

The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent seal of the Houston Fire Department. The seal is circular with a gold border and contains a central shield with a fire hydrant, a fire engine, and the year 1838. The words "HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT" and "FIRE RESCUE" are visible around the perimeter of the seal.

# **Houston Fire Department Response to COVID-19: A Medical Direction Perspective**

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Houston Fire Department

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Assistant EMS Physician Director

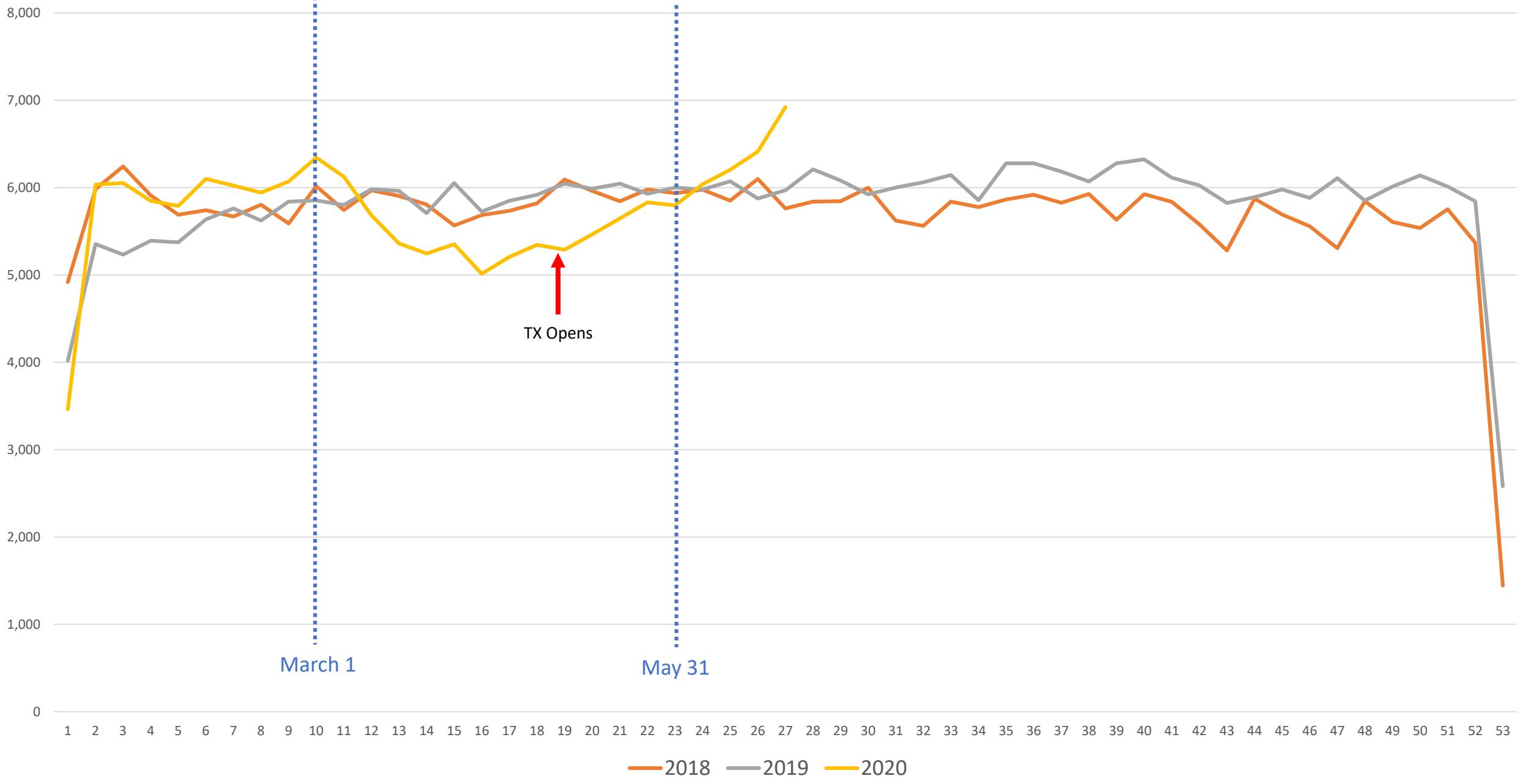
Houston Fire Department

Assistant Clinical Professor/EMS Fellowship Director

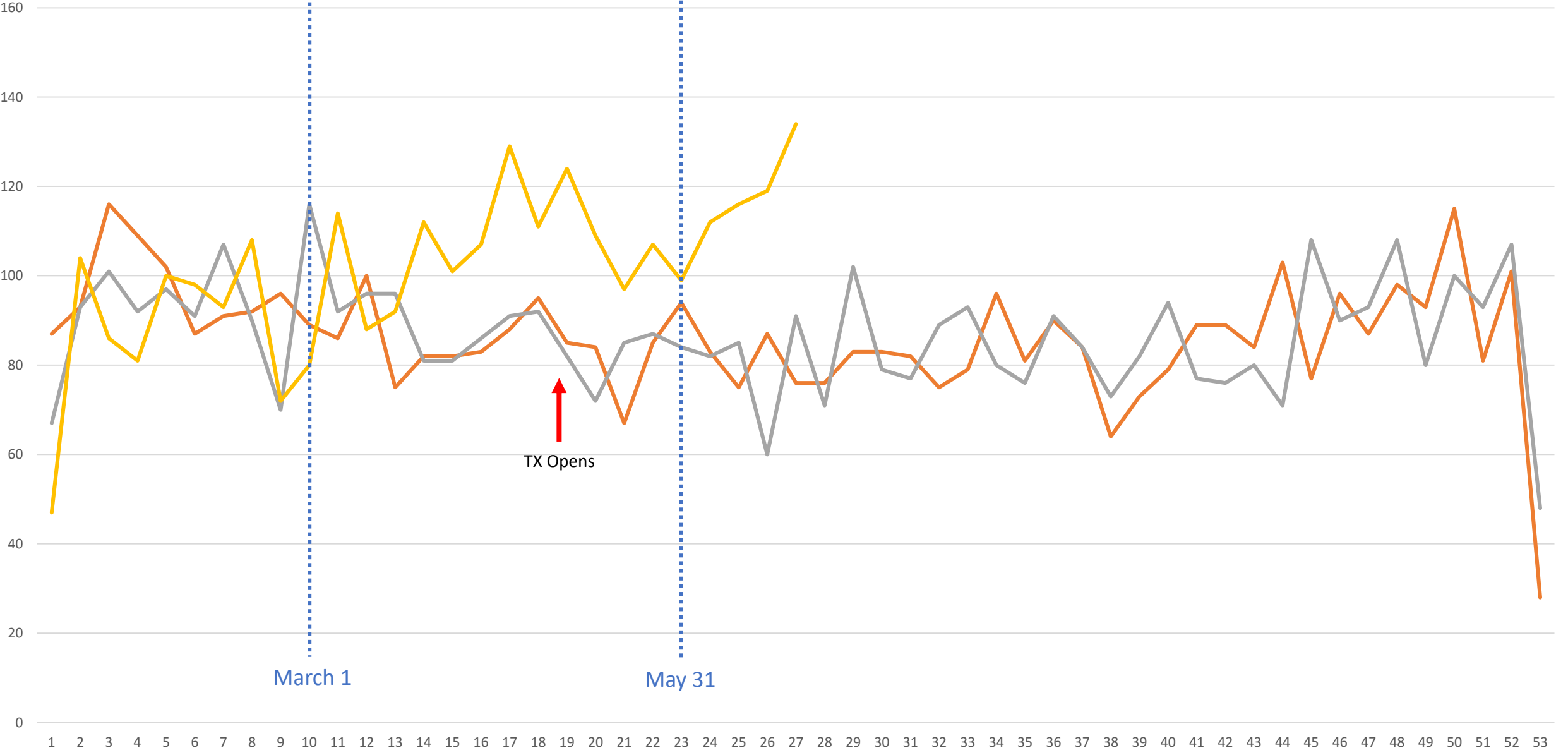
Department of Emergency Medicine

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

# EMS Incidents by Week

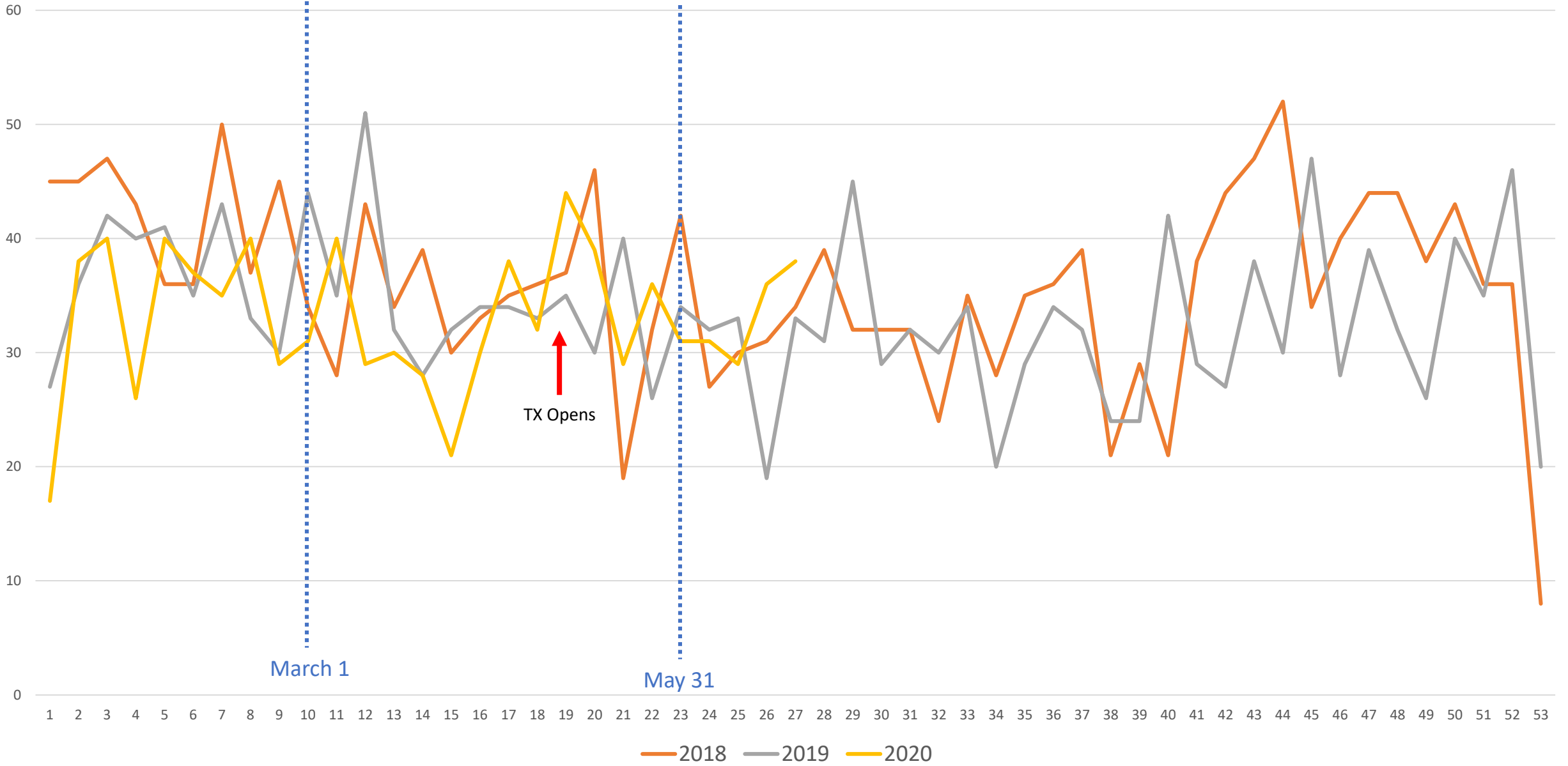


# Weekly DOA, Field Term, Arrest Transports

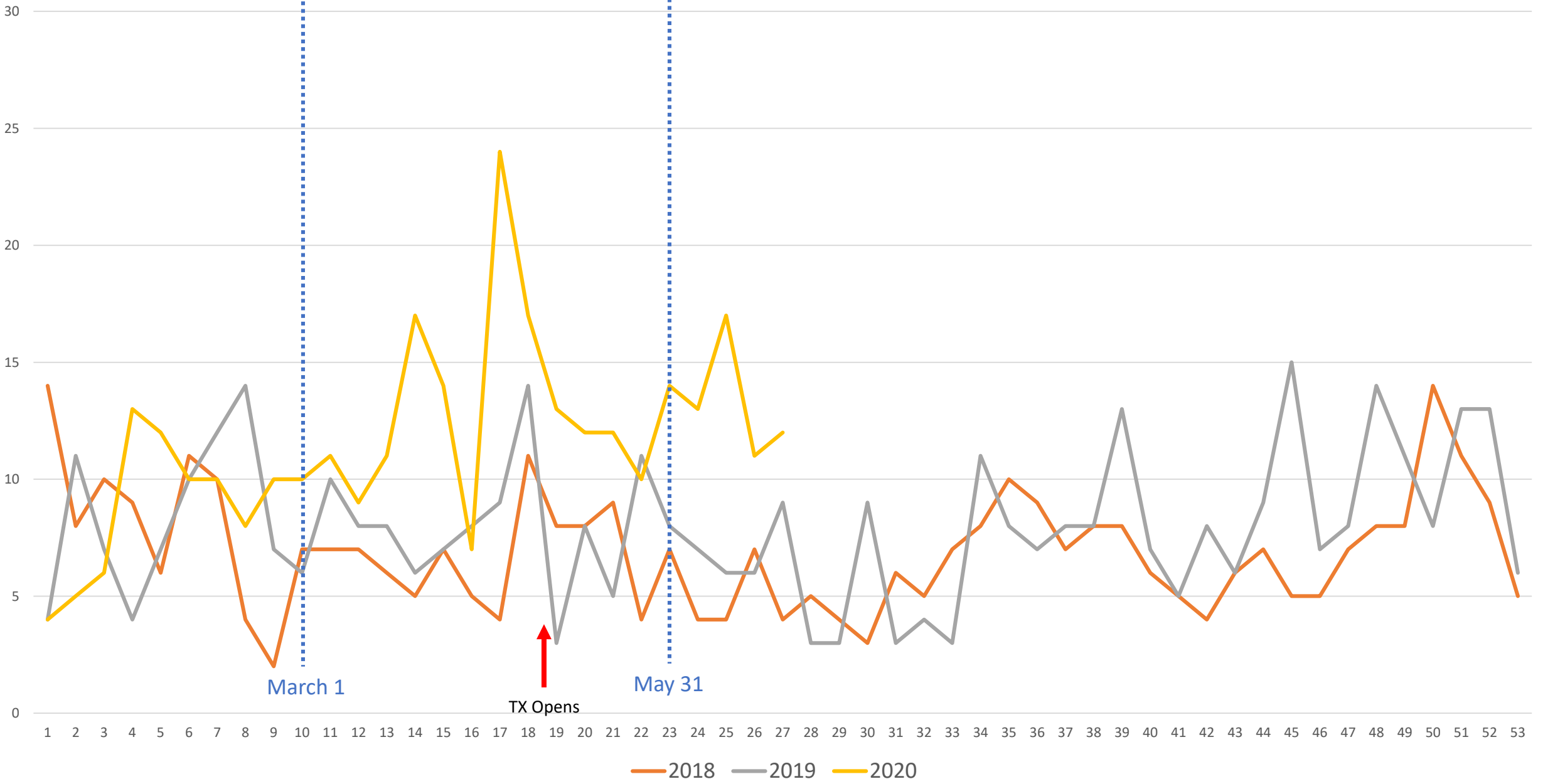


— 2018 — 2019 — 2020

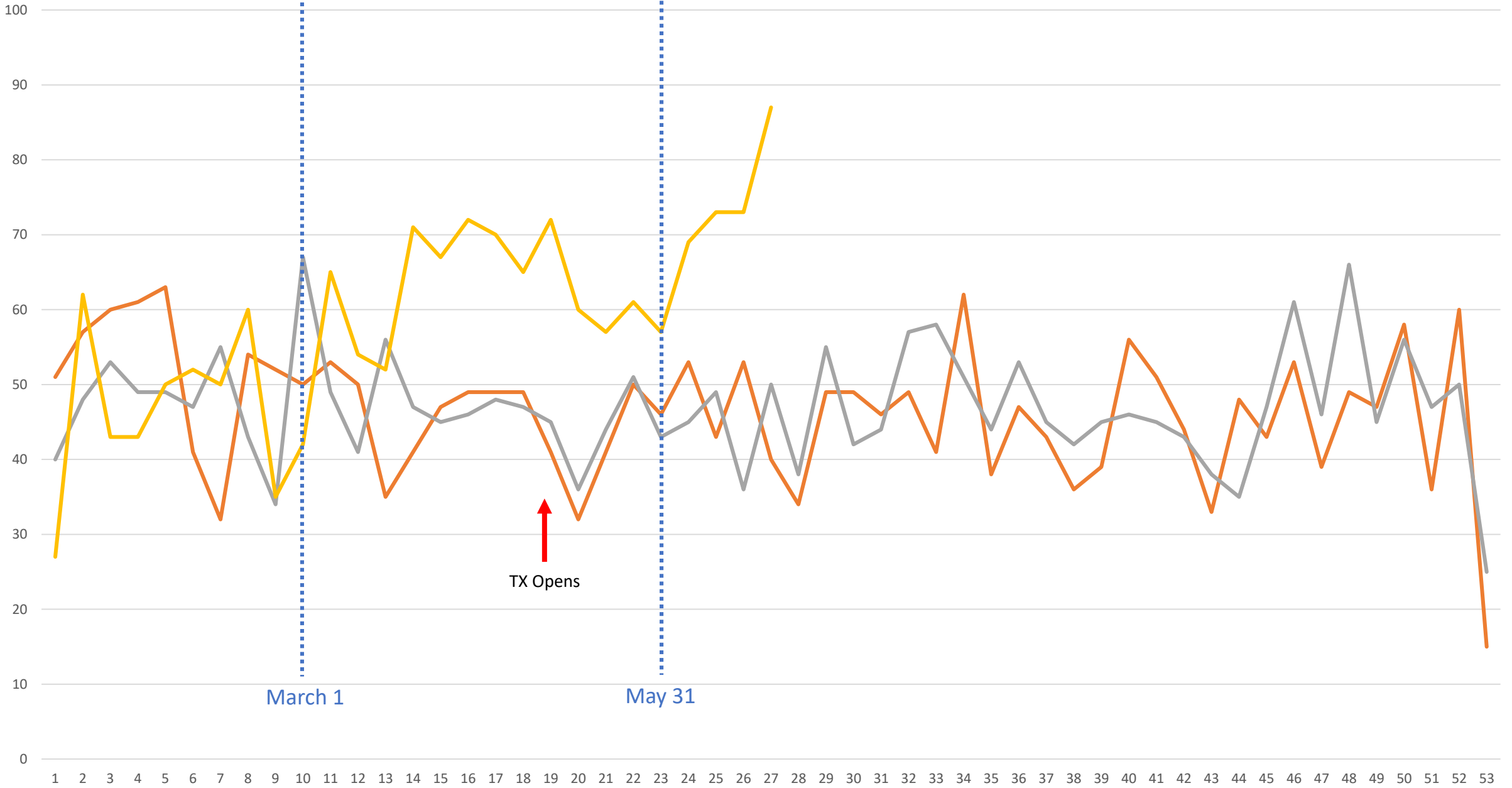
# Weekly Cardiac Arrest Transports



# Weekly Field Terminations



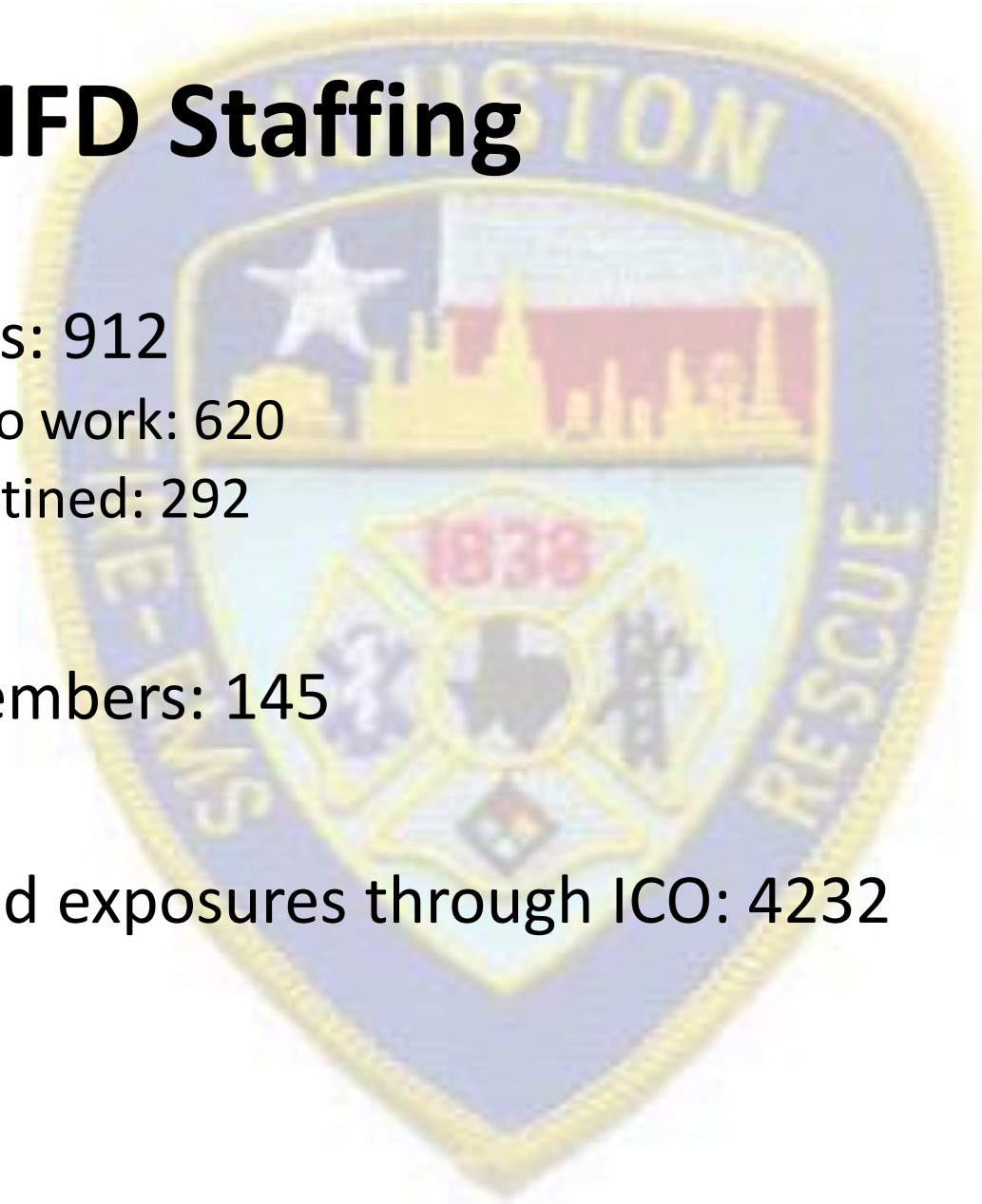
# Weekly DOA's



— 2018 — 2019 — 2020

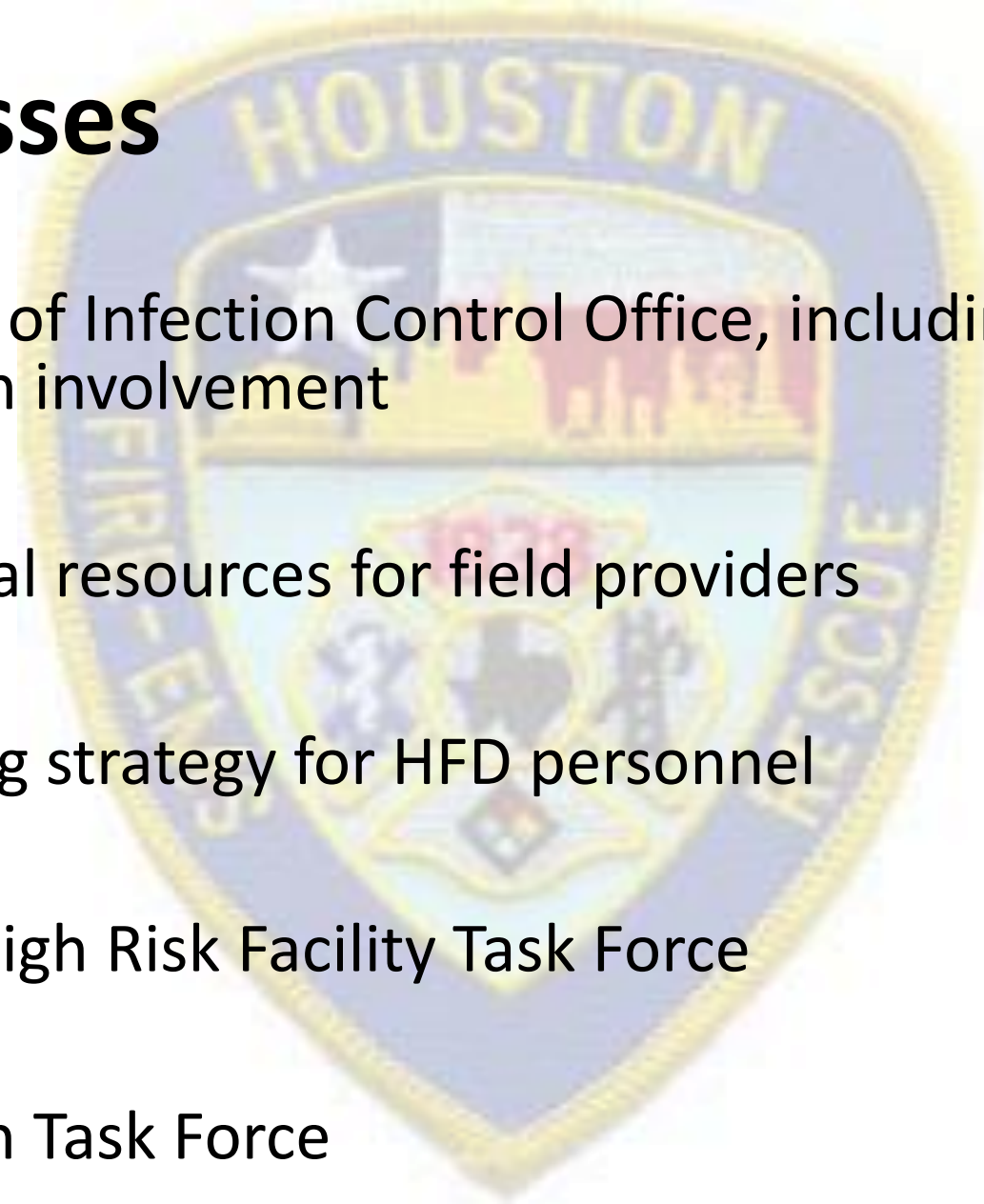
# Effects on HFD Staffing

- Total Quarantines: 912
  - Released back to work: 620
  - Actively Quarantined: 292
- Total positive members: 145
- Total documented exposures through ICO: 4232



# New Processes

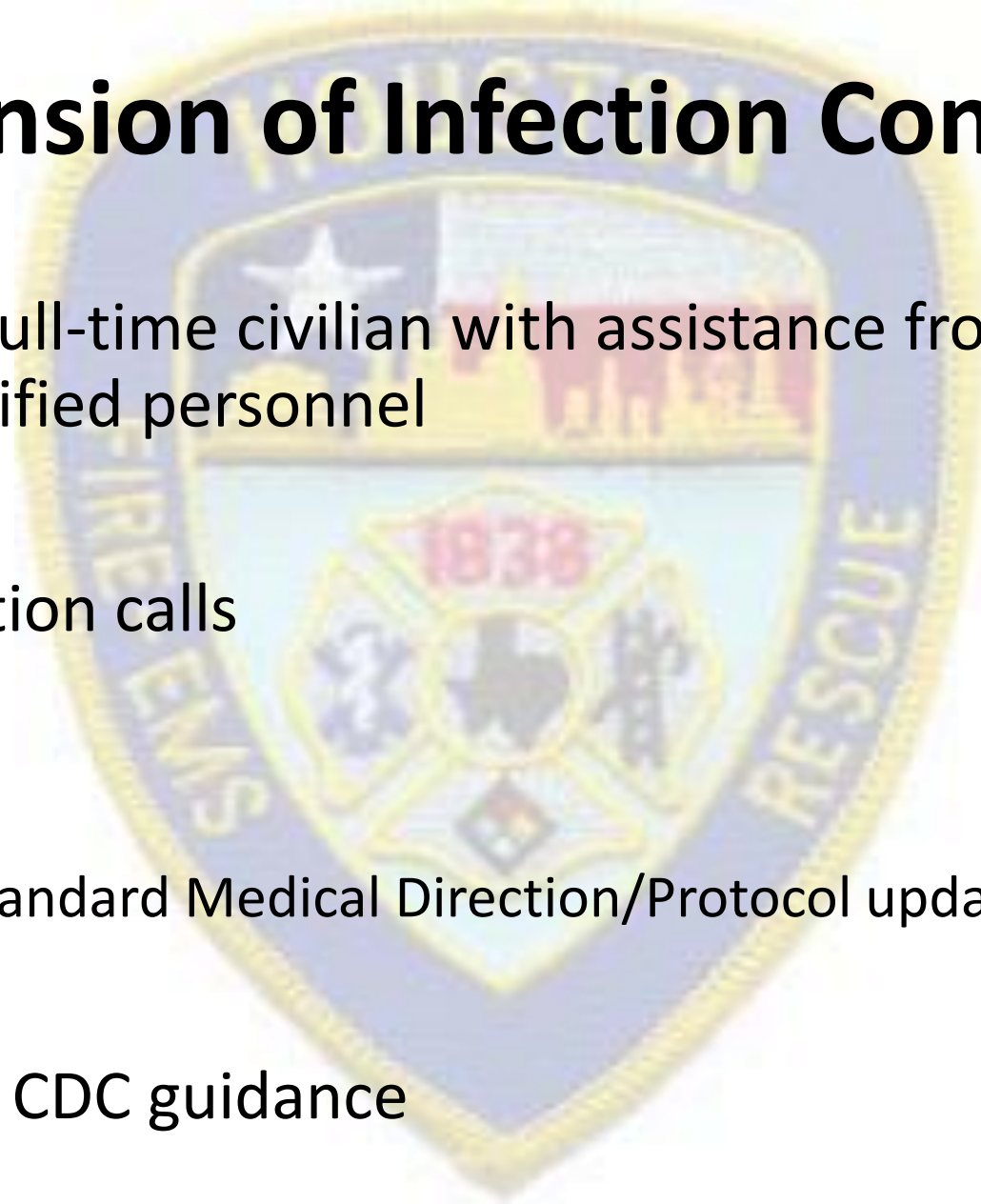
- Rapid expansion of Infection Control Office, including increased medical direction involvement
- Novel educational resources for field providers
- Integrated testing strategy for HFD personnel
- Nursing Home/High Risk Facility Task Force
- Decontamination Task Force





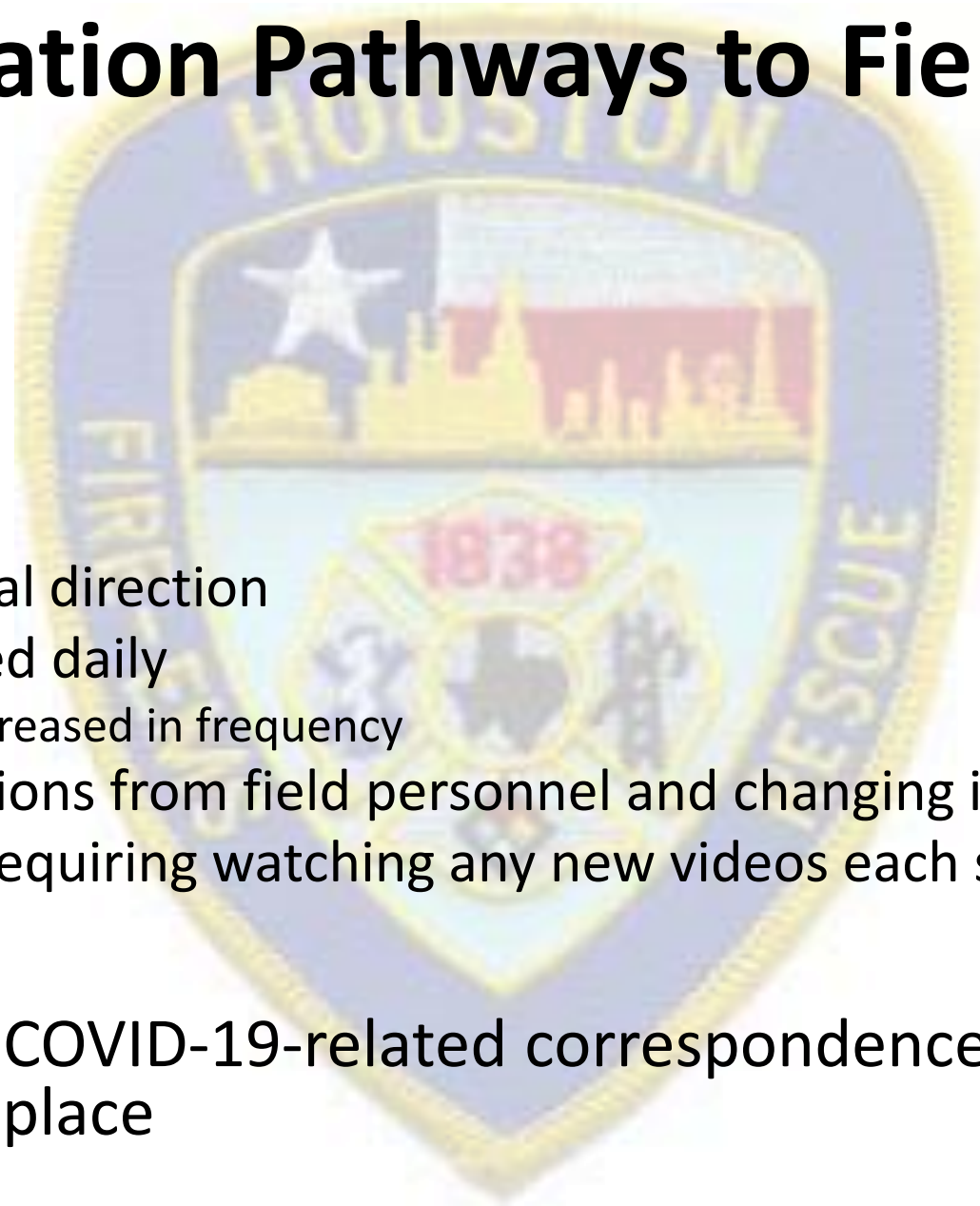
# Rapid Expansion of Infection Control Office

- Initially a single full-time civilian with assistance from temporary-assignment classified personnel
- Exposure evaluation calls
- ICO Policies
  - In addition to standard Medical Direction/Protocol updates
- Interpretation of CDC guidance



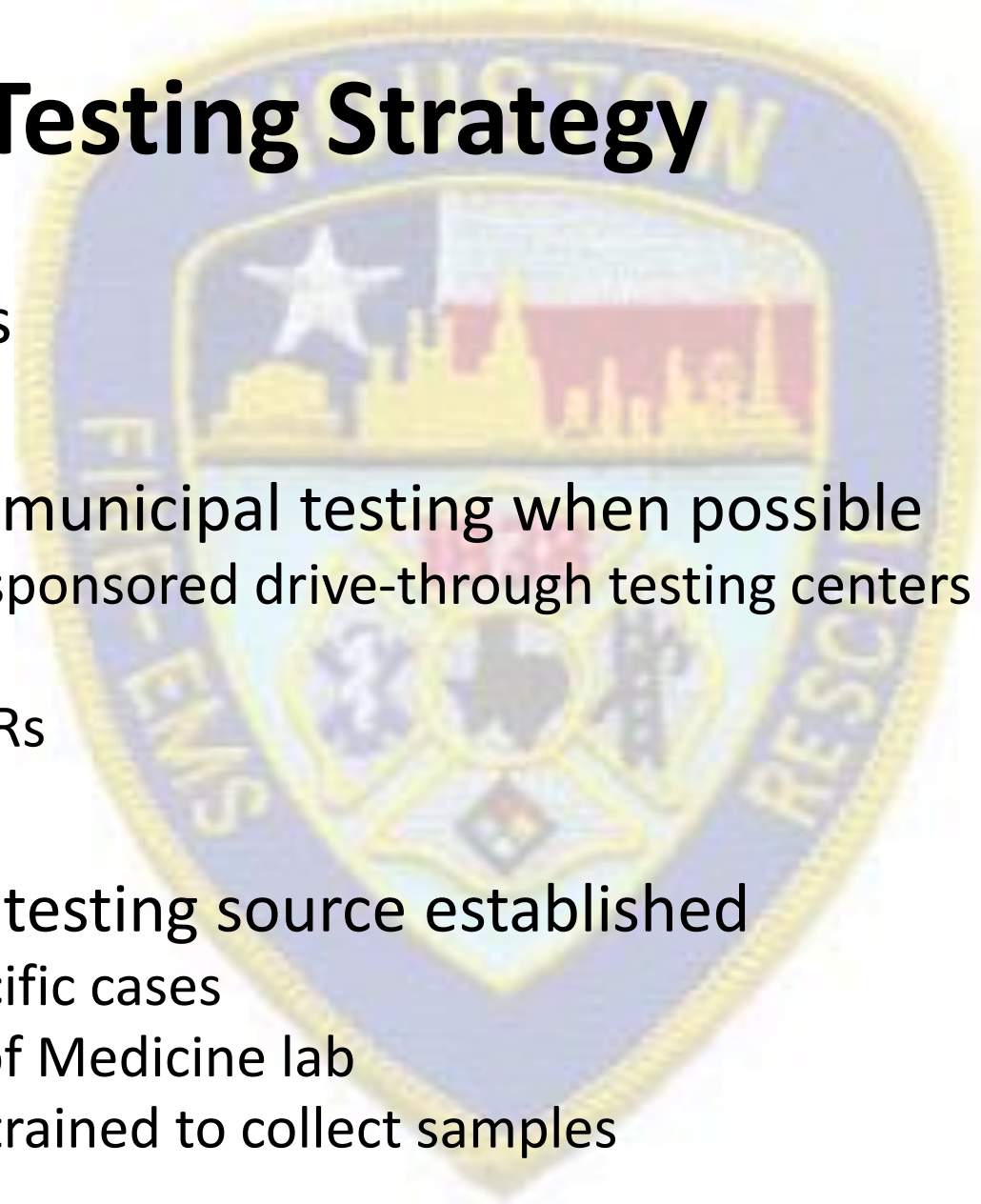
# Novel Education Pathways to Field Personnel

- Existing website
- Video messages
  - Primarily medical direction
  - Initially produced daily
    - Eventually decreased in frequency
  - Driven by questions from field personnel and changing information
  - General Order requiring watching any new videos each shift
- Consolidation of COVID-19-related correspondence and training materials to one place



# Integrated Testing Strategy

- Multiple avenues
- Commercial and municipal testing when possible
  - City- and state-sponsored drive-through testing centers
  - Walgreens
  - Free-standing ERs
- Separate private testing source established
  - Utilized for specific cases
  - Baylor College of Medicine lab
  - HFD Personnel trained to collect samples

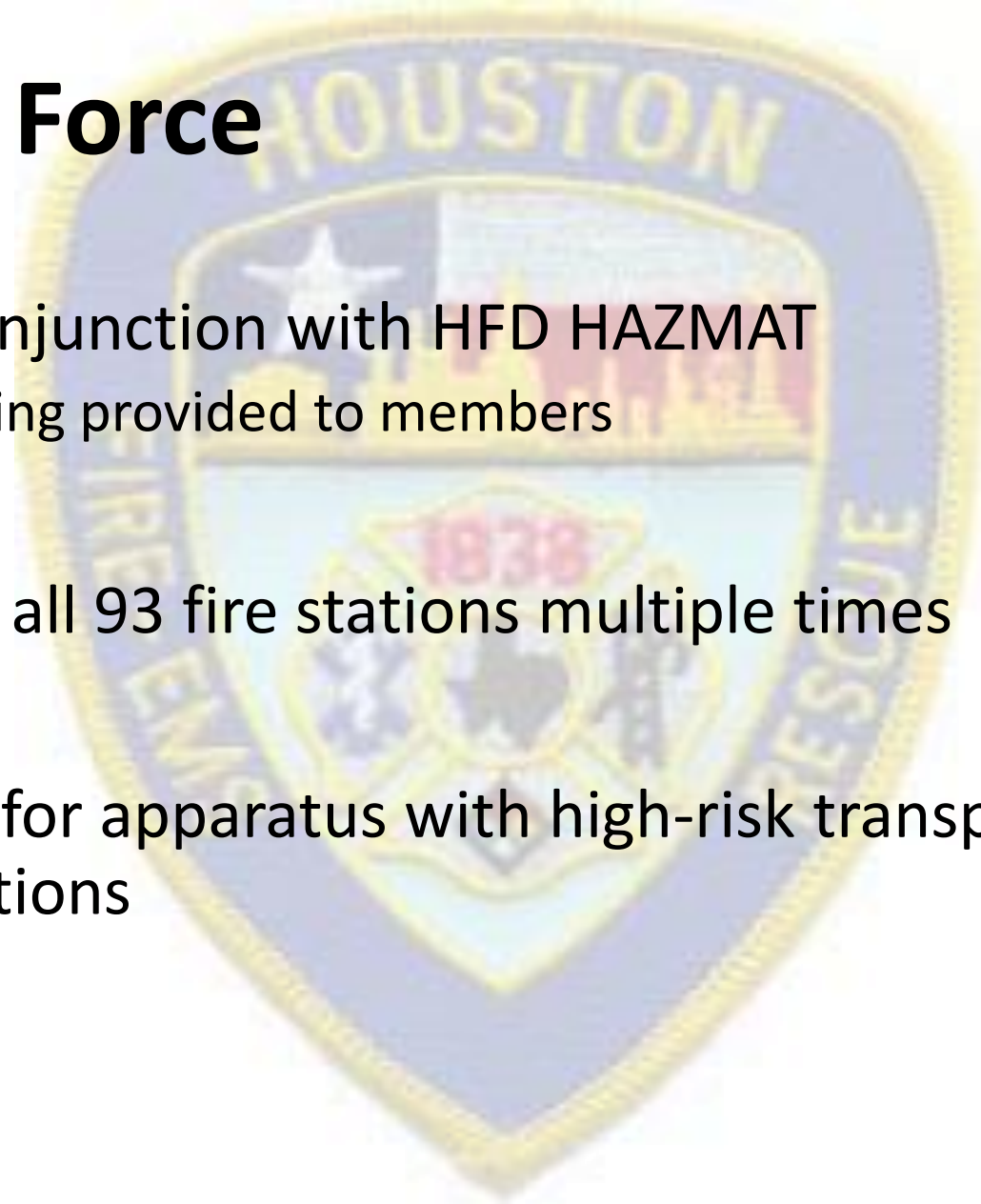


# Nursing Home/High Risk Facility Task Force

- Joint task-force with Houston Health Department
- Initially developed to provide education to nursing home personnel
  - 218 facilities visited
- Morphed into testing task-force with Governor's order
  - HFD Personnel trained to collect samples

# Decon Task Force

- Established in conjunction with HFD HAZMAT
  - Additional training provided to members
- Decontaminated all 93 fire stations multiple times
- Available on-call for apparatus with high-risk transports or other concerning situations



# Questions?

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