

# San José Fire Department

The San José Fire Department's core mission is to serve the community by protecting life, property and the environment through prevention and response.



# Annual Fire Department Emergency Medical Services Report

Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee

April 20, 2023

Item (d)1

Presented by:

Patrick Chung, Battalion Chief

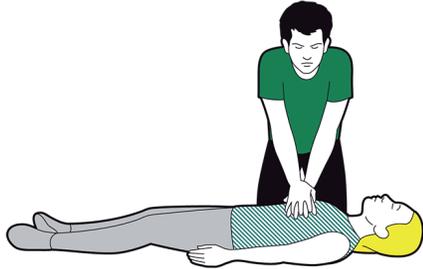
Scott Coscarelli, Deputy Fire Chief

# First Responders – Basic and Advance Life Support

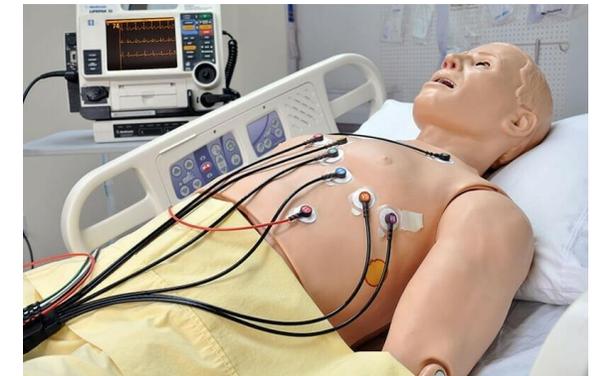


**Basic Life Support (BLS)  
Emergency Medical Technicians  
(EMTs)**

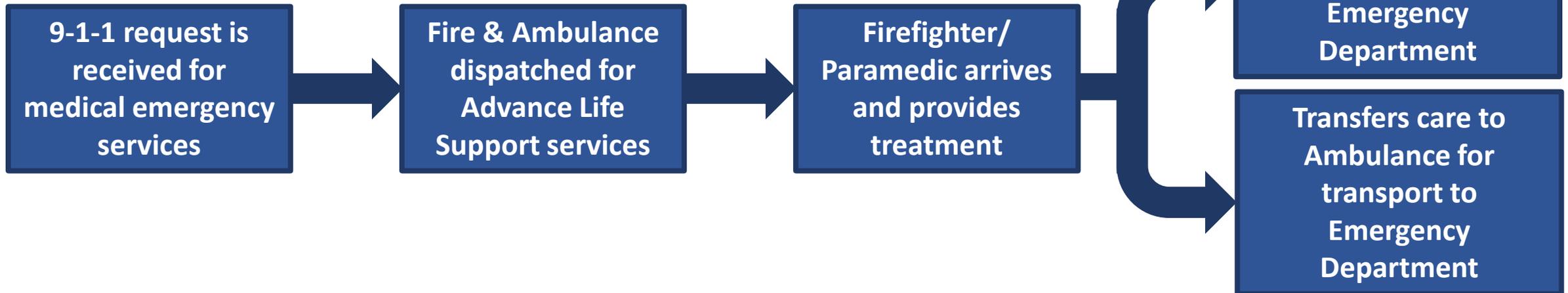
**Advanced Life Support (ALS)  
Paramedics  
(PMs)**



- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| ACETAMINOPHEN      | LIDOCANE       |
| ACTIVATED CHARCOAL | MIDAZOLAM      |
| ADENOSINE          | MORPHINE       |
| ALBUTEROL          | NALOXONE       |
| AMIODARONE         | NITROGLYCERINE |
| ATROPINE           | NORMAL SALINE  |
| DEXTROSE           | ONDANSETRON    |
| EPINEPHRINE        | ORAL GLUCOSE   |
| GLUCAGON           | SODIUM BICARB  |



# First Responder EMS Protocol for ALS Services



# Rescue Medics & Public Access Defibrillators



## Rescue Medics



- 3 Rescue Medics in the Fire Department
- 1 Fire Engineer & 1 Firefighter/Paramedic
- Ability to transport patients in specific circumstances

## Public Access Defibrillators

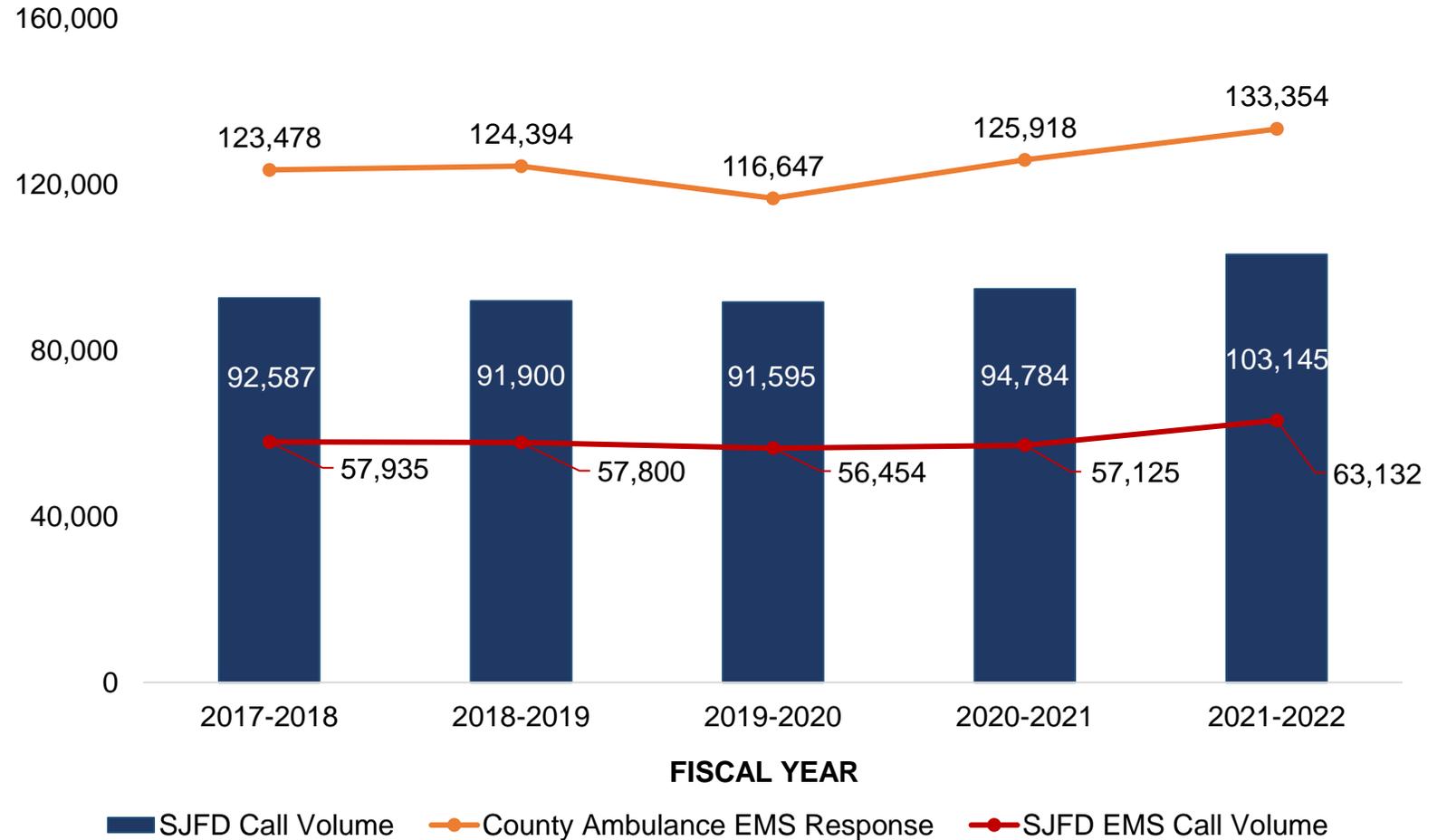


- 236 AEDs located at 96 City facilities throughout San José
- Contracted vendor inspects, maintains, and trains City employees for use.

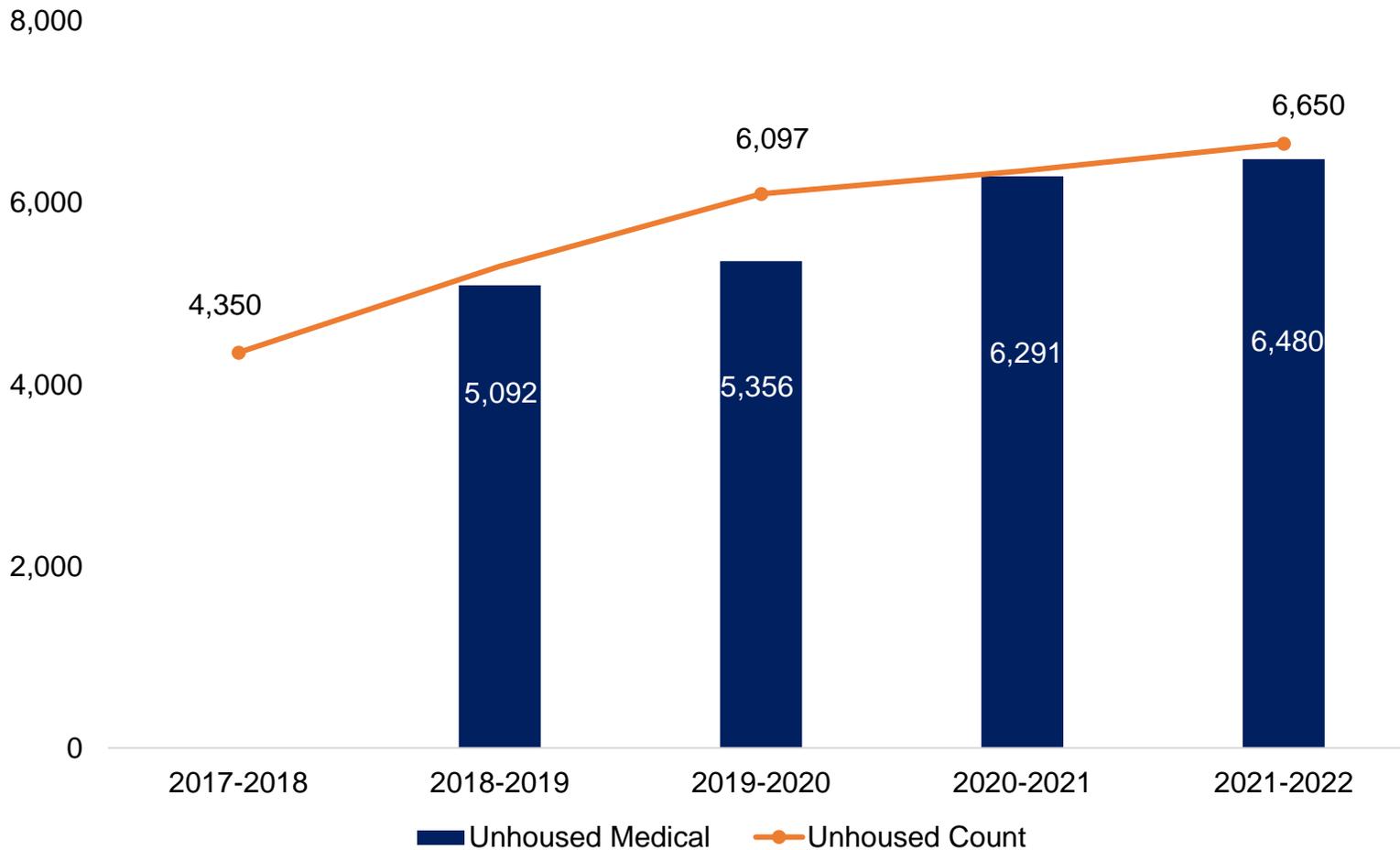
# City & Countywide Ambulance Call Volume Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to Fiscal Year 2021-2022



- Steady increase of Department EMS service by 10%
- Attributable trends for increasing EMS service demands:
  - Aging Population
  - Unhoused Population



# EMS Responses and San José Unhoused Population



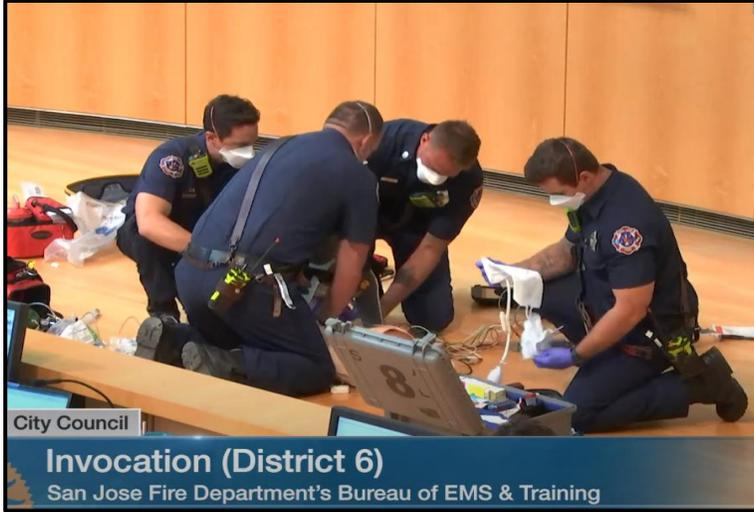
- 53% increase over 5-years
- 10% of total EMS Responses in Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- Top health conditions reported:
  - Psychiatric/Emotional (41%)
  - Drug/Alcohol Abuse (40%)
  - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (32%)

# Major Observations on Patient Primary Impressions



Patient Assessments	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22
Traumatic Injury	8,751	8,978	8,252	7,701	9,259
General Weakness	3,580	3,545	3,355	3,886	4,387
Respiratory Distress	2,940	3,291	3,476	3,807	4,201
Abdominal Pain / Problems	2,892	2,776	2,743	3,156	3,521
No Medical Complaint / Findings	3,849	3,839	3,648	3,194	3,171
Behavioral/Psychiatric Crisis / Excited Delirium	2,194	2,395	2,282	2,564	2,785
Altered Level of Consciousness (Not Hypoglycemia or Seizure)	2,193	2,082	2,274	2,591	2,617
Alcohol Intoxication / Overdose	2,375	2,436	2,411	2,274	2,488
Non-Traumatic Body Pain	1,764	2,234	2,132	2,315	2,473
Chest Pain / Dysrhythmia / Hypertension	2,046	2,027	1,965	1,861	2,210

# Trauma and Cardiac-Related Emergencies

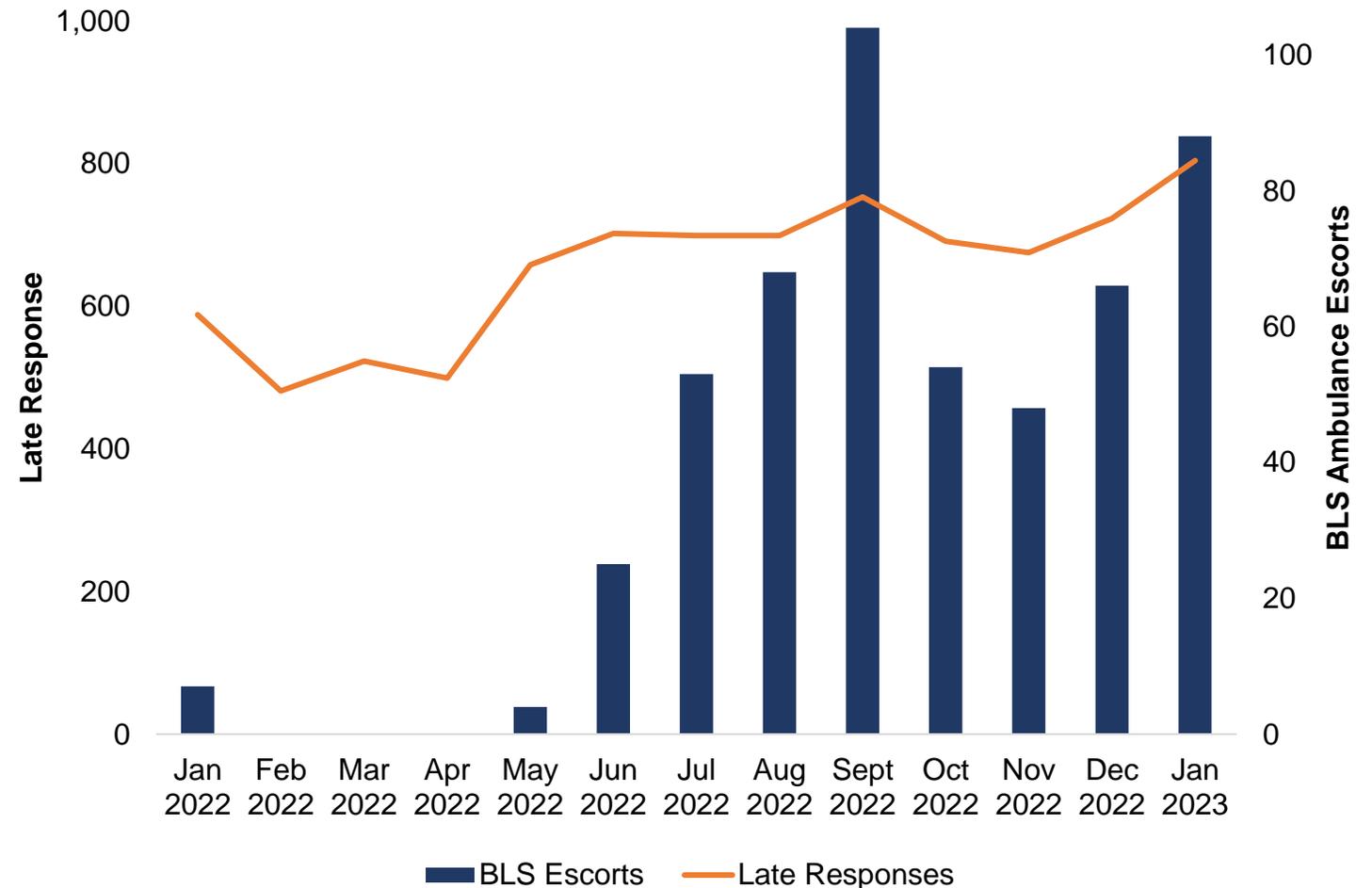


# County Ambulance Impacts to the Fire Department

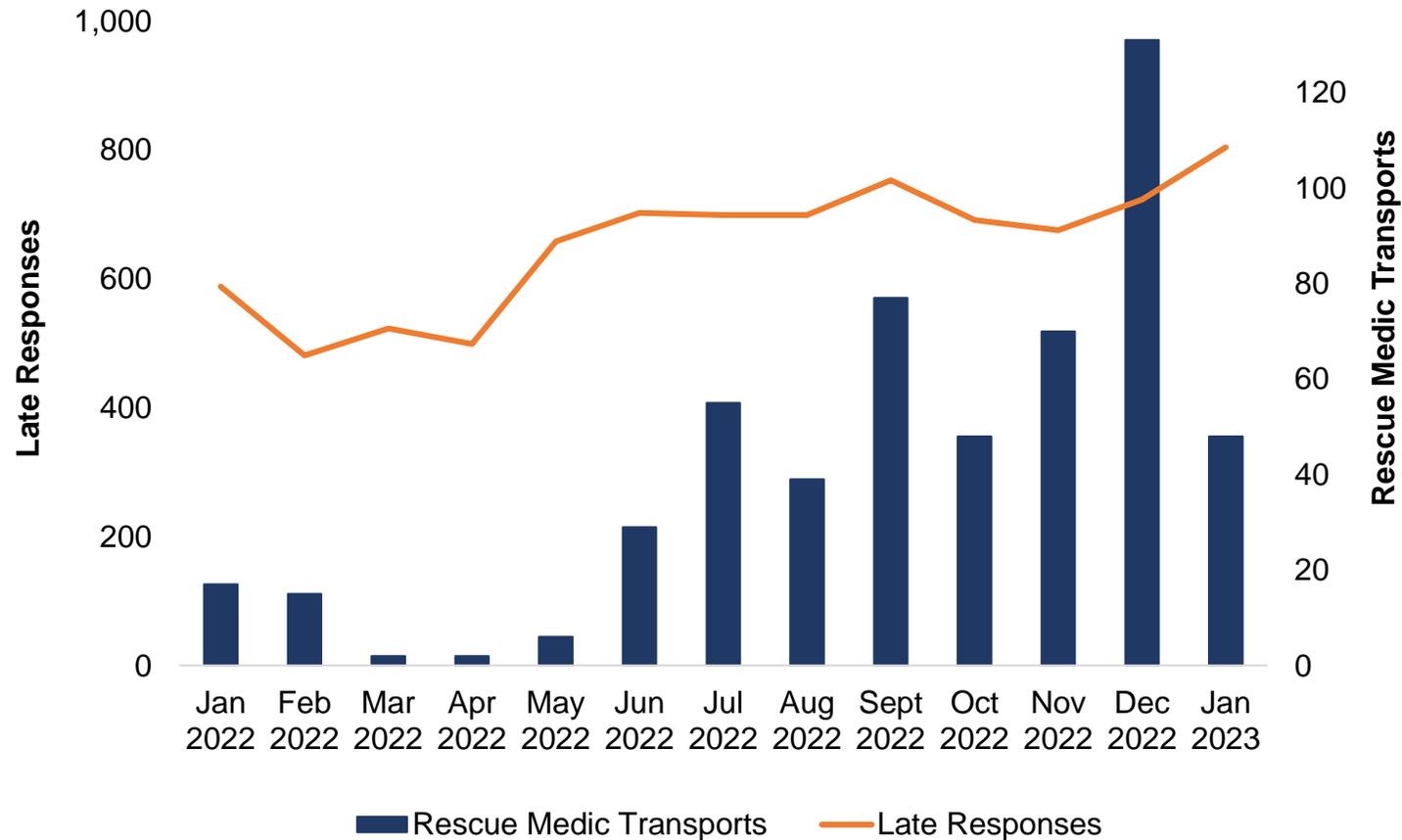


## BLS Ambulance Escorts and Late Responses

- Decreasing ambulance availability leads to increased deployment of Basic Life Support (BLS) resources to mitigate service disruption
- Firefighter/Paramedic accompanies a patient to provide the highest level of patient care
- Department emergency response company is “out of service” or “in-service BLS”



# County Ambulance Impacts to the Fire Department



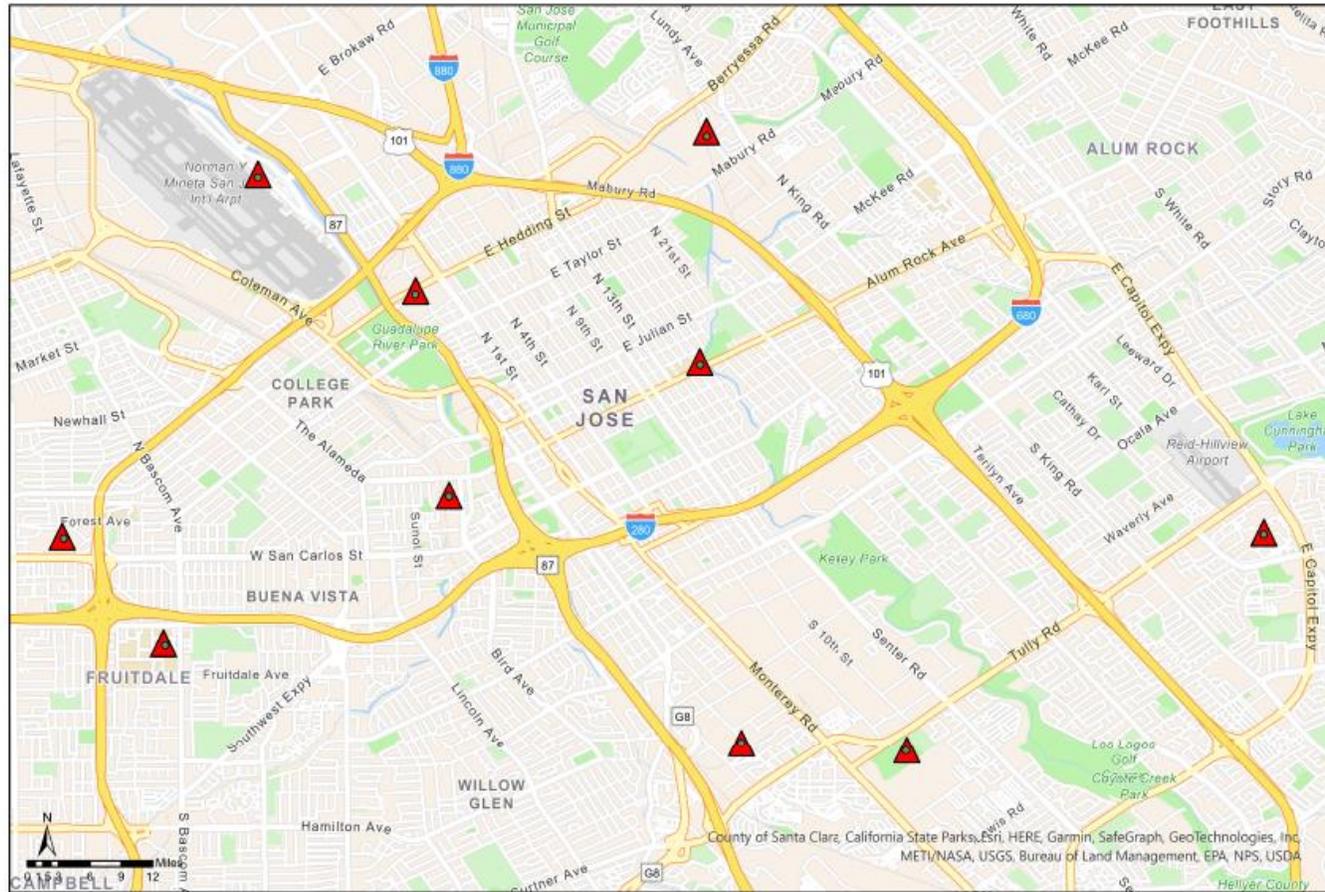
## Rescue Medic Transports and Late Responses

- Rescue Medics provide emergency patient transport in situations where the County ambulance provider is unavailable
- Correlation seen in deployment and increased late responses

# 9-1-1 Referral Process



Top 10 High Volume Locations EMS Events  
Time Period: FY 2021 - 2022



# Questions?

Patrick Chung, Battalion Chief  
Bureau of EMS and Training

Scott Coscarelli, Deputy Fire Chief  
Bureau of EMS and Training

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PSFSS Meeting April 20, 2023  
Item (d) 1