

City of South Milwaukee
Fire Department
Annual Report - 2005



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

July 24, 2006

Honorable Mayor David Kieck
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 2005. This report reviews emergency responses, staffing levels, training activities, new equipment, fire inspection, prevention and maintenance programs along with other department responsibilities.

In the 112 years of our fire department's history, this past year has been one of our busiest with department members responding to 2,583 requests for service, an increase of 4.3% over 2004. Of those calls, 2,278 were for emergency medical service and 305 were for Fire/Rescue/Service calls. I am particularly proud of our member's efforts and outstanding safety record while performing on these calls.

On January 17, after more than a year as the Acting Chief, I was appointed Fire Chief by the Police and Fire Commission. One of the first tasks I set out to complete was to get a State and County approved "Flexible Paramedic Staffing Plan" in place, including Paramedic First Responders. This plan was completed and approved by the Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services Committee on April 1, creating a higher level of Paramedic service to our citizens.

With the permanent filling of the Chief's position, the department also promoted Lt. James Dorangrichia to the rank of Captain and FF/P Glen McCoy to the rank of Lieutenant. We also hired an additional five Paid-On-Call members to supplement our part-time firefighters. In a cooperative effort with the City of Cudahy, the Police and Fire Commissions of both communities worked together to establish a joint firefighter candidate hiring list. This effort saved money and brought a larger number of qualified candidates to our communities.

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

Sincerely,

Jay B. Behling

The Halligan Tool

The Halligan Bar or Halligan Tool, is a multipurpose prying tool that was designed in the 1940's by Hugh Halligan, a First Deputy Fire Commissioner in the Fire Department of New York City.

One end of the bar contains the fork, which is commonly used to force inward swinging doors. The other end consists of the adze and the pick.

The adze is useful for forcing outward swinging doors. The pick can be used for punching the locks out of automobile doors and trunks, and it can be inserted into the shackle opening of a padlock, and then struck with an axe or sledge hammer to break the shackle free from the lock.

When paired with a flat-headed axe, the combination is known as “The IRONS” and has ended up as standard equipment in nearly every firehouse in North America.

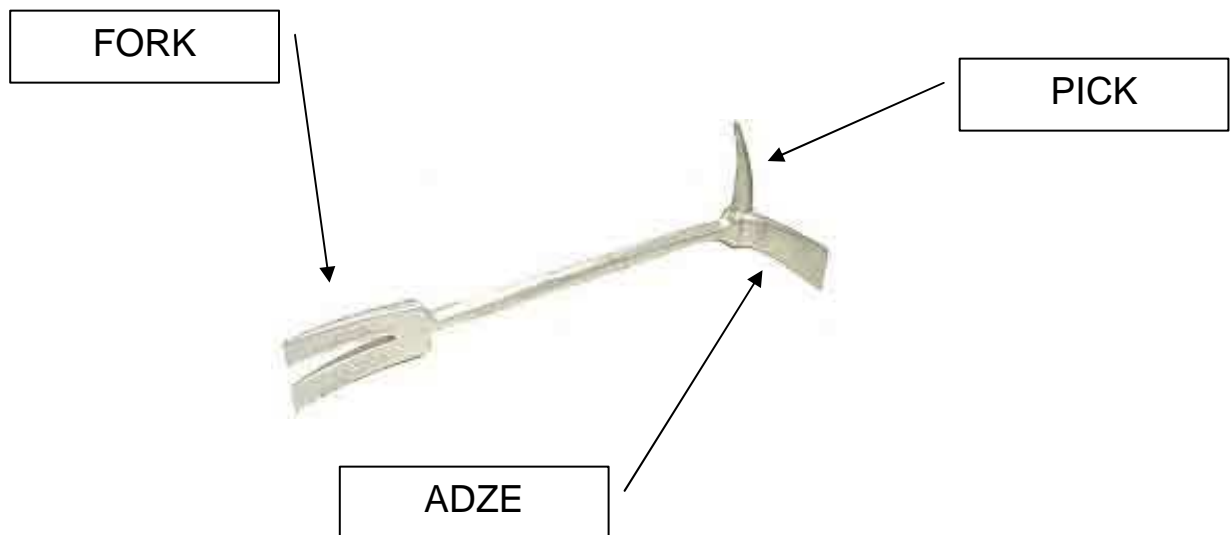


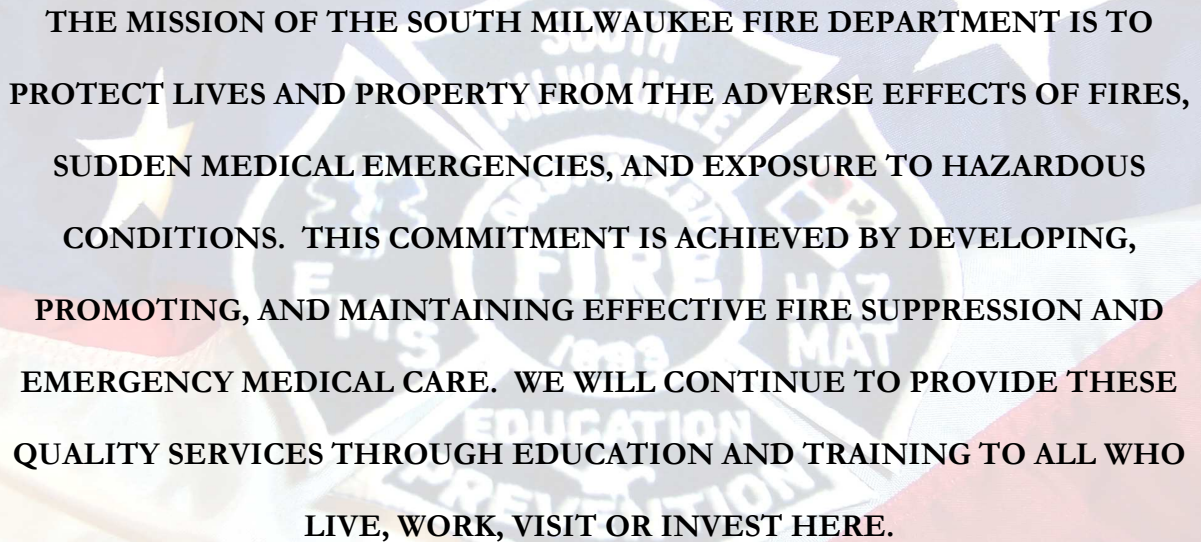
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Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service

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 County's Mutual Aid Plan 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, and the 440th Air Force Reserve Fire Department stationed at Mitchell International Airport, respond to our city when requested.

Organized - 1893

City Officials

Elected Officials

Mayor David M. Kieck

Michael McCarthy
District 1 Alderperson

Patrick Moran
District 1 Alderperson

Ray Navarro
District 2 Alderperson

R. Patrick Stoner
District 2 Alderperson

Richard Raduenz
District 3 Alderperson

Thomas Zepecki
District 3 Alderperson

David Bartoshevich
District 4 Alderperson

Peggy Clark
District 4 Alderperson

Kathleen Lisowski
City Clerk

Joe Murphy
City Attorney

Karen Skowronski
City Treasurer

Bill Fenger
Municipal Judge

Police and Fire Commission

Darrell Francis, DDS

Karla Nimphius-Harris

Donald Schmidt

Donald Stewart

Erick Slamka



Department Personnel

Jay B. Behling
Fire Chief

Janet Ringersma
Administrative Secretary

Black Shift

Capt. Joseph Knitter
Lt. Glen McCoy¹
FF Bruce Wranovsky
FF Ronald Wainio
FF/P Steven Bartlein
FF/P Tim Wendt
FF/P Gary Nebel
FF/P Andy Grabarkiewicz
FF/P Craig Boschke

Green Shift

Capt. John Czajkowski
Lt. Daniel Lang
FF Robert Lewandowski
FF Michael Landgraf
FF/P James Vivian
FF/P David Kasulke
FF/P Scott Wallis

Red Shift

Capt. James Dorangrichia²
Lt. Robert Lange
FF James Sabo
FF Kurt Egner
FF/P Jerre Schlax
FF/P Robert Lindner
FF/P Michael Olson
FF/P Thomas Reid
FF/P Tad Beutin

¹Promoted to Lieutenant - 8/09/05

²Promoted to Captain – 6/15/05

Paid-on-Call Personnel

Ryan Behling
Dillon Briesemeister
Daniel Dricken
Chris Jackson
Alex Warmka
Ryan Wendt

When fully staffed, the South Milwaukee Fire Department maintains a three-platoon system utilizing three shifts of nine 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	Training Officer Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Capt. John Czajkowski	Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Capt. Jim Dorangrichia ¹	Emergency Medical Services
Lt. Robert Lange	Health & Safety Officer Hose Maintenance / Water Supply
Lt. Daniel Lang	Public Education Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Lt. Glen McCoy ²	Information Management / Computer Technology
FF/P Craig Boschke	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Maintenance
FF/P Thomas Reid	Supplies / Logistical Support
FF James Sabo	Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance
FF/P Tad Beutin	Fire Inspection
FF Robert Lewandowski	Fire Inspection
FF Ronald Wainio	Fire Inspection

¹Promoted to Captain on 6/15/05

²Promoted to Lieutenant on 8/09/05

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

Emergency Medical Services Report

In late 2005, the Department implemented a *Flexible Staffing Program* intended to expand the provision of Advanced Life Support (ALS) services through a more appropriate assignment of personnel. With the assignment of a paramedic to our previously Basic Life Support (BLS) only ambulance, the creation of a Paramedic First Response (PFR) initiative was realized. This PFR unit allows us to assist patients in need of advanced life support care in the absence of our primary ALS unit, Med-10.

While staffed with at least one paramedic and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), the PFR unit is able to provide initial ALS care prior to the arrival of the next available paramedic unit. When staffing levels allow the assignment of two paramedics to this "PFR" unit, it is able to respond as a second, fully-functional ALS unit known as "Med-1600". When this occurs, supplemental staffing is provided in a non-traditional manner such as from off-duty personnel or the response of a utility vehicle or fire apparatus to provide for the traditional three-person staffing of an ALS unit.

By utilizing our paramedics in such a manner, citizens can be assured of having the highest, most appropriate level of emergency medical service available more often to quickly address their medical needs.

2278*

Total ALS / BLS Responses

* includes out-of-city responses

1168

of BLS *Only* Responses in So. Milw

604

of ALS Responses in So. Milw

62%

Responses to Homes / Residences

17%

**Responses to Nursing Homes /
Care Facilities**

1310 (77%)

**Treated / Transported by
BLS Ambulance**

319 (19%)

**Treated / Transported by
ALS Ambulance**

1070 (63%)

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

137 (8%)

**Transports to
St. Francis Hospital**



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 our 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	1983	Pierce (Ford) Commercial Chassis 1250 GPM Pump, 750 Gal. Water Tank	Good
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	Good
1693	Gator	2003	6 x 4 Wheel Drive Utility Cart	Excellent
1694	Rescue Raft	1983	14' Bombard Inflatable w/ 25 HP Outboard	Needs Replacing
1695	Rescue Boat	1984	22' Boston Whaler w/ dual, 90 HP Evinrude Outboards	Good
1696	Mini-van	1998	Ford Windstar	Good
1697	Pick-up Truck	1995	GMC ¾ Ton Utility Truck	Good
1698	Mini-pumper	1975	Pierce (Dodge) – 300 GPM Pump, 260 Gal. Water Tank	Needs Replacing
1699	Rescue Trailer	1993	14' Pace American	Good

Move Right for



Sirens & Lights

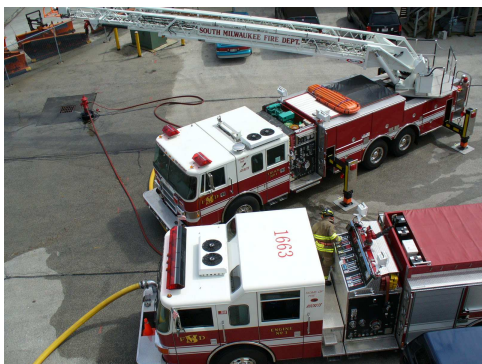
Training Report

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.



Newly hired employees are subjected to a daily (10-hour) work schedule for several weeks before being assigned to a 24-hour shift. During this period of 10-hour days, Shift Officers are responsible for accomplishing the training objectives that are scheduled by the Training Officer. These objectives, which are both department-specific and compliant with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001-Standard on Firefighter Professional Qualifications, allows the department to evaluate the new employees current level of proficiency and knowledge and prepares the candidate for the challenges he or she will face as a full-time firefighter.



Equipment Purchases

The days of the horse-drawn steam pumper and leather bucket brigade are far gone as the technology behind fire equipment continues to improve. In 2005, the department made several significant purchases in an effort to improve the safety and efficiency of our operations. Most of the advances are geared towards making the fireground a safer working environment. One of the most noticeable improvements for the firefighters was the purchase of new Elkhart Chief nozzles for our fire attack hoselines. Prior to placing the new nozzles in service, field testing was conducted to accurately establish appropriate pump operating pressures and water flow rates.

During 2005, the following equipment was purchased:

- Elkhart Chief Constant Gallonage – Low Pressure nozzles. Through improved engineering, these nozzles are able to flow more water at lower pressures thus improving maneuverability and control of the hoselines and making the fireground a safer place to operate.
- Hewlett-Packard Computer Server. Information management has become an increasingly important component of the service we provide as a means to track and predict trends in our calls for service and in reducing liability by maintaining more accurate records. In order to improve our information storage capabilities, a new, larger and more up-to-date server was purchased.
- Portable Radios. Each Officer, including the Fire Chief, was provided with a portable radio for use both on and off-duty. Since off-duty personnel are often summoned from home to respond to emergency calls, our Officers are required to respond directly to the scene of the emergency to provide for additional command and control support. In many instances, the off-duty Officers arrive prior to the on-duty crews and can provide a vital report of the incident scene conditions to the soon arriving on-duty Officer.



Public Education Report

The South Milwaukee Fire Department continues to pride itself on an extensive public education programs which, without the commitment and dedication of our firefighters, would not be possible. The following programs, which address all age groups from elementary school through the elderly, are offered throughout the year:

Fire safety talks are given to every public and private K-4, K-5 and first grade class during fire prevention week activities each October. Third grade students receive Latch Key Kid safety talks when requested by the school guidance counselors and in January of each year, fifth graders are provided with a six-week fire safety course that culminates with a tour through the Survive Alive House that is, for convenience reasons, brought directly to the involved school. Selected eighth graders get actively involved in the Middle School's Volunteer program to learn what firefighters really do when they visit the fire station and participate in hands-on training and station duties. Once at the high school level, students are exposed to information using the *Get Out and Stay Alive* program.

670

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

16

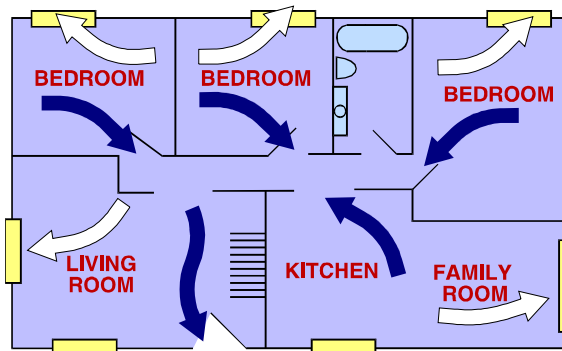
8th Grade Volunteer Students

269

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

3

**Juvenile Firesetter Intervention
Program Participants**



Have an Escape Plan

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 violation 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 Department and Health Department to mitigate other health and safety code violation matters that impact the quality of life for the residents and visitors of 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.

1716

Fire inspections conducted

126

Re-inspections conducted

1351

Violations found

3

Citations Issued

SAFETY FIRST!



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

	2003	2004	2005	% Change
Fire Incidents	85	66	85	+28.7
Building Fire	43	37	35	
Vehicle Fire	8	5	8	
Rubbish / Trash Fire	18	12	19	
Grass / Brush Fire	16	12	23	
EMS Calls	2,027	2,168	2,278	+5.1
Basic Life Support Incidents	1,458	1,598	1740	
Advanced Life Support Incidents	1,068	1,181	1153	
ALS Incidents w/in So. Milw.	558	636	604	
Motor Vehicle Crashes	46	21	19	
Other	13	7	3	
Hazardous Conditions	57	99	69	-30.3
Vehicle Accident Clean-up	1	24	21	
Carbon Monoxide Invest.	2	12	3	
Electrical Problem	13	11	14	
Chemical Leak / Spill	14	22	5	
Natural Gas Leak	17	14	13	
Other	10	16	13	
Service Calls	45	53	64	+20.8
Smoke or Odor Removal	10	19	28	
Unauthorized Burning	4	3	1	
Other	31	31	35	
False Alarms	61	67	62	-7.4
System Activation – Malfunction	33	17	21	
System Activation – Unintentional	18	22	24	
System Activation – Malicious	10	3	3	
Other	0	25	14	
Other Incidents	23	24	25	+4.2
Grand Total	2298	2477	2583	+4.3

*Due to a change in statistic gathering software, information prior to 2003 is represented in a different manner.



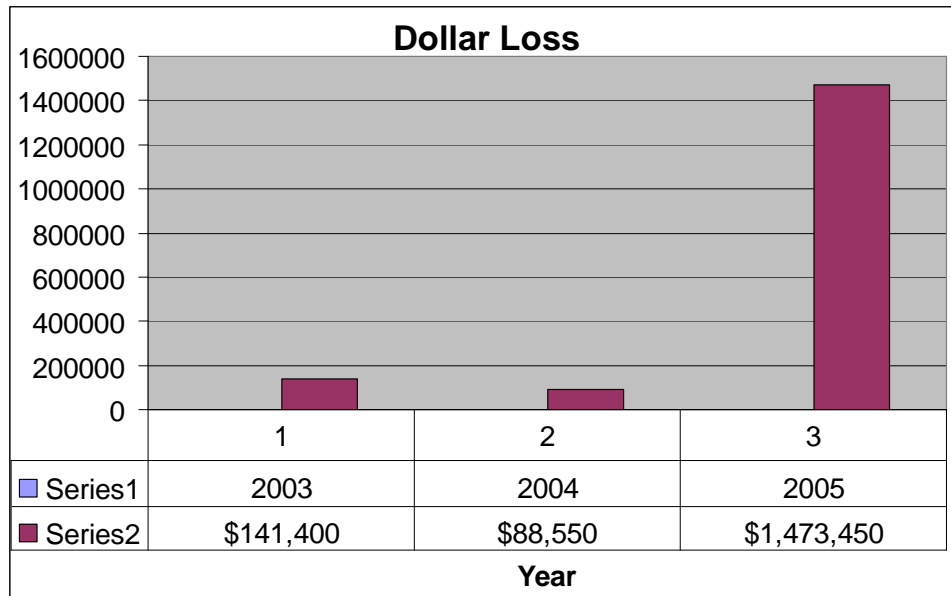
Response Trends

To properly understand the statistics provided on the previous page, one must understand that the categorizing of incident responses is subject to the efforts of the person writing the report. In particular, an approximate 29% reduction in the number of fires from 2003 to 2004 would initially signify a drastic reduction in that category of calls. However, an on-going effort to more realistically and accurately record incident response statistics has led to the resurgence of this classification of incident responses. Therefore, the “trending” of emergency incident response must be done with statistics taken into consideration for many 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 a slight increase of 106 calls over 2004. This increase demonstrates a continued trend of increasing call volume which, once again, must be responded to with the same staffing levels as have been maintained over the years.

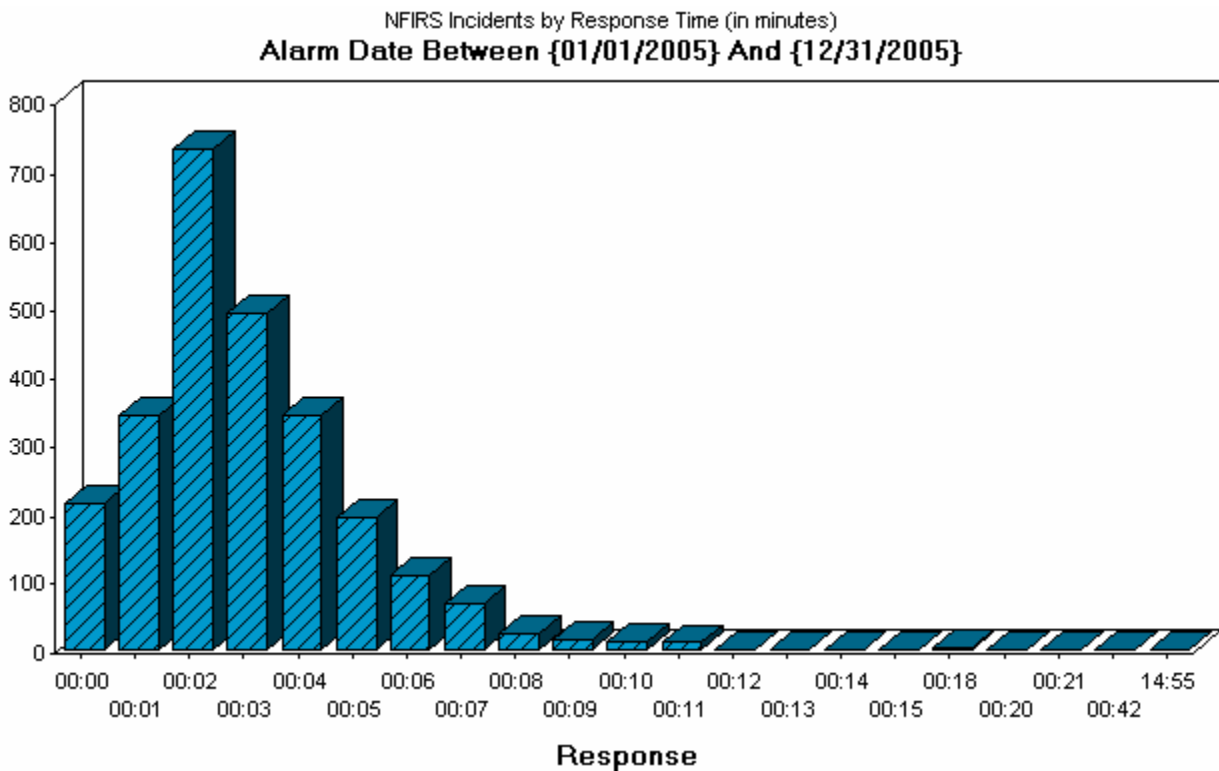
Dollar Loss

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 2005 was an unusually high dollar loss year due to a fire that occurred in a 16-unit apartment bldg. in the 1800 block of Drexel Blvd.



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 well within compliance with this nationally-accepted performance standard. This compliance is testament to the high level of efficiency, effectiveness and dedication maintained by the department members.



Staffing / Deployment Standards

Firefighting remains one of the most dangerous and personnel-intensive occupations in the United States. In order to safely and effectively fight a structure fire, certain staffing and deployment laws must be complied with and nationally-accepted standards adhered to. Chapter 30, *Fire Department Safety and Health*, of the State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce Administrative Code, requires the presence of no less than five-personnel prior to commencing interior structural firefighting operations.¹ In addition, NFPA 1710, the *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*, has established that the fire department shall have the capability to deploy an initial full alarm assignment within an 8-minute response time to 90 percent of the incidents utilizing a *minimum* of 15 personnel to concurrently accomplish the tasks necessary to mitigate the incident.

Incident Commander*	1
Pump Operator / Water Supply	1
Fire Attack Hoseline*	2
Back-up Hoseline*	2
Support (Hydrant hookup, utility control, forcible entry)	2
Search & Rescue	2
Ventilation	2
Aerial Device Operator	1
Rapid Intervention Team (Firefighter Rescue)	2
<hr/>	
Total Personnel Required	15

*Also required by State of WI – COMM 30

¹ It is not the intent of this rule to prohibit an individual fire fighter from taking an action to preserve the life or safety of another person.

We **care** for your family and ours. We earn your **trust** by serving with
pride, professionalism, and integrity.

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.*