



SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



SAM KLEMEK, FIRE CHIEF

www.cityofsalinas.org

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| CHIEF'S *Message*



It remains an honor to serve the over 163,000 residents of Salinas and lead the dedicated professionals of the Salinas Fire Department. Each day, the members of our department demonstrate their commitment to our mission, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. This past year has been a period of remarkable growth and accomplishments for the department.

In June 2024, we welcomed the largest academy class in our history, with 17 firefighter recruits completing a rigorous 16-week program. Led by five senior members, the recruits trained in firefighting, emergency care, technical rescue, and operating emergency vehicles, highlighting our commitment to preparing personnel to serve effectively.

We also made substantial progress in filling key positions critical to our operations and services, further strengthening our ability to serve Salinas. Another notable success was the acquisition of the DRAFTS Pump Pod. This innovative mobile training trailer allows the department to recapture water used during training exercises, conserving over one million gallons of water annually.

As your Fire Chief, I pledge to uphold transparency, accountability, and respect. We are dedicated to providing equitable, exceptional service to all. By embracing innovation and national standards, we continue to grow alongside our vibrant community.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you for over 150 years. Together, we will build a safer, stronger future for Salinas.

Fire Chief Sam Klemek



MISSION STATEMENT

The Salinas Fire Department is dedicated to preserving and protecting the safety of our community with integrity, pride, and commitment. We will do this with diversity of thought and people while ensuring fiscal responsibility.



VISION STATEMENT

Our steadfast belief in each other and our mission guides us in providing dynamic, professional service to our community through emergency response and community risk reduction.



OUR VALUES

Trust: We build and reaffirm the value of our trust through our actions.

Respect: The ability to see the value in others and ourselves and through this we will treat all people with courtesy, politeness, and kindness.

Accountability: We are caretakers of taxpayer money. We see ourselves as stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Diversity: We value and promote diversity in both thought and person.

Integrity: Whole and undivided in all things we do.

Teamwork: Together everyone achieves more.

Innovation: Constantly strive to use new methods, technology, and techniques.

Opportunity: Never miss an opportunity to exceed expectations.

Never Give Up: We have never, and we will never give up on each other or on our mission (Tradition).



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





STATIONS AND FLEET

This section provides an overview of Salinas Fire Department's stations, their locations, and the fleet of vehicles and apparatus that support our emergency response efforts.

STATION 1

216 West Alisal Street



- Type 1 ALS Fire Engine
- 105' Ladder Truck
- Battalion Chief Vehicle
- Mobile Communications Vehicle
- Reserve Fire Engine
- Reserve Ladder Truck

STATION 2

10 West Laurel Drive



- Type 1 ALS Fire Engine
- Reserve Fire Engine

STATION 3

827 Abbott Place



- Type 1 ALS Fire Engine
- Reserve Fire Engine

STATION 4

308 Williams Road



- Type 1 ALS Fire Engine
- ARFF Aircraft Rescue Fire Engine
- Type 1 OES Fire Engine
- Reserve Fire Engine

STATION 5

1400 Rider Avenue



- Type 1 ALS Fire Engine
- 105' Ladder Truck
- Type 3 Wildland Engine
- Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle

STATION 6

45 East Bolivar Street



- Type 1 ALS Fire Engine

NUMBER OF SUPPORT VEHICLES (STAFF)

- 8 Command Staff Vehicles
- 6 Prevention Staff Vehicles
- 4 Utility Trucks
- 1 Medical Utility Vehicle

NEW APPARATUS

Long-range planning and a robust capital improvement budget are vital to ensuring our Department's readiness to protect the community. When ordering new equipment, production timelines can span several years, making strategic foresight essential.

This year, we made significant investments in enhancing our capabilities, with the purchase of a Type 1 Engine, a Type 6 Engine, and a Ladder Truck. These state-of-the-art apparatuses are currently in production and are anticipated to be delivered in 2028. Each vehicle has been carefully selected to meet the evolving demands of our operations, ensuring that our team remains equipped to respond effectively to emergencies.

The DRAFTS Pump Pod is a mobile trailer that was acquired in 2024 in partnership with Cal Water. The Pump Pod allows SFD to minimize water losses when training by recapturing any water used. This trailer is expected to save over 1 million gallons of water per year.



Future Ready: Pictured are examples of apparatus that will arrive in 2028. Top photo is an example of a Type 6 Engine. Top right photo is a Type 1 Engine and lower right is a Ladder Truck.





BY THE NUMBERS



23.45
SQUARE MILES



163,542
POPULATION

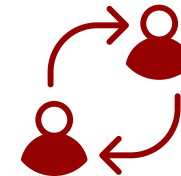


105
SWORN
PERSONNEL

ANNUAL BUDGET
30,633,00



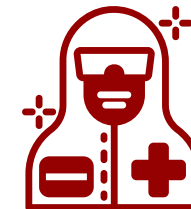
6
FIRE
STATIONS



10
CIVILIAN
PERSONNEL



19 HAZMAT CERTIFIED
6 MECHANICS
4 INSPECTORS



79
EMTs

24
PARAMEDICS



STAFFING

In 2024, the department made significant progress in filling key positions to enhance our operations and services:

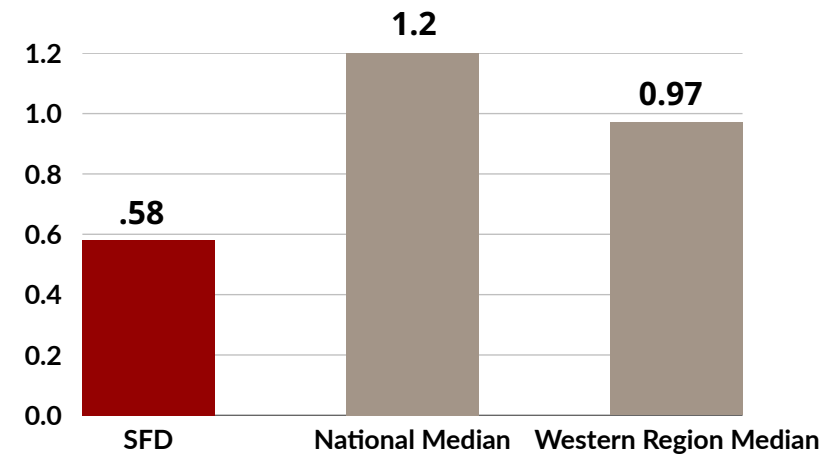
- **Chris Knapp** was appointed as Fire Marshal/Division Chief in January, bringing extensive expertise to this critical leadership role.
- **Dorothy Priolo** was hired as a part-time Deputy Fire Marshal in November to assist with Plan Examinations, Development Review Committee (DRC) activities, and other essential duties.
- **Julian Gonzalez** filled the vacant Fire Inspector II position in November, strengthening our inspection and enforcement capabilities.
- **Jarazeth De Real** joined the team as a part-time Office Technician in June, focusing on Fireworks management and Record Retention.

Gender Statistics

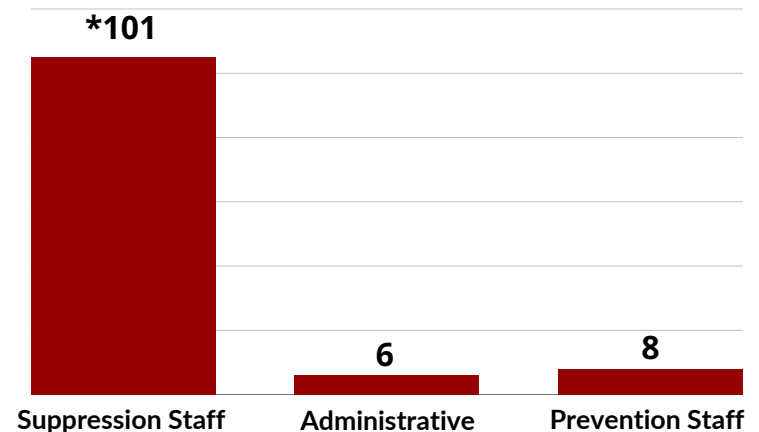


We hired one additional female firefighter in 2024, as well as a prevention employee.

Firefighters per 1,000 in Population



Staffing Breakdown



*Chiefs Klemek, Knapp, Furey, and VanderVeen are not included in the number for Suppression Staff in this chart like they are on page 4. In this illustration, they are counted as Administration or Prevention Staff.

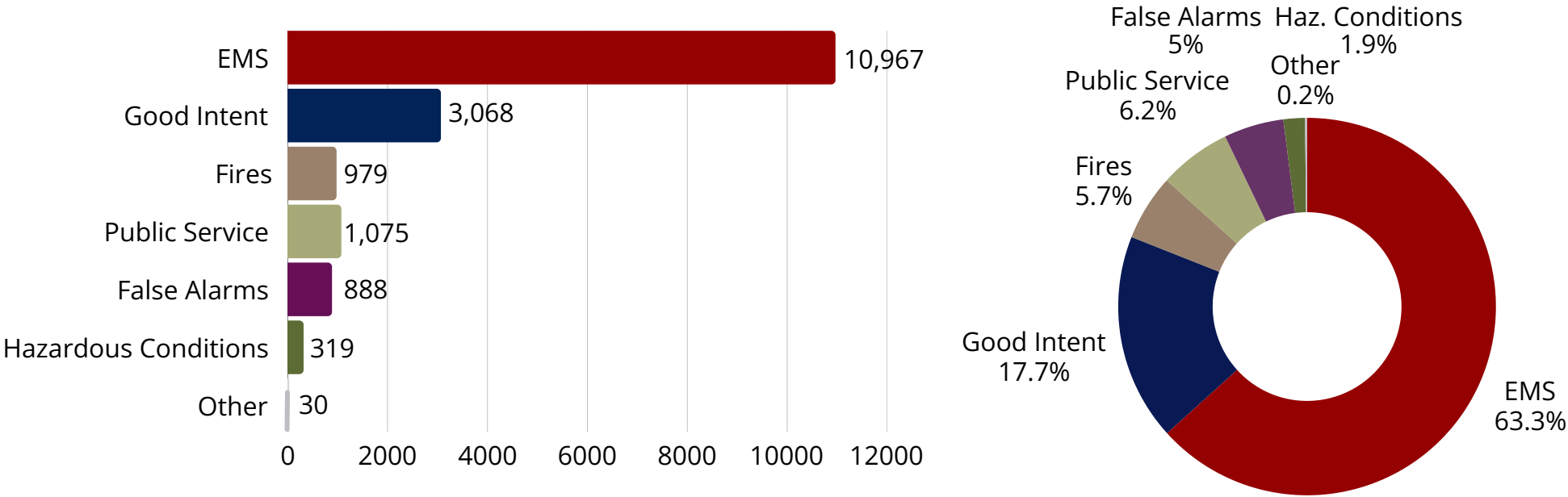


INCIDENT RESPONSE

TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS

17,326

Number of Calls by Type



Number of calls serving the
unhoused population:

975*

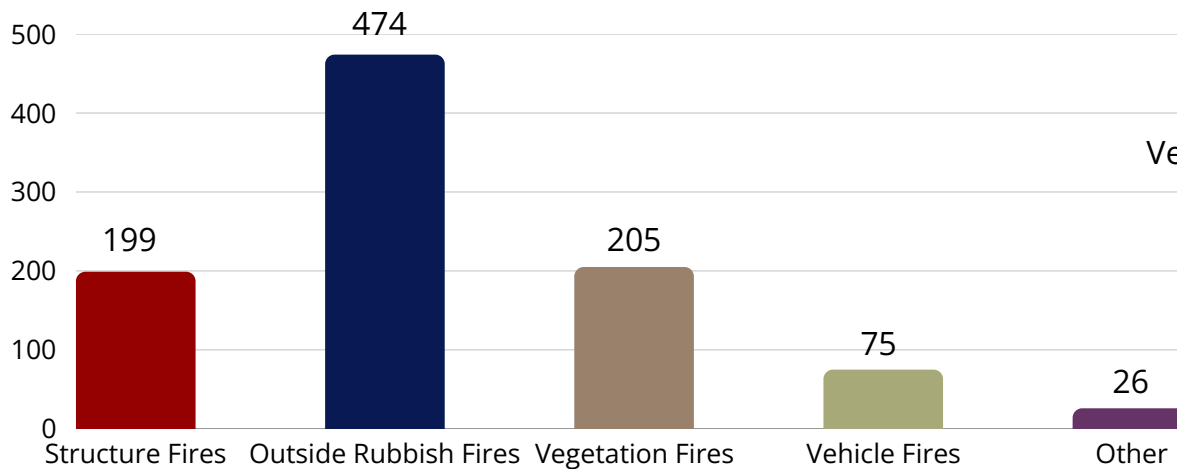
*Certain factors, including patient privacy, prevent accurate collection of this data. The actual number is estimated to be nearly **2,000**.

Year	Annual Calls	Daily Personnel	Number of Apparatus
2007	10,987	23	8
2016	13,758	24	8
2024	17,326	24	8

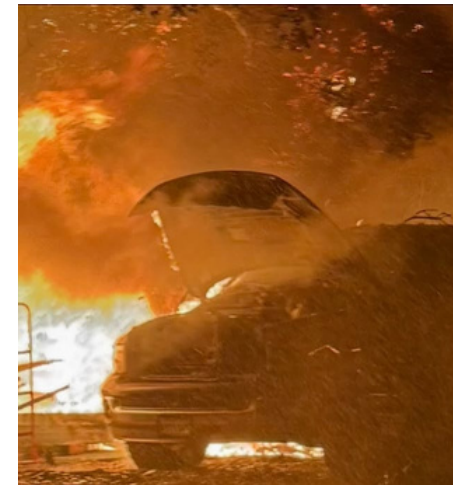
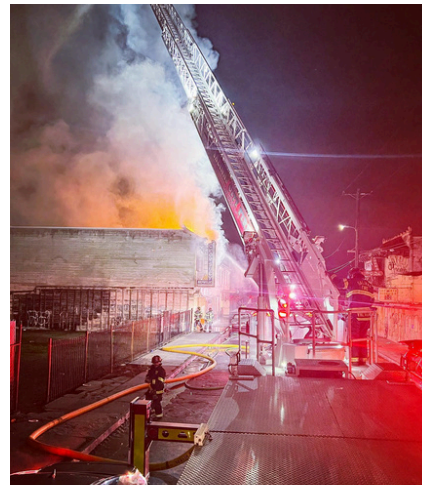
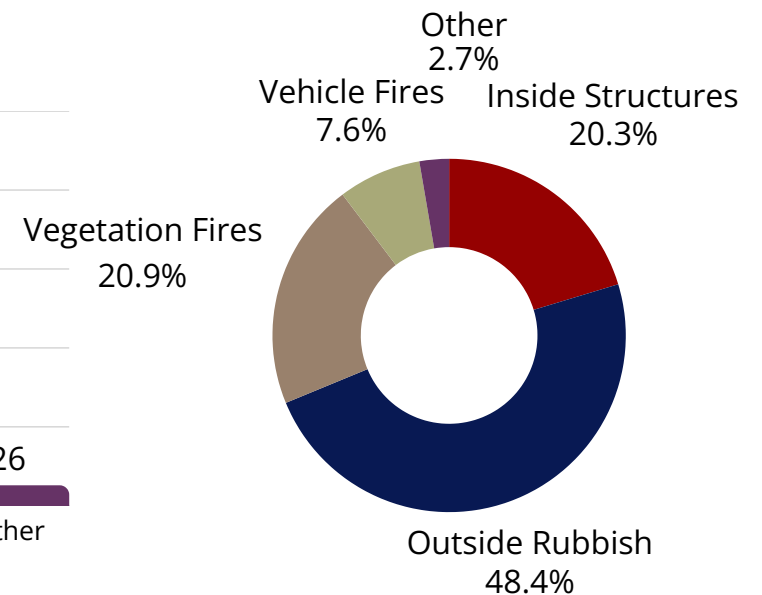


2024 FIRE RESPONSE

Fire Incidents by Type



Percentage of Fires by Type





RESPONSE TIMES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Our response times, while striving for excellence, are currently exceeding the national standards for both fire and EMS responses.

Response Times

Type of Response	90th Percentile	Median Response	National Standard
Fire Response	8:41	6:04	5:20
EMS Response	8:28	5:39	5:00

Occurrence of Simultaneous Calls

Number of Simultaneous Calls	Number of Occurrences
2	5,765
3	2,844
4	998
5	294
6	89
7	19
8	9
9	2

Factors which can contribute to Delayed Response include:

- Traffic Congestion
- Traffic Calming Measures (e.g., speed bumps, traffic circles, etc.)
- Overlapping Calls (e.g., when multiple emergencies occur simultaneously)

“Overlapping calls present a considerable challenge to our response capacity. As illustrated in the table, emergencies frequently occur either simultaneously or in rapid succession. These consecutive incidents place an ever-growing strain on our resources, leading to extended response times. With a projected increase in both population and low acuity EMS calls, this issue is expected to persist.”

– Shane VanderVeen,
Division Chief, EMS

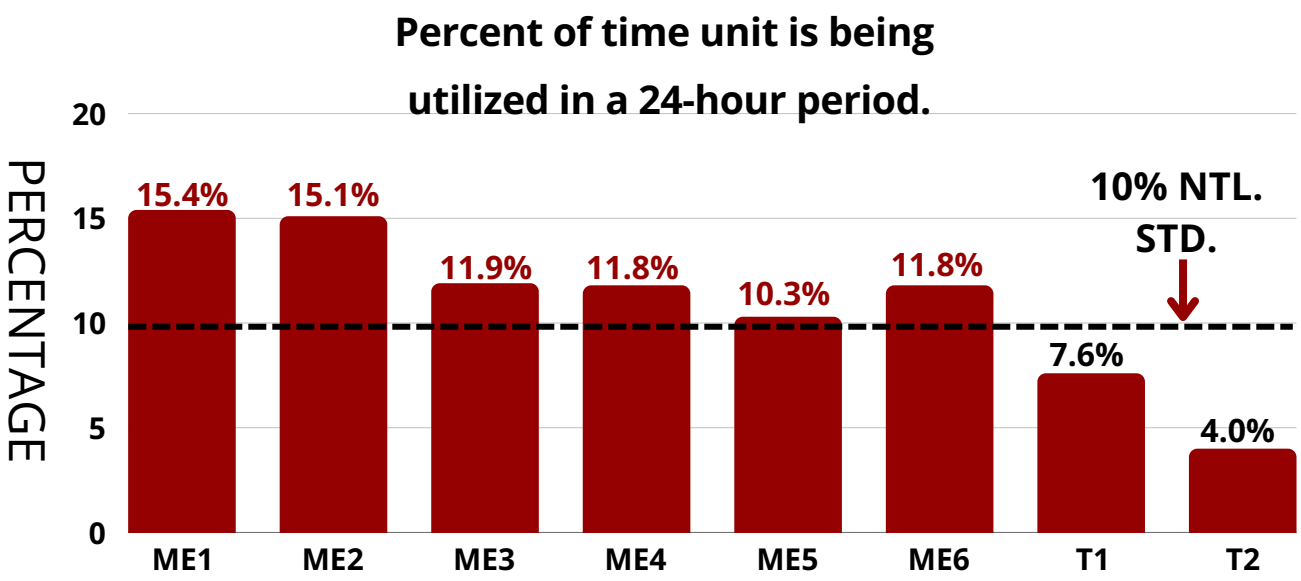


UNIT HOUR UTILIZATION

Unit Hour Utilization (UHU) is a metric that reflects the percentage of time emergency response units are actively engaged in calls compared to their total available hours. It helps evaluate efficiency, balance workloads, and optimize resource allocation to maintain quality service.

Values over 10% indicate that the unit is over-utilized, which results in a lower probability that the closest fire engine will be available when 9-1-1 is called.

- ME = Medic Engine
- T1 = Truck 1
- MT = Medic Truck
- T2 = Truck 2

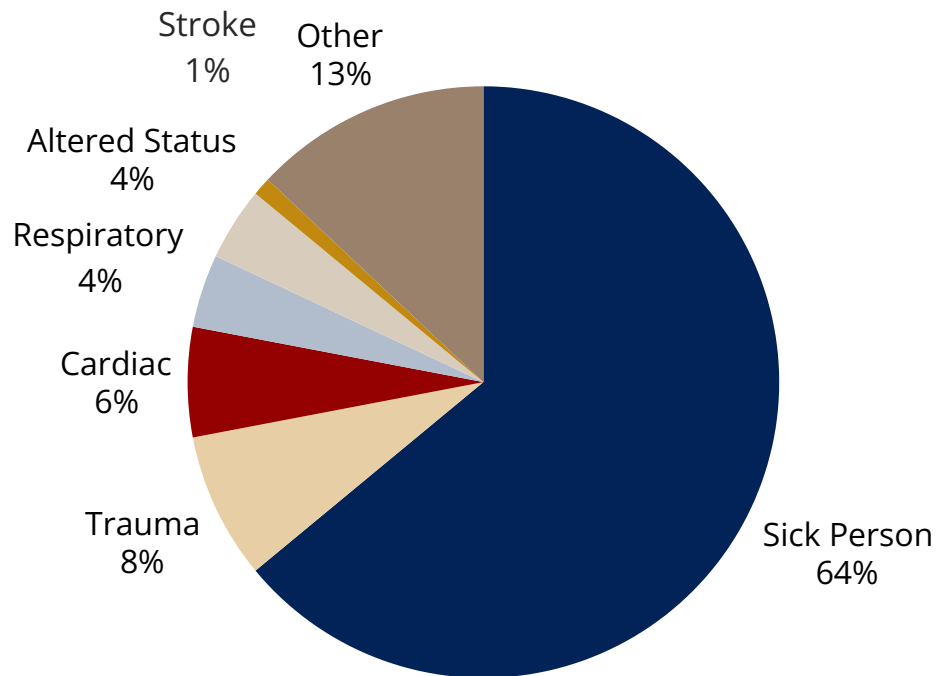


Calls by Unit	
ME1	4,383
ME2	3,669
ME4	2,692
ME6	2,687
ME3	2,659
ME5	2,189
T1	1,773
T2	677



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The EMS Division's commitment to innovation has a direct and positive impact on the community. By constantly seeking new approaches in treatment, technology, avenues of transport, and patient destinations, the Division ensures that it is always at the forefront of providing the best possible care. This commitment is a source of hope and optimism for the community, as it leads to improved patient outcomes and a higher standard of emergency medical services.



EMS CALLS
10,967



**AUTO
ACCIDENTS**
1,485



**CARDIAC ARREST
SAVES**
36



EMTs
79
PARAMEDICS
24



TRAINING HOURS
1,380



PREVENTION

This year brought substantial progress and growth for our department, marked by new staffing additions and strengthened operational capabilities. With a bolstered team and a commitment to excellence, we achieved significant advancements in inspections, permitting, and community safety initiatives.

A particular highlight was our Prevention Week and Open House at the Salinas Fire Department, which engaged the community through education, outreach, and fostering a deeper understanding of fire safety.

Fireworks Statistics

Citation Issued in 2024: **121**

Worth: **\$405,286.86**

Fireworks Money collected in 2024: **\$52,521.75**

Warning /Prohibited Letters Sent: **700+**

Money collected in 7% Surcharge: **\$51,115**

Inspections

CodeTRAK:

1,188

PermitTRAK:

942

Permits Issued

272

Permits Reviewed
through Fire Plan Check

546

Projects Reviewed
through ProjectTRAK

126

TRAINING DIVISION



35,000
TRAINING
HOURS

290

TRAINING
HOURS PER
FIREFIGHTER



1,200
FIRE ACADEMY
HOURS

2,000

DRIVER
TRAINING
HOURS



1,200
HAZMAT
TRAINING
HOURS



TRAINING

The Training Division is responsible for the development and implementation of various training topics that the Salinas Fire Department responds to. All members are required to participate in regular training to ensure that we are prepared to provide the highest level of service to the community. Topics and Training Sessions include (but are not limited to):

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Vehicle Accidents
- Technical Rescue
- Water Rescue
- Emergency Vehicle Operation
- Active Attacker/Hostile Incidents
- Leadership Development
- State and Federal Mandated Training



FIRE ACADEMY

In June 2024, the Salinas Fire Department hired 17 new firefighters who began a 16-week-long academy. The academy was taught by a group of 5 senior members from the Salinas Fire Department. Firefighter Recruits learned a variety of subjects, including: Salinas Fire Department history, policy and procedure, structure firefighting skills, emergency medical care, technical rescue, and operation of emergency vehicles.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Recruitment Task Force (RTF) was formed in 2022 by Chief Klemek and Battalion Chief Limon and has dual focus: community outreach through school visits and local events, and recruitment of Salinas locals that are interested in serving their hometown. It is made up of all ranks of the Salinas Fire Department, from Probationary Firefighters to Chief Officers.

The RTF currently handles the majority of school site visits, career fairs, ride-alongs, and representation at multiple community events. Our firefighters are able to give back to the community that we love to serve by providing a positive experience for the youth of our community. We strive to educate the citizens that we serve everything from fires safety to a career in the fire service.

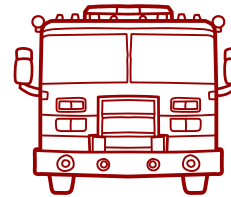
In addition, SFD runs a vibrant Fire Cadet Program open to both males and females aged 14–20. Currently, the program includes 11 Cadets and 14 mentors, with ambitions to grow to 20 Cadets by the end of 2025. Additionally, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) provides students with the opportunity to study and serve after completing their degree or to engage in the program for a limited period without committing to post-college service. The program aims to instill valuable leadership, teamwork, and life skills in its participants, preparing them for future careers in public service.





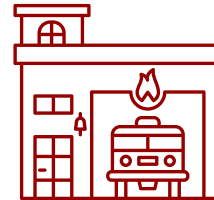
AT A GLANCE

68



**RIDE-
ALONGS**

31



**FIRE STATION
TOURS**

26



**PUBLIC
EDUCATION
EVENTS**

11



11 FIRE CADETS
2025 GOAL: 20 CADETS



**ADD A
NEW OUTFIT
TO YOUR WARDROBE.**



**BECOME OUR NEXT
FIREFIGHTER.**

www.joinsalinasfire.com



Thank you for your support.

The Salinas Fire Department is
dedicated to preserving and
protecting the safety of our
community with integrity,
pride, and commitment.

Location: 65 W Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901

Phone Number: 831-758-7261

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