

*City of South
Milwaukee
Fire Department*



Serving with Commitment ♦ Honor ♦ Compassion



city of . . . **South Milwaukee**
Fire Department

JAY B. BEHLING
Fire Chief

929 Marshall Court, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

December 13, 2005

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 2004. This report reviews emergency responses, staffing levels, training activities, fire inspection, prevention and maintenance programs along with other responsibilities.

In the 111 years of our fire department's history, this past year has been one of our busiest with our members responding to 2,477 combined requests for service. Of those calls, 2,168 were for emergency medical service and 309 were for fire / rescue / service calls. I am particularly proud of our member's efforts and outstanding safety record while responding to and performing on these calls.

This year we also saw the retirement of Firefighter John Imig, after nearly 29 years of service to the City, and the resignation of Firefighter David Kolz after 5 years of service. These openings provided the opportunity for the hiring of two of our Paid-on-call staff, Michael Landgraf, Jr. and Kurt Egner. As you'll see in the report, we also made purchases of several pieces of major equipment in the replacement our self-contained breathing apparatus, the addition of two new thermal imaging cameras, outboard motors for the Boston Whaler rescue boat and two Zoll automatic cardiac defibrillation units.

With the retirement of former Fire Chief Richard Omernik in late 2003 and my appointment as Fire Chief Designee, much of the department's administrative activity was focused on the partial consolidation of fire and EMS services with the City of Cudahy. After a nine month trial period including joint dispatch, both communities learned that future consolidation of services could take place with a full financial commitment from each community.

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 History of the Maltese Cross

The Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection—a badge of honor. Its story is hundreds of years old. When a courageous band of crusaders, known as the Knights of St. John, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land, they encountered a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a simple, but horrible device of war; it wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave fighters of the Cross. The Saracens' weapon was fire!

As the Crusaders advanced on the walls of the city, they were attacked by glass bombs containing naphtha. When they became saturated with the highly flammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming tree into their midst. Hundreds of Knights were burned alive. Others risked their lives to save their brothers in arms from dying painful deaths. Thus, these men became the first firefighters...and the first of a long list of courageous Fire Fighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow Crusaders who awarded each hero with a badge of honor—a cross similar to the one firefighters wear today. Since the Knights of St. John lived for nearly four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea named Malta, the Cross became known as the Maltese Cross.

The Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection. It means that the firefighter that wears this Cross is willing to lay down his life, just as the Crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow men so many years ago.

The Maltese Cross is a firefighter's Badge of Courage...

a ladder-rung away from death.



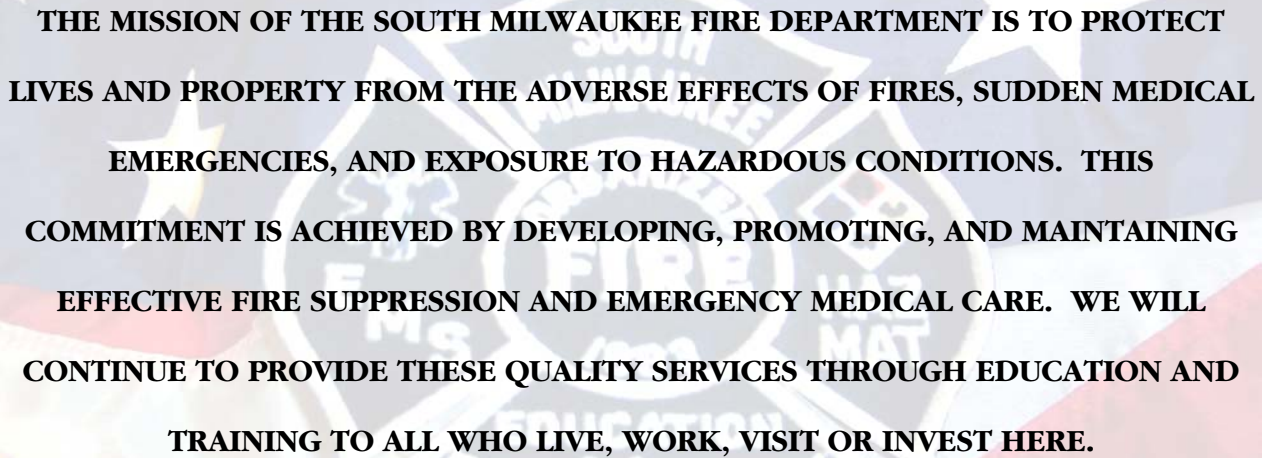
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Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service

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

Kathleen Lisowski
City Clerk

Joe Murphy
City Attorney

Richard Raduenz
District 3 Alderperson

Thomas Zepecki
District 3 Alderperson

David Bartoshevich
District 4 Alderperson

Peggy Clark
District 4 Alderperson

Karen Skowronski
City Treasurer

Bill Fenger
Municipal Judge

Police and Fire Commission

Darrell Francis, DDS

Jennifer Sielaff

Donald Schmidt

Karla Nimphius-Harris

Donald Stewart

Eugene Gale
(term expired)



Department Personnel

Jay B. Behling
Fire Chief Designee

Janet Ringersma
Administrative Secretary

Black Shift

Capt. Joseph Knitter
Lt. James Dorangrichia
FF David Kolz¹
FF Ronald Wainio

FF/P Steven Bartlein
FF/P Tim Wendt
FF/P Gary Nebel
FF/P Andy
Grabarkiewicz
FF/P Craig Boschke

¹Resigned 04/12/04

Green Shift

Capt. John
Czajkowski
Lt. Daniel Lang
FF John Imig²
FF Robert
Lewandowski
FF/P James Vivian
FF/P Steven Halcomb
FF/P Glen McCoy
FF/P David Kasulke

FF/P Scott Wallis

²Retired 04/02/04

Red Shift

Capt. Jay Behling

Lt. Robert Lange
FF Bruce Wranovsky
FF James Sabo

FF/P Jerre Schlax
FF/P Robert Lindner
FF/P Michael Olson
FF/P Thomas Reid

FF/P Tad Beutin

Paid-on-Call Personnel

Kurt Egner¹
Michael Landgraf²
Joel Lopez
Ryan Wendt

¹Hired Full-time 11/18/04

²Hired Full-time 06/01/04

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. Jay Behling	Administrative Officer Appointed as Fire Chief Designee
Capt. Joseph Knitter	Training Officer Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Capt. John Czajkowski	Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Lt. Robert Lange	Health & Safety Officer Hose Maintenance / Water Supply
Lt. James Dorangrichia	Emergency Medical Services
Lt. Daniel Lang	Public Education Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
FF/P Craig Boschke	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Maintenance
FF/P Glen McCoy	Information Management / Computer Technology
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

**Check out our website at . . .
southmilwaukeefd.org**

Emergency Medical Services Report

Many of our patients ask . . . “Why do two ambulances show up when I call 911?”. The reason for this is simple the South Milwaukee Fire Department utilizes a “tiered system” of response - which means that when someone calls 911 for a medical emergency, the most appropriate level of trained emergency medical professionals are immediately dispatched to the scene. If the nature of the call meets certain pre-determined criteria, such as for cardiac or respiratory-related emergencies, Med-10, our advanced life support (ALS) unit (paramedic-level), is dispatched along with one of our basic life support (BLS) ambulances. This means that, in many cases, two ambulances respond to a request for service, arriving almost simultaneously. Staffing those two ambulances are Emergency Medical Technicians licensed at both the ALS and BLS level. Remember, in the case of emergency medicine, ***seconds saves lives.***

In an effort to upgrade the level of service we are able to provide at all times, two new Zoll AEDPlus Defibrillator units were purchased and placed in service on our reserve ambulance and our front line fire engine, 1663.

Also, firefighters with Emergency Medical Technician Basic licenses were recertified in May after attending the State of Wisconsin 30 hour refresher class from MATC and half of the firefighters with Paramedic licenses attended a 40 hour refresher class at the Milwaukee County EMS Training Center with the other half scheduled for recertification in 2005.

2168*

Total ALS / BLS Responses

* includes out-of-city responses

962

of BLS Only Responses in So. Milw

59%

Responses to Homes / Residences

851 (54%)

Treated / Transported by BLS Ambulance

1007 (64%)

Transports to St. Lukes - South Shore Hospital

636

of ALS Responses in So. Milw

20%

Responses to Nursing Homes / Care Facilities

350 (21%)

Treated / Transported by ALS Ambulance

126 (8%)

Transports to St. Francis Hospital



Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Report

Next to being complimented for a job well done, one of the greatest compliments a fire service professional can receive is that praising the appearance of their fire station, apparatus and equipment. Our Department takes great pride in a very pro-active preventative maintenance program that maintains our station, fleet of apparatus and our equipment in both top-notch operational shape and physical appearance. Most of this preventative maintenance, which ranges from re-conditioning portable radio batteries to washing & waxing apparatus, is completed by on-duty, shift personnel. Not only does this instill great pride in our personnel, but it saves the City considerable money by taking advantage of the specialty skills possessed by our members. In many cases, shift members are performing tasks that, in most departments, have to be hired out at additional expense. 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 GMP 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	Poor
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	Poor
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, 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.

With the role of the fire department expanding every day into areas such as homeland security, weapons of mass destruction and technical rescue, the basic tasks of firefighting are often times overlooked. To assure that all department members maintain proficiency in "the basics" of firefighting, training is conducted to address the "Big 5" training priorities: hose handling, raising ladders, using self-contained breathing apparatus, firefighter safety and hands-on training.



Major Equipment Purchases

In our constant attempt to take advantage of changing technology, the department made several major purchases during 2004. The most significant purchase was that of all new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The purchase of the Mine Safety Appliance (MSA) Firehawk SCBA was made in order to upgrade to the latest technology and improve firefighter safety and efficiency. Prior to placing the new SCBA's in service, all department personnel had to demonstrate their ability to don and use the equipment in a safe and proficient manner. In addition, the following equipment was purchased during 2004:

- Two MSA Evolution 5000 thermal imaging cameras (TIC) were purchased, bringing the newest in thermal imaging technology to the field of fire fighting. These cameras can be used to see body heat through the thickest smoke and save people who might not be seen otherwise. The TIC's are also used to check for the spread of fire, determine a heat source, check walls for heat and even help manage hazardous materials incidents by identifying vapor and by determining levels of liquids in containers.
- The Boston Whaler Rescue Boat was outfitted with two new 90 HP outboard engines bringing a much greater level of dependability to our water rescue operations.
- Finally, two new Zoll AEDPlus Defibrillator units were purchased to improve our ability to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest. These portable devices analyze the heart's rhythm and if necessary, allow a trained rescuer to deliver an electric shock to a victim. With every passing minute after sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the odds of the victim's survival decrease by 7-10%. The American Heart Association (AHA) estimates that early defibrillation could raise survival rates 30% or more.



AEDPLUS



Public Education Report

The South Milwaukee Fire Department prides itself on its extensive public education programs which, without the commitment and dedication of our firefighters, would not be possible. The following programs 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 Volunteen 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.

650
**K-4, K-5 & 1st Grade Students
who took part in fire safety
presentations**

16
8th Grade Volunteen Students

275
**5th Graders who participated
in the 6-week fire safety
program**

13
**Juvenile Firesetter
Intervention Program
Participants**



Outside of the school setting, the department provides fire extinguisher training to local businesses, confined space awareness training to local industries, senior citizen safety talks at the Senior Center and to several elderly housing complexes. Each September, McDonald's hosts an annual Safety Day where firefighting apparatus and equipment are displayed, fire safety literature is distributed and children get involved in hands-on activities such as the flame house. On a day-to-day basis at the fire department, station tours are held, blood pressure screenings are offered and CPR courses for businesses and the public are conducted. Finally, juveniles involved in lighting fires or showing interest in playing with lighters or matches are referred to the department's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program where one of the three educators schedule educational and assessment sessions with the juvenile and their parent or guardian.

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.

1396

Fire inspections conducted

172

Re-inspections conducted

3729

Violations found

**FIREFIGHTERS'
SECOND BEST FRIEND**



**FIREFIGHTERS'
BEST FRIEND**



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

Response Statistics

	2002	2003	2004	% Change
Fire Incidents	88	85	66	-29%
Building Fire	55	43	37	
Vehicle Fire	9	8	5	
Rubbish / Trash Fire	13	18	12	
Grass / Brush Fire	8	16	12	
EMS Calls	2,401	2,027	2,168	+7%
Basic Life Support Incidents	1,504	1,458	1,598	
Advanced Life Support Incidents	1,416	1,068	1,181	
ALS Incidents w/in So. Milw.	576	558	636	
Motor Vehicle Crashes	*	46	21	
Other	57	13	7	
Hazardous Conditions	64	57	99	+74%
Vehicle Accident Clean-up	4	1	24	
Carbon Monoxide Invest.	3	2	12	
Electrical Problem	15	13	11	
Chemical Leak / Spill	29	14	22	
Natural Gas Leak	13	17	14	
Other	0	10	16	
Service Calls	46	45	53	+ 17½%
Smoke or Odor Removal	18	10	19	
Unauthorized Burning	2	4	3	
Other	26	31	31	
False Alarms	72	61	67	+10%
System Activation – Malfunction	18	33	17	
System Activation – Unintentional	30	18	22	
System Activation – Malicious	4	10	3	
Other	20	0	25	
Other Incidents	*	23	24	+4%
Grand Total	2671	2298	2477	+7.8%

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



Response Trends

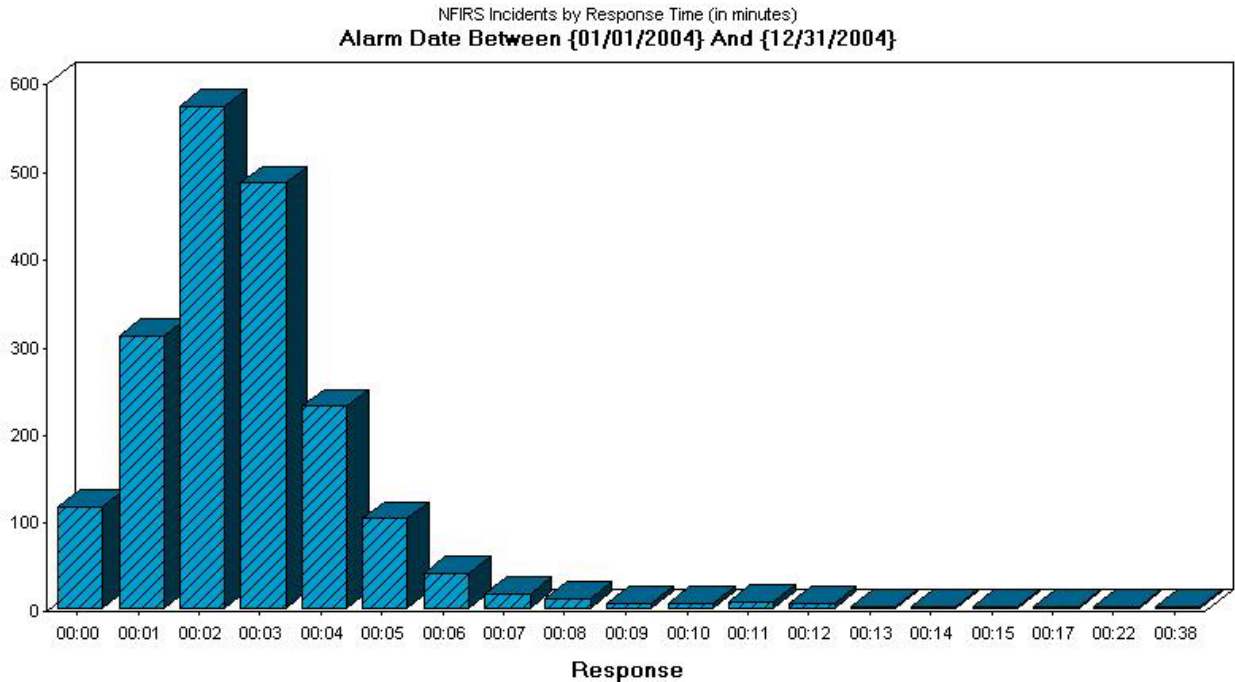
To properly understand the statistics provided on the previous page, one must understand that the categorizing of incident responses is subject to the efforts of the person writing the report. In particular, a 29% reduction in the number of fires would initially signify a drastic reduction in that category of calls. However, an effort to more accurately record incident response statistics has led to the re-classification of several types of incident responses in an attempt to give us a more accurate reflection of the nature of our overall responses. The end result is that many of the calls responsible for the 29% reduction in *Fire Calls* have been recorded in the *Hazardous Conditions* category which, as seen in the chart, had a significant 74% increase in overall call volume.

The most important statistic on the entire chart is that of the total call volume for the entire year which indicates an increase of 179 calls over 2003. This signifies a 7.8% increase in total call volume which, once again, must be responded to with the same staffing levels as have been maintained over the years. The ability to maintain the high level of quality service as is currently being provided while carefully balancing the additional inspection duties, training responsibilities, public education commitments, and station, apparatus and equipment maintenance obligations, proves the intense dedication of both the line and staff personnel of the South Milwaukee Fire Department.



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.



*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.

For Police, Fire, or Medical Emergency

Dial **911**

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
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.



The Firefighter's Creed

When I am called to duty God
wherever flames my rage
give me strength to save a life
whatever be it's 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.*