



Serving Fairbanks Since 1904
Fairbanks Fire Department
2004 Annual Report



Determined to make a difference through teamwork

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FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Fairbanks is located in the heart of Alaska's Interior, on the banks of the Chena River in the Tanana Valley. By air, Fairbanks is 45 minutes from Anchorage and 3 hours from Seattle. It lies 358 road miles north of Anchorage. It lies at 64.8 degrees North Latitude and 147.7 degrees West Longitude. The current population is 29,670 (2002 est. by State Demographer, DOL/WD)

Interior Alaska experiences seasonal temperature extremes. Winter temperatures average -12°F; summer temperatures averages +61°F. Temperatures have been recorded as low as -78°F in mid-winter, and as high as +93°F in the summer. Average annual precipitation is 11.3 inches, which includes an average of approximately 65 inches of snow. Ice fog is common during the winter.

The Fairbanks area is the second-largest community in Alaska. Residents are primarily non-Native, though diverse. There are 21 schools located in the community attended by 10,056 students.

As the regional service and supply center for Interior Alaska, Fairbanks offers a diverse economy, including City, Borough, State and Federal government services, transportation, communication, manufacturing, financial and regional medical services. Tourism and mining are also a significant part of the economy. Including Eielson Air Force Base and Fort Wainwright personnel, 50% of the employment is in government services. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a major employer. Fairbanks hosts approximately 325,000 visitors each summer.

Fairbanks is at the confluence of the Richardson Highway, George Parks Highway, Steese Highway, and the Elliott Highway, connecting the Interior to Anchorage, Canada, and the lower 48 states. The Dalton Highway (formerly the North Slope Haul road), which connects to Prudhoe Bay, begins about 75 miles north of town.

Goods are transported to Fairbanks by truck, air, and the Alaska Railroad. Regularly-scheduled jet flights are available at the State-owned Fairbanks International Airport. An 11,800' asphalt runway, heliport and seaplane landing strip are available. A public seaplane base is also located on the Chena River. In addition, there are several privately-owned airstrips and heliports in the vicinity.



FAIRBANKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

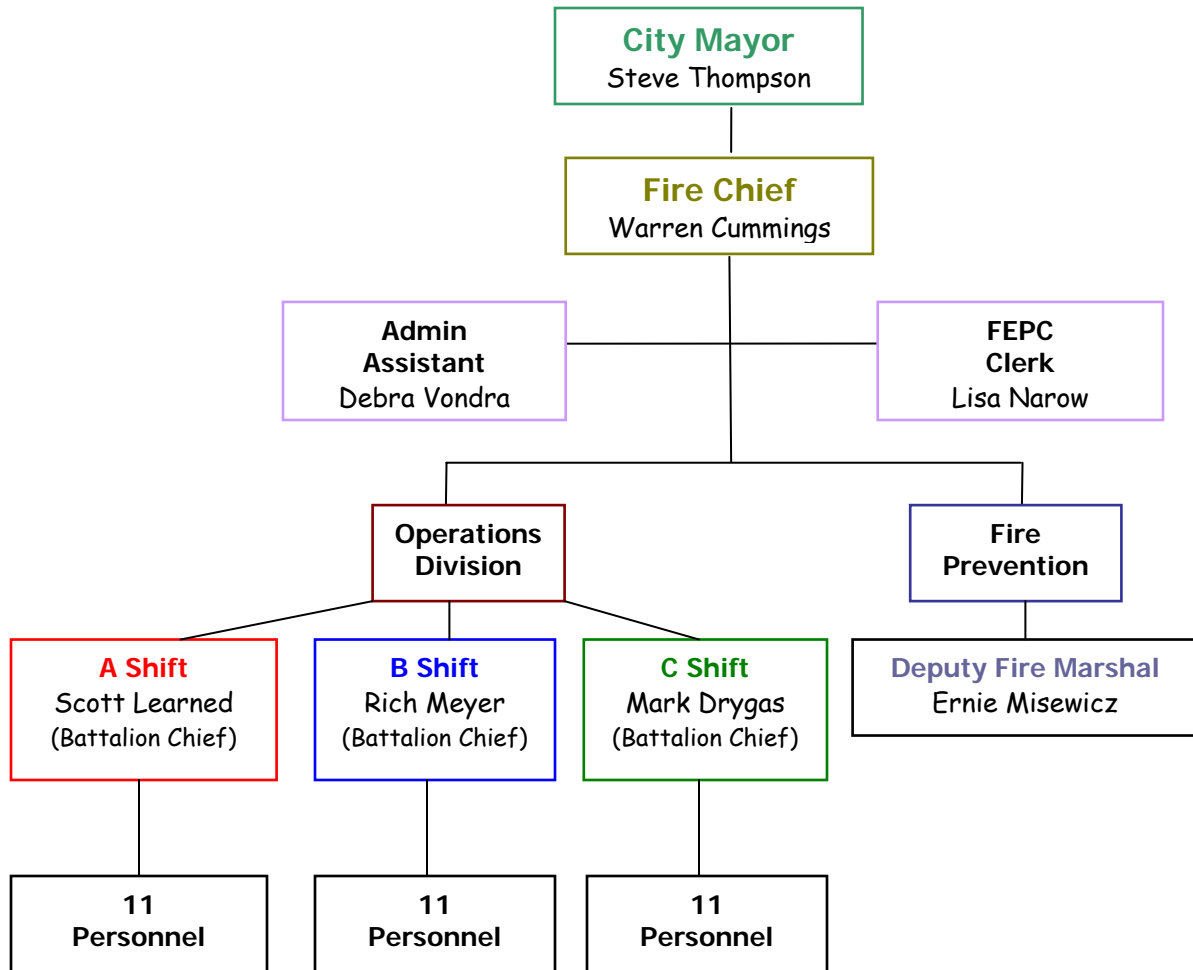
The City of Fairbanks Fire Department Mission is to provide a fire safe and hazard free community, while protecting life and property from fire and other emergencies.

This Mission is accomplished through public education, fire code management, fire suppression, paramedic level pre-hospital emergency medical care and transport, hazardous condition mitigation and rescue services.



CITY OF FAIRBANKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organizational Chart





Fire Chief

Warren B. Cummings

Chief Cummings has been with the Fairbanks Fire Department for 33 years. He has been in-charge of the Department for the last 11 years. He is responsible for the 4.7 million-dollar annual budget as well as 40 full-time employees.

During his tenure, the Fire Department has seen over 10 million dollars in capital improvements including the construction of a new fire station.

In 2001, Chief Cummings was appointed by the Governor to the Alaska Fire Standards Council, which he serves as its Chairperson.

Chief Cummings is also very active in the Community and serves on the International Moose Community Service Committee.

FAIRBANKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fairbanks Fire Department is a fully paid Fire Department with a staff of 40 persons. Fire Chief Warren B. Cummings who has 33 years of service on the FFD heads the Department. The workforce is divided into three shifts and work a "24 on, 48 off" schedule. Each shift has a Battalion Chief, three Captains, three Drivers and four Firefighters. The Department also has a Deputy Fire Marshal, and two clerical persons.

The Department has four fire engines, one 102-foot platform, a 100-foot ladder truck, a medium rescue truck, three ambulances, one incident command van, one rescue boat, one raft, one heat trailer, one light trailer, and two water tenders. There are two staffed fire stations and another unstaffed fire station located at the City-operated Regional Fire Training Center.

The Department runs a paramedic level transport ambulance service. There are fifteen paramedics that are also trained as firefighters. The Prevention Division also receives assistance from the firefighters.

The City of Fairbanks has a population served of 22,800¹ citizens. The temperature in Fairbanks ranges from 90 degrees above zero in the summer to 60 degrees below zero in the winter. The amount of daylight hours range from 21 hours, 49 minutes in the summer and 3 hours, 42 minutes in the winter. These temperature and daylight extremes can make quite a challenge for fire fighting.

The FFD's response area is 13.1 square miles, with a total asset evaluation of \$1,583,848,529, and includes the Chena River, Pioneer Park, the Carlson Center, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and many other important landmarks. Fairbanks Fire provides mutual aid support for 10 surrounding fire departments including Fort Wainwright Army Base and Eielson Air Force Base.

Engine 1 – 1998 KME



Platform1 – 102' 1995 KME



¹Based on 2000 US Census (less population of Ft. Wainwright)
Fairbanks Fire Department

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR 2004

1. Started the construction of the new Headquarters Fire Station at 1101 Cushman Street.
2. The Department finished 2004 with a fire loss amount of \$1,257,900. This total was 82 percent of the ten-year fire loss average of \$1,453,009.
3. The Alaska Fire Fighter II certification of all of our suppression level employees.
4. A new Pumper/Tender placed in service
5. Ordering a second Pumper/Tender to replace yet another 1974 Tender and 1983 Pumper.
6. An engine crew and a brush truck with crew were sent out to assist Fairbanks Area Forestry on several large project fires.
7. Safety problems were identified and corrected under our periodic evening assembly occupancy inspection program.
8. Provided additional support to the "Risk Watch" safety education curriculum in our area schools.
9. Continued the Smoke Detector installation program to help solve the problem of non-working or no smoke detection devices in residential homes.
10. Completion of certification of our personnel to State standards as Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) members.
11. Upgrading our fire fighting equipment with \$323,052 grant award under the Assistance to Fire Fighters (Fire) Grant program.
12. Receipt of the 2003 and 2004 Homeland Security grant funds totaling \$85,650 to upgrade emergency medical services and fire fighting equipment.
13. Our first female Fire Fighter, Joy Beth Moser, completed her probationary period.

PROBLEM AREAS FOR 2004

1. A high number of fire incidents involving juveniles setting fires.
2. A sharp increase in multiple emergency calls has been occurring.
3. The lack of reoccurring fire safety inspections due to the shortage of personnel in the Fire Marshal's office continues to be a problem.

FFD Goals and Challenges in 2005

1. The opening of the new Headquarters Fire Station (cost \$7,500,000)
2. Fairbanks will continue to see record construction, with \$70,000,000 estimated during 2005, the 2nd highest year in the history of the city.
3. Exploration of annexation opportunities to the west and south of current city boundaries are planned.
4. Continued pursuit of grant moneys for vehicles, equipment & training. Will apply for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant, FEMA Fire Prevention Grant, Homeland Security Grants, and regional/state EMS grants.
 - Secure funding for a new platform to replace our 1977 ladder truck, and a new ambulance.
5. We expect to hire one additional firefighter position during 2005. We hope to use this position to help reduce overtime.
6. A second new pumper/tender (Engine 4) purchased with grant money is expected to be put into service (cost \$469,000).
7. Reduce fire problems through continued public fire, life, safety education in schools, businesses and civic groups. This includes continuing support of the "Risk Watch" safety education program in the elementary schools.
8. Complete update of the Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures.
9. Increase initial and reoccurring proficiency training of fire department personnel.
10. Maintain up-to-date support equipment to include hose, breathing apparatus, medical equipment, safety equipment, rescue equipment, radios and fire equipment.

2004 MAJOR FIRES

Represents \$966,500.00 or approx 77% of the total fire loss,
and NO Fatalities for 2004.

\$522,000

1516 Gilliam Way Apt 9 – May 28, 2004

Four Plex Apartment Bldg

\$522,000.00 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: Present and operated

Cause: Unattended candle in living room

\$180,000

706 2nd Ave. – September 12, 2004

Restaurant Fire

\$180,000.00 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: None

Cause: Spontaneous Heating in clothes dryer

\$170,000

1417 26th Avenue – January 1, 2004

Duplex dwelling

\$170,000.00 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: Present, fire started in garage

Cause: Discarded smoking material in trash

\$50,000

8 Antoinette Ave. – December 28, 2004

Single Family Dwelling

\$50,000.00 Loss, No insurance

Smoke Detector: Present and activated

Cause: Unknown

\$22,500

621 22nd Ave – June 1, 2004

Single Family Residence

\$22,500.00 loss, No insurance

Smoke Detectors: Unknown

Cause: Electrical Fire in utility room

\$22,000

1218 Bainbridge Blvd – July 10, 2004

Duplex Dwelling

\$22,000.00 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: Present, alerted occupants to fire

Cause: Unattended cooking...kitchen fire

2004 IN REVIEW

Call Volume	<u>Fire Calls</u>	<u>EMS Calls</u>	<u>Total Calls</u>
Total Number of Calls	846	2982	3828
Arson Calls	16	--	16
Total Personnel Hours	2101	4354	6455
 Average Calls per Day	 2.28	 8.14	 10.45
Average Personnel per Call	6.72	3.05	3.84
Average Apparatus per Call	3.57	1.58	2.04
 Total Calls by Station	 Sta. 1 – 3727	 Sta. 2 – 0	 Sta.3 – 101
Total Calls by Shift	A-1271	B-1291	C-1266

Response Data	<u>Emergency</u>	<u>Non-Emerg</u>	<u>All Calls</u>
Total Apparatus Responses in Year	6072	1747	7819
Avg. Apparatus Response per Day	16.59	4.77	21.36
Average Turn Out Time	0:01:44	0:02:15	0:01:52
Average Response Time	0:05:10	0:07:12	0:05:45
Average Total Time on Call	0:38:30	0:35:49	0:37:43
Note: Times in (Hr:Min:Sec) format			

Fire Activity	<u>All Fires</u>	<u>Arson</u>
Estimated Dollar Loss	\$1,257,900	\$ 30,950
Estimated Value	\$163,980,310	\$26,931,000
Percentage Saved	99.23%	99.88%
Injuries	FFD 0, Civilian 5	None
Fatalities	None	None

Mutual Aid	<u>Given</u>	<u>Received</u>
Assistance to EMS Crew	0	5
EMS Call	5	15
Fire, Brush	6	0
Fire, Structure	7	10
Fire, Vehicle	0	4
Rescue, Water	0	1
Standby or Cancelled/No Event	2	1
Total	(20)	(36)

Fairbanks Fire Department Prevention Division

Fire Prevention Division GOALS for 2005

- Will continue to seek outside funding (grants) to support the Public Safety Education in the Community.
- Will continue to support our teachers in area schools with the RISK WATCH children injury prevention program by increasing the presents of the Fire Department in our schools and with civic groups through our Public Education Programs. Continue to work to help develop partnerships to impact the safety issues facing the community.
- Will continue to work to develop a five-year inspection plan for facilities in the city. Will continue to work with the administration to hire a recruit Deputy Fire Marshal.
- Increase the number of inspections in specific occupancies. These inspections will correlate with the 5 year plan
- Develop plan to implement a "Fire Corp and CERT Program in the City of Fairbanks

2004 Highlights of the Prevention Division

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK WATCH:** Worked on developing an "arctic supplement" for RISK WATCH to address safety concerns in Alaska and in the Interior.
- **SMOKE DETECTOR INSTALLATION:** Was part of a state wide Home Safety Inspection Project where thru a grant from FEMA was able to install smoke alarms, CO detectors, fire extinguishers, and escape ladders in residences in the city. Also provided safety information on how occupants could prevent fires from occurring.
- **ABC (Liquor License) Inspections:** After ten years the Fire Prevention Division started to conduct Fire Safety Inspections in liquor establishments along with the Building Department. This has resulted in identifying some significant safety concerns that have been corrected thru work with building owners.
- **CONTINUED USE OF THE FAIRBANKS AREA FIRE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE:** The Task Force has been up and running for five years now. Our local Task Force guide has been the model for several other communities around the state.

Areas of Concern in 2004

LACK OF PERSONNEL

Significant construction season in 2004. Large number of projects required review and ongoing inspections. These reviews and inspections limited the ability of the Fire Prevention Division to:

- ✓ continue periodic Fire Safety Inspection of facilities around the community.
- ✓ conduct follow up on fire investigations.
- ✓ continue fire safety education efforts in our school and around the community.

Fairbanks Fire Department

Fire Prevention Division Annual Report 2004

Plan Review	Number
Preliminary	37
New Construction	82
Remodel Projects	68
Sprinkler System (New)	6
Sprinkler System (Remodel)	45
Alarm System (New)	3
Alarm System (Remodel)	8
Stand Pipe System	2
Special System	12
TOTAL	263

Inspections	Number
Day Care	50
General Request	72
Follow Up Insp	118
Const. Finals	83
Re-Finals	44
ABC Inspections	16
Complaints	176
Sprinkler (New)	6
Sprinkler (Remodel)	45
Sprinkler Hydro	24
Alarm Sys. (New)	3
Alarm Sys. (Remodel)	8
Standpipe System	2
Special Systems	12
TOTAL	659

Permits Issued	Number
Fire Works	6
Sprinkler Install	60
Alarm Install	11
Special Sys. Install	12
TOTAL	89

Investigations	Number
City - Work Day	48
Call In (after hours)	36
Area Task Force Requests in City	0
Area Task Force Requests outside City	3
TOTAL	87

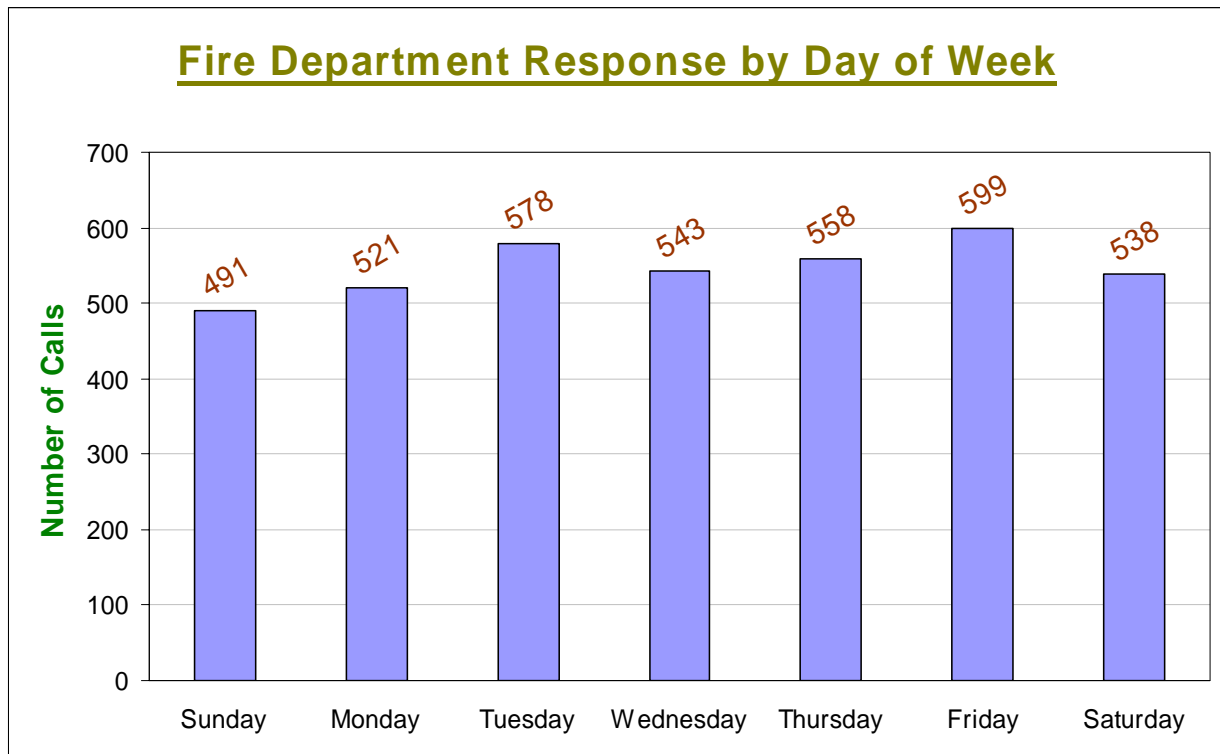
Prevention Division Programs		
Pub Ed	Number of Programs	Attended
Children Programs	26	744
Adult Programs	22	925
Radio Talk Shows	11	-
Public Displays	15	720
Community Groups	18	400
Station Tours	6	110
Demonstrations	3	52
TOTAL	101	2951

Operations Division Prevention Activities		
Pub Ed	Number of Programs	Attended
Children Programs	48	3810
Adult Programs	8	225
Public Displays	3	-
Community Groups	3	65
Station 1 Tours	22	400
Station 3 Tours	16	275
TOTAL	100	4775

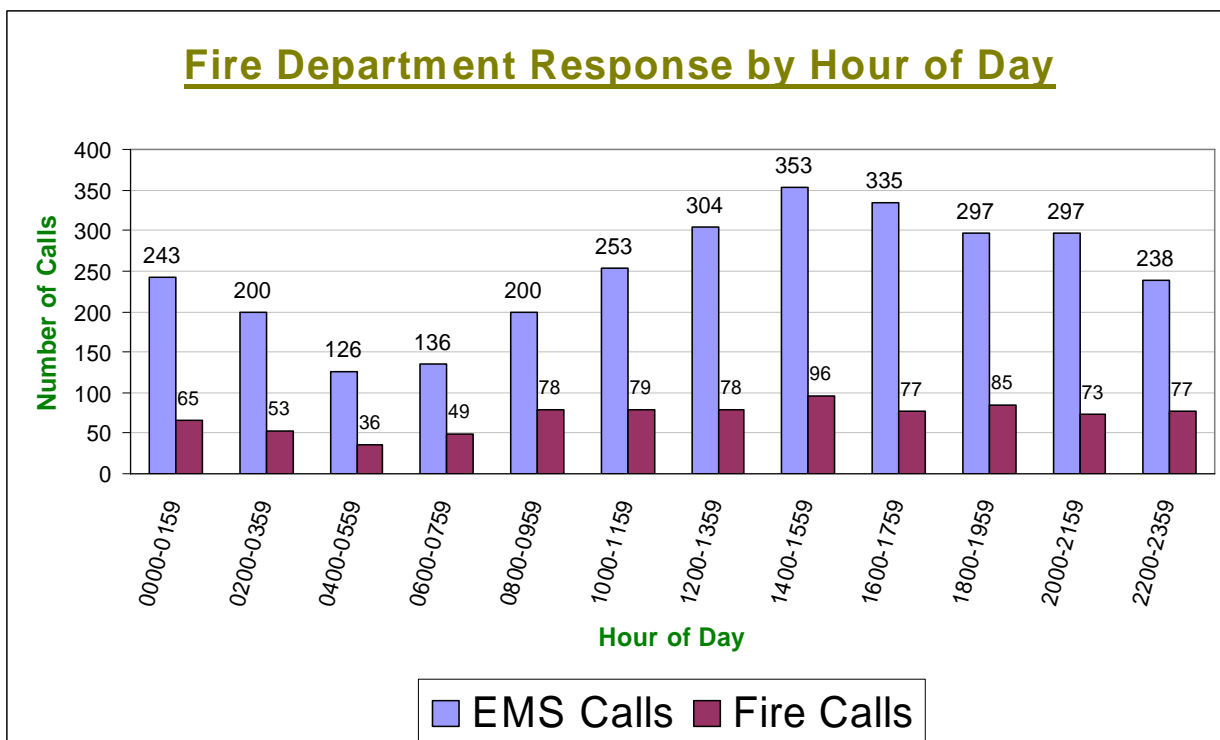
Making a Difference thru Prevention

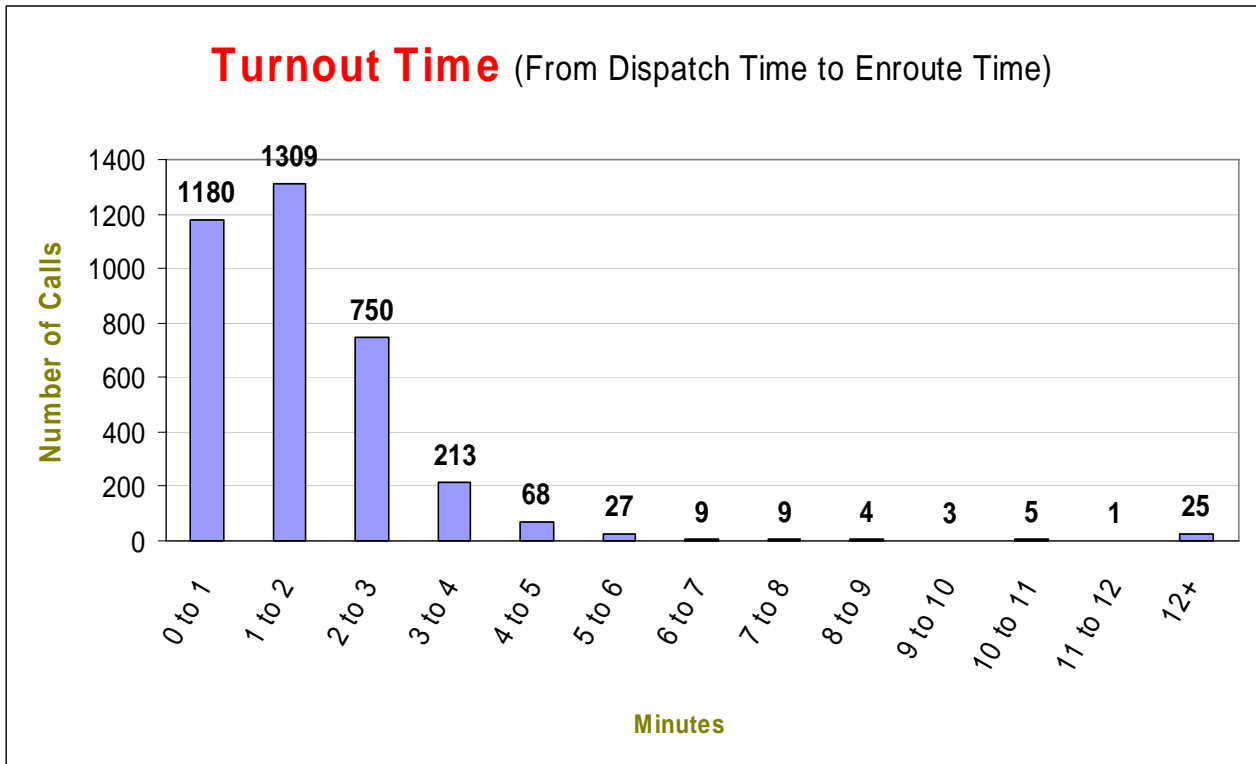
2004 RESPONSE STATISTICS & GRAPH

All Emergency Calls for 2004

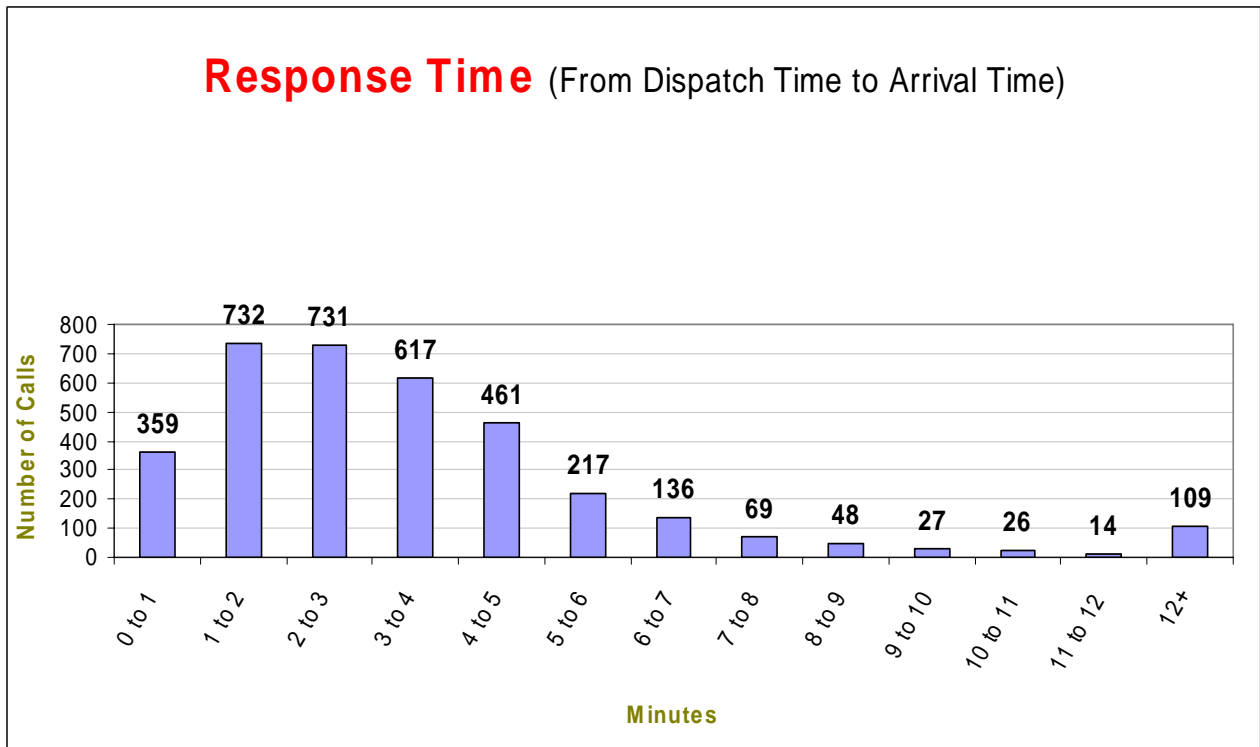


The highest number of responses were on **Fridays**, but the number of calls are fairly evenly spaced out for the Day of the Week.



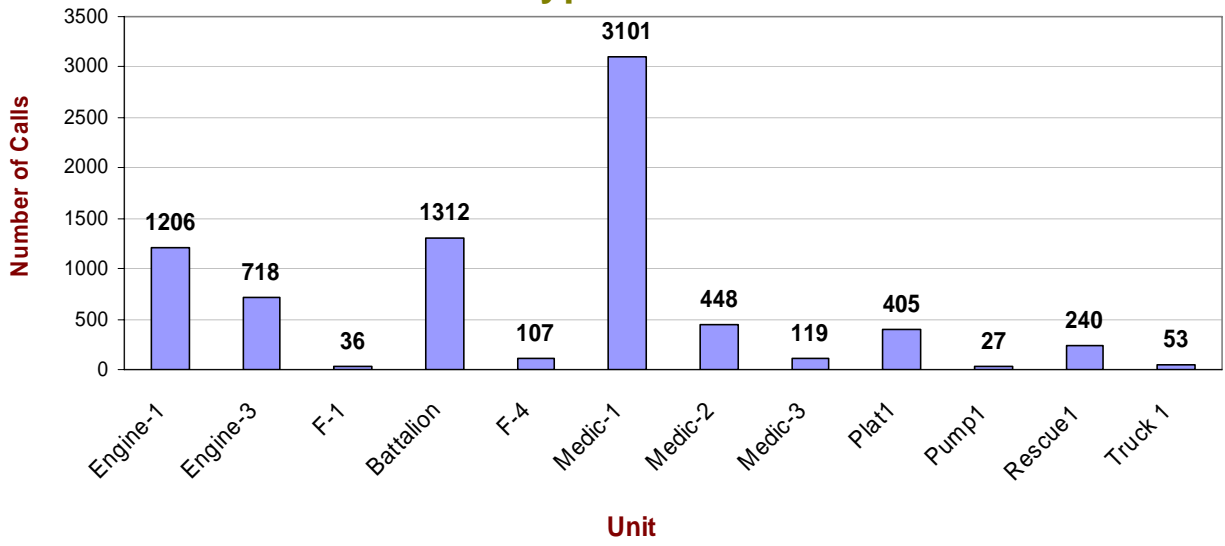


Thirty-three (33%) percent of the time, the apparatus were enroute to the call in under **one** (1) minute of the tone. There were **225** calls where no enroute time was recorded. This is due to being cancelled prior to apparatus movement from the station.



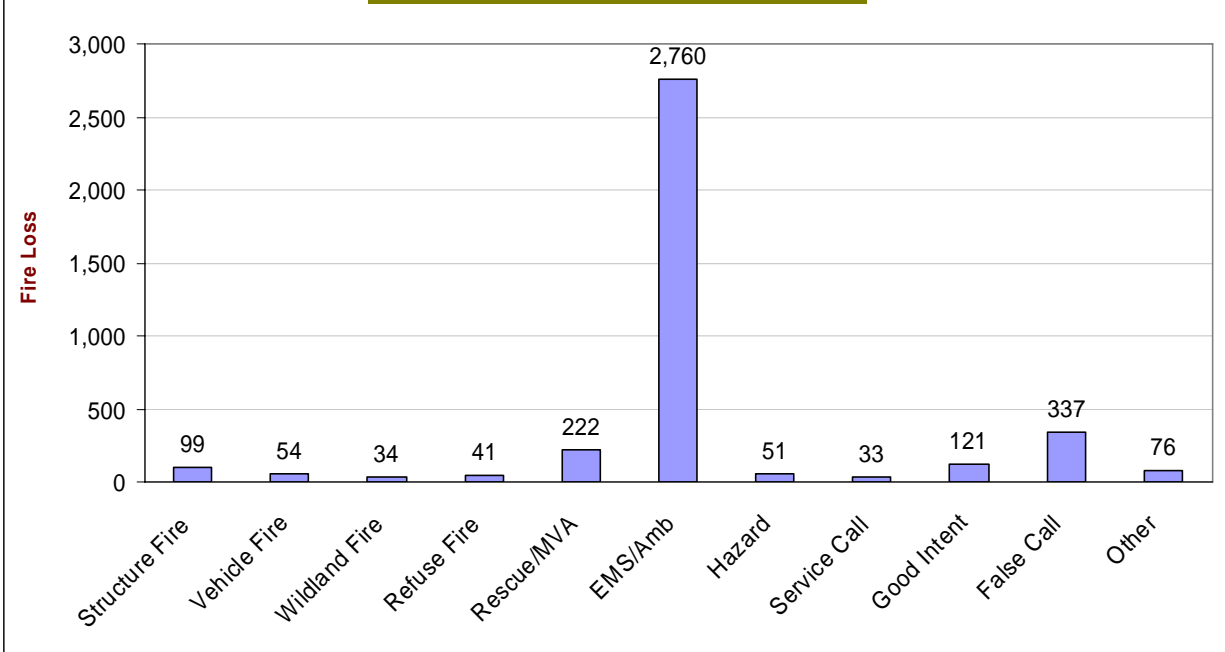
Sixty-eight (68%) percent of the time, the first arriving apparatus is on-scene within **four** (4) minutes of the alarm. There were **57** calls where apparatus did not arrive at the scene. This was due to being cancelled prior to arrival.

2004 Apparatus Response: All Types of Calls

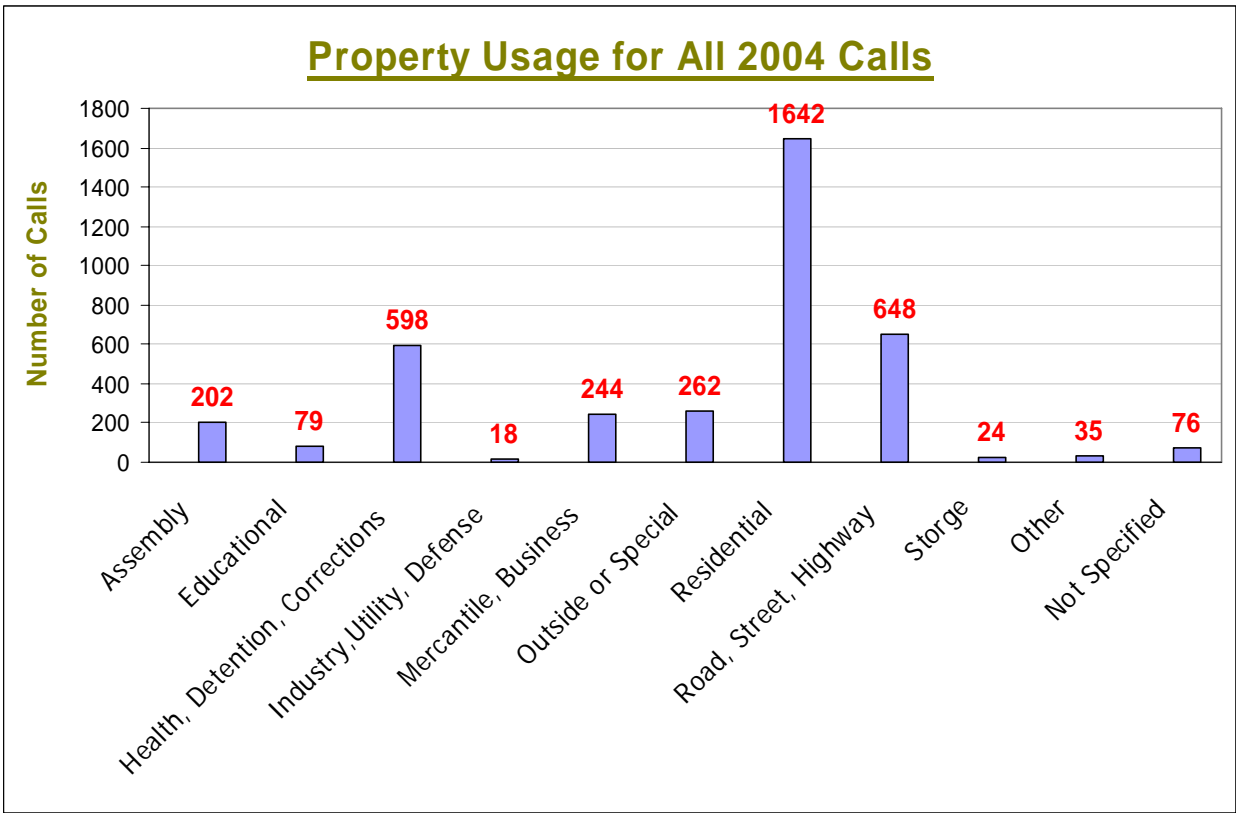


The bulk of responses were medical in nature. **Medic-1** is the first out ambulance. The on-duty Battalion Chief responds to provide scene management and support to the responders. **Engine-1** is the third busiest apparatus. **Engine-1** responds on all fires, but also responds on motor vehicle crashes and to assist the ambulance when needed.

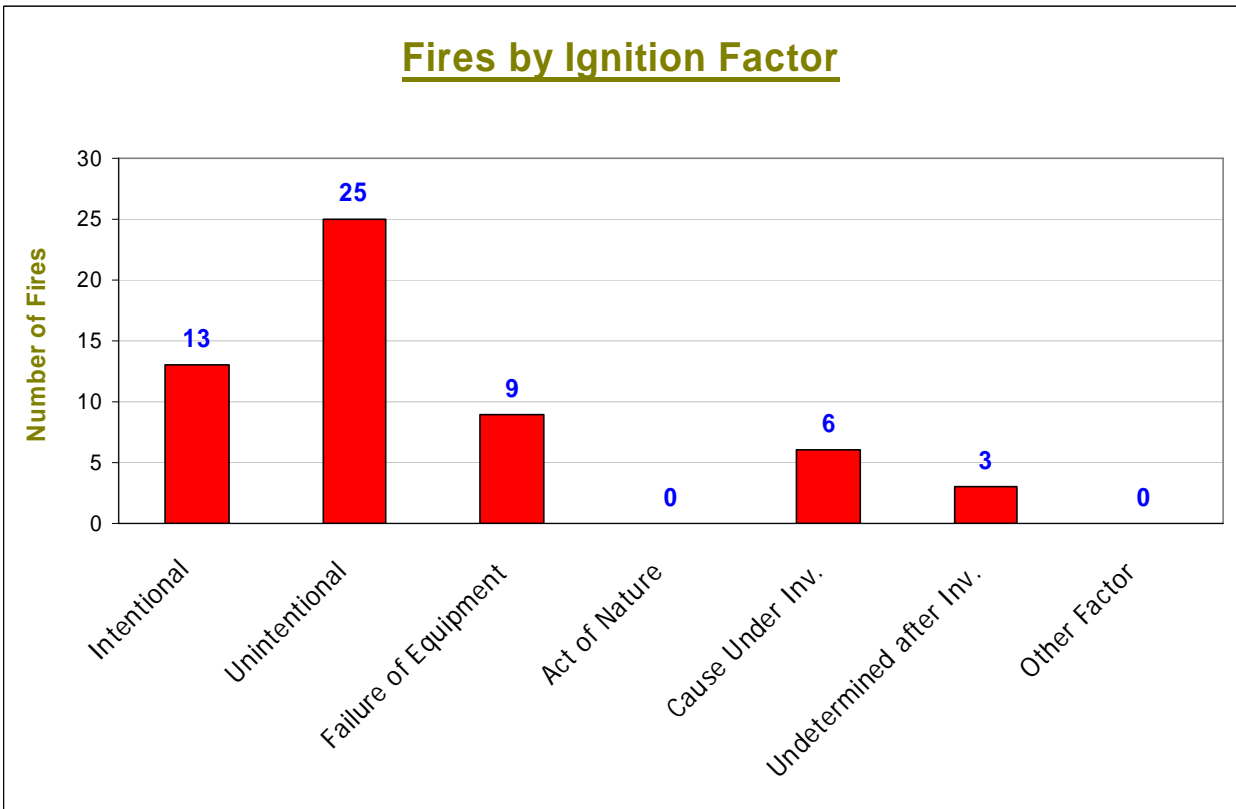
2004 Calls by Incident Type

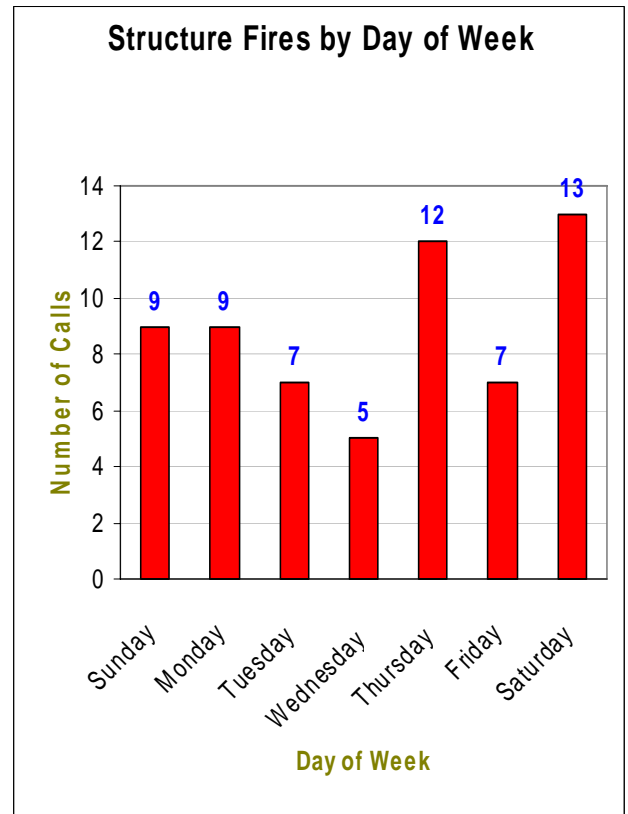
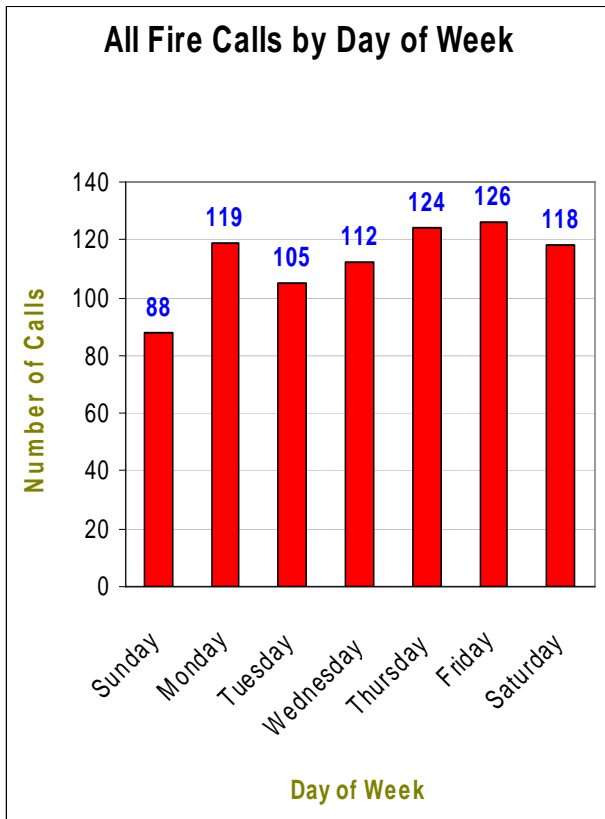


Upon arrival, nearly **Seventy-Two (72%) percent** of calls were EMS/Ambulance calls. This number excludes all Rescue & Motor Vehicle Accidents, which may have also involved injuries requiring EMS services.

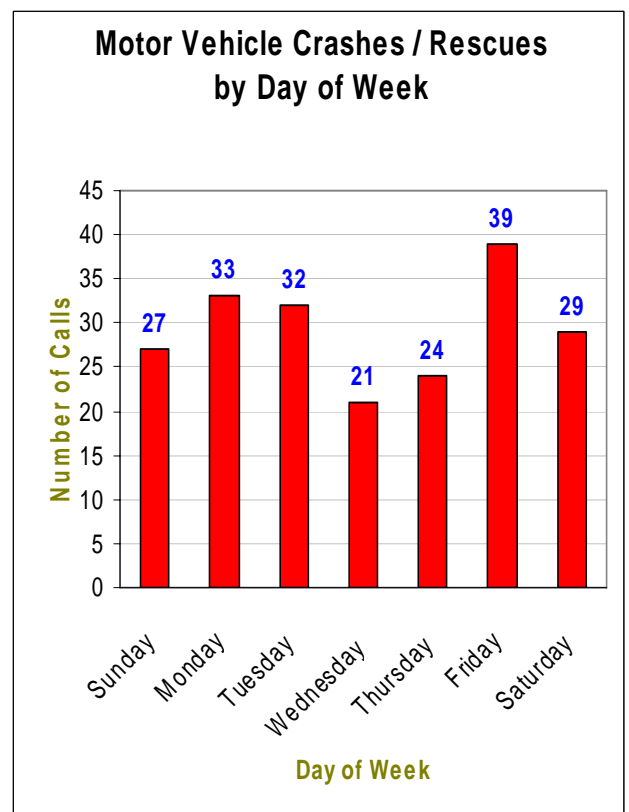
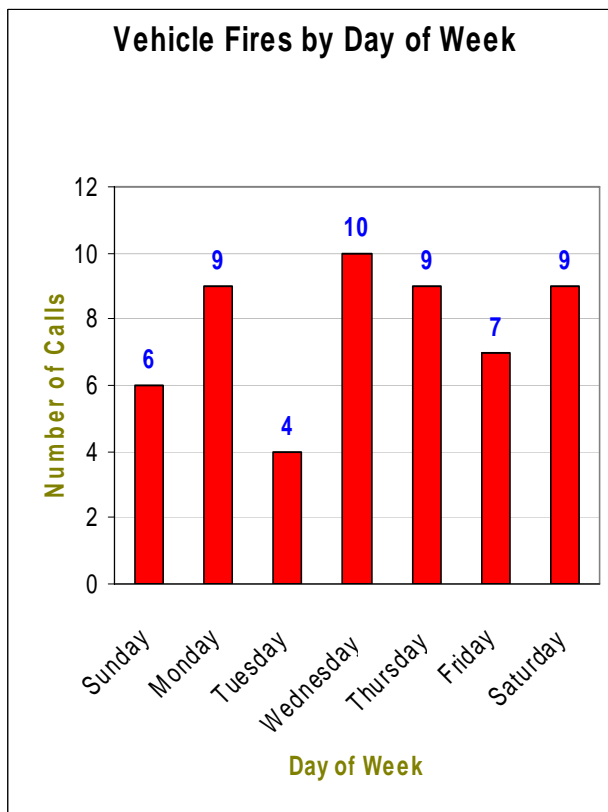


FIRE Calls for 2004





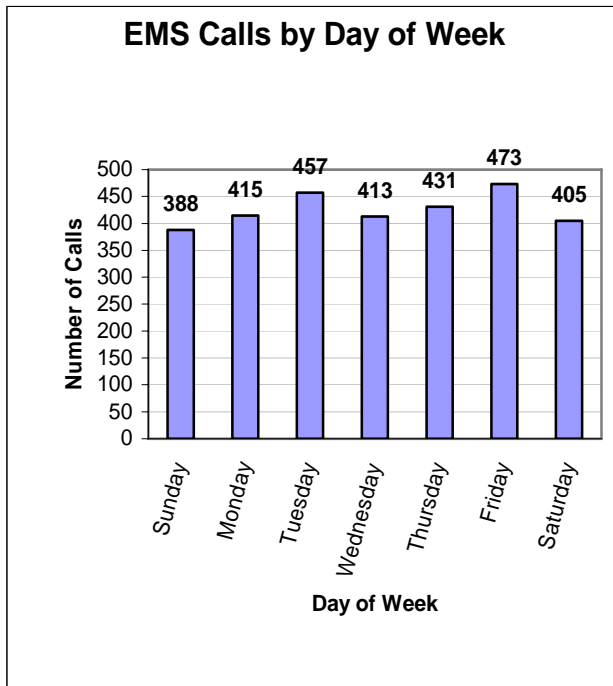
Saturdays were the high day of the week for fire calls in general, as well as structure fires.



Wednesdays had the most vehicle fires.

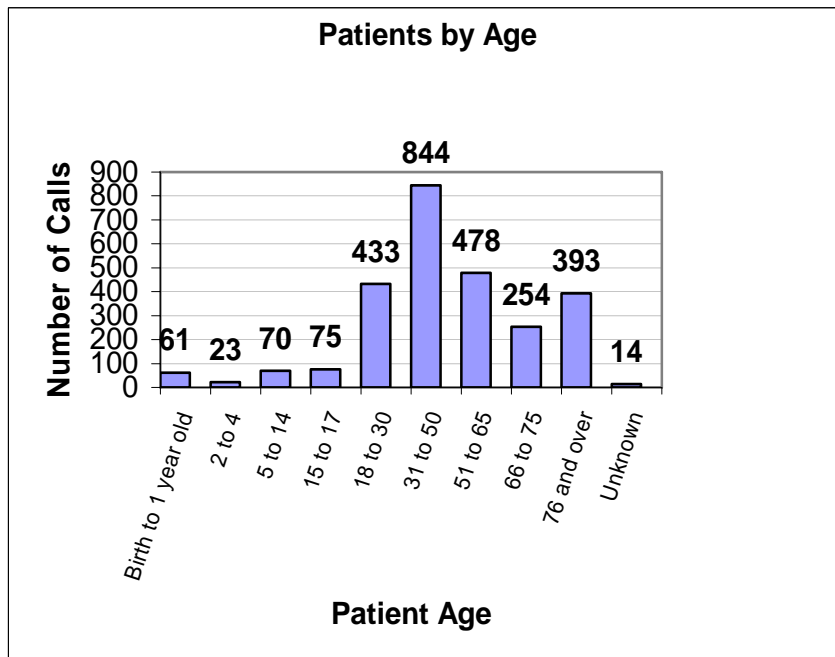
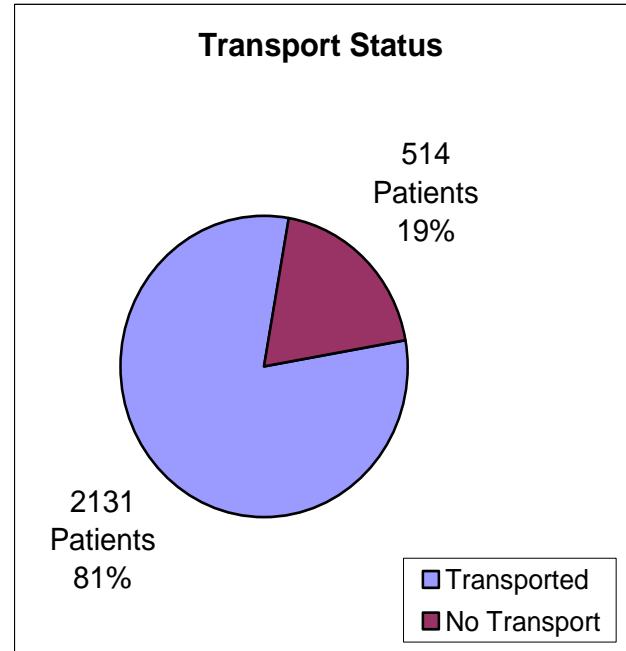
Fridays remain the most active days for motor vehicle crashes / rescues.

EMS Calls for 2004

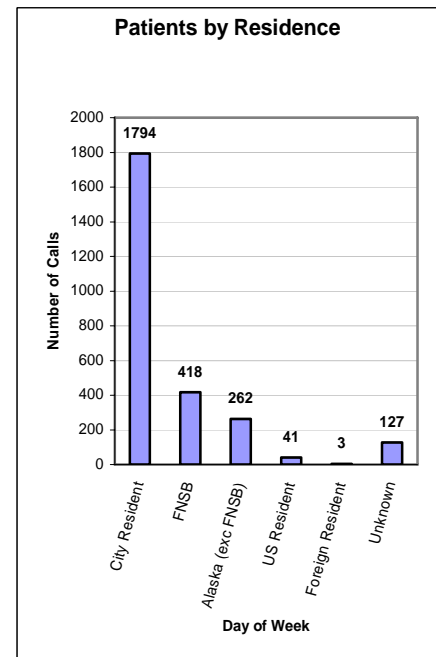


Fridays were the most active days for EMS calls.

In 2004, there were a total of **2645** patients assessed/treated, with 81% transported.

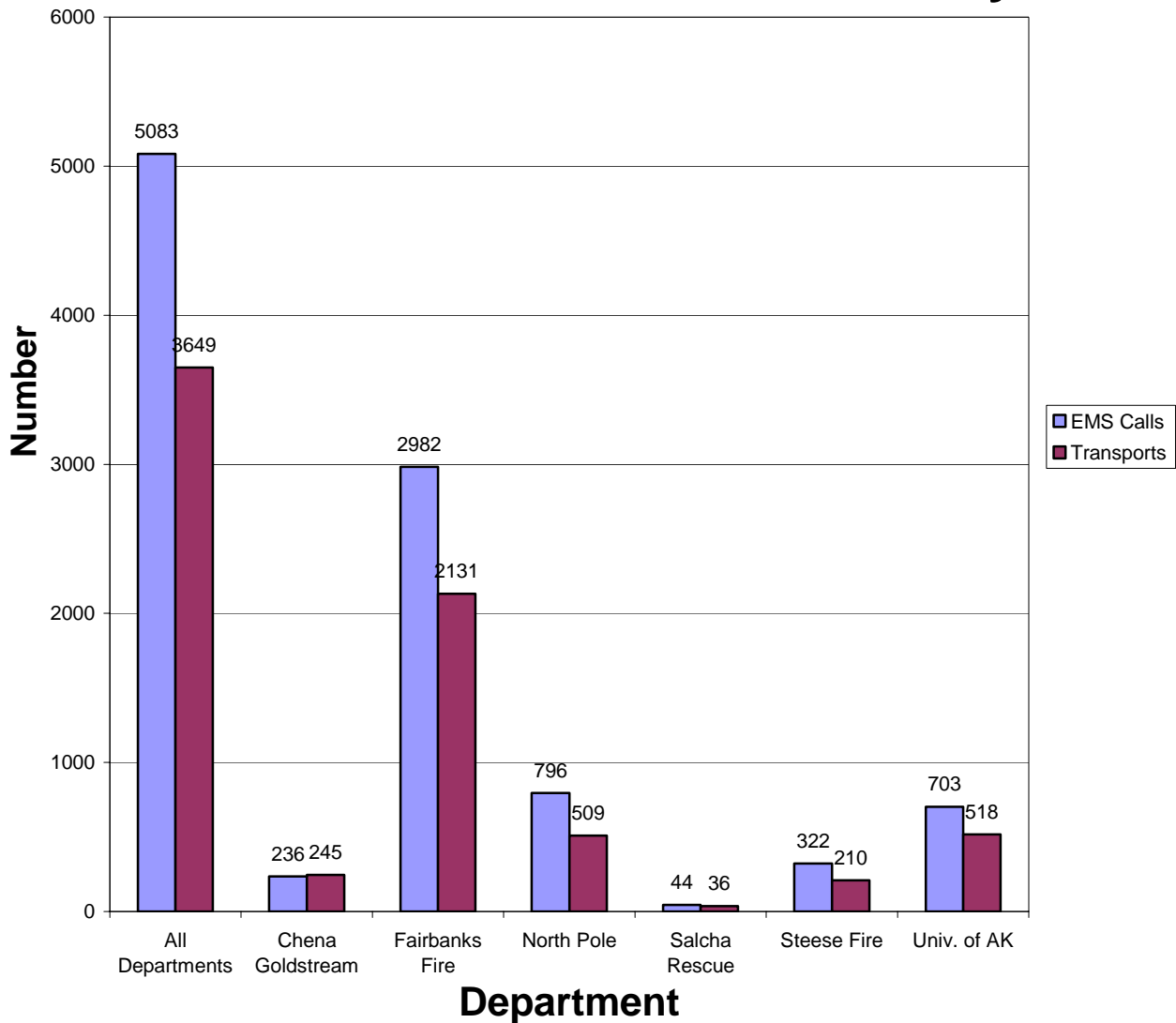


Patients (31 to 50) years old were the most common, and the majority were city residents.



Areawide Activity Comparison for EMS

2004 Areawide EMS Activity

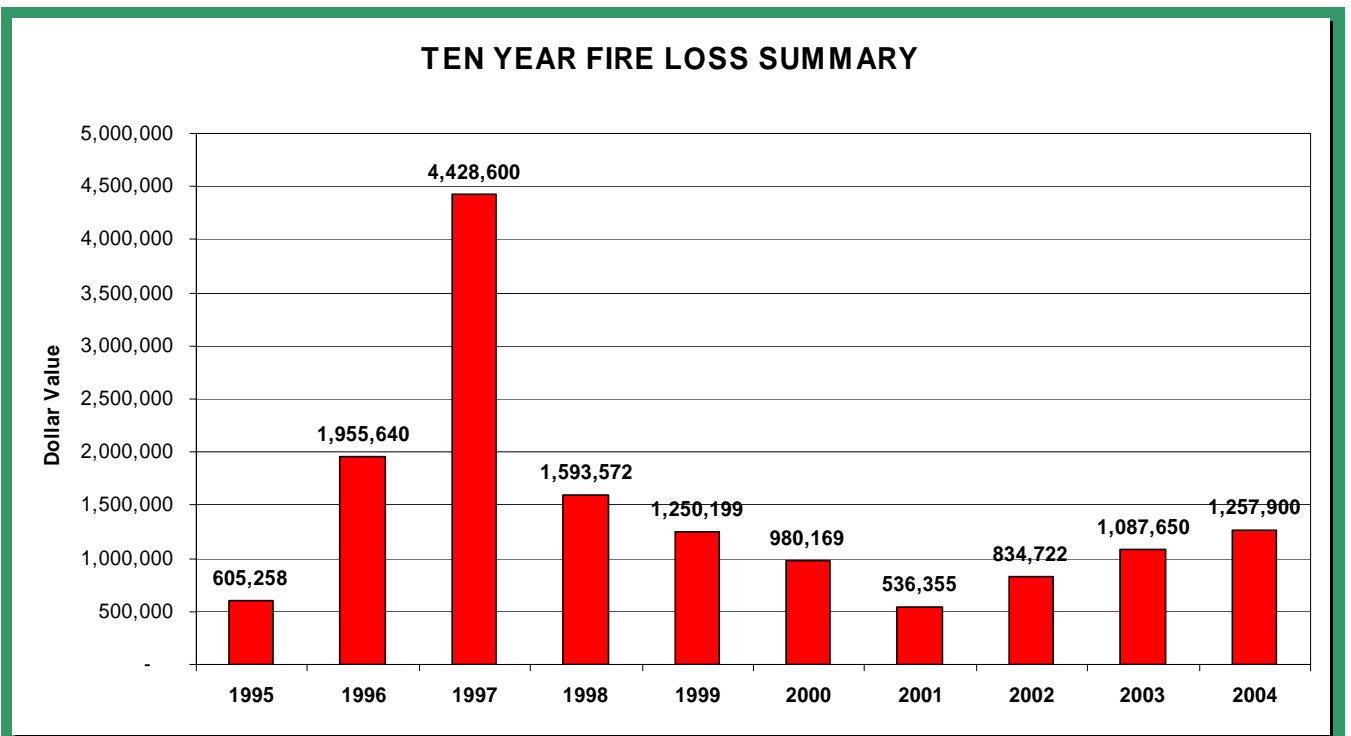
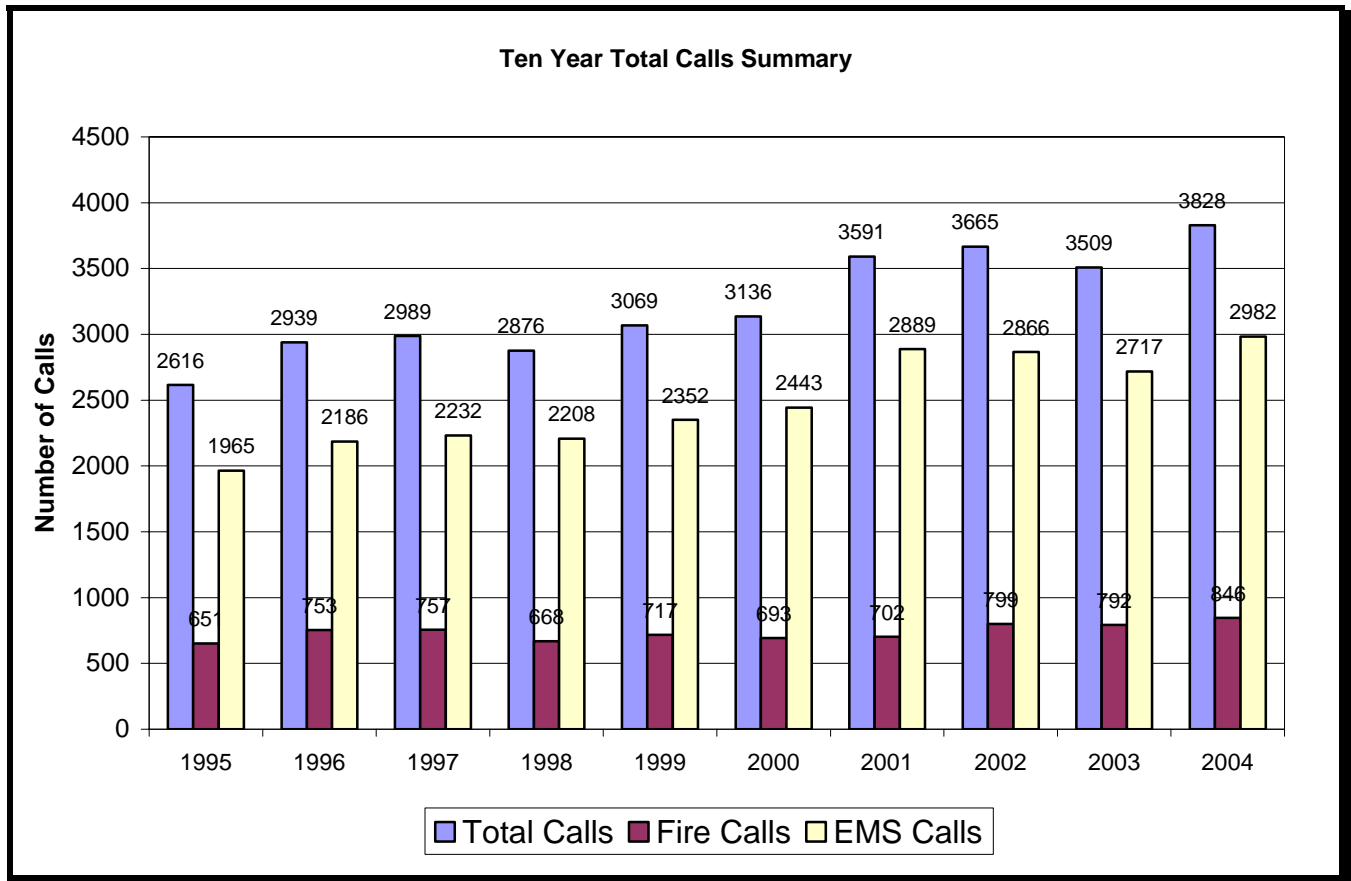


	EMS Calls	Transports	Transport Ratio
Chena Goldstream	236	245	103.81%
Fairbanks Fire	2982	2131	71.46%
North Pole FD	796	509	63.94%
Salcha Rescue	44	36	81.82%
Steese Fire	322	210	65.22%
Univ. of AK FD	703	518	73.68%
All Departments	5083	3649	71.79%

FFD Four Year Historical Comparison

	2004	2003	2002	2001
Number of calls:				
Fire	846	796	799	703
EMS	2982	2717	2866	2889
Total	3828	3513	3665	3592
Involving Arson	16	35	10	9
Average calls per day:				
Fire	2.28	2.16	2.18	1.91
EMS	8.14	7.44	7.85	7.91
Total	10.45	9.62	10.04	9.84
Fire dollar loss:				
Dollar Loss	1,255,150	1,087,650	834,722	534,710
Dollar Value Involved	150,470,310	45,504,555	33,239,233	55,164,228
Percentage Value Saved	99.16%	97.60%	97.48%	99.03%
Dollar loss involving arson:				
Dollar Loss	30,950	199,100	188,130	97,025
Dollar Value Involved	26,931,000	697,530	17,315,000	1,535,318
Percentage Value Saved	99.88%	71.45%	98.91%	93.68%
INJURIES				
Fire Service	0	1	0	1
Civilian Fire	5	5	7	10
FATALITIES				
Fire Service	0	0	0	0
Civilian Fire	0	0	1	2
APPARATUS				
Number of Responses	7819	7036	6913	6908
Average Responses per Day	21.36	19.27	18.93	18.92
Average Turnout Time	1:52	1:36	1:02	1:49
Average Response Time	5:45	5:25	4:56	5:56
Average Total Time	37:43	37:12	33:56	35:23
MUTUAL AID				
Given	20	17	11	12
Received	36	29	28	24

Historical Comparisons (1995 – 2004)



Note: The large dollar loss in 1997 was due to the catastrophic fire at Fairview Manor.