

City of South Milwaukee
Fire Department
Annual Report - 2006



*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

March 19, 2007

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 2006. This report reviews emergency responses, staffing levels, training activities, equipment purchases, fire inspections, fire prevention, and maintenance programs, along with other department roles and responsibilities.

In the 113 years of our fire department's history, this past year has, again, been one of our busiest with department members responding to 2,721 requests for service, an increase of 5.3% over 2005. Of those calls, 2,375 were for emergency medical service and 346 were for Fire/Rescue/Service calls. I am particularly proud of our member's efforts and outstanding safety record while performing on these calls.

This year we also saw the retirement of Lt. Robert Lange (27 years), Firefighter Bruce Wranovsky (32 years) and Firefighter James Sabo (18 years). These openings provided the opportunity for the hiring of Brian Bieganski, John Frost, and Ryan Kurz to the position of firefighter. Lieutenant Lange's vacated position was earned by FF/P Craig Boschke, who was promoted to Fire Lieutenant on April 19th.

The members of the South Milwaukee Fire Department and I would like to thank Mayor Zepecki, 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

The Dalmatian

Many people ask why the Dalmatian is known as the “Firehouse Dog”.

Well, the Dalmatian has a strong muscular body and is able to run great distances without tiring.

During the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries most people traveled by horse or by carriage. The Dalmatians became a society dog, and trained to run alongside women's carriages. They became known as Coach dogs or Ladies dogs. In fact, the term "coaching" refers to how the Dalmatian will take up position just off the side and toward the rear of a horse and run with them. Through the years, Dalmatians worked closely with horses and their owners, sometimes even sleeping with the horses at night to protect them against theft. It is during the era of horse drawn fire apparatus that the Dalmatian became forever tied with the Fire Service. Firehouse horses were required to spend many hours at a time at a fire scene or inside the firehouse waiting for a call.

The Dalmatians became the horse’s pets, and helped to keep them calm. The Dalmatian also became a guard dog, insuring that nothing was stolen from the apparatus during fire calls. Overall, the Dalmatian is a brave and valiant dog. These traits make it an excellent mascot for the Fire Service.



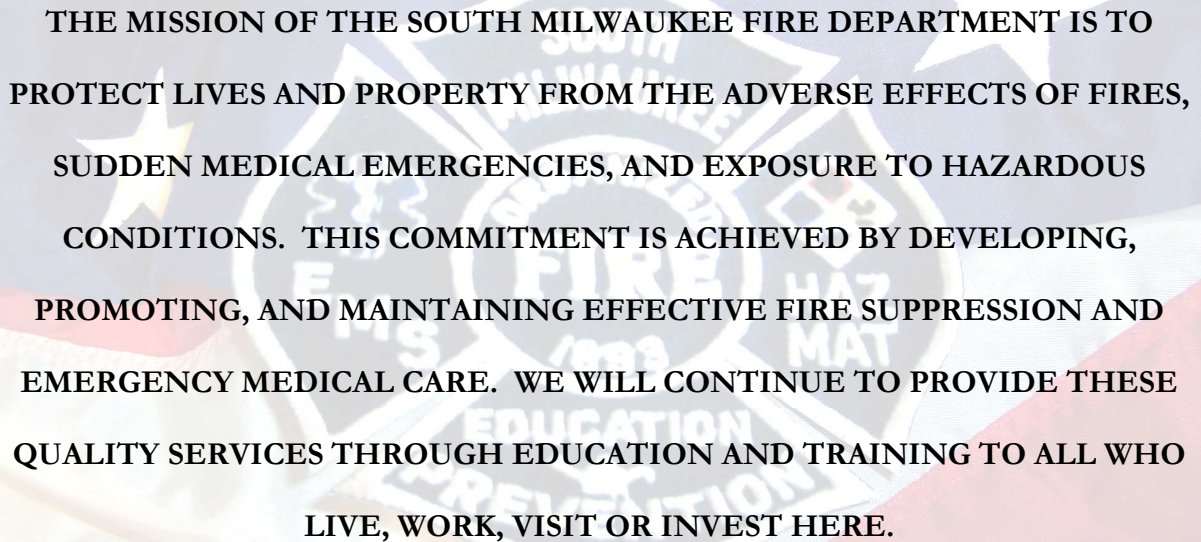
Table of Contents

Mission Statement.....	1
City Officials	2
Department Personnel.....	3
Special Assignments	4
EMS Report	5
Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Report.....	6
Training Report.....	7
Equipment Purchases.....	8
Public Education Report	9
Fire Inspection Report.....	10
Response Statistics.....	11
Response Trends.....	12
Response Time Analysis	13
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.....	14
The Firefighter’s Creed	15



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 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

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

James Shelenske
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

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 McCoy
FF Michael Landgraf
FF Brian Bieganski¹
FF Ryan Kurz²
FF/P Gary Nebel
FF/P Tad Beutin
FF/P Scott Wallis
FF/P Andy Grabarkiewicz

¹ Hired – 2/13/2006

² Hired – 5/8/2006

Green Shift

Capt. John Czajkowski
Lt. Craig Boschke
FF Ronald Wainio
FF John Frost³
FF/P Robert Lindner
FF/P Michael Olson
FF/P Steven Bartlein
FF/P James Vivian

³ Hired – 2/13/2006

Red Shift

Capt. James Dorangrichia
Lt. Daniel Lang
FF Robert Lewandowski
FF Kurt Egner
FF/P Jerre Schlax
FF/P Tim Wendt
FF/P Thomas Reid
FF/P David Kasulke

Paid-on-Call Personnel

Ryan Behling
Dillon Briesemeister
Daniel Dricken
Alex Warmka
Ryan Wendt

Retired

Lt. Robert Lange
(04/08/06)
FF Bruce Wranovsky
(05/03/06)
FF James Sabo
(04/03/06)

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	Training Officer Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Capt. John Czajkowski	Facility / Apparatus / Equipment Maintenance Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Capt. Jim Dorangrichia	Emergency Medical Services
Lt. Robert Lange ¹	Health & Safety Officer Hose Maintenance / Water Supply
Lt. Daniel Lang	Public Education Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
Lt. Glen McCoy	Information Management / Computer Technology
Lt. Craig Boschke ²	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Maintenance
FF/P Thomas Reid	Supplies / Logistical Support
FF/P Tad Beutin	Fire Inspection
FF Robert Lewandowski	Fire Inspection
FF Ronald Wainio	Fire Inspection

¹Retired - 4/08/06

²Promoted to Lieutenant - 4/19/06

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

Emergency Medical Services Report

The *Flexible Staffing Program* that was initiated in 2005 continues to allow us to utilize our Paramedics in a way to provide the highest level and most appropriate patient care possible. For example, if our primary Paramedic unit (Med 10) is out on a call, we now have the ability to staff our primary Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance with at least one Paramedic making it a Paramedic First Response (PFR) unit. This unit can initiate Paramedic-level care while awaiting an additional fully-staffed Paramedic unit to continue care and transport. If our station staffing level permits, we can place two Paramedics on that primary BLS unit making it a transporting Paramedic unit (Med 1600). At the very least, the rest of the full-time members are trained at the EMT level to start BLS level care.

Due to both a reduction in total department personnel and minimum daily staffing levels, staffing on our primary Paramedic unit has been reduced to two Paramedics. Prior to December of 2006, Med-10 was staffed with either three Paramedics or two Paramedics and an EMT driver. When staffing allows, we continue to send a two-person BLS unit as part of a tiered-response system and our commitment to provide support to the Paramedics on all advanced life support (ALS) calls. The members of the SMFD are to be commended for providing the same outstanding level of care with reduced or limited resources.

2375*

Total ALS / BLS Responses

* includes out-of-city responses

1030¹

**Treated / Transported by
BLS Ambulance**

1071 (59%)

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

53%

Responses to Homes / Residences

350¹

**Treated / Transported by
ALS Ambulance**

132 (7%)

**Transports to
St. Francis Hospital**

29%

**Responses to Nursing Homes /
Residential Institutions**

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

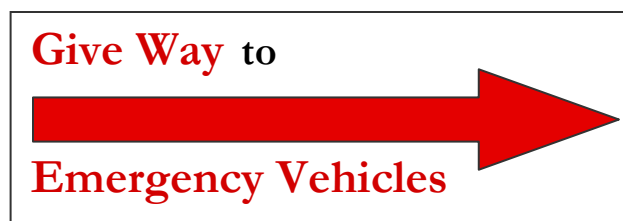


THERE WHEN YOU NEED US !

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 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	2006	14' Mercury Inflatable w/ 25 HP Outboard	Excellent
1695	Rescue Boat	1984	22' Boston Whaler w/ dual, 90 HP Evinrude Outboards	Good
1696	Mini-van	1998	Ford Windstar	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



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

In 2006, the department made several significant purchases in an effort to improve the safety and efficiency of our operations.

- Mercury Marine Inflatable Raft. The department's original inflatable raft, purchased in 1983, far exceeded its original service life expectancy and was replaced with a new 14' raft made of the state-of-the-art material, Hypalon. With the popularity of the Lake Michigan shoreline, an easily deployable, inflatable raft is a necessity.
- Radios. Through grant money received from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), both handheld and vehicle-mounted, 800 MHz radio equipment was purchased. These purchases started the department on its way towards transitioning into the 800 MHz radio system used throughout the county. Amongst other benefits, this system will provide interoperability with not only other fire departments, but police departments and other public agencies, as well.
- Pagers. In an effort to keep up with changing technology, 30 new Motorola Minitor V pagers were purchased. These pagers, which have multiple frequencies and the capacity to store voice messages, are used to summon off-duty personnel in times of staffing shortages or major incidents.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). An initiative to replace aging turnout gear for personnel was undertaken with several members receiving state-of-the-art gear manufactured according to the stringent standards of the NFPA by Morning Pride Manufacturing. Effective PPE can literally be the difference between serious injury or death and survival for firefighters.
- Personal Computer. A new personal computer was purchased for the Fire Chief's Office. Since technology and information transfer play such an important role in the daily activities of a manager, the ability to easily and efficiently complete tasks such as word processing, Internet browsing, and e-mail sharing is a must.



Public Education Report

The South Milwaukee Fire Department continues to pride itself on an extensive public education program which, without the commitment and dedication of our career firefighters, would not be possible. The following programs are offered throughout the year:

Our members believe that fire safety starts early on, with a strong emphasis on the individual and the family. Children in the local schools spend time with our firefighters at the K-4/5 level and continue up to the 1st grade level during National Fire Prevention Week activities held annually in October.

Education continues at the 3rd grade level, when every child learns and demonstrates skills in the Survive Alive House. This fire prevention tool features a mobile “house” in which children actually practice exiting a home filled with theatre smoke. Students are visited once again in the 5th grade, where they participate in a multiple week course that reinforces the importance of home & fire safety through their adolescent years. Family participation is strongly encouraged as the 5th graders complete some of the take home assignments. The children are also taught about general safety around the home, such as first aid for burns, as many of the children are reaching babysitting age.

711

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

253

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

2

**Juvenile Firesetter Intervention
Program Participants**



Fire Inspection Report

Fire inspection duties are shared by a shift member assigned to each of the three shifts and are conducted during the course of their regular duty day. This arrangement often presents a formidable scheduling challenge due to an increased call volume, ever-increasing training requirements and other obligations to our community.

FF/P Tad Beutin and FF's 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.

1493

Fire inspections conducted

29

Re-inspections conducted

720

Violations found

1

Citations Issued



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

	2004	2005	2006	% Change
EMS Calls	2,147	2,278	2,375	+4.3
Basic Life Support Incidents	*	1166	1196	
Advanced Life Support Incidents	*	576	624	
ALS Incidents outside of So. Milw.	*	536	533	
Med-1600	*	Not Tracked	24	
Fire Incidents	68	85	63	-25.9
Building Fire	37	35	31	
Vehicle Fire	5	8	6	
Rubbish / Trash Fire	14	19	15	
Grass / Brush Fire	12	23	11	
Hazardous Conditions	99	69	90	+29.0
Vehicle Accident Clean-up	24	21	37	
Carbon Monoxide Invest.	12	3	5	
Electrical Problem	11	14	12	
Chemical Leak / Spill	22	5	11	
Natural Gas Leak	14	13	15	
Other	16	13	10	
Service Calls	58	64	83	+29.7
Smoke or Odor Removal	19	28	13	
Unauthorized Burning	3	1	15	
Other	31	35	55	
False Alarms	67	62	57	-8.1
System Activation – Malfunction	17	21	28	
System Activation – Unintentional	22	24	1	
System Activation – Malicious	3	3	4	
Other	25	14	24	
Other Incidents	12	25	53	+112
Grand Total	2,451	2,583	2,721	+5.3

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

Change your clocks . . .



Change your batteries.

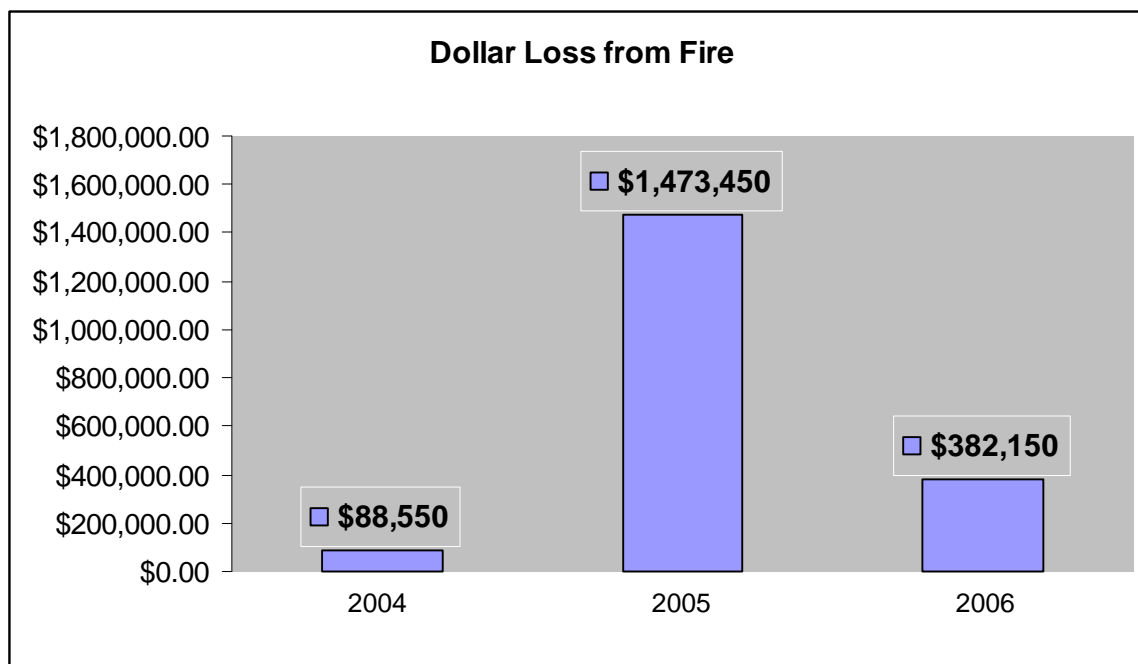
Response Trends

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 reduction of nearly 26% in the number of fire incidents from 2005 to 2006 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 re-assignment of these 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 an increase of 138 calls over 2005. This increase demonstrates a continued trend of increasing call volume which, once again, must be responded to with smaller staffing levels as have been maintained over the years. Over the past two years (2004-2006), the SMFD has seen an 11% increase in total call volume.

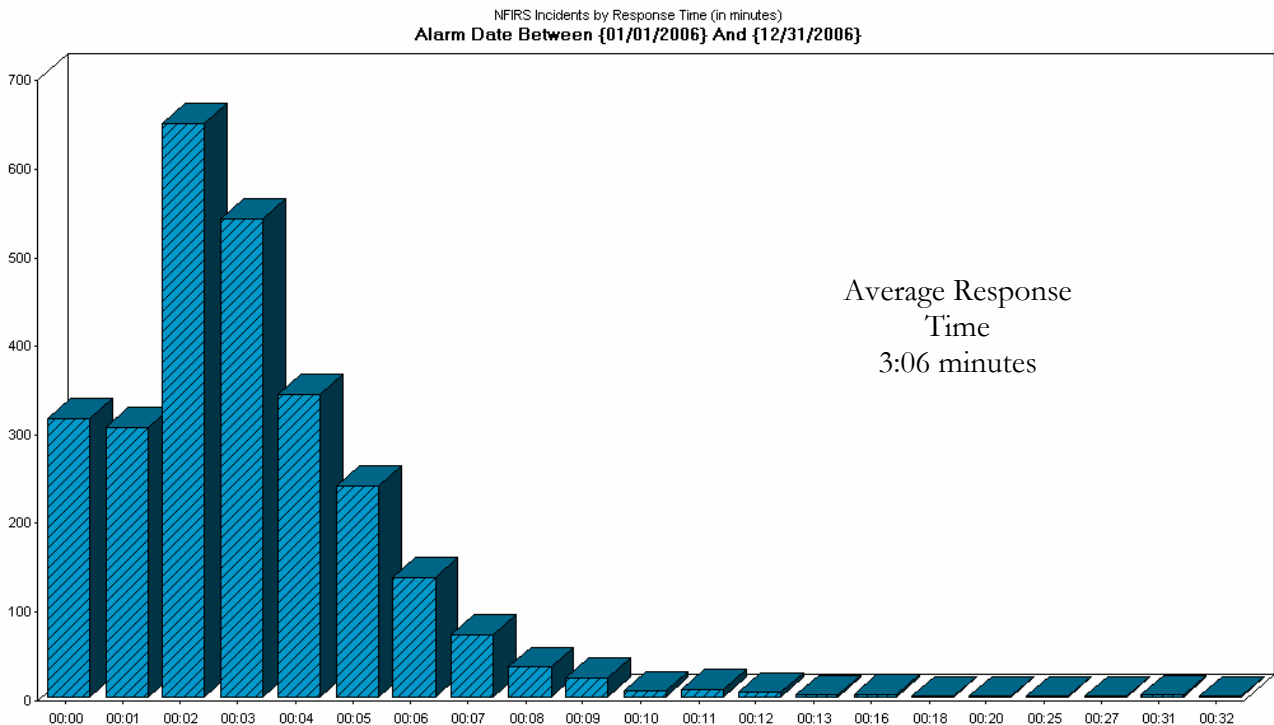
Dollar Loss

In addition to the actual number of emergency and non-emergency incidents that our personnel respond to, one of the most sought after statistics is that of the dollar loss to physical property due to damage from fire. In the past, the justification for the existence of a fire department was based on how great this dollar loss was. Now, because of all of the ancillary responsibilities of our personnel, the effectiveness of a department is based on the amount of property that was saved through aggressive fire suppression and prevention efforts. From the graph below, it should be noted that 2006 returned to a more “normal” loss figure as compared to 2005, which was an unusually high dollar loss year due to a fire that occurred in a 16-unit apartment bldg.



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.



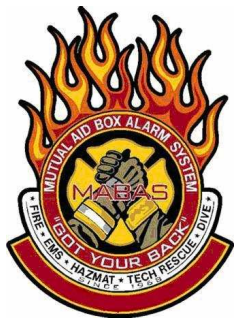
*It is important to note that this graph reflects *ALL* responses, both emergency and non-emergency, and provides no means to account for the errant inputting of data or calls delayed because of absolute low priority.



Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

In October, 2006, Milwaukee County officially entered into an agreement with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) organization as Division 107. MABAS is a mutual aid organization that has been in existence since the late 1960s. Heavily rooted throughout northern Illinois, MABAS includes over 550 member fire departments organized within 46 divisions that have spread into southern Wisconsin, and the bordering communities of Iowa, Indiana and Ohio.

MABAS is a unique organization in that every MABAS participant has signed the same contract with their counterpart MABAS agencies. As a MABAS agency, you agree to: standards of operation, incident command, minimal equipment staffing, safety and on-scene terminology. MABAS agencies, regardless of their geopolitical origin, are able to work together seamlessly on any emergency scene. All MABAS agencies operate on a common radio frequency, Interagency Fire Emergency Radio Network (IFERN) and are activated for response through pre-designed "run" cards each participating agency designs and tailors to meet their local risk need. MABAS also provides mutual aid station coverage to a stricken community when their fire/EMS resources are committed to an incident for an extended period.



Simply put,
it is **our family** taking care
of **your family**

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.*