Sonoita-Elgin Fire District

Fire Chief

Board Update October 2026

2024-2026 Strategic Plan

- The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) regional grant submitted by Santa Rita Fire and including SEFD and five other departments was awarded 1.8 million dollars to purchase new SCBAs. We are in the procurement phase and new equipment should be here in early 2027
- The 20th Anniversary event was a great success!





20th Anniversary Event

We had approximately 50 people attend with a great turn out from our community and representatives from-

- Santa Cruz County Supervisor Fanning
- Pima County Supervisor Christy
- Banner University Medical Center- Tucson
- Carondelet Health Systems
- Northwest Medical Center
- Patagonia Volunteer Fire & Rescue
- Rio Rico Medical and Fire District
- Tubac Fire District
- Rural Metro Fire Department
- Tucson Fire Department
- Rincon Valley Fire Department
- Air National Guard Fire Department
- Air Methods Air Medical (LifeNet)
- Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Management









Administration/Budget

- The access gate was repaired and is functional again

Santa Cruz County Updates

- Matrix Consulting was selected to conduct the Emergency Services audit for the county. The work should begin in October and is scheduled to take 18 weeks.
- The Treasurer's office has not yet solved their software problem. All three chiefs from the County met with the Treasurer last week to press him on a solution, which has now dragged into a fourth month





Pima County Updates

- Pima County completed an audit of excess distributions that were made to special tax districts in recent years. SEFD's portion was $6.79 and it will be taken out of our November allocation





PSPRS Local Board

- The Local Board met last month and will meet again in the spring





Operations

- Equipment
  - The first out Hurst spreader tool is out of service pending a repair, crews are using the back up in the interim
- EMS
  - All agencies will be required to obtain their own DEA numbers and be directly responsible for all aspects of controlled substances in response to a new federal and state law. We are working with our base hospital to comply
- Staffing
  - Captains testing was completed at the beginning of the month. Acting Captain Terzich and Acting Captain Hart performed very well and were promoted to Captain. A special thank you to Golder Ranch Fire District, Tubac Fire District and Rio Rico Medical and Fire District for lending evaluators
  - FF Barker resigned, we wish her well





Operations

- Apparatus
  - All units presently in operation
- District Growth/Development
  - Planned subdivisions
    - Papago Springs (removed commercial element)
    - AZ 82 (preliminary water requirements review completed)
  - Proposed dude ranches
    - Babocomari (no updates)
    - Double R Ranch (new and in County approval process)
  - Proposed Wineries
    - Brigand (moving forward, SEFD has approved plans)
    - Ash Canyon Winery (moving forward, SEFD has approved plans)
  - Dollar General Remodel (SEFD has approved plans)
- Neighboring Agency News/Developments
  - Town of Patagonia Update
    - PVFR receiving a one-year contract for services to the town. We will continue to work with them and look for opportunities to enhance service to that community



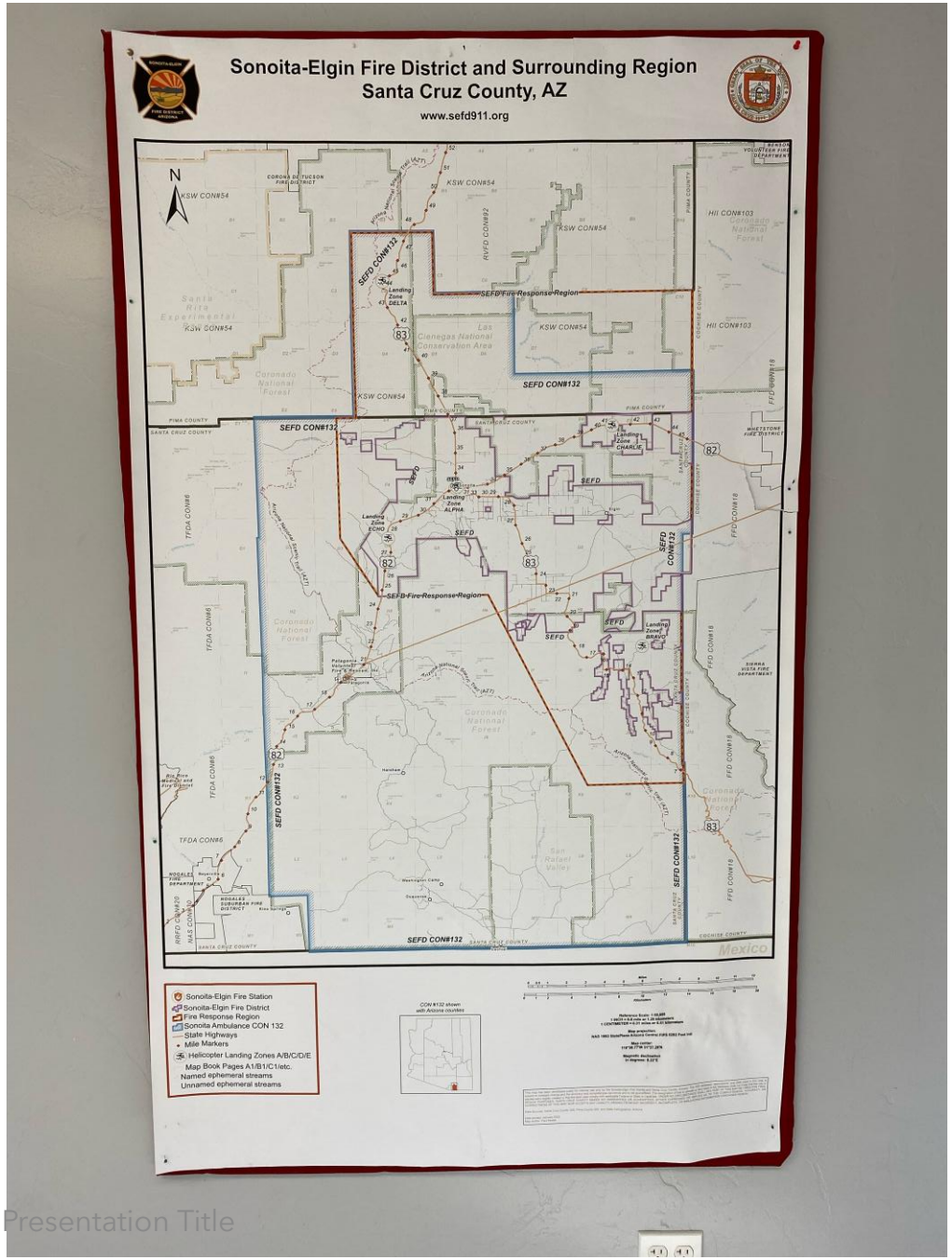


SEFD Response Map

Purple- District (approx. 95sq miles)

Orange- Fire Response Area (approx. 350sq miles)

Blue- CON (approx. 725sq miles)



Incidents by Service Type

Total

Fire- 1

Medical- 31

Hazardous Condition- 1

Rescue- 0

Public Service- 18

No Emergency- 9

Assisting Law Enforcement- 0



Incidents By Service Type and Zone

Zone 1 (Sonoita)

- Fire- 0
- Medical- 15
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 11
- No Emergency- 2
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

Zone 2 (North of Sonoita)

- Fire- 0
- Medical- 3
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 0
- No Emergency- 0
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

Zone 3 (Elgin)

- Fire- 1
- Medical- 4
- Hazardous Condition- 1
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 5
- No Emergency- 4
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

Incidents By Service Type and Zone

Zone 4 (Canelo Hills)

- Fire- 0
- Medical- 0
- Hazardous Condition- -
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 0
- No Emergency- 0
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

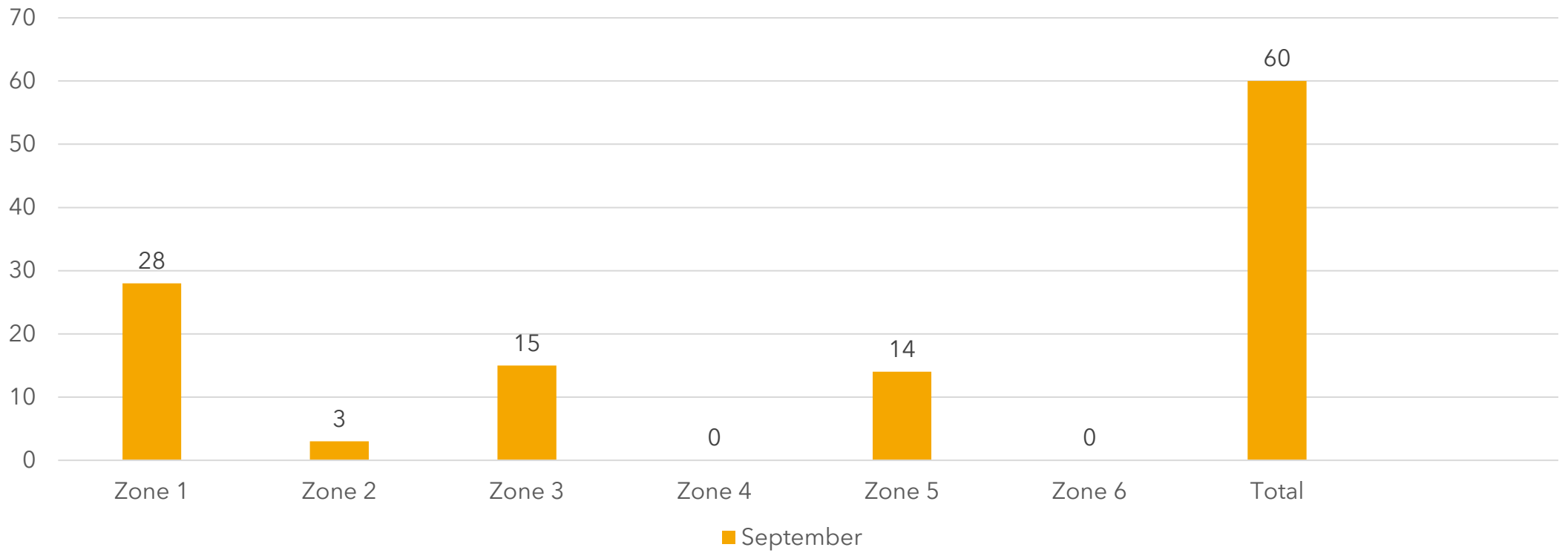
Zone 5 (Patagonia)

- Fire- 0
- Medical- 9
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 2
- No Emergency- 3
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

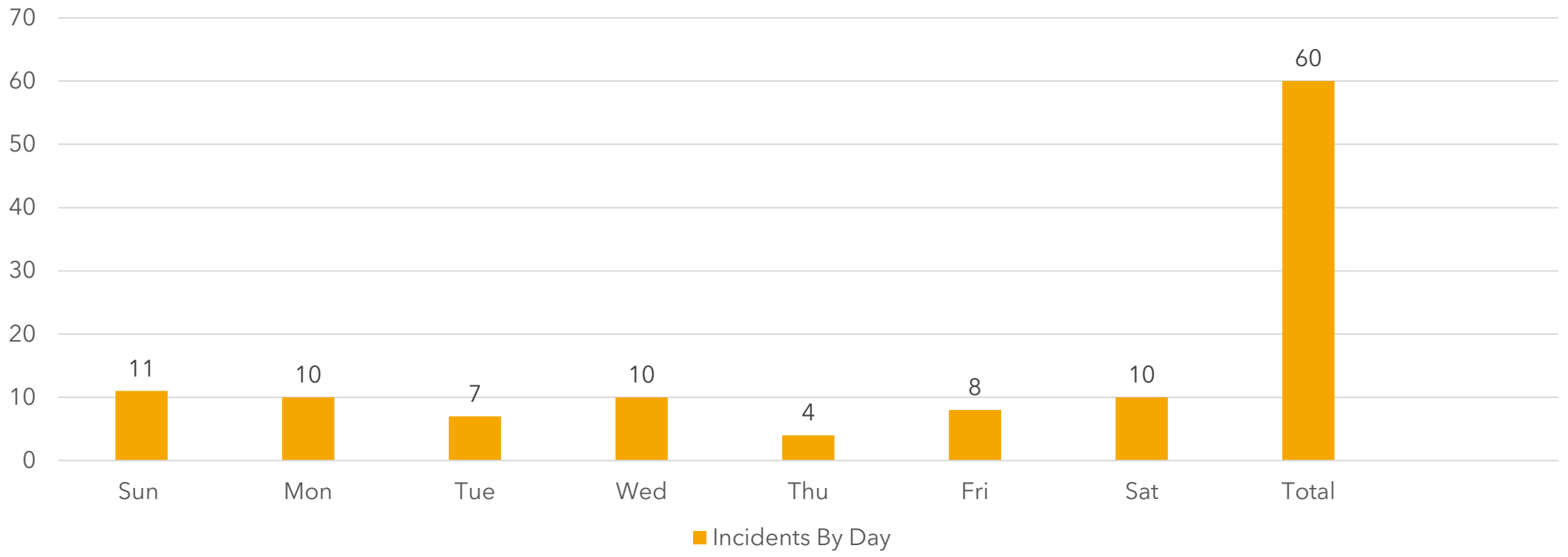
Zone 6 (Out of area)

- Fire- 0
- Medical- 0
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 0
- No Emergency- 0
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

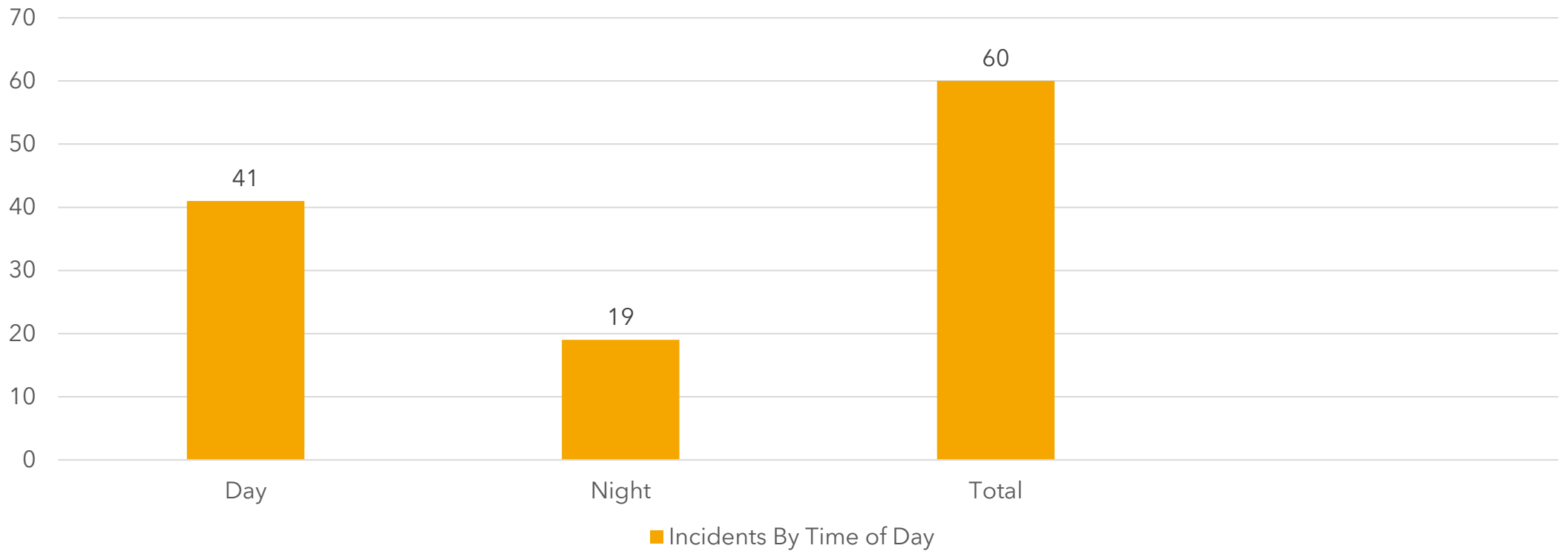
Incident Count By Zone



Incident Count By Day



Incident Count By Time



Incidents Year To Date Versus Previous Years

Month	2024	2025	2026
January	59	**47**	82
February	**46**	49	55
March	62	62	65
April	51	66	54
May	60	66	59
June	52	62	67
July	71	66	55
August	60	50	61
September	63	**70**	60
October	**84**	68	
November	67	59	
December	67	48	

Certificate of Necessity (CON)

- Submitted a grant request via AZ DEMA to acquire computers and associated equipment towards compliance with HB2609
- CON renewal application submitted, we are waiting on it to be processed



Legislative Update

House

- HB2182- EMTs Presumptive Diagnosis, allows for EMTs provide a presumptive (field) diagnosis for the purpose of the pt making an informed transport decision (AFDA support)
- HB2183- Emergency Medicine Study Committee, establishes committee to evaluate capacity (AFDA support)
- HB2204- Presumptive PTSD Coverage for Public Safety Personnel, extends presumptive coverage to include PTSD (AFDA pending)
- HB2437- EHB2402- Ambulance Services CON, updates to rules & regulations (AFDA support)
- MS reciprocity compact, ensures cross-state reciprocity (AFDA support)
- HB2641- PFAS Prohibition, expands restrictions on PFAS (AFDA support)
- **HB2766 Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act- clarifies that special tax districts are local units of government for grant funding purposes (AFDA support)**
- HB2917- Firefighter Cancer Registry, would establish in AZ (AFDA support)

Senate

- SB1130- Property Tax Exemption for Certain First Responder Survivors, amends ARS 42-11111 to expand property tax exemptions to include widows and widowers of first responders with LODD or LODD caused by injuries (AFDA support)
- SB1215- Firefighters; occupational disease; cancer- expands list of cancers covered under presumptive diagnosis (AFDA support)- signed into law
- SB1216- Traumatic Event Counseling, removes repeal provisions (AFDA support)- signed into law
- SB1235- EMS reciprocity; compact, allows for recognition of EMS certifications within member states (AFDA neutral/support)
- SB1504- PSPRS Service Requirement, provides for Tier 3 to fully retire at 25 years of service

Propositions

- ~~Prop 143- would preclude government entities from negotiating employment contracts, entering into employment agreements, MOUs, meet and confer agreements.~~

Legislative Session concluded for the year

Questions?

