

VICTORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

“SEMPER FORTIS”



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The Victoria Fire Department is an all-hazards response organization that responds to all types of emergencies in the 890 square miles of Victoria County. In 2024 the Victoria Fire Department responded to 14,317 calls for service in total, with 11,416 calls for service in the city limits and 2,901 calls in the county. Of these 14,000 calls, the department had several major incidents that deserve recognition:

- Head-on collision involving a Battalion Chief from a major city
- Battled a significant 100-acre fire; required coordinated water drops from the Forestry Service
- Managed a complex HazMat incident at the water treatment plant
- Responded to a mass casualty incident involving a TDCJ bus, which required coordination with multiple agencies
- Mitigated the challenges of a plane crash

These incidents demonstrate our department's readiness and commitment to protecting our community across all situations and hazard types.

**RESPECTFULLY,
GEORGE GAMEZ, FIRE CHIEF
VICTORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

ANNUAL RESPONSE DATA



8.49% Increase Calls From 2023



EMS Calls – 10,399

Fire Related Calls - 386 (24 Structure Fires)



Busiest Day - Wednesday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	0	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

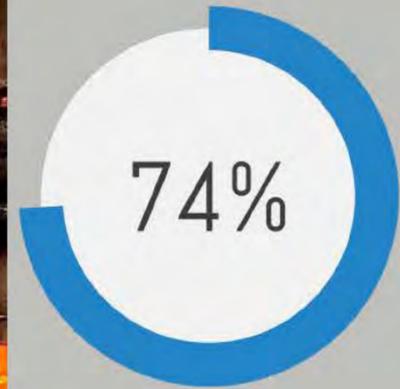


Busiest Time of Day – 9 am to 6 pm





Property value for fire related incidents.
\$9.8 million.



\$7,270,000 value saved at 113 fire-related incidents.
74% save rate.



Annual Fire Performance Data

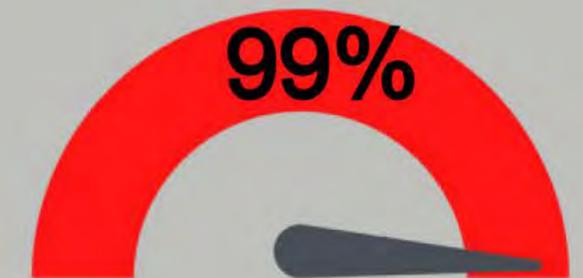
Hazard Collection
\$28,927.86

Average Turnout Time:
1m 01s

Average Response Time:
4m 03s



Average 1st Due to City Fires:
5m 04s
National Standard: 5m 20s



Standard: 1m 20s

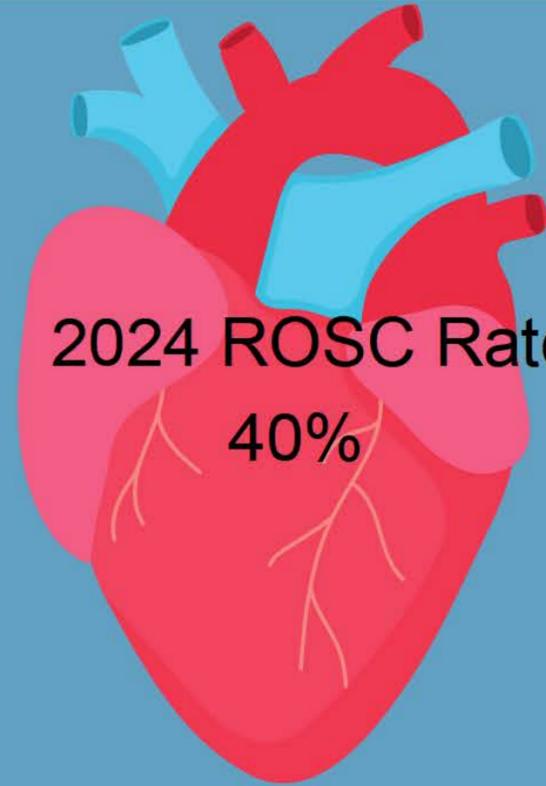
Standard: 4m

EMS Division created **11,237** patient care records in 2024.

76% of these patients transported to the hospital.

4% required lights and siren.

Annual EMS Performance Data



Return of Spontaneous Circulation for patients in cardiac arrest was **40%** in 2024. Most recent national average is 27%

EMS Fee Collection – \$4.3 Million

Mobile Integrated Health – \$24,128.85 cost avoidance
26 patients in total
50% call reduction for those patients. (208 to 93)



Survival to hospital discharge was **11%** for 2024.

10% nationally



Bystander CPR - 25% VFD
41.2% nationally



COMMUNITY

The Victoria Fire Department strives to enhance the livability of Victoria through its safety and community outreach programs.

- Fire Prevention Show – 10 00 elementary students
- Show and Tells - 49 events
- Red Kettle Challenge
- National Night Out
- Civilian Responder Program - 45
- Hands Only CPR 2,213



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Strive to provide high quality service through innovative programs, professional partnerships, and leading-edge treatments. The result numerous awards and recognitions.

- Stroke Study - UT Health for Bedside Stroke Assessments/Education
- Blood Transfusions - 20
- Texas Best Practices – Six Consecutive Years; 30 in State
- Texas EMS for Children Gold Award - Three Years
- American Heart CPR Gold Award - Six Years



Staffing Challenges

STAFFING

Recruitment/Retention

- Vacancies
- Hard to Find FF/EMTs
- Increased Overtime
- Overworked Workforce
- Fatigue/Injury Increases
- Younger Work Force/Inexperienced Department

Emergency Service Districts (ESDs) and Higher Tax Based Cities

- Salary/Benefits
- Self-Taxing Entity up to 10 %
- Housing Value 300 K and Higher
- One Hour Drive Time From Victoria



Staffing Strategies

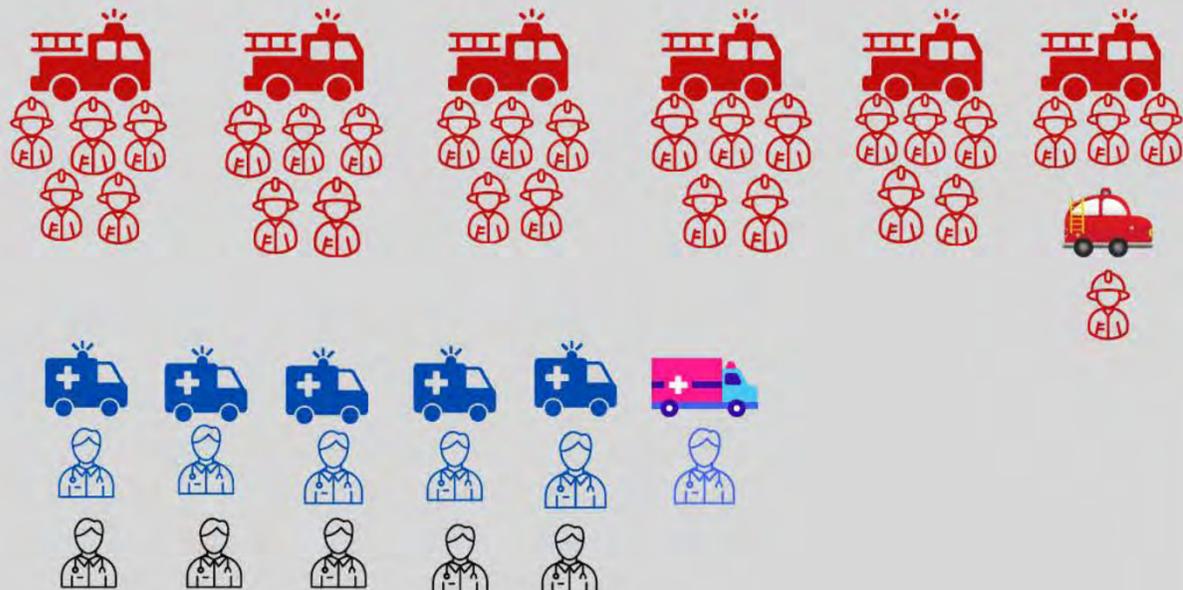
Create a “Farm System” for Local Residents

- Victoria College EMTs
- Fire Training Academy
- Multiple Fire Academies, Online and in Person

Compete with Emergency Service Districts (ESDs)

- Compensation Committee

29 Fire Members/6 EMS Members per Shift



FLEET AND STATIONS

Fleet/Station Challenges

Aging

13 out of 24 Response Vehicles are Past the Replacement Schedule
Recommendations Based on Age or Mileage.

Fire Apparatus Availability

Repairs are Causing Extended Downtimes
Parts Can be Difficult to Source and Secure.

Replacement Cost and Time

Fire Engines and Ambulances Have a 12 –18 Month Lead Time
Ladder Trucks are 24+ months
Ambulance - \$400,000 Engine - \$1 Million Ladder - \$2.5 Million

Standards and Technology

Auto Vehicle Locator (AVLs) on Apparatus
Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Updates
Station Alerting

Fire Stations

Several Stations Require Repairs and Upgrades
Relocate to Better Serve our Citizens

Fleet Strategies

Efficient Preventative Maintenance Program

Worked with City Fleet Services to Secure an Alternative Repair Shop to
Perform Maintenance on Fire and EMS Apparatus - Siddons Martin

Siddons Martin Shop Locally

Improves ability to secure parts and Labor for our Apparatus
Additional Mechanics Available as Needed
Reduce Downtime

Improve Fleet Availability and Turnaround Time

Preventative Maintenance Program is Thorough
Multiple Issues - Backlog
Training Engine Assist Availability of Front -Line Apparatus

Strategic Dispatching/AVLs

Added AVLs to all Units to Improve Unit Dispatching
Dispatch Most Appropriate Unit
Review/Evaluate Systems

Relocate Station 5

Increase Coverage
Reduce Response Times

RESPONSE

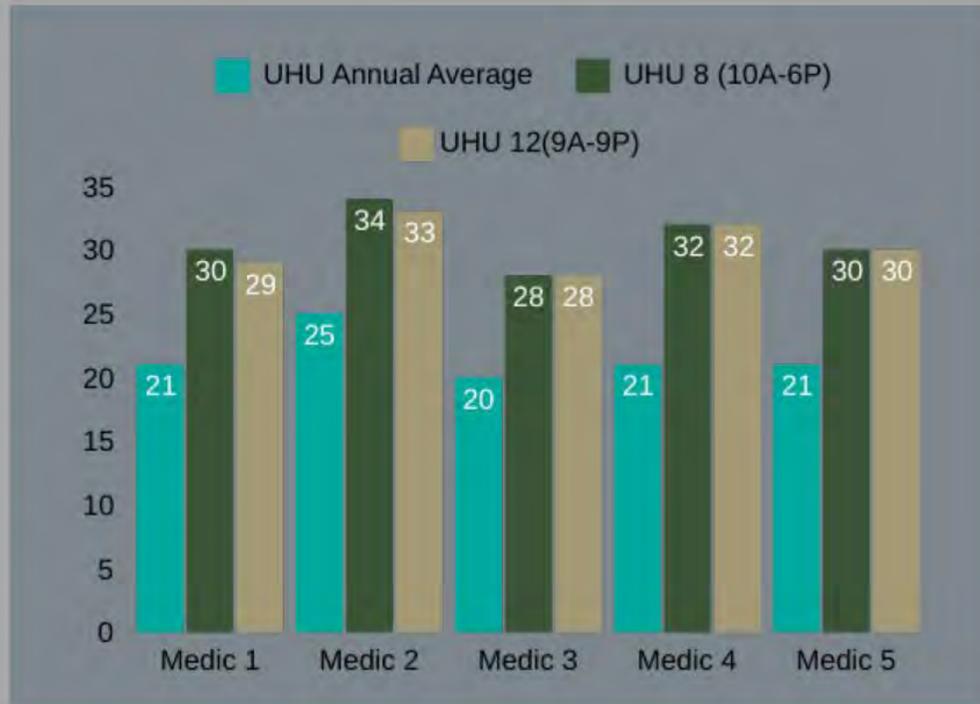
Response Challenges

Increased Call Volume

8.49% increase from '23 to '24.
Average for past 5 years is 5.55%.

Increased Unit Hour Utilization

30% 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.



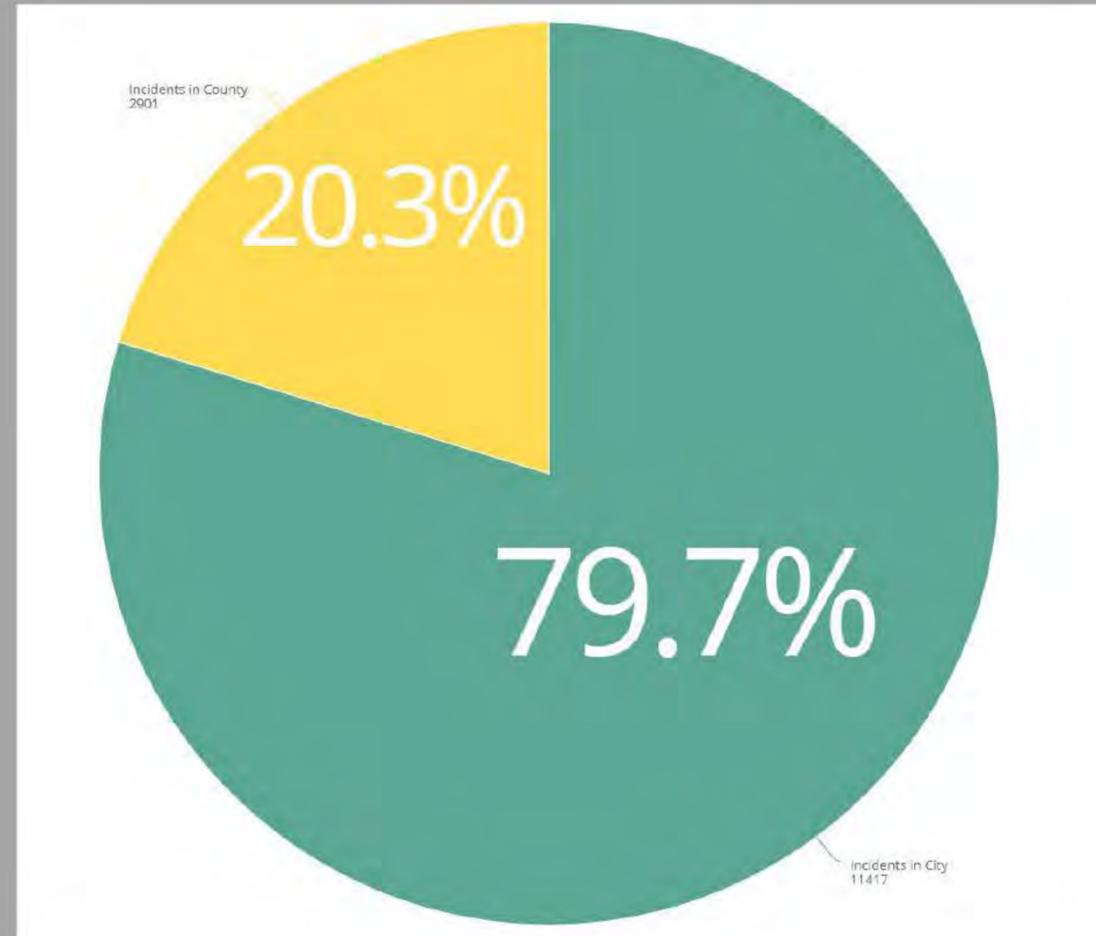
Response Strategies

Peak Demand FY26

Explore Staff Unit From 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Additional Personnel

Part-time Paramedic/EMT for Peak Unit
and to Help Staff Full Time Units.



PulsePoint
AED

pulsepoint.org

LOCATE & REGISTER AEDs.

**HELP
SAVE LIVES.**



Training Academy

- More Than Once a Year
- Regional Training Hub
- Recruiting Tool

Education Collection

\$70,352

Grants

\$75,000

New Programs

- Pulse Point (AED)
- Smoke Detector Initiative
- Arson Investigator Program
- Adopt A Station Program
- Texas Interstate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)



Continued Community Involvement

- Show and Tells
- Fire Prevention Program for VISD Elementary Schools
- Mobile Healthcare Assisting Hospitals

OPPORTUNITIES



CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Thank You

