

City of South Milwaukee
Fire Department
Annual Report - 2007



Serving the Community with
Commitment ♦ Honor ♦ Compassion



city of . . .

South Milwaukee Fire Department

JAY B. BEHLING
Fire Chief

929 Marshall Court, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Honorable Mayor Thomas Zepecki
Common Council Members
Police and Fire Commissioners
Citizens of South Milwaukee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure that I present the South Milwaukee Fire Department's Annual Report for the year 2007. This report reviews emergency responses, staffing levels, training activities, equipment purchases, fire inspections, fire prevention and maintenance programs, along with other department roles and responsibilities.

In the 114 years of our fire department's history this past year has been one of our busiest, with department members responding to 2,869 requests for service, 148 more requests and an increase of 5.4% over 2006. Of those calls, 2,460 were for emergency medical service and 348 were for fire/rescue and service calls. I am particularly proud of our member's high level of efficiency and outstanding safety record while performing on these calls, all the time serving with a reduced staff and reduced minimum staffing levels.

This past year the department made two capital budget purchases of fire apparatus; a 2007 Pierce, Class "A" Pumper and a 2008 Pierce, Crash/Rescue Mini Pumper. The department was also awarded over \$45,000.00 by FEMA, through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for a Wellness/Fitness Program.

The members of the South Milwaukee Fire Department and I would like to thank Mayor Zepecki, members of the Common Council, the Police and Fire Commission and our citizens for all their hard work and continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay B. Behling
Fire Chief

The History of Fire Prevention Week

Preventing the devastating and deadly effects of fires is considered the fire service's most important role in the community. While this effort is carried on throughout the year, a one week period of each year is designated as Fire Prevention Week.

Many people wonder why this certain week is set aside for recognition of this important message. In 1911, the Fire Marshals Association of North America decided the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed in a manner to inform the public about fire prevention and fire safety and Fire Prevention Day was observed on October 11, 1911. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Then, in 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first Fire Prevention Week as October 4-10.

Although the original anniversary was set to recognize the Great Chicago Fire, which took the lives of more than 200 people, destroyed over 2,000 acres of land and nearly 18,000 buildings causing approximately \$200 million in property damage, little recognition was given to another, more deadly and destructive fire, that took place that very day, the Peshtigo (WI) Fire.

The Peshtigo Fire, although mostly forgotten, resulted in over 1,875 square miles or 1.2 million acres of forest being consumed, an area approximately twice the size of the state of Rhode Island. In addition, twelve towns were destroyed. Although an accurate death toll has never been determined since local population records were destroyed in the fire, estimates of between 1,200 and 2,500 people are thought to have lost their lives.

Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) chooses a fire safety topic to promote and provides informational materials to fire departments across the country in a effort to standardize the fire safety message.



Table of Contents

Mission Statement.....	1
City Officials	2
Department Personnel	3
Special Assignments	4
EMS Report	5
Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Report.....	6
Training Report	7
Equipment Purchases.....	8
Health & Wellness Program.....	9
Public Education Report	10
Fire Inspection Report.....	11
Response Statistics	12
Response Trends.....	13
Response Time Analysis	14
The Firefighter's Creed	15

**Avoid the worst . .
Put fire safety first !**

Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service

Mission Statement

THE MISSION OF THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF FIRES, SUDDEN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, AND EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS. THIS COMMITMENT IS ACHIEVED BY DEVELOPING, PROMOTING, AND MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THESE QUALITY SERVICES THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, VISIT OR INVEST HERE.

Department Information

The South Milwaukee Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical services to an estimated 21,424 residents who reside within an area of 4.78 sq. miles. In addition, we respond on a mutual aid basis to any community within Milwaukee County as part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and on a reciprocal agreement program known as a “Full Assignment” to the surrounding communities of Cudahy, Oak Creek and Saint Francis for all structure fires. In return, these communities respond to our city when requested.

Organized - 1893

City Officials

Elected Officials

Mayor Thomas Zepecki

Michael McCarthy
District 1 Alderperson

Michael Karbowski
District 1 Alderperson

Ray Navarro
District 2 Alderperson

R. Patrick Stoner
District 2 Alderperson

Kathleen Lisowski
City Clerk

Joe Murphy
City Attorney

Lisa Pieper
District 3 Alderperson

James Shelenske
District 3 Alderperson

David Bartoshevich
District 4 Alderperson

Donald V. Stewart
District 4 Alderperson

Karen Skowronski
City Treasurer

Bill Fenger
Municipal Judge

Police and Fire Commission

Darrell Francis, DDS

Karla Nimphius-Harris

Donald Schmidt

Patrick Moran

Erick Slamka



Department Personnel

Jay B. Behling
Fire Chief

Gail Kaebisch
Administrative Secretary

Black Shift

Capt. Joseph Knitter
Lt. Glen McCoy
FF Robert Lewandowski
FF Michael Landgraf
FF/P Gary Nebel
FF/P Thomas Reid
FF/P David Kasulke
FF/P Scott Wallis

Green Shift

Capt. John Czajkowski
Lt. Craig Boschke
FF John Frost
FF Ryan Kurz
FF/P Robert Lindner
FF/P James Vivian
FF/P Tad Beutin
FF/P Andrew Grabarkiewicz
FF/P Kurt Egner

Red Shift

Capt. James Dorangrichia
Lt. Daniel Lang
FF Ronald Wainio
FF Brian Bieganski
FF/P Steven Bartlein
FF/P Tim Wendt
FF/P Jerre Schlax
FF/P Michael Olson

Paid-on-Call Personnel

Ryan Behling
Dillon Briesemeister
Daniel Dricken
Alex Warmka
Ryan Wendt

Hired 1/1/2007

Jesse Danek
Andrew Mahn
Joseph Resch

Hired 3/15/2007

Zachary Clark
Andrew Pederson
Christopher Roehsler
Brandon Streicher

When fully staffed, the South Milwaukee Fire Department maintains a three-platoon system utilizing three shifts of personnel each on a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week schedule. Off-duty personnel, including paid-on-call firefighters, are also notified by pager when staffing levels at the station fall below a pre-established minimum or when the department responds to a report of an emergency incident that will require additional personnel to mitigate.

Special Assignments

Capt. Joseph Knitter	Administrative Captain Health / Safety Officer Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Capt. John Czajkowski	Operations Captain Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Capt. Jim Dorangrichia	Executive Captain Training Officer
Lt. Daniel Lang	Emergency Medical Services Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Lt. Glen McCoy	Information Management / Computer Technology
Lt. Craig Boschke	Public Education Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Maintenance
FF/P Tad Beutin	Fire Inspection
FF Robert Lewandowski	Fire Inspection
FF Ronald Wainio	Fire Inspection

Check out our website at . . .
www.southmilwaukee.org

Emergency Medical Services Report

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continues to be a major part of our response profile. By way of utilizing flexible staffing, the South Milwaukee Fire Department is able to provide Paramedic level services with Med 10, our primary paramedic unit, Med 1600, a secondary unit able to activate for Paramedic level calls within the city boundaries when Med 10 is already committed to another patient, and finally a Paramedic First Responder (PFR) unit that is available to initiate treatment until a fully staffed Med unit can intercept and continue treatment. A Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance is available when staffing does not allow for the other Paramedic level responses. Ultimately, the citizens can appreciate a high level of service when requesting medical care.

This year, Firefighter/EMT Kurt Egner completed his training at Milwaukee County EMS and is now licensed at the Paramedic level. Additionally, John Frost, one of our newest Firefighters, was able to finish Paramedic schooling started prior to his hiring and transfer his licensing to the Milwaukee County EMS system. The additional Paramedic staffing will allow us to continue to keep flexible EMS staffing at the most efficient level available. Congratulations to both members!

2,460*

Total ALS / BLS Responses

* includes out-of-city responses

1072¹

**Treated / Transported by
BLS / PFR Ambulance**

1198 (56%)

**Transports to
St. Lukes - South Shore Hospital**

60%

Responses to Homes / Residences

587¹

**Treated / Transported by
ALS Ambulance**

183 (9%)

**Transports to
St. Francis Hospital**

20%

**Responses to Nursing Homes /
Residential Institutions**

¹Does not include On-Scene Care Only & Call-off responses



THERE WHEN YOU NEED US !

Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Report

One of the most frequent compliments paid to members of our Department is the extremely clean and well-kept appearance of both our apparatus and fire station. Visitors are often impressed at the condition of our apparatus and are shocked to learn their vintage and high level of use. The fact is, members of our Department take great pride in taking care of both the apparatus and station and respect the fact that we proudly take on the task of maintaining the equipment that belongs to the citizens of South Milwaukee, not the members of the department. Below is a list of our current apparatus and their relative condition:

ID	Type of Apparatus	Year	Make / Model	Condition
1663	Engine	2003	Pierce Enforcer – 1250 GPM Pump, 750 Gal. Water Tank	Excellent
1665	Engine	2007	Pierce Enforcer – 1250 GPM Pump, 750 Gal. Water Tank	New
1671	Aerial Ladder	1995	Pierce Lance 105' Heavy Duty Ladder – 1500 GPM Pump, 300 Gal. Water Tank	Excellent
1680	Ambulance	2001	Med-Tech (Ford) Type III	Excellent
1681	Ambulance	1995	Med-Tech (Ford) Type III	Good
1682	Ambulance	1995	Med-Tech (Ford) Type III	Good
Med-10	Ambulance	2003	Med-Tech (International)	Excellent
1692	Chief's Car	2002	Ford Crown Victoria	Poor
1693	Gator	2003	6 x 4 Wheel Drive Utility Cart	Excellent
1694	Rescue Raft	2006	14' Mercury Inflatable w/ 25 HP Outboard	Excellent
1695	Rescue Boat	1984	22' Boston Whaler w/ dual, 90 HP Evinrude Outboards	Good
1696	Mini-van	1998	Ford Windstar	Fair
1697	Pick-up Truck	1995	GMC ¾ Ton Utility Truck	Good
1698	Mini-pumper	2008	Pierce (Ford) – F550 150 GPM Pump, 250 Gal. Water Tank	New
1699	Rescue Trailer	1993	14' Pace American	Good

**MOVE OVER
FOR
EMERGENCY VEHICLES**



**IT'S
THE
LAW**

Training Report

The Training Bureau is managed by the department Training Officer whose primary responsibility is to organize, develop and schedule training for all department members in compliance with federal, state or local requirements. The goal of the training bureau has been, and will continue to be, to provide all employees with quality training that is specific to their job description and needs, yet provides them with the knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfill the mission of the department. Funding for training is provided by a budget line item that not only reflects the City's commitment to maintaining well trained employees, but the department's dedication to providing the best trained "customer-service" delivery force available.



Training is provided to all shifts on a Monday through Saturday basis by their respective Captain, Lieutenant or another carefully chosen "expert" in the topic. Much of the training information is taken from the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) texts or based on NFPA standards and locally or nationally recognized acceptable practices. Because of the unique cross-staffing situation utilized by the department, all members are cross-trained in all aspects of every position.

Many training activities take place at locations remote from the fire station. During 2007, the sites included the South Milwaukee Yacht Club (boat operations & open water rescue), South Milwaukee Middle School pool (open water rescue), and acquired residences at 3105 South Chicago Avenue (SCBA confidence, search & rescue, and advancing hoselines) & the former Rusk Lodge located at 2001 7th Avenue (search & rescue, ladders).

Also in 2007, the department incorporated three, department-wide drills, into the training schedule. This training is intended to have the entire department, both career and paid-on-call personnel, train together on common topics. The 2007 drills were held at Cooper Power, Everbrite Sign and Bucyrus International as a means of maintaining the very effective department-private industry relationships we have developed over the years.



Equipment Purchases

In 2007, the department made several significant purchases in an effort to improve the safety and efficiency of our operations.

- Engine 1665 – The department’s 1983, Pierce (Ford) fire engine was replaced with a state-of-the-art, Pierce Enforcer Class “A” pumper. This apparatus is the mirror image of the department’s other fire engine (1663) in that it has the same size fire pump, 1250 GPM, and water tank, 750 gallons, however, it has several new advancements such as roll-out compartment trays, class “A” firefighting foam, and improved front and rear suspension systems.
- Mini-Pumper 1698 – The department’s 1976 Pierce (Dodge) mini-pumper was replaced with another state-of-the-art apparatus that was custom designed to suit the needs of our community and response area. This apparatus responds to incidents in areas of our city that have limited access due to terrain or geographical features such as railroad tracks.
- Stair Chair – Due to the age and design of many of our residences, access to the upper floors is often by narrow, limited access, staircases. In the event of an emergency medical call at one of these residences, EMS personnel are forced to extricate patients on this very vital piece of EMS equipment. These “chairs” employ rubberized tracks on the rear “skids” to allow sliding the patient down the stair treads.
- Copy Machine – Since the nature of the department business involves an incredible amount of documentation, having a copy machine on premises is vital in order to maintain the efficient operation of our department. A new copy machine was purchased to replace the tired and worn machine that was purchased many years ago.



Health and Wellness Program

Funding was received from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to fund a comprehensive health and wellness program for all members of the department. The original grant application, which was written by Lt. Glen McCoy, was intended to provide funding to initiate a mandatory wellness and fitness program designed around the recommendations of the International Association of Fire Chiefs / International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFC/IAFF) Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative and consistent with the “16 Fire Fighter Life Safety Initiatives” developed by the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation. The program involves many components including a health risk assessment, a medical evaluation, the purchase of cardio and strength equipment and on-going lifestyle and behavioral health education.

Because our department is considered a “combination” department due to the presence of both full-time and paid-on-call personnel, the City was obligated to provide matching funding of 10% of the total grant amount or approximately \$4,700. Notably, these matching funds were less than what was included in the department’s annual budget to pay for the medical physicals of only eight of our members as part of our routine employee examinations. In receiving the grant, ALL members of the department received medical physicals not only once, BUT TWICE!.

The cardio and strength equipment funding provided for state-of-the-art equipment from Magnum Fitness Company, a world-wide provider of commercial quality fitness equipment that is located right here in South Milwaukee. In addition, through the work of department personnel, the fitness room, located in the basement of the fire station, received a new coat of paint, new rubber flooring, and other modifications to accommodate the new equipment. FF/P Jerre Schlax also employed his artistic talents in painting several murals on the walls, pictures of which were featured on the EveryoneGoesHome.com website.



Public Education Report

The South Milwaukee Fire Department continues to pride itself on an extensive public education program which, without the commitment and dedication of our firefighters, would not be possible. The following programs are offered throughout the year:

Our members believe that fire safety starts early on, with a strong emphasis on the individual and the family. Children in the local schools spend time with our firefighters at the K-4/5 level and continue up to the 1st grade level during National Fire Prevention Week activities held annually in October.

Students are visited once again in the 5th grade, where they participate in a multiple week course that reinforces the importance of home & fire safety through their adolescent years. Family participation is strongly encouraged as the 5th graders complete some of the take home assignments. The children are also taught about general safety around the home, such as first aid for burns, as many of the children are reaching babysitting age.

In addition, the proper use of fire extinguishers is instructed to employees of many of our elderly care facilities, manufacturing plants and civic groups. Personnel present both a classroom and “hands-on” educational session to the participants.

As a result of a grant application, the fire department received a donation of 200 smoke detectors from the Home Safety Council for use in our smoke detector program. These detectors are provided, free-of-charge, when department members discover that residents have missing or inoperable detectors. Often times, this discovery is made while members are at the affected residence on an emergency response.

817

**K-4, K-5 & 1st Grade Students
who took part in fire safety
presentations**

188

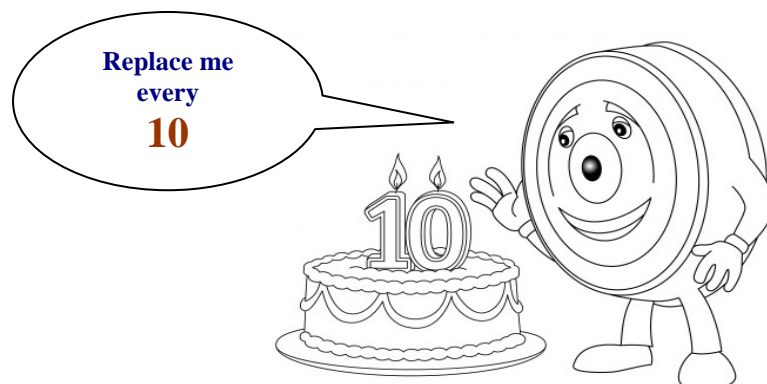
**5th Graders who participated in
the 6-week fire safety program**

155

Fire Station Tour Participants

134

**Fire Extinguisher Instruction
Participants**



Fire Inspection Report

Fire inspection duties are shared by a shift member assigned to each of the three shifts and are conducted during the course of their regular duty day. This arrangement often presents a formidable scheduling challenge due to an increased call volume, ever-increasing training requirements and other obligations to our community.

FF/P Tad Beutin and FF's Bob Lewandowski and Ron Wainio, who are State of Wisconsin Certified Fire Inspectors, each conduct fire code inspections in accordance with Chapter 27 - *Fire Prevention, Protection, and Control* of the City's Municipal Code and the State of Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapters 61 through 65, as overseen by the Department of Commerce. The Inspection Bureau also works in close cooperation with the City's Building Inspection and Health Departments to mitigate other health and safety code violation matters that impact the quality of life for the residents of and visitors to the City of South Milwaukee. Also, upgrades, repairs and new sprinkler and alarm system installations are reviewed by a private consultant. This consultant often accompanies the Inspectors to the job-site for plan review and testing purposes.

1493

Fire inspections conducted

29

Re-inspections conducted

720

Violations found

1

Citations Issued

Inspection Responsibilities

FF/P Beutin

Commercial

Residential attached to Commercial

FF Lewandowski

Residential

City-owned properties

County-owned properties

Federally-owned properties

FF Wainio

Industrial

Manufacturing

Churches

Schools

Nursing Homes

Doctor / Dental Offices

Clubs



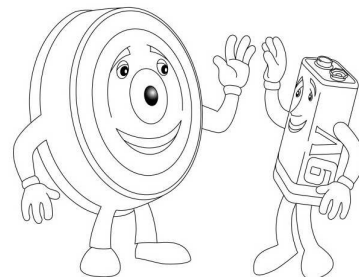
• *Smoke Detectors and Fire Sprinklers Save Lives* •

Response Statistics

	2005	2006	2007	% Change
EMS Calls	2,278	2,375	2,460	+3.6
Basic Life Support Incidents	1166	1196	1230	
Advanced Life Support Incidents	576	624	620	
ALS Incidents outside of So. Milw.	536	533	526	
Med-1600	Not Tracked	24	84	
Fire Incidents	85	63	64	+1.6
Building Fire	35	31	36	
Vehicle Fire	8	6	6	
Rubbish / Trash Fire	19	15	15	
Grass / Brush Fire	23	11	7	
Hazardous Conditions	69	90	96	+6.7
Vehicle Accident Clean-up	21	37	38	
Carbon Monoxide Invest.	3	5	3	
Electrical Problem	14	12	14	
Chemical Leak / Spill	5	11	19	
Natural Gas Leak	13	15	17	
Other	13	10	5	
Service Calls	64	83	103	+24.1
Smoke or Odor Removal	28	13	12	
Unauthorized Burning	1	15	11	
Other	35	55	80	
False Alarms	62	57	85	+49.1
System Activation – Malfunction	21	28	6	
System Activation – Unintentional	24	1	21	
System Activation – Malicious	3	4	4	
Other	14	24	54	
Other Incidents	25	53	20	-62.3
Grand Total	2,583	2,721	2,869	+5.4

Note: Due to a change in statistic gathering methods, individual categories have been re-identified.

Team Up for Fire Safety !



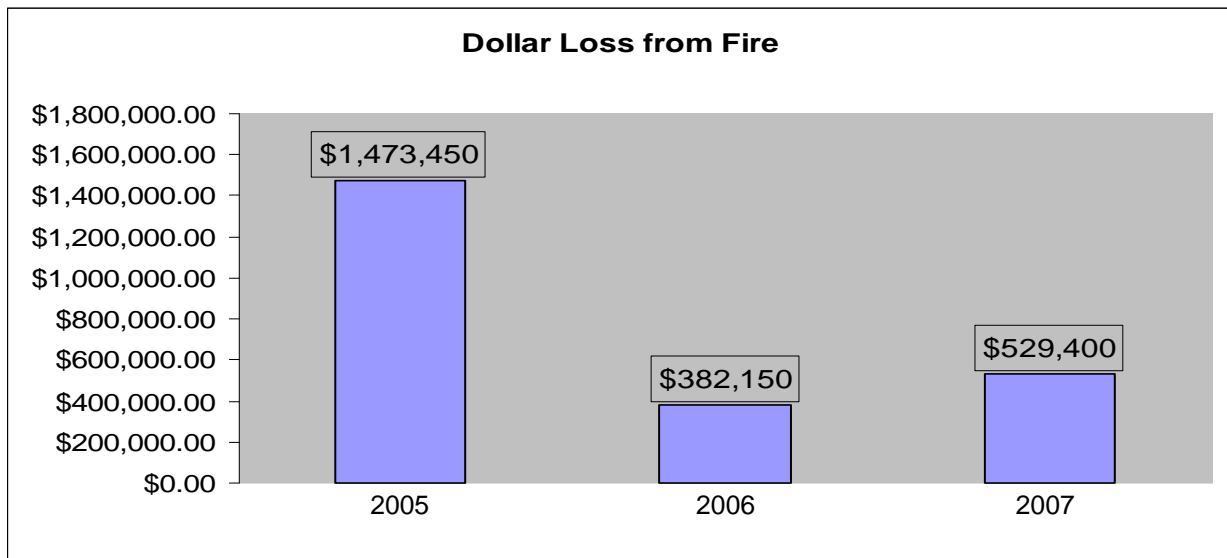
Response Trends

To properly understand the statistics provided on the previous page, one must understand that the categorizing of incident responses is subject to both the efforts of the person writing the report and the methods used to identify the appropriate code assigned to an incident. In particular, the significant increases indicated in the number of service calls and false alarms is attributable to an effort to better identify the nature of the request for service instead of designating them as “Other Incidents”. This documentation is responsible for a more accurate data collection system which leads to better “trending” of emergency incident response over concurrent years.

The most important statistic on the entire chart continues to be that of the total call volume for the entire year which indicates an increase of 148 calls over 2006. This increase demonstrates the continued trend of increasing call volume which, once again, must be responded to with reduced staffing levels when compared to previous years. Over the past two years (2006-2007), the SMFD has seen another steady 11% increase in total call volume.

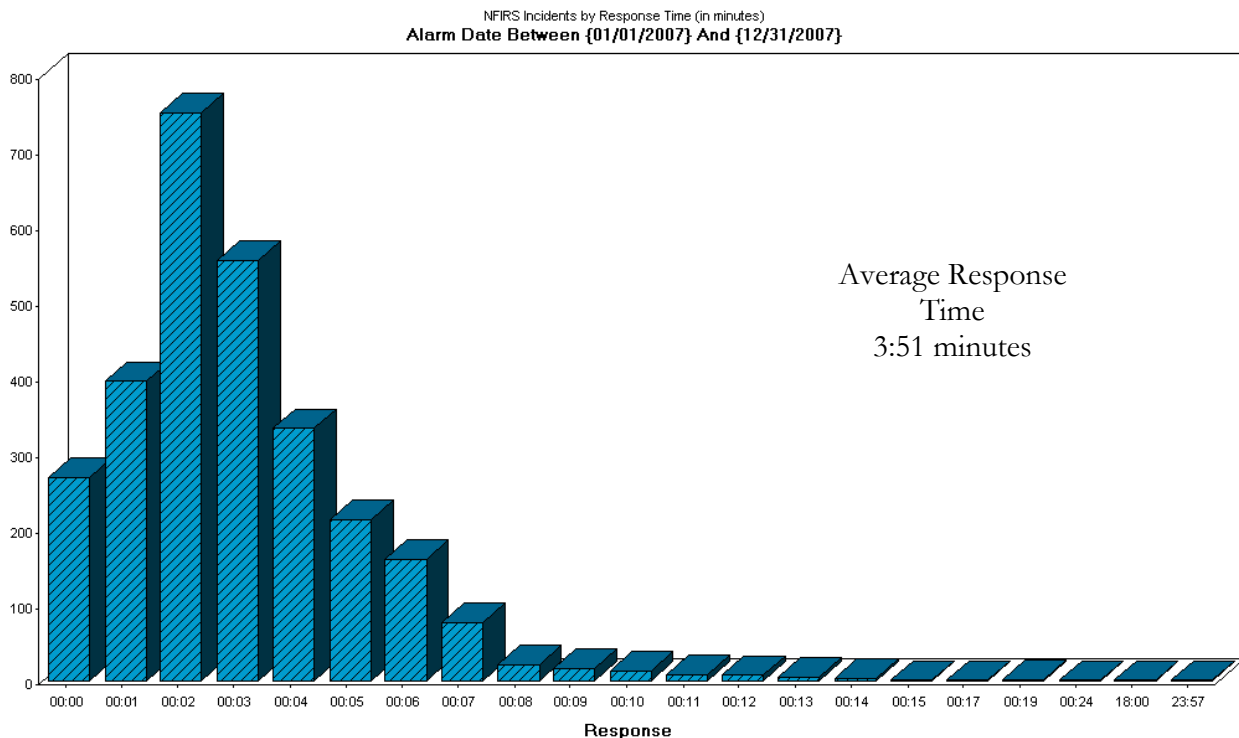
Dollar Loss

In addition to the actual number of emergency and non-emergency incidents that our personnel respond to, one of the most sought after statistics is that of the dollar loss to physical property due to damage from fire. In the past, the justification for the existence of a fire department was based on how great this dollar loss was. Now, because of all of the ancillary responsibilities of our personnel, the effectiveness of a department is based on the amount of property that was saved through aggressive fire suppression and prevention efforts. From the graph below, it should be noted that 2007 was again a more “normal” year as compared to 2005, which was an unusually high dollar loss year due to a fire that occurred in a 16-unit apartment bldg.



Response Time Analysis

In 2001, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released a standard for the *Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments* known as NFPA 1710. In this standard, the NFPA established a minimum response time objective of four minutes or less for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident or the arrival of an emergency medical unit with first responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident 90% of the time. As is shown by the following graph, the dedicated professionals of the South Milwaukee Fire Department are within compliance with this nationally-accepted performance standard. In fact, on-scene arrival times are less than 3 minutes for nearly 70% of our incidents.



*It is important to note that this graph reflects *ALL* responses, both emergency and non-emergency, and provides no means to account for the errant inputting of data or calls delayed because of absolute low priority.



The Firefighter's Creed

When I am called to duty God
wherever flames may rage
give me strength to save a life
whatever be its age

Help me to embrace a little child
before it is too late
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate

Enable me to be alert
to hear the weakest shout
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out

I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me
to guard my neighbor and
protect his property

And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
bless with your protecting hand
my children and my wife

*This page is dedicated to the memory of all the fallen firefighters
who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.*