

City of South Milwaukee
Fire Department
Annual Report - 2010



*Serving the Community with
Commitment ♦ Honor ♦ Compassion*



city of . . .

South Milwaukee Fire Department

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 pleasure that we present the South Milwaukee Fire Department 2010 Annual Report. This report provides a summary of emergency responses, staffing, training activities, equipment purchases, fire inspections, fire prevention and maintenance programs, along with other department information.

In 2010 we celebrated 117 years of our fire department's existence, with department members responding to 2,985 requests for service. Of those calls, 2464 were for emergency medical service and 521 were for Fire/Rescue/Service calls. We are proud of our member's efforts and outstanding safety record while performing their duties on these calls and serving with reduced staffing levels since 2007.

This past year the department made one capital budget purchase. A new 25 foot rescue boat was received from Steiger Craft of New York. The new boat replaces our 1984 Boston Whaler, and was purchased primarily with Federal Grant money. As capital item expenditure this purchase is expected to last in excess of 10 years.

The South Milwaukee Fire Department 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,

South Milwaukee Fire Department

**July 2010
Apartment Fire
1514 Manitoba**

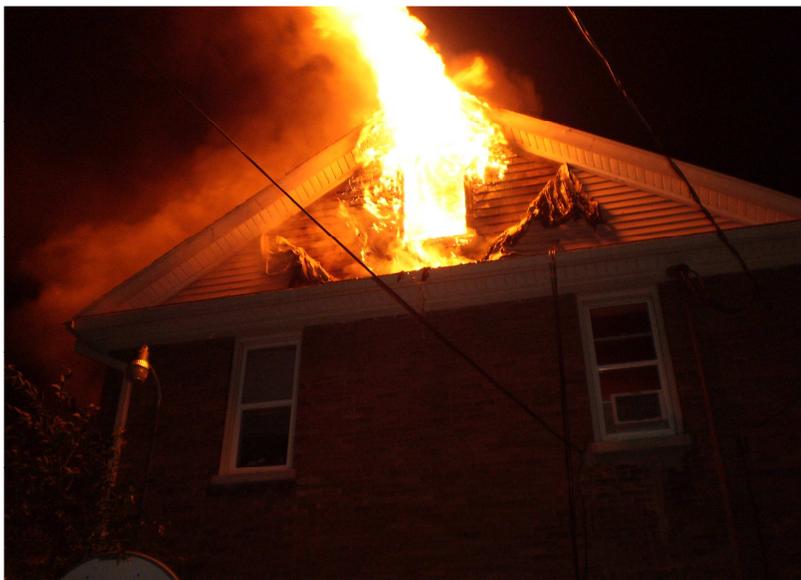


Table of Contents

The Enemy	1
Mission Statement.....	2
City Officials	3
Department Personnel	4
Special Assignments.....	5
EMS Report	6
Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Report.....	7
Training Report	8, 9
Equipment Purchases.....	10
Fire Department Values Statement.....	11
Public Education Report.....	12
Fire Inspection Report	13
Response Statistics	14
Response Trends	15
Fire Photos	16
Response Time Analysis	17
Rescue Photos	18
Extrication Photos	19
The Firefighter's Creed	20
Wisconsin State Firefighter's Memorial	21

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 (resigned Sept)
District 1 Alderperson

Michael Karbowski
District 1 Alderperson

Ray Navarro
District 2 Alderperson

R. Patrick Stoner
District 2 Alderperson

Kathleen Lisowski (1/1 – 4/30)

James Shelenske (5/1)
City Clerk

Joe Murphy
City Attorney

Lisa Pieper

District 3 Alderperson

James Shelenske (1/1 – 4/30)

Joseph Bukowski (Appointed May)

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

Donald Schmidt

Karla Nimphius-Harris (1/1 – 5/31)

Peggy Clark (appointed 6/1)

Patrick Moran

Erick Slamka

Department Personnel

Jay B. Behling
Fire Chief

Gail Kaebisch
Administrative Secretary

Black Shift

Capt. Knitter
Lt. McCoy
FF Kurz
FF Bieganski
FF/P Olson
FF/P Reid
FF/P Tim Wendt
FF/P Wallis

Green Shift

Capt. Czajkowski
Lt. Boschke
FF Landgraf
FF Bartlein
FF/P Schlax
FF/P Nebel
FF/P Vivian
FF/P Frost

Red Shift

Capt. Dorangrichia
Lt. Lang
FF Wainio
FF Ryan Wendt (hired 3/17)
FF/P Kasulke
FF/P Beutin
FF/P Egner
FF/P Mahn

Paid-on-Call Personnel

Andryk Alex
Ryan Behling
Robert Maciejewski

Jeffrey Jensen
Porter Ryan
Quirk Kyle

Brian Relihan (Resigned 4/01)
Christopher Roehsler
Brandon Streicher

When fully staffed, the South Milwaukee Fire Department maintains a three-platoon system utilizing three shifts of 8 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	Radios and Communication Inspections MABAS Liaison Facilities and Grounds <i>* Health & Safety</i> <i>* Reports & Policies</i>
Capt. John Czajkowski Executive Captain	Training Coordination Apparatus Maintenance Personnel Records AFG & Education <i>* Radios & Communication</i> <i>* Facilities and Grounds</i>
Capt. Jim Dorangrichia Administrative Captain	Health & Safety Reports & Policies Personnel Protective Equipment Equipment and Testing Certification <i>* Training Coordination</i> <i>* EMS Coordination</i>
Lt. Daniel Lang	Training and Safety / Information Technology
Lt. Glen McCoy	Training and Safety / EMS Coordination
Lt. Craig Boschke	Training and Safety / Public Education
FF/P Kurt Egner	Fire Inspection
FF Ryan Kurz	Fire Inspection
FF/P John Frost	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. The central location of the Fire Station allows for minimal response times of specialized equipment and 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. Citizens in South Milwaukee benefit from a high level of service when requesting Emergency Medical Care.

TOTAL RESPONSES <u>2464</u> Total ALS / BLS Responses <small>* includes out-of-city responses</small>	
<u>1029</u> Treated / Transported by BLS / PFR Ambulance	<u>821</u> Treated / Transported by Med 10 Paramedic Ambulance / M 1600
<u>1332 / 63%</u> Transports to St. Luke's - South Shore Hospital	<u>174 / 8.2 %</u> Transports to St. Luke's – Main Campus Hospital
<u>103 / 4.8%</u> Transports to St. Francis Hospital	<u>46 / 2.1%</u> Transports to Wheaton Franciscan (Franklin)
<u>63 / 2.9%</u> Transports to Froedtert Hospital	<u>27 / 1.2%</u> Transport to Children's
<u>112 4.8%</u> Transports to Other Hospital / Medical Examiner, Funeral Home Other	<u>289 / 13.0%</u> Transport Refused
General EMS Response Information	
<u>1650 / 62%</u> Responses to Homes / Residences	
<u>375 / 22%</u> Responses to Nursing Homes / Residential Institutions	
<u>439* / 16%</u> Response to Other (Schools, Industry, Street/Hwy, Public, Clinics ect) <small>*Includes service calls and fire related responses</small>	



***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. Members of our Department take great pride in the care and maintenance of both the apparatus and fire station. We proudly care for the equipment and building that the citizens of South Milwaukee have entrusted us with.

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	Very Good
1680	Ambulance	2001	Med-Tech (Ford) Type III	Good
1681	Ambulance	2009	Med-Tech (Ford) Type I	Excellent
Med-10	Ambulance	2003	Med-Tech (International)	Fair
1692	Chief's Car	2009	Ford Escape	Excellent
1693	Gator	2003	6 x 4 Wheel Drive Utility Cart	Very Good
1694	Rescue Raft	2006	14' Mercury Inflatable w/ 25 HP Outboard	Excellent
1695	Rescue Boat	2010	25.6' Steiger Craft Twin 150 HP Suzuki 4 stroke	New
1696	SUV	2007	Ford Expedition	Good
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 requirements and industry standards. The training goal is 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 2010 Confined Space rescue and High Angle rescue training was conducted at Bucyrus Erie. 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.

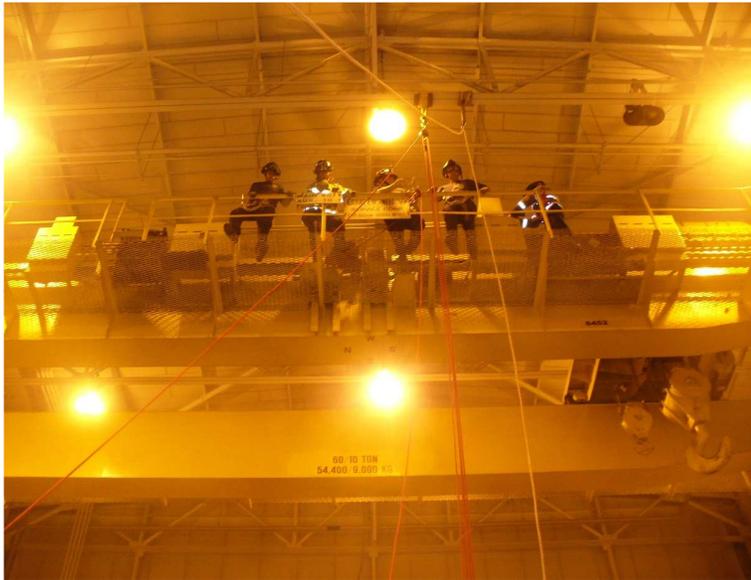


EVERYONE GOES HOME

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.

Training 2010



High Angle Training at Bucyrus



Emergency Management Drill at the South Milwaukee Fire station



Confined Space Rescue Training at BI



Equipment Purchases for 2010

In September of 2010, the South Milwaukee Fire Department took delivery of a new Rescue Boat. The boat was purchased through a Federal Grant that paid 75% of the cost with South Milwaukee matching 25% of the total. The 25.6 foot Vee-hull Steiger Craft was built in New York and has an overall length of approximately 30 ft with an 8.6 ft wide beam. The boat is powered by twin 150Hp Suzuki 4 stroke motors and will draft approximately 18in with the motors trimmed. It is equipped with a 150 gallon single aluminum fuel tank, locking V-berth, VHF marine radio, Auto fog horn, 10HDS Lowrance chart potter depth finder, side scan, sonar, radar, and FLIR (Night Vision).

Extensive training needs to be done with this new apparatus, which all full-time members are expected to operate.



The boat will be docked at the South Milwaukee Yacht Club who graciously provides a slip for the Fire Department boat. This allows for a rapid deployment and response.

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 interactive public education program.

Our philosophy is that fire safety starts early on; building strong foundations in education. Each fall, students in the local schools are visited by our firefighters. Elementary students in kindergarten and 1st grade are given fire safety programs during the annual National Fire Prevention Week. When students' reach the 5th grade, they are given a more advanced Fire Safety Program that focuses on preparation 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 students 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, fire station tours, to name a few.

The South Milwaukee Fire Department is also committed to the well being of our community. Smoke detectors are routinely checked by fire and ambulance crews to confirm presence and operation during emergency incident responses. Additionally, smoke detectors can be provided, free of charge, to families in need.

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.

Wisconsin has a special tie to the same date:

On the same evening of October 8, 1871 the worst recorded forest fire in North American history raged through Northeastern Wisconsin (Peshtigo) and Upper Michigan, destroying millions of dollars worth of property and timberland, and taking between 1,200 and 2,400 lives. This catastrophe was under reported due to the Great Chicago fire, which had fewer fatalities and less property damage.

818

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

60

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

270

Fire Station Tour Participants

150

**Fire Extinguisher Instruction
Participants**

Fire Inspection Report

Fire inspection duties are completed by shift members 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 John Frost, FF/P Kurt Egner and FF 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.

1550

Fire inspections conducted

211

Re-inspections conducted

296

Violations found



Inspection Responsibilities

FF/P Egner

Commercial

Residential attached to Commercial

FF/P Frost

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*** •

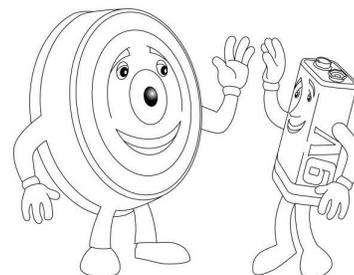
Please see our Web Site for information on the new mandate for Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors.

Response Statistics

	2008	2009	2010	
EMS Calls	2602	2558	2464	
Basic Life Support Incidents	1037	1126	1029	
Advanced Life Support Incidents	644	650	821	
ALS (requests) outside of So. Milw.	520	468	503	
Med-1600	401	314	585	
Fire Incidents	67	68	82	
Building Fire	41	40	32	
Cooking fire	4	7	7	
Rubbish / Trash Fire / Dumpster	7	11	10	
Grass / Brush Fire	15	10	14	
Hazardous Conditions	98	72	88	
Vehicle Accident Clean-up	46	26	20	
Carbon Monoxide Invest.	3	11	21	
Electrical Problem	15	4	7	
Chemical Leak / Spill	10	7	3	
Natural Gas Leak	9	16	12	
Other	15	8	25	
Service Calls	146	116	161	
Smoke or Odor Removal	13	11	10	
Unauthorized Burning	23	30	26	
Other	110	75	75	
False Alarms	74	68	68	
System Activation – Malfunction	13	9	14	
System Activation – Unintentional	26	24	26	
System Activation – Malicious	6	6	7	
Systems - Other	29	29	21	
Other Incidents	16	58	122	
				% Change
Grand Total	3003	2940	2985	+ 2.0 %

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

Team Up for Fire Safety!



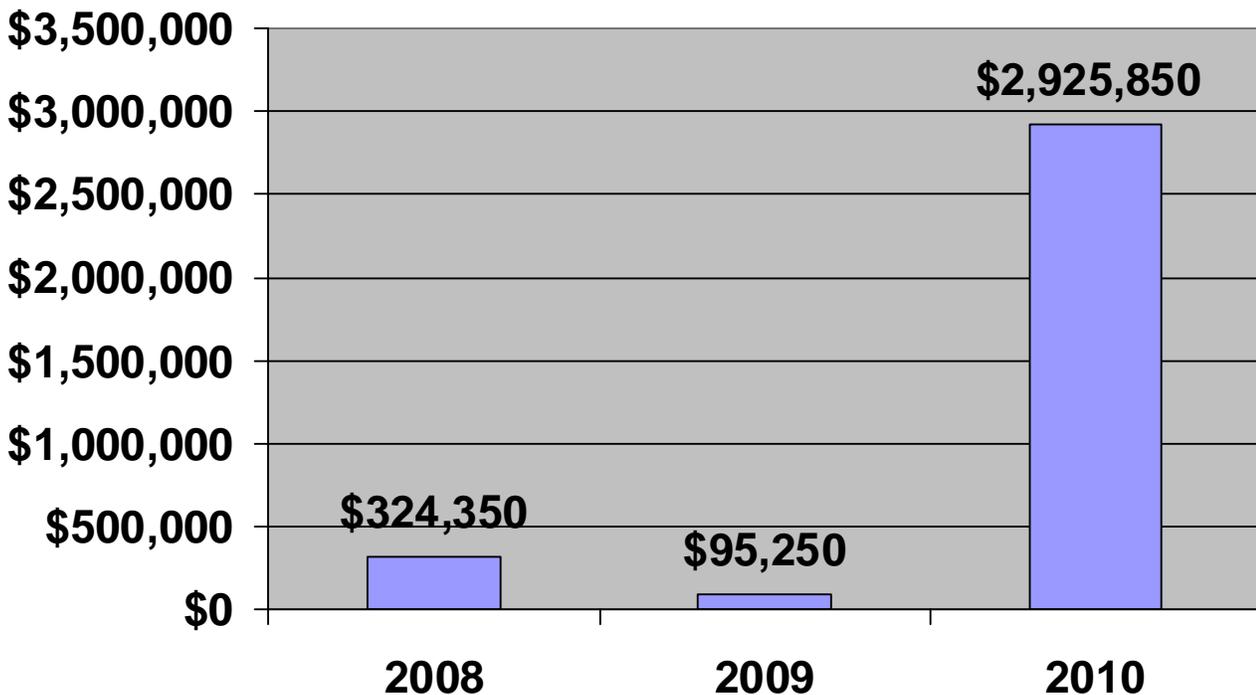
Response Trends

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.

The most important statistic on the entire chart continues to be that of the total call volume for the entire year. As reflected, the call volume has increased slightly for 2010

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. In 2010 the City of South Milwaukee had a busy year with significant dollar loss due to a few large fires. Among the larger fires: an explosion fueled a large fire at EGS Electrical 2105 5th Ave. (Appleton Foundry), the total loss of a multi family apartment building at 1514 Manitoba and major damage caused by a house fire at 500 Willow lane.



FIRE

FOUNDRY EXPLOSION/ FIRE 2010



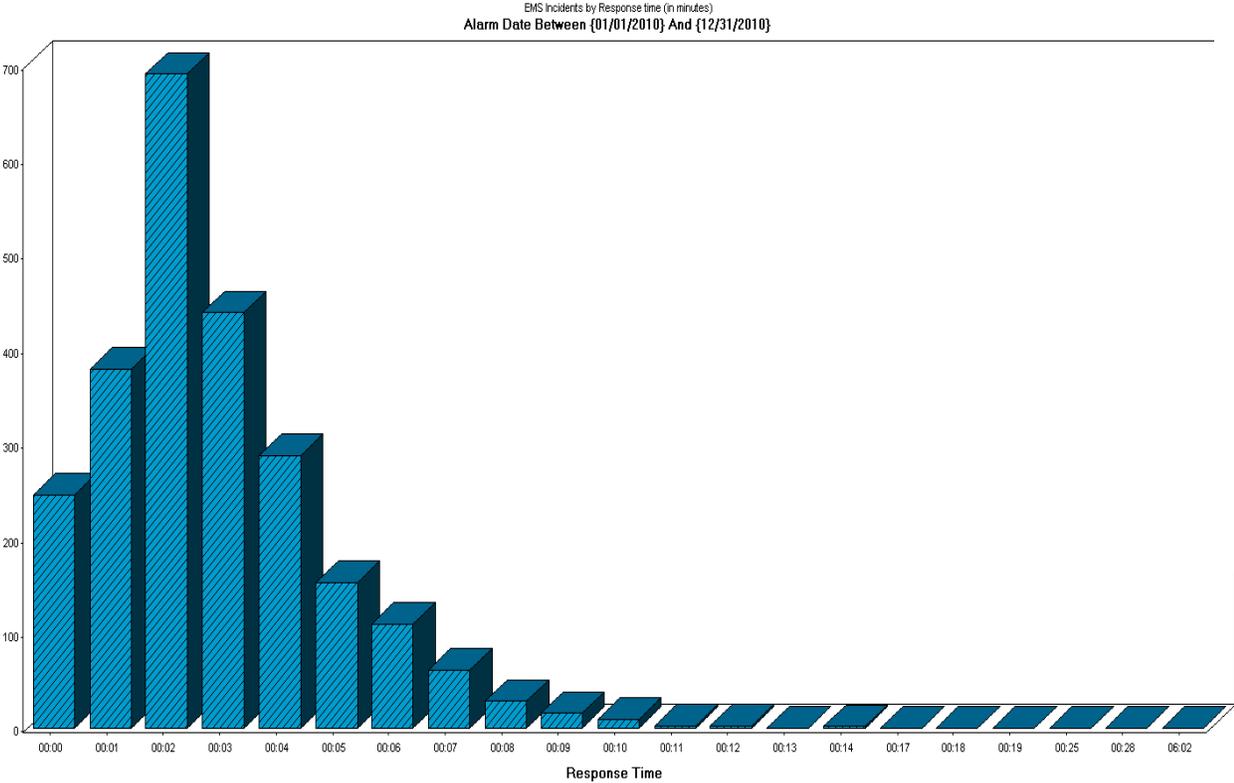
Photos by Timothy Stein



Two employees were injured and a massive fire followed an explosion at EGS Electrical (Appleton Foundry). The fire burned for hours but was confined to one building by an aggressive interior attack. Multiple fire departments assisted in fighting the immense fire.

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.



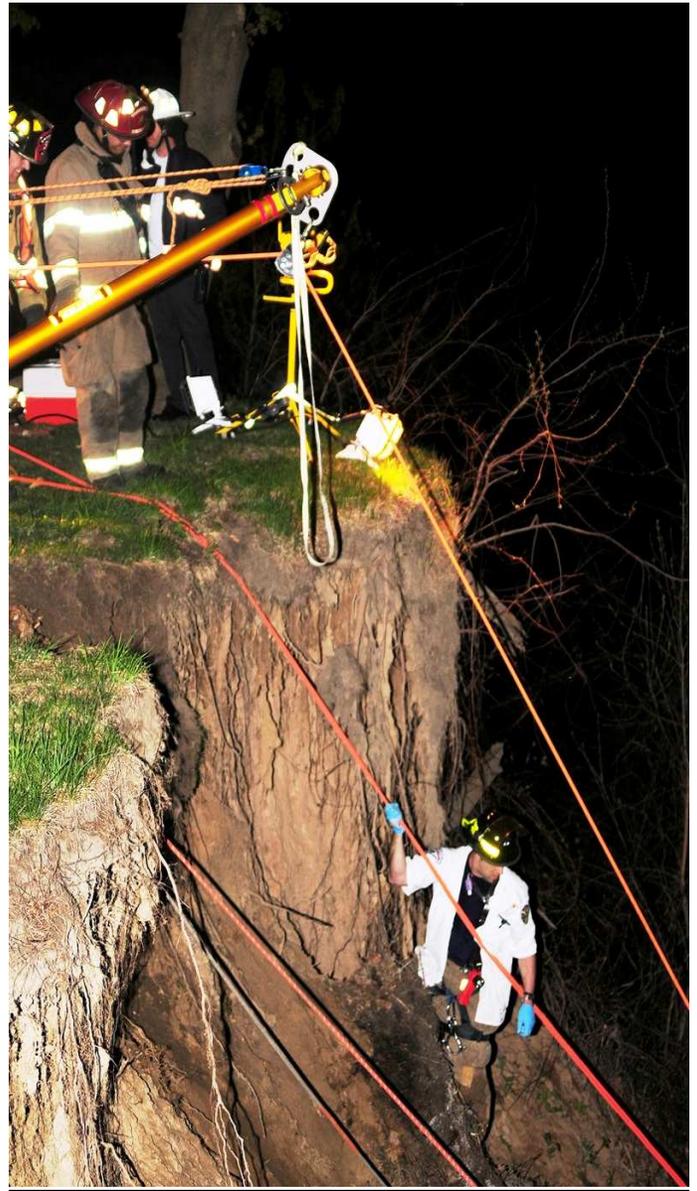
*It is important to note that this graph reflects *ALL* responses, both emergency and non-emergency, and provides no means to account for the errant inputting of data or calls delayed because of absolute low priority.



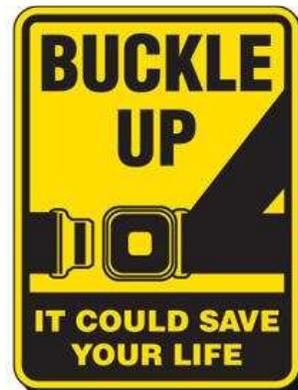
RESCUE



South Milwaukee Firefighters and Paramedics assist Cudahy Fire with an extrication and rescue of a victim of a crash over the lake bank



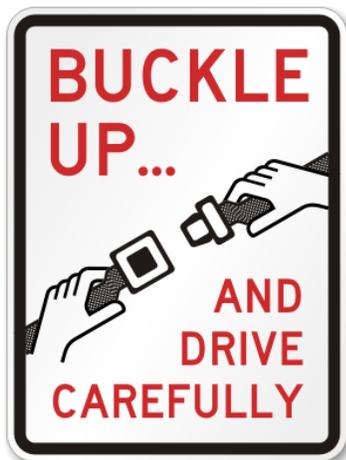
Photos by Timothy Stein



EXTRICATION



South Milwaukee Firefighters and Paramedics with assistance from Cudahy Fire extricate a victim of a rollover crash in South Milwaukee



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

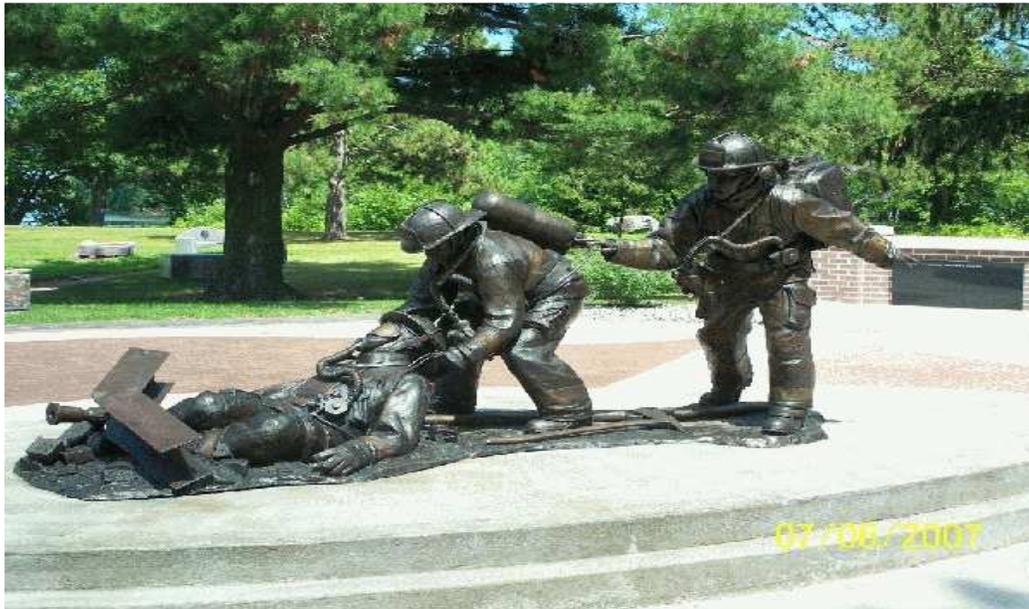
I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me
to guard my neighbor and
protect his property

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

WISCONSIN STATE FIREFIGHTER'S MEMORIAL - WISCONSIN RAPIDS



So as you look at the firefighter with his tool, hose or axe,
His beet red face or ice covered mustache,
You should know why he goes through that smoky front door,
And is forced by the smoke to crawl down on the floor.
He does it to save both lives and property,
All that is precious to you and to me.
So take a good look at this modern warrior
Who serves his call so proud and true,
And know that he would risk all just to save me and you.
~Robert J. Athans



*The last two pages are dedicated to the memory of all the fallen firefighters
who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty*