CITY OF MILWAUKEE
FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 Annual Report

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Message from fire chief Douglas A. Holton

It is a great honor to present the Milwaukee Fire Department's 2008 Annual Report that summarizes our activities over the past year. Our department experienced much success and achieved many goals that directly impacted the safety of Milwaukee citizens.

Our personnel exemplified the department's motto: "Courage, Integrity, Honor," on every call to which they responded, every fire they extinguished, every person they rescued from imminent danger, and every medical run they took to aid a person in need.

One of the department's top priorities in 2008 was member safety. This past year the department purchased state-of-the-art hydraulic cots and Stair-Pro Stair Chairs to decrease the potential of paramedics sustaining back injuries while transporting patients.

The Milwaukee Fire Department also implemented many novel programs in the past year to increase the safety of the community and our members alike. One of the programs is our Carbon Monoxide Meter Program. The CO Meter Program enables all engine and truck companies to be equipped with a single-gas meter as part of the first-aid kits. Therefore, when our personnel respond to every non fire-related run they have the capability to immediately detect CO. The CO Meter Program lowers the amount of time firefighting personnel and citizens are exposed to CO, and decreases their risk of CO poisoning.

In partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (CHW) Project Ujima, the department launched Project Staying Alive in 2008. Project Staying Alive allows firefighting personnel to teach sixth-grade students proper anger management skills. The program teaches children how to utilize these skills to deal with anger before it escalates into more violent acts. Over 500 sixth graders went through the Project Staying Alive program last year.

Our ongoing commitment to public safety resulted in the MFD reporting six fire fatalities in 2008—the lowest since 2002. Fire fatalities in the City of Milwaukee are down from 14 in 2007. The last time the department has seen such a significant decline was in 1998 when fire fatalities were down to 5 from 15 the previous year.

Additionally, in 2008 almost 95 percent of gunshot victims transported by our firefighters and life support teams survived, and all stabbing victims that the MFD treated lived. The department maintains an impressive 97 percent success rate for saving victims of life-threatening, penetrating trauma (shootings and stabbings), which greatly assisted in reducing the number of homicides in the City of Milwaukee.

On behalf of the members of the Milwaukee Fire Department, thanks to everyone for helping us become a world-class organization, and we look forward to maintaining our stellar reputation in the years to come.

Message from Milwaukee mayor tom barrett

Public safety has always been my top priority as Mayor. It is the duty of the City and its departments to offer citizens the utmost protection and make Milwaukee a safe place to live.

The Milwaukee Fire Department has continued to live up to this expectation and provide protection in our community year after year. From their excellent response times to residents' emergencies, to their nationally recognized medical services and advanced firefighting skills, the highly esteemed individuals who represent the MFD do a fantastic job serving our city and our citizens.

It is because of the great courage, ability, and devotion the MFD firefighting personnel show on a daily basis that fire fatalities in Milwaukee decreased 58 percent last year from 2007. The department's ongoing commitment to public education and fire prevention has also greatly contributed to a lower number of fire fatalities in 2008.

In 2007 and 2008 the City of Milwaukee did not experience a child fire fatality — a goal that had not been achieved in 25 years. This is due in large part to the diligent efforts of the department's personnel who help teach the Survive Alive Program, a program designed to teach second- and fifth-grade students fire safety and prevention techniques. Since its inception, more than 280,000 people have successfully completed the Survive Alive Program.

I praise the brave men and women who provide the best service to our citizens day in and day out. I sincerely thank each of you for your hard work and for your selfless dedication to this city.

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 of the necessary resources at our command to provide a quality of service deemed excellent by our citizens with "Courage, Integrity, and Honor."

Budget Summary

	2007 Actual Expenditures	2008 Adopted Budget	2009 Adopted Budget	Change 2009 Adopted Versus 2008 Adopted
PERSONNEL				
FTEs(full-time equivalents) Operations and Maintenance	1,096.94	1,126.51	1,090.05	-36.46
FTEs (full-time equivalents) Other	6.80	6.96	7.11	.15
Total Positions Authorized	1,152	1,146	1,133	-13
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries and Wages	$70,471,771	$69,460,314	$73,992,523	$4,532,209
Fringe Benefits	$23,665,689	$23,616,507	$25,157,459	$1,540,952
Operating Expenditures	$4,253,969	$4,598,600	$4,863,460	$264,860
Equipment	$148,066	$203,865	$788,112	$584,247
Special Funds	$122,404	$89,000	$195,715	$106,715
TOTAL	$98,661,899	$97,968,286	$104,997,269	$7,028,983
REVENUES				
Charges for Services	$5,585,343	$5,984,400	$7,182,900	$1,198,500
TOTAL	$5,585,343	$5,984,400	$7,182,900	$1,198,500

In 2009, the Milwaukee Fire Department received funding for personnel, $99.1 million; operating and special funds, $4.9 million; equipment purchases, $0.7 million; capital improvement, $2.8 million; and anticipates receiving about $0.6 million from various grant programs. Whenever possible, grants are written to complement the tax levy and borrowed resources, enabling the fire department to deliver the highest quality emergency operations and fire education, training, and support services.

The department's largest operating expenditures are energy and fuel, $1.6 million; contractual information technology system support services, $0.5 million; approximately $1.5 million in vehicles and facilities maintenance and repairs; and other various service contracts, $0.9 million.

Strategies and Milestones for 2009

Strategies	2009 Milestones
Implement a pilot program to install hard wire smoke detector systems.	Install hard wire smoke detector systems in 300 vacant residential properties by 2010.
Maintain initiatives to increase the percentage of residential properties with working smoke detectors.	Decrease the percentage of civilian fire fatalities occurring in residential properties with non-functioning smoke detectors to <30 percent.
Maintain the average response time.	Respond to 95 percent of critical types of calls within five minutes.

BUDGET SUMMARY (CONTINUED...)

Strategy Implementation

The fire department promotes the Mayor's goal of providing safe and healthy neighborhoods through the provision of high capacity fire suppression, emergency medical, and specialized rescue services.

	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	
		2009 Projection
Performance Measures:	Percentage of responses within five minutes of call	95 percent
	Percentage of fires held to room of origin	50 percent
FUNDING BY SOURCE	Operating Funds	$96.1
	Grants and Reimbursables	$0.2
	Capital Budget	$2.8
	Totals	$99.1
SERVICE	Fire Education, Training, and Support Services	
ACTIVITIES	Fire education, inspections, pre-incident planning, infrastructure support (shop, IT services, dispatch) training, and administrative support	
		2009 Projection
Performance Measures:	Number of residential fire prevention contacts.	25,000
	Smoke detectors found operational in one- and two-family residential units	15,000
Funding by Source:	Operating Funds	$8.9
	Grants and Reimbursables	$0.3
	Totals	$9.2

Grants

In 2008 the Milwaukee Fire Department received five significant grants that assisted the department in its daily operations. Those grants were:

The 2008 Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant
The Urban Areas Security Initiative 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 $195,000 to fund the Battalion Chief, Homeland Security Preparedness position. The position is responsible for integrating the National Incident Management System practices into response plans in five county regions, as well as develop all-hazard planning and preparedness activities. Also awarded under the grant was $30,000 to the department for incident management team training.

Additionally, MFD was awarded $38,000 for an Area RAE Chemical Detection System; $240,000 for a Compressed Air Unit; and $200,000 for Heavy Rescue Equipment. The Area RAE Chemical Detection System features a one to five gas detector equipped with a wireless RF (Radio Frequency) modem, allowing the unit to communicate and transmit readings and other vital information on a real-time basis with a remotely located base controller. The rapid deployment system is used by the MFD Hazardous Materials team to monitor large areas with remote equipment in the event of a large scale, gaseous release.

The Heavy Rescue Equipment purchased with the grant funds includes a list of tools and equipment for the HURT (Heavy Urban Rescue Team) Heavy Rescue apparatus. The tools and equipment is mostly used in collapse rescue to locate and rescue people trapped in building-collapse incidents.

Port Security Grant
The department received $162,415 from the Port Security Grant, which required a 25 percent cost match from the MFD. The grant funds went toward the purchase of a four-wheel vehicle that is used to transport the Dive Rescue Team to the location of an incident. The funds were also used to purchase a trailer for that vehicle which carries Dive Rescue Team equipment, and to purchase bottles for the team's air tanks.

The Project Safe Neighborhood Grant
The MFD received $30,000 from the Project Safe Neighborhood Grant. The grant funds were used to support the department's Project Staying Alive program.

2008 Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Grant
The MFD received $321,221 from the MMRS Grant. The grant funds supported the EMS Battalion Chief position ($200,000), and helped purchase N95 masks ($1,221), and tactical EMS equipment ($7,000). The funds were also used toward influenza vaccine ($20,000); pandemic flu planning and TEMS (Tactical Emergency Medical Services) medical oversight ($10,000); TEMS training and exercise ($20,000); management and administration ($5,000); and to purchase an ID/badge system ($18,000).

Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program of the Medical College of Wisconsin Grant
The MFD will receive $40,174 per year, for the next three years, under the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program of the Medical College of Wisconsin Grant. The grant funds were used toward the director and instructors' base pay for Project Staying Alive. The grant funds were also used for training and supplies for the Project Staying Alive program.

Office of Justice Assistance Grant
The Office of Justice Assistance Grant has also been used to fund the director's position for Project Staying Alive. The department received $30,000 from this grant.

Organizational Chart

FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION

CHIEF

ASSISTANT CHIEF

SUPPORT DIVISION

1 FIRE PUBLIC RELATIONS MGR - AUX

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

1 FIRE LIEUT

1 ADMIN LIEUT

1 ADMIN ASST IV

FIREFIGHTING DIVISION
(3 Shifts)

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

FIELD OPERATIONS
1 DEPUTY CHIEF

	BN 1	BN 2	BN 3	BN 4	BN 5
BATTALION CHIEF	1	1	1	1	1
ENG CO	9	7	7	7	7
LAD CO	4	3	2	4	3
MED	2	2	3	2	3
STAFF	78	61	57	64	62

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 SERVICES
Section

1 BATTALION CHIEF
1 ADMIN CAPT
1 ADMIN LT
2 NETWORK COORDS
1 DATABASE SPECIALIST
1 INFO TECH ASST
1 ADMIN ASST II
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1 FIRE DISPATCH MGR
5 DISPATCH SUPVRS
21 DISPATCHERS

Bureau of
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

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

Bureau of
SPECIAL OPERATIONS

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

Management staff

Douglas Holton
Fire Chief

Brian Glassel
Assistant Fire Chief

Gloria Murawsky
Deputy Chief, Special Operations

Darrell Moore
Deputy Chief, Construction and Maintenance

Gary Miller
Deputy Chief, Administration

Michael Jones
Deputy Chief, Instruction and Training

Jerry Dillard
Deputy Chief, Firefighting Division

Randall Zingler
Deputy Chief, Firefighting Division

Donald Doro
Deputy Chief, Firefighting Division

Battalion chiefs


Alonzo Chapman


Jack Christianson


Paul Conway


Pepie Du De Voire


Ralph Gallow


Steven Gleisner


Scott Grossman


Leo Harper


Daniel Holton


Thomas Jones


Mark Owen


Michael Payne


James Poliak


Joseph Robak


Michael Romas

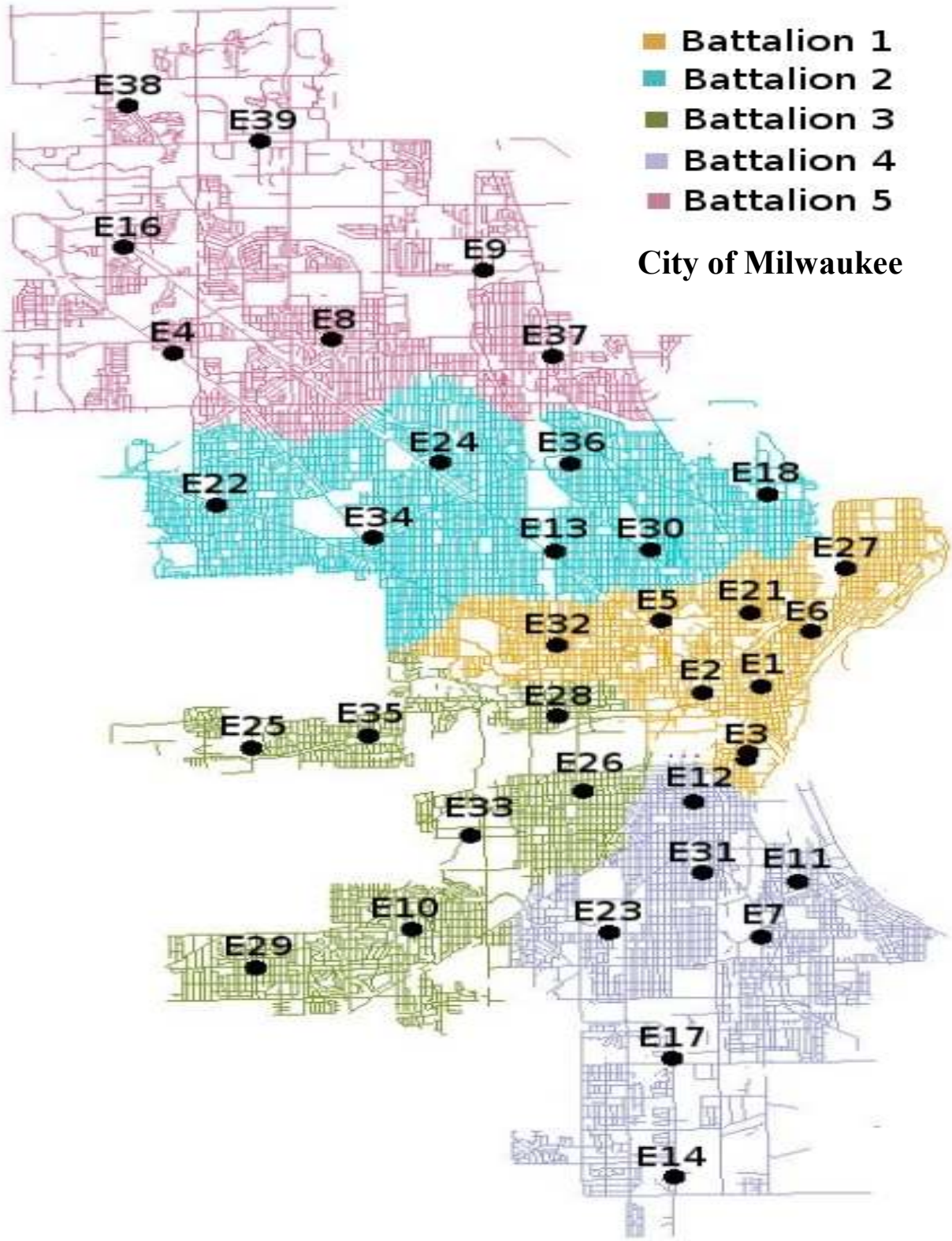

Salvatore Santoro


Richard Wahlgren


Debra Weber


Mark Zellner

Battalions


Battalion 1
Battalion 2
Battalion 3
Battalion 4
Battalion 5
City of Milwaukee
E38
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E24
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E1
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E23
E7
E29
E17
E14

Firefighting Operations Division

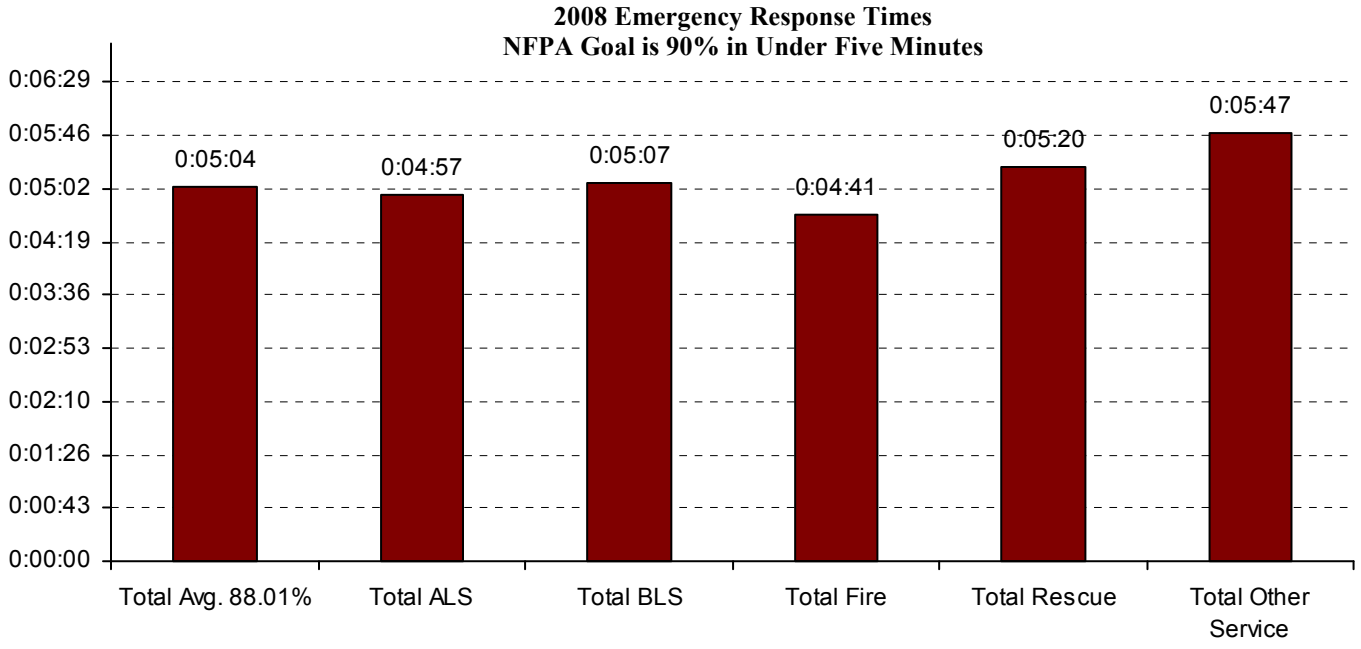
The Firefighting Division is headed by three Deputy Chiefs: Jerry Dillard, Donald Doro and Randall Zingler. The Firefighting Division provides fire protection, prevention, and education to the City of Milwaukee and the Village of West Milwaukee. The City covers 96.5 square miles and a population of over 600,000. The city has 36 firehouses that contain 37 engine companies, 16 ladder companies, 12 paramedic units, 5 Battalion Chiefs, and a number of other state-of-the-art pieces of equipment. The fire crews work a 24-hour shift that starts at 8 a.m., and there are 255 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 five minutes or less for 90 percent of calls received according to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). Of the total 68,382 calls for service responded to by the MFD in 2008, 88.01 percent were responded to within five minutes or less.

Indicators tracked through the AIM program show that the advanced life support responses provided by the Milwaukee Fire Department have a positive impact on survival rates for penetrating trauma incidents. In 2008, of the 85 stabbing incidents responders treated, 85 patients (100 percent) survived. Of the 158 gunshot wound EMS responses, 149 (95 percent) of the victims survived.

Quick response to fires is important to prevent fire fatalities and to minimize injuries and property loss. Ideally, individuals are warned by fire safety devices like smoke detectors to vacate the property before the fire becomes hazardous. However, a quick response allows the department to get personnel to the fire as soon as possible and to rescue anyone trapped in the fire. Thermal imaging cameras allow firefighters to locate trapped individuals through smoky conditions.



Fire stations & Apparatus

Engine 1: *784 N. Broadway* Engine 1 and Ladder 1.	**Engine 2:** *755 N. James Lovell* Engine 2, Engine 20, Ladder 2, ISO and Car 3.	**Engine 3:** *100 W. Virginia* Engine 3 and the Dive Team.	**Engine 4:** *9511 W. Appleton* Engine 4, Ladder 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, Ladder 17 and MED 18.	**Engine 11:** *2526 S. K.K.* Engine 11 and Ladder 6.	**Engine 12:** *1400 S. 9th* Engine 12 and the Heavy Urban Rescue Team's Rescue 1, H.U.R.T. 2 , H.U.R.T. trailer and Ladder 11.
Engine 13: *2901 N. 30th* Engine 13	**Engine 14:** *6074 S. 13th* Engine 14 and Ladder 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 Ladder 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 Ladder 14.	**Engine 24:** *4927 W. Fiebrantz* Engine 24, Ladder 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 Ladder 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 Ladder 12.	**Engine 31:** *2400 S. 8th* Engine 31	**Engine 32:** *1551 N. 30th* Engine 32 and Ladder 9.	**Engine 33:** *4515 W. Burnham* Engine 33 and Battalion 3.
Engine 34: *6205 W. Burleigh* Engine 34 and MED 13.	**Engine 35:** *100 N. 64th* Engine 35 and Ladder 16.	**Engine 36:** *4060 N. 27th* Engine 36 and MED 5.	**Engine 37:** *5335 N. Teutonia* Engine 37 and Ladder 15.	**Engine 38:** *8463 N. Granville* Engine 38 and MED 19.	**Engine 39:** *8025 W. Bradley* Engine 39 and Ladder 7.

MFD RESPONSES

		2007 Totals	2008 Totals
Fire Response	FIRES		
Fire	Structure Fire - Single Alarm	604	510
Fire	Structure Fire - 2ND ALARM	27	16
Fire	Structure Fire - 3RD ALARM	5	4
Fire	Structure Fire - 4TH ALARM	2	1
Fire	Structure Fire - 5TH ALARM	0	0
Fire	Appliance Fire	291	279
Fire	Auto Fire	1128	1069
Fire	Garage Fire	185	147
Fire	Grass Fire	61	64
Fire	Pole Fire	107	81
Fire	Rubbish Fire	1147	928
Fire	Smoke Night	0	53
Fire	Smoke Condition	1464	1413
Fire	Tree Fire	34	43
TOTAL		5055	4608
Rescue Response	SERVICE ALARMS		
Rescue	Alarm Sounding	4160	4219
Rescue	Auto Accident w/Multiple Injuries	7	3
Rescue	Auto Extrication	370	359
Rescue	Carbon Monoxide	692	663
Rescue	Electrical Trouble	259	264
Rescue	Elevator Stuck	231	225
Rescue	Emergency Response	7	9
Rescue	Fire Boat Response	7	10
Rescue	Forcible Entry	276	270
Rescue	Full Dive Response	24	17
Rescue	H.U.R.T. Response	12	9
Rescue	Hazardous Materials Response	17	12
Rescue	HazMat Regional Response	2	2
Rescue	HazMat Response Call	1	1
Rescue	Investigative Response	5	3
Rescue	KK River Response	0	1
Rescue	Limited Dive Response	14	6
Rescue	Limited Hazmat Response	9	10
Rescue	Limited Response	733	735
Rescue	Menomonee River Response	1	0
Rescue	Natural Gas Leak	895	1040
Rescue	Suspicious Call	149	116
Rescue	Ten-54	4	4
Rescue	Wires Down	271	258
TOTAL		8146	8236

		2007 Totals	2008 Totals
Service Response	OTHERS		
Service	Building Inspection	26	40
Service	Firefighter Assistance	0	0
Service	FLUSH	314	238
Service	FST-Inj FF MED Transport (not used)	0	0
Service	Heating Trouble	50	50
Service	Lock Out	383	403
Service	MFD Accident	109	121
Service	Mutual Aid	1	0
Service	Petroleum Spill	386	366
Service	Pre-Fire Plan	5	3
Service	Special Event	85	130
Service	Water Leak	207	288
Service	Unknown	38	1
TOTAL		1604	1640

MFD RESPONSES

By Engine Company

Engine 1	1155
Engine 2	1079
Engine 3	634
Engine 4	1789
Engine 5	2097
Engine 6	1360
Engine 7	1033
Engine 8	2874
Engine 9	1378
Engine 10	1199
Engine 11	899
Engine 12	2277
Engine 13	4251
Engine 14	673
Engine 16	977
Engine 17	1193
Engine 18	2037
Engine 20	1147
Engine 21	1869
Engine 22	1517
Engine 23	1542
Engine 24	2775
Engine 25	348
Engine 26	2811
Engine 27	1131
Engine 28	2193
Engine 29	838
Engine 30	3614
Engine 31	2043
Engine 32	3513
Engine 33	1266
Engine 34	2332
Engine 35	791
Engine 36	3076
Engine 37	2445
Engine 38	993
Engine 39	1501

By Ladder Company

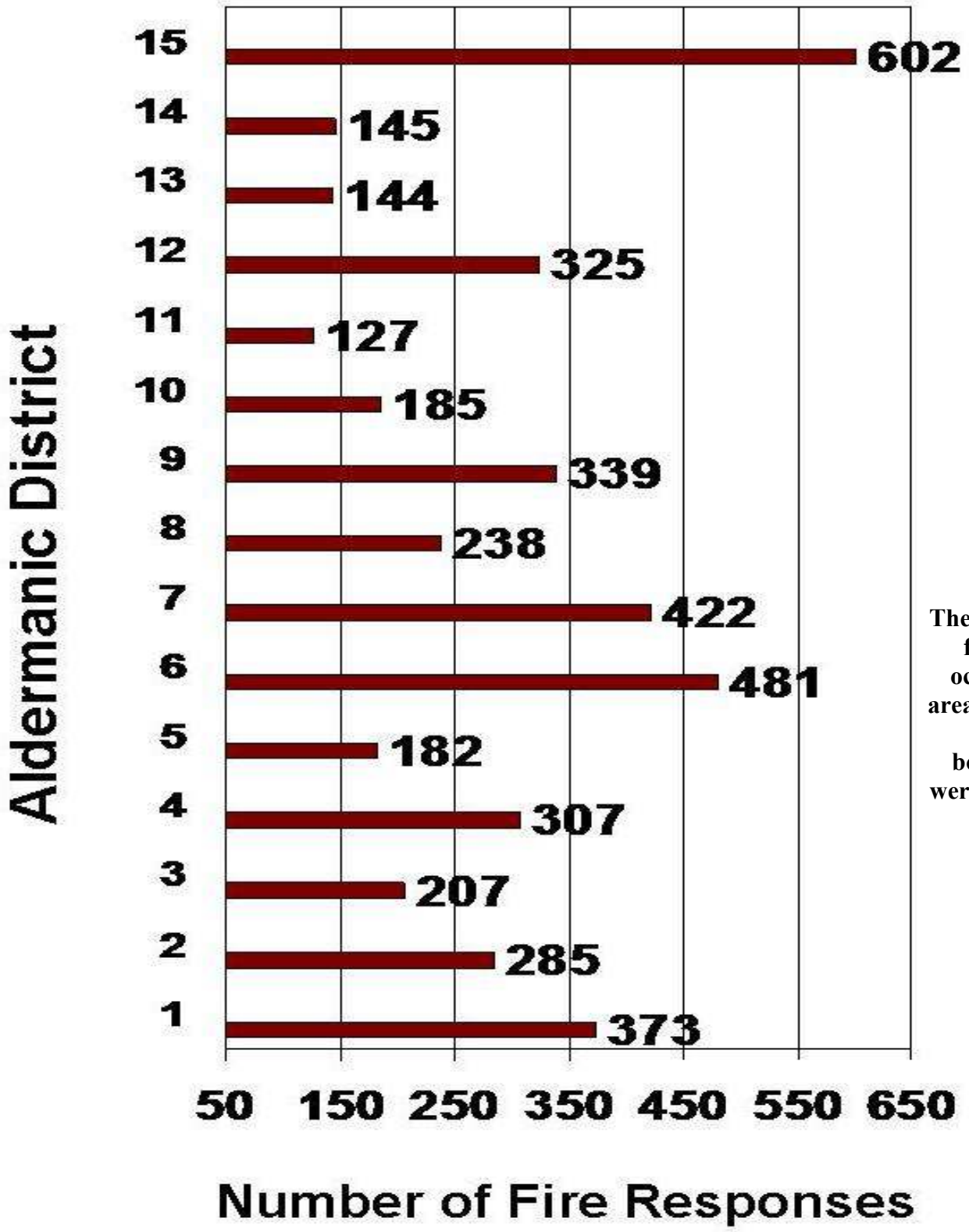
Ladder 1	935
Ladder 2	924
Ladder 3	1201
Ladder 5	744
Ladder 6	538
Ladder 7	1077
Ladder 8	297
Ladder 9	2066
Ladder 10	984
Ladder 11	1215
Ladder 12	2079
Ladder 13	2064
Ladder 14	902
Ladder 15	1477
Ladder 16	537
Ladder 17	554

By Battalion Chiefs

Battalion Chief 1	1083
Battalion Chief 2	1072
Battalion Chief 3	517
Battalion Chief 4	429
Battalion Chief 5	365

Fire responses by aldermanic district

The total number of MFD fire responses in 2008 were 4,608. The following is a chart that breaks those responses out by Milwaukee Aldermanic districts. There are 15 aldermanic districts in the City of Milwaukee.



There were 246 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	15	23	6	9	125	234
Residential - Multifamily Dwellings	0	11	3	0	35	55
Residential - Other (boarding, hotel, dormitory, etc.)	0	1	0	1	5	13
Garages	0	3	0	9	12	57
Other (assembly, business, education, storage)	1	6	0	1	22	32
TOTAL	16	44	9	20	199	391

Type of Structure that Caught Fire	Number of Fires Set Intentionally by Type of Structure
Residential - 1 or 2 Family Dwellings	**31**
Residential - Multifamily Dwellings	**9**
Residential - Other (Boarding, hotel, dormitory, etc)	**2**
Garages	**3**
Other (assembly, business, education, storage)	**4**
Total	**49**

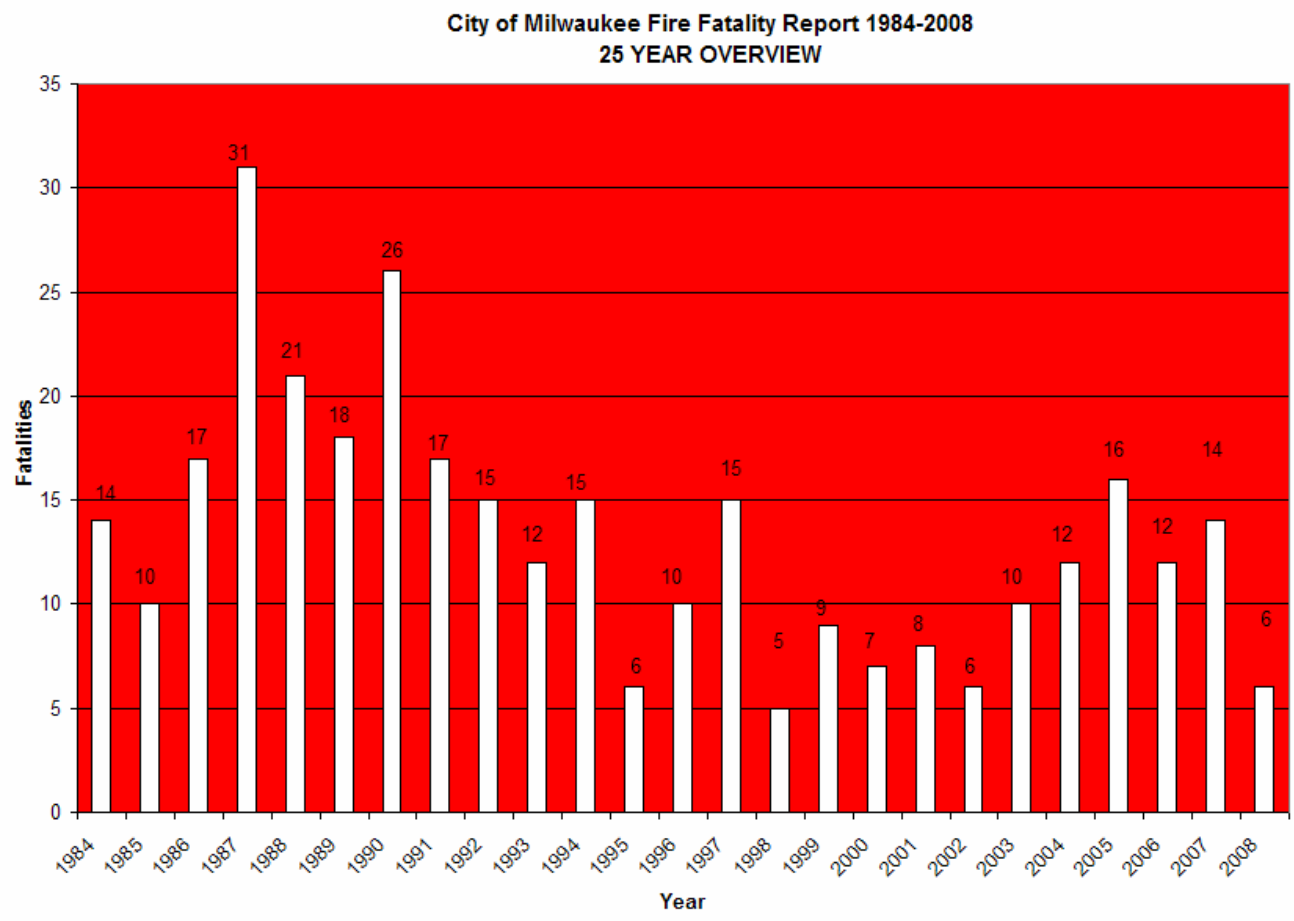
MFD 2008 Fire Statistics	
Percentage of Residential Fires Held to Room of Origin	**39.69%**
Total Fire Loss Incidents	**2073**
Total Fire Loss-All Types/All Properties	**$13,355,296**
Fire Loss Per Incident	**$6,442.50**
Total Fire Loss-All Structures	**$11,364,306**
Total Fire Loss-Vehicles	**$1,927,205**
Total Fire Loss-Rubbish	**$40,985**
Total Fire Loss-Other	**$22,800**

MFD Fire Fatalities

2008 Fire Fatalities

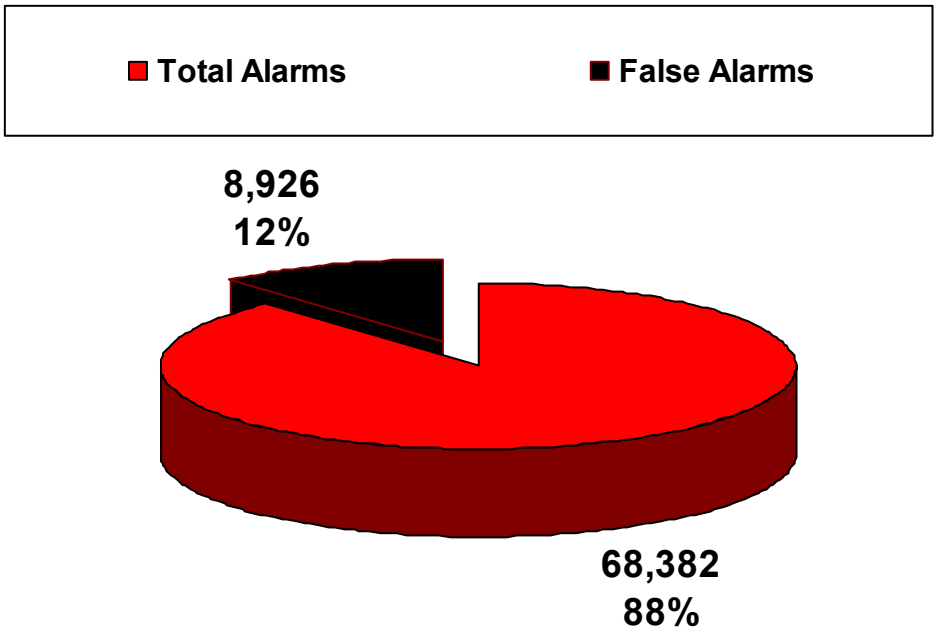
Date	Type of Property	Working Smoke Detector	Age
1/1/2008	Two-family dwelling	Yes	26
1/1/2008	Two-family dwelling	Yes	29
5/25/2008	Multi-family dwelling	No	48
7/28/2008	Single-family dwelling	No	57
8/16/2008	Two-family dwelling	No	47
8/23/2008	Two-family dwelling	Yes	45

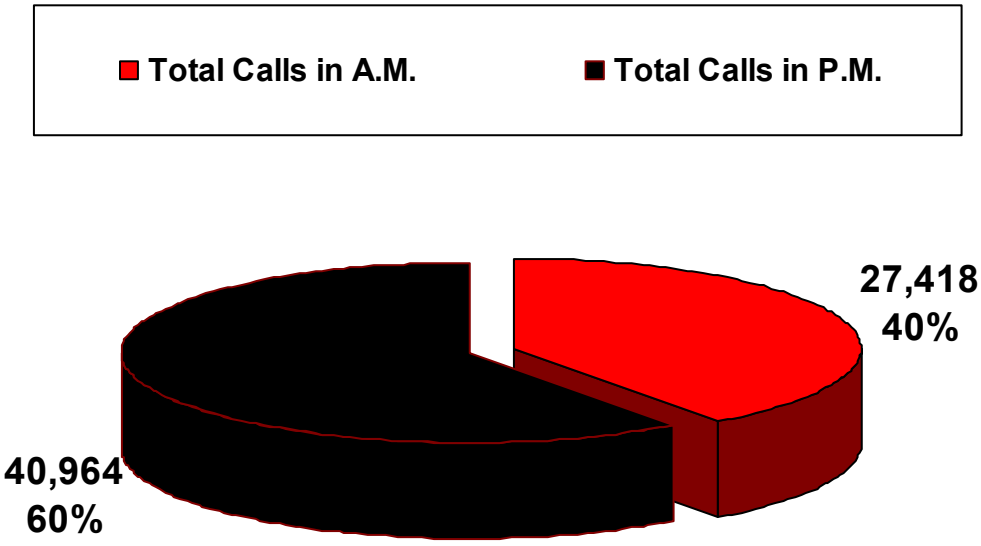
The MFD reported six fire fatalities in 2008, which is the lowest number reported since 2002. The lowest number of fire fatalities reported in the past 25 years is five, followed by six reported in 1995, 2002, and 2008.



Total Alarms vs. False Alarms

The Milwaukee Fire Department responded to a total of 68,382 calls for service in 2008. That is 836 more calls than the department responded to in 2007. Out of those 68,382 calls for service, 8926 were false alarms. A false alarm is called when a unit arrives on the scene and determines the requested services are not needed.





The Milwaukee Fire Department responded to a total of 27,418 service calls in the a.m., and 40,964 service calls in the p.m.

Carbon monoxide meter program

Over the years, the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) has seen a steady increase in calls that result in carbon monoxide (CO) runs. In 2005, the department responded to 538 CO runs, 585 in 2006, 692 in 2007, and 663 in 2008. With the anticipation of CO runs increasing, the MFD implemented a one-of-a-kind CO Meter Program that enhances the safety of firefighters and citizens alike.

The MFD CO Meter Program eventuated after a significant run took place June 22, 2007. Engine Company 6 responded to a person who was in-and-out of consciousness in a church kitchen. When the company arrived, firefighters assessed the patient and determined the patient showed signs of CO poisoning. However, it took approximately 20 minutes for them to make that determination. The next step was to call a Battalion Chief on the scene to test the level of CO in the church. The Battalion Chief arrived with a four-gas meter and got a reading at 800 ppm (parts-per-million) of CO gas inside the church. OSHA standards prohibit exposure to more than 50 ppm of CO gas during an 8-hour time period.

Immediately, firefighters evacuated the building. Six people went to the hospital that day, including four firefighters.

"After that incident our department realized that giving CO meters only to Battalion Chiefs was an inefficient way to operate, and placed our firefighters and citizens in more danger for a longer period of time if CO was present," said MFD Fire Chief Douglas Holton. "Our Labor Management Safety Committee came together and proposed that the department grant a single-gas CO meter to every engine company and ladder truck in the city."

However, monetarily it was not feasible to do so right away. It was not until November '07 that the MFD budget permitted all 16 truck companies to have a single-gas meter. The next task was to obtain money for all 37 engine companies to have a single-gas CO meter, too, as part of the CO Meter Program. To do so, the department sought sponsors and was able to raise $50,000 through the funding of five local companies—including $42,000 from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation.

"The program was an easy sell," said Chief Holton. "The companies we sought knew the dangers of CO poisoning and wanted to be part of the solution to mitigate the danger CO poses to Milwaukee citizens."

On March 1, 2008, all engine companies got single-gas CO meters to round out the Carbon Monoxide Meter Program.

Today, firefighters and paramedics have the ability to detect CO gas within 15 to 30 seconds of arriving on a scene, and then taking the necessary steps immediately following a reading. The CO meters are attached to firefighting personnel first aid kits and accompany them daily on all calls.

"I think this is a great program because our firefighters and paramedics go into over 75 homes per day just on EMS runs. When we arrive, we will now know instantly if CO poisoning is the cause of the patients' symptoms and take the necessary steps within seconds—instead of waiting for one of our Battalion Chiefs to come and assess the situation and then act," said Chief Holton. "Thus far, this innovative program has had tremendous success and we are confident that by taking this proactive approach we have already saved lives."

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 operates the MFD Fireboat Trident. This bureau also coordinates Homeland Security activities within the department.

The Bureau of Special Operations provided planning and medical coverage for over 70 events last year beginning January 1 with the "Polar Bear Plunge," through November's "Cystic Fibrosis Stair Climb." The events include ethnic festivals, neighborhood celebrations, Summerfest, and the 105th Harley-Davidson Anniversary Celebration.

An integral part of the special event coverage is the Paramedic Bicycle Response (PBR) program. The PBR program provides rapid EMS response to crowd-congested events as well as public relations and education to event attendees.

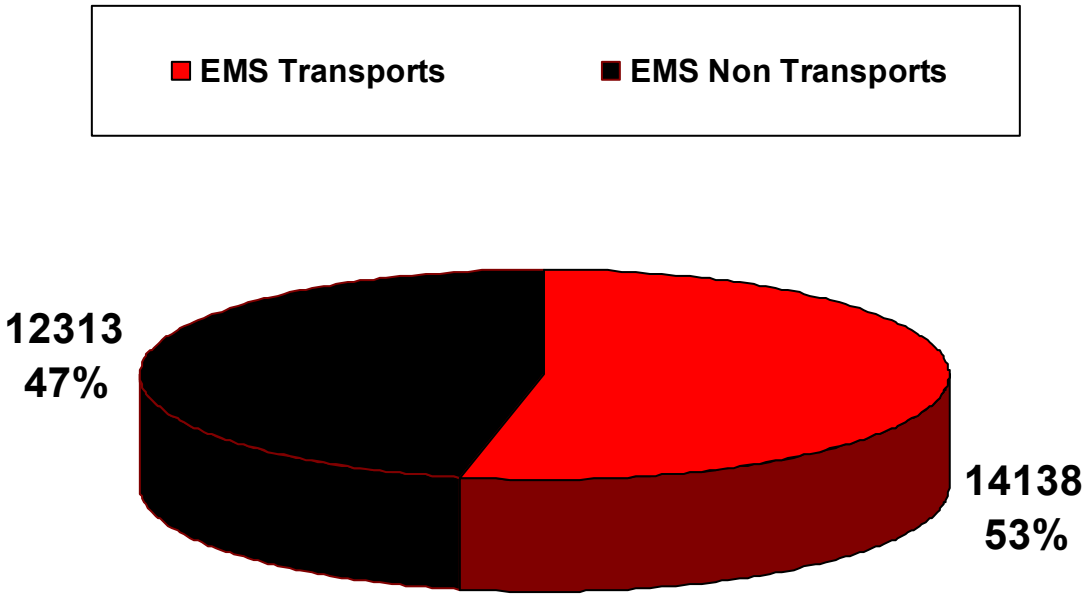
Currently, the department provides basic and advanced life support with over 800 Emergency Medical Technicians-Basic (EMT-B), and over 100 EMT-Paramedics. These EMT-Bs and paramedics staff the department's engine companies, truck companies and Mobile Emergency Department (MED) units that respond to EMS incidents for the City of Milwaukee. Over 80 percent of all MFD responses are now EMS related.

In June 2008, the state-certified MFD Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training Center concluded its first Emergency Medical Technician refresher course. The new course structure, which over 850 department members successfully completed along with internet-based distributive learning, has allowed the department to reduce the amount of travel and out-of-area time for companies.

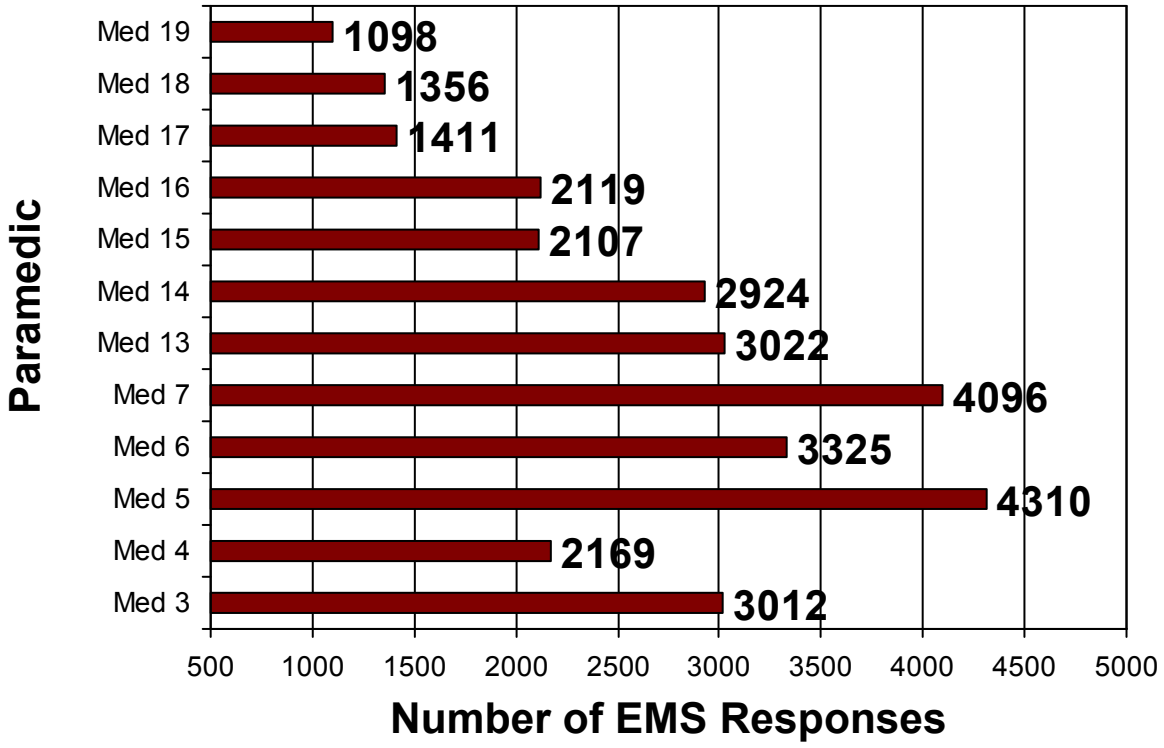
Last year, 11 new paramedics were trained and licensed with the department, and a new paramedic class began that will add six new paramedics to the field in early 2009.

The Bureau of Special Operations, in conjunction with the Milwaukee Police Department, also 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. TEMS responded to more than 100 tactical situations and high-risk warrants for medical assistance in 2008.

EMS RESPONSES



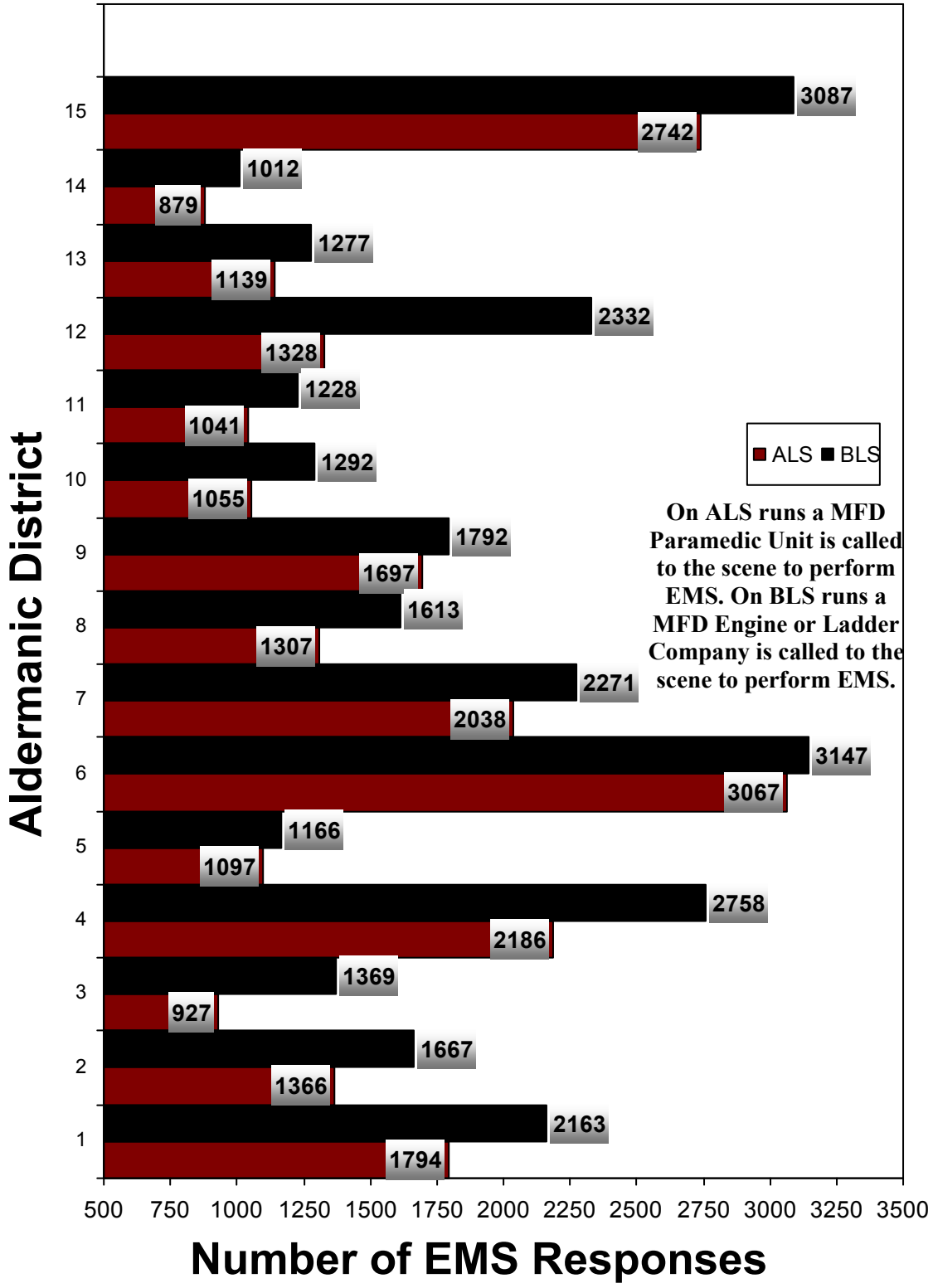
Collectively, the MFD 12 paramedic units made 14,138 transports to Milwaukee-area hospitals in 2008. In addition, there were 12,313 runs which an MFD paramedic unit arrived on the scene but MFD paramedics did not transport any patients to the hospital.



The Milwaukee Fire Department operates 12 Paramedic Units.
Total responses for all paramedic units in 2008 was 30,949.

EMS RESPONSES BY ALDERMANIC DISTRICT

The following is a chart that breaks ALS (Advance Life Support) and BLS (Basic Life Support) responses out by Milwaukee Aldermanic districts. There are 15 aldermanic districts in the City of Milwaukee. Additionally, the MFD responded to 2084 EMS calls in which the district was unknown.



Special teams

The Milwaukee Fire Department Special Teams units exercise expertise in four major disciplines: Dive Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Heavy Urban Rescue, and the MFD Fireboat Trident. The Office of Special Teams has seen considerable growth through the accomplishments of the special teams units over the last year.

Hazardous Materials Team: The Hazardous Materials (HM) Team continues to respond to all hazardous materials incidents and spills in the City of Milwaukee, as well as operate as one of seven regional response HazMat teams for the State of Wisconsin. The MFD HM team responded to three "state regional responses" in 2008. The HM team is recognized as a leader in Weapons of Mass Destruction terrorist events in the state, and participated in training with regional fire departments' HM teams and federal and military units.

H.U.R.T (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 HURT, in concert with the City of Waukesha HURT, has been designated as Task Force 1 by the State of Wisconsin. As this 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 and Marine Operations Teams: The Dive Rescue Team (DRT) and the Marine Operations Team which includes the Fireboat Trident pilots, continue to 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 MPD Dive Team. The Fireboat Trident and its pilots became a regional asset due to their reputation and outreach efforts. They assisted in search and rescue operations with local agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard to reports of downed aircraft in Lake Michigan, as far out as 17 miles from shore in Milwaukee and offshore of the City of Oak Creek. They responded to the City of Sheboygan's request to assist in the search in Lake Michigan for a missing swimmer. They responded to and extinguished multiple boat fires and provided EMS services to the boating public. Their professionalism led the U.S. Navy to request their escort of the U.S.S. Freedom into Milwaukee's inner harbor for its commissioning in November 2008.

Special Teams Response Type	Total
Fire Boat	10
Full Dive	17
Limited Dive	6
Limited Haz Mat Response	10
HURT Team	9
Hazardous Materials	12
Hazardous Materials Regional	2
Hazardous Materials Response Call	1

Bureau of instruction & training

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

In 2008, MFD members were trained in various disciplines. Approximately 950 department members completed the Convent Hill High-Rise Training and learned search and rescue, aerial ladder, and high-rise water rescue operations.

The Bureau of Instruction and Training coordinated the development of the Officer Development Program last year. The Officer Development Program provides an educational platform for new line company officers (lieutenants and captains) and management personnel (battalion chiefs). The program is designed to provide future company officers with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of each position. As a first-line supervisor, the company officer plays a vital role in the success of the department in achieving its mission of protecting life and property.

The Bureau of Instruction and Training also oversees the MFD Community Relations Office, which annually coordinates 21 programs that reach over 100,000 people of all ages, races and genders in the City of Milwaukee including, Project Staying Alive and Project FOCUS (Firefighters Out Creating Urban Safety). The Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety recognized the MFD for its community outreach by awarding the department its Fire Safety Award for Fire Education in 2008.

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 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 2008, over 500 sixth graders went through the Project Staying Alive Program. In addition, enough funds were secured to create a director position within the MFD to oversee the program. 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.

"Milwaukee firefighters are the first to arrive on the scene of any shooting, stabbing, and/or violent injury in the City," said Lieutenant Steven Riegg, director of Project Staying Alive. "As a firefighter, these runs are the worst runs you can go on, especially when a child is involved. Therefore, our department is making an effort to decrease violence in our communities."

The MFD's goal is to teach 1,000 sixth-grade students anger-management skills in 2009, followed by 2,000 more students in 2010.

Project Staying Alive entails five 90-minute sessions. Students are taught three of the sessions by their teachers—who are trained ahead of time on conflict resolution. MFD firefighting personnel teach the other two sessions.

Kristi Cole, who manages the MPS Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, stated, "Students are responding well to firefighters in the classroom teaching nonviolence. They are learning how to talk to their friends when they disagree, how to avoid fights and arguments, and lastly how to work through conflicts peacefully."

Maritza Cortez, a 12 year old who completed the program, said she would share what she learned in Project Staying Alive with children in her neighborhood.

Another student who completed the program, 11-year-old Daniel Decker, said, "When a bad situation comes, I will take a deep breath and walk away…a lesson I was taught by a firefighter. You never know if that other person who is starting the argument or a fight has a gun. So, I'll take that firefighter's advice and just walk away."

Survive alive house

The Milwaukee Fire Department Survive Alive Program and the Milwaukee Fire Education Center's Survive Alive House were created in 1992 after the alarming discovery was made that 63 children had died in fires between 1987-1991.

The Survive Alive Program consists of a three-component curriculum. The curriculum includes children receiving classroom instruction on fire safety from their teachers, and then visiting the Survive Alive House for a 90-minute instruction given by Milwaukee firefighters on how to escape a fire safely. Lastly, the students are given supplemental materials to reinforce what they learned in the program.

Since its inception, over 280,000 people have successfully completed the Survive Alive Program, and each year over 13,000 Milwaukee children visit the Survive Alive House. The House is designed to teach second- and fifth-grade students fire safety and prevention techniques.

At the Survive Alive House, students receive hands-on practical training, too. In the House, a group of students enter a replica of a child's bedroom and pretend they are sleeping. While they are asleep, the room fills with smoke and the smoke alarm sounds. The children are instructed to roll out of bed, crawl across the floor to a door, and use the back of their hand to check the temperature of that door. If the door is warm or if they see smoke when peeking out the door, they must exit via an alternate route. Once all the children have escaped the home and arrived at their meeting place, one student is instructed to call 911.

"As a result of the many children's lives we have touched through the Survive Alive Program, Milwaukee has not had a child fire fatality in the past two years—a goal that hasn't been achieved in 25 years," said MFD Fire Chief Douglas A. Holton. "The MFD will continue to educate our community on fire prevention as a means to end fire deaths in our city."

Project focus

The City of Milwaukee Mayor's office and the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) collaborated to develop Project FOCUS (Firefighters Out Creating Urban Safety) in 1991. FOCUS was created to address the fact that out of the 106 people that died in fires between 1987-1991, 91 of the victims were killed in homes with no smoke detector, a disconnected smoke detector, or detectors without batteries.

Project FOCUS would be the MFD's response and a proactive approach to this disturbing fact. The fire prevention program had an immediate 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 is done every year in spring and fall for three weeks. During those three weeks, firefighters break into two-person teams and visit every home in a targeted neighborhood to test or install smoke detectors, and/or replace batteries all at no cost. Project FOCUS is funded through private corporations and grants.

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 before visiting homes. On each shift, four companies are expected to visit at least 64 homes to check for working smoke detectors.

Since Project FOCUS was implemented more than 20,000 smoke detectors have been installed in residences.

2008 PROJECT FOCUS STATISTICS	
Smoke Detectors Installed	**1367**
Batteries Installed	**310**
Households Inspected	**1226**
911 Education	**243**
Alley Addresses Installed	**15**

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. This bureau furnishes the MFD with all firefighting and EMS equipment and supplies. The bureau's personnel develops all specifications for new emergency vehicles, and formally inspects them, as well as all MFD equipment, before it enters into service.

This bureau is also responsible for managing roof repairs on all MFD-operated buildings, and in 2008, oversaw the installation of new roofing material at the Fire Historical Society Museum and Engine 12. Last year bureau personnel also developed roof specifications for Engine 5, Engine 25, and Engine 21.

In the past year, the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance also completed the installation of four additional backup generator units for Engine 13, Engine 32, Engine 23, and Engine 29. The MFD now has dependable backup power generators for 17 of the department's 36 firehouses.

Lastly, this bureau purchased and successfully delivered to the field eight, 2008, Pierce Velocity, 1500-gallon per minute pumping engines outfitted for large diameter hoses, and three new paramedic ambulances outfitted with bariatric equipment—upgrading the MFD emergency response fleet.

Bureau of administration

The Milwaukee Fire Department Bureau of Administration is responsible for maintaining records of alarms, fire losses, personnel, and costs. This bureau also handles payroll, budget requests, expenditures, and the automation requirements within the department such as Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD). Numerous department notices, outside correspondence, and forms are generated by the bureau's personnel, too.

Additionally, the Bureau of Administration oversees the MFD dispatch office which is the vital link between the public and the firefighting division. MFD dispatchers receive and handle all E 9-1-1 calls, other emergency and administrative calls, and dispatch all emergency, telephone, and radio equipment.

In 2008, the MFD Bureau of Administration continued the migration toward computerized record management and instituted an electronic payroll process that brings the members in line with established guidelines followed by nearly all other City departments.

The entire department successfully transitioned to online time entry via the CityTime time card system. The department worked alongside the Comptroller's Office to provide a much more efficient, reliable method of tracking members' time. Electronic time entry is an easier method to retrieve information such as members' status, leave totals, cumulative usage, etc.

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	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Assistant Fire Chief	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Battalion Chief	19	20	0	4	16	0	0	19	1
Deputy Chief Fire	7	7	0	3	4	0	0	6	1
Fire Captain Incident Safety Officer	3	3	0	1	2	0	0	3	0
Fire Captain	54	55	0	9	45	1	0	50	5
Fire Chief	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Firefighter (+69 Auxiliary)	482	399	1	59	293	10	36	385	14
Fire Lieutenant	157	155	1	9	136	1	8	154	1
Fire Lieutenant-Special	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fire Paramedic	55	55	2	7	45	1	0	48	7
Fire Paramedic Field Lieutenant	9	8	0	2	5	0	1	6	2
Heavy Equipment Operator	183	183	0	15	147	5	16	181	2
Paramedic Field Lieutenant	5	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	**900**	**4**	**113**	**704**	**18**	**61**	**861**	**39**
STAFF									
Accounting Assistant III	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Assistant II	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Administrative Assistant IV	1	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	5	0	0	5	0	0	3	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	18	0	1	16	0	1	9	9
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
Info Technology Specialist	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office Assistant II	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Office Assistant III	3	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Office Assistant IV	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Office Coordinator	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Office Coordinator II	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Painter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personnel Payroll Assistant II	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tech Serv Section Manager	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STAFF-TOTALS									
	80	**71**	**0**	**10**	**59**	**0**	**2**	**41**	**30**
GRAND TOTALS	**1065**	**971**	**4**	**123**	**763**	**18**	**63**	**902**	**69**

Promotions

Name	Promotion Date	From	To
Zingler, Randall	11/16/2008	BNCHF	Deputy Chief
Grossman, Scott	1/27/2008	CPT	Battalion Chief
Poliak, James	6/29/2008	CPT	Battalion Chief
Weber, Debra	6/29/2008	CPT	Battalion Chief
Gallow, Ralph	9/21/2008	CPT	Battalion Chief
Holton, Daniel	9/21/2008	CPT	Battalion Chief
Chapman, Alonzo	11/16/2008	CPT	Battalion Chief
Conway, Paul	12/28/2008	CPT	Battalion Chief
Alioto, Frank	1/27/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Bertoni, Perry	5/4/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Zych, Caroline	6/29/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Venus, Jeffrey	6/29/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Lipski, Aaron	7/27/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Halbur, Timothy	9/21/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Rogowski, David	9/21/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Johnson, Ronald	9/21/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Kendall, Robert	12/28/2008	FFLT	Fire Captain
Matiszik, Richard	1/13/2008	FF	Fire Lieutenant
Wright, Michael	1/13/2008	PARFF	Fire Lieutenant
Rivard, Russell	1/27/2008	HEO	Fire Lieutenant
Parish, Joshua	1/27/2008	PARFF	Fire Lieutenant
Hartung, Robert	1/27/2008	SPCLT	Fire Lieutenant
Hegeman, Joseph	2/24/2008	FF	Fire Lieutenant
Semrow, David	4/20/2008	HEO	Fire Lieutenant
Williamson, Matthew	5/4/2008	FF	Fire Lieutenant
Christensen, Todd	6/29/2008	FF	Fire Lieutenant
Peterburs, Darin	6/29/2008	HEO	Fire Lieutenant
Vossekuil, Andrew	7/13/2008	PARHEO	Fire Lieutenant
Leong, Thomas	7/27/2008	PARFF	Fire Lieutenant
Gauthier, Jeffrey	9/21/2008	HEO	Fire Lieutenant
Pippin, Lamon	9/21/2008	PARHEO	Fire Lieutenant
Komesar, Paul	9/21/2008	HEO	Fire Lieutenant
Kolosovsky, Kyle	9/21/2008	HEO	Fire Lieutenant
Rodriguez, Enrique	11/16/2008	SPCLT	Fire Lieutenant

Promotions (continued...)

Echevarria, William	11/16/2008	SPCLT	Fire Lieutenant
Timm, Andrew	11/16/2008	FF	Fire Lieutenant
Anderson, Jeffery	12/28/2008	HEO	Fire Lieutenant
Nadboralski, Joseph	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Carstens, Carl	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Jones, Brent	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Giegerich, Brian	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Deleon, Joel	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Roman-Cortes, Miguel	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Gonzalez, Israel	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Kowalski, Dennis	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Heling, Timothy	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Osell, Christian	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Lang, Joshua	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Stremlau, Ronald	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Ashley, Kendrick	7/27/2008	FF	HEO
Lemke, Justin	9/21/2008	FF	HEO
Jacobs, Anthony	9/21/2008	FF	HEO
Cleary, Kyle	9/21/2008	FF	HEO

Retirees

NAME	APPOINTED	RANK	RETIREE DATE
BATES, JERRY D.	4/4/1977	FIREF	4/16/2008
BECK, JAMES L.	1/7/1985	PARFF	10/12/2008
BLAND, ALLEN	5/12/1980	FIREF	12/31/2008
BROWN, FRANKLIN P.	9/7/1976	PARFF	9/28/2008
DANEY, JOHNNY W.	2/10/1986	LIEUT	6/27/2008
FRANKEN, SCOTT F.	4/4/1977	LIEUT	8/1/2008
HARTUNG, MICHAEL A.	1/9/1978	LIEUT	1/8/2008
HERMANN, KURT R.	4/22/1985	HEQOP	4/20/2008
HOLDMANN, CRAIG D.	4/2/1979	LIEUT	10/22/2008
HOLMES, RICHARD E.	10/31/1983	FIREF	1/1/2008
JEANPIERRE, THOMAS P.	4/22/1985	FIREF	10/31/2008
KARDACH, JOSEPH A.	3/5/1984	FIREF	3/28/2008
KONETZ, JOHN A.	10/1/1979	LIEUT	12/1/2008
LIPSKI, ROGER D.	11/8/1992	FEDIS	11/10/2008
MACKIN, TERRY R.	7/18/1983	HEQOP	2/1/2008
MARINELLI, RANDY J.	9/7/1976	FIREF	7/20/2008
MCKEAG, CONNIE M.	9/22/1986	PMFLT	9/30/2008
MICHAELS, PAUL A.	1/26/1976	FIREF	6/29/2008
MOORE, GARY L.	4/2/1979	BNCHF	1/1/2008
PETERSEN, RAGNARD D.	9/16/1985	FIREF	1/4/2008
POPPY, MARK R.	10/1/1979	HEQOP	3/25/2008
RASHAAD, ISMAIL O.	9/28/1981	FIREF	9/27/2008
RENZ, GREGORY L.	10/1/1979	FCAPT	7/18/2008
REYNOLDS, BRIAN C.	4/18/1988	ACEMS	7/26/2008
RIVERA, JULIO	10/20/1975	BNCHF	5/1/2008
RODRIGUEZ, RICARDO	2/18/1980	FCAPT	4/20/2008
SAIN, MARK A.	5/12/1980	BNCHF	8/27/2008
SCHAUT, JEFFERY R.	4/22/1985	FIREF	5/15/2008
SKONIECZNY, WARREN J.	3/13/1972	DEPCH	10/12/2008
STANISLAWSKI, JAMES M.	9/7/1976	HEQOP	6/27/2008
STOEKL, JOHN J.	9/19/1977	HEQOP	3/17/2008
STONE, CHARLES H.	11/25/1990	FERSP	2/23/2008
STONER, DEBRA J.	9/22/1986	PMFLT	11/28/2008
VANWIERINGEN, RICHARD	2/14/1983	FIREF	6/21/2008
WENTLANDT, WILLIAM E. JR.	9/15/1980	BNCHF	12/8/2008
WENZEL, GREGORY S.	1/9/1978	BNCHF	7/16/2008
WOBOSEL, PAUL J.	2/18/1980	BNCHF	4/16/2008
ZACH, MICHAEL J.	1/7/1985	FIREF	1/25/2008

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 seven 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' voice 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 current 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.

Michael G. Tobin, Executive Director, was appointed Executive Director of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission by Mayor Tom Barrett and approved by the Milwaukee Common Council in November 2007.

RECRUITMENT

One of the Milwaukee Fire Department's 2008 accomplishments, in collaboration with the Fire and Police Commission, was a successful recruitment effort that was implemented from July 12 to August 1. The recruitment began with an official kickoff in which MFD personnel, the Fire and Police Commission, and the Department of Employee Relations staffed five firehouses where interested applicants filled out applications and learned more about the fire service. As a result, the department received 5133 applications, and 3889 applicants proceeded to the first phase of testing. This was the first recruitment/examination effort conducted by the City in the last five years.

To apply for the position of firefighter, interested applicants had to meet the minimum qualifications: be 18 years or older, a U.S. Citizen, hold a high school diploma or GED, and have a valid motor vehicle operator's license.

Milwaukee firefighters respond to a wide range of emergencies, performing rescue, EMS (emergency medical services), and firefighting duties, as well as engaging in fire prevention education and carrying out other specialized assignments. Milwaukee firefighting personnel receive an excellent pay and benefits package. The current starting salary to be an MFD firefighter is $36,167, with regular pay increases and the possibility of earning overtime. Generous leave, insurance, and education benefits are provided, and firefighters can retire after 22 years of service at age 49. Firefighters work an average of ten 24-hour days per month.

To become an MFD firefighter, applicants have to undergo a three-step selection process. The selection process has three distinct parts:

1. The first part consists of a written test, physical ability test, oral examination, and background investigation. The Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission reserves the right to invite only the most qualified candidates to the physical ability and oral tests.

2. The second part of the selection process consists of a ten-week EMT training course provided at no cost by the Milwaukee Fire Department to the top ranked individuals on the eligible list.

3. The third part consists of a medical examination, drug screen test, and psychological evaluation.

To learn more about a career with the MFD please visit www.milwaukee.gov/fpc/MFDjobs.

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