



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

10900 San Pablo Avenue ▪ El Cerrito ▪ CA ▪ 94530

(510) 215-4450 ▪ FAX (510) 232-4917

www.el-cerrito.org



Item #11

DATE: August 24, 2026

TO: David Aranda: General Manager

FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report for the September 2026 Kensington Community Services District

Fire Prevention: California Adopts Zone Zero Regulations

On August 19, 2026, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection approved the state's first Zone 0 defensible-space regulations. Zone 0 is the first five feet around a home or other occupied structure—the area where wind-driven embers commonly collect against walls, beneath eaves, on decks, in gutters, and around combustible landscaping.

The rules apply in State Responsibility Areas and in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within Local Responsibility Areas. Kensington is within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, so the regulations will become part of the community's defensible-space program after the state package completes administrative review and becomes effective.

Importantly, the regulations do not require every existing homeowner to complete every improvement immediately. New construction must comply when the rule becomes effective, while existing homes receive a phased implementation period focused first on education, inspection, and measurable progress.

ZONE 0 FIRST 5 FEET

Around homes and occupied structures

Reduce the fuels most likely to carry embers into walls, windows, decks, eaves, roofs, and fence attachments.

What the State Rules Require

1	2	3
REMOVE COMBUSTIBLES	MAINTAIN VEGETATION	PROTECT CONNECTION POINTS
Remove firewood, stored wood, bark mulch, wood chips, dead leaves, needles, branches, and other combustible debris from Zone 0. Keep roofs and gutters clean and remove dead or dying vegetation.	Existing trees may remain when properly maintained. Remove dead wood and ladder fuels, maintain clearance from roofs, eaves, and chimneys, and use only permitted low-growing or non-woody vegetation outside required safety buffers.	Create a noncombustible safety zone next to walls and beneath eaves. Use a noncombustible section where fences or gates attach to a structure, and address sheds or outbuildings located within Zone 0.

ZONE ZERO IS NOT A BLANKET BAN ON ALL TREES OR ALL PLANTS

Existing trees and certain well-maintained herbaceous plants may remain when spacing, maintenance, and safety-zone requirements are met.

Mission: Protect Lives and Property

Integrity Accountability Teamwork Respect Professionalism



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Phased Implementation: Three Years + Five Years

The state deliberately adopted a multi-year rollout for existing homes. The Board's stated approach is to prioritize education and outreach, give homeowners time to plan and budget, and use inspections to identify issues and demonstrate progress rather than expect an immediate full retrofit.

The exact calendar dates will begin when the regulation becomes effective. The state framework is organized as follows:

RULE EFFECTIVE NEW CONSTRUCTION	PHASE 1 FIRST 3 YEARS	PHASE 2 BY YEAR 5
New construction complies when state administrative review is complete and the regulation becomes effective. Local agencies begin training, public education, and inspection-system updates.	Remove combustible materials within five feet; clean roofs and gutters; remove dead and dying vegetation; maintain trees; and adjust landscaping to the vegetation allowed by the rule.	Complete the immediate under-eave safety zone; replace combustible gates or fence attachments; and make required adjustments to sheds and fencing. The local jurisdiction assigns the schedule within the five-year limit.

Department Implementation Plan for Kensington

The El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department has developed a plan to integrate Zone 0 into the existing annual vegetation-management and defensible-space inspection cycle, rather than create a separate surprise enforcement program. The plan will be coordinated with surrounding fire agencies so residents receive consistent interpretations and practical guidance across jurisdictional boundaries.

1 REGIONAL ALIGNMENT Confirm the final rule language and effective date; coordinate definitions, inspector training, checklists, notices, and correction guidance with neighboring agencies.	2 INSPECTION INTEGRATION Add a Zone 0 section to annual inspection forms. Inspectors will document baseline conditions, identify priority hazards, and separate current requirements from later-phase work.
3 EDUCATION + PROGRESS During the first three years, emphasize education, low-cost actions, and measurable progress. Follow-up inspections will recognize completed work and identify the next reasonable priority.	4 LOCAL PHASE 2 SCHEDULE Develop the local schedule for under-eave buffers, gates, fencing, and outbuildings. Any local alternative or governing-body action will be brought forward after regional coordination and public outreach.

What Kensington Residents Should Expect

Residents should expect Zone 0 guidance to appear during the normal inspection period, with clear written explanations of what is required now, what may be completed later, and the applicable deadline. The Department will continue to encourage early voluntary action because the first five feet can materially affect whether embers ignite a structure, but the inspection process will reflect the state's phased compliance schedule.

Until the regulation becomes effective and the regional implementation materials are finalized, residents should continue meeting existing vegetation-management requirements and may begin with simple actions: move firewood and combustible storage away from structures, remove dead material, clean roofs and gutters, and avoid adding new combustible landscaping or fence components in the first five feet.

EDUCATION FIRST • PHASED COMPLIANCE • REGIONAL CONSISTENCY

Zone 0 will be implemented through the Department's established inspection program, with time for residents to plan and complete improvements.

Selected State Sources

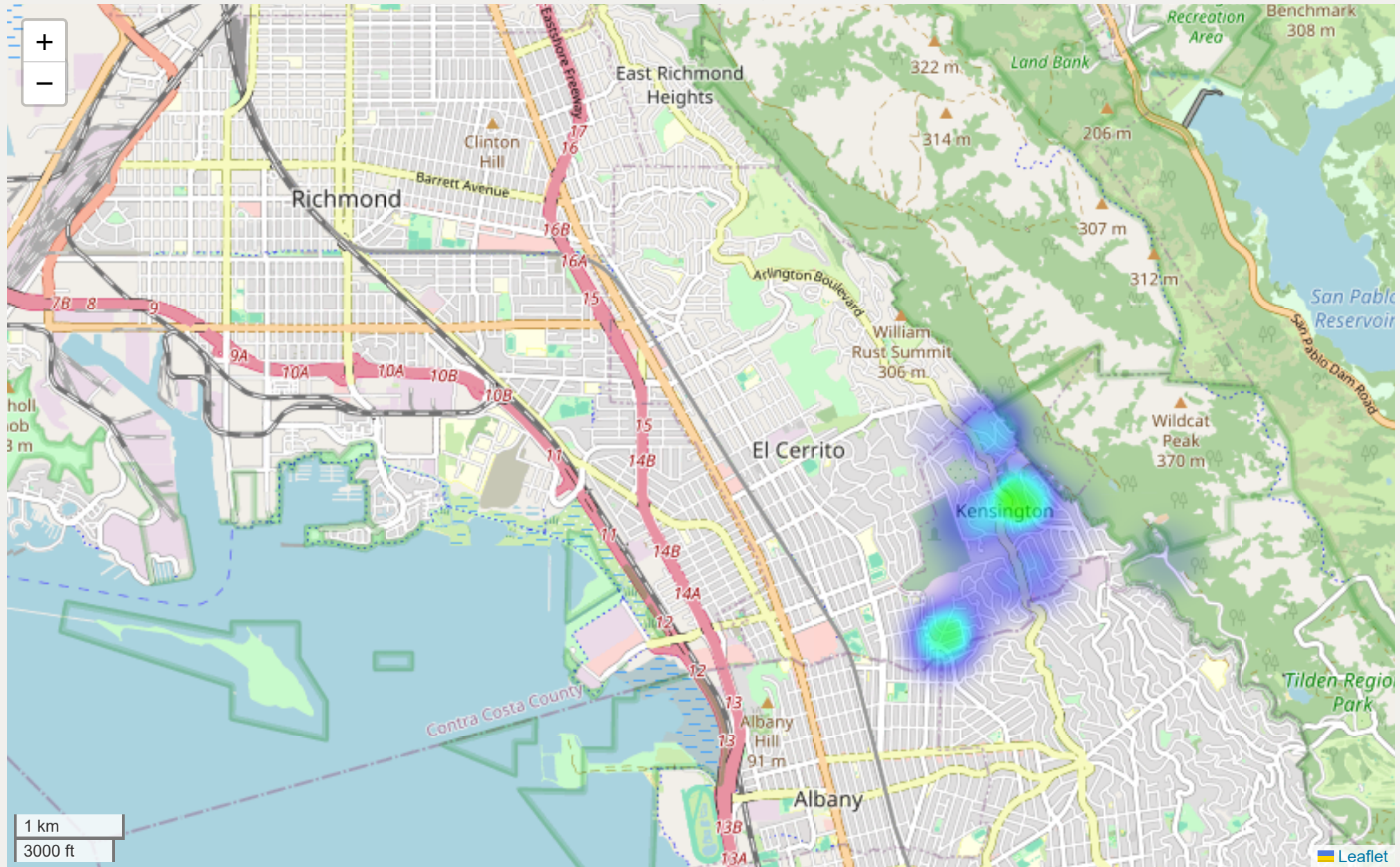
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, press release approving Zone 0 regulations (August 19, 2026); August 2026 Zone 0 regulation summary and adopted rule package; Notice of Proposed Emergency Action (August 20, 2026); CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

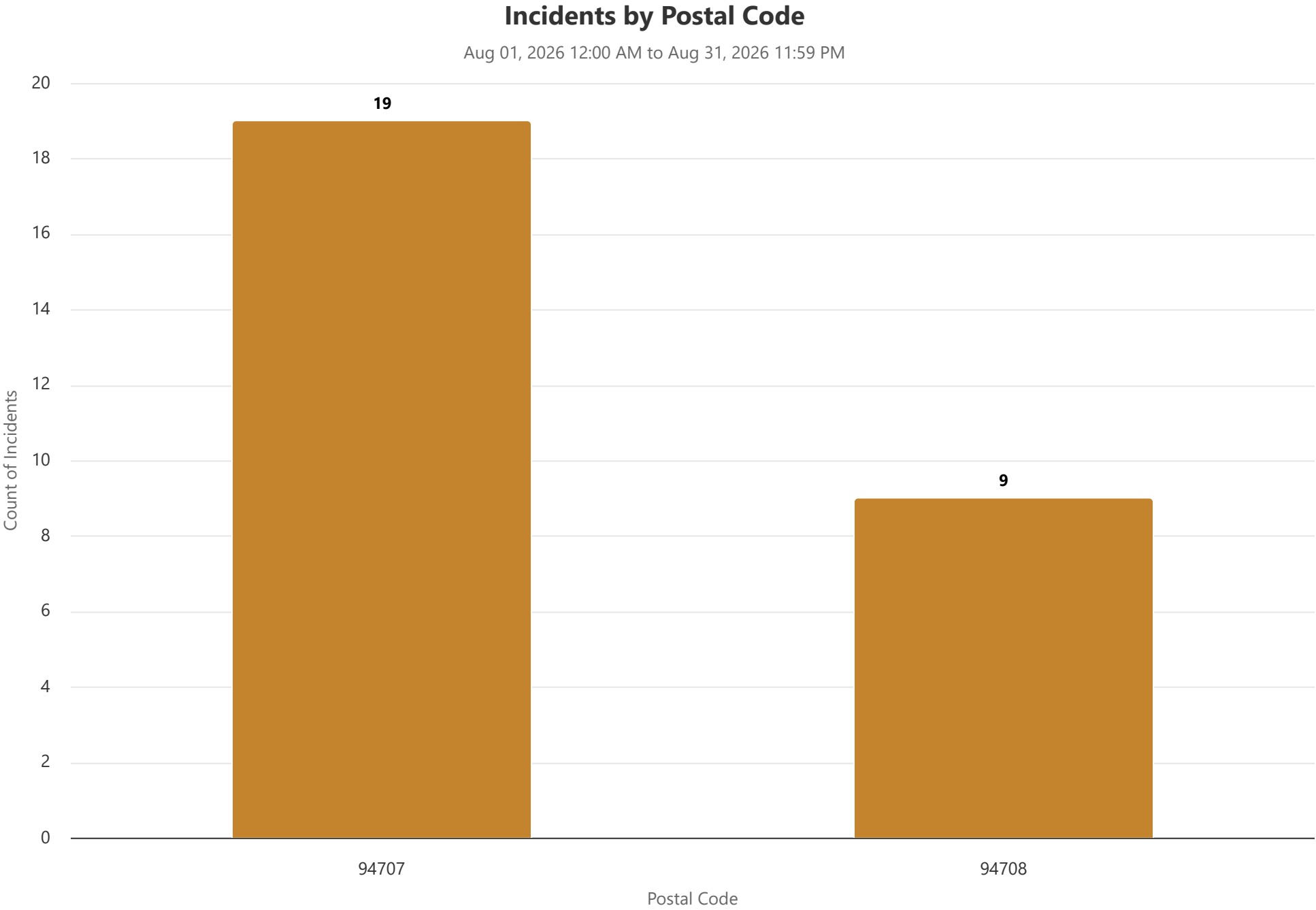
Mission: Protect Lives and Property

Integrity Accountability Teamwork Respect Professionalism

Scene Locations of Fire Incidents

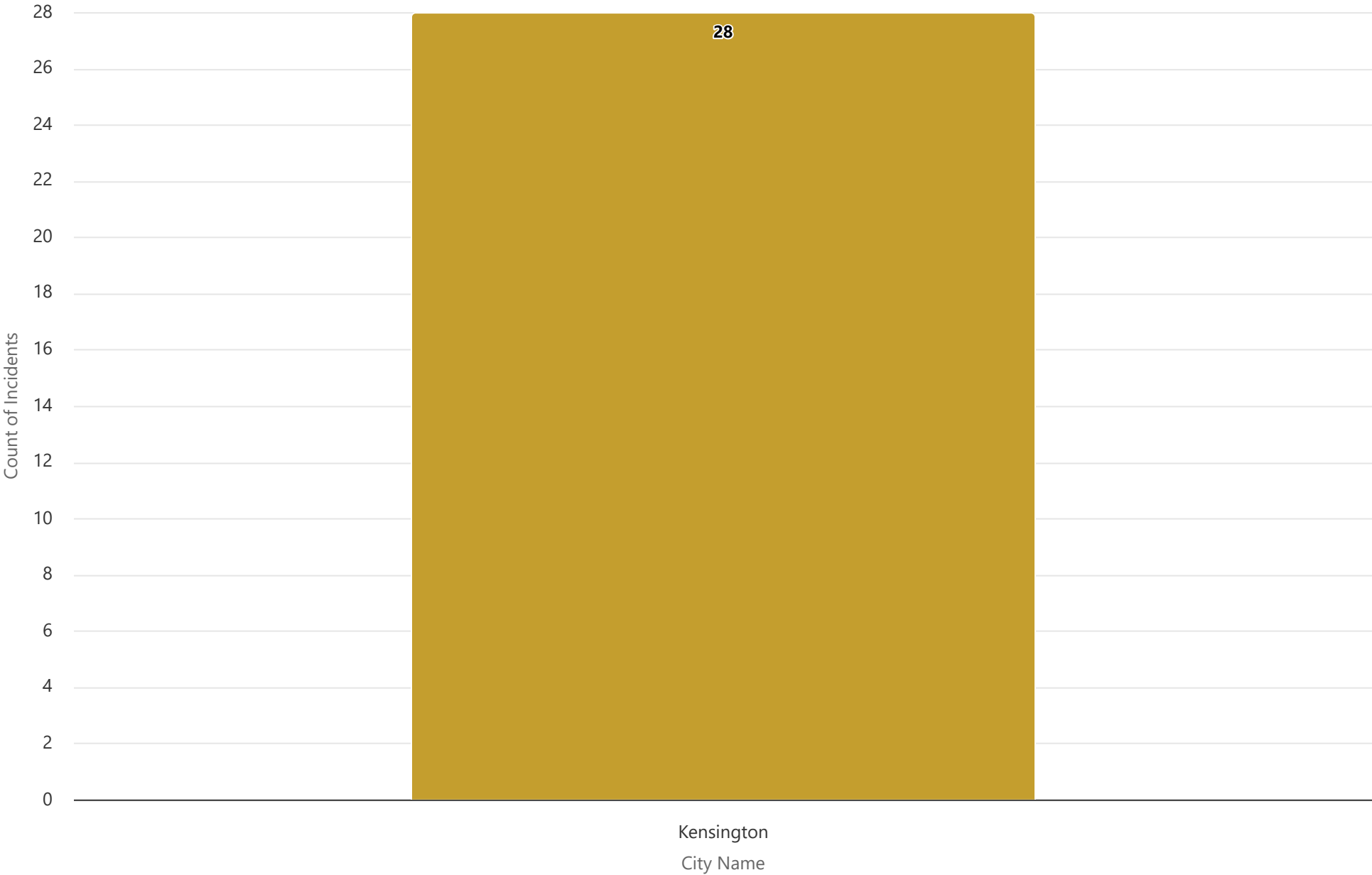
N = 28 Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM





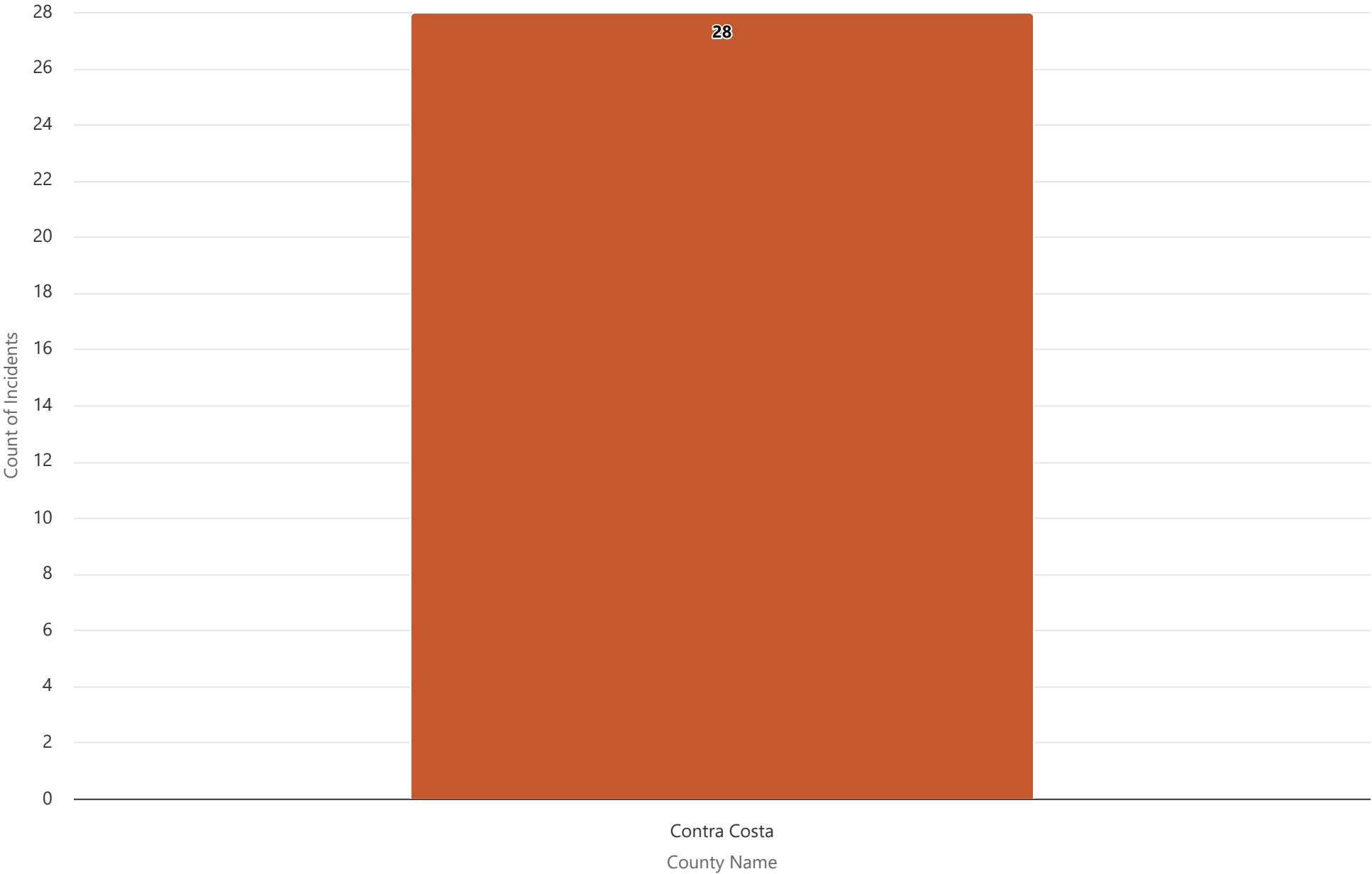
Incidents by City Name (Top 15)

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



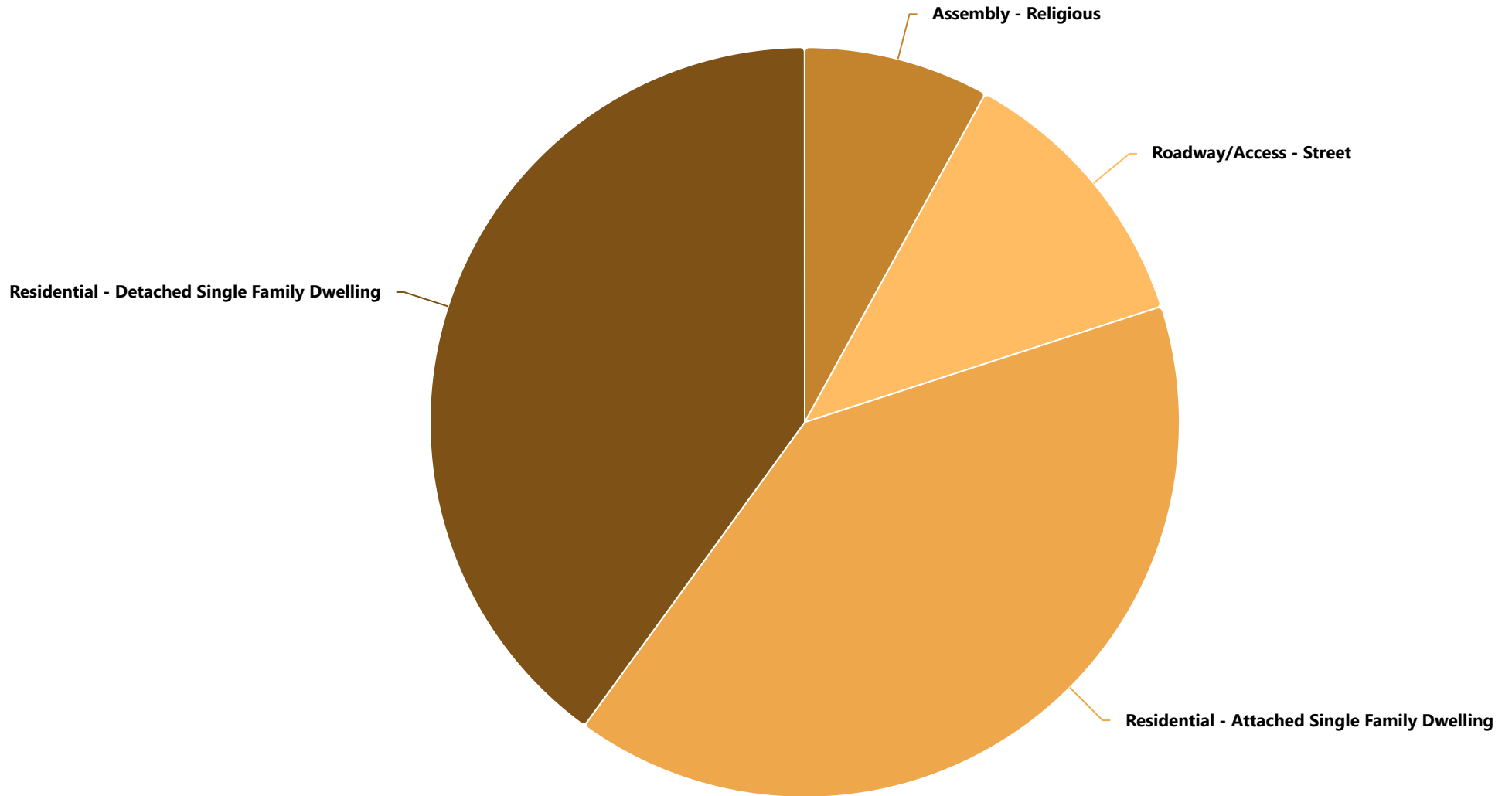
Incidents by County Name (Top 15)

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



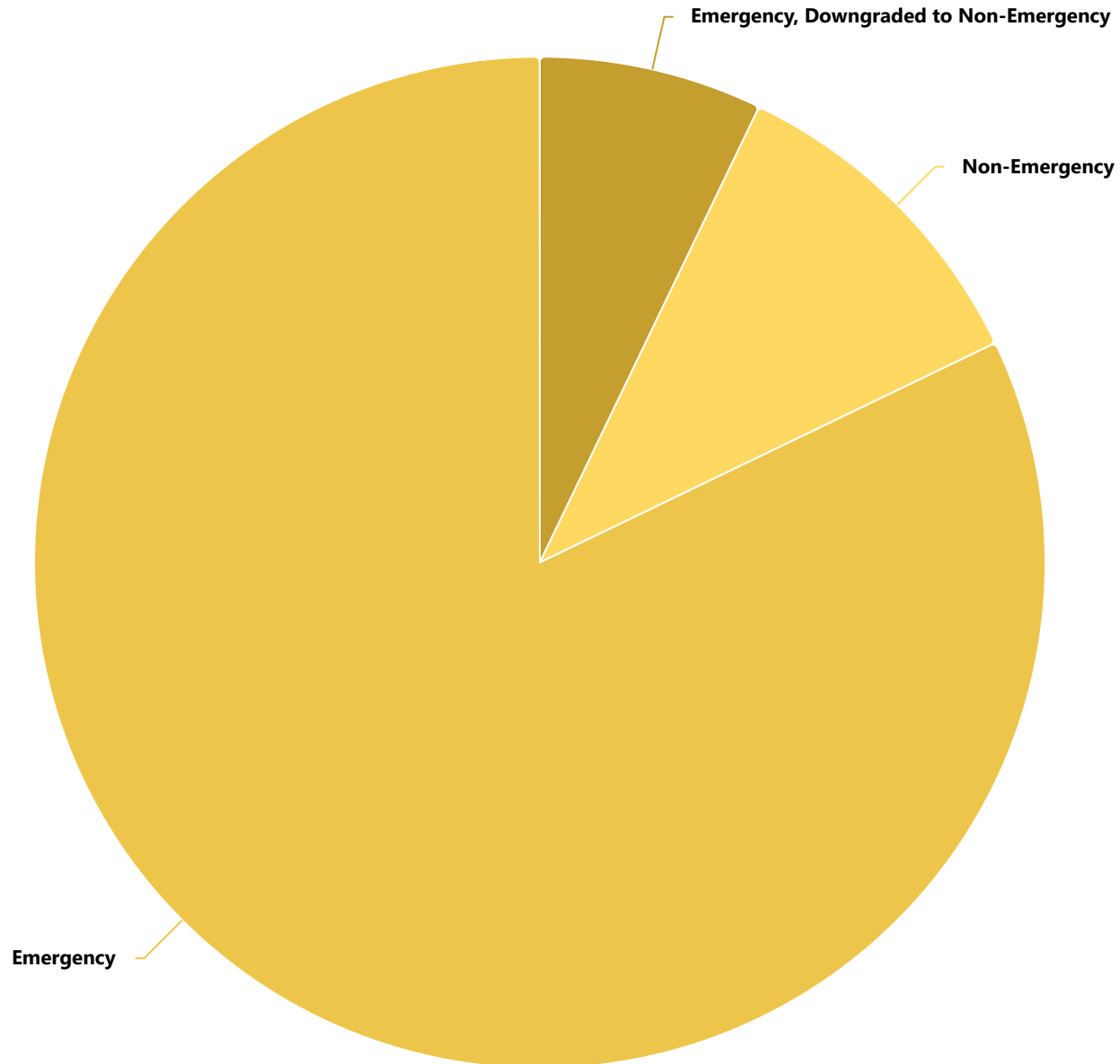
Incidents by Location Use Category

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by Response Mode To Scene

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by District/Zone

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Values

There are no results to display

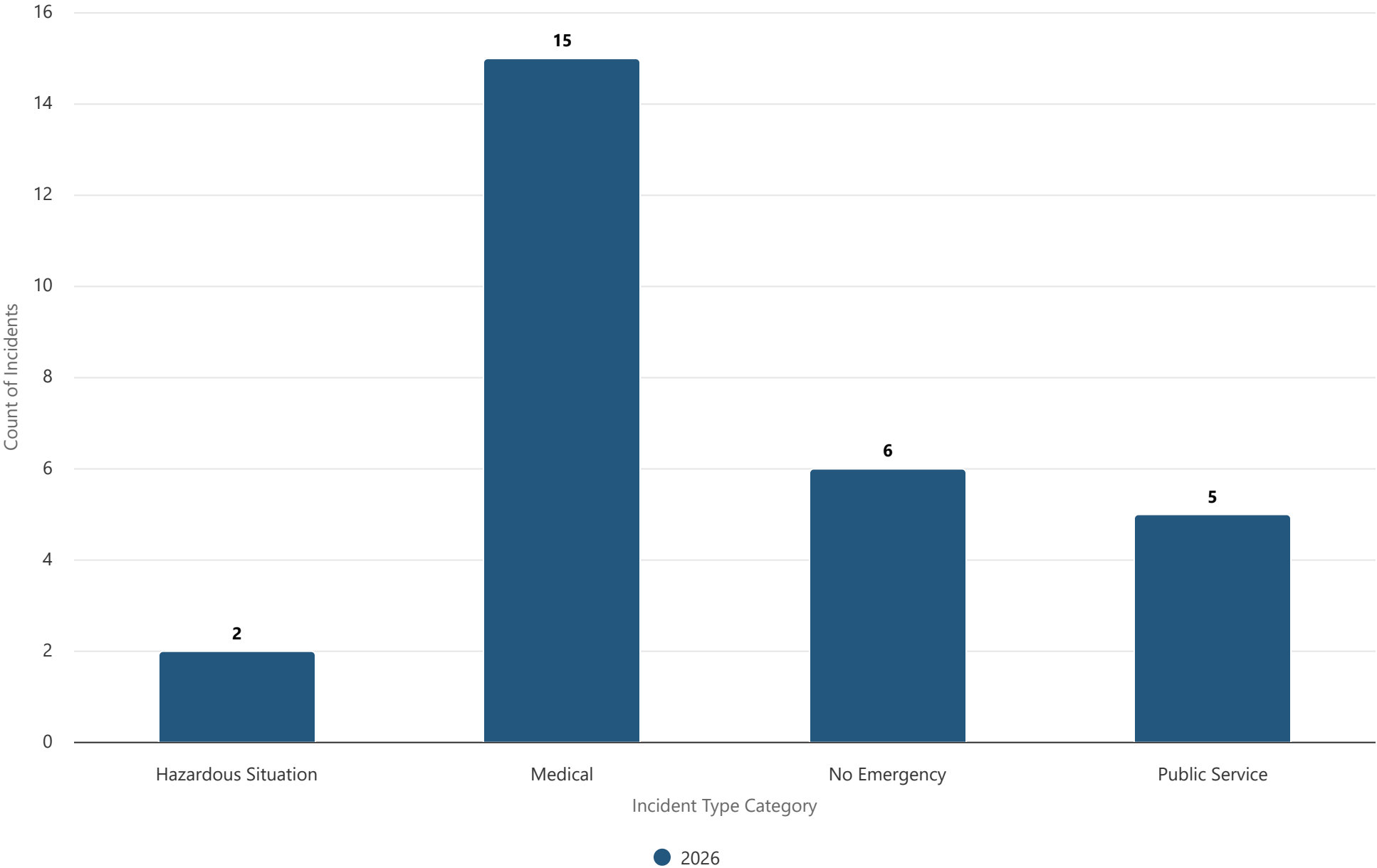
Incidents by District/Zone and Month

Jan 01, 2025 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM

	2026								2026		2025		
Incident Location Zone Number (itfilIncident.008)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Grand Total - Current	% of Total Incidents - Current	Grand Total - Previous	% of Total Incidents - Previous	YTD % Change
55	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	100.00%	0	N/A	N/A
Grand Total	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	100.00%	0	100.00%	N/A

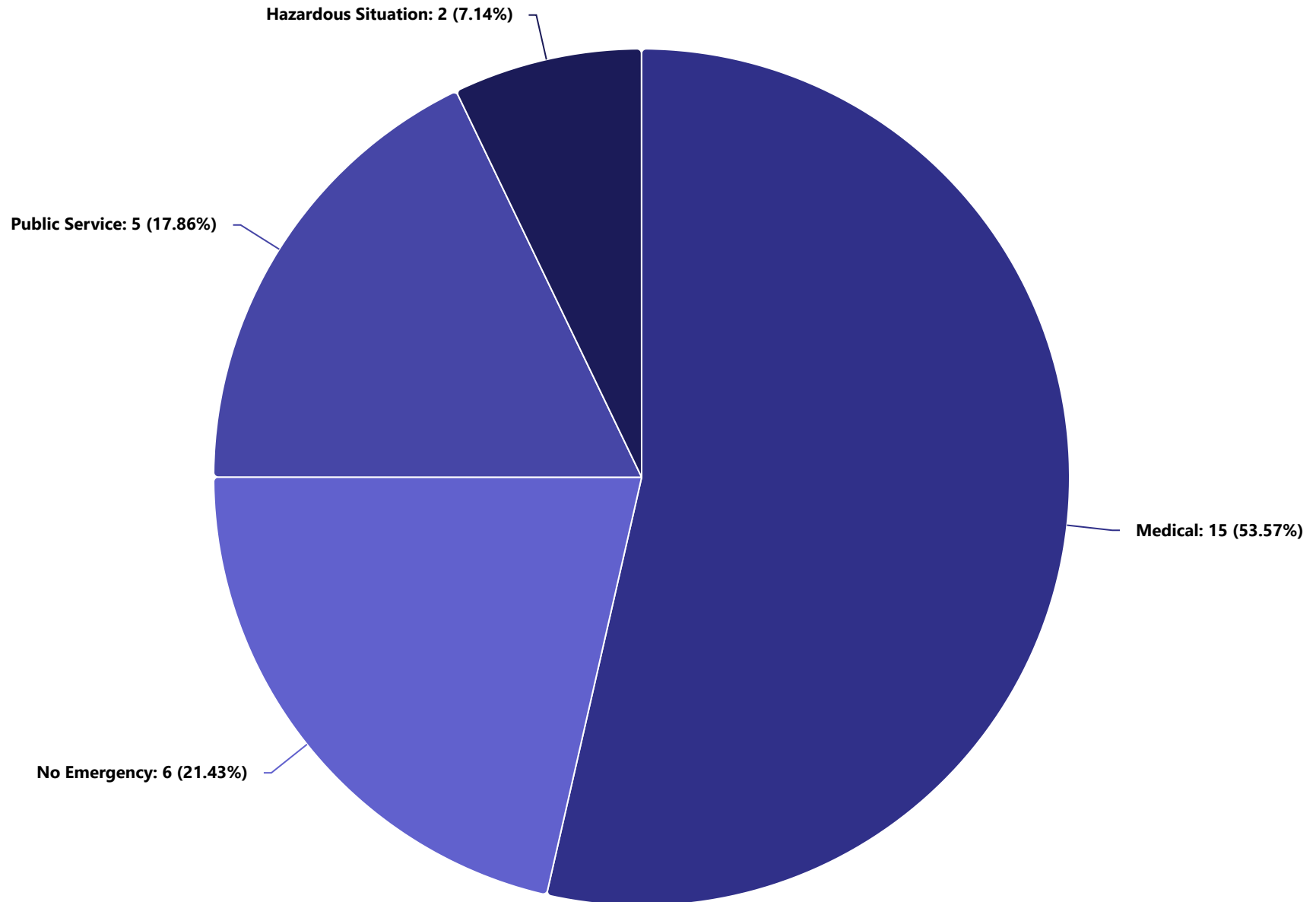
Incidents by Category and Year

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



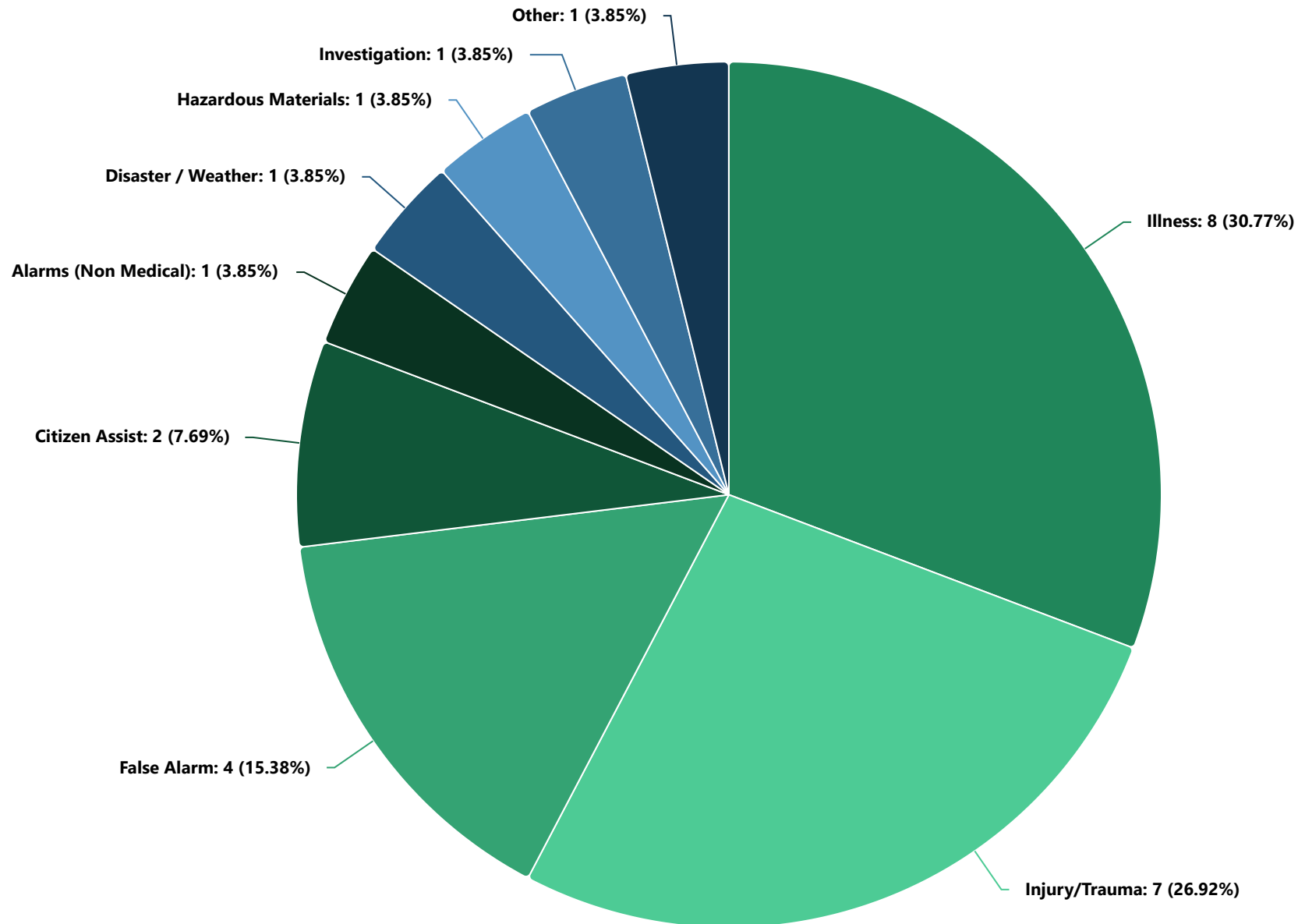
Incidents by Category

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by Type

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



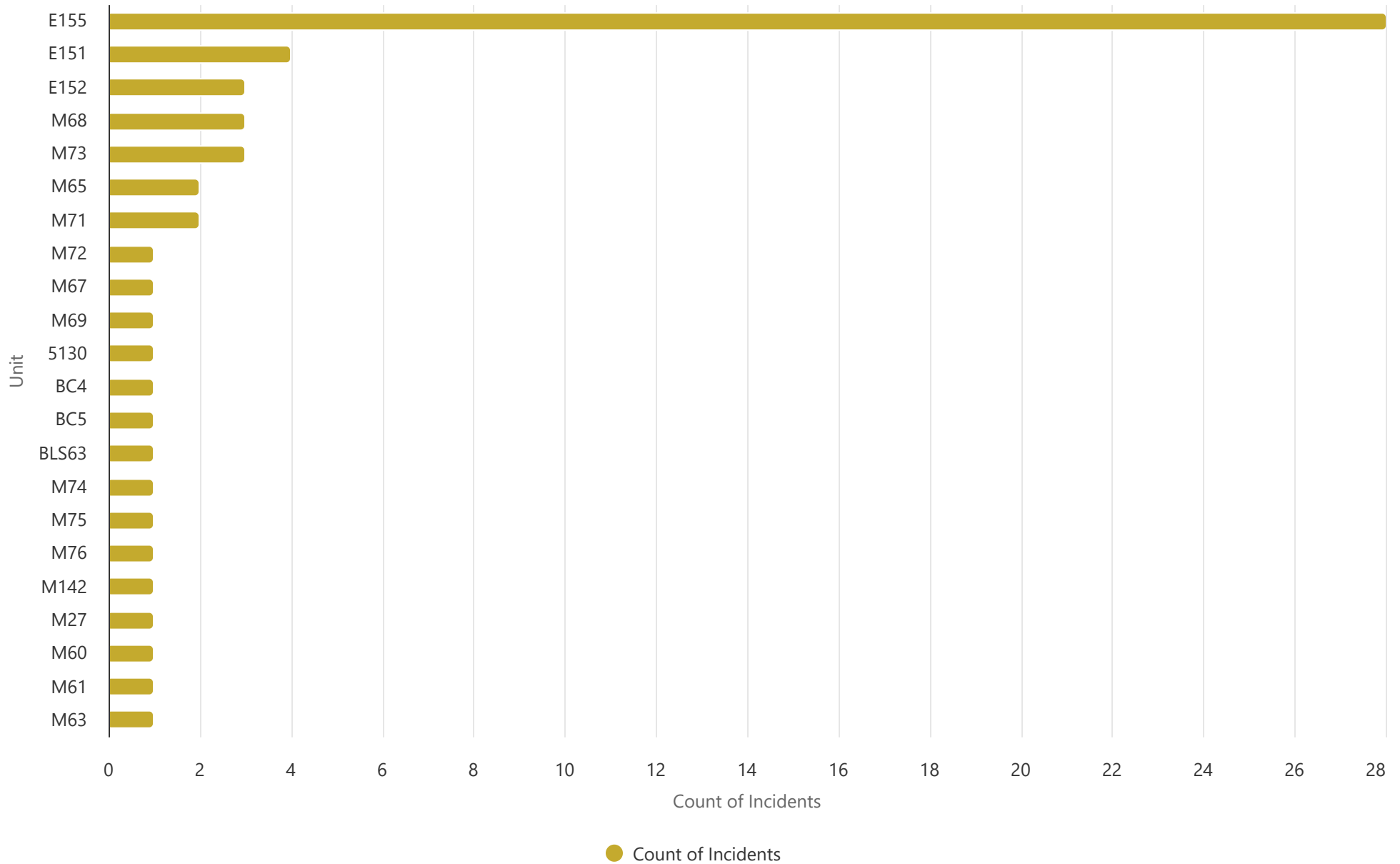
Incidents by Category and Month

Jan 01, 2025 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Incident Type Primary Category 1 (filincident.03)	2026								2026		2025		YTD % Change
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Grand Total - Current	% of Total Incidents - Current	Grand Total - Previous	% of Total Incidents - Previous	
fire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.00%	0	N/A	N/A
hazardous situation	0	2	5	2	4	4	2	2	21	9.00%	0	N/A	N/A
medical	0	16	16	18	12	13	19	15	109	45.00%	0	N/A	N/A
no emergency	0	5	7	11	5	10	7	6	51	21.00%	0	N/A	N/A
public service	0	6	15	7	7	11	6	5	57	24.00%	0	N/A	N/A
rescue	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1.00%	0	N/A	N/A
Grand Total	0	30	43	39	28	39	34	28	241	100.00%	0	100.00%	N/A

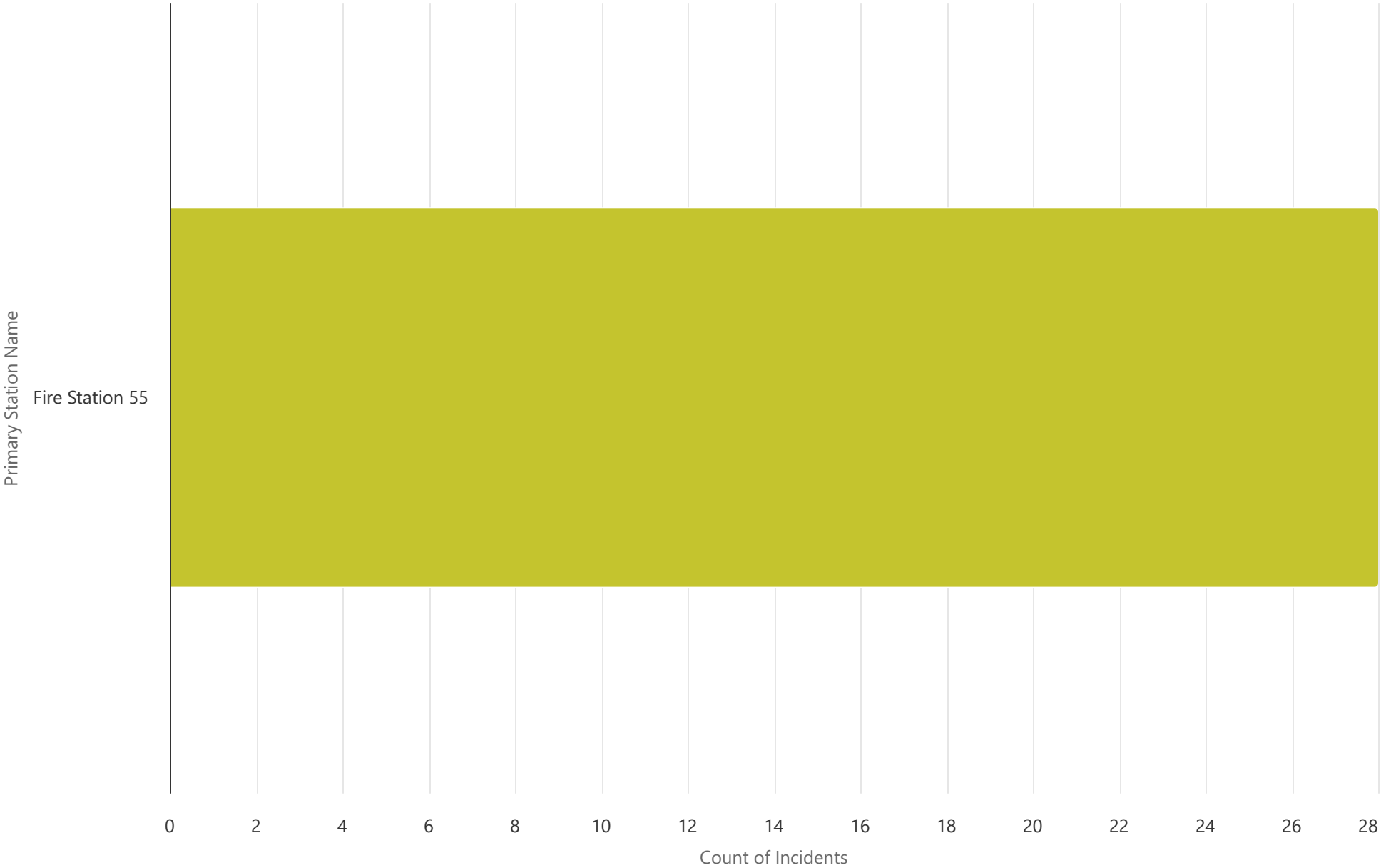
Incidents by Apparatus Resource ID (Top 40)

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by Primary Station Name

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



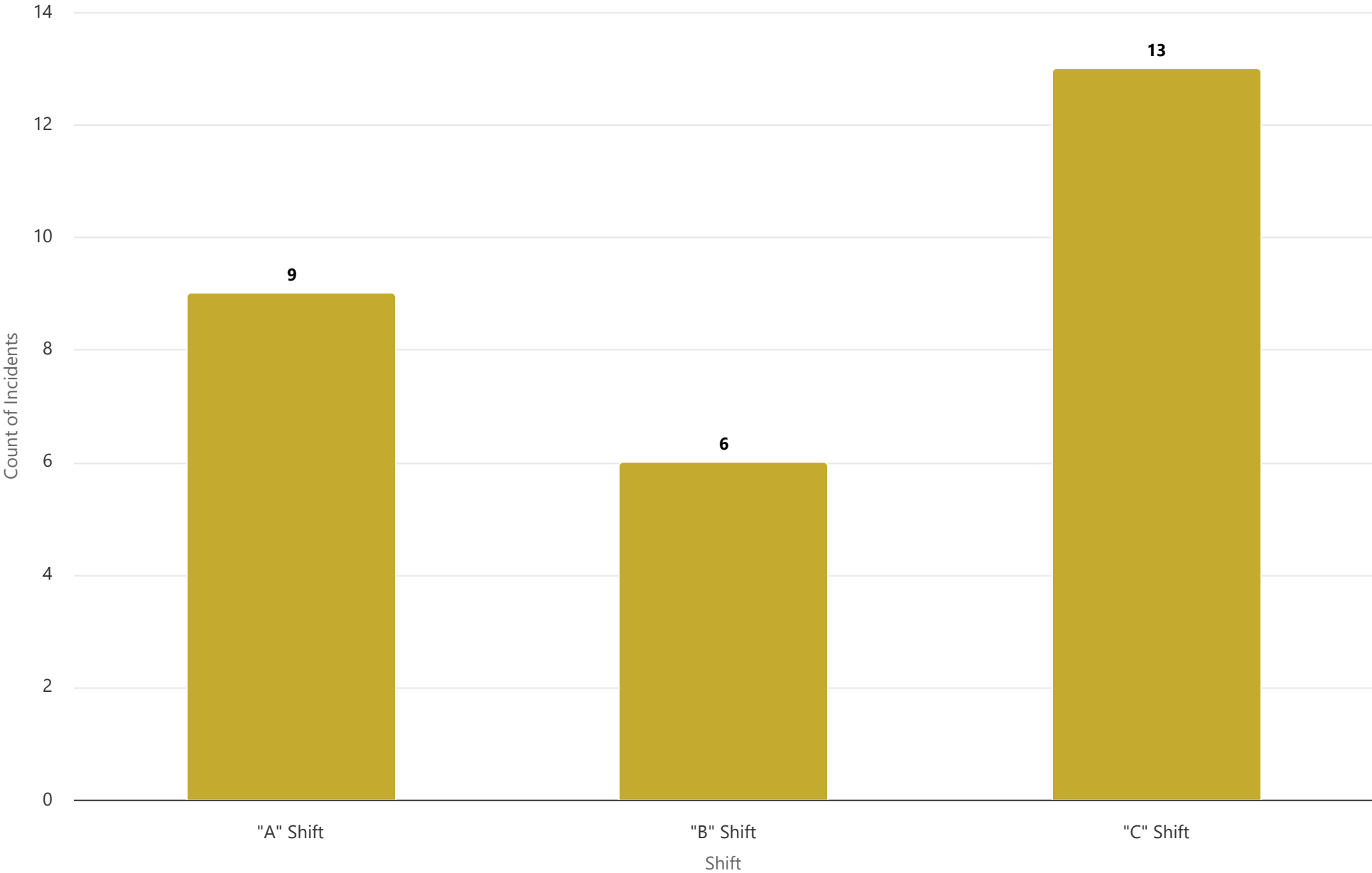
Station Summary Report

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Station	EMS Incidents	Fire Incidents	Other Incidents	Total Incidents	% of Total Incidents	Station Reliability	90th Percentile Response Time (PSAP to Arrival)
Fire Station 55	15	0	13	28	100.00%	100.00%	00:09:11
Overall	15	0	13	28	100.00%	100.00%	00:09:11

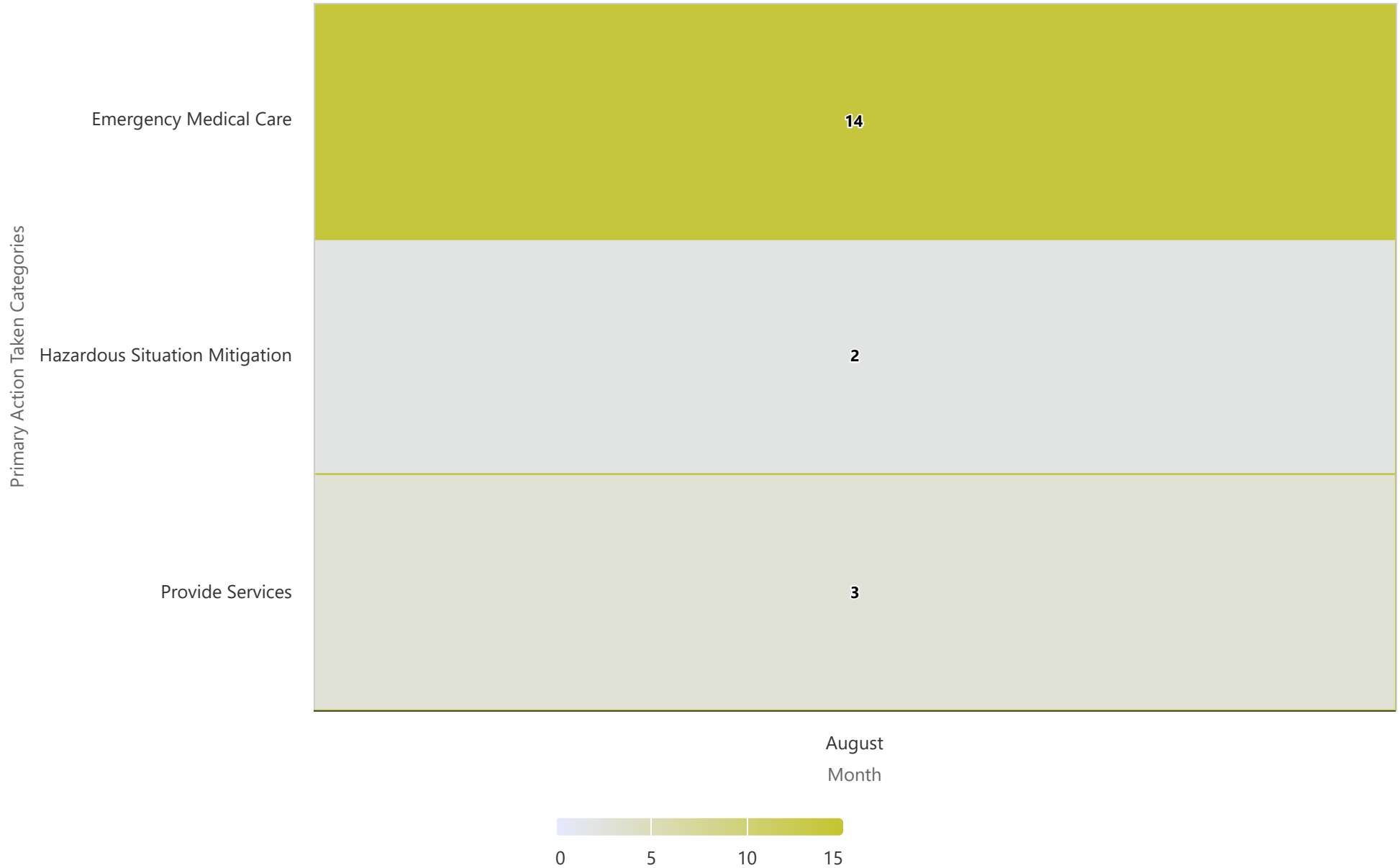
Incidents by Shift

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Primary Action Taken Categories by Month

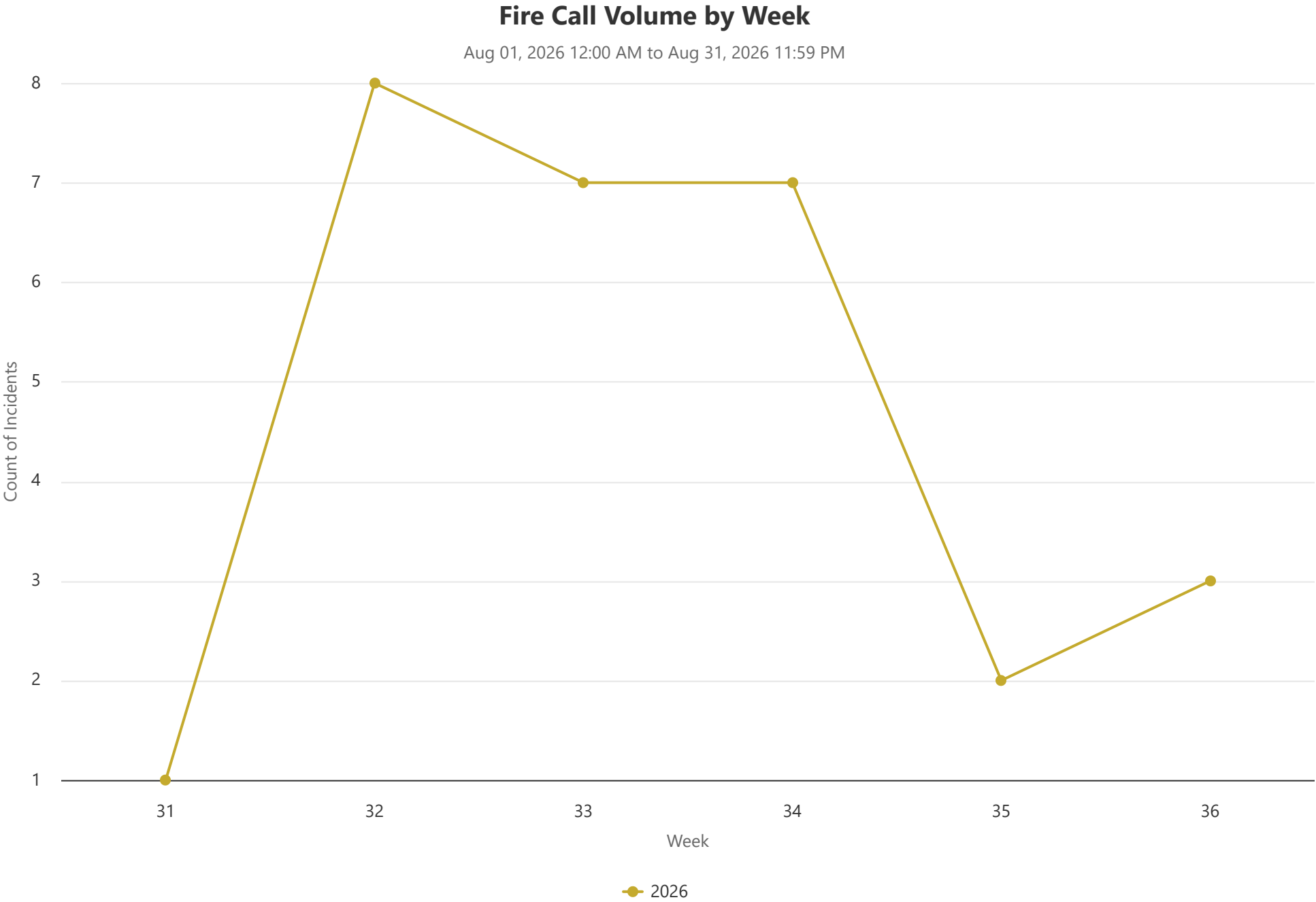
Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Fire Call Volume by Month

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM





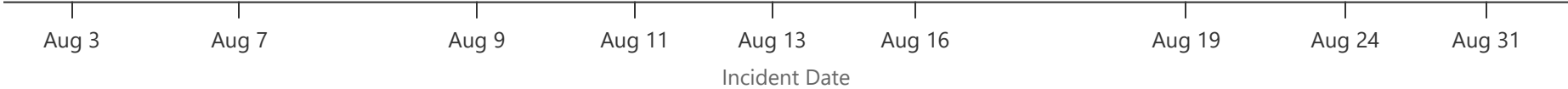
Fire Call Volume by Day

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Upper Control/Average/Lower Control

Incident Count

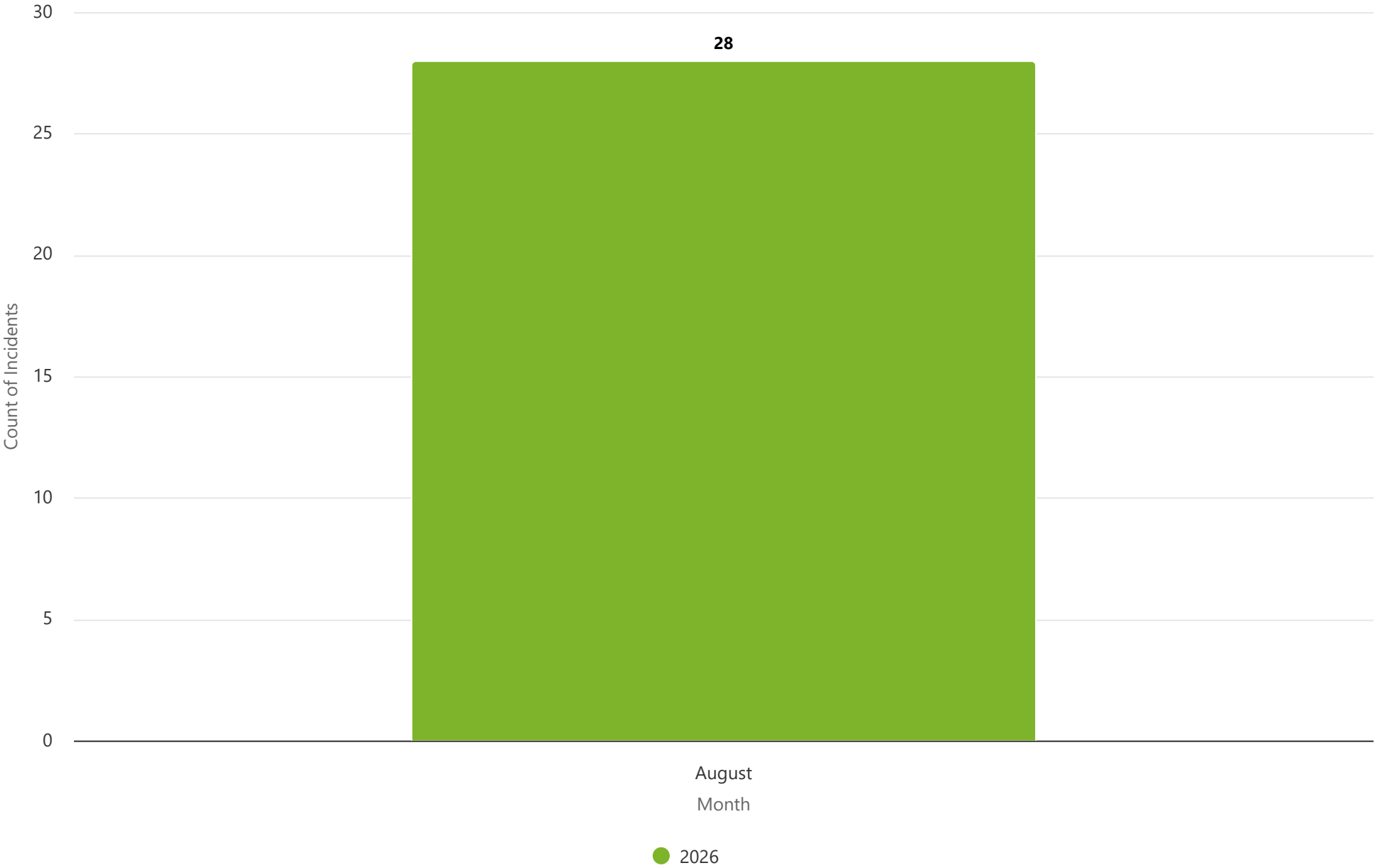
0



Series 1

Incidents by Month

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM



Incidents by Day and Hour

Aug 01, 2026 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Day of Week	Sunday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
	Monday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
	Tuesday	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Wednesday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Thursday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
	Friday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
	Saturday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
		0000	0100	0200	0300	0400	0500	0600	0700	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100	2200	2300
		Hour of Day																							

Monthly Call Volume Year over Year

Jan 01, 2025 12:00 AM to Aug 31, 2026 11:59 PM

Incident Month Name	2026		2025		YTD % Change
	Grand Total - Current	% of Total Incidents - Current	Grand Total - Previous	% of Total Incidents - Previous	
february	30	12.00%	0	N/A	N/A
march	43	18.00%	0	N/A	N/A
april	39	16.00%	0	N/A	N/A
may	29	12.00%	0	N/A	N/A
june	39	16.00%	0	N/A	N/A
july	35	14.00%	0	N/A	N/A
august	28	12.00%	0	N/A	N/A
Grand Total	243	100.00%	0	100.00%	N/A

Pin Color Legend

Kensington Incidents**August 2026**

#	Incident Date	Number	Apparatus	Address	Location	Response Time - Min
1	8/1/2026	26097601	E155	Ocean View Avenue Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:06:58
2	8/2/2026	26098221	E155	Colusa Ave / Berkeley Park Boulevard Kensington, CA	Kensington	0:05:58
3	8/3/2026	26098746	E155	Purdue Avenue Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:05:46
4	8/4/2026	26099155	E155	Norwood Avenue Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:05:59
5	8/6/2026	26100179	E155	Kerr Avenue Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:05:38
6	8/7/2026	26100598	E155	Highland Boulevard Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:07:14
7	8/7/2026	26100423	E155	Kenyon Avenue Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:05:12
8	8/8/2026	26100972	E155	Amherst Avenue Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:03:51
9	8/8/2026	26100783	E155	Stanford Avenue Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:04:42
10	8/9/2026	26101491	E155	Kenyon Avenue Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:05:52
11	8/10/2026	26101668	E155	Canon Dr / Central Park Drive Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:11:10
12	8/11/2026	26101975	E155	Colusa Avenue Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:08:22
13	8/12/2026	26102763	E155	Yale Circle Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:04:53
14	8/12/2026	26102804	E155	Norwood Court Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:03:38
15	8/13/2026	26103195	E155	Windsor Avenue Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:05:52
16	8/14/2026	26103652	E155	Franciscan Way Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:04:46
17	8/16/2026	26104457	E155	Stratford Road Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:04:30
18	8/16/2026	26104522	E155	Arlington Avenue Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:04:19
19	8/18/2026	26105325	E155	Lawson Road Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:06:11
20	8/19/2026	26105841	E155	Kenyon Avenue Kensington, CA 94708	Kensington	0:05:04
21	8/20/2026	26106367	E155	Beverly Road Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:04:19
22	8/26/2026	26109077	E155	Lawson Road Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:06:28
23	8/30/2026	26110881	E155	Colusa Avenue Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:05:31
24	8/31/2026	26111435	E155	Arlington Avenue Kensington, CA 94707	Kensington	0:06:13