

ATWATER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 Annual Review

Atwater City Fire Department
would like to thank the
City of Atwater, California
for their unconditional support
throughout 2023 and many years to come.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the Atwater City Fire Department is to provide a range of services and programs aimed towards protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Atwater City and the surrounding communities from the adverse effects of fires, medical emergencies, exposure to hazardous materials, and or other dangerous conditions as an all risk emergency response department.

These programs include comprehensive fire protection planning, fire suppression, emergency medical response, rescue, hazardous materials response, fire prevention and education, as well as fire code enforcement. The Atwater City Fire Department also provides mutual and automatic aid to neighboring agencies while being part of the statewide fire rescue mutual aid system.

POLICY

1

Provide efficient levels of fire protection services to the citizens of Atwater. Encourage the continuance of the existing contractual arrangement between the City of Atwater and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for cooperative fire protection services.

2

Continue to bring forward recommendations for the Department's facilities, personnel, and technology as required to meet the changing conditions and increased demands for services.

3

Maintain and manage fire impact fees in order to provide a supplemental source of funding for capital equipment. This will allow the Atwater Fire Department to expand fire protection service into areas of significant new growth as the need arises and keep equipment up to date to meet the ever changing all risk emergency response environment.

4

Seek opportunities, where feasible, to conduct joint operations, share responsibilities, or construct joint facilities with municipalities in order to avoid duplication of effort or cost in the provision of basic fire protection services. Pursue meaningful automatic and mutual aid agreements with other adjoining fire entities.

5

Continue to update the Atwater Fire Department's Master Plan with guidance from the Atwater City Council and members of City Staff.

6

Pursue grant funding through local, State and Federal agencies to obtain needed support for various programs.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Improved staffing levels. Added 2 Captains, 6 Firefighters and 1 Office Technician. This gives us 3 person staffing at both stations 24/7.
- Purchased and started the build process on a Type VI Fire Engine.
- Purchased and up-fitted two new Command Vehicles.
- Successful in \$252,685 grant for new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and cascade fill station through a regional grant with Merced City Fire.
- Initiated Public Safety Master Plan.
- Continued to improve inter-agency relations through grants and training.
- Continued to expand and progress in our annual ladder truck academy and various other specialized trainings.
- Re-implemented Firefighter of the Year Award.
- Continued with heavy involvement in public education.

2024 GOALS

- Improve firefighter health and wellness
- Prepare for expansion and future of a third fire station in the City including incremental increases of staffing as years progress.
- Progress on Station 41 remodel.
- Advancement of our Equipment Replacement Plan.
- Completion of Public Safety Master Plan.
- Continue to improve and foster interagency relations.

ADDITIONAL STAFFING ACQUIRED THANKS TO MEASURE B

Left to right: Daniel Reyes, Richard Heilmann, Michael Kiddy, Christopher Davis, Taylor Holden, and Nicholas Wong



<i>RELIEF</i>	<i>STATION 41</i>	<i>STATION 42</i>	<i>ADMIN</i>
<i>CAPTAIN DANIEL WEBB</i>	<i>FIREFIGHTER CHRISTOPHER DAVIS</i>	<i>FIREFIGHTER DANIEL REYES</i>	<i>OFFICE TECHNICIAN ALYSSA FLORES</i>
<i>CAPTAIN MARC WONG</i>	<i>FIREFIGHTER TAYLOR HOLDEN</i>	<i>FIREFIGHTER RICHARD HEILMANN</i>	
<i>FIREFIGHTER NICHOLAS WONG</i>			
<i>FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL KIDDY</i>			

MIKE VAN LOBEN SELS

Fire Chief

CAL FIRE is honored to serve Atwater City. As we approach the close of another year, I am delighted to present the Annual Report for 2023 from the Atwater City Fire Department. Our organization is comprised of devoted and skilled members, both in professional and reserve roles, who consider the protection of lives and assets within the community as a cherished responsibility. Upon reflection, it is clear that the past year has been marked by significant changes for the Atwater City Fire Department. These changes were necessitated by an increase in personnel expenditures, rising operational costs, and elevated prices for essential supplies.



In July, we received board approval to augment staffing at both fire stations 41 & 42. Subsequently, in August, we successfully completed the second phase of remodeling and renovations for our existing facilities, with a commitment to ongoing improvements. Our dedication to fiscal responsibility assures the community that all modifications were implemented with careful consideration to enhance efficiency while maintaining the overall effectiveness of our responses. Individuals reaching out to emergency services, particularly the Atwater City Fire Department, can do so with confidence.

Earlier in the year, the Atwater City Fire Department showcased its unwavering commitment to response and recovery efforts during the devastating 2023 floods. Our thoughts are with the individuals and communities affected by this natural disaster, and we stand ready to provide assistance and support whenever needed. It is crucial for our community to be aware that we are well-prepared, working collaboratively with our city partners, to respond swiftly and effectively to similar challenges in the future. The safety and well-being of our community remain our highest priorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike van Loben Sels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" at the beginning.

MARK PIMENTEL

Assistant Fire Chief

Mark Pimentel stepped into the role of Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Atwater on May 21, 2021, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a profound commitment to serving the community. Under the mentorship of Fire Chief Mike van Loben Sels, Chief Pimentel orchestrates the comprehensive delivery of fire suppression and life safety services. His leadership extends to managing a substantial budget, supervising a fleet of essential vehicles, maintaining two key facilities, and guiding a team of 20 dedicated professional firefighters.



With a career deeply intertwined with the fabric of Atwater City, Chief Pimentel has cultivated enduring relationships that deeply inform his grasp of operational area coordination. He shifts his attention towards tackling the challenges of the modern era, displaying a noticeable eagerness to build a dynamic and agile team capable of confronting contemporary difficulties directly.

Chief Pimentel's strategic service delivery model is meticulously crafted to address the diverse needs of the communities under protection while nurturing career pathways for effective succession planning. His unwavering dedication to professionalism and genuine pride in his work underscore his mission: ensuring the fulfillment of community needs and perpetuating a safe, secure environment for all. Chief Pimentel is dedicated to fostering a culture of safety and security while pioneering innovative solutions to meet evolving challenges.

A handwritten signature of "Mark Pimentel" in black ink, written in a cursive, flowing style.

BOBBY AYUSO

Battalion Chief 14

Operations

Bobby Ayuso was appointed as the Atwater City Fire Battalion Chief in January 2021. Chief Ayuso is the 6th Battalion Chief since Atwater City came into agreement with CAL FIRE in 2008. Under the direction of Fire Chief Mike van Loben Sels and Assistant Chief Mark Pimentel, Chief Ayuso oversees the operations of the Atwater Fire Department. Bobby oversees two Fire Stations which includes a fleet of 4 fire apparatus, 18 professional firefighters and 3 reserve Firefighters. Battalion 14 is responsible for protecting sections of State Highway 99, as well as two major railways (Union Pacific and Santa Fe Railroad).



Outside of City operations, Chief Ayuso is the lead for the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit scheduling program and handles all Battalion Chief scheduling. He's also responsible for a variety of programs which are outsourced to certain personnel within his Battalion including the unit wide ladder truck program, social media, high school Every 15 minutes programs, training, pre-plans, Insurance Services Office (ISO) reviews, ladder testing and much more.

Bobby has worked in Atwater City for nine years and prior to that, he worked in several surrounding Merced County stations. He's a local resident and his close connections to the community are evident in the relationships he's developed in the City of Atwater. He considers himself fortunate to serve the Atwater community.

On his time off, Bobby enjoys time with his family and friends camping and riding motorcycles/off road vehicles. He receives extensive support from his wife Kylie of 12 years and his two children, Makennah (13) and Cayden (10).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Ayuso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Robert" on the top line and "Ayuso" on the bottom line.

BLAINE LOPES

Battalion Chief 24 Fire Marshal

Blaine Lopes assumed the role of Atwater City Fire Marshal in July 2022, marking the fourth individual to hold this position since Atwater City established its collaboration with CAL FIRE in 2008. Chief Lopes is entrusted with crucial responsibilities, including the enforcement of building and fire codes, as well as overseeing the fire prevention program within the department. Beyond his primary duties, Chief Lopes serves as a Hazardous Materials Specialist and is a valuable member of the local Type 1 Hazardous Materials Team,



Chief Lopes plays a crucial role as the primary instructor at the California Specialized Training Institute for Hazmat and serves as a State Fire Marshal Instructor. With a wealth of experience, he brings valuable insights, having previously held the position of Fire Captain in Atwater City for four years. Prior to that, Chief Lopes gained extensive expertise through his service in various Merced County Stations and CAL FIRE stations across the State.

Dedicated to the residents of Atwater City, Chief Lopes finds fulfillment in actively contributing to the community. Beyond his professional commitments, he engages in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu as a passionate competitor during his leisure time. Chief Lopes also values the quality moments spent on trips with his wife, Christina, and their five-year-old daughter, Alana. His multifaceted dedication to both community service and personal pursuits reflects a well-rounded and committed individual.

A handwritten signature of the name "Blaine Lopes" in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Blaine" on the top line and "Lopes" on the bottom line, both starting with a capital letter.

FIRE CAPTAINS



MATTHEW BERNARD

Captain
Station 41

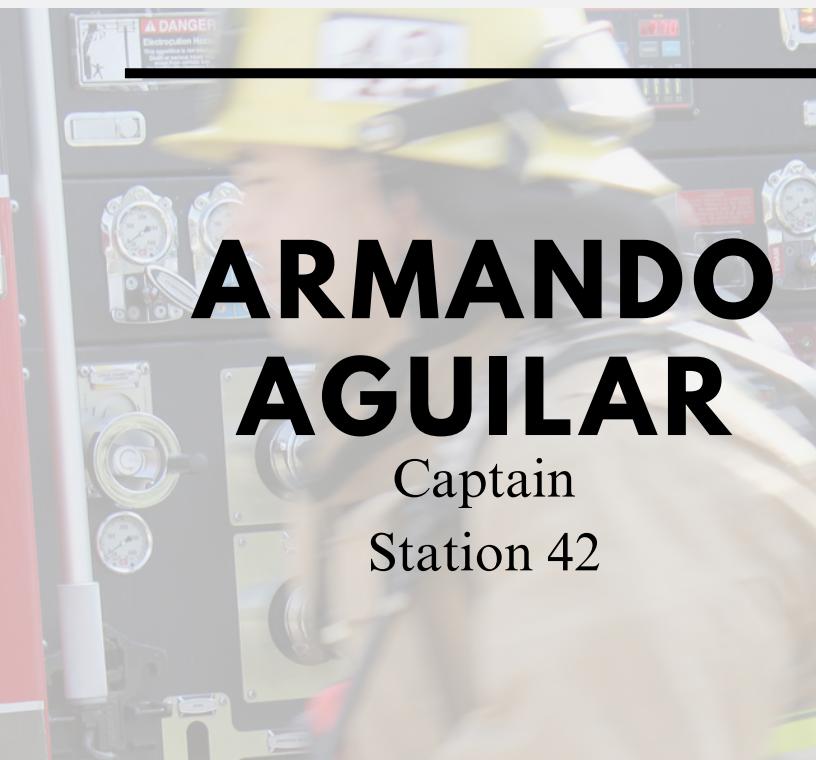
MICHAEL PEREZ

Captain
Station 41



JOSHUA ANDERSON

Captain
Station 42



ARMANDO AGUILAR

Captain
Station 42



MARC WONG

Captain
Relief



DANIEL WEBB

Captain
Relief



ENGINEERS



**BROCK
PISACCO**

Fire Apparatus Engineer
Station 41

**DONOVAN
IVERSON**

Fire Apparatus Engineer
Station 41



**JULIO
MALDONADO**

Fire Apparatus Engineer
Station 42



ERIK LONG

Fire Apparatus Engineer
Station 42



ANTHONY MCILROY

Fire Apparatus Engineer
Relief



RAFAEL MAGDALENO

Fire Apparatus Engineer
Relief



FIREFIGHTERS



**CHRISTOPHER
DAVIS**

Firefighter
Station 41

**TAYLOR
HOLDEN**

Firefighter
Station 41



**RICHARD
HEILMANN**

Firefighter
Station 42

DANIEL REYES

Firefighter
Station 42



NICHOLAS WONG

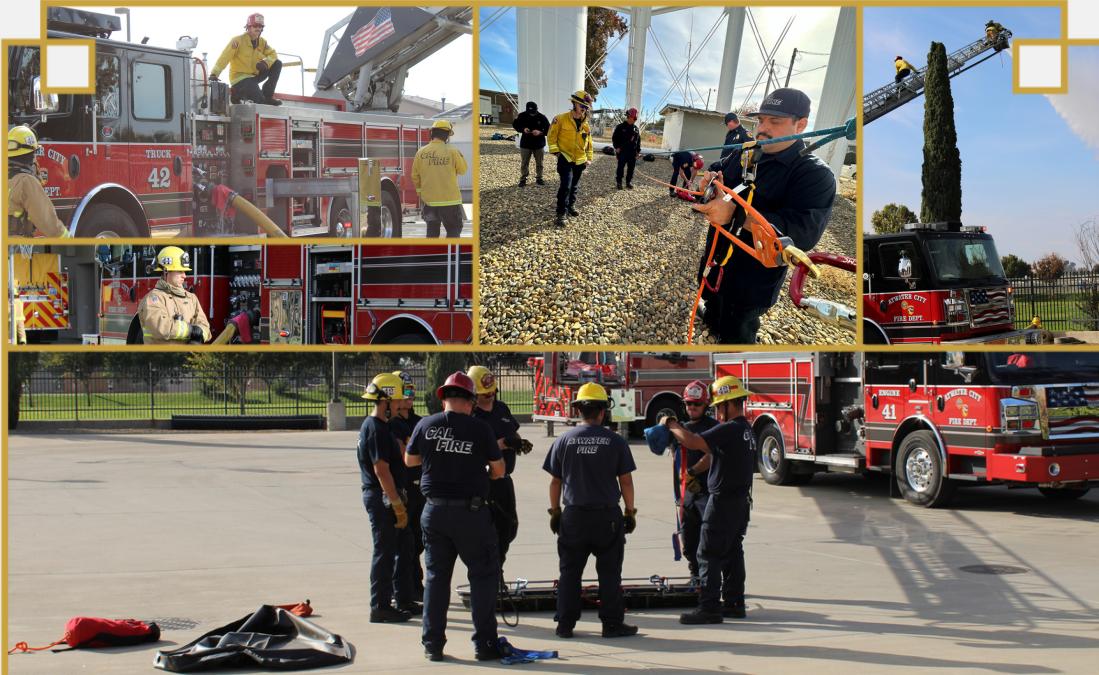
Firefighter
Relief

MICHAEL KIDDY

Firefighter
Relief



FIRE TRAINING



PAID PERSONNEL TOTAL
HOURS OF TRAINING:

5,368





The environment of public safety changes daily which is why Atwater City Fire Department is committed to making every day a training day. We are dedicated to training the personnel to meet all current professional standards of our industry.

Personnel Training

**Lead host of AERIAL APPARATUS OPERATIONS
ADVANCED WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER
FIREFIGHTER II ON BOARDING
INTERMEDIATE FIRING METHODS
RAPID INTERVENTION CREW TACTICS
STRUCTURAL VENTILATION OPERATIONS
ROPE RESCUE TECHNICIAN
LOW ANGLE ROPE RESCUE
HIGH ANGLE ROPE RESCUE
FIRE CONTROL 3 STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING
FIRE CONTROL 5 AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIREFIGHTING
RESCUE SYSTEMS 1
RESCUE SYSTEMS 2
CONFINED SPACE RESCUE OPERATIONS
TRENCH RESCUE
AUTO EXTRICATION
BIG RIG & MASS TRANSIT RESCUE
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DECONTAMINATION
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPECIALIST
CARDIO PULMINAR RESUCITATION
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
LUCAS CHEST COMPRESSION DEVICE
FIRE MANAGEMENT
FIRE COMMAND 1A, 1B
FIRE PREVENTION 1A, 1B
CITY AND COUNTY EMS/CPR INSTRUCTOR**



RESERVE PROGRAM

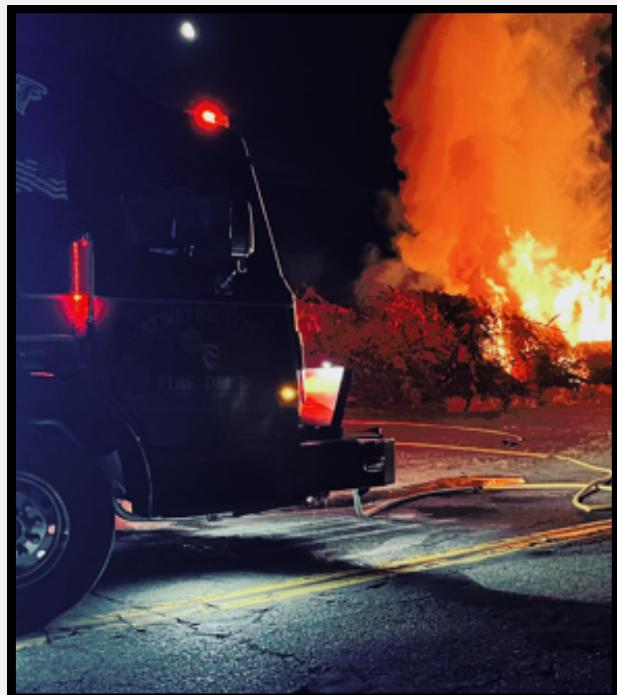


TOTAL RESERVES: 8

3 NEW HIRES

976 TRAINING
HOURS





RESPONSE PLANS

Atwater City Fire Department's response plan provides a list of equipment and appropriate personnel that will be deployed when a particular type of an emergency is called. Atwater City Fire Department's priority in an emergency situation is to save lives, minimize injuries and reduce damage to property.



Fire Apparatus Engineer: Julio Maldonado (left), Captain Mike Perez (Left Center), Fire Apparatus Engineer Erik Long (Right Center) and Captain Armando Aguilar (Right) all pose at a ladder training.

RESPONSE PLANS

Type of Response	Battalion	Engine	Truck
Fire, Commercial Structure	2	4	1
Fire, Commercial Multi-Family			
Fire, Aircraft			
Fire, Structure Other	1	2	1
Fire, Residential Structure			
Fire, Industrial Vehicle, Train			
Fire, Commercial Vehicle			
Traffic Accident w/Pin-In	1	1	1
Traffic Accident w/Rescue			
Alarm Sounding			
Fire, Vehicle Passenger		1	1
Traffic Accident			
Fire, Grass/Vegetation			
Fire, Lightning Plan		2	
Medical Aid, Code Blue			
Fire, Other	1	2	1
Fire, Check Smoke			
Fire, Report Out			
Fire, Assist Other Agency			
Fire, Debris			
Fire Menace Standby			
Hazard, Bomb Threat			
Hazard, Electrical			
Hazard Gas		1	
Hazard, Carbon Monoxide Detector			
Medical Aid			
Medical, EMS Extended			
Medical, Assist			
Medical, Rescue			
Public Assist			

STATION 41 EQUIPMENT

BATTALION 14

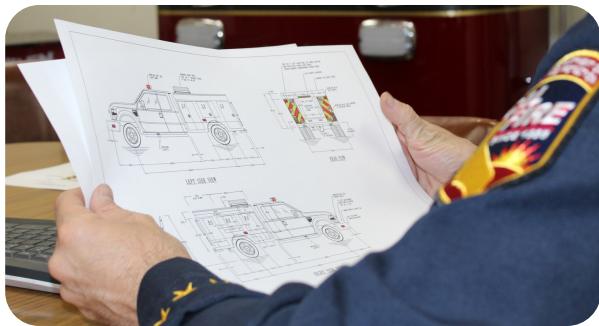


2017 Chevrolet Silverado
66,055 miles

NEW BATTALION 14



2023 Chevrolet Silverado
Yet to be in Service



UTILITY 14



Ford F250 2005
160,263 miles

ENGINE 41



2020 Rosenbauer
24,244 miles

ENGINE 241



1999 Spartan
Reserve Apparatus
158,088 miles

STATION 42 EQUIPMENT

BATTALION24



2017 Chevrolet Silverado
63,041 miles

NEW BATTALION24



2023 Chevrolet Silverado
Yet to be in Service

ENGINE24



2010 Ferrara Fire Apparatus
96,205 miles

TRUCK42



2014 Rosenbauer
62,681 miles

UTILITY14



1990 Chevrolet
102,471 miles

ADMIN14



1999 Ford Crown Victoria
104,309 miles

FIRE STATION 41



Incidents

Medical Aids	1,681
Public Assist	145
Vehicle Accidents	122
Fires	180
Other	591
Total Incidents	2,719

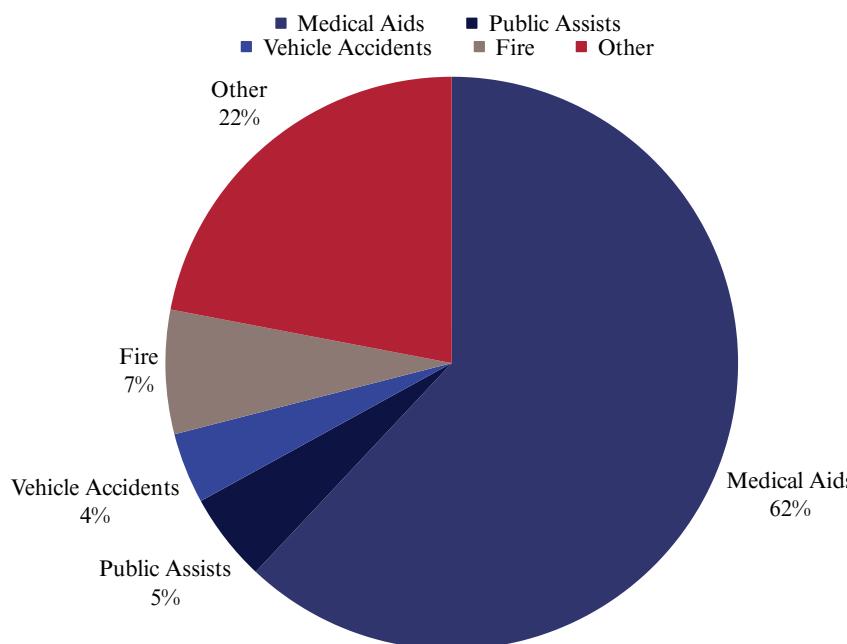
Year Built: 1982

Assigned Apparatus: B-14, E-41, E-241 (Reserve Engine), U-14, Air Supply Fill Station Trailer, Training Trailer, Public Education Trailer

Initial Response Area: 3.6 sq. mi of West Atwater

Accommodations: Battalion Chief 14 Office, Headquarters Station for Atwater City Fire, Antique Fire Engines Display, Radio Supply, Rehab Supply, Breathing Support for the City

Daily Staffing: 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Apparatus Engineer and 1 Firefighter



FIRE STATION 42



Incidents

Year Built: 2006

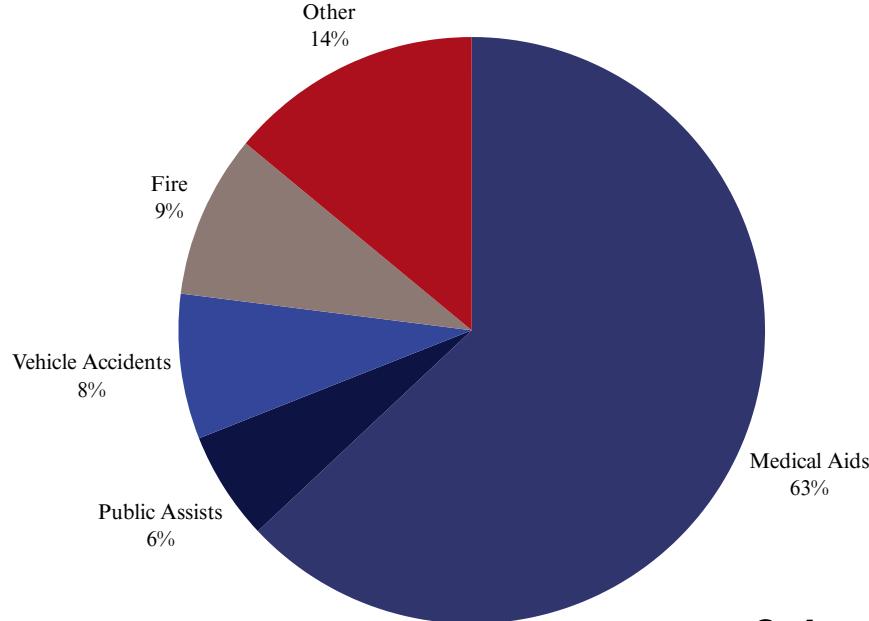
Medical Aids	1,054
Public Assist	103
Vehicle Accidents	124
Fires	152
Other	232
Total Incidents	1,665

Assigned Apparatus: B-24, T-42, E-42, U-42, A-14

Initial Response Area: 3 square miles of East Atwater

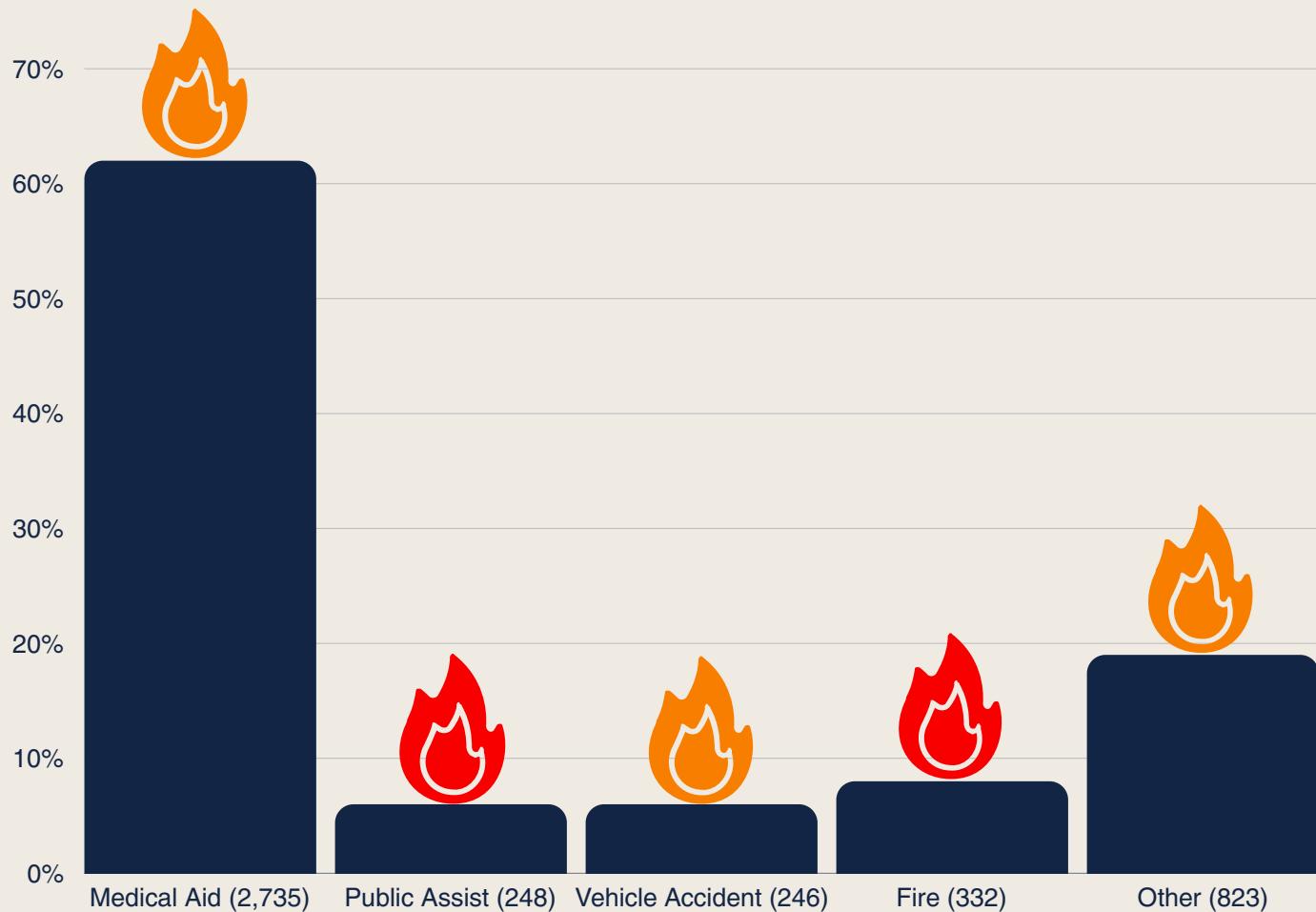
Accommodations: Training grounds and class room for Atwater City Fire Fighter Reserve program, SCBA Testing and Service Station, PPE Supply/Decontamination and Service Station, Fire Administration Offices

Daily Staffing: 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Apparatus Engineer and 1 Firefighter



ANNUAL CALL STATUS

Percentage of Call Categories received for the year of 2023



Total Calls: 4,384

CALL TYPES	PERCENTAGE	QUANTITY
MEDICAL AID	62%	2,735
PUBLIC ASSIST	6%	248
VEHICLE ACCIDENT	6%	246
FIRE	8%	332
OTHER	19%	823





COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

CITY OF ATWATER S/B 1205 FIRE INSPECTION COMPLIANCE REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2023

APARTMENTS

TOTAL APARTMENTS – 221
COMPLETED IN 2023 – 221
PERCENTAGE – 100%
COMPLIANCE – 202

SCHOOLS

TOTAL SCHOOLS – 15
COMPLETED IN 2023 – 15
PERCENTAGE – 100%
COMPLIANCE – 14

ASSEMBLIES

TOTAL ASSEMBLIES – 21
COMPLETED IN 2023 – 21
PERCENTAGE – 100%
COMPLIANCE – 21

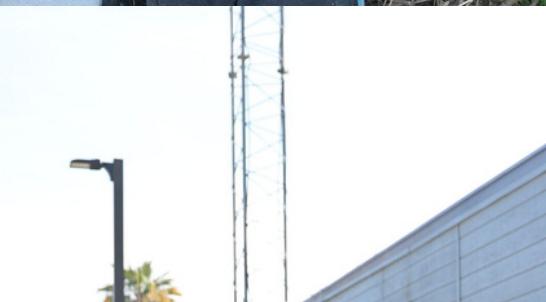
HOTELS

TOTAL HOTELS - 2
COMPLETED IN 2023 - 2
PERCENTAGE – 100%
COMPLIANCE – 2
BUSINESSES - 103

WEED ABATEMENT

459 Inspections

STATION LIFE





Station 41

**669 Broadway Ave.
Atwater, CA 95301
(209) 357-6352**



**Station 42
2006 Ave Two
Atwater, CA 95301
(209) 357-6724**

