

Sonoita-Elgin Fire District

Fire Chief

Board Update May 2026



2024-2026 Strategic Plan

- Plan extended through 2027
- 2025 Annual Report being finalized





Administration/Budget

- Fiscal year 2026-2027 budget is scheduled to be preliminarily adopted today.
- An error was discovered on administration of our pay scale which impacts four members. There will be a modest adjustment cost this year and going forward. The planned budget should be able to absorb the difference.

Santa Cruz County Updates

- The County will be hiring a consulting firm to conduct a Public Safety audit and SEFD will be part of determining the scope of the audit and in selecting the firm
- Office of Emergency Management funding remains at risk for next fiscal year.
- Scoping Letter released regarding the Elgin Bridge. Comments requested by May 17th. Comments submitted by me and by the Board supporting option three as the preferred outcome



Pima County Updates

- Pima County may be providing severity patrol funding to fire departments. Will require an IGA, which the Pima County Fire Chiefs Association is working on with the county.



PSPRS Local Board

- The Local Board met in November and will next meet in the spring of 2026.



Operations

- Equipment
 - All SEFD radios were serviced and updated last week by our vendor.
 - We replaced the AED on E822
- Staffing
 - Operations Chief position posted. Application deadline is May 29th. Testing June 9 and 10. Position available July 1.



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
 - Automatic Aid Agreement now in effect

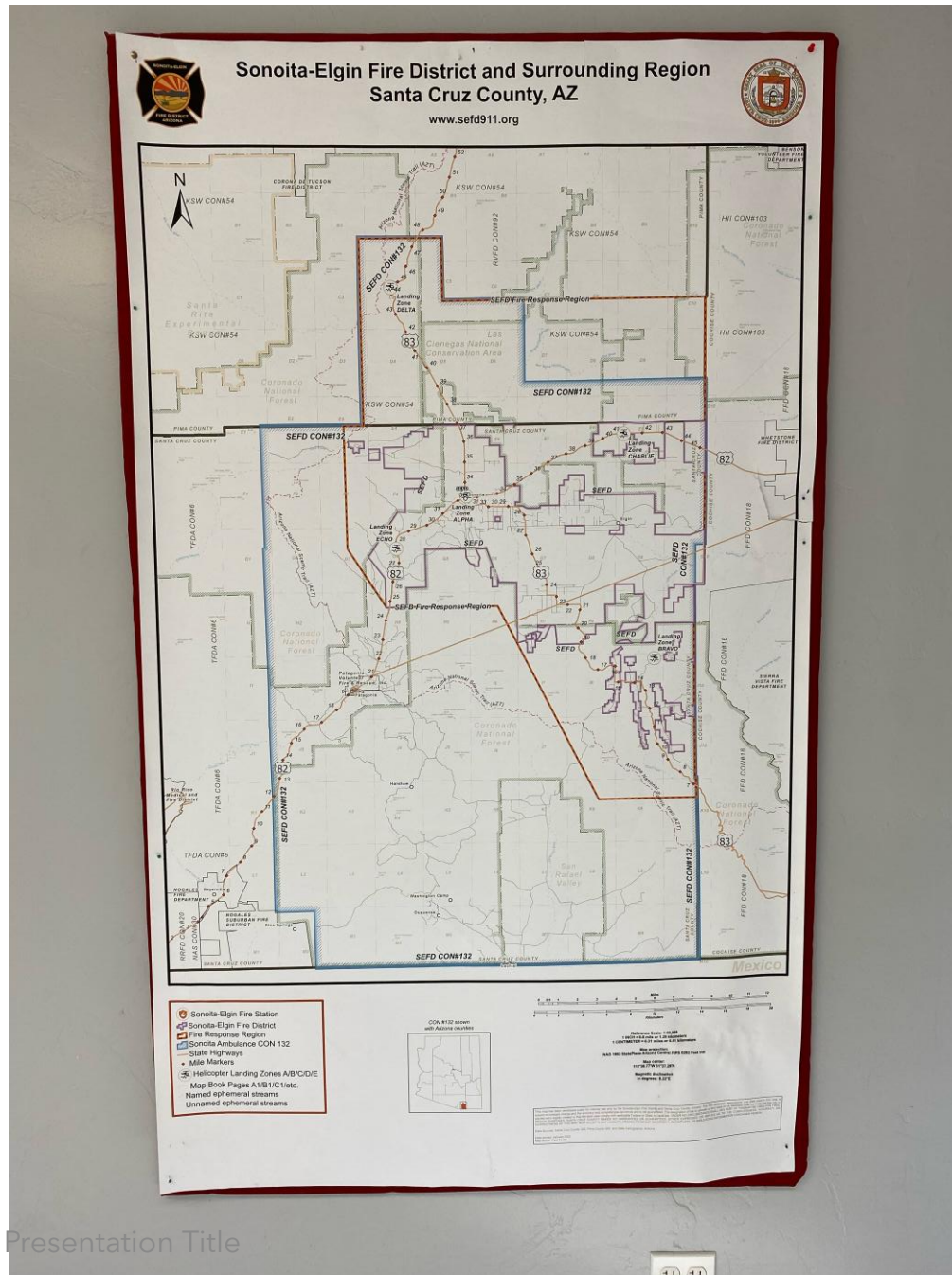


SEFD Response Map

Purple- District (approx.
95sq miles)

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

Blue- CON (approx. 725sq
miles)



Incidents by Service Type

Fire- 1

Medical- 26

Hazardous Condition- 0

Rescue- 0

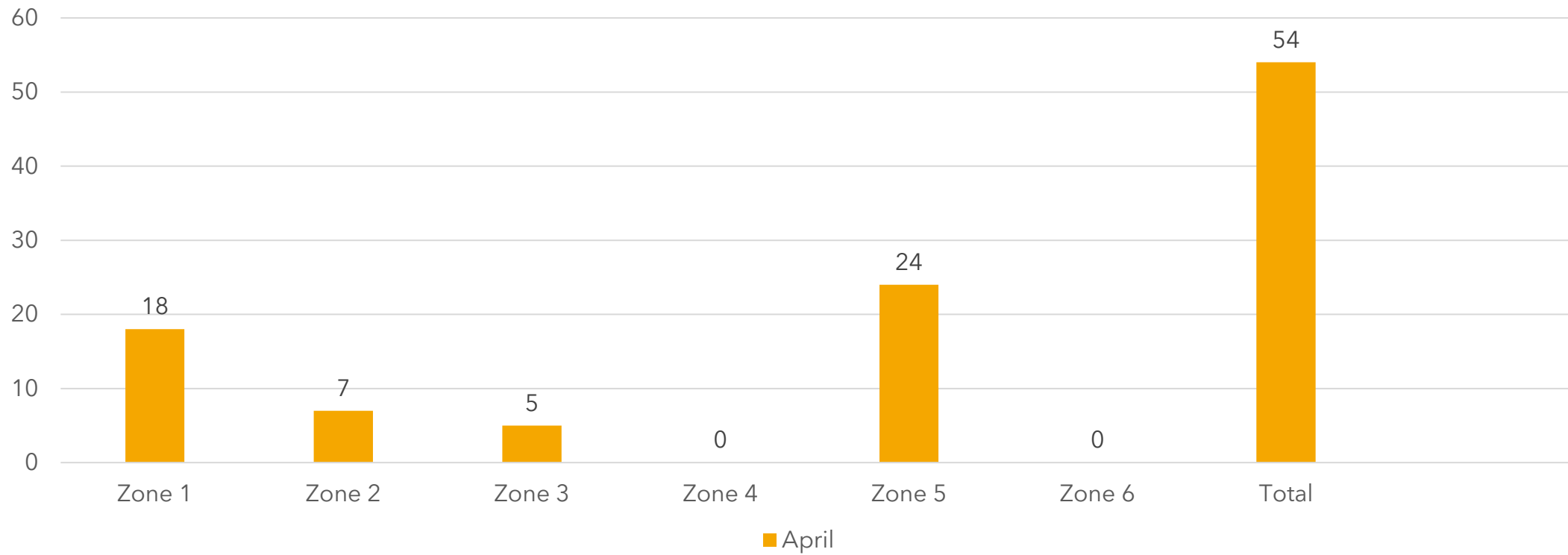
Public Service- 8

No Emergency- 17

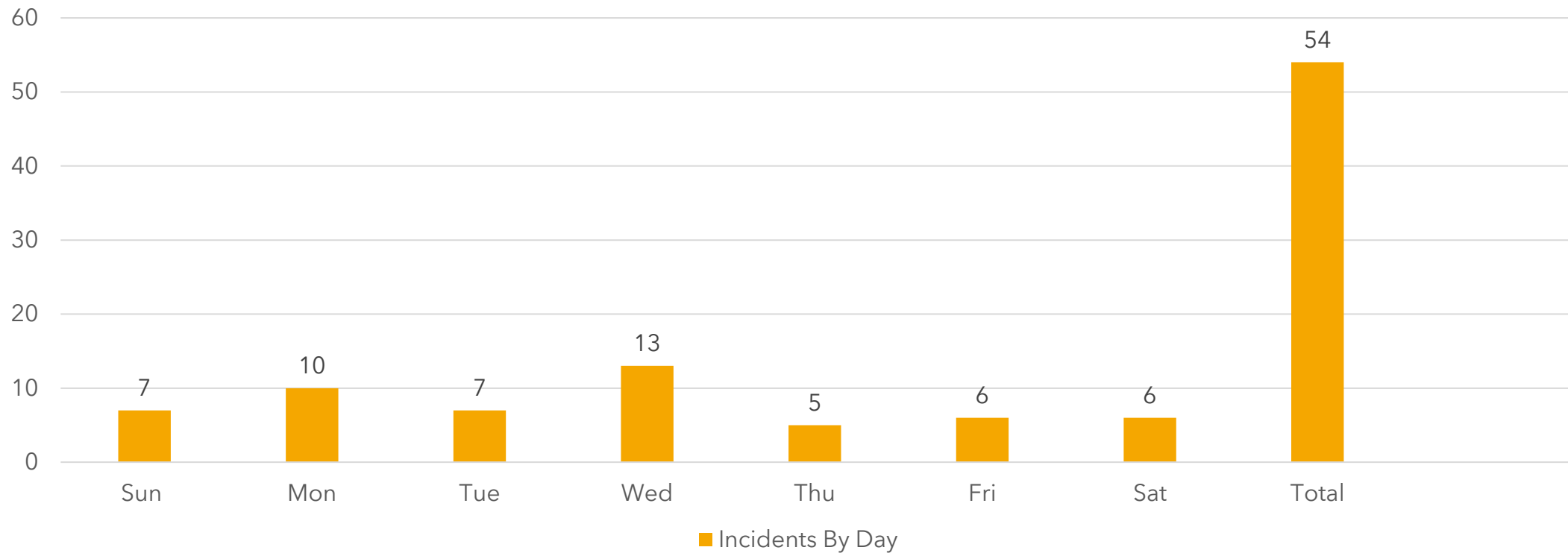
Assisting Law Enforcement- 1



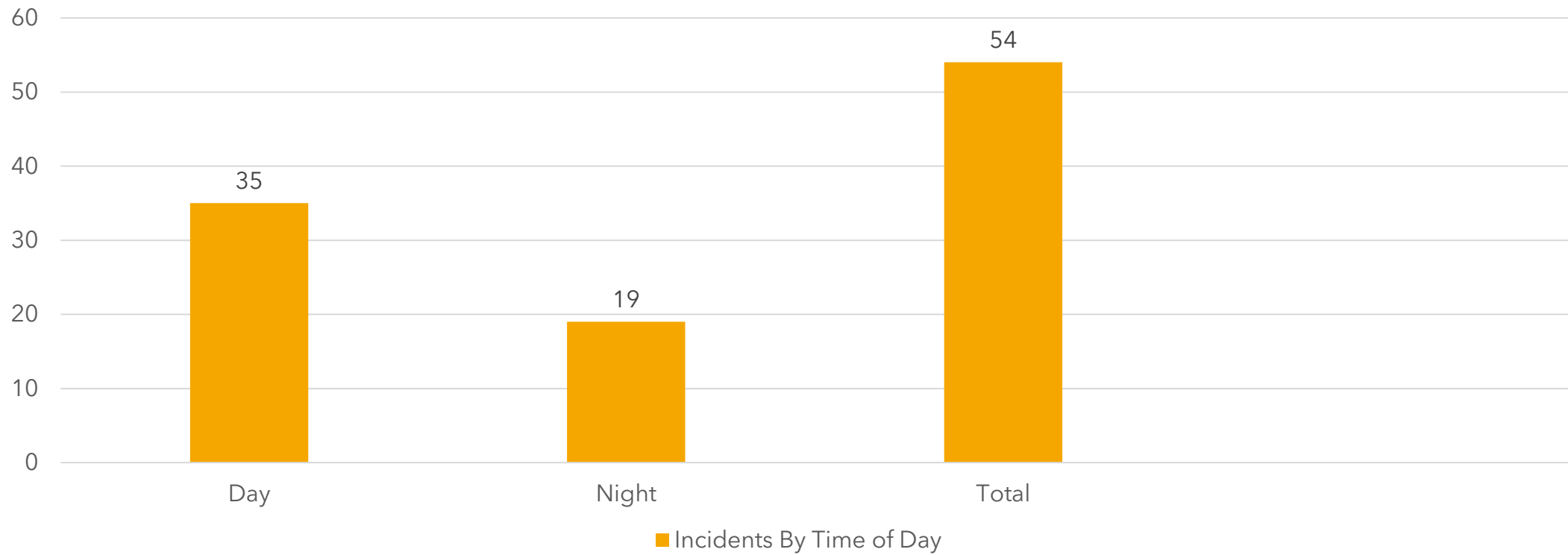
Incident Count By Zone



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	
June	52	62	
July	71	66	
August	60	50	
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



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)
- HB2402- Ambulance Services CON, updates to rules & regulations (AFDA **support**)
- HB2437- EMS reciprocity compact, ensures cross-state reciprocity (AFDA support)
- HB2641- PFAS Prohibition, expands restrictions on PFAS (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)
- 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

Federal

- HR1- Reduces Medicaid spending by approx. 900 billion over six years. Potential to increase under or non-paid transports
- Federal Wildland Fire Agency Reform- Uncertainty over timeline and final composition of the new US Wildland Fire Service (currently excludes USFS)

Questions?

