

## Emergency Medical Services

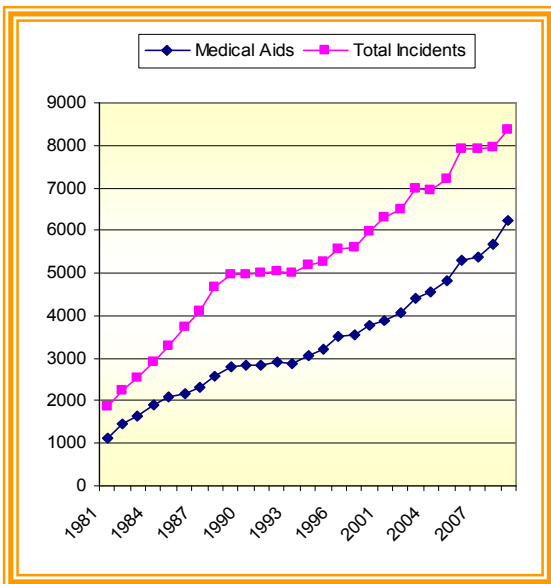
On April 1, 1980, the Redlands Fire Department launched its paramedic program conducted by two Redlands Firefighters that had received paramedic training. Donations from service clubs and a Council action funded the initial program and eventual funding was established by voter approval, when Redlands' voters approved a citywide special tax that earmarked money for the Firefighter/Paramedic Program. This vote received 89% voter support, becoming the highest percentage of voter support for a special tax in California. The money was



used to hire nine new

firefighter/paramedics. The first year, firefighter/paramedics responded to 1120 calls for medical emergencies.

The Medical Director Dr. Phong Nguyen and an EMS Coordinator oversee the EMS Division. The Program provides monthly continuing education for all of our firefighters, which include paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Several programs run under the auspices of the EMS Division including the Paramedic Program, EMT Certification Program, the Safe Haven Program, and the Event Medic Team. The Event Medic Team is designed to reduce the impact of emergency calls for special events such as Fourth of July celebrations, the Redlands Bicycle Classic, and several other annual and individual events that occur in the City.



Today the Redlands Fire Department has 18 firefighter/paramedics and 41 Firefighter/ EMTs (12 of whom still hold paramedic certification but no longer officially work in that capacity). The Fire Department operates four paramedic-staffed apparatus. In 2009, personnel of the Redlands Fire Department responded to over 8300 calls of which 6105 (73%) were calls for medical emergencies and injuries sustained in vehicular accidents. The chart titled "Medical Aids by Type" is a breakdown of the number of emergency medical services provided by type of injury.

