

City of South Milwaukee
Fire Department
Annual Report - 2009



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 2009. This report reviews emergency responses, staffing levels, training activities, equipment purchases, fire inspections, fire prevention, maintenance programs, along with other department roles and responsibilities.

In 2009 we celebrated 116 years of our fire department's existence, with department members responding to 3141 requests for service. Of those calls, 2553 were for emergency medical service and 588 were for Fire/Rescue/Service calls. I am 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 one capital budget purchase. We traded in two ambulances and replaced them with one new 2009 Med Tec Ford F-450 ambulance.

As a capital item expenditure this purchase is 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

2009 RESTAURANT FIRE



NEW DELIVERY 2009 F-450 AMBULANCE



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Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service

The Enemy :

“I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world. I have destroyed more men, women and children than all the wars of all nations. I massacre thousands of people every year. I am more deadly than bullets, and I have wrecked more homes than the mightiest guns. In the United States alone, I steal over 21 billion dollars each year, I spare no one and I find my victims among the rich and poor alike, young and old, and the strong and weak. Widows know me to their everlasting sorrows. I loom up in such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor. I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me, yet you heed me not. I am relentless, merciless and cruel, I am everywhere, in the home, in the schools, in the factory, throughout the wildlands, in the air and on the sea. I bring sickness, degradation and death, yet few seek me out to destroy me. I crush, I maim, I devastate, I will give you nothing and rob you of all you have.”

“ I am your worst enemy! I am uncontrolled fire!”

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 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

Erik Brooks
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. Boschke
FF Kurz
FF/P Bartlein
FF/P Schlax
FF/P Kasulke
FF/P Egner
FF/P Frost

Green Shift

Capt. Czajkowski
Lt. Lang
FF Landgraf
FF Bieganski
FF/P Lindner
FF/P Nebel
FF/P Olson
FF/P Reid

Red Shift

Capt. Dorangrichia
Lt. McCoy
FF Wainio
FF Mahn
FF/P Wendt
FF/P Vivian
FF/P Beutin
FF/P Wallis

Paid-on-Call Personnel

Ryan Behling
Dillon Briesemeister
Zachary Clark
Jeffrey Jensen

Robert Maciejewski
Erik Millane
Lee Mostowick

Brian Relihan
Christopher Roehsler
Brandon Streicher
Ryan Wendt

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 Operations Captain	Personnel Protective Equipment Inspections MABAS Safety
Capt. John Czajkowski Executive Captain	Radios and Communications Health and Safety Facilities and Grounds Apparatus Maintenance AFG & Education
Capt. Jim Dorangrichia Administrative Captain	Training Coordination / EMS Advisor Apparatus Specifications Budgeting/Finance
Lt. Daniel Lang	Training and Safety / EMS Coordination
Lt. Glen McCoy	Training and Safety / Information Technology
Lt. Craig Boschke	Training and Safety / Public Education
FF/P Tad Beutin	Fire Inspection
FF Ryan Kurz	Fire Inspection
FF Michael Landgraf	Fire Inspection

Check out our website at . . .
www.southmilwaukee.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 utilizing a flexible staffing model, the South Milwaukee Fire Department is able to provide emergency care to the Paramedic level on any given call. A Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance is available when Paramedic staffing is unavailable. Ultimately, the citizens can appreciate a high level of service when requesting medical care.

In 2009 the South Milwaukee Fire Department took delivery of a new ambulance. The Type I style is built on a Ford F-450 heavy duty truck frame and features All-Wheel-Drive. This versatile response unit is also stocked as a Paramedic unit and can be upgraded as staffing permits.

TOTAL 2558

Total ALS / BLS Responses

** includes out-of-city responses*

1126

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

**# 1376 / 62% Transports to
St. Luke's - South Shore Hospital**

**# 112 / 5.0% Transports to
St. Francis Hospital**

**# 45 / 2.0% Transports to
Froedtert Hospital**

**62.1%
Responses to Homes / Residences**

650

**Treated / Transported by
ALS Paramedic Ambulance**

**# 165 / 7.4% Transports to
St. Luke's - Main Campus Hospital**

**# 57 / 2.5% Transports to
Wheaton Franciscan (Franklin)**

**# 21 / 21.1 %
Transports to Other**

**21.5%
Responses to Nursing Homes /
Residential Institutions**

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



***FIRE BASED EMS
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	2009	Med-Tech (Ford) Type I	New
Med-10	Ambulance	2003	Med-Tech (International)	Very Good
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	Fair
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



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, providing 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 or utilizing outside resources.

During 2009, an outside speaker was brought in to discuss diversity in the work place. Live fire training was also conducted at the MATC Fire Training grounds. Additional 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 are 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.



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.

Equipment Purchases for 2009

In October of 2009, the South Milwaukee Fire Department took delivery of a new ambulance. This Type I ambulance replaced a 1995 Type II. The term Type I vs Type II describes the style of chassis the ambulance box is mounted on. The Type II ambulance is mounted on a van chassis. The Type II is the style ambulance we have purchased in the past. The Type I ambulance is mounted on a pick-up truck style chassis.

Apparatus is purchased based on recommendations by a committee of members who volunteer to participate in the process. With the change in chassis style, the committee essentially redesigned the entire ambulance. This ambulance is stocked and equipped to function as either a Basic Life Support unit or as a Paramedic unit. This allows us to operate two paramedic units as staffing permits, which is a big advantage to our citizens. One of the determining factors used to select the different style chassis was that the Type I vehicle is offered in “All Wheel Drive”. This characteristic proved to be beneficial during the snowy winter. Additional features of the 2009 F-450 Super Duty Type I Ambulance also include: GPS, Inverter - converts vehicle power to 110V electric power allowing electric devices such as ventilators to be plugged into outlets in the patient compartment during transport, very tight turning radius, GVW rated 16,500, 6.4 liter Turbo Diesel.



Fire Department Values Statement

- 1. Customer Service – We will be responsive to our customers needs, striving to provide high quality services in a respectful and courteous manner.**
- 2. Commitment to Excellence – We continuously strive to improve our services and maintain a strong desire to serve the community with the courage to act.**
- 3. Integrity – Our everyday actions and decisions reflect the highest standards of honesty, integrity and trustworthiness.**
- 4. Responsibility and Accountability – Through innovation, conservation and cooperation, we use our resources to efficiently and effectively enhance our services. We are responsible for our actions and decisions.**
- 5. Teamwork – We achieve common goals and solve problems through interaction with our internal and external customers.**
- 6. Safety – While providing for the safety of our community, we work safely with an emphasis on safe practices, fitness, wellness and survival.**
- 7. Community Diversity – We recognize the value of a diverse community in strengthening our organization and our service to the public.**
- 8. Professional Development – Our personnel support and achieve high quality training and education on a daily basis, increasing efficiency and effectiveness by enhancing our professional potential and nurturing future leaders within the organization.**
- 9. Professionalism – We strive to maintain a high level of professionalism and dedication in our service to the community, city, organization and ourselves through the development and adherence to recognized policies, rules and regulations.**

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. The 5th graders are assigned take home projects, where family involvement is encouraged. The children are also taught general home safety, such as general first aid and burn care, 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.

820

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

69

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

117

Fire Station Tour Participants

129

**Fire Extinguisher Instruction
Participants**

Why do we commemorate Fire Prevention Week?

Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire. The fire occurred on Oct. 9, 1871. It killed 300 people and left 100,000 homeless.

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.

1416

Fire inspections conducted

86

Re-inspections conducted

154

Violations found



Inspection Responsibilities

FF/P Beutin

Commercial

Residential attached to Commercial

FF Landgraf

Residential

City-owned properties

County-owned properties

Federally-owned properties

FF Kurz

Industrial

Manufacturing

Churches

Schools

Nursing Homes

Doctor / Dental Offices

Clubs

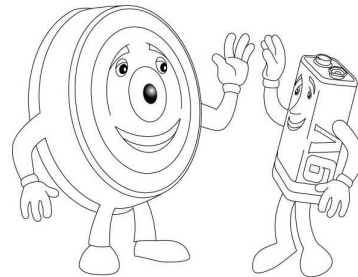
● ***Smoke Detectors and Fire Sprinklers Save Lives*** ●

Response Statistics

	2007	2008	2009	% Change
EMS Calls	2,460	2602	2558	-1.7%
Basic Life Support Incidents	1230	1037	1126	
Advanced Life Support Incidents	620	644	650	
ALS Incidents outside of So. Milw.	526	520	468	
Med-1600	84	401	314	
Fire Incidents	64	67	68	1.5%
Building Fire	36	41	40	
Cooking fire	6	4	7	
Rubbish / Trash Fire / Dumpster	15	7	11	
Grass / Brush Fire	7	15	10	
Hazardous Conditions	96	98	72	-26.5%
Vehicle Accident Clean-up	38	46	26	
Carbon Monoxide Invest.	3	3	11	
Electrical Problem	14	15	4	
Chemical Leak / Spill	19	10	7	
Natural Gas Leak	17	9	16	
Other	5	15	8	
Service Calls	103	146	116	-21%
Smoke or Odor Removal	12	13	11	
Unauthorized Burning	11	23	30	
Other	80	110	75	
False Alarms	85	74	68	-8.0%
System Activation – Malfunction	6	13	9	
System Activation – Unintentional	21	26	24	
System Activation – Malicious	4	6	6	
Systems - Other	54	29	29	
Other Incidents	20	16	58	362.5%
Grand Total	2,828	3003	2940	-2.1 %

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

Team Up for Fire Safety !



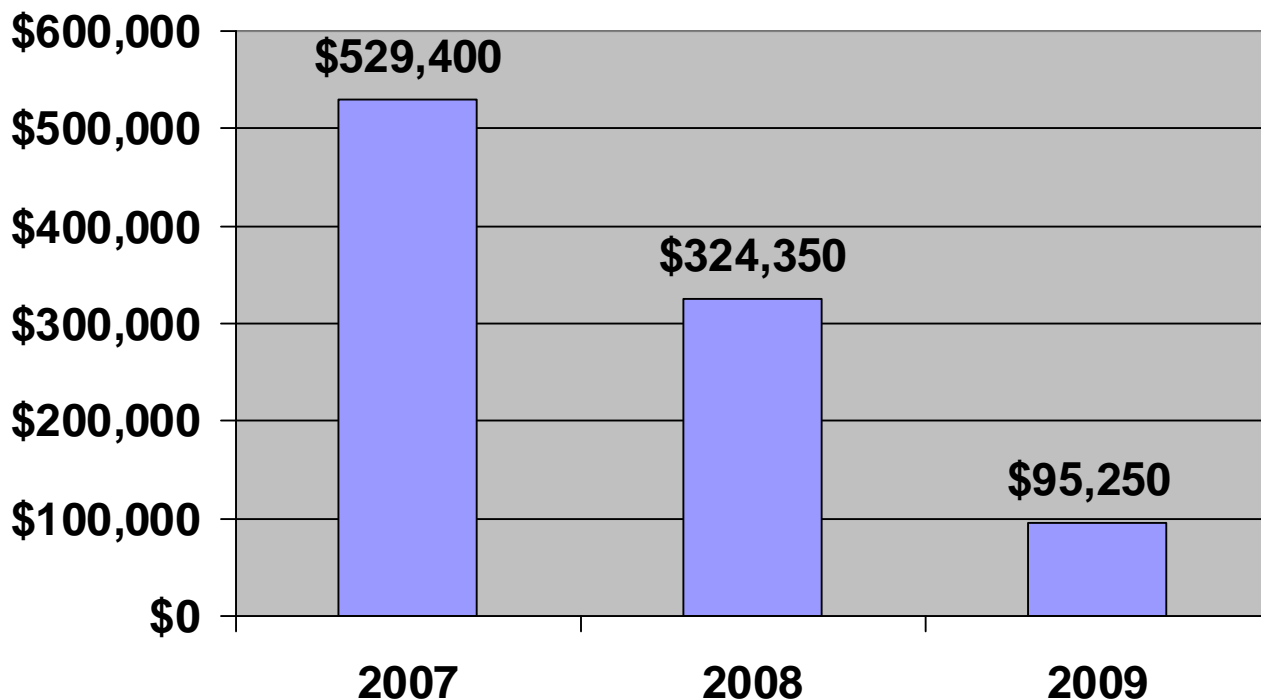
Response Trends

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.

The most important statistic on the entire chart continues to be that of the total call volume for the entire year. For the first time in many years the South Milwaukee Fire Department experienced a slight decrease in 2009. It should be recognized that in the two years (2007-2008), the SMFD experienced an increase in total call volume by 6%.

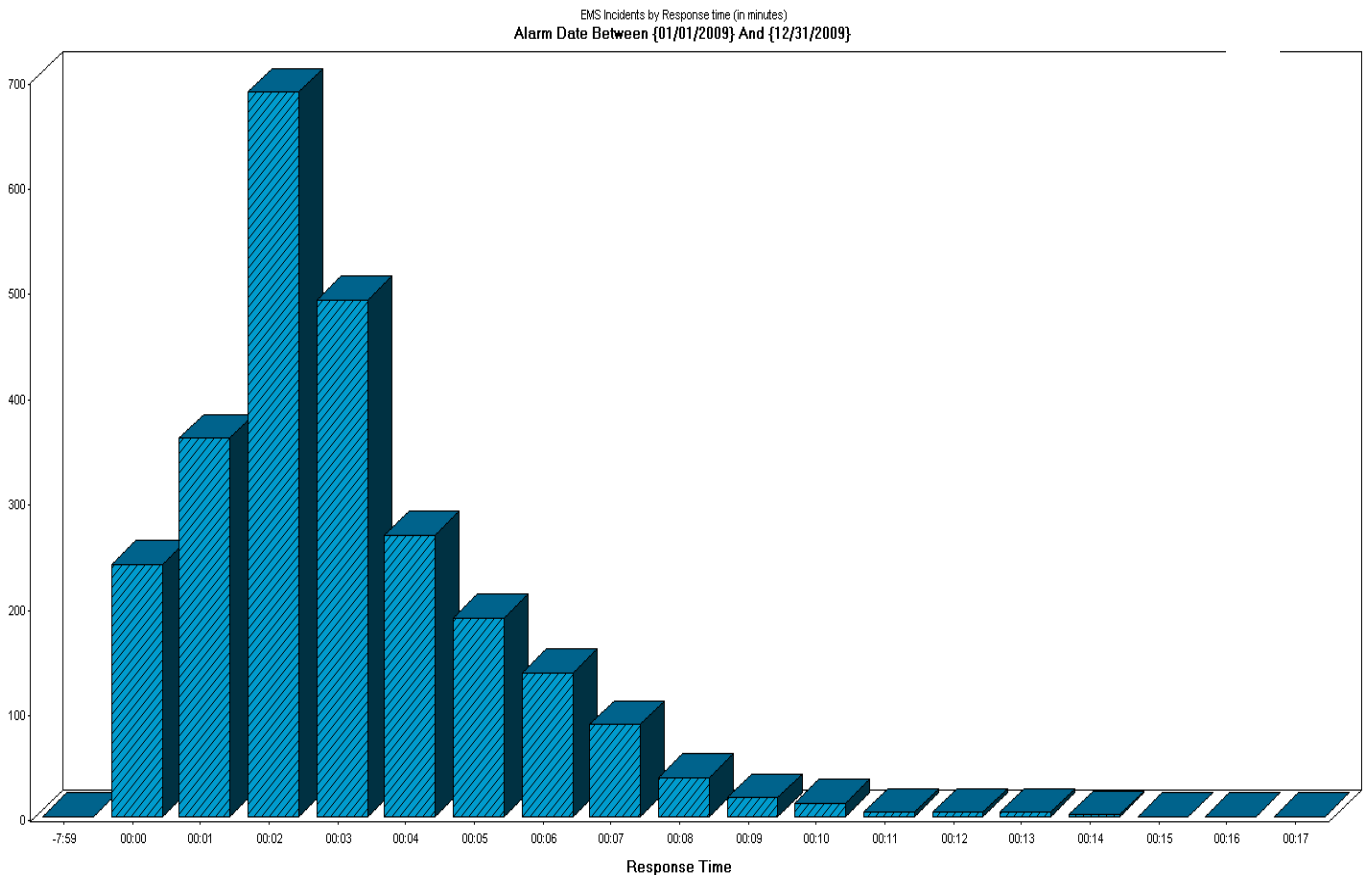
Dollar Loss

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 have shown a significant decline for 2009.



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.*