



Burlington Fire Department



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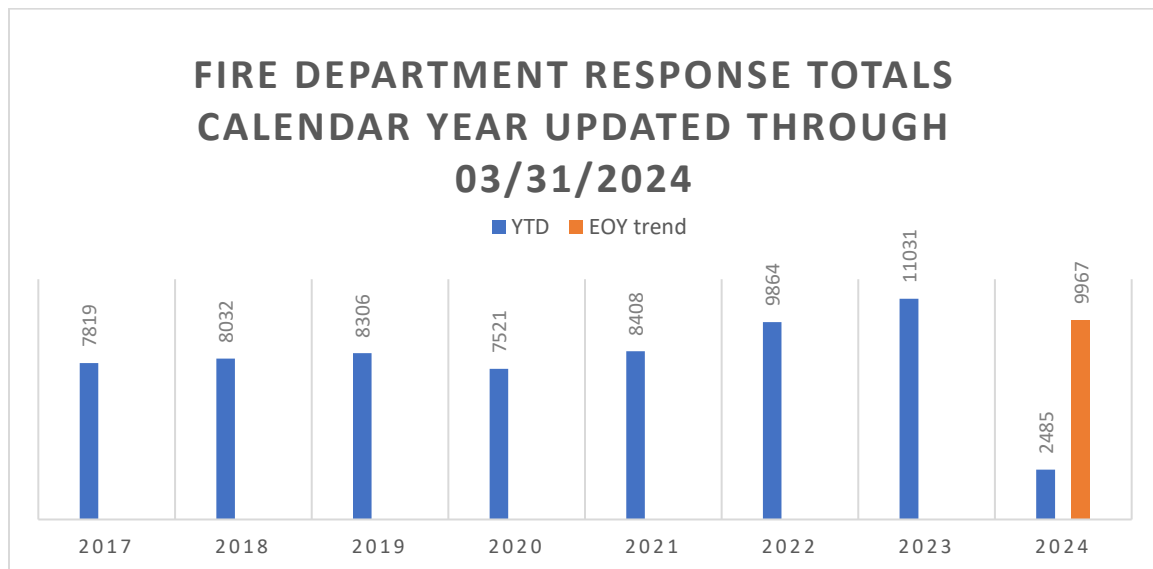
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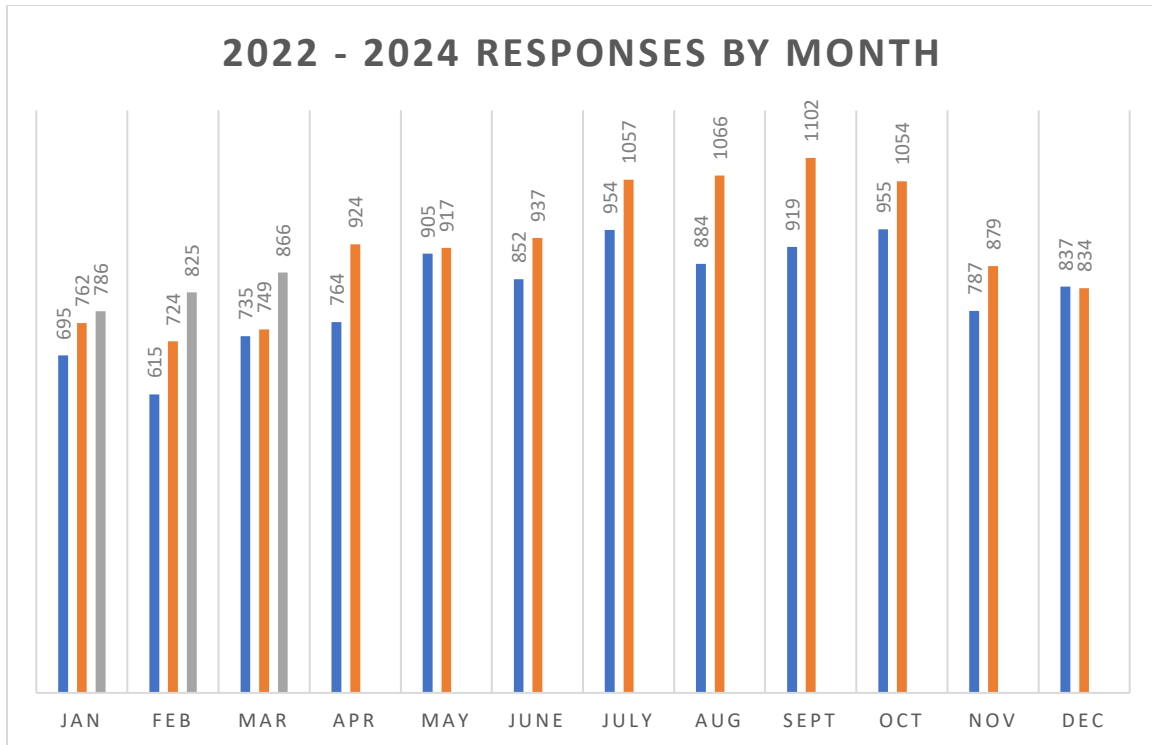
April 02, 2024

Chief's Report to the Burlington Fire Commission

Personnel: We currently hold four vacancies. We accepted entry-level applications through 02/29/24. We received 27 applications. Interviews are underway. DC Petit created a lateral hiring process to increase the candidate pool. This process will allow us to hire experienced firefighters/EMTs at a competitive pay rate and credit toward previous career service. A shorter recruit school will get them on the floor and count toward minimum staffing levels faster, reducing the overtime burden on our employees. The lateral process has been vetted through the BFFA and is in the city review process.

Responses: As of March 31, 2024, the fire department had responded to 2,485 calls for service. During the same period in 2023, we responded to 2,235 calls for service, an 11% increase over the same time last year.





Eclipse: On April 8, the city will experience a once-in-a-lifetime event, a total solar eclipse. There is detailed planning occurring at both the city and state levels. There is a possibility of 150,000 people in the greater Burlington area attending the event. DC Libby has worked with other city departments to ensure the event goes as smoothly as possible. We have hired 29 extra staff for the event. We will be staffing units at city parks and on the UVM campus; a 4th ambulance will be in service, and any units usually staffed with two people will have three.

Overtime: February 01, 2024 – March 31, 2024

- Minimum Staffing Overtime: 912.25 hrs
- Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime: 24 hrs

1-year Comparison February 01, 2023 – March 31, 2023

- Minimum Staffing Overtime: 1306.75 hrs
- Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime: 12 hrs

The above data shows a 30.19% decrease in Minimum Staffing Overtime and a 100% increase in Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime during the same period last year. Overall, the minimum staffing overtime burden on the employees and city budget has decreased by 29%.

Note: The above overtime burden on the staff accounts for Minimum Staffing Overtime, giving us the 22 people required to meet minimum staffing levels. This does not account for extra duty jobs, dispatch extra duty, or CRT overtime. In the same period, our staff committed to the following extra duty, dispatch extra duty, and CRT overtime:

- Extra Duty: 16 hrs
- Dispatch Extra Duty: 218.6 hrs
- CRT Overtime: 942.75 hrs

Fleet: Funding for fleet replacement continues to be a priority for the city's fleet committee. Ensuring fleet repair requests are addressed promptly and coordinated with the shift commanders to reduce response disruptions is a primary concern for the DC of Operations. The new Ladder 4 has arrived in the city. We will be conducting factory training during the first week of May. We expect delivery of two fire apparatus and one ambulance for the Fire Department in the next five months. Ambulance 4 is being built now, and we expect delivery in the spring. With the three-year build schedule for new ambulances and a five-year delivery timeline for new fire trucks, a priority should be placed on a sustainable fleet purchasing plan.

Buildings: Work to cover deferred maintenance is progressing. The shoring recommended for the Station 1 bay under Tower One has been completed. The Station 2 bedroom project is complete, and the space has been reoccupied. The Station 3 bedroom/bathroom project is still in the planning phase.

The City's Great Streets project has significantly impacted Station 1. The basement access and parking areas will be disrupted until the project's completion. DC Petit is coordinating station disruptions, and DC Libby is coordinating changes in response patterns during the construction.

Conversations about the Gateway Block and the fate of Fire Station #1 have begun. Based on heat maps of calls responded to by downtown apparatus, Station 1 is currently in a good location. I'm interested in discussing a new facility but am uninterested in locating it somewhere that would significantly increase response times and cause extra wear and tear on the apparatus.

Radio System Upgrade: The radio system upgrade managed by DC Libby is on schedule. With City Place increasing in height, the antenna currently placed on Burlington Square will need to be relocated to the roof of City Place. This will happen once the building is completed. The station alerting project managed by DC Petit is almost complete. Hardware was installed, and mobile applications were rolled out to the staff. The mobile application will be used to recall off-duty personnel. The app will also support live streaming of our primary radio channels once the station alerting installation is complete.

Staffing Study: Consultants from MissionCIT have completed the staffing study, which has been shared with the Mayor-Elect. The fire department administration and Union leadership will plan a meeting with the new Mayor to discuss the findings and a path forward based on the study recommendations.

Community Response Team Pilot: Between October 16 and March 31, the team has been staffed by 2679.75 hours of voluntary overtime by our line personnel. This is an average of 116.5 hours of overtime per week, giving us an average weekly in-service time for the unit of 58.25 hours. We have received widespread support and appreciation from the community. A profound thank you goes out to our committed responders doing this difficult work. Every month since the inception of the CRT shows reduced overdose responses from the same month of the prior year.

We expect the CRT to be busy with rising temperatures and nicer weather. We are already seeing an increase in opportunities to serve the community. A memo has been submitted to the Mayor inquiring about the future of the CRT program. We will also submit a request to the Board of Finance and City Council to continue staffing the CRT

past the 6-month pilot date of 04/14/24, utilizing the remaining funds from the original approval.

	2022	2023	% change 22/23	2024	% change 23/24
January	19	40	111%	25	-38%
February	20	29	45%	25	-14%
March	20	28	40%	23	-18%
April	26	43	65%		
May	26	38	46%		
June	38	56	47%		
July	38	39	3%		
August	39	57	46%		
September	24	67	179%		
October	33	25	-24%		
November	31	24	-23%		
December	44	24	-45%		
		Implementation of CRT			

BC McCombie is tracking data coming out of the CRT deployment. Below are some metrics showing the impact of the program. This data shows how many people the team has touched, the quantity of wound care supplies handed out, comfort care supplies distributed, Narcan leave-behind kits distributed, the number of referrals, direct phone requests, and incidents where the team went above and beyond in their duties. (I'm sure this number is under-reported by our crews)

Total:	1357	2312	81	167	26	13	3
	# of Attendees	# of Wound Care Items Distributed	# of Comfort Care Supplies Distributed	# of NLB Kits Distributed	Total # Referrals/ Bridge to Service Providers	Total Request For CRT Members Via Phone	Total Above & Beyond Incidents

Fire Marshal's Office: The Fire Marshal's office has conducted investigations on multiple fire events and is working with the BPD and VSP to conclude these investigations. The office also conducts routine safety and construction project inspections. FM Stone is actively working to update fire ordinances. He is also researching software to allow for more complete investigation documentation and a cleaner workflow with partnering agencies.

Training Division: Current priorities for the training division include:

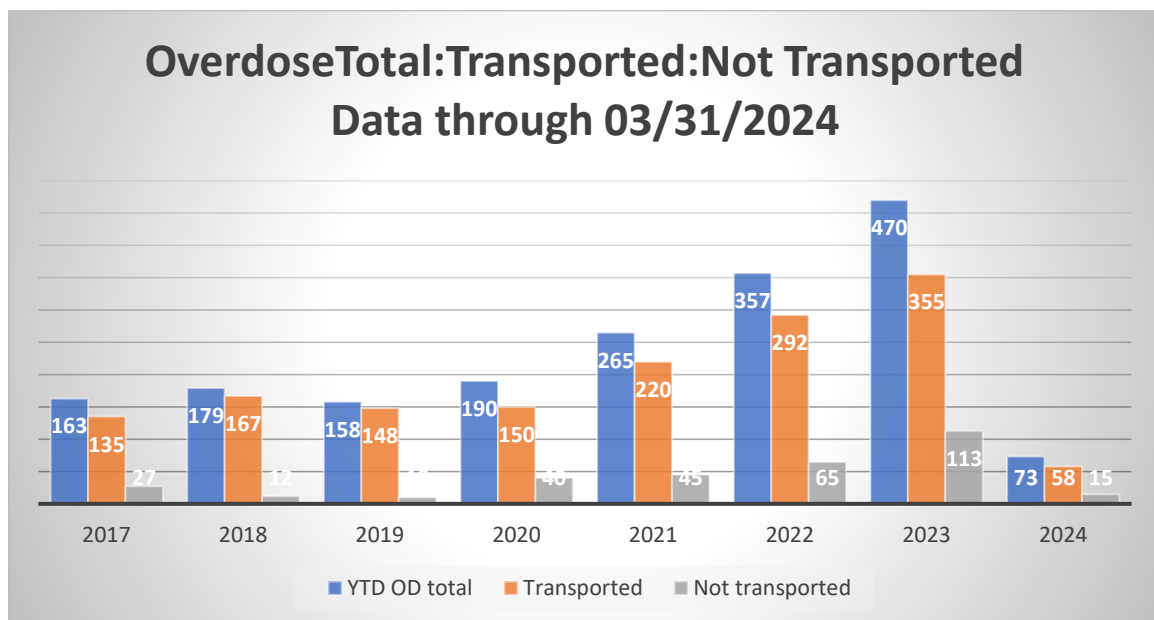
- Coordinating with Emergency One for the New Aerial Training for Ladder 4
- Participating in the UVM-UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System) Train Derailment Scenario planned for April 2 on the waterfront.

- Completed Solar Panel Training and Respect in the workplace training with HR last week.
- Conducting Pump refresher training this week at Leddy.
- Met with a representative of Parks & Rec regarding the fire department's use of Leddy Park for training.
- Work at McNeil to prepare for training drills now that the weather has improved.

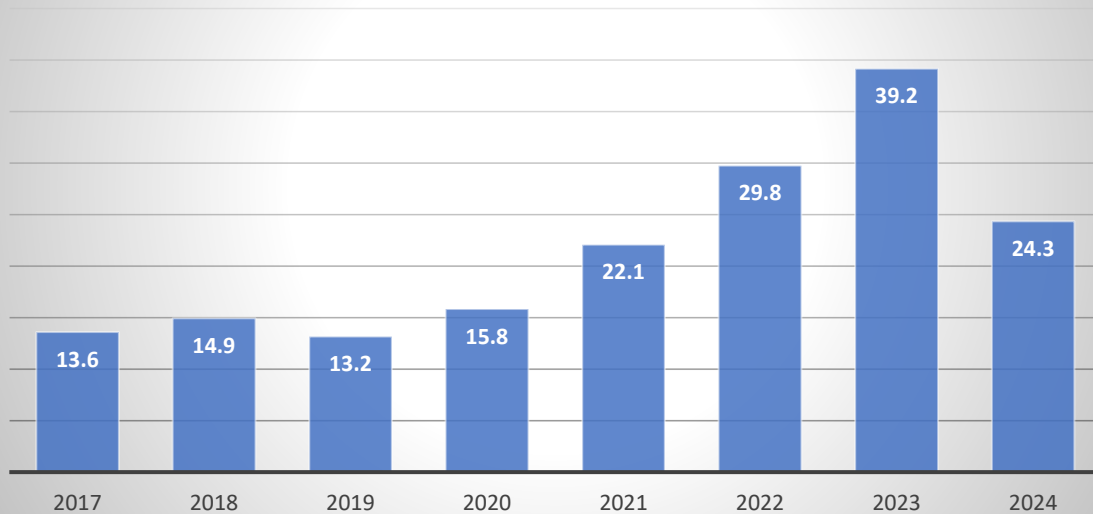
EMS Division: BC McCombie conducted the EMT/AEMT refresher in February. This program was received well, and our people have been recertified. The EMS division regularly updates CRT data, which is used to inform the staff, city leadership, and the community of CRT's impact. The division also conducts regular QA/QI of incident reports and provides follow-up to providers.

BC McCombie is working with various hospital and outreach partners to roll out an EMS Buprenorphine initiative. The goal is to offer early Buprenorphine treatment after an overdose reversal by EMS. Training is scheduled for the first week of May.

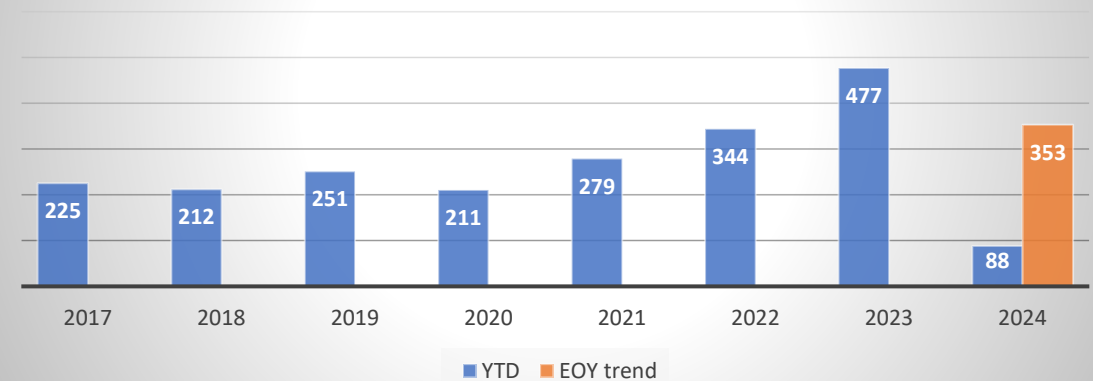
Latest EMS Response Data:



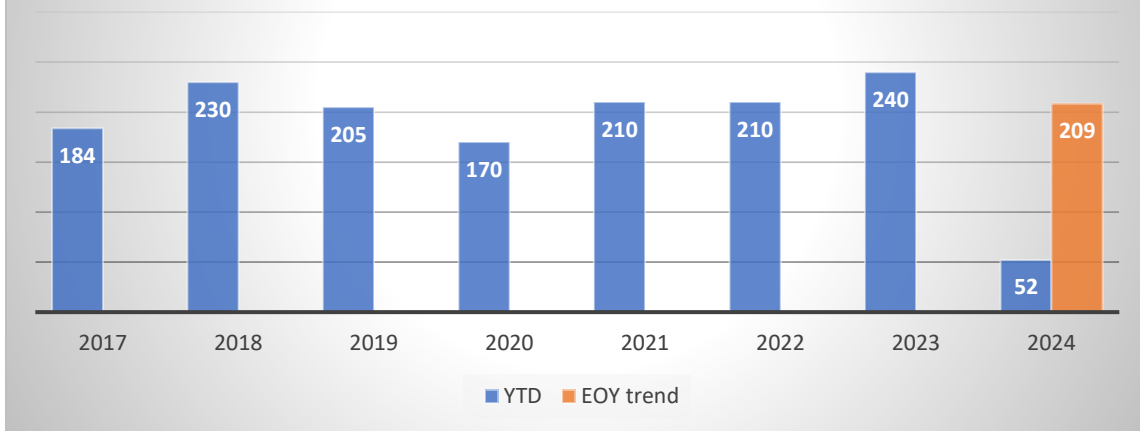
Average Overdose Responses per Month Data through 03/31/2024



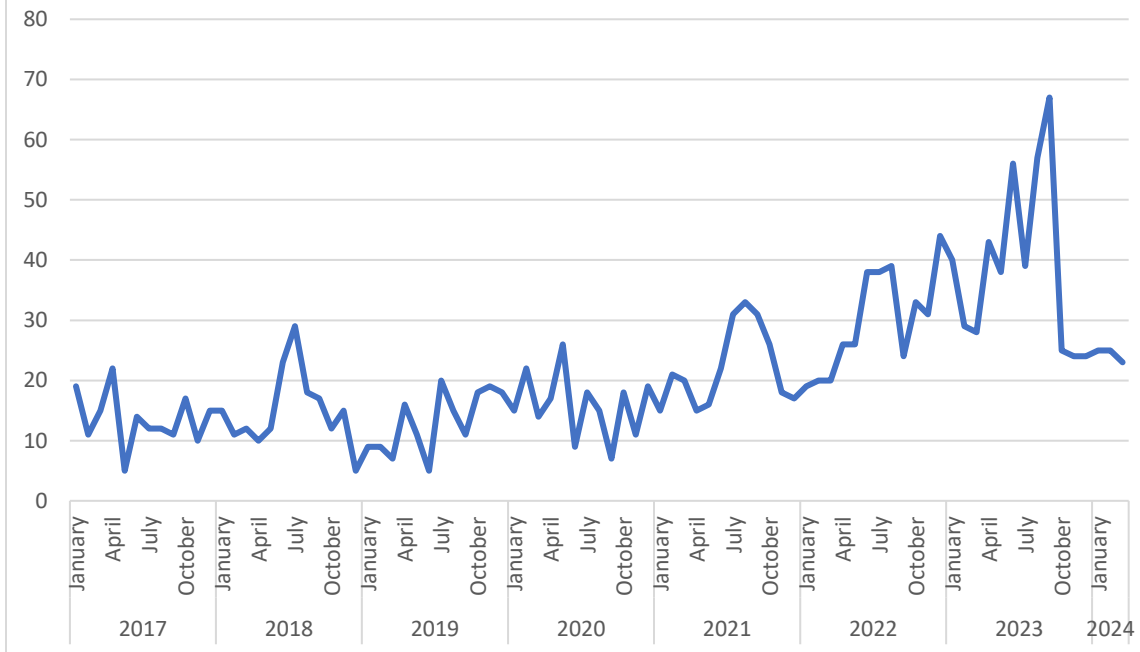
Dispatch Unknown Problem/Person Down Updated through 03/31/2024



Dispatch Alcohol Intoxication Updated through 03/31/2024



Monthly Fire Department Overdoses Updated through 03/31/2024



Monthly Fire Department EMS Responses to
Homeless/Houseless/Transient/No Address Population
Data Through 03/31/2024

