

Sonoita-Elgin Fire District

Fire Chief

Board Update September 2026



2024-2026 Strategic Plan

- Plan extended through 2027
- 20th Anniversary celebration today immediately following the Board meeting





Administration/Budget

- Our existing workers comp provider is exiting the market. We have signed on with a new carrier effective in October with a significant annual savings
- Enhancements to the rolling access gate are scheduled for this week. We created a temporary pathway to the back of the station during the construction

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 been updating their software systems, resulting in a significant delay in processing revenue payments. We are currently owed July and August. They hope to have the situation resolved by the end of this month.



Pima County Updates

- Pima County will be providing prevention patrol funding to fire departments. Projected start date will be spring 2027, IGA will be ready for Board review in August
- On behalf of the department, I signed the updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the County
- I attended the September Supervisors meeting where they proclaimed today SEFD day in Pima County



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 will take place in October
 - Captain Sapienza, FF Jackson and FF Barker attended the annual Arizona State Fire School at the beginning of the month, taking classes on suppression, inspection and live fire training
 - AC Hart completed Struggle Well
 - I am teaching EMT students in Nogales and am providing remote mentoring to paramedic students through Pima College



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)
 - 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

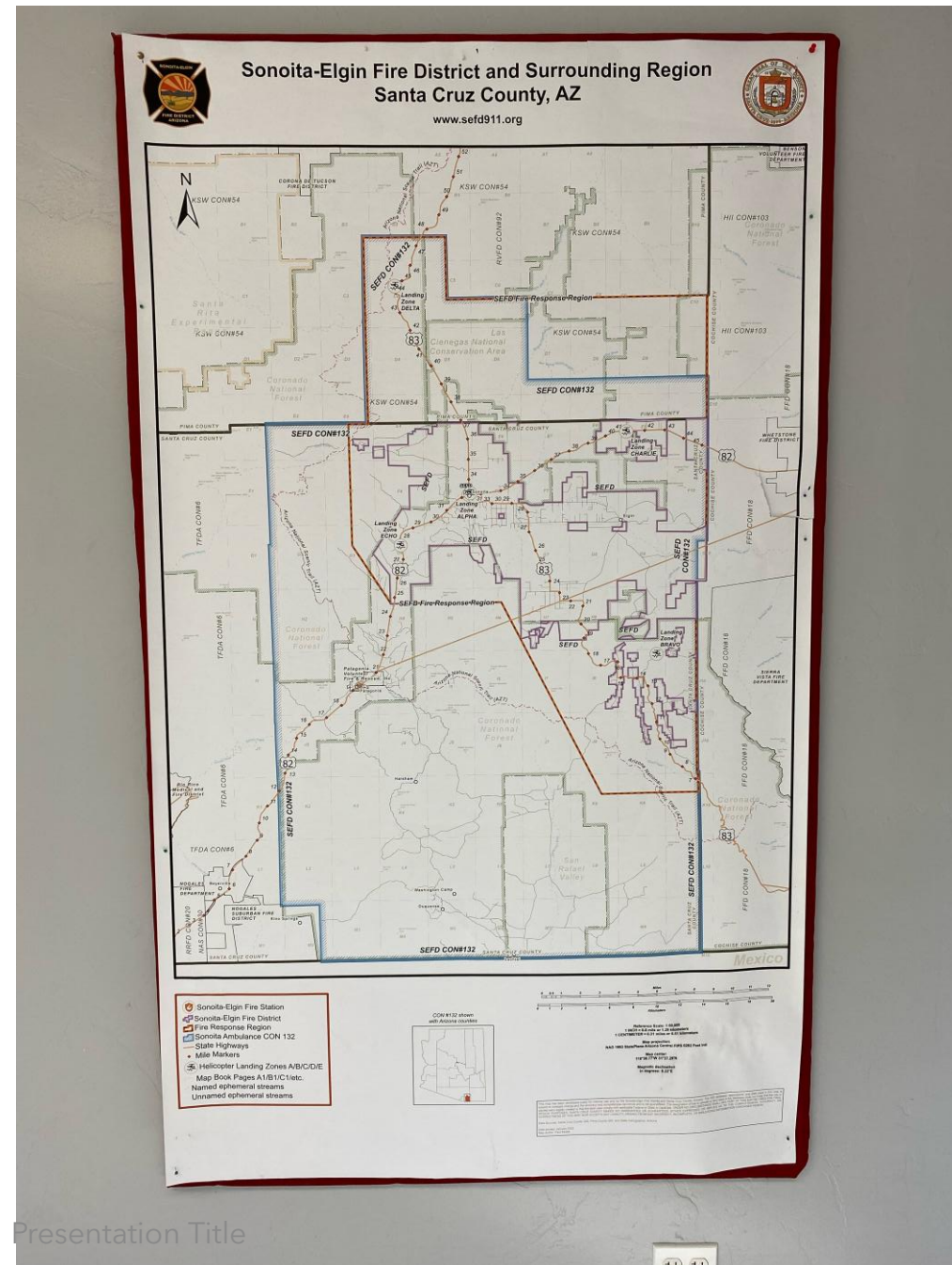


SEFD Response Map

Purple- District (approx.
95sq miles)

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

Blue- CON (approx. 725sq
miles)



Incidents by Service Type

Total

Fire- 5

Medical- 36

Hazardous Condition- 0

Rescue- 0

Public Service- 14

No Emergency- 5

Assisting Law Enforcement- 1



Incidents By Service Type and Zone

Zone 1 (Sonoita)

- Fire- 2
- Medical- 16
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 5
- No Emergency-
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

Zone 2 (North of Sonoita)

- Fire- 1
- Medical- 2
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 1
- No Emergency- 2
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

Zone 3 (Elgin)

- Fire- 0
- Medical- 1
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 3
- No Emergency- 2
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 0

Incidents By Service Type and Zone

Zone 4 (Canelo Hills)

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

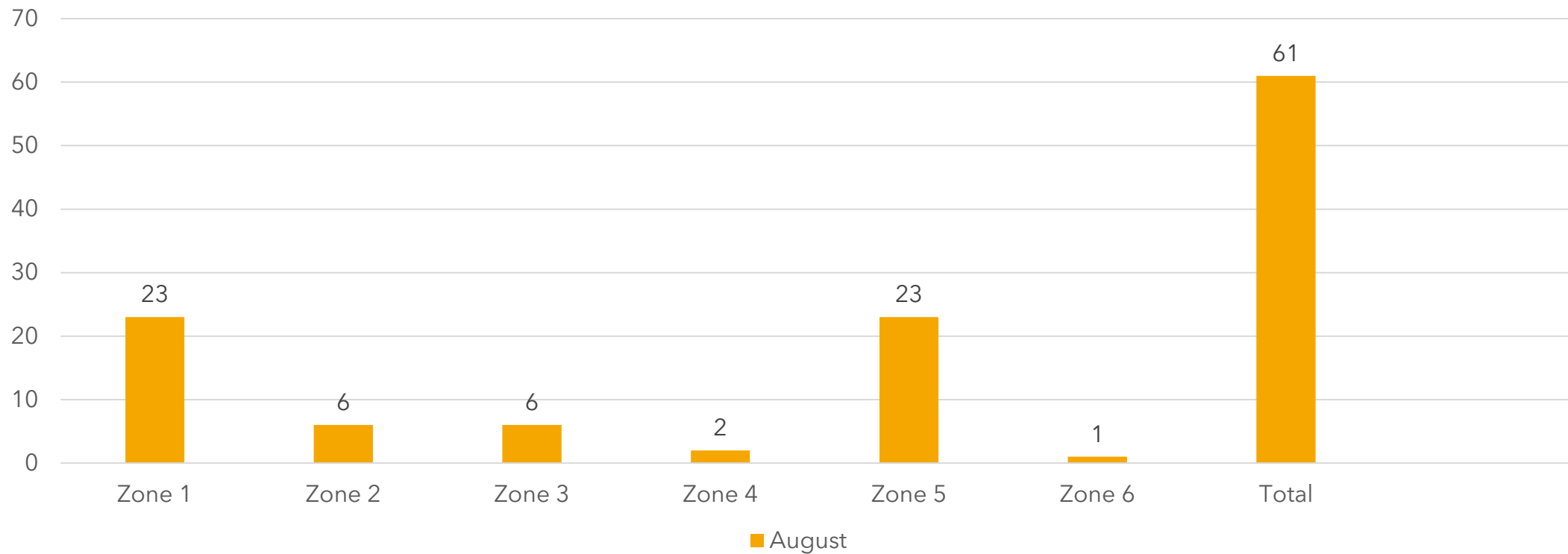
Zone 5 (Patagonia)

- Fire- 1
- Medical- 16
- Hazardous Condition- 0
- Rescue- 0
- Public Service- 5
- No Emergency- 0
- Assisting Law Enforcement- 1

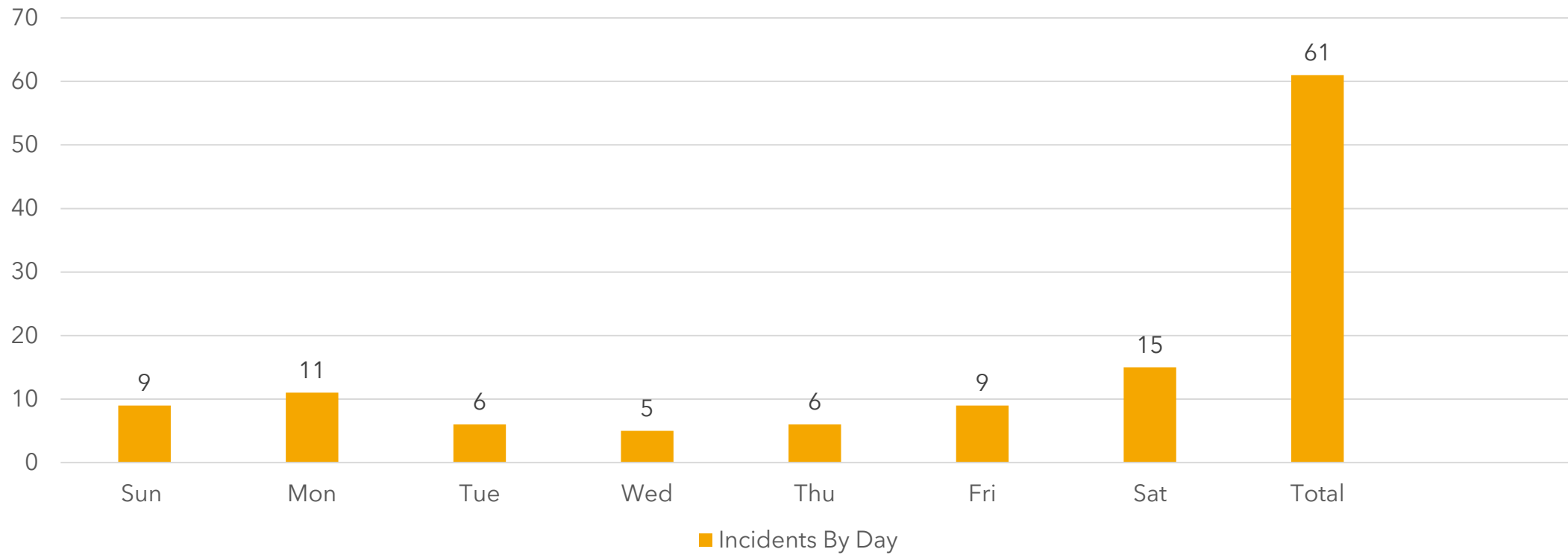
Zone 6 (Out of area)

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

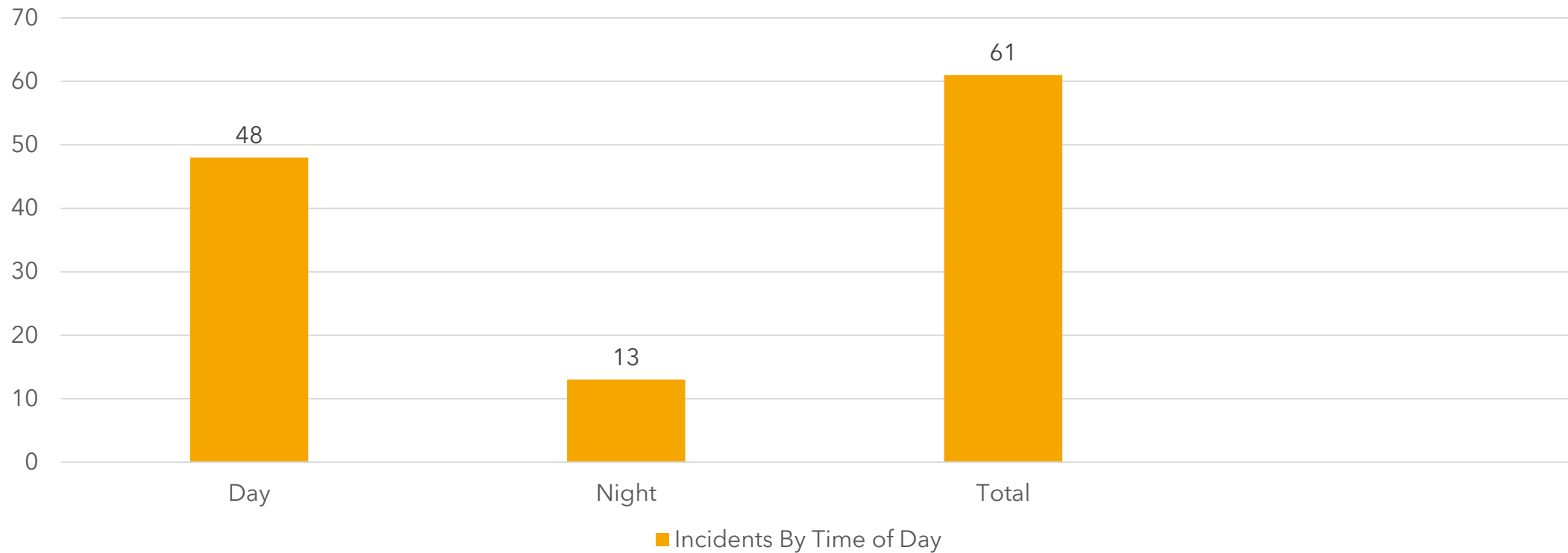
Incident Count By Zone



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	
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.~~

Questions?

