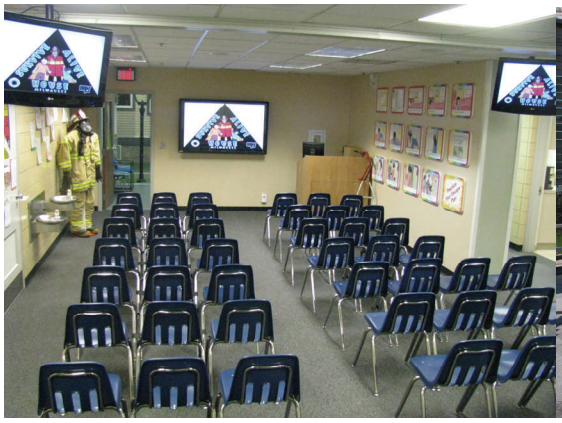
CITY OF MILWAUKEE
FIRE DEPARTMENT

2009 Annual Report





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Message from fire chief Mark Rohlfing

Hello Fellow Constituents:

It is with honor I present to you the Milwaukee Fire Department's 2009 Annual Report. The report is a summary of the department's achievements, statistics and services provided to the City of Milwaukee over the past year.

The men and women of the MFD helped the department reach new heights in 2009, and maintain the stellar reputation we have in the Milwaukee community. Their bravery, courage and diligent efforts to save life and property is worthy of recognition.

In 2009, we had many notable incidents occur in the city that visibly showed our members' loyalty to their job responsibilities on and off duty. Time-after-time our members are faced with helping residents when they are off-the-clock. One act of bravery performed by the Rechlitz brothers proved that point on July 19. Many other off-duty department members have helped countless people in their time of need.

This is the true spirit of the Milwaukee Fire Department. Our members represent the department's motto, Integrity, Courage and Honor, in every aspect of their professional and personal lives. They are committed to protecting the city's most important assets: the people and their properties. I am proud to say our personnel never back down from the call of duty and many times go above and beyond what is expected of them. Amongst each other we expect the best; therefore, we do not deliver anything less to our customers.

As I serve my first term as Milwaukee's fire chief I can assure the residents that I will continue to lead the department honorably with the safety of those we serve paramount in our goals. Success of the department is registered not only on quick response times, but equally important is the knowledge, training and overall professionalism our members possess. We strive to provide the citizens of this city with world-class firefighters with strengths not only measured in numbers, but in passion and dedication to their vocation.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with and lead the fine men and women of the Milwaukee Fire Department. We thank you for your support and for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.

Message from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett

The Milwaukee Fire Department continues to provide the citizens of Milwaukee with vital emergency medical services and fire protection of the utmost quality. The men and women of the Milwaukee Fire Department selflessly commit themselves to providing a number of essential services including trench, water and space confinement rescues, in addition to mitigating the effects of situations involving hazardous materials.

The Milwaukee Fire Department has demonstrated itself to be one of the premier departments in the country. Through the use of state-of-the-art equipment, in combination with continuous training, the personnel of the Milwaukee Fire Department have proven themselves to be an essential component in keeping our neighborhoods healthy and safe.

The men and women of the Milwaukee Fire Department dedicate themselves on a daily basis and because of their valiant rescue efforts, the number of fire fatalities in Milwaukee has decreased each of the last two years. There were six fire fatalities in 2008 and seven in 2009, the lowest for a two-year period in the Department's 135-year history.

I am especially proud of the community outreach programs initiated by the Milwaukee Fire Department in 2009. Their efforts to educate the community on fire safety and prevention are important to improving the overall safety of our neighborhoods.

As the City of Milwaukee continues to grow and develop, maintaining public safety will remain a top priority and the Milwaukee Fire Department will be invaluable in achieving this goal. I am honored to work with the brave men and women of the Milwaukee Fire Department and I would like to thank them for their admirable work and selfless dedication.

Mission Statement

The Milwaukee Fire Department is committed to protecting the people and property within our city. We will be responsive to the needs of our citizens by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety and well-being of the city.

We will achieve our mission through prevention, education, fire suppression, emergency medical, and other emergency services.

We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all the necessary resources at our command to provide a quality of service deemed excellent by our citizens with "Courage, Integrity, and Honor."

Budget Summary

	2008 Actual Expenditures	2009 Adopted Budget	2010 Adopted Budget	Change 2010 Adopted Versus 2009 Adopted
PERSONNEL				
FTEs(full-time equivalents) Operations and Maintenance	1,088.87	1,090.05	1,026.05	-64.00
FTEs (full-time equivalents) Other	5.74	7.11	7.50	0.39
Total Positions Authorized	1,146	1,133	1,027	-106
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries and Wages	$75,975,854	$73,992,523	$69,950,099	$-4,042,424
Fringe Benefits	$24,898,824	$25,157,459	$23,784,784	$-1,372,675
Operating Expenditures	$4,455,380	$4,863,460	$5,720,406	$856,946
Equipment	$147,075	$788,112	$252,613	$-535,499
Special Funds	$75,994	$195,715	$113,000	$-82,715
TOTAL	$105,553,127	$104,997,269	$99,820,902	$-5,176,367
REVENUES				
Charges for Services	$7,969,211	$7,182,900	$6,432,700	$-750,200
TOTAL	$7,969,211	$7,182,900	$6,432,700	$-750,200

In 2009, the Milwaukee Fire Department received $99.1 million in funding for personnel; $5.1 million for operating and special funds; $0.8 million for equipment purchases; and $2.8 million for capital improvements. Whenever possible, grants are written to complement the tax levy and borrowed resources, enabling the department to deliver the highest quality emergency operations and fire education, training and support services.

Strategies and Milestones for 2009

Strategies	Milestones
Implement a Fire Cause Investigation Unit to increase the proportion of fires whose cause can be determined.	Establish necessary protocols for investigation and for coordination with the Milwaukee Police Department.
Maintain initiatives to increase the percentage of residential properties with working smoke alarms.	Decrease the percentage of civilian fire fatalities occurring in residential properties with non-functioning smoke alarms to <30 percent.
Maintain the average response time to fire suppression and advanced life support calls.	Respond to 95 percent of critical types of calls within five minutes.

BUDGET SUMMARY (CONTINUED...)

Strategy Implementation

The fire department contributes to the Mayor's goal of providing safe and healthy neighborhoods through the provision of effective fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical services, and specialized rescue programs.

	2009 Budget by Services (Funding in Millions)	
SERVICE	Emergency Operations	
Activities:	Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, other emergency services, (HURT, HAZMAT, Dive Rescue) and disaster preparedness	
		2010 Projection
Performance Measures:	Percentage of responses within five minutes of call	95 percent
	Percentage of fires held to room of origin	40 percent
FUNDING BY SOURCE	Operating Funds	$96.5
	Grants and Reimbursables	$0.4
	Capital Budget	$2.8
	Totals	$99.7
SERVICE	Fire Education, Training and Support	
ACTIVITIES	Fire education, inspections, pre-incident planning, infrastructure support (shop, IT services, dispatch) training and administrative support	
		2010 Projection
Performance Measures:	Number of residential fire prevention contacts	14,000
	Smoke alarms found operational in one- and two-family residential units	15,000
Funding by Source:	Operating Funds	$8.5
	Grants and Reimbursables	$0.2
	Totals	$8.7

Grants

In 2009, the Milwaukee Fire Department received three significant grants that assisted the department in its daily operations. Those grants were:

The Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant

The Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant is federal funding received from the Office of Homeland Security that requires no cost match from the MFD. Under the grant, the MFD received a total of $860,000. A majority of that money, $700,000, went toward the purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for all department personnel. The money allowed the department to replace and upgrade the current SCBAs.

The rest of the grant funds, $160,000, were used to fund the battalion chief, Homeland Security Preparedness position. This position integrates the National Incident Management System practices into response plans in five county regions and develops all-hazard planning and preparedness activities. The UASI grant continuously funds the battalion chief position.

Port Security Grant

The department received $331,221 from the Port Security Grant in 2009, and was required to make a cost match at 25 percent of the funds granted. The grant funds were used to purchase a sector scan; Zodiac boat, trailer and motor; intercom system for the fireboat; communication system for encapsulated suits; and an MSA multigas meter and a multi-rae detector.

The sector scan was $48,975, and the Zodiac boat, trailer and motor were $34,867. The intercom system for the fireboat was paid with partial Port Security Grant funds ($37,530), and a partial city match ($12,510). The communication system for encapsulated suits was purchased with grant funds ($15,000), and city funds ($5,000). The MSA multigas meter was purchased with $3,033 from the grant funds, and $1,011 from the city funds. Lastly, the multi-rae detector was purchased with $35,850 from the grant funds, and $11,950 from city funds.

The sector scan allows the fireboat to better locate objects underwater, while the intercom system allows the fireboat crewmembers to communicate with each other when taking different positions throughout the boat.

The Project Safe Neighborhood Grant

The MFD received $33,000 from the Project Safe Neighborhood Grant. The department received this grant due to its partnership with the Milwaukee Public School Violence Prevention Team. The grant funds are used to support the department's Project Staying Alive program and to implement the full conflict resolution curriculum into the classrooms. The curriculum consists of a set of questions for pre- and post-tests validated by the CDC-National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

Organizational Chart

FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION

CHIEF

ASSISTANT CHIEF

SUPPORT DIVISION

1 BUSINESS FINANCE MGR
1 MGMT ACCTG OFFICER
1 ACCOUNTING ASST III
1 PERS PAYROLL ASST II

1 FIRE PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

1 FIRE LIEUT

1 ADMIN LIEUT

1 ADMIN ASST IV

1 shift assigned per duty day
FF Division Staffing is per Shift

FIREFIGHTING DIVISION
(3 Shifts)
Red, Green, Blue

FIELD OPERATIONS
1 DEPUTY CHIEF
1 FIRE CAPTAIN/IC SAFETY OFFICER

BN 1	
BATTALION CHIEF	1
ENG CO	8
LAD CO	4
MED	2
STAFF	72

BN 2	
BATTALION CHIEF	1
ENG CO	7
LAD CO	3
MED	2
STAFF	61

BN 3	
BATTALION CHIEF	1
ENG CO	7
LAD CO	2
MED	3
STAFF	57

BN 4	
BATTALION CHIEF	1
ENG CO	7
LAD CO	4
MED	2
STAFF	64

BN 5	
BATTALION CHIEF	1
ENG CO	7
LAD CO	3
MED	3
STAFF	63

Bureau of
INSTRUCTION & TRAINING

1 DEPUTY CHIEF
1 BATTALION CHIEF
1 FIRE CAPTAIN
1 VEHICLE OPER TRNG COORD
1 VEHICLE OPER INSTR
5 FIRE LIEUTENANTS
1 HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER
3 FIREFIGHTERS
1 INVENTORY CONTROL ASST III
1 A/V SPECIALIST II
1 OFFICE COORD II
1 OFFICE ASST II

Bureau of
ADMINISTRATION

1 DEPUTY CHIEF
1 FIRE PERS OFFICER
1 MICRO COMP SERV ASST
1 CUSTODIAL WORKER II
3 OFFICE ASST III
1 OFFICE ASST II

TECHNICAL SERVICESECTION

1 FIRE TECH SERVICES MGR
1 ADMIN CAPT
1 ADMIN LT
1 NETWORK COORD SR
2 NETWORK COORDS
1 DATABASE SPECIALIST
1 INFO TECH ASST
1 ADMIN ASST II
1 FIRE DISPATCH MGR
4 DISPATCH SUPVRS
21 DISPATCHERS
2 DISPATCHERS (PART-TIME)

Bureau of
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

1 DEPUTY CHIEF
1 FIRE EQUIP RPRS MGR
1 FIRE EQUIP RPRS SUPV
1 FIRE STORES CLK
22 SHOP STAFF
1 OFFICE COORD

Bureau of
SPECIAL OPERATIONS

1 DEPUTY CHIEF
3 BATTALION CHIEFS
3 ADMIN CAPTS
1 FIRE LIEUTENANT
1 OFFICE ASST IV

Management staff

Mark Rohlfing
Fire Chief

Michael Jones
Assistant Fire Chief

Debra Weber
Deputy Chief, Special Operations

Steven Gleisner
Deputy Chief, Construction and Maintenance

Michael Romas
Deputy Chief, Administration

Michael Payne
Deputy Chief, Instruction and Training

Jack Christianson
Deputy Chief, Firefighting Division

Donald Doro
Deputy Chief, Firefighting Division

Randall Zingler
Deputy Chief, Firefighting Division

Battalion chiefs


Daniel Berendt


Alonzo Chapman


Paul Conway


Ralph Gallow


Raymond Groth


Leo Harper

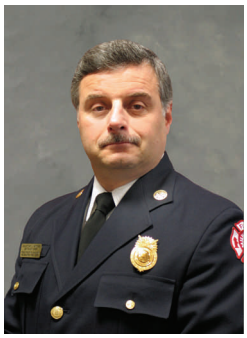

Daniel Holton


Richard Kaiser


James Ley


James Poliak


Joseph Robak


Salvatore Santoro

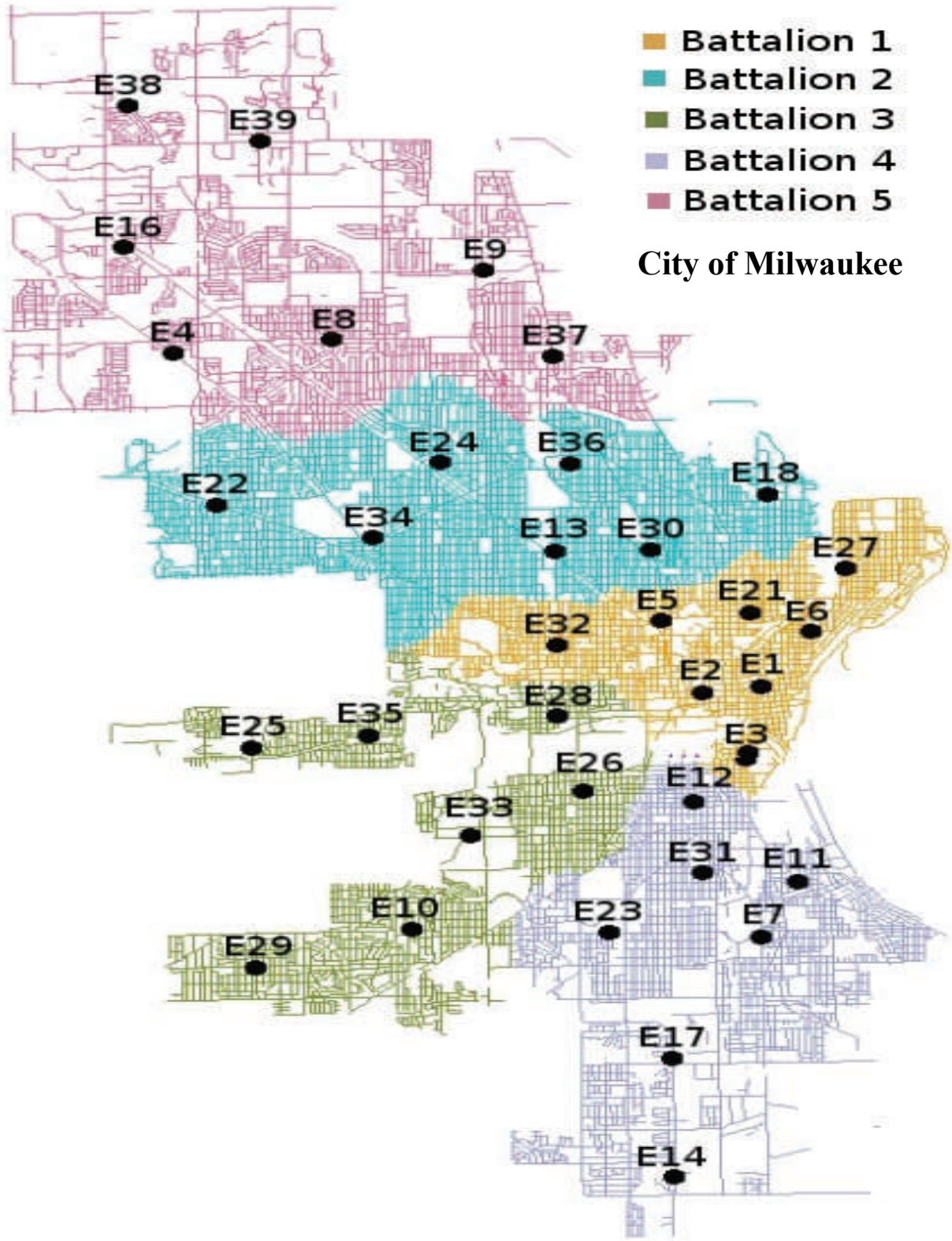

Sean Slowey


Spencer Vassel


Richard Wahlgren


Gerard Washington

Battalions


Battalion 1
Battalion 2
Battalion 3
Battalion 4
Battalion 5
City of Milwaukee
E38
E39
E16
E9
E4
E8
E37
E24
E36
E22
E18
E34
E13
E30
E27
E5
E21
E6
E32
E2
E1
E28
E25
E35
E3
E26
E12
E33
E31
E11
E10
E23
E7
E29
E17
E14

Firefighting Operations Division

The Firefighting Operations Division is headed by three deputy chiefs: Jack Christianson, Donald Doro and Randall Zingler. The Firefighting Division provides fire protection, prevention, and education to the City of Milwaukee and the Village of West Milwaukee. The city covers 96.5 square miles with a population of over 600,000. The city has 36 fire stations that house 36 engine companies, 16 truck companies, 12 paramedic units, 5 battalion chiefs, and a number of other state-of-the-art equipment. The field crews work a 24-hour shift that starts at 8 a.m., and there are 231 firefighting personnel on duty each day.

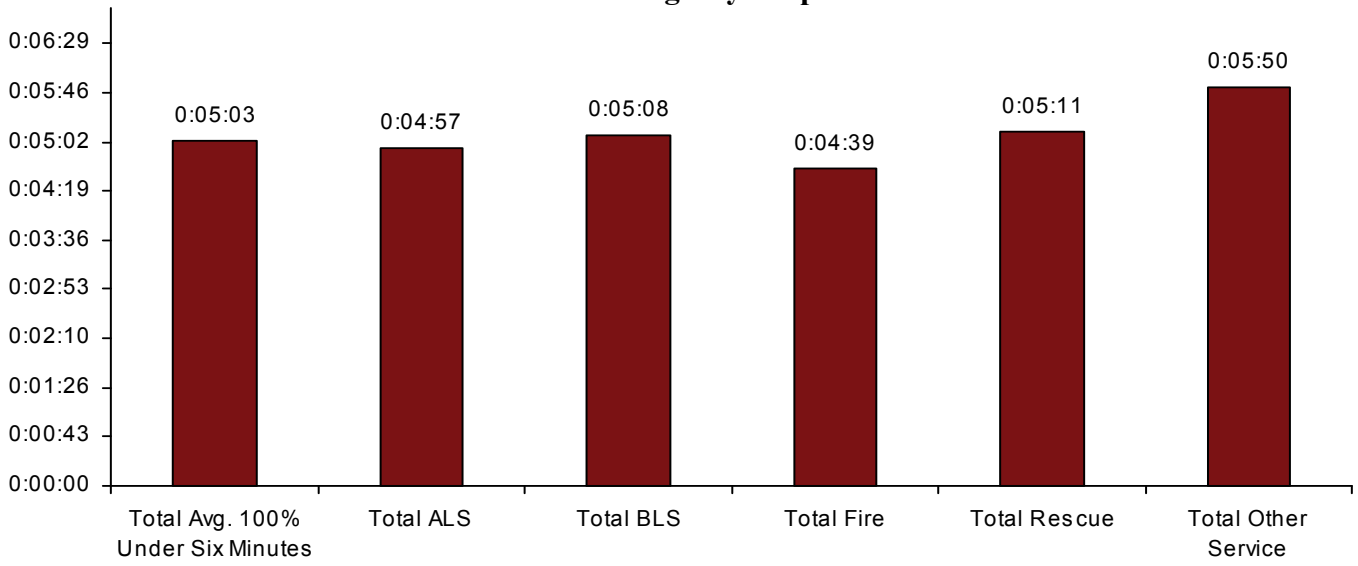
Response Time

Timely response to events has a direct impact on the outcome of any emergency. The success of this strategy is measured by an average response time of six minutes or less for 90 percent of calls received according to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). Of the total 66,950 calls for service the MFD responded to in 2009, 100 percent were responded to within six minutes or less.

Indicators tracked through the Accountability In Management program shows the advanced life support responses provided by the Milwaukee Fire Department have a positive impact on survival rates for penetrating-trauma incidents. In 2009, of the 200 stabbing incidents responders treated, 196 patients (98 percent) survived. Of the 230 gunshot-wound, EMS responses, 209 (92 percent) of the victims survived.

Quick responses to fires are important to prevent fire fatalities and to minimize injuries and property loss. Ideally, individuals are warned by fire safety devices like smoke alarms to vacate the property. To rescue those unable to vacate, personnel utilize thermal imaging cameras to locate trapped individuals through smoky conditions.

2009 Emergency Response Times



Fire stations & Apparatus

Engine 1: *784 N. Broadway* Engine 1 and Truck 1.	**Engine 2:** *755 N. James Lovell* Engine 2, Truck 2, ISO, FIU and Car 3.	**Engine 3:** *100 W. Virginia* Engine 3 and the Dive Team.	**Engine 4:** *9511 W. Appleton* Engine 4, Truck 3 and MED 16.	**Engine 5:** *1313 W. Reservoir* Engine 5, MED 7 and Battalion Chief 1.	**Engine 6:** *1693 N. Franklin* Engine 6
Engine 7: *3174 S. Chase* Engine 7, MED 15 and Battalion Chief 4.	**Engine 8:** *5585 N. 69th* Engine 8	**Engine 9:** *4141 W. Mill Road* Engine 9, MED 4 and the Command Communications Unit.	**Engine 10:** *5600 W. Oklahoma* Engine 10, Truck 17 and MED 18.	**Engine 11:** *2526 S. K.K.* Engine 11 and Truck 6.	**Engine 12:** *1400 S. 9th* Engine 12 and the Heavy Urban Rescue Team's Rescue 1, HURT 2 , HURT trailer and Truck 11.
Engine 13: *2901 N. 30th* Engine 13	**Engine 14:** *6074 S. 13th* Engine 14 and Truck 8.	**Engine 16:** *10320 W. Fond du Lac* Engine 16 and Battalion Chief 5.	**Engine 17:** *4653 S. 13th* Engine 17 and MED 17.	**Engine 18:** *3628 N. Holton* Engine 18 and Truck 10.	**Engine 21:** *2050 N. Palmer* Engine 21 and MED 6.
Engine 22: *8814 W. Lisbon* Engine 22	**Engine 23:** *2130 W. Oklahoma* Engine 23 and Truck 14.	**Engine 24:** *4927 W. Fiebrantz* Engine 24, Truck 13 and Battalion Chief 2.	**Engine 25:** *300 S. 84th* Engine 25 and Haz-Mat 1 vehicle.	**Engine 26:** *1140 S. 26th* Engine 26 and MED 3.	**Engine 27:** *2647 N. Bartlett* Engine 27 and Truck 5.
Engine 28: *424 N. 30th* Engine 28 and MED 14.	**Engine 29:** *3529 S. 84th* Engine 29	**Engine 30:** *2903 N. Teutonia* Engine 30 and Truck 12.	**Engine 31:** *2400 S. 8th* Engine 31	**Engine 32:** *1551 N. 30th* Engine 32 and Truck 9.	**Engine 33:** *4515 W. Burnham* Engine 33 and Battalion Chief 3.
Engine 34: *6205 W. Burleigh* Engine 34 and MED 13.	**Engine 35:** *100 N. 64th* Engine 35 and Truck 16.	**Engine 36:** *4060 N. 27th* Engine 36 and MED 5.	**Engine 37:** *5335 N. Teutonia* Engine 37 and Truck 15.	**Engine 38:** *8463 N. Granville* Engine 38 and MED 19.	**Engine 39:** *8025 W. Bradley* Engine 39 and Truck 7.

MFD RESPONSES

		2008 Totals	2009 Totals
Fire Response	FIRES		
Fire	Structure Fire - Single Alarm	510	482
Fire	Structure Fire - 2ND ALARM	16	15
Fire	Structure Fire - 3RD ALARM	4	2
Fire	Structure Fire - 4TH ALARM	1	1
Fire	Structure Fire - 5TH ALARM	0	0
Fire	Appliance Fire	279	314
Fire	Auto Fire	1069	1016
Fire	Garage Fire	147	162
Fire	Grass Fire	64	56
Fire	Pole Fire	81	120
Fire	Rubbish Fire	928	1006
Fire	Smoke Night	53	177
Fire	Smoke Condition	1413	1081
Fire	Tree Fire	43	28
TOTAL		4608	4460
Rescue Response	SERVICE ALARMS		
Rescue	Alarm Sounding	4219	4148
Rescue	Auto Accident w/Multiple Injuries	3	4
Rescue	Auto Extrication	359	331
Rescue	Carbon Monoxide	663	624
Rescue	Electrical Trouble	264	247
Rescue	Elevator Stuck	225	255
Rescue	Emergency Response	9	5
Rescue	Fire Boat Response	10	6
Rescue	Forcible Entry	270	272
Rescue	Full Dive Response	17	28
Rescue	H.U.R.T. Response	9	8
Rescue	Hazardous Materials Response	12	11
Rescue	HazMat Regional Response	2	5
Rescue	HazMat Response Call	1	1
Rescue	Investigative Response	3	1
Rescue	KK River Response	1	2
Rescue	Limited Dive Response	6	4
Rescue	Limited HazMat Response	10	9
Rescue	Limited Response	735	783
Rescue	Menomonee River Response	0	0
Rescue	Natural Gas Leak	1040	947
Rescue	Suspicious Call	116	106
Rescue	10-54 (MPD Assistance Needed)	4	11
Rescue	Wires Down	258	231
TOTAL		8236	8039

		2008 Totals	2009 Totals
Service Response	OTHERS		
Service	Building Inspection	40	32
Service	Firefighter Assistance	0	0
Service	FLUSH	238	230
Service	FST-Inj FF MED Transport (not used)	0	0
Service	Heating Trouble	50	41
Service	Lock Out	403	361
Service	MFD Accident	121	94
Service	Mutual Aid	0	1
Service	Petroleum Spill	366	359
Service	Pre-Fire Plan	3	2
Service	Special Event	130	75
Service	Water Leak	288	207
Service	Unknown	1	2
TOTAL		1640	1404

MFD RESPONSES

By Engine Company

Engine 1	1204
Engine 2	1691
Engine 3	579
Engine 4	1864
Engine 5	2084
Engine 6	1268
Engine 7	1033
Engine 8	2996
Engine 9	1433
Engine 10	1114
Engine 11	963
Engine 12	2343
Engine 13	4191
Engine 14	672
Engine 16	992
Engine 17	1158
Engine 18	2062
Engine 21	1749
Engine 22	1483
Engine 23	1482
Engine 24	2834
Engine 25	388
Engine 26	2797
Engine 27	1175
Engine 28	2126
Engine 29	879
Engine 30	3600
Engine 31	2164
Engine 32	3337
Engine 33	1320
Engine 34	2284
Engine 35	787
Engine 36	3103
Engine 37	2457
Engine 38	979
Engine 39	1414

By Truck Company

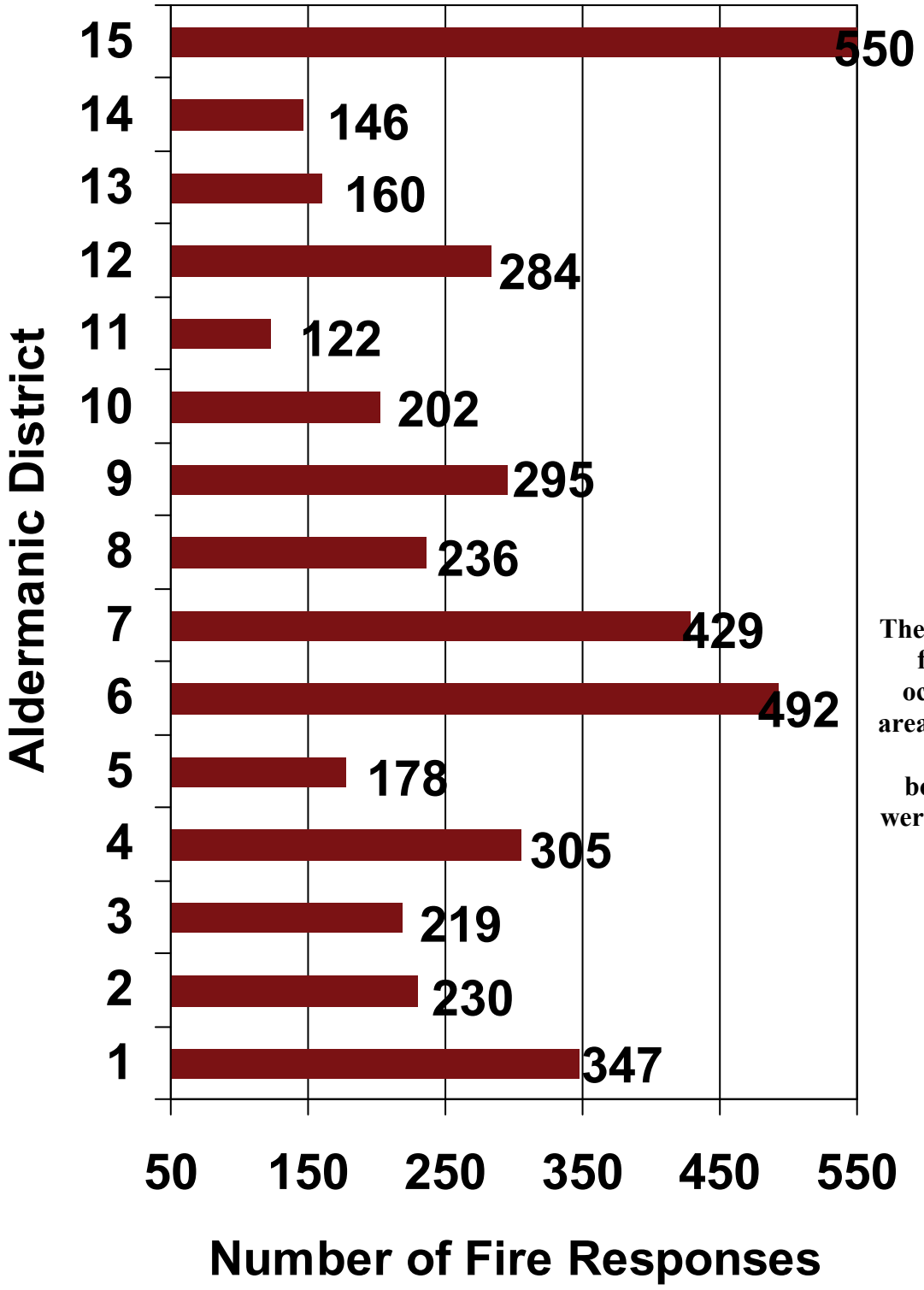
Truck 1	839
Truck 2	1070
Truck 3	1143
Truck 5	715
Truck 6	585
Truck 7	964
Truck 8	314
Truck 9	1923
Truck 10	917
Truck 11	1122
Truck 12	2108
Truck 13	2021
Truck 14	819
Truck 15	1439
Truck 16	531
Truck 17	468

By Battalion Chiefs

Battalion Chief 1	1207
Battalion Chief 2	1079
Battalion Chief 3	561
Battalion Chief 4	506
Battalion Chief 5	331

Fire responses by aldermanic district

The following is a chart that shows the number of fire responses in each of the 15 Milwaukee aldermanic districts in 2009.



There were 122 fires that occurred in areas where the district boundaries were unknown.

MFD STATISTICS

Type of Structure that Caught Fire	Cause of Fire by Heat Source					
	Electrical	Open Flames/ Smoking Materials	Matches/ Lighters	Caught From Another Fire	Other	Undetermined
Residential - 1 or 2 Family Dwellings	12	20	5	2	71	234
Residential - Multifamily Dwellings	1	11	2	1	32	51
Residential - Other (boarding, hotel, dormitory, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	2
Garages	1	1	1	4	6	60
Other (assembly, business, education, storage)	1	1	0	1	9	27
TOTAL	15	33	8	8	118	374

Type of Structure that Caught Fire	Number of Fires Set Intentionally by Type of Structure
Residential - 1 or 2 Family Dwellings	13
Residential - Multifamily Dwellings	5
Residential - Other (Boarding, hotel, dormitory, etc)	0
Garages	2
Other (assembly, business, education, storage)	2
Total	22

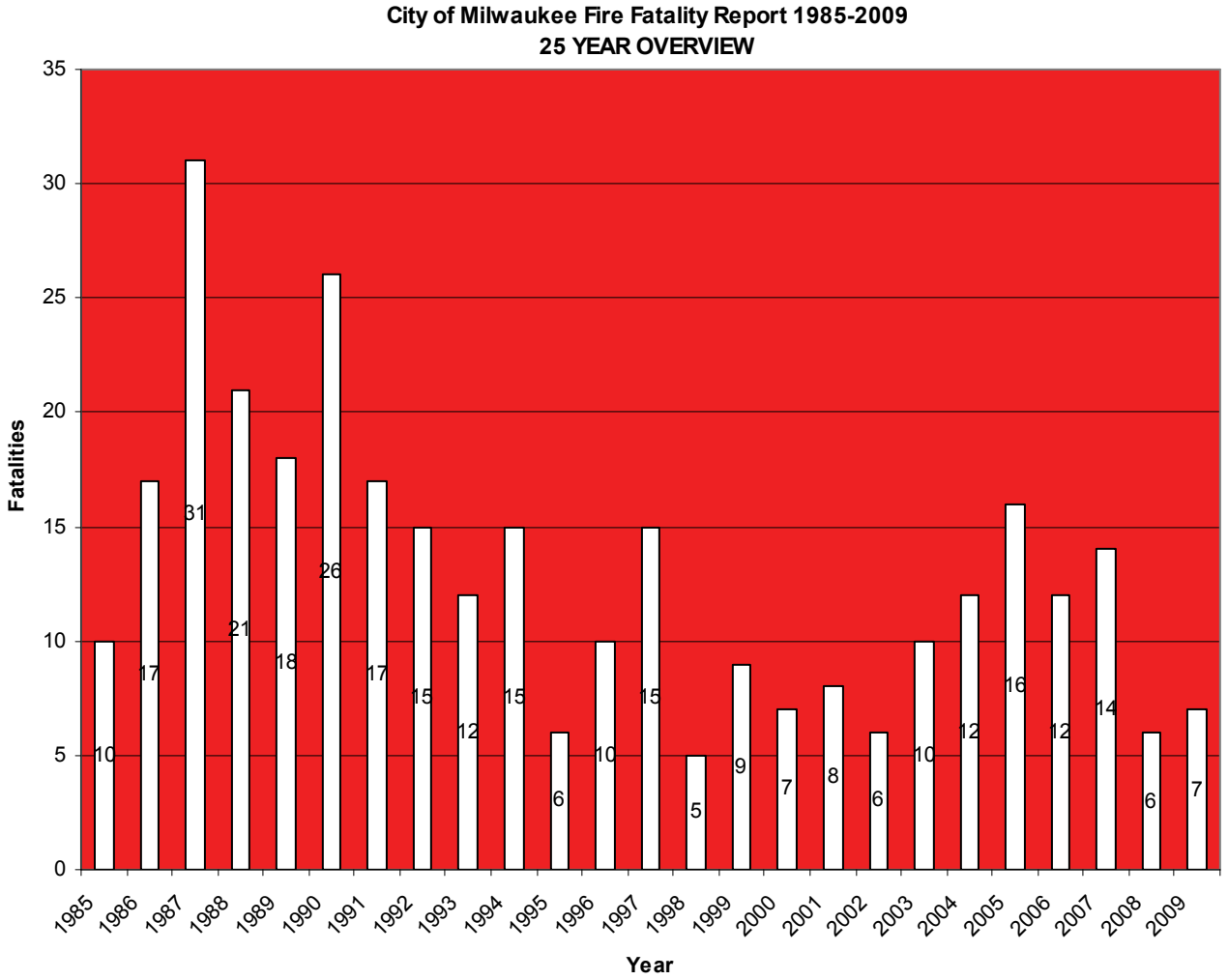
Fire Statistics	
Percentage of Residential Fires Held to Room of Origin	43.85%
Total Fire Loss (Number of Incidents)	1930
Total Fire Dollar Loss-All Types/All Properties	$11,471,323
Fire Dollar Loss Per Incident	$5,944
Total Fire Dollar Loss-All Structures	$9,839,271
Total Fire Dollar Loss-Vehicles	$1,441,661
Total Fire Dollar Loss-Rubbish	$23,641
Total Fire Dollar Loss-Other	$18,000

City of Milwaukee Fire Fatalities

Fire Fatalities

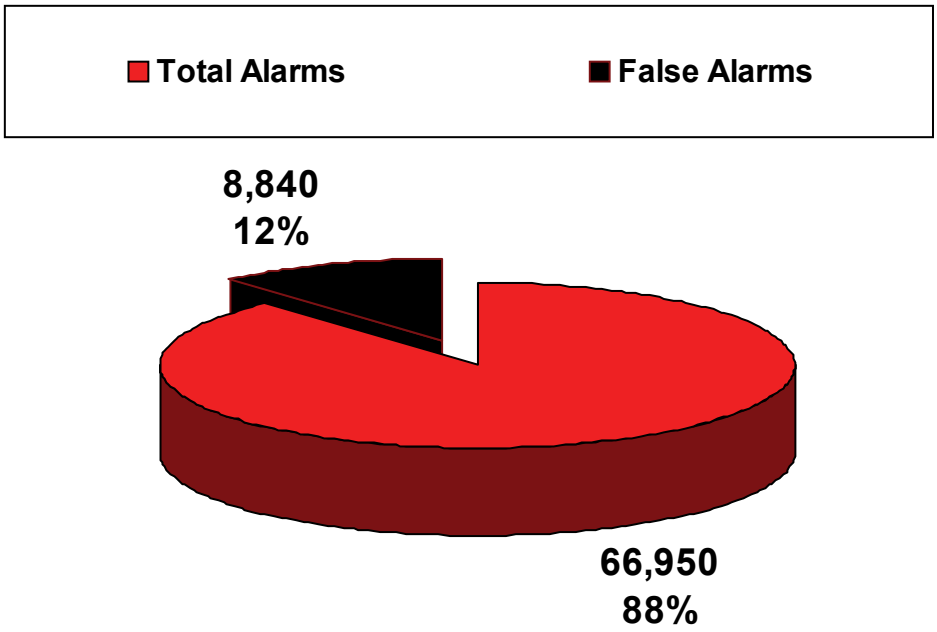
Date	Type of Property	Working Smoke Detector	Age
1/9/2009	Multifamily high rise, 28-story bldg	Yes	56
1/29/2009	2.5 story, multifamily dwelling	No	37
2/4/2009	2.5 story, multifamily dwelling	No	8 months
4/8/2009	2.5 story, multifamily dwelling	No	7
8/7/2009	2-story, multifamily dwelling	No	33
11/27/2009	Auto Accident	Not required	20
12/19/2009	1 story, garage	Not required	39

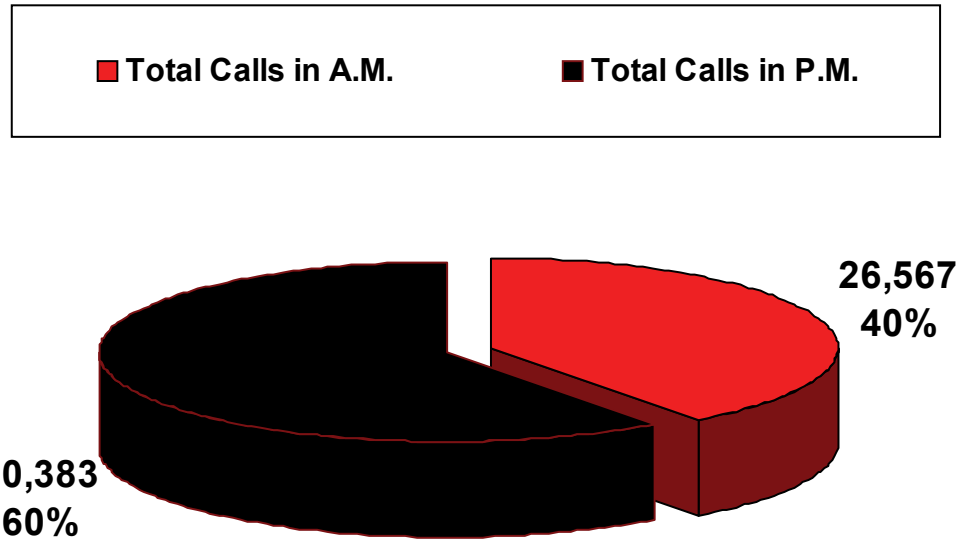
The MFD reported six fire fatalities in 2008 and seven in 2009, equaling the lowest number of fire fatalities reported in a two-year timeframe in the MFD's history.



Total Alarms vs. False Alarms

The Milwaukee Fire Department responded to a total of 66,950 calls for service in 2009. Out of those calls, 8,840 were false alarms. A false alarm is called when a unit arrives on scene and determines the requested services are not needed.





In 2009, the Milwaukee Fire Department responded to a total of 26,567 service calls in the a.m., and 40,383 service calls in the p.m.

Fire Investigation Unit

The Milwaukee Fire Department, in collaboration with the Milwaukee Police Department and other involved agencies, established a Fire Investigation Unit Task Force in May 2009. With the task force in effect, the MFD was initially responsible for investigating all fire incidents in which the damage to the property exceeded $500; injuries or loss of life occurred to occupants of emergency response personnel; the cause of fire was suspicious, incendiary or undetermined; the fire was a second alarm or higher; and/or anytime the MFD requested the unit to respond.

The Milwaukee Police Department maintained its responsibility to investigate all crimes and deaths due to arson. The crime of arson presented a special problem for both departments. The Fire Department investigators have the expertise in the science of fire investigation to determine the cause and origin of fires, but lack the law enforcement powers to conduct criminal investigations and to make arrests. The collaboration of the fire and police department to conduct criminal investigations enhances public safety by providing a dedicated unit to pursuing charges against those who violate arson laws.

The MFD Fire Investigation Unit has the authority to investigate the origin, cause and circumstances of every fire, and an explosion or hazardous materials emergency in which the fire department has a reasonable interest. When the fire investigator has reason to believe that a fire, explosion or hazardous materials incident may be the result of a violation of any law, the investigator immediately takes custody of and safeguards all physical evidence in connection with the incident. In addition, the collaboration of both departments enhances the fervent prosecution required to increase public awareness of arson, and works closely with the City of Milwaukee District Attorney's office to prosecute arsonists.

The MFD Fire Investigation Unit was later revamped in 2009 to have one lieutenant assigned to a 40-hour workweek, Monday-Friday, and subject to recall as necessary. In the lieutenant's regular workweek he now responds to all fires in which the damage to the property exceeds $10,000, when there is a significant injury to a firefighter or civilian, and/or when a fire involves a fatality. Outside his regular work hours the lieutenant responds to all greater alarms, when there is a significant injury to a firefighter or civilian, and when a fire involves a fatality.

Bureau of special operations

The Milwaukee Fire Department Bureau of Special Operations is comprised of the MFD's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and four special teams, including, Dive Rescue, Hazardous Materials, HURT (Heavy Urban Rescue Team), and Marine Operations which operate the MFD Fireboat Trident. This bureau also coordinates Homeland Security activities within the department.

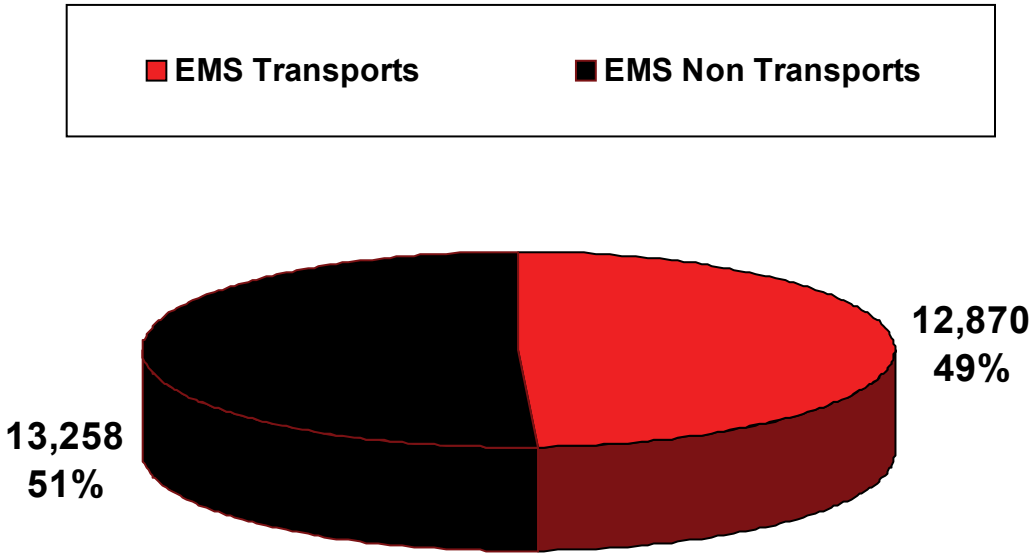
The Bureau of Special Operations provide planning and medical assistance for over 70 events each year. The events include ethnic festivals, neighborhood celebrations, Summerfest, the Air and Water Show and many more.

Currently the department provides basic and advanced life support services performed by over 800 Emergency Medical Technicians-Basic (EMT-B), and over 100 EMT-Paramedics. These EMT-Bs and paramedics staff the department's engine companies, truck companies and Mobile Emergency Department (MED) units that respond to EMS incidents in the City of Milwaukee. Last year, six MFD members graduated from the paramedic program after undergoing extensive training. Over 80 percent of all MFD responses are EMS related.

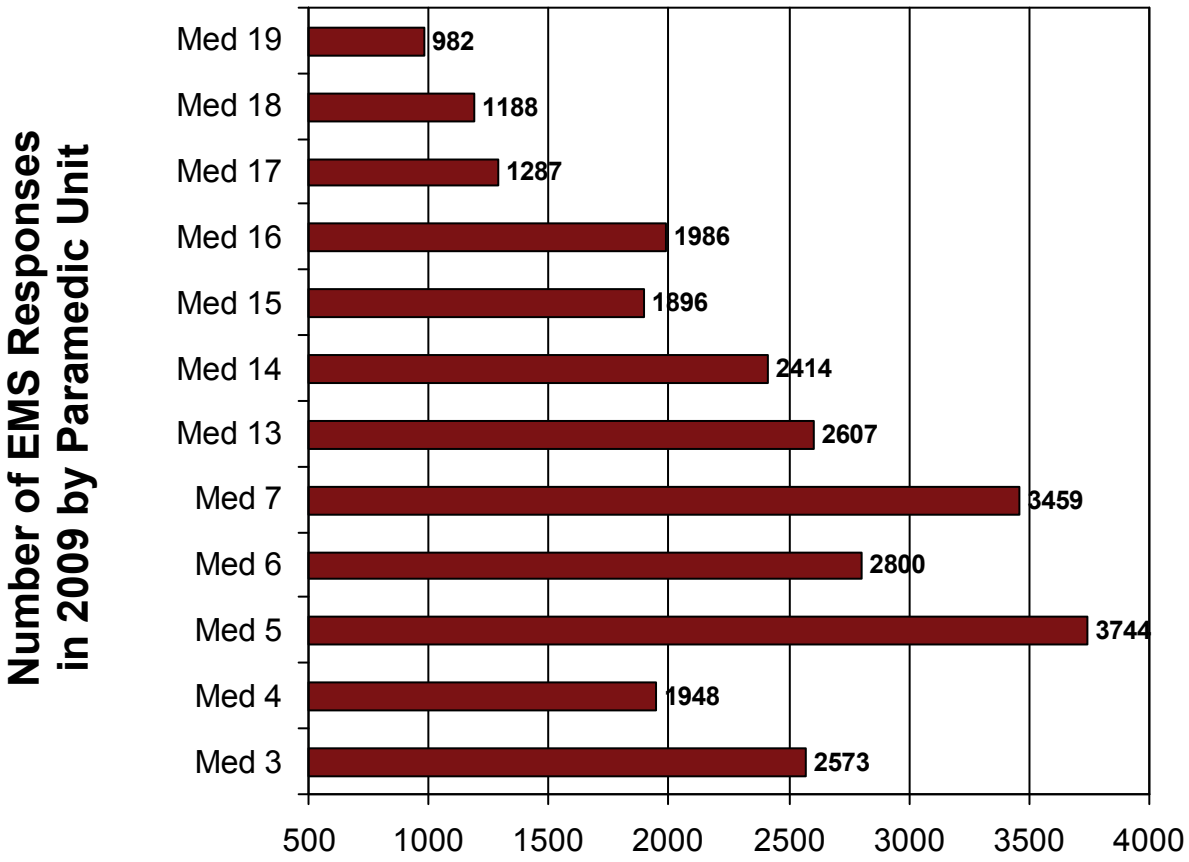
In 2009 the Bureau of Special Operations administered some significant courses for members. In the beginning of the year, the entire department took a biannual CPR class. Additionally, all EMTs completed the medical emergencies module as part of the Emergency Medical Technician refresher which was facilitated through the state-certified MFD Emergency Medical Services Training Center. Members were also assigned online courses in fall 2009 through CentreLearn, an Internet-based distributive learning system.

The bureau, in conjunction with the Milwaukee Police Department, supports a Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) program to enhance response capabilities to incidents involving special weapons and tactics operations. This program provides EMS support within the perimeter of tactical situations for victims, as well as law enforcement officers. In 2009, TEMS responded to 40 tactical situations and high-risk warrants for medical assistance.

EMS RESPONSES

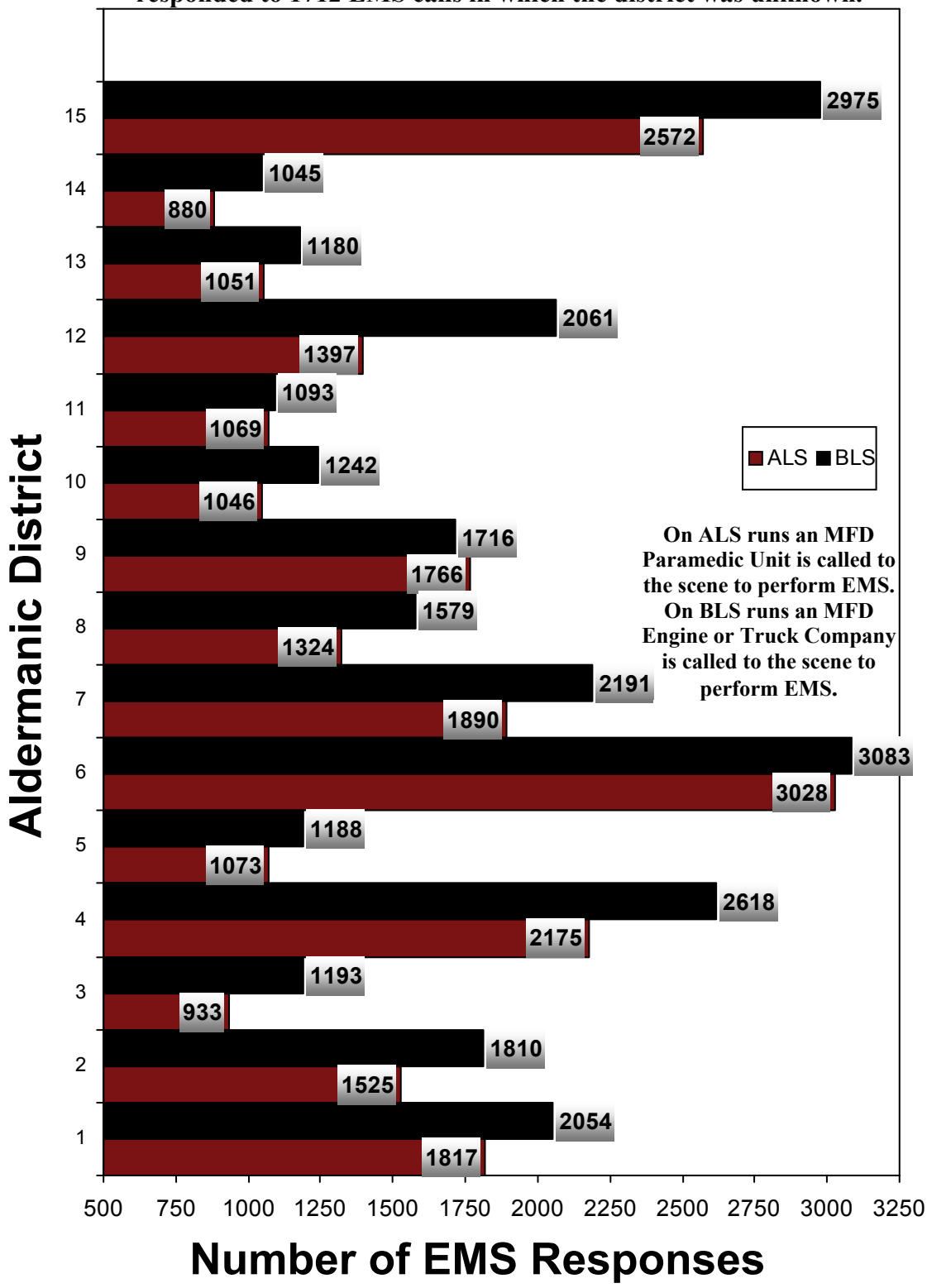


Collectively, the MFD 12 paramedic units transported 12,870 patients to Milwaukee-area hospitals in 2009. In addition, there were 13,258 runs in which an MFD paramedic unit arrived on scene but did not transport any patients to the hospital.



EMS RESPONSES BY ALDERMANIC DISTRICT

The following is a chart that breaks ALS (Advanced Life Support) and BLS (Basic Life Support) responses out by each of the 15 aldermanic districts. In 2009, the MFD responded to 1712 EMS calls in which the district was unknown.



Special teams

The Milwaukee Fire Department Special Teams exercise expertise in four major disciplines: Dive Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Heavy Urban Rescue, and marine operations.

Hazardous Materials Team: The Hazardous Materials Team responds to all hazardous materials incidents and spills in the City of Milwaukee, as well as operates as one of seven regional response HazMat teams for the State of Wisconsin. The team is the biggest in the state and recognized as a leader in HazMat Weapons of Mass Destruction terrorist events. HazMat members have participated in training with regional fire departments' HazMat teams and federal and military units.

HURT (Heavy Urban Rescue Team): The Heavy Urban Rescue Team (HURT) has experienced substantial growth due to federal and state funding. All members of the team have been trained to the level of "Collapse Rescue Technician." As a result of this training, the team's expertise has been called upon to assess structures and make recommendations to other state and local agencies. The MFD HURT, in concert with the City of Waukesha HURT, has been designated as Task Force 1 by the State of Wisconsin. As a state asset they are ready to respond to a wide variety of emergencies and help mitigate situations throughout the southeast region as well as the entire state.

Dive Rescue Team and Marine Operations: The Dive Rescue Team (DRT) and Marine Operations, which includes the Fireboat Trident pilots, provide the entire county with all-weather, 24/7 responses to multiple water rescue emergencies. In an effort to share expertise and resources and to provide coordinated rescue/scene investigation to incident responses, the DRT began joint training with the Milwaukee Police Department Dive Team. The Fireboat Trident and its pilots became a regional asset due to their reputation and outreach efforts. They assist in search and rescue operations with local agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, Milwaukee Police Department and the County Sheriff Department. The team has responded to incidents as far out as 17 miles from the Milwaukee shore, and offshore of the City of Oak Creek. Fireboat Trident responds to and extinguishes multiple boat fires, and provides EMS services to the boating public.

Special Teams Response Type	Total
Fire Boat	6
Full Dive	28
Limited Dive	9
Limited HazMat Response	4
HURT	8
Hazardous Materials	11
Hazardous Materials Regional	5
Hazardous Materials Response Call	1

Bureau of instruction & training

The Milwaukee Fire Department Bureau of Instruction and Training provides continuing education for all members of the firefighting division, as well as research and development in the science and techniques of firefighting.

In 2009, MFD members were trained in various disciplines. The members completed a total of 38,071 hours of training. The trainings included:

- The Company Officer Program
- CPR Re-Certification & FF Clothing Inspection
- Hazardous Materials Team
- Dive Team
- Fireboat Trident Pilots
- Heavy Urban Rescue Team
- Safety Vests, Hydrant/Street Guide Book & EMS Updates
- After Action: Firefighters Injured at 64th & Keefe
- SCBA, Roof Ladders, Hose Layouts, Smoke and Irons
- Fire Investigation Unit
- Spring FOCUS
- Airport Driver Session
- SCBA Fit Test/Peer Support
- Driver Training/Operations

The Bureau of Instruction and Training also oversees the MFD Community Relations Office. This office annually coordinates 21 programs that reach over 100,000 people of all ages, races and genders in the City of Milwaukee through Project Staying Alive and Project FOCUS (Firefighters Out Creating Urban Safety). In 2009, the MFD made contact with 311,972 people who were educated on fire public safety.

Additionally, the Bureau of Instruction and Training is responsible for vehicle operations instructions, inventory control for proper protective equipment, audiovisual support, and portable and vehicle radio communication equipment.

Project staying alive

Project Staying Alive (PSA) is a Milwaukee Fire Department program in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (CHW) Project Ujima. The program provides children in the City of Milwaukee with the skills they need to deal with their anger before it accelerates into a more violent act.

In 2009, the MFD had 2680 student contacts through the Project Staying Alive Program. The number of participants tripled from the year prior. PSA instructors went into 25 schools, 50 classrooms and taught 100 sessions. Overall test scores for the program went up 40 percent from 2008.

Project Staying Alive allows Milwaukee firefighting personnel to teach Milwaukee-area students proper anger management techniques and conflict resolution skills. The department believes that by implementing this program in Milwaukee Public Schools it will help reduce violent injuries in the City of Milwaukee.

The MFD's primary goal for the current school year is to teach anger-management skills to 1750 students or have 3500 student contacts by visiting 35 schools, 75 classrooms, and administering 150 PSA sessions. The secondary goal is to improve test scores by 10 percent.

Project Staying Alive entails five sessions. Students are taught two of the sessions by their teachers who are trained ahead of time on conflict resolution. MFD instructors and Project Ujima staff conduct two, 90- to120-minute sessions. A firefighter may return to the classroom to assist with a fifth session that is conducted by the classroom teacher to round out the Project's conflict resolution curriculum.

PSA is made possible through continuing collaborations with the Violence Prevention Initiative, Stand Together Milwaukee, Scooter Foundation, Safe School Healthy Students Initiative, CHW Project Ujima, the MPS Violence Prevention Team, and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Survive alive house

From 1987 to 1991 a series of house fires devastated Milwaukee by claiming the lives of 113 people, 63 of which were children. In response to this tragic loss of life a Fire Prevention Task Force was appointed to explore ways in which the Milwaukee community could prevent future fire fatalities from occurring. The concept of a Fire Safety Education Center (Survive Alive House) was proposed to the Fire Prevention Task Force for consideration. It was felt that a fire safety and prevention program introduced at an early age would be an effective way of teaching children to escape from a fire. With the generous support of businesses, schools and community leaders, the Milwaukee Fire Education Center's Survive Alive House officially opened its doors in February 1992.

Over 13,000 Milwaukee children visit the house each year to learn fire education and how to survive in the event of an actual fire. The Milwaukee Public Schools' Division of Recreation and Community Services, and the Milwaukee Fire Department jointly operates the Survive Alive House. Funding for capital improvements, fire education material, and certain operating expenses is provided by donations to The Foundation for the Milwaukee Fire Education Center.

The Survive Alive House is not a new concept to fire education. Numerous communities use this method to deliver their fire safety message to the public. However, Milwaukee's Survive Alive House has taken fire education to the next level. Through fundraising and charitable contributions the Foundation for the Milwaukee Fire Education Center has generously donated significant technology upgrades. These upgrades include the addition of cameras inside the bedrooms allowing other participants to view the escape in progress on monitors outside of the house. Computers, monitors, and a 65" plasma touch screen have been added to the classroom to create a more interactive environment. The seating arrangements have also been improved to allow for greater comfort and control of the students. The upgrades to this program have increased the efficiency, effectiveness and consistency of it.

Milwaukee's Survive Alive House has provided fire education to over 300,000 people over the past 17 years. Community volunteers, Milwaukee Public Schools and Milwaukee firefighters have all worked together to make this possible. For numerous years volunteers provided much of the education. Now the Milwaukee Fire Department details a fire company on a daily basis to assist with the instruction to afford all Milwaukee firefighters the opportunity to teach fire education.

Project focus

The Milwaukee Fire Department and the City of Milwaukee Mayor's office collaborated to develop Project FOCUS (Firefighters Out Creating Urban Safety) in 1991. FOCUS was created to address the fact that out of the 113 people that died in fires between 1987-1991, 91 of the victims perished in homes with no smoke detector, a disconnected smoke detector, or a detector without batteries.

Project FOCUS is the MFD's response and a proactive approach to this disturbing fact. This fire prevention program has an immediate positive impact on fire deaths in the city and aims to target areas in the community that have experienced a high number of structural fires and/or fire-related deaths in the past two years.

Project FOCUS allows on-duty firefighters to target a neighborhood and conduct a door-to-door campaign intended to educate residents on fire safety and prevention. Project FOCUS takes place every year in spring and fall for three weeks. During those three weeks, firefighters visit every home in a targeted neighborhood to test or install smoke detectors, replace batteries and perform blood pressure screenings all at no cost to the recipients. Firefighters who participate in FOCUS work one of two shifts, 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m., and meet at a prearranged firehouse in the target area to receive addresses. This year these firefighters will visit more than 6000 homes. On each shift four companies are expected to visit at least 64 homes to check for working smoke detectors. Additionally, the Milwaukee Fire Department performs a "Mini-Focus" in the immediate neighborhood where a fire fatality occurred.

Project FOCUS is primarily funded through grants; however, a small portion is funded through donations from private corporations. Since Project FOCUS was implemented more than 20,000 smoke detectors have been installed in residences. All of the smoke detectors installed since 2005 are tamper-proof, featuring a 10-year, lithium-ion battery and hush button as required by the City of Milwaukee fire code.

2009 PROJECT FOCUS STATISTICS

Smoke Detectors Installed	**1183**
Batteries Installed	**350**
Households Inspected	**1166**
Residents Received 911 Education	**412**
Address Numbers Installed on Alley Garages	**55**

Bureau of construction & maintenance

The Milwaukee Fire Department Bureau of Construction and Maintenance is responsible for ordering, maintaining and repairing all department equipment and apparatus.

The bureau furnishes the MFD with all firefighting and EMS equipment and supplies. When any equipment and/or supplies are received and are ready to enter into the field, the bureau's personnel formally inspects it first. They also develop specifications for new emergency vehicles.

Building maintenance and repairs for all 36 firehouses fall under this bureau's primary responsibility. The bureau fulfills all requisitions for major and minor repairs on the interior and exterior of MFD-operated buildings. This includes, but is not limited to, roofing, electrical, structural repairs, painting, plumbing and flooring.

In 2009, the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance began the process of installing four additional backup generator units for Firehouse 4, 12, 30 and 39. The MFD will have dependable backup power generators for 21 of the department's 36 firehouses.

Lastly, the bureau purchased and successfully delivered to the field three 2009, Pierce Velocity, 1500-gallon per minute pumping engines outfitted for large diameter hoses that went to Engine 5, Engine 21 and Engine 27. Five new paramedic ambulances were purchased as well.

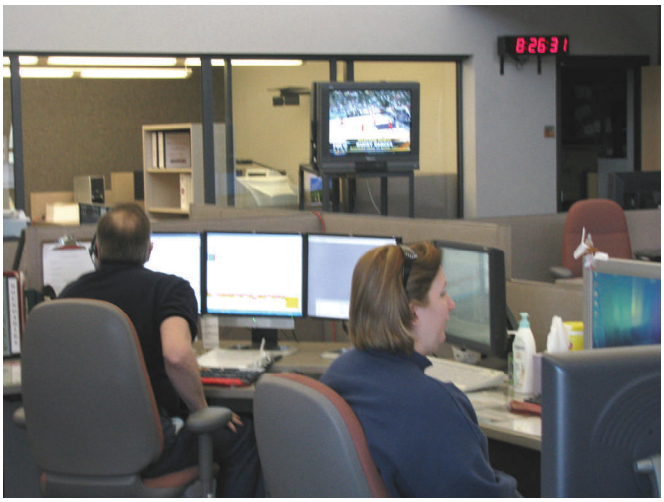
Bureau of administration

The Milwaukee Fire Department Bureau of Administration oversees administration, technical support services (TSS) and dispatch.

The bureau's administration duties include creating and tracking reports, records, statistical information, written communications, labor negotiations, personnel issues, human relations, discipline, information processing, record retention and database maintenance.

Within TSS all computer software and hardware is maintained, including, apparatus technology, the Enterprise Information System, telephones, Intranet site, and the database and security systems. In addition, TSS is responsible for technical support of all the aforementioned.

Dispatch is located in TSS and is the heart of emergency communication for the MFD. It is where 911 calls are received and addressed, all MFD apparatus is tracked, and pre-arrival instructions are provided on all EMS calls. In 2009, the department purchased a new dispatch software to assist the dispatchers in efficiently providing pre-arrival instructions. This has helped increase the quality of patient care prior to the arrival of firefighting personnel.



PERSONNEL

Title	Allotted	Assigned	Race					Sex	
FIRE			**Asn**	**Blck**	**Cauc**	**Indi**	**Hisp**	**M**	**F**
Administrative Captain EMS	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Administrative Fire Captain	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Administrative Fire Lieutenant	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Assistant Fire Chief	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Battalion Chief	19	19	0	5	14	0	0	19	0
Deputy Chief Fire	7	7	0	1	6	0	0	6	1
Fire Captain Incident Safety Officer	3	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0
Fire Captain	54	54	0	8	45	1	0	48	6
Fire Chief	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firefighter (+69 Auxiliary)	484	422	1	59	316	9	37	408	14
Fire Lieutenant	155	151	2	8	132	1	8	151	0
Fire Lieutenant-Special	5	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Fire Paramedic	53	46	1	4	40	1	0	39	7
Fire Paramedic Field Lieutenant	8	7	0	1	5	0	1	5	2
Heavy Equipment Operator	183	181	0	18	143	4	16	179	2
Paramedic Field Lieutenant	4	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Vehicle Operations Instructor	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Vehicle Operations Trng Coordinator	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
FIRE-TOTALS	**Allotted**	**Assigned**	**Asn**	**Blck**	**Cauc**	**Indi**	**Hisp**	**M**	**F**
	985	**907**	**4**	**107**	**718**	**16**	**62**	**869**	**38**
STAFF									
Accounting Assistant III	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Assistant	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Audiovisual Specialist II	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Business Finance Manager	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Carpenter	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
Custodial Worker II	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Data Base Specialist	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fire Bldg & Equip Maint Specialist	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fire Dispatch Manager	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fire Dispatch Supervisor	4	4	0	0	4	0	0	2	2
Fire Equip Compressed Air Tec	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fire Equip Machinist	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fire Equip Mechanic	9	9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0
Fire Equip Repairer I	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
Fire Equip Repairer II	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
Fire Equip Repairs Manager	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fire Equip Repairs Supervisor	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fire Equip Welder	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fire Equip Dispatcher	21	19	0	2	17	0	0	8	11
Fire Equip Dispatcher-P/T	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Mechanic Helper	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Fire Personnel Officer	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fire Public Relations Manager	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fire Stores Clerk	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Health and Safety Officer	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Information Technology Specialist	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory Control Assistant III	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Management and Accounting Officer	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Microcomputer Services Assistant	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Network Coordinator-Associate	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
Network Coordinator-Senior	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Office Assistant	6	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Office Coordinator	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Painter	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Personnel Payroll Assistant II	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fire Technical Services Manager	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STAFF-TOTALS									
	80	**72**	**0**	**10**	**61**	**0**	**1**	**41**	**31**
GRAND TOTALS	**1065**	**979**	**4**	**117**	**779**	**16**	**63**	**910**	**69**

Promotions

Name	Promotion Date	From	To
Jones, Michael	8/9/2009	Deputy Chief	Assistant Fire Chief
Weber, Debra	5/17/2009	Battalion Chief	Deputy Chief
Romas, Michael	6/28/2009	Battalion Chief	Deputy Chief
Payne, Michael	8/9/2009	Battalion Chief	Deputy Chief
Christianson, Jack	10/4/2009	Battalion Chief	Deputy Chief
Gleisner, Steven	10/4/2009	Battalion Chief	Deputy Chief
Groth, Raymond	5/17/2009	Fire Captain	Battalion Chief
Washington, Gerard	6/14/2009	Fire Captain/ISO	Battalion Chief
Friedrich, Jeffrey	6/28/2009	Fire Captain	Battalion Chief
Berendt, Daniel	8/9/2009	Fire Captain	Battalion Chief
Ley, James	8/9/2009	Fire Captain/ISO	Battalion Chief
Kaiser, Richard	8/9/2009	Fire Captain/ISO	Battalion Chief
Slowey, Sean	10/4/2009	Fire Captain	Battalion Chief
Vassel, Spencer	10/4/2009	Fire Captain	Battalion Chief
Smith, Brian	5/17/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
Hunnicutt, Carter	6/14/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
Nikolaus, Daniel	6/28/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
McNulty, Brian	8/9/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
Roden, Erich	8/9/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
Firnrohr, Ronald	8/9/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
O'Connor, Brian	8/9/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
Riegg, Steven	10/4/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
Peifer, Laurie	10/4/2009	Lieutenant	Fire Captain
Butts, Leon	3/8/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Cieciwa, Michael	3/8/2009	Heavy Equipment Operator	Fire Lieutenant
Curtis, Lanny	3/8/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Duffey, Sean	3/8/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Butzlaff, William	5/17/2009	Firefighter	Fire Lieutenant
Oberg, Jason	5/31/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Roberts, Harry Jr.	5/31/2009	Firefighter	Fire Lieutenant
Perry, Jamaal	5/31/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Arps, James	6/14/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Wetzel, John	6/28/2009	Heavy Equipment Operator	Fire Lieutenant

Promotions (continued...)

Zielke, Charles	6/28/2009	Heavy Equipment Operator	Fire Lieutenant
Schwade, Michael	7/26/2009	Firefighter	Fire Lieutenant
Hart, Kevin	8/9/2009	Special Lieutenant	Fire Lieutenant
Seager, David	8/9/2009	Firefighter	Fire Lieutenant
Hatch, Bernard	8/9/2009	Heavy Equipment Operator	Fire Lieutenant
Kabelowsky, Kevin	8/9/2009	Heavy Equipment Operator	Fire Lieutenant
Bryant, Matthew	8/9/2009	Firefighter	Fire Lieutenant
Alwin, Scott	10/4/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Meka, Scott	10/4/2009	Firefighter	Fire Lieutenant
Zidek, Daniel	12/13/2009	Fire Paramedic	Fire Lieutenant
Ebo, Jermaine	1/25/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Fulsom, Jorim	3/8/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Glad, Anthony	4/5/2009	Fire Paramedic	Heavy Equipment Operator
Gooding, Nicholas	5/3/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Dickinson, John	8/9/2009	Fire Paramedic	Heavy Equipment Operator
Kowalski, John	8/9/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Nawrocki, Jacob	8/9/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Hoffer, Jacob	8/9/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Ornstein, David	9/20/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Kreil, Aaron	9/20/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Triplett, Jared	11/15/2009	Fire Paramedic	Heavy Equipment Operator
Elliott II, John	11/15/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Oconnell, David	12/13/2009	Firefighter	Heavy Equipment Operator
Battle, Juliet	7/26/2009	Administrative Asst IV	Fire Personnel Officer
Finger, Cheryl	7/26/2009	Data Base Specialist	Administrative Asst IV
Newton, Beth	7/26/2009	IT Specialist	Data Base Specialist

Retirees

NAME	APPOINTED	RANK	RETIREE DATE
ANDERSON, RICHARD B.	9/24/1984	PARFF	12/31/2009
BALCERZAK, PATRICK D.	4/2/1979	LIEUT	10/15/2009
BETT, ROBERT J.	4/2/1979	HEQOP	4/19/2009
BOYD, GARRETT W.	9/15/1980	HEQOP	4/8/2009
CLAY, DENNIS D.	4/2/1979	FCAPT	12/21/2009
COVINGTON, KENNETH	5/3/1976	HEQOP	1/10/2009
DILLARD, JERRY O.	4/26/1982	DEPCH	8/10/2009
DUDEVOIRE, BARBARA J.	7/11/1983	PMFLT	12/25/2009
DUDEVOIRE, PEPIE S.	10/20/1975	BNCHF	12/25/2009
EMERSON, JOHN A.	10/20/1975	PARFF	12/21/2009
GLASSEL, BRIAN D.	4/26/1982	AFCHF	7/11/2009
GOINS, CHARLES E.	5/30/1978	LIEUT	5/31/2009
GROSSMAN, SCOTT J.	1/9/1978	BNCHF	5/16/2009
HARRISON, HERMAN G.	11/29/1976	FIREF	8/17/2009
HOLDMANN, MARK E.	4/2/1979	LIEUT	10/22/2009
HOLTON, DOUGLAS A.	6/4/2007	CHIEF	12/1/2009
HUNTER, TERENCE R.	4/2/1979	FIREF	8/1/2009
INGRAM, WILLIAM M.	5/30/1978	HEQOP	8/22/2009
JENKINS, LAWRENCE D.	4/13/1981	ALIUT	11/15/2009
JONES, THOMAS M.	2/18/1980	BNCHF	7/24/2009
JORDAN, CURTIS P.	9/7/1976	FIREF	10/1/2009
LABINSKI, MICHAEL L.	1/9/1978	BNCHF	12/26/2009
LAWSON, LAURA J.	9/16/1985	HEQOP	12/28/2009
LENARCHICH, FRANK J.	3/5/1984	FIREF	9/30/2009
LENNART, PETER W.	11/27/1978	FIREF	12/24/2009
MCDOUGALL, MARY E.	1/26/1976	FPROF	6/27/2009
MERKEL, DARRELL P.	7/18/1983	LIEUT	5/16/2009
METZGER, STEVEN M.	9/16/1985	FIREF	8/21/2009
MILLER, GARY R.	4/2/1979	DEPCH	5/30/2009
MOORE, DARRELL K.	4/2/1979	DEPCH	8/1/2009
MRAZ, RICHARD J.	9/19/1977	HEQOP	2/20/2009
MURAWSKY AKUNA, GLORIA A.	3/9/1981	DEPCH	4/18/2009
OWEN, MARK W.	3/5/1984	BNCHF	6/27/2009
PENA, JOHN JR.	10/1/1979	HEQOP	10/1/2009
PENA, ROBERTO	5/30/1978	HEQOP	12/15/2009
PETERSON, MARK E.	4/2/1979	HEQOP	1/9/2009
QUAM, STEVEN J.	4/22/1985	LIEUT	5/15/2009
QUEZAIRE, JEFFREY C.	4/7/1975	LIEUT	4/20/2009
RENTERIA, DANIEL R.	9/28/1981	FIREF	12/28/2009
RICE, ORLANDO C.	1/19/1981	FCAPT	7/22/2009
SAKAR, THOMAS E.	10/1/1979	FIREF	6/29/2009
SCHNEIDER, RANDALL H.	2/18/1980	LIEUT	11/29/2009
SCHUYLER, RICHARD L.	10/11/1982	FIREF	6/6/2009
SHELTON, PATRICIA J.	4/17/1989	ADMA2	10/1/2009
STREETS, MICHAEL J.	5/12/1980	HEQOP	11/1/2009
TREUTELAAR, THOMAS A.	8/31/1992	HEQOP	12/25/2009
VANAUKEN, JOHN B.	11/27/1978	HEQOP	5/16/2009
WASHCOVICK, JAMES W.	10/1/1979	HEQOP	9/30/2009
WESENBERG, MICHAEL J. JR.	11/27/1978	FIREF	11/27/2009
WOZNICKI, JEFFREY F.	2/18/1980	FCAPT	2/20/2009
ZELLNER, MARK A.	2/14/1983	BNCHF	7/25/2009

Fire & Police Commission

The Milwaukee Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was established in 1885 by state law and is one of the oldest fire and police oversight agencies in the nation. The Commission was originally created to remove the fire and police services from the influences of politics. Until that time, in Milwaukee, as in most cities, the Mayor, who used these appointments, and the appointment of police officers, as a form of political patronage, appointed chiefs of both departments.

The new law made the fire and police commission responsible for setting employment standards, testing candidates for positions in the fire and police departments, and appointing both chiefs. In 1911, the Commission's authority was expanded to include all aspects of operational oversight of the fire and police departments. The Commission's authority and responsibility are specified in Wisconsin Statute 62.50, and in the Milwaukee City Charter.

Under state law and the City Charter, the Fire and Police Commission is the head of the fire department and police department. The Commission sets overall policy while the chief of each department manages daily operations and implements the Commission's policy direction and goals.

The six part-time civilian Commissioners and full-time Executive Director are appointed by the Mayor and must be approved by the Common Council. The Commissioners routinely spend many hours each week on Commission business, and serve as the citizens' voices in police and fire affairs and as a means of ensuring more responsive and effective city government. The Commissioners' concerns are reflective of the community-at-large, and their priorities include initiatives to reduce crime, increase safety, and maintain effective responses to fire and medical emergencies.

The Commissioners are:

Ernesto A. Baca was Vice Chair of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners from 2006 to October 2008. He was originally appointed in July 2001, and became Chair of the Testing and Recruiting Committee in November 2008.

Richard C. Cox was elected Chair of the Board in October 2008. He was appointed to the Board in December 2005, and reappointed in July 2008 to a term that will expire in 2013.

Kathryn Hein was appointed to the Board in June 2008. Her term expires in 2013.

Carolina Maria Stark was appointed to the Board in July 2008, and elected Vice Chair in October 2008. Her term will expire in 2012.

Paoi X. Lor was appointed to the Board in September 2008. Her term will expire in 2011.

Sarah Morgan was appointed to the Board in June 2009. Her term will expire in July 2010.

The Rechlitz brothers

On a sunny afternoon, John and Joel Rechlitz, two brothers and Milwaukee firefighters, gathered together with their families at John's home for his 17-year-old daughter's birthday. The teenager requested an ice cream cake to help celebrate and the wives of John and Joel hopped in the car to drive to Dairy Queen to purchase one. On their way, the two witnessed a tragic auto accident. A 1992 Chevrolet Blazer had hit the curb, traveled on its side for approximately 100 feet and ignited in flames. The entire back half of the SUV was on fire and black smoke filled the air.

John's wife's first reaction was to call her husband. John immediately rushed to the scene after he received the call with his brother Joel by his side. John says his first thought when he arrived on the scene was, "Oh My God!" "I hope nobody is inside that vehicle."

Unfortunately, there was a four-year-old boy, David Harper (DJ), inside the burning SUV and trapped in the back seat in the midst of the burning flames. He was securely fastened in his booster seat. The situation got more intense as the two brothers arrived on scene and heard the boy's mother scream, "My child is still in there…my baby is inside."

The two worked expeditiously to remove DJ from the burning SUV. They first took turns at making multiple attempts to grab the boy out his car seat through the windshield. They searched for the seatbelt release button that was securing the four year old but were unsuccessful. They then both realized they would need a knife to cut the belt and remove the child from the SUV. As Joel screamed for a knife, a bystander, who fortunately had a pocketknife, handed it to the off-duty firefighter who reentered the burning SUV through the broken windshield and cut the seatbelt freeing little DJ. This time the attempt was successful and the young boy was rescued.

A neighbor pulled a water hose to the scene and John and Joel carried DJ to a nearby island where they hosed him down to prevent the burns from becoming worse. Although the little boy suffered burns over 30 percent of his body, the outcome could have been far worse or even fatal without the quick and diligent rescue efforts performed by the two brothers/off-duty firefighters.

John and Joel Rechlitz suffered second- and third-degree burns and lacerations.

The two have been recognized internationally through media coverage, accolades and numerous awards they have received for the heroic actions they performed that day. The Rechlitz brothers are still a part of DJ's life and speaks with his family occasionally. DJ Harper has been released from the hospital and is enjoying the normal life of a child as he embarks on a long recovery process.

Milwaukee fire department
711 west wells
Milwaukee, wi 53233
www.milwaukee.gov/mfd