

City of South Milwaukee
Fire Department
Annual Report - 2008



*Serving the Community with
Commitment ♦ Honor ♦ Compassion*



city of...

South Milwaukee Fire Department

929 Marshall Court, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

JAY B. BEHLING
Fire Chief

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 2008. This report reviews emergency responses, staffing levels, training activities, equipment purchases, fire inspections, fire prevention, maintenance programs, along with other department roles and responsibilities.

Now, in the 115th year of our fire department's history, this past year has again been one of our busiest, with department members responding to 3,047 requests for service, an increase of 12% over 2007. Of those calls, 2,606 were for emergency medical service and 401 were for Fire/Rescue/Service calls. This year the Department was also awarded with the Flight for Life-Wisconsin, 2007 Scene Call of The Year Award, in recognition of outstanding scene management and patient care. I am particularly proud of our member's efforts and outstanding safety record while performing on these calls and serving with reduced staffing levels.

This past year the department made four capital budget purchases including the replacement of a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria Chief's car with a 2009 Ford Escape. Roof and exterior wall repairs were made to the station as well as 3 new exterior service doors and new tires for our aerial ladder truck. As capital item expenditures all of these purchases are expected to last in excess of 10 years.

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,

Chief Jay B. Behling
South Milwaukee Fire Department

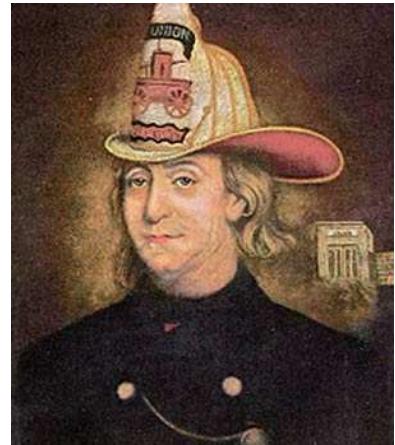
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Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service

The First Volunteer Fire Company

The Union Fire Company, organized on December 7, 1736 by Benjamin Franklin, was the first volunteer fire fighting organization in America. Members paid annual dues and were charged fines for infractions of the company's rules. By 1743, the company had collected enough fines to purchase a fire engine of its own. Members of the fire company pledged to help one another should fire break out or threaten one of their homes or businesses. Not only would they attempt to put out the flames, members would also help save goods within the building and protect the building from looters. Members were not required to help protect properties of non-members. Members also had to provide at least two buckets for carrying water and several cloth bags for carrying items rescued from the fire. The original twenty-five members of the group met once a month to discuss fire-fighting techniques, to establish company policies, and, of course, to socialize.



Benjamin Franklin

Fire Mark

Fire insurance marks were lead or copper plaques embossed with the sign of the insurance company, and placed on the front of the insured building as a guide to the insurance company's fire brigade. They are common in the older areas of America's cities and larger towns and were used during the eighteenth and nineteenth century in the days before municipal fire services were formed.



Subscribers paid fire fighting companies in advance for fire protection and in exchange would receive a fire mark to attach to their building. The payments for the fire marks supported the fire fighting companies. If the protected building were to suffer a fire only their fire fighting company would attend the call to extinguish the fire. Even if competitor fire companies were closer to the fire they would not do anything to prevent further damage or extinguish the fire. This caused bad public relations for the fire mark system. Municipal and rural fire departments support by local taxation became a more logical solution.

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. Knitter
Lt. Lang
FF Bieganski
FF/P Olson
FF/P Wendt
FF/P Vivian
FF/P Lindner
FF/P Beutin

Green Shift

Capt. Czajkowski
Lt. McCoy
FF Lewandowski
FF Landgraf
FF/P Schlax
FF/P Nebel
FF/P Wallis
FF/P Frost

Red Shift

Capt. Dorangrichia
Lt. Boschke
FF Wainio
FF Kurz
FF/P Reid
FF/P Bartlein
FF/P Kasulke
FF/P Egner

Paid-on-Call Personnel

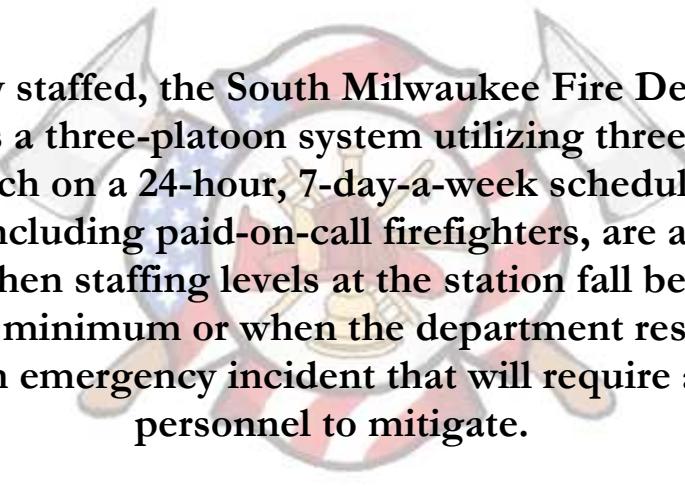
Ryan Behling
Dillon Briesemeister
Zachary Clark
Jeffrey Jensen

Robert Maciejewski
Andrew Mahn*
Erik Millane
Lee Mostowick

Brian Relihan
Christopher Roehsler
Brandon Streicher
Ryan Wendt

*Promoted to full-time status

on 10/08/2008



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 Ryan Kurz

Fire Inspection

FF Michael Landgraf

Fire Inspection

Check out our website at . . .

www.southmilwaukeefd.org

Emergency Medical Services Report

Fire Department-based Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continues to be a major part of our response profile. Strategic positioning of the Fire Station allows for minimal response time with the maximum amount of specific equipment depending on the call, such as vehicle extrication tools, ladders, cold water rescue suits, and of course, well-trained personnel. By way of utilizing flexible staffing, the South Milwaukee Fire Department is able to provide up to Firefighter/Paramedic level services on any given call. 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.

In 2008, several South Milwaukee Firefighters were recognized for exceptional EMS work during responses for medical needs. Firefighter Paramedics Gary Nebel, Scott Wallis, Jerre Schlax, and Kurt Egner all received citations for outstanding work in assisting a mother and the delivery of her newborn son. Flight For Life Air Medical transport Services recognized the following department members for their Scene call of the Year award for 2007: Firefighter Paramedics Steve Bartlein, Jerre Schlax, Mike Olson, Kurt Egner, Tim Wendt, Lt. Daniel Lang, and Captain Jim Dorangrichia. Congratulations on your continued excellence in EMS!

2606*

Total ALS / BLS Responses

* includes out-of-city responses

1123¹

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

656¹

**Treated / Transported by
ALS Ambulance**

1198 (56%)

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

183 (9%)

**Transports to
St. Francis Hospital**

58%

Responses to Homes / Residences

20%

**Responses to Nursing Homes /
Residential Institutions**

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



VITAL TO THE COMMUNITY !

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	Excellent
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	2009	Ford Escape	New
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	Excellent
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 members are cross trained in all aspects of every position.

Additional training activities take place at locations remote from the fire station. During 2008, training was conducted at the South Milwaukee Yacht Club and Lake Michigan (boat operations & open water rescue), South Milwaukee Middle School pool (open water rescue) as well as various locations around the city chosen for apparatus operation training throughout the year.

Department-wide drills were also incorporated 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 2008 drills were held at Cooper Power and at the South Milwaukee Fire Department.



EVERYONE GOES HOME

Recognizing the need to do more to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has launched a national initiative to bring prevention to the forefront.

In March 2004, the Firefighter Life Safety Summit was held in Tampa, Florida to address the need for change within the fire and emergency services. Through this meeting, 16 Life Safety Initiatives were produced to ensure that *Everyone Goes Home*®.

The initiatives are listed on the following page.

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

For the second year in a row, funding was received from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This application, which was written by Captain Joseph Knitter, was to provide funding to complete two projects:

1) purchasing a breathing air compressor for the fire station and, 2) installing a fire sprinkler system in the fire station.



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 \$6,692.

Notably, the matching funds for the breathing air compressor component of the grant was the same as what was included in the department’s annual budget to pay for the purchase of compressed breathing air and leasing of the storage bottles . In receiving the grant, our return on investment will be one year.

In addition, the following benefits will be realized:

- All self-contained breathing apparatus cylinders will now be filled to their maximum fill capacity of 4500 psi. In the past, most cylinders were filled to their *minimum* allowable capacity or 4050 psi. This difference can mean as much as an additional 3-5 minutes of available breathing air for personnel.
- In the past, our rescue trailer would have to be refilled at the Cudahy Fire Department at their convenience. With the addition of the compressor, the trailer will now serve as a back-up to our in-house system and all filling will be accomplished with the compressor.



The second component of the grant award is the installation of a fire sprinkler system in all parts of the fire station. This system is designed to adequately protect both the lives of our personnel and the investment the citizens of South Milwaukee have in the fire station, equipment and apparatus.



**FIRE SPRINKLERS
SAVE LIVES & PROPERTY**

Public Education Report

The South Milwaukee Fire Department continues to pride itself on an aggressive public education program.

We believe fire safety starts early on; building strong foundations in education. Each October, students in the local schools visit with our firefighters from Kindergarten through the 1st grade, during the annual National Fire Prevention Week. As the students reach the 5th grade, they attend our Fire Safety Program. This multiple week course prepares the students for their adolescent years and the importance of home/fire safety. Family participation is strongly encouraged as the 5th graders are assigned take home projects, where family involvement is encouraged. The children are also taught general home safety, such as first aid and burns, as many of the children are reaching babysitting age.

Our programs expand well beyond the local schools. The fire department is eager to share our safety messages to individuals of all ages. We offer a wide variety of programs to include fire extinguisher training, home fire inspections, career interest, basic first aid, fire station tours, to name a few.

The South Milwaukee Fire Department is also committed to the well being of our community. A Smoke Detector program enables our fire and ambulance crews to routinely check for the presence and operation of smoke detectors during emergency incident responses. Additionally, smoke detectors are provided, free of charge, to families in need.

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 Michael Landgraf and Ryan Kurz, 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		Inspection Responsibilities
Fire inspections conducted	29	FF/P Beutin Commercial Residential attached to Commercial
Re-inspections conducted	720	FF Landgraf Residential City-owned properties County-owned properties Federally-owned properties
Violations found	1	FF Kurz Industrial Manufacturing Churches Schools Nursing Homes Doctor / Dental Offices Clubs
Citations Issued		



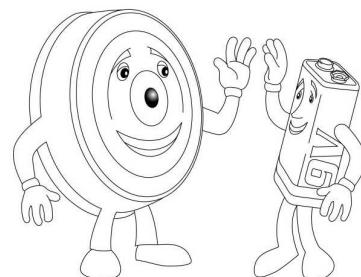
- ***Smoke Detectors and Fire Sprinklers Save Lives*** •

Response Statistics

	2006	2007	2008	% Change
EMS Calls	2,375	2,460	2606	5.9%
Basic Life Support Incidents	1196	1230	1037	-15.7%
Advanced Life Support Incidents	624	620	644	3.9%
ALS Incidents outside of So. Milw.	533	526	520	-1.1%
Med-1600	24	84	401	377.4%
Fire Incidents	63	64	67	4.7%
Building Fire	31	36	41	13.9%
Vehicle Fire	6	6	4	-33.3%
Rubbish / Trash Fire	15	15	7	-53.3%
Grass / Brush Fire	11	7	15	114.3%
Hazardous Conditions	90	96	98	2.1%
Vehicle Accident Clean-up	37	38	46	21.1%
Carbon Monoxide Invest.	5	3	3	-----
Electrical Problem	12	14	15	7.1%
Chemical Leak / Spill	11	19	10	-47.4%
Natural Gas Leak	15	17	9	-47.1%
Other	10	5	15	200%
Service Calls	83	103	146	41.7%
Smoke or Odor Removal	13	12	13	8.3%
Unauthorized Burning	15	11	23	109.1%
Other	55	80	110	37.5%
False Alarms	57	85	74	-12.9%
System Activation – Malfunction	28	6	13	116.7%
System Activation – Unintentional	1	21	26	23.8%
System Activation – Malicious	4	4	6	50.0%
Other	24	54	29	-46.3
Other Incidents	53	20	16	-20.0
Grand Total	2,583	2,721	3047	12.0%

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

Team Up for Fire Safety !



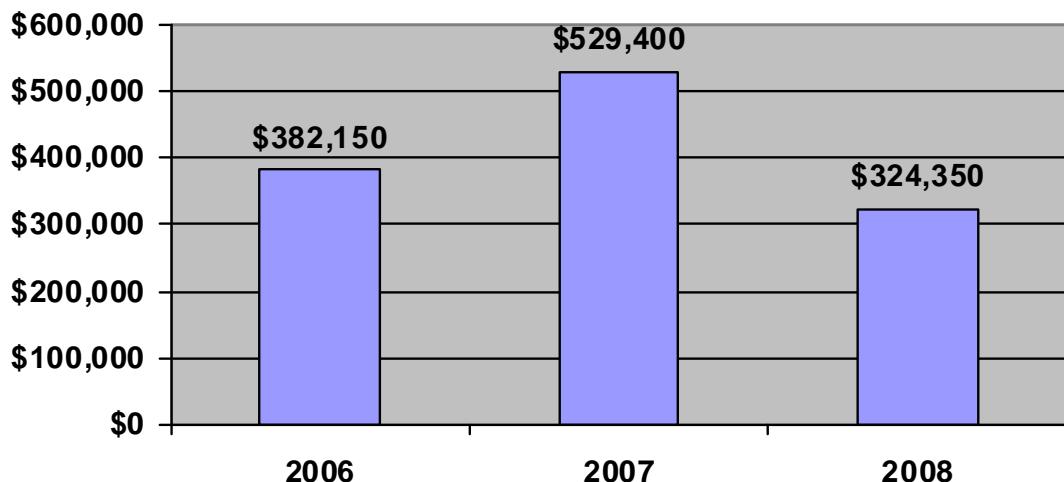
Response Trends

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 326 calls over 2007. 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 (2007-2008), the SMFD has seen another steady 12% increase in total call volume.

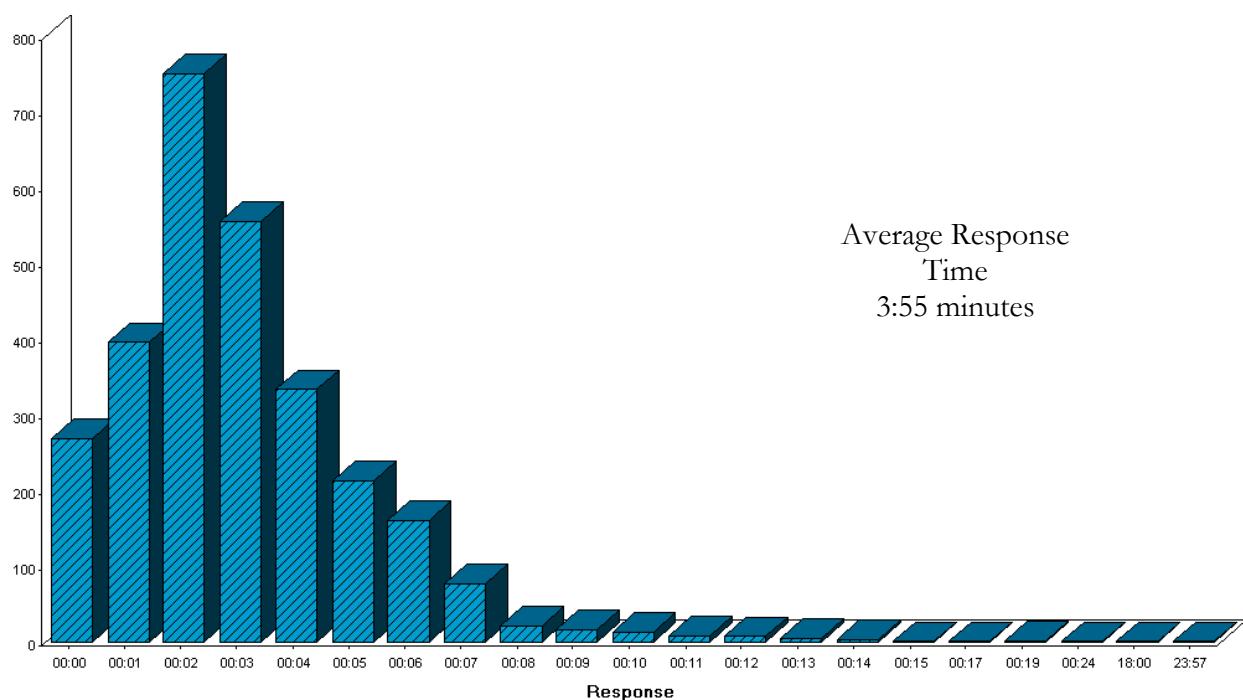
Dollar Loss

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. The graph below clearly demonstrates that the suppression and prevention efforts of the South Milwaukee Fire Department are on the right track in that our year-end totals for fire loss are the lowest seen in years.



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.*