

# Conclusions and Recommendations

## New Fire Station Work Group

Presentation to Nantucket Board of Selectmen  
November 19, 2014

# Work Group's Charge

- Advise on plans for new fire station at 4 FG
- Explore feasibility of other potential sites
- Submit recommendations to BOS
- Assist with public outreach and education

# Presentation Outline

- **Our unanimous conclusions**
- **Why a new fire station is needed**
- **Rationale for locating it at 4 Fairgrounds**
- **Long-range opportunities we identified**

# Conclusions

- **Present fire station is functionally obsolete and so must be replaced**
- **New facility can be based on update of the 2008 design**
- **Most cost-effective location: 4 Fairgrounds**
- **Estimated cost: \$14.74 m (rising +4%/yr.)**
- **Cost saving possible through cost engineering, eventual Pleasant St. property sale**

# The Need for a New Fire Station

- Safety: Staff safety within building; pedestrian safety on Pleasant St. and Sparks Ave.
- Mission: Growing service volumes and evolving position skills make current facility unworkable.
- Employee requirements: NFD cannot conduct mandatory training, house present and future staff, accommodate female employees.
- Traffic congestion: Impairs response times.

# Rationale for 4 FG Location

- Economic: The infrastructure in place as originally intended (“plug & play”)
- Functional: More space, configured to meet present & future needs
- Locational: Well situated to respond to foreseeable calls over next 20 years

# Four Ongoing Challenges

- *Fire Prevention:*
  - Maintain rigorous ongoing inspections
  - Respond quickly to alarm & hazard calls
- *Medical Emergencies:*
  - Field specialized EMT personnel
  - Maintain ongoing quick-response availability
- *Response-time Metrics:* Strive to improve
- *Resilience:* Meet concurrent emergencies

# Immediate Recommendations

- **Have Town Counsel craft 2015 ATM article seeking approval to fund \$15m design & construction costs**
- **Fund necessary architectural & engineering studies to update 2008 plans, seeking cost savings**
- **Charge Work Group to assist in necessary public education & outreach**
- **Form an inclusive committee to advise on space needs**

# Long-Range Recommendations

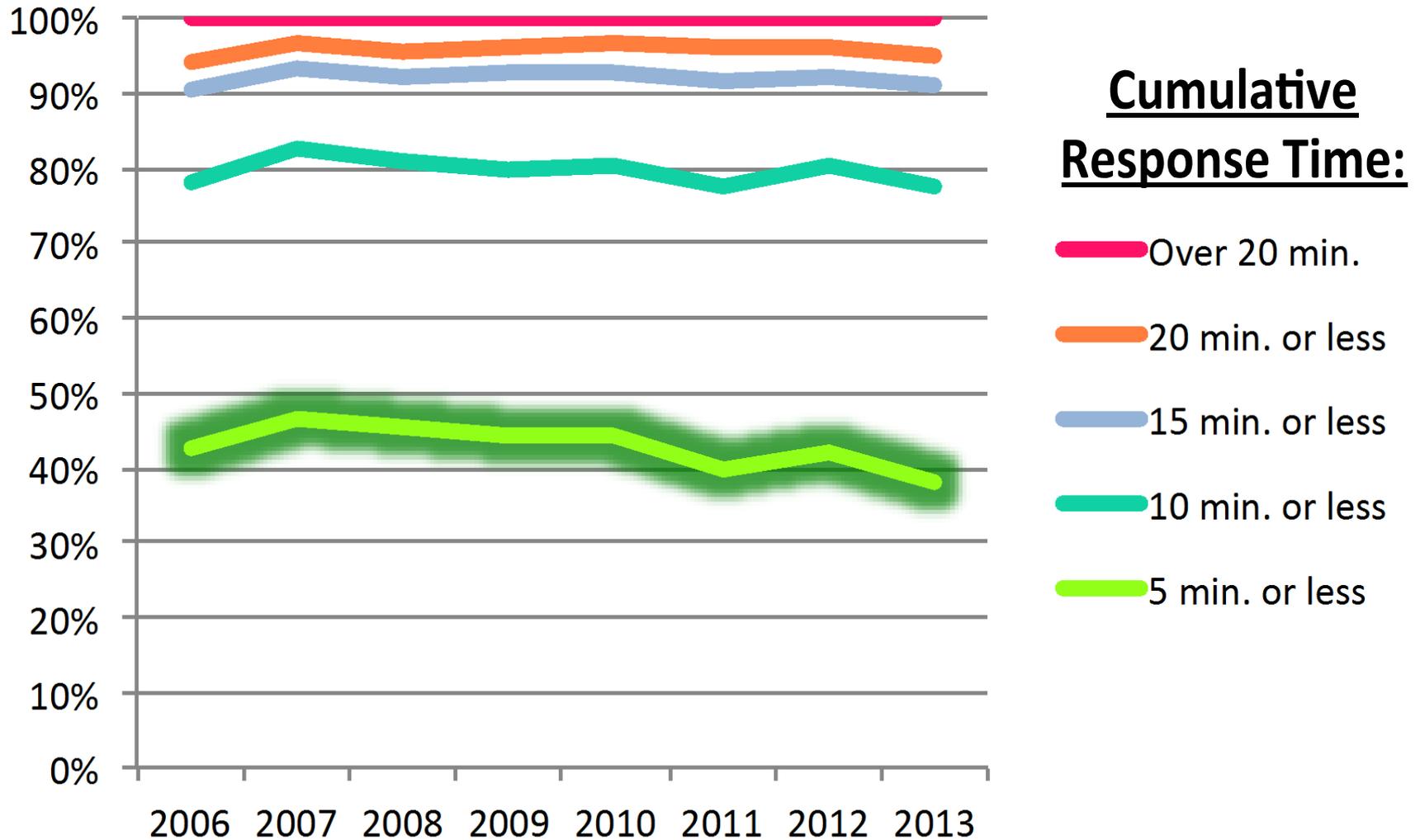
- **Partner with Worcester Polytech's Nantucket Project Center to:**
  - **Discover hypothetical satellite locations that could improve summer response times**
  - **Explore potential operational changes**
- **Retain Pleasant St. land for now**
- **Use proceeds of any future sale to retire debt incurred to build new facility**

**BACKUP SLIDES FOLLOW**

# NFD's Expanded Responsibilities

- **Core mission: To protect the lives and property of our residents and visitors**
- **Services have expanded to cover:**
  - **Preventing fires through rigorous inspections**
  - **Responding to alarm calls**
  - **Seasonal EMT volumes**
- **EMT staff require multiple certifications**

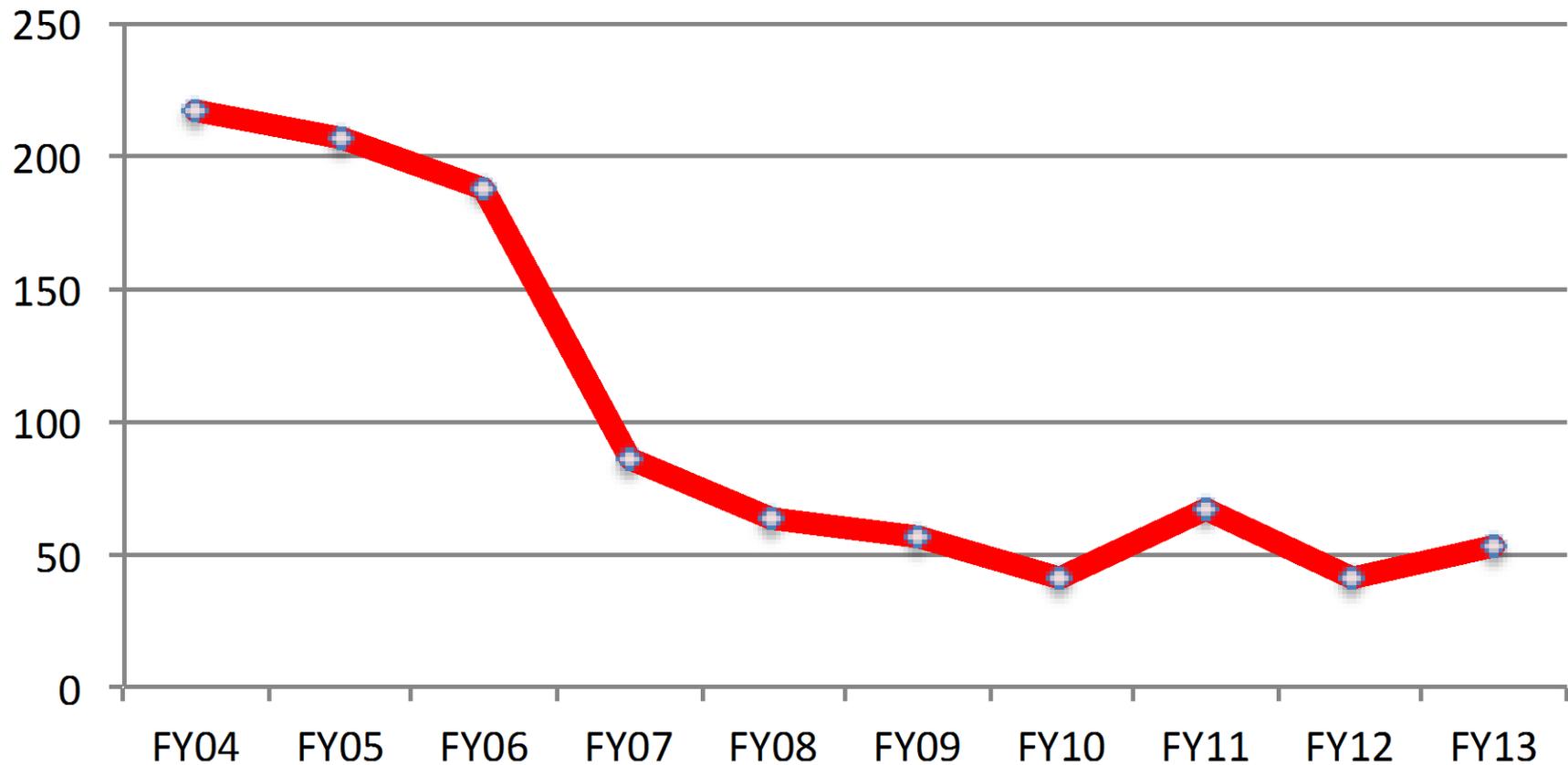
# Response Time Metrics Matter



Source: NFD annual run statistics.

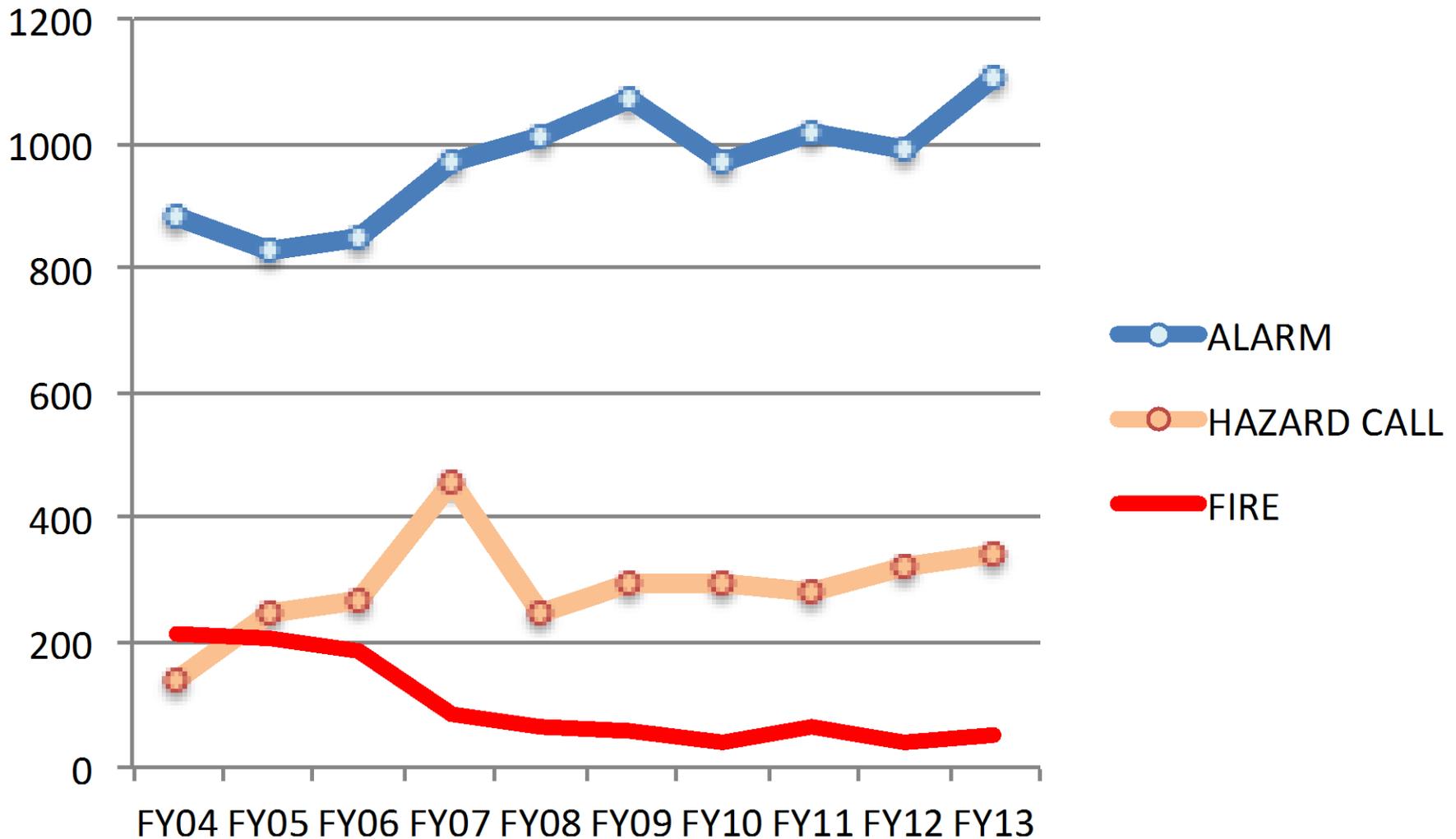
# NFD Prevention Efforts Have Paid Off

## Annual Number of Fires: FY04-FY13



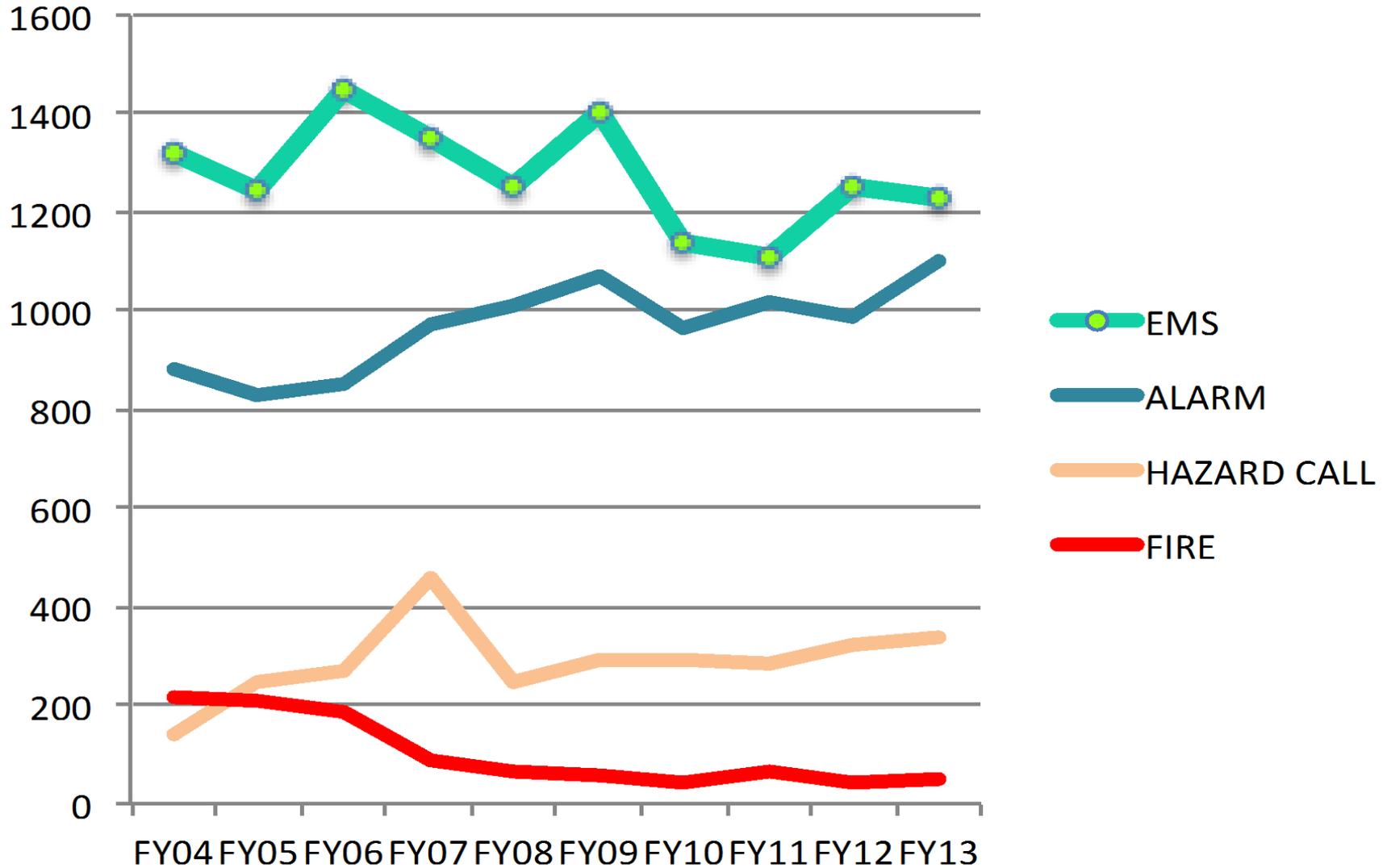
Source: NFD call data.

# Instead . . . More Fire Alarm & Hazard Calls



Source: NFD call data.

# And a Further 1,200+ EMS Calls Annually



Source: NFD call data.

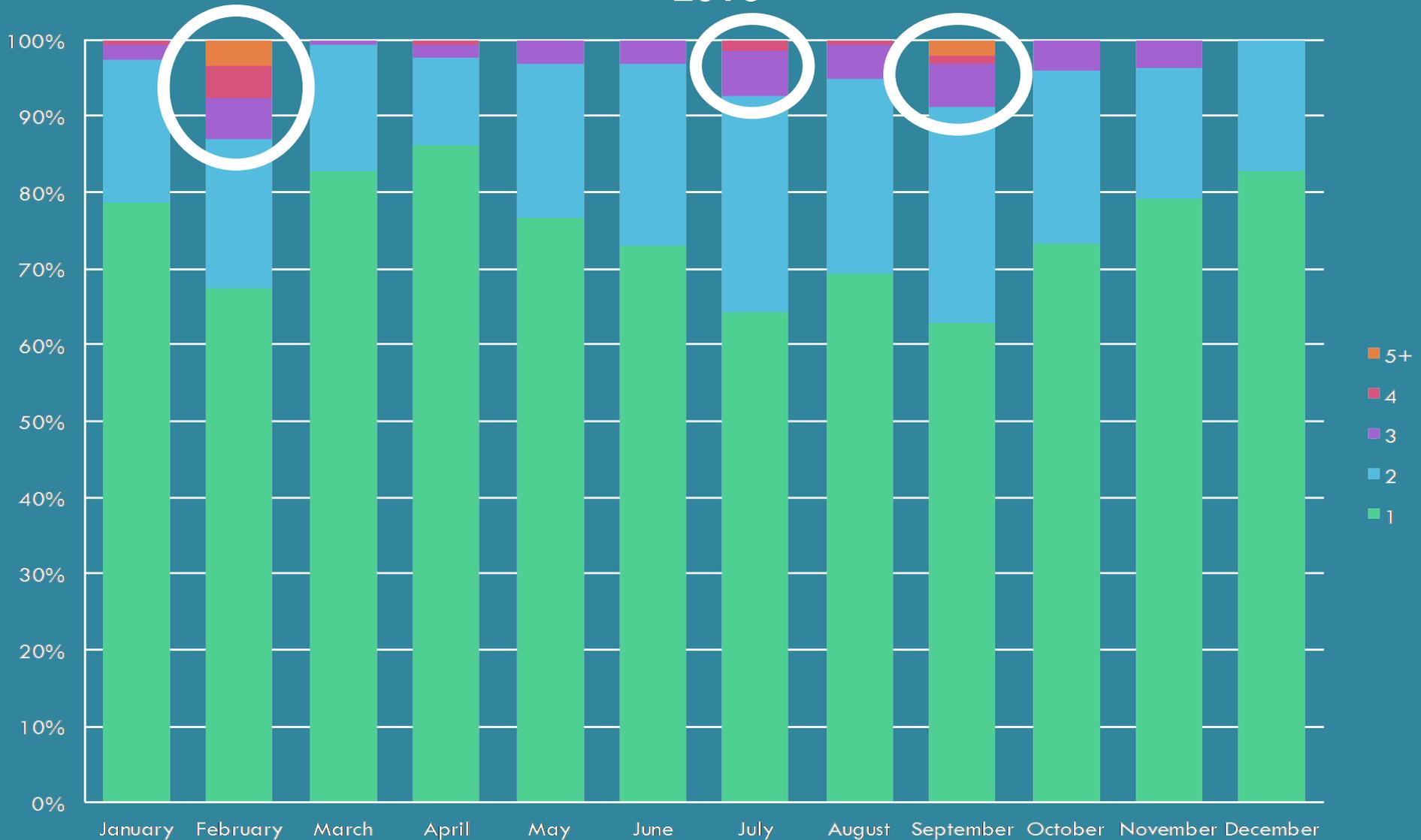
# Strengthening Resilience

- **Nantucket faces distinctive challenges:**
  - Fewer available “call” personnel than in past
  - Cannot “borrow” size from neighboring FDs
- **Summer traffic congestion**
- **Multiple concurrent emergency calls strain resources**

# Concurrent Emergency Calls Strain NFD's Resources

# Concurrent Call Episodes Strain Resources

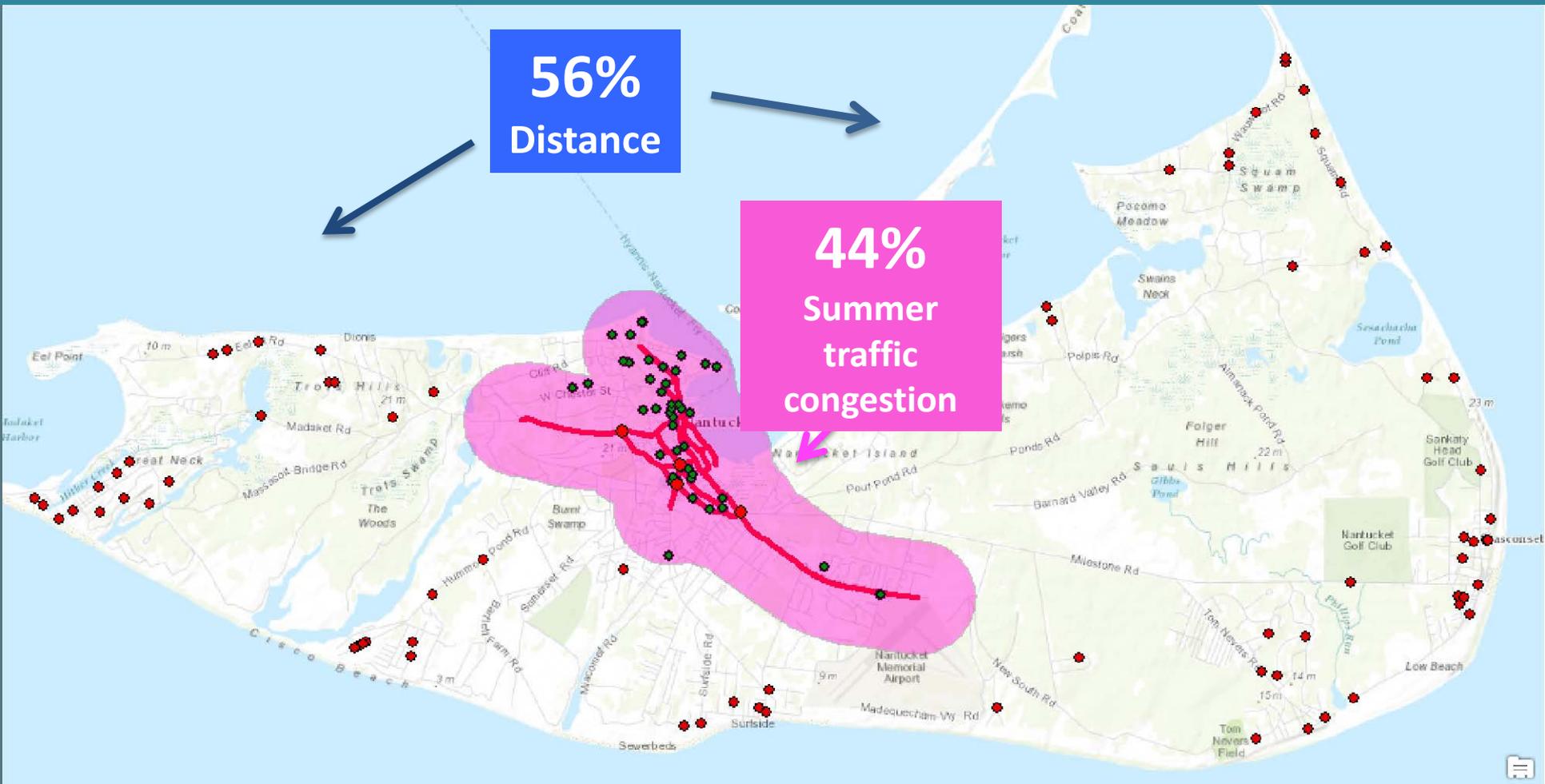
2013



Source: NFD call data.

**Summer Traffic Congestion  
Degrades Response Times**

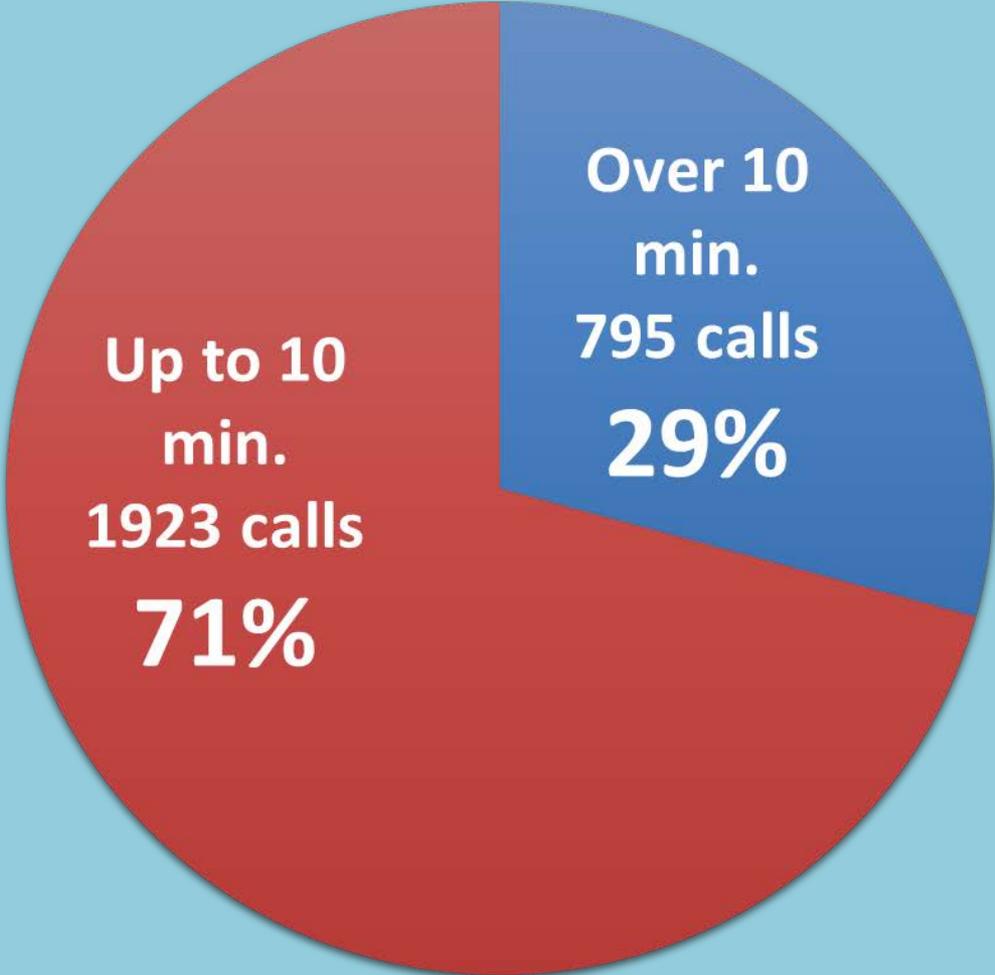
# Emergency response times >10 min. (170 non-concurrent calls June-August 2013)



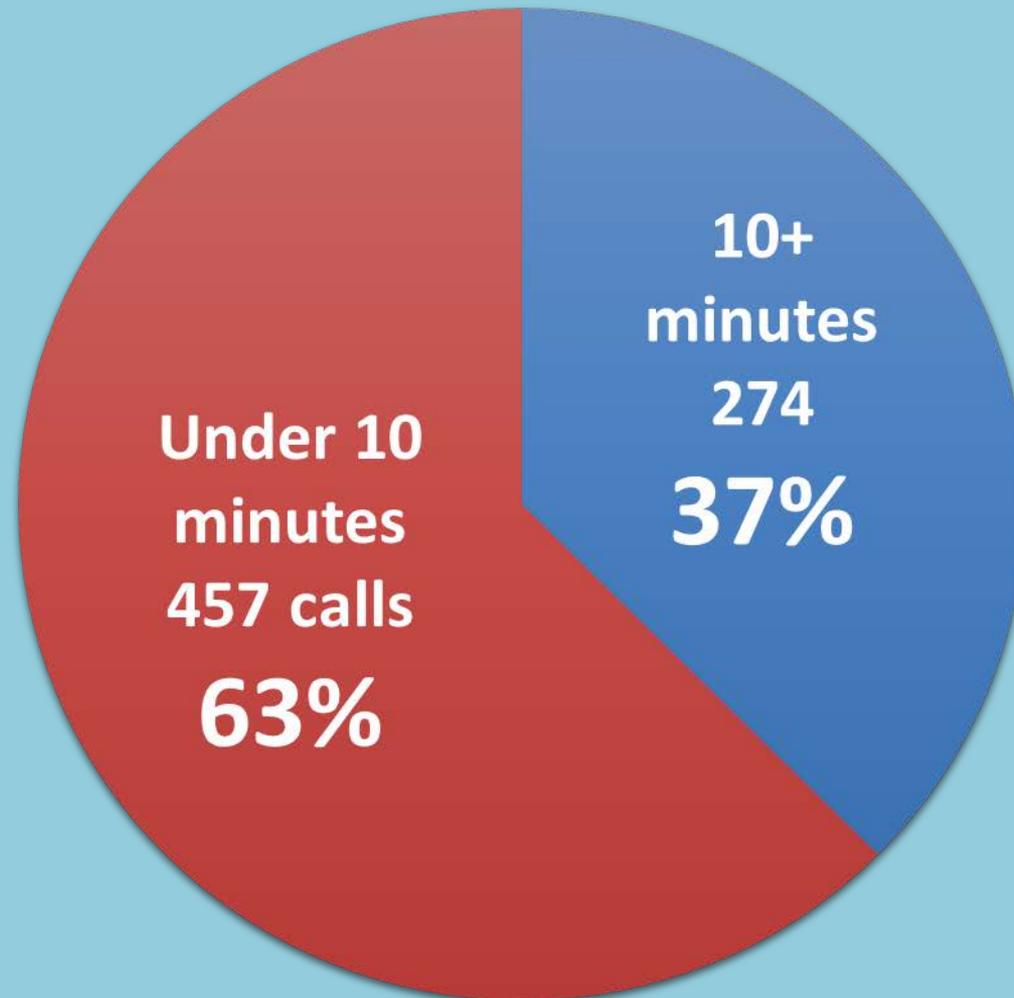
**FURTHER DETAIL**

**Concurrent Emergency Calls**

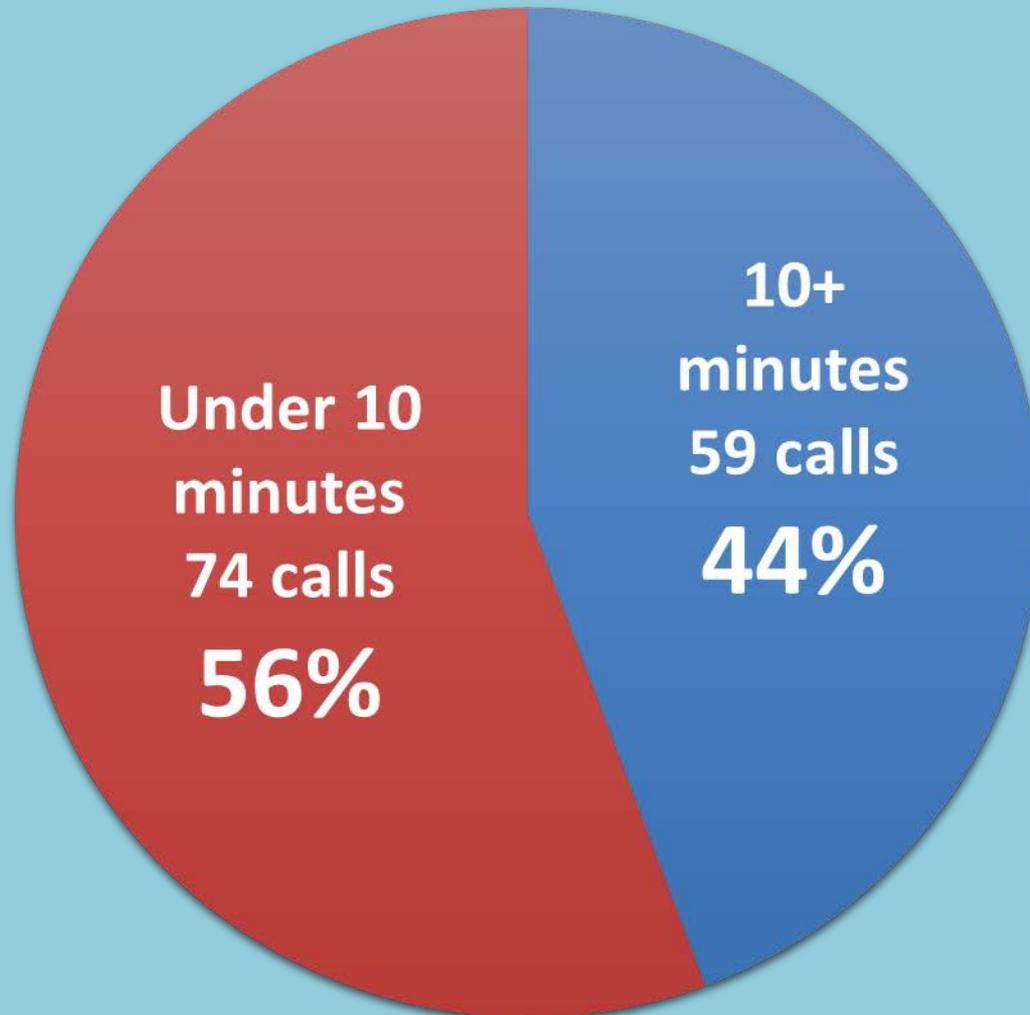
# Response time exceeded 10 min. for 29% of ALL 2,718 Emergency Calls in 2013



... For 37% of all 731 CONCURRENT (2+) Calls



... For 44% of the 133 3+ CONCURRENT Calls



... And Half of the 35 4+ CONCURRENT Calls  
*(Averaging an episode every 21 days)*

