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Fire and Emergency New Zealand
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K Thompson
By email: fyi-request-25144-6ab2104d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe K Thompson

Information Request – Data on medical callouts

Thank you for your information request dated 12 December 2023 asking for information relating to Fire and Emergency New Zealand attending medical callouts.

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), we outline and answer each aspect of your request, below. Please note the questions are not listed in the order you have provided in your request.

- 1. Please can you let us know the number of medical emergencies you have attended per month over the last five years?**
- 2. Please can you break down the emergency medical callouts you have attended into types of medical emergency (eg heart attack, cardiac arrest, etc).**
- 3. How many of these medical emergencies end sadly in death?**
- 4. What percentage of Fire and Emergency callouts are for medical emergencies per month for the last five years?**

Please see pages one and two on the document enclosed. This table shows the total number of medical incidents we have been called to, by month since January 2019. Also included in this table is the number of incidents that resulted in a fatality, and medical incidents as a percentage in relation to the total incident count for that month.

Fire and Emergency do not record the type of medical emergency, as this will likely be held with the ambulance service that attended as the lead agency for medical callouts. We do however record the ambulance priority colour codes which provide a high-level indication of the possible diagnosis. We also attach the St John New Zealand priority definitions which is detailed in the Fire and Emergency and St John Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This will help you identify what each colour represents.

- 5. Please can you cite the numbers of medical emergency callouts per week for the last five years.**
Please see pages three and four for a breakdown of medical incidents by week of the year. We can also advise that our personnel are called to an average of 237 medical incidents per week.

6. Do medical emergencies that Fire and Emergency NZ attend tend to cluster in groups or cluster on some days or weeks, or are they evenly spread out through time?

Please see page five for statistics on medical incidents by day of week.

7. Does Fire and Emergency NZ transport people with medical emergencies to hospital?

Our fleet is not properly resourced with the required vehicles/ambulances) to transport patients. In some instances, the medical responders (St John or Wellington Free Ambulance) can request our assistance to drive their vehicle while they stabilise a patient and we can also assist by driving an ambulance at normal road speed and where this is agreed the firefighter will be returned to their station or place of work by St John. In these instances, it is still Fire and Emergency drivers assisting them to transport patients.

Section 2.4 of the MOU¹ with St John outlines what transportation restrictions apply to medical support responses by Fire and Emergency.

8. Is there a regional pattern in the types of medical emergencies you attend? For example, do certain areas have more heart attacks, say, than others?

9. Do some ethnicities tend to experience more medical events that you attend than others?

As previously mentioned, Fire and Emergency do not report on the type of medical emergency. We also do not record the patients' demographics for medical emergencies. Consequently, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Nāku noa nā



Ethan Fett

Acting Manager Information Requests

¹ Link to MOU - [Fire and Emergency St John MOU.pdf \(fyi.org.nz\)](#), see page 10.