

YUMA  
FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

*A look at the performance of the  
Yuma Fire Department.*



*We Can't Wait to Help*



***“As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of 2023, the Yuma Fire Department (YFD) takes pride in sharing the progress we’ve made in our commitment to public safety and service excellence.”***

# Reflecting on 2023

## **Operational Advancements:**

*This past year saw transformative changes in our operational approach. Notably, we secured independent medical direction, enhancing our medical care delivery.*

## **Service Response and Ambulance Operations:**

*Our dedicated team responded to 17,965 calls for service throughout the year. The ambulance service transported 9,171 individuals, showcasing a notable increase from the previous year's figure of 9,040. Medication dispensers at each fire station have significantly reduced turnaround times for our crews. Simultaneously, innovative training strategies are being implemented to optimize our response efficiency.*

## **Regional Fire Academy and Workforce Strengthening:**

*A remarkable achievement was the completion of our first-ever regional fire academy, a collaborative effort with departments from across Yuma County. With the support of a grant from Arizona Western College, we successfully filled 11 vacancies in the department, strengthening our workforce.*

## **City Support and Infrastructure Upgrades:**

*The unwavering support from our City Council and City Administration empowered us to make impactful enhancements. Introducing three new ambulances into service and the impending delivery of a replacement engine for Fire Station 1 in the spring of 2027, signify significant strides in our operational capabilities.*

*Additionally, the replacement of Engine 2 at the end of the year underscores our commitment to a robust fleet.*

## **Community Outreach and Professional Services:**

*Our Community Risk Reduction Division conducted 1,776 fire inspections, 602 construction inspections, and 704 plan reviews, enhancing safety measures. The Professional Services Division played a vital role, facilitating a total of 29,079 training hours across all service delivery disciplines.*

# *We Can't Wait to Help*



## **Accreditations and Future Planning:**

*The department achieved its fifth accreditation through Commission for Public Safety Excellence, a testament to our commitment to excellence. This represents 20 years of accreditation for the Yuma Fire Department. Plans are underway for a third-party review of administrative and operations staffing in the upcoming budget year, ensuring continued efficiency.*

## **Challenges and Future Initiatives:**

*In recognizing our challenges, we are actively advocating the necessity of a ladder tender vehicle to prolong the service life of our existing ladder truck. Moreover, a critical addition to our fleet is a four-wheel drive-capable fire apparatus designed for wildland firefighting. Our strategic plan includes seeking funding through grants and program replacements for essential tools, ensuring we stay well-equipped. Additionally, we are enhancing our method of tracking and rotating medical supplies for the ambulance service by seamlessly integrating an inventory system into our daily operations.*

## **Appreciation and Commitment:**

*In closing, I express heartfelt appreciation to the men and women of our department. Their professionalism, bravery, and unwavering commitment inspires us daily. Leading such a talented team is an honor, and I remain deeply grateful for the steadfast support from our community. Looking forward, the department recommit itself to delivering the highest standard of customer service and eagerly anticipates the opportunities ahead.*

**Dustin “Dusty” Fields**  
*Fire Chief*

# ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division is responsible for meeting the funding needs of the department within budgetary guidelines and facilitating changes in personnel status and payroll. Administration compiles and analyzes the statistics from the department's operating divisions that include productivity, response times, and other quality measurement factors. Administration oversees the daily operations of the Yuma Fire Department while finding creative solutions for the complex challenges of the modern day Emergency Medical Service based fire service.



## STAFFING LEVELS

*Heavy involvement in short and long term planning is needed to achieve the highest level of effectiveness and efficiency in order to meet the goals of the City Council and needs of the citizens.*

Authorized Personnel	2021	2022	2023
<i>Administration</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Professional Services Division</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Suppression</i>	<b>121</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>124</b>
<i>EMS Division</i>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<i>Community Risk Reduction</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>



## *Fiscal Year 2023 Accomplishments*

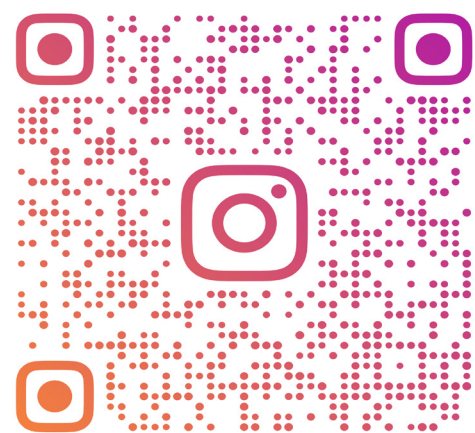
### **Connected & Engaged**

- ④ Used enhanced social media via a recruitment company, Public Safety Answers, which increased our firefighter applicants.
- ④ Added Instagram account for department outreach.

### **Safe & Prosperous**

- ④ Began a program to provide personal thermal imaging cameras for each firefighter. This offers increased safety and efficiency on the fire ground.

Administration has made strides in communication. 2023 saw the launch of the "Leader-Line" podcast. YFD has placed an emphasis on communicating with our community through creative means such as social media.



**YUMAFIREDEPARTMENT**

# SUPPRESSION DIVISION



***The Yuma Fire Department operates six stations across the City of Yuma.***

Each day the Yuma Fire Department operates a total of one Battalion Chief, seven Fire Engines, one ladder company and five medic units in the suppression division.

Each year the Yuma Fire Department adds an additional "Peak Hour" ambulance. This unit is used to help reduce the strain on the daily operations during high call volume times of the year.

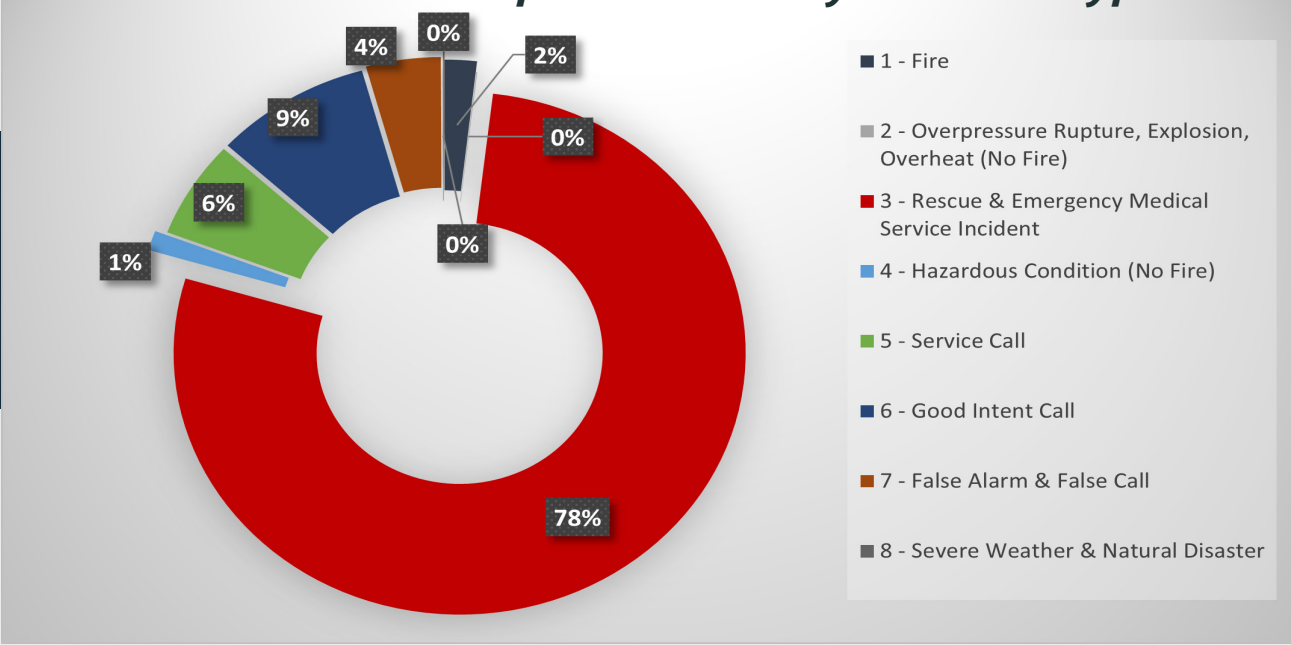
The Yuma Fire Department is in the process of opening Fire Station 7 in 2024. This station will split the apparatus currently housed at Fire Station 5 hopefully reducing the response time for the area served by Fire Station 7.

## **What we do?**

Suppression also known as the Operations Division is the forward facing aspect of the Yuma Fire Department. Operations responds to emergencies on a daily basis offering hope in an otherwise bad day for our community.

- ✓ *Fire Response*
- ✓ *Emergency Medical Response*
- ✓ *Hazardous Materials Response*
- ✓ *Technical Rescue Response*
- ✓ *Public Assistance Calls for service*

## Calls for Services by Incident Type



### Structure Fires

**82** Private dwellings  
**31** Structure Fires  
 Other Fires, Including  
**213** Rubbish, and wildland  


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**326** Total Structure Fires



### Emergency Medical Response.

**13,785** EMS Response  
**9,171** Transports



### Hazardous Response 218



### Service Calls. 1,080



### Good Intent Calls. 1,594



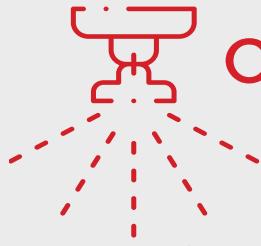
### False Alarms 758



### Overpressure 9



### Severe Weather. 8



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

*Community Risk Reduction (CRR) consists of four elements: engineering, education, enforcement, and evaluation. CRR is responsible for construction plan review, public education, origin and cause determination, and fire inspections.*

<p><b>1776</b></p> <p><b>Inspections</b></p> <p>Total number of inspections. 2817 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>602</b></p> <p><b>Construction Inspections</b></p> <p>Total number of construction inspections. 731 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>36</b></p> <p><b>Fire Investigations</b></p> <p>Total number of fire investigations. 184 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>704</b></p> <p><b>Plans Review</b></p> <p>Total number of plans review for new construction. 867 Staff hours</p>
<p><b>43</b></p> <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>Classes delivered to stakeholders 104 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>284</b></p> <p><b>Pre- Development Meetings</b></p> <p>Meetings prior to development 284 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>272</b></p> <p><b>Fire Activity Review</b></p> <p>Request for review 192 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>663</b></p> <p><b>Code Consult</b></p> <p>Consults for code compliance. 337 Staff hours</p>
<p><b>490</b></p> <p><b>Job Site Meetings</b></p> <p>Meetings on job site for construction progression. 265 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>33</b></p> <p><b>Knox Box</b></p> <p>Installed Key boxes for the community. 26 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>91</b></p> <p><b>Smoke Alarm</b></p> <p>Installed smoke alarms for the community. 26 Staff hours</p>	<p><b>572</b></p> <p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>Total Posts with a 328,000 reach</p>





## Growth in CRR

The Community Risk Reduction Division underwent a restructuring during 2023 allowing for improved professional development. CRR reclassified two positions:

- ⊗ Assistant Fire Marshal
- ⊗ Senior Fire Inspector



## Inspectors Needed

The National Fire Protection Association Standard 1730 recommends that agencies like YFD inspect high risk properties on an annual basis, medium risk every other year, and low risk on a three year rotation. CRR requires an additional 10 inspectors to meet this standard.



The CRR Division has not recovered from the 2008 financial crisis, which brought reductions in staffing.

# EMS DIVISION



## THE CURRENT STATE OF YFD EMS

*"The fire service landscape has become so strongly intertwined with emergency medical services, and for the YFD 2023 marked a year of important development. Easily described as a landmark event, YFD established a partnership with International Medical Direction LLC. (IMD). In this partnership IMD provides and serves as YFD's first ever centralized medical direction. We believe that this provides the gateway to unlimited possibilities for 9-1-1 EMS to evolve for our community. This partnership, improved upon the EMS Division's ability to safely and securely stock all the medications that our Paramedics use on medical calls. Additionally, IMD and YFD are working to establish modern protocols to raise the level of care our citizens receive. All this change has been brought forward with the Yuma community in mind. Moving at an appropriate speed was a necessity, the EMS Division with the help of the Professional Services Division, rolled out mandatory training that reached every single front line employee. As we continue to serve our community, with approximately 80 percent of our calls being EMS based, the future is very bright for YFD."*



*YFD's first Rescue 1 c. 1974, Pictured John Fields, and Matt Mattlock*

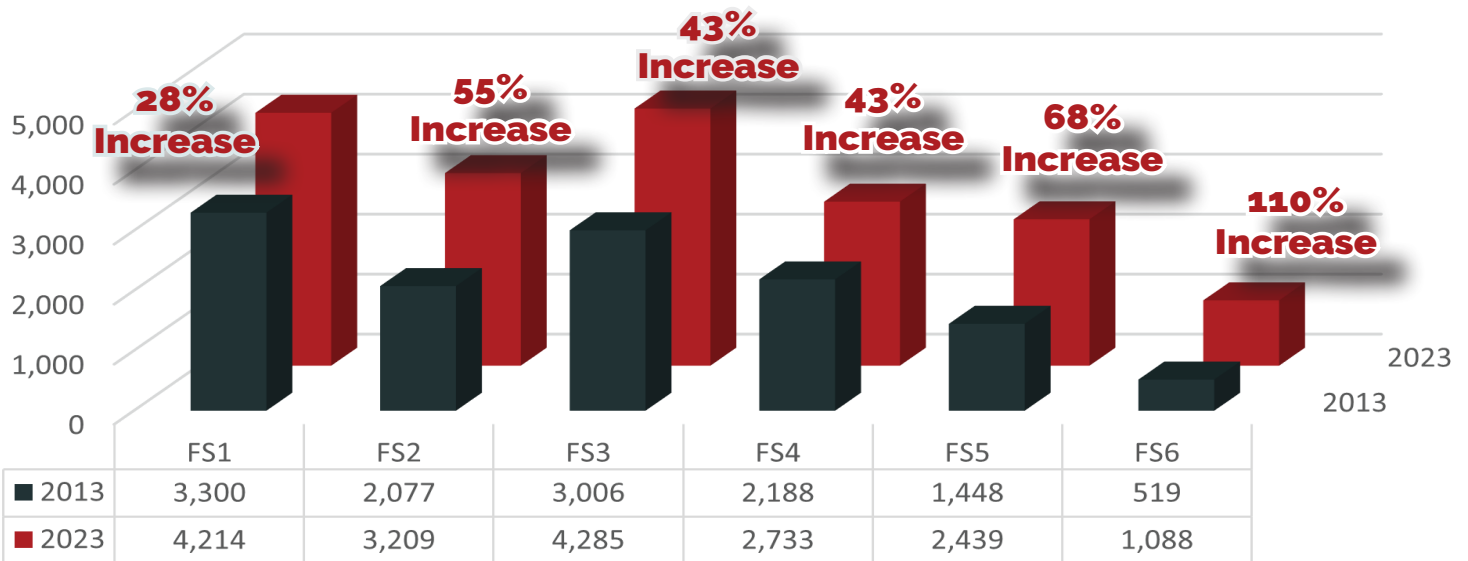
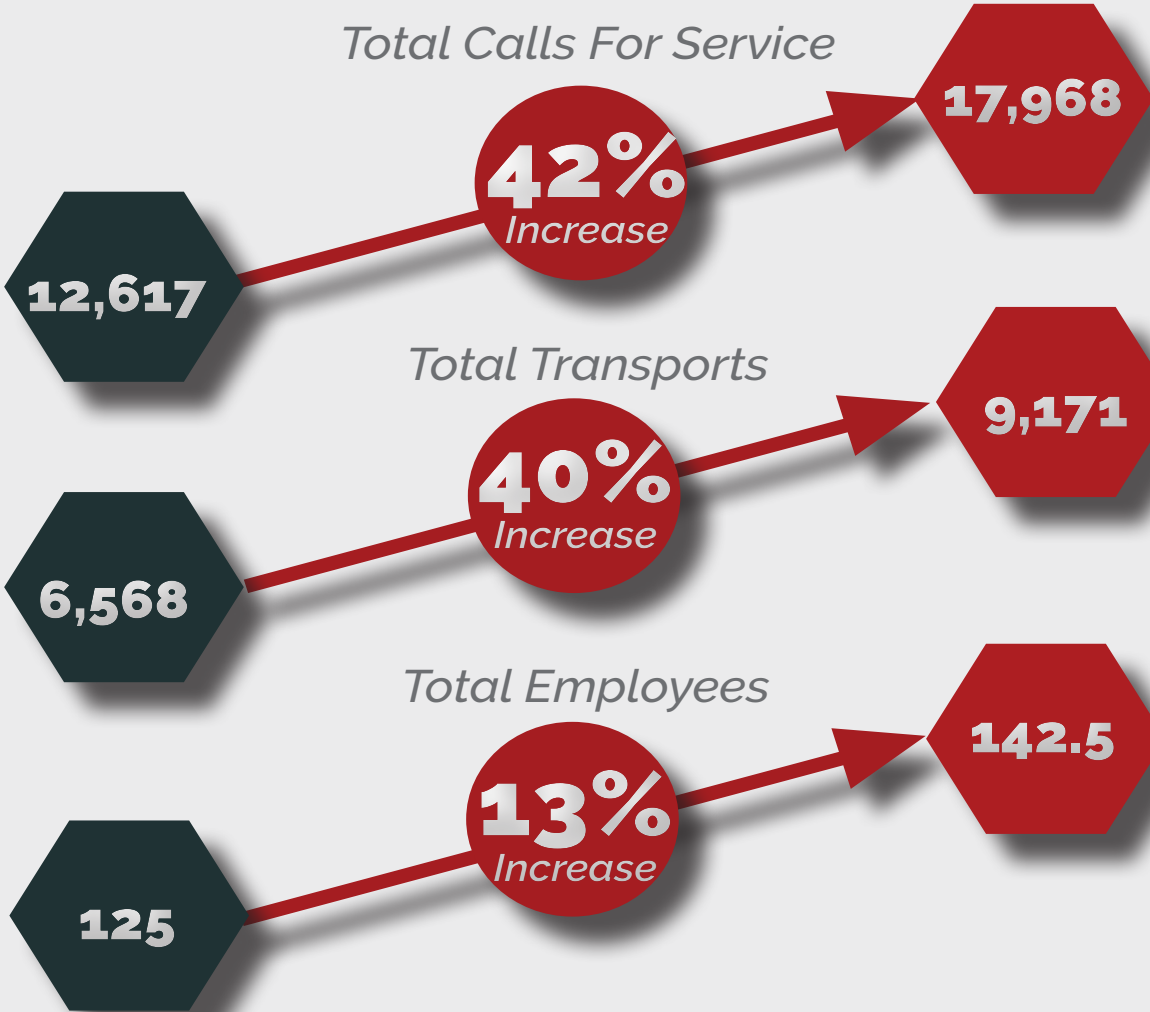
**Daniel Espino**

*Interim EMS Battalion Chief*

**Total Transports in 2023**  
**9,171**

# 2013 VS 2023

2023 represents 10 years of ambulance transport. The Yuma Fire Department has seen a steady increase in transports.

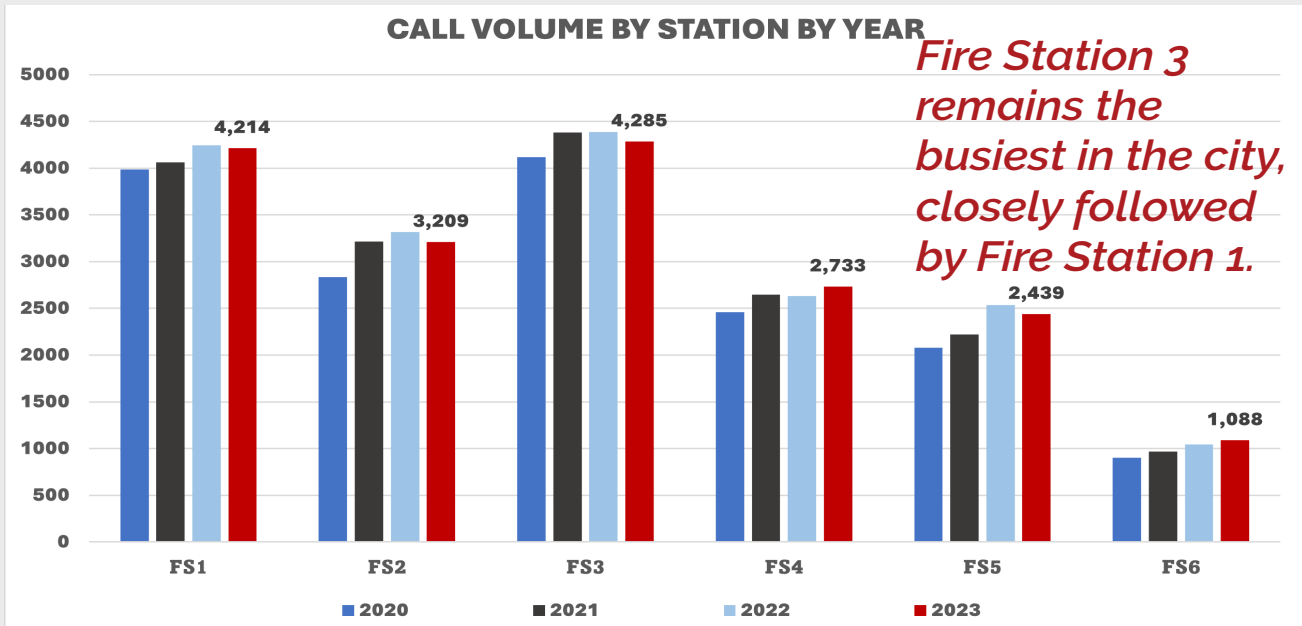



**TOTAL TRANSPORTS BY RUN AREA**

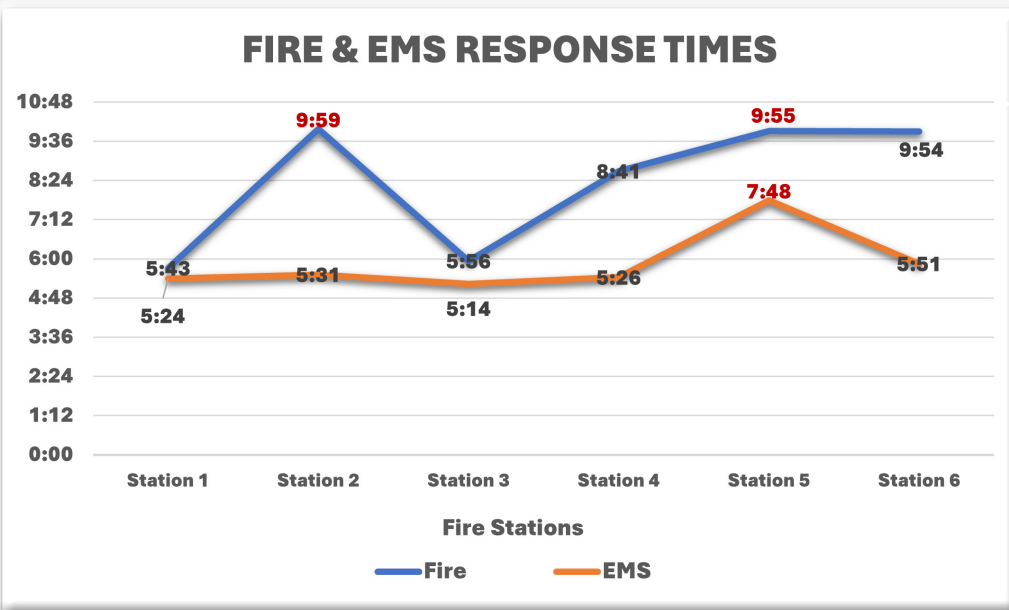
# STATISTICS



The Yuma Fire Department tracks and reports multiple data points to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a division of the U.S. Fire Administration. NFIRS is a reporting standard that fire departments use to report their calls for service.



 YFD's data reflects a growing trend towards increasingly busier responders and increasing response times.



**EMS Response Times**  
 Average Response Time  
 6:29  
 90th percentile  
 9:27  
 Average Calls Per day  
 50  
 Average Turn out time  
 46 Seconds

# The Yuma Fire Department is facing challenges in meeting the needs of a growing city.

# 2006

The last time YFD opened a new station, Fire Station 6.

# 78%

Percentage increase in call volume since 2006

The Yuma Fire Department's call for service have been steadily increasing over the past several years. Data analysis reflects an increase of 4% on average year over year with small periods of respite.

YFD continued to respond to the non-citizen migrant crisis in 2023.

# 250

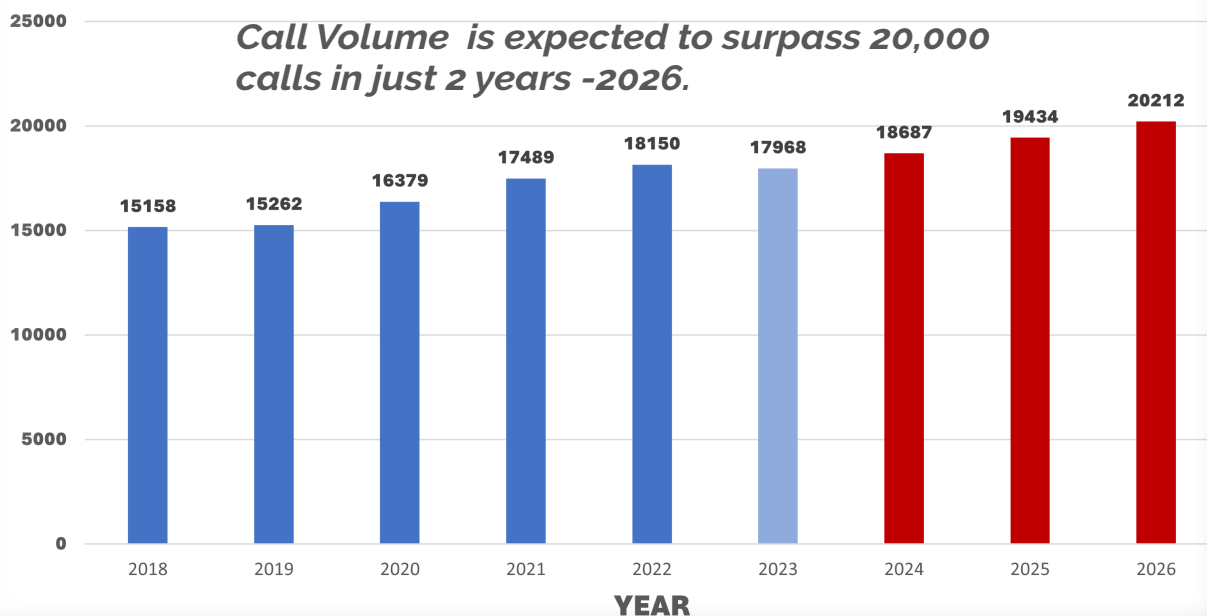
Personnel hours utilized on Migrant Transfer hub calls with a migrant nexus

# 400

Personnel hours utilized on 911 calls with a migrant nexus

## CALL VOLUME

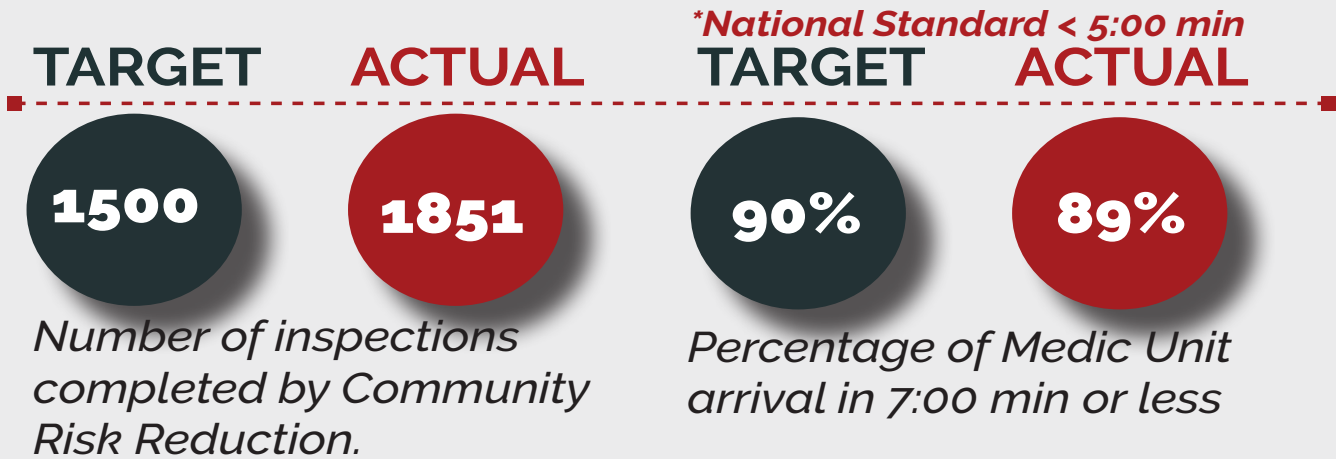
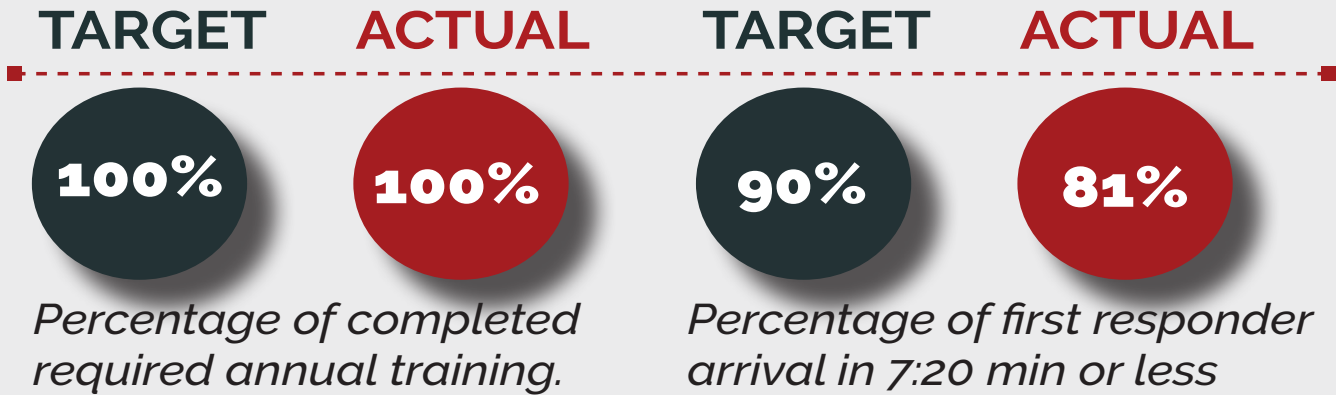
Call Volume is expected to surpass 20,000 calls in just 2 years -2026.



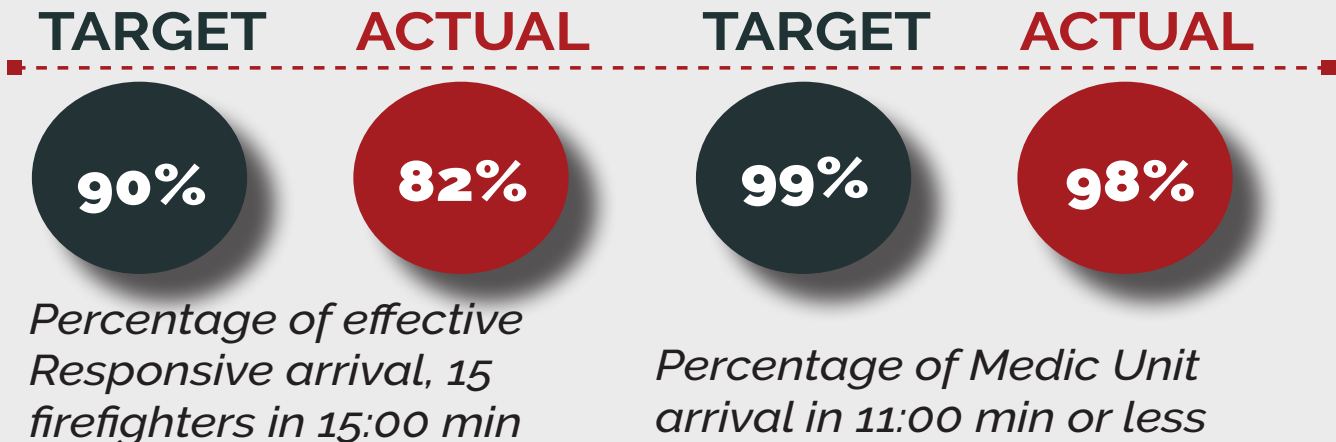


# PERFORMANCE MEASURE

*We measure ourselves against multiple standards. Here are a few of the performance goals we set for ourselves*



*\*NFPA Recommendation = 3067 Inspections*



*\*National Standard = 17 Firefighters arriving in < 8:00 min*

*\*National Fire Protection Association Standard 1710/ 1730*

# CHALLENGES

- ⑧ *An Assistant Chief for Administration, who oversees Community Risk Reduction, and Professional Services Division.*
- ⑧ *On duty safety officer to respond to fire, vehicle accidents, and other high risk calls for service.*
- ⑧ *Additional staffing for an ambulance assigned to Fire Station 7.*
- ⑧ *Ladder tender to reduce wear on Ladder 1 .*
- ⑧ *A 4-wheel drive capable fire apparatus to respond to remote areas for fire and medical emergencies in our community.*
- ⑧ *A replacement plan for end-of-life rescue equipment*
- ⑧ *Additional staffing for four person engine companies on Engine seven and Engine six as identified by response model needs.*

## THE CHALLENGES & THE GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

### GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

- ⑧ *Yuma received its fifth accreditation certification, reaching a milestone of 20 years of accreditation.*
- ⑧ *Two new replacement ambulances apparatus placed into service.*
- ⑧ *One fire apparatus replacement placed into service.*
- ⑧ *Ordered two replacement engines. Due to supply issues, both apparatus are expected to be delivered in three to four years .*
- ⑧ *Fire Station 7 is expected to open by spring of 2024*
- ⑧ *Centralized medical direction with IMD.*
- ⑧ *Medication dispensers placed into service at all fire stations*
- ⑧ *Increased Suppression Division's minimum staffing by three additional firefighters to assist in overtime reduction.*
- ⑧ *Completion of the Yuma County Regional Firefighter Academy with the help of Arizona Western college.*

# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

*The Professional Services Division (PSD) is responsible for providing and facilitating department training, conducting internal affairs, succession planning and accreditation. PSD's goal is to ensure that all members maintain the knowledge, practical skills and ability to provide efficient professional care and service to the citizens of Yuma*

***2023 saw the Inaugural Regional Training Academy in conjunction with the San Luis and Somerton/ Cocopah Fire Departments***

*PSD currently is responsible for managing the Yuma County American Heart Association Training center. This center issues certification to multiple partners in the community including, Rural Metro, Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department and more allies in our community.*

**269**

Hours  
Driver  
Operator  
Training

**2,151**

Hours  
Facility  
Training

**2,151**

Hours  
Hazardous  
Materials  
Training

**2,151**

Hours  
Company  
Officer  
Development

**26,227**

Total  
Fire Company  
Training

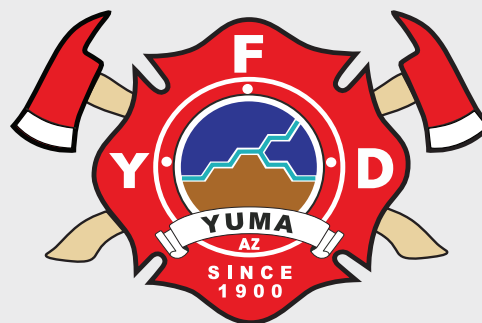






### **EMS TRAINING** by the numbers

- ⑧ Managed and completed the accreditation process
- ⑧ Updated Standards of Coverage document, Strategic Plan and Fire EMS Self Assessment Manual
- ⑧ Facilitated 16 EMS continuing education courses
- ⑧ Completed pediatric drowning scenario report
- ⑧ Completed quality assurance data analysis for training



*Training is more than teaching, PSD is responsible for shaping future leaders within our organization.*

### **FIRE TRAINING** by the numbers

- ⑧ Facilitated three recruit academies over 9 months
- ⑧ Completed Fire Office 1 course.
- ⑧ Completed Fire instructor 1 course
- 96 minimum company standards evolutions
- ⑧ Executed 103 live fire training drills





## STRATEGIC PLANNING

*Utilizing input and data from our stake holders the following strategic initiatives were formed to serves as the basis for our goals and objectives.*

**“Strategic planning provides an agency with a direction for long-term success.”**

**John Louser**

*Assistant Fire Chief of Operations*



Assets

*Develop and Implement comprehensive plans that address long-term asset procurement and management. Research and plan for replacement/upgrade of obsolete assets.*



Operational Efficiency

*Identify areas of inefficiency related to response models, administrative oversight and resource deployment. Research and implement needed changes that emphasize efficiency and innovation.*



Communication

*Ensure that the Yuma Fire Department is developing innovative ways to communicate with the community, and expand the reach of the department's messaging.*





## Community Expectations of the Yuma Fire Department

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1. *Highly trained personnel*
2. *Fast response of units to emergencies*
3. *Fully staffed at all levels*
4. *High quality equipment, to include vehicles and all equipment on those vehicles*



## Community Concerns for the Yuma Fire Department

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1. *Not a sufficient number of personnel*
2. *Rapid growth of the city, outpacing the fire department*
3. *Retention of personnel, including pay and benefits*
4. *Working with other agencies on disaster preparedness*



### Staffing

*Expand the department's ability to recruit from a larger pool of entry-level candidates, foster interest in the fire service and retain personnel.*



### Professional Development

*Ensure that the Yuma Fire Department has the human resources needed to effectively provide the protection and services needed to the Yuma community.*



### Health and Safety

*Enhance and maintain the overall health and wellness of Yuma Fire Department personnel.*



# Yuma Fire Department's Mission Statement

*The Yuma Fire Department exists to provide professional services, protecting life and property to its citizens. We ensure the safety and security of those we serve by delivering emergency medical transport, fire prevention, fire suppression, and education to the community.*



**F**AMILY  
**I**NTEGRITY  
**R**ESPECT  
**E**XCELLENCE  
**S**AFETY





We are a strong team dedicated to serving our community, building relationships and creating opportunities.





# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

*Each year we highlight members in the organization who go above and beyond for our community.*



**Dennis Gasrow**

Officer of the Year



**Donald Walton**

Engineer of the Year



**Jesus Sillas**

Firefighter of the Year



**Jonas Moore**

Emergency Medical Technician of the Year



**Fernando Quintero**

Paramedic of the Year



**Robert Rillamas**

Support Staff of the Year



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

*Each year we highlight members in the organization who go above and beyond for our community.*



**Donald  
Walton**

1st Quarter  
Employee of the Year



**Tony  
Williamson**

2nd Quarter  
Employee of the Year



**Dennis  
Gasrow**

3rd Quarter  
Employee of the Year



**Adrian  
Aust**

4th Quarter  
Employee of the Year



**Jesus  
Sillas**

2023 "Cobra" Award



**Renee  
Aragon**

Emergency Dispatcher  
of the Year



# PROMOTIONS/ ASSIGNMENTS

*We honor those who continue to progress within the department and seek out growth.*



**Alvin  
Luedtke**

Battalion Chief



**Jordan  
Simpson**

Captain



**David  
Padilla, Jr**

Captain



**Francisco  
Leon**

Captain



**Travis  
Larue**

Captain



**James  
Chavez**

Captain





# PROMOTIONS/ ASSIGNMENTS

*We honor those who continue to progress within the department and seek out growth.*



**Scot  
Beebe**

Engineer



**Jared  
White**

Engineer



**Anthony  
Fernandez**

Engineer



**Manuel  
Pelayo**

Engineer



**Cody  
Pelfrey**

Engineer



# NEWLY HIRED

*The Yuma Fire Department held three fire academies in 2023 to ensure adequate staffing levels. The first hiring was Academy 23-1.*

## **ACADEMY 23-1**

**Recruit Training Officer: David Padilla Jr, Captain**

**Recruit Training Assistant: Jared White, Engineer**



**Noel  
Chavez**

**Firefighter/Paramedic**



**Robert  
Stanford**

**Firefighter/Paramedic**



**Elijah  
Laing**

**Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician**



**Peter  
Franks**

**Firefighter/Paramedic**



# NEWLY HIRED

*The second hiring of the year was an inaugural regional academy hosted by the Yuma Fire Department. This academy trained ten additional firefighter cadets for YFD.*

## **ACADEMY 23-2**

**Recruit Training Officer: David Padilla Jr, Captain**

**Recruit Training Assistant: Jared White, Engineer**

**Recruit Training Assistant: Robert Rillamas, Fire Inspector**



**Alexander  
Boyd**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Bradley  
Martin**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Damien  
Hernandez**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Isaiah  
Brown**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Isiah  
Quezada**

Firefighter/ Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Luis  
Martinez**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



# NEWLY HIRED

*The second hiring of the year was an inaugural regional academy hosted by the Yuma Fire Department. This academy trained ten additional firefighter cadets for YFD.*

## ACADEMY 23-2

**Recruit Training Officer: David Padilla Jr, Captain**

**Recruit Training Assistant: Jared White, Engineer**

**Recruit Training Assistant: Robert Rillamas**



**Nadine  
Meija**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Nicholas  
Waterford**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Octavio  
Arvisu**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



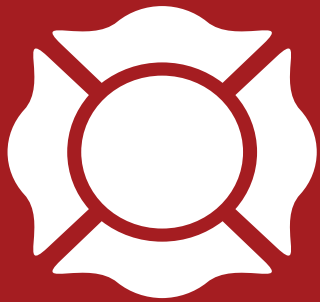
**Robert  
Rillamas**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



**Ryan  
Akset**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician



# NEWLY HIRED

*The third hiring of the year, was hosted by the Yuma Fire Department. This academy trained one additional firefighter cadet.*

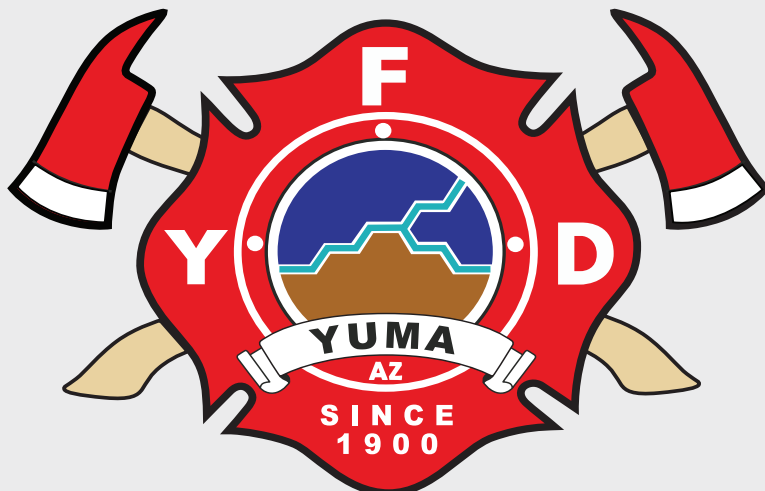
**ACADEMY 23-3**

**Recruit Training Officer: Paul Evancho, Captain**



**Audie  
Ethington**

Firefighter/Emergency  
Medical Technician





## EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

*The following members retired during the 2023 year. Thank you for the years of loyal service to the Yuma community.*



**Mike  
Erfert**

Public Information  
Officer  
Feb. 2006 - Feb. 2023  
17 years of service



**Erik  
Lohman**

Captain/EMT  
Dec. 1997 - Feb 2023  
26 years of service



**Rob  
Welch**

Captain/Paramedic  
Sep. 1997- Jan 2023  
26 years of service



**Mike  
Walton**

Battalion Chief  
Jan 1993- Jan 2023  
30 years of service

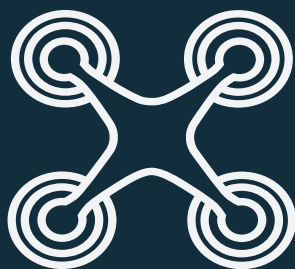
## LOOKING FORWARD

*A few of our goals for the future as we continue to grow along side our community.*



### **Outside Consultant**

Providing outside objectivity on the state of the fire department is important to offer perspective. This study will provide assistance to identify areas of improvement.



### **Drone Program**

Implementation of a drone program. The Program will allow the fire department to safely assess all types of emergencies from a safe distance. Drones will help with large brushfires, hazardous materials and other types of emergencies.



### **Improved Recruitment**

Create a firefighter cadet program for graduating high school seniors. Recruitment is a challenge we must tackle moving forward.



### **Station Alerting System**

Pursuing automated station alerting system to allow fire dispatchers to continue to interact with customers on 911 calls and provide advanced emergency medical instructions.

# 2023

## GET IN TOUCH WITH YFD



928.373.4850  
928.373.4863



[fireadministration@yumaaz.gov](mailto:fireadministration@yumaaz.gov)



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Yuma Az 85364

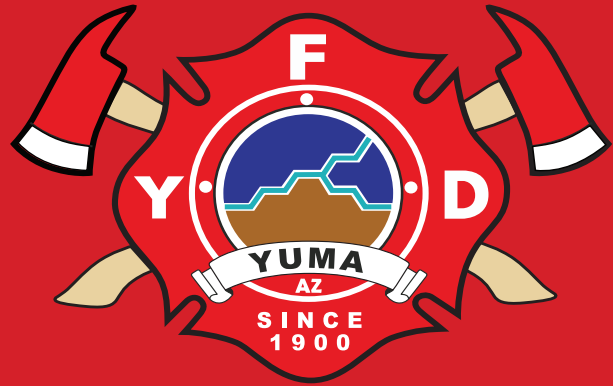


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CITY OF  
*Yuma*