm response and then once on scene requested a 3rd alarm response. The 2-story 200'x100' barn was fully involved with partial roof collapse on arrival, and a defensive attack was initiated. Water supply was obtained from a dry hydrant on Gunstock Hill Road and from the dry hydrant at Lily Pond on Lily Pond Road.

Mutual aid companies provided manpower and apparatus for the water shuttle. Several master stream appliances were utilized to extinguish this fire. Assisting agencies included: Fire Departments from Laconia, Belmont, Alton, Tilton-Northfield, Franklin, Meredith, Holderness, Center Harbor, Gilmanon, New Hampton, Moultonborough, Meredith EMS, along with Gilford Police, Eversource, and Lakes Region Mutual Aid. "All mutual aid partners worked well and quickly extinguished this fire" stated Deputy Chief Brad Ober, "there were no injuries and the fire was contained to the original building".





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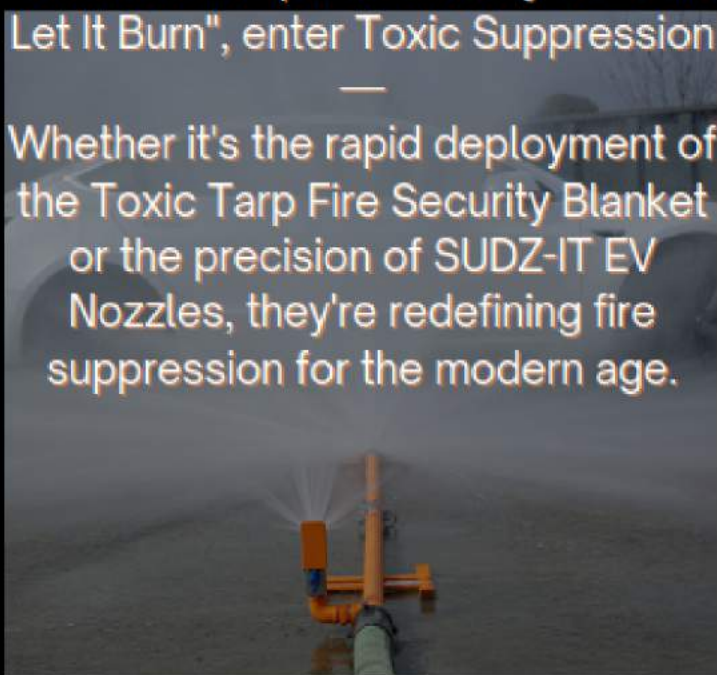
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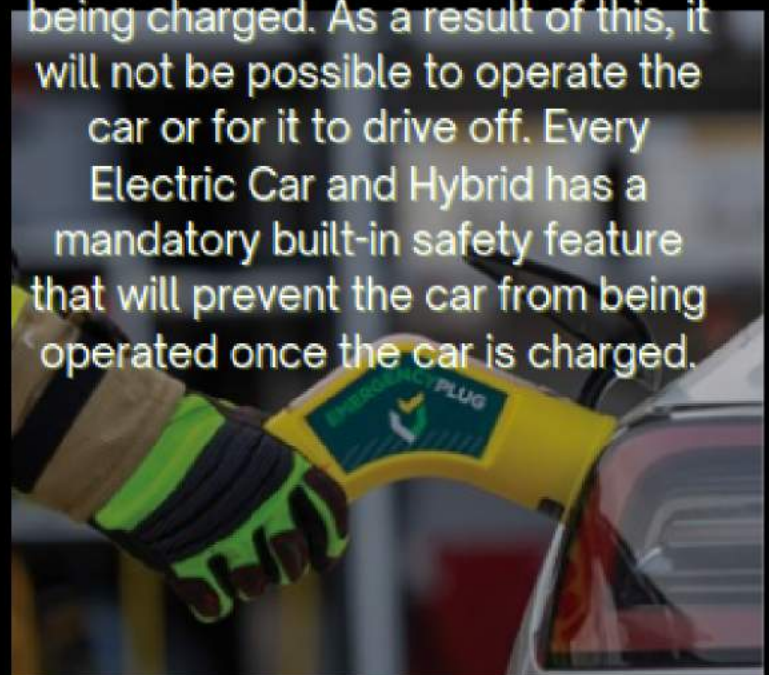
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RUMNEY RESPONDS TO 3RD ALARM BUILDING FIRE



On April 29, Lt. Derrek Trempe and Disp. Brian Dumka received a 9-1-1 call reporting a chimney fire that had extended into the building on Old Route 25 just before 5:30 pm. They quickly dispatched Rumney Fire Department, along with their automatics.

Chief Hacker arrived on the scene six minutes after the tone to find smoke showing from the eaves on all sides of a 2.5-story wood-framed single-family home and requested a 1st Alarm assignment.

Chief Hacker made contact with the homeowner and confirmed all occupants were out of the building. Shortly after Rumney Engine 2, Deputy Chief Pierce from Plymouth Fire Department, a Wentworth Fire Fighter, and Plymouth Tower 1 arrived on the scene.

Plymouth's Tower positioned and sent a crew to the roof to begin cutting vent holes to release smoke and heat from the structure. At the same time, Wentworth and Rumney crews led by Plymouth Deputy Chief Pierce began an aggressive interior attack.

Crews were met with high heat and zero visibility as they made the push to the second floor. Once on the second floor, they encountered heavy heat and fire conditions. As additional resources arrived on the scene crews rotated in on fire attack and overhaul.

Chief Hacker stated “This fire was tough to locate and extinguish. The house was a large building with additions and many void spaces with plaster and lathe walls and ceilings. At the height of the fire we had 4 hose lines in operation and 3 outside vent crews working.” Crews were able to pull out a collection of rare antique phonographs and records. The fire ultimately went to 3 Alarms for manpower due to the labor-intensive operations.

There were approximately 60 firefighters on the scene and at the water supply fighting this fire. One firefighter was injured and transported to Speare Memorial Hospital in Plymouth for evaluation. The injuries appeared to be minor in nature. Crews remained on the scene until approximately 10 pm.





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Busy Day for LRMFA



June 1 was a gorgeous, but hot Saturday afternoon. The day started with Chief Goldman, and Lt. Hannafin attending the New Hampton Public Safety Day. This is a great day for the New Hampton area community, with safety demos, safety displays, and tons of food. Kids and adults alike can look at all of the public safety equipment from police bicycles to fire apparatus, to the BCSO Humvee. Plus, the New Hampton Fire Association provides all of the fixin's for a cookout by donation.

Early in the afternoon, Danbury and several other departments were dispatched to a helicopter crash, Chief Goldman responded from New Hampton to assist, and while on scene worked with the Chief to manage the incident, and make notifications and communication with NHSP, the FAA, NHDES, and multiple other agencies that are involved in an incident such as this. Fortunately, the pilot was not severely injured and was the only person aboard the aircraft. While on scene he was able to use the new Tyler CAD software to communicate with dispatch since cell coverage (voice) was spotty, but the data connection continued to work. It was a great test of the mobile data terminals that are part of the CAD system.

After clearing the Danbury incident, and later in the afternoon Gilford Fire was dispatched to an outside fire, which rose to a second alarm at their transfer station. They had large piles of brush, mulch, and yard waste that had caught fire necessitating a large manpower-intensive response.

Alongside both of these incidents, the Dispatchers dispatched many other critical calls for service requiring multiple mutual aid throughout the district. Lt. Hannafin, Lt. LaDuke, Lt. Trempe, Dispatcher Olisky, and Dispatcher Dumka all worked together to make a resource-intense day go well.

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RUMNEY AND PLYMOUTH RESPOND TO TECHNICAL RESCUE



Just after 8:30 am on April 24 Lt. Hannafin and Dispatcher Hanson received a 911 call for a patient who had fallen. After dispatching Rumney EMS and Plymouth Fire-Rescue, they were updated that the patient had fallen approximately 60 feet.

Chief Hacker and FF Coes responded in the ambulance as they were at the station doing paperwork from a previous call. When they arrived with the ambulance, they found the patient approximately 60ft down a steep embankment. At that time Chief Hacker initiated a technical rescue response requesting manpower from Rumney and Wentworth Fire Department as well as the tower truck from Plymouth with people and equipment to set up a rope system.

The patient was assessed, packaged, and then extricated via a Stokes basket hooked to a rope system anchored to a utility pole at the top of the embankment.

This was a labor-intensive operation with many hands helping. The extrication itself took under 10 minutes once the system and safeties were in place. Buffalo Road was closed for about an hour so crews could work safely.

Chief Hacker thanked Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, Wentworth Fire Department, and Plymouth Fire-Rescue for assisting them with communications and performing the extrication.



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National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week is celebrated during the first full week in April of each year. LRMFA and NH911 have co-hosted an open house for several years. From exploring the Incident Command Vehicle and the LRMFA response vehicles attendees were able to tour both the LRMFA operations room and the NH911 PSAP while also getting to meet their Dispatchers and Telecommunicators.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, and to everyone who made it possible. This is a great tradition and we hope to continue it and see it grow each year. A special thank you to LAKES 101.5 who also brought some cool vehicles for everyone to see.

LRMFA AND NH911 CO-HOST NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR WEEK OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

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MULTIPLE BUILDING FIRES IN MULTIPLE DISTRICTS THE WEEK OF 4/21-4/27



The last week in April was a very busy week for LRMFA and its departments. 4 fires were handled by Plymouth Fire-Rescue, 2 by Barnstead Fire Rescue, mutual aid to Lincoln Fire Department NH, and a brush fire by Bristol NH Fire Department....it was a busy week for sure. Great job by all the crews and all of the Dispatchers working each shift.

The large brush fire in Barnstead was simultaneously occurring at the same time Loudon NH Fire Department had a building fire pulling from the same resources. It took a lot of "heads up ball" by both LRMFA and Capital Area Fire Mutual Aid Compact Dispatchers to coordinate those incidents at the same time.




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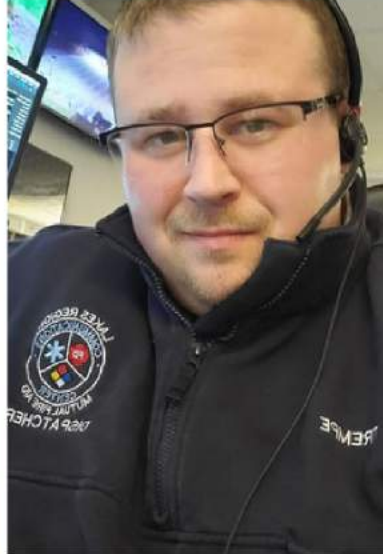
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LRMFA
Lieutenant Derrek Trempe
5 Years

NEW HIRES

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT



Franklin
FF/EMT Cody Griffin



Plymouth Fire
FF/EMT Brandyn Bassett



Plymouth Fire
FF/EMT Cannon Barnaby



Tilton Northfield Fire
FF Mike Lewis



Franklin

Captain Steve Reale

Captain Reale joined the Franklin Fire Department in May of 2016. Prior to coming to the City of Franklin, Steve was a member of the Hopkinton Fire Department. After becoming the City of Franklin's Inspector, Steve was promoted to the rank of Captain in April of 2018. One of Steve's accomplishments was becoming the City's first certified Fire Investigator. Steve has been instrumental in his contributions to the City of Franklin, and Lakes Region as a whole. Thank you for your service and good luck in your future endeavors!

RETIREMENT



Franklin

Captain Tom Hegener

PROMOTIONS



NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT



Laconia

Administrative Assistant
Trish Valovanie

We are very sad to announce the passing of retired Laconia Fire Department Administrative Assistant Trish Valovanie. Trish started in Laconia in 2007 and retired in 2023. Our thoughts are with Trish's family, fire family throughout the district, and her friends.

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- 40 Amp - Battery Charger - ProMariner
- Front Bumper Ext - 24"
- Front Suction - 5"
- Frt Jumpline, 1.5"
- Q2B Mechanical Siren
- FRC In Control 400 Pressure Governor
- 1750 GPM Pump
- T-Tank, 3000 US Gallons
- Primer / Bleeder Selector Valve
- Rear Suction, Gated, 6"
- Deck Gun Monitor
- Speedlay, (B) Beds, 1.5" NST/ 1.5" NST/ 2.5" NST
- Direct Tank Fill Left/Right
- Dump Valve, 8" D Left & Right Side
- Rr Ctr, 10" Sq Newton Strikos Stl, Chute
- Thru The Tank Ladder Group
- 16' Roof, Duo-Safety
- 10' Fldg Attic, Duo-Safety
- 24' Two-Sect Ext, Duo-Safety
- Tray, (2) 15' Suction, L/S,
- Tray, (1) 15' Suction, R/S,
- Folding Tank Rack, Zico
- Fo/Da-Tank, 3500 Gal
- Whelen - LED Light Package
- Whelen - LED - TAL85 Traffic Advisor





Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid

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Jonathan M. Goldman, CPE
Chief Coordinator

Vacant
Deputy Chief Coordinator

Deputy Chief Coordinator Vacancy

Position Title: Deputy Chief Coordinator

Date Posted: July 2, 2024

Closing Date: August 2, 2024 (1600)

Position Summary: Under the direction of the Chief Coordinator, the Deputy Chief Coordinator will plan, manage, direct, and coordinate the daily activities and operations of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association and coordinate association activities and services with our member communities and outside agencies; manage the maintenance and replacement of various communications equipment; provide highly responsible and complex administrative and policy-making support to the LRMFAA. Exercises direct supervision over all staff of the association.

Examples of Duties: As part of the LRMFAA leadership team, the Deputy Chief Coordinator will work alongside the Chief Coordinator to achieve the goals of the organization. The Deputy Chief Coordinator will provide leadership and staff development while working to implement goals and objectives that meet national standards and best practices. The Deputy Chief Coordinator will oversee all staff, activities, and services of the LRMFAA. The Deputy Chief Coordinator will lead all internal teams such as CAD Team, IT/Technology Team, and QA/QI. The Deputy Chief Coordinator will Administer and implement new technological and operational projects; and monitor activities to ensure compliance with regulations. The Deputy Chief Coordinator will prepare, review, and analyze a variety of statistical reports for department and management staff and outside agencies; evaluate data and communicate activity levels using spreadsheets, graphs, and other aids; make recommendations related to efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and procedures. The Deputy Chief Coordinator will maintain general oversight of systems, website, and database administration tasks, including working with the IT team for periodic maintenance, patch installations, and data collection and validation; evaluate and develop methods to integrate various systems and share common data.

Education and Experience:

- Ability to perform independently and exercise proper initiative and independent judgment.
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills to effectively perform the training, supervisory, and reporting tasks the position entails.
- Ability to relate to people at all levels of authority.
- Available to report to duty and respond to emergency incidents statewide if necessary.
- Seven (7) years-experience as a public safety dispatcher; or, Equivalent combination demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform the duties of the position.
- At least three (3) years' experience as an Emergency Communications Supervisor, or Equivalent combination demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform the duties of the position.
- Working knowledge and operational understanding of, or ability to learn and master, emergency communications systems (hardware and software) including computerized phone systems, voice logging recorder, CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) systems, radio systems (hardware and software), GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and applications in CAD, records management system, alarm monitoring systems.

- Valid NH driver's license
- Experience in managing complex electronic and data retrieval systems operations.
- Licenses and Certifications:
 - Possession of, or the ability to acquire NIMS ICS certification 100,200,300,400, 700, and 800.
 - Possession of or the ability to acquire and maintain APCO Public Safety Telecommunicator I Instructor, APCO Fire Service Communications Instructor, and APCO Communications Training Officer Instructor.
- NH FF1 and or FF2 and or EMT/AEMT and CPR/AED is a benefit.
- Possession of at least one of the following is strongly desired: APCO Certified Public Safety Executive (CPE), NENA Emergency Number Professional ENP, and/or APCO Registered Public Safety Leader (RPL) designations.
- A minimum of an Associate's degree is preferred.

Education/Experience Equivalency: An equivalent combination of education, training, and experience that demonstrates required knowledge, skills, and abilities may be considered.

Geographic Requirement: The Deputy Chief Coordinator must live within a 60-minute response time to the Communications Center located at 62 Communications Dr. Laconia, NH 03246 upon hire, or within one (1) year.

Compensation:

- This position is an exempt salaried position enrolled in the NHRS Group I retirement program.
- Anthem BC/BS is provided at the current rate of 85/15%.
- 2024 Pay Scale Salary Range \$85,810-\$118,781 and will be commensurate with experience.
- Take Home Car for official business and response purposes only.
- Company sponsored Short Term Disability and Life Insurance.
- Employee paid Dental.
- Employee paid AFLAC plans are available.

How to Apply: To apply, email Chief Jon Goldman at jgoldman@lrmfa.org requesting the application packet. Upon receipt of the request the candidate will be sent a packet containing the needed information to officially apply for the position.

Process: Candidates will undergo a resume, cover letter, and qualifications review. This will be followed by an oral board style interview, a Chiefs interview, and a comprehensive background investigation.

"We're an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status."

LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID STATISTICS

| | <i>Month</i> | <i>Admin</i> | <i>Emergency</i> | <i>Incidents</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2024 First Quarter | January | 1447 | 2462 | 2262 |
| | February | 1249 | 2311 | 2148 |
| | March | 1389 | 2382 | 2291 |
| | <i>Total for Quarter</i> | <i>4085</i> | <i>7155</i> | <i>6701</i> |
| | <i>Avg/Day</i> | <i>44.89</i> | <i>78.63</i> | <i>73.64</i> |
| 2024 Second Quarter | April | 1839 | 2678 | 2203 |
| | May | 1295 | 3558 | 1834 |
| | June | 1691 | 3525 | 2148 |
| | <i>Total for Quarter</i> | <i>4825</i> | <i>9761</i> | <i>6185</i> |
| | <i>Avg/Day</i> | <i>53.02</i> | <i>107.26</i> | <i>67.97</i> |
| 2024 Third Quarter | July | | | |
| | August | | | |
| | September | | | |
| | <i>Total for Quarter</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>0</i> |
| | <i>Avg/Day</i> | <i>0.00</i> | <i>0.00</i> | <i>0.00</i> |
| 2024 Fourth Quarter | October | | | |
| | November | | | |
| | December | | | |
| | <i>Total for Quarter</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>0</i> |
| | <i>Avg/Day</i> | <i>0.00</i> | <i>0.00</i> | <i>0.00</i> |
| 2024 | <i>Month</i> | <i>Admin</i> | <i>Emergency</i> | <i>Incidents</i> |
| | <i>Total for 2024</i> | <i>8910</i> | <i>16916</i> | <i>12886</i> |
| | <i>Avg/Day</i> | <i>49.23</i> | <i>93.46</i> | <i>71.19</i> |

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