



Fairbanks Fire Department

2005 Annual Report



Serving Fairbanks Since 1904

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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 lays at 64.8 degrees North Latitude and 147.7 degrees West Longitude. The current population is 31,182 (2005 estimate by State Demographer, DOL/WD – includes Ft. Wainwright.)

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 10,610 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

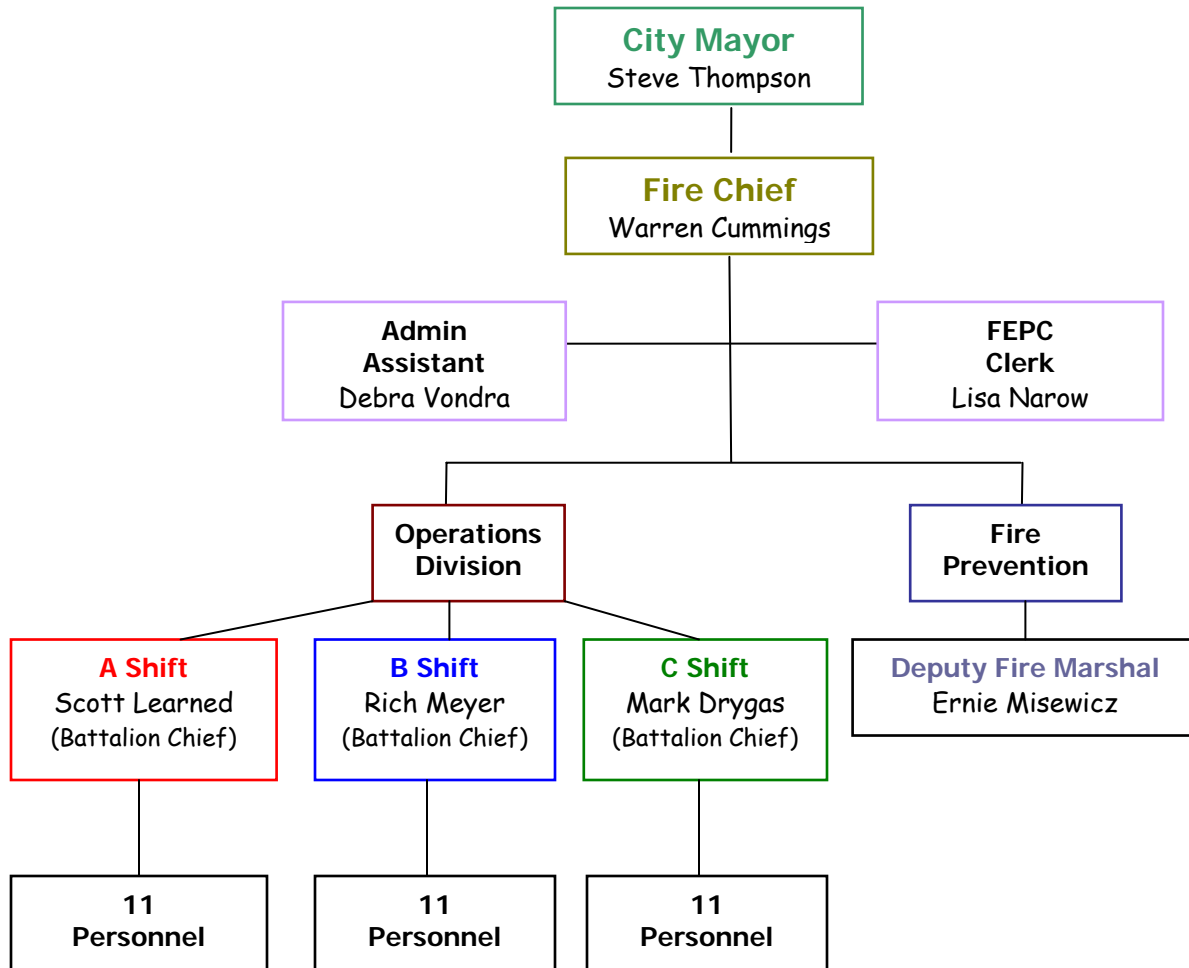
The City of Fairbanks Fire Department Mission is to provide a fire safe and hazard free community, while protecting life and property from fire and other emergencies.

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 34 years. He has been in-charge of the Department for the last 12 years. He is responsible for the 5 million-dollar annual budget as well as 40 full-time employees.

During his tenure, the Fire Department has seen over 11 million dollars in capital improvements including the construction of a new fire station.

In 2005, Chief Cummings was elected for a two-year term as President of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association.

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 34 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, four 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, four ambulances, one incident command van, one rescue boat, one raft, one heat trailer, one light trailer, and a technical rescue trailer. There are two staffed fire stations – the main station at 656 7th Avenue (soon to move to 1101 Cushman Street) and Station 3 at 1033 Aurora Drive. A City-operated Regional Fire Training Center is located in south Fairbanks.

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

The City of Fairbanks has a population of 22,841¹ 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 \$1,594,257,518, 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 2 – 2004 American LaFrance



Platform 1 – 102' 1995 KME



¹2005 State Demographer estimate (excluding the population of Ft. Wainwright)

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR 2005

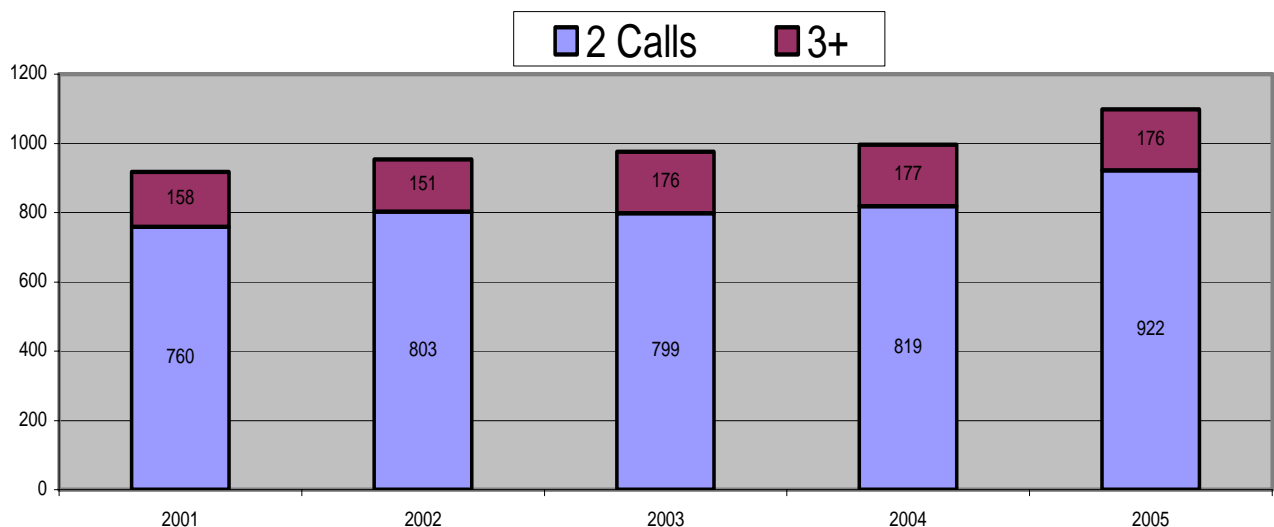
1. Continued construction of the new Headquarters Fire Station at 1101 Cushman Street.
2. The Department finished 2005 with a fire loss amount of \$1,377,970. This total was 90 percent of the ten-year fire loss average of \$1,530,278.
3. Completion of our first year under contract with Guardian Flight to provide medical oversight to the department.
4. A second Pumper/Tender placed in service purchased through the 2004 HUD entitlement program.
5. Ordering a new Aerial Platform to replace our 1977 100 foot Seagrave Aerial Ladder.
6. Receipt of State grant to repair winter damaged water system at the Regional Training Center.
7. Continuing our periodic evening inspection program of assembly occupancies. Being awarded a fire prevention grant under the 2004 Fire Act in the amount of \$75,938 to be used for house numbering, Risk Watch for area schools, smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher training prop. This material will help continue our Public Safety Education program.
8. Continuation of the Smoke Detector installation program to help solve the problem of non-working or no smoke detection devices in residential homes. This program is supported through materials for the State Fire Marshal Home Safety Inspection Project.
9. Certification of our personnel to national standards as Trench Rescue Team members.
10. Upgrading our fire fighting equipment with a \$168,061 grant award under the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant program.

11. Receipt of 2005 Homeland Security grant funds totaling \$84,050 to conduct a large scale controlled burn of Fairview Manor and \$31,000 for other training exercises.
12. Our second female Fire Fighter, Megan Blum, was hired on July 6, 2005.

PROBLEM AREAS FOR 2005

1. Continued increase in simultaneous emergency calls. There were 1098 incidents of multiple simultaneous emergencies (up from 996 the previous year), and 386 occurrences where more than one ambulance was actively engaged in patient care.
2. The lack of reoccurring fire safety inspections due to the shortage of personnel in the Fire Marshal's office continues to be a problem. This has resulted in serious fire and life safety problems continuing without corrective action.
3. We are continuing to see an increase in our local fire loss; it has gone over \$1,000,000 dollars for the third time in six years.
4. Staffing problems created by Drivers Kulp (18 – 24 months) and Mayfield (6 months) being deployed to IRAQ.

The Growing Problem – Simultaneous Emergency Calls



2006 Budget Year Goals

1. Continuing remodel of Fire Station 3.
2. Put new Aerial Platform in service.
3. Continue support of the "Risk Watch" safety education program in the elementary schools.
4. Continue to update our Standard Operating Procedures.
5. Continued upgrades of our department equipment.
6. Increased initial and reoccurring proficiency training of our personnel.
7. Secure funding for a new pumper/engine to replace our 1996 pumper/engine.
8. Reduce fire problems through continued public fire and life safety education in schools, businesses and civic groups.
9. Reduction of code problems in facilities by the hiring of a recruit Deputy Fire Marshal to augment the inspection program.
10. Secure funding for a new ambulance in 2006 and for 2007.

Fire Department 5-Year Plan

1. Complete renovation of Fire Station 3.
2. Maintain up-to-date support equipment to include hose, breathing apparatus, medical equipment, safety equipment, rescue equipment, radios and fire equipment.
3. Maintain up-to-date vehicles on a 10 to 20-year replacement cycle.
4. Develop our Insurance Service Office (ISO) Protection Rating goals to obtain the insurance rating of class one (1) in 2009 from our current class three (3) rating.
5. Increase Fire Prevention staff by two (2) – to increase routine inspections and public fire & safety education programs.
6. Increase on-duty Fire Suppression staff to seventeen (17) from the current average of ten (10). This would bring us to the recommended national level and meet our Insurance Service Office goals.
7. To have a residential sprinkler program put in place to encourage builders and homeowners to install them. (Sprinklers in residences could have saved all nine of the fire fatalities in Fairbanks during the last ten years, and significantly reduced the dollar loss caused by fires.)

2005 MAJOR FIRES

Represents \$990,000 or approx 72% of the total fire loss,
and NO Fatalities for 2005.

\$275,000

1231 4th Avenue – August 28, 2005

Four-Plex Apartment Building

\$275,000 loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: Present but battery missing

Cause: Cause undetermined

\$245,000

3511 Rewak Drive – March 7, 2005

Four-Plex Apartment Building

\$245,000 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: Present and operated

Cause: Child playing with lighter

\$165,000

3701 Braddock – January 17, 2005

Office Building (ATTCO)

\$165,000 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: None (not required)

Cause: Possible Furnace Malfunction

\$140,000

215 Pine Street – April 29, 2005

Single Family Dwelling

\$140,000 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: Present, no one home

Cause: Halogen lamp fell over

\$95,000

48 Farewell – December 11, 2005

Four-Plex Apartment Building

\$95,000 loss, Insured building/residents none

Smoke Detector: Present but battery missing

Cause: Unattended cooking

\$70,000

1215 Bunnel Street – July 10, 2005

Four-Plex Apartment Building

\$70,000 Loss, Insured

Smoke Detector: Present but battery missing

Cause: Electrical fire in utility room

2005 IN REVIEW

Call Volume	<u>Fire Calls</u>	<u>EMS Calls</u>	<u>Total Calls</u>
Total Number of Calls	773	2931	3704
Arson Calls	8	—	8
Total Personnel Hours	2090	4739	6829
 Average Calls per Day	 2.10	 8.04	 10.14
Average Personnel per Call	6.56	3.19	3.88
Average Apparatus per Call	3.32	1.60	1.98
 Total Calls by Station	 Sta. 1 – 3591	 Sta. 2 – 0	 Sta.3 – 113
Total Calls by Shift	A-1244	B-1216	C-1244

Response Data	<u>Emergency</u>	<u>Non-Emerg</u>	<u>All Calls</u>
Total Apparatus Responses in Year	5679	1661	7340
Avg. Apparatus Response per Day	15.55	4.55	20.10
Average Turn Out Time	0:01:24	0:01:54	0:01:32
Average Response Time	0:04:43	0:06:51	0:05:18
Average Total Time on Call	0:37:55	0:34:15	0:36:53
Note: Times in (Hr:Min:Sec) format			

Fire Activity	<u>All Fires</u>	<u>Arson</u>
Estimated Dollar Loss	\$1,377,970	\$ 23,765
Estimated Value	\$32,346,825	\$153,515
Percentage Saved	95.74%	84.51%
Injuries	FFD 5, Civilian 6	None
Fatalities	None	None

Mutual Aid	<u>Given</u>	<u>Received</u>
Assistance to EMS Crew	2	3
EMS Call	7	13
Fire, Brush	2	0
Fire, Structure	9	13
Fire, Vehicle	1	2
Rescue, Water	0	1
Other	6	0
Total	(27)	(32)

Fairbanks Fire Department Prevention Division

Fire Prevention Division GOALS for 2006

- Increase staffing of the Division to meet the increased work load. Will continue to work with the administration to hire a recruit Deputy Fire Marshal.
- 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. 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

2005 Highlights of the Prevention Division

- **IMPROVEMENT OF RISK WATCH:** Worked with the State Champion Management Team on developing an "arctic supplement" for RISK WATCH to address safety concerns in Alaska and in the Interior.
- **RECEIVED FIRE PREVENTION GRANT:** Received AFG Fire Prevention Grant from Department of Homeland Security. Grant funding was used to support RISK WATCH in the schools, Home Smoke Detector and House Number Project, purchase teaching prop for fire extinguisher training, and portable fire safety message board.
- **CONTINUED USE OF THE FAIRBANKS AREA FIRE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE:** The Task Force has been up and running for six years now. Our local Task Force guide has been the model for several other communities around the state.

Areas of Concern in 2005

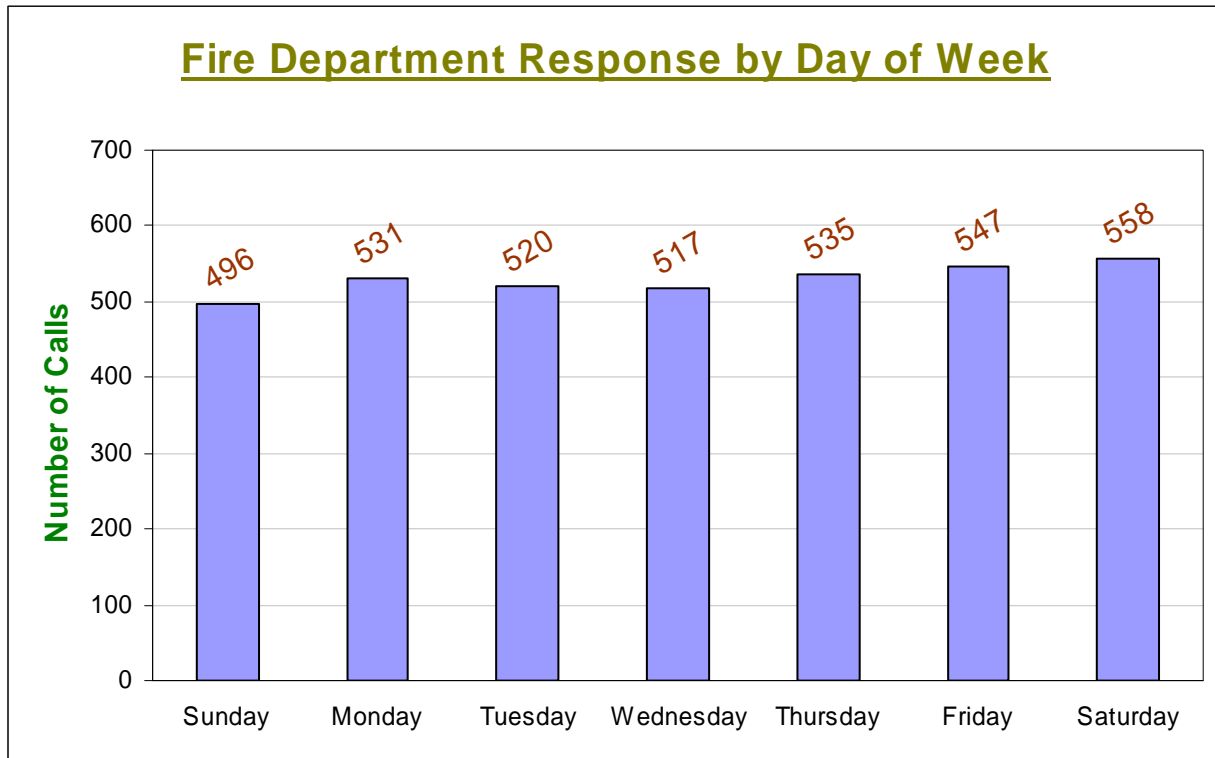
LACK OF PERSONNEL

The continued lack of adequate staffing in the Fire Prevention Division continues to impact the daily operation of the Division. We have had significant construction in 2005. Large number of projects required review and ongoing inspections. These reviews and inspections limited the ability of the Fire Prevention Division to:

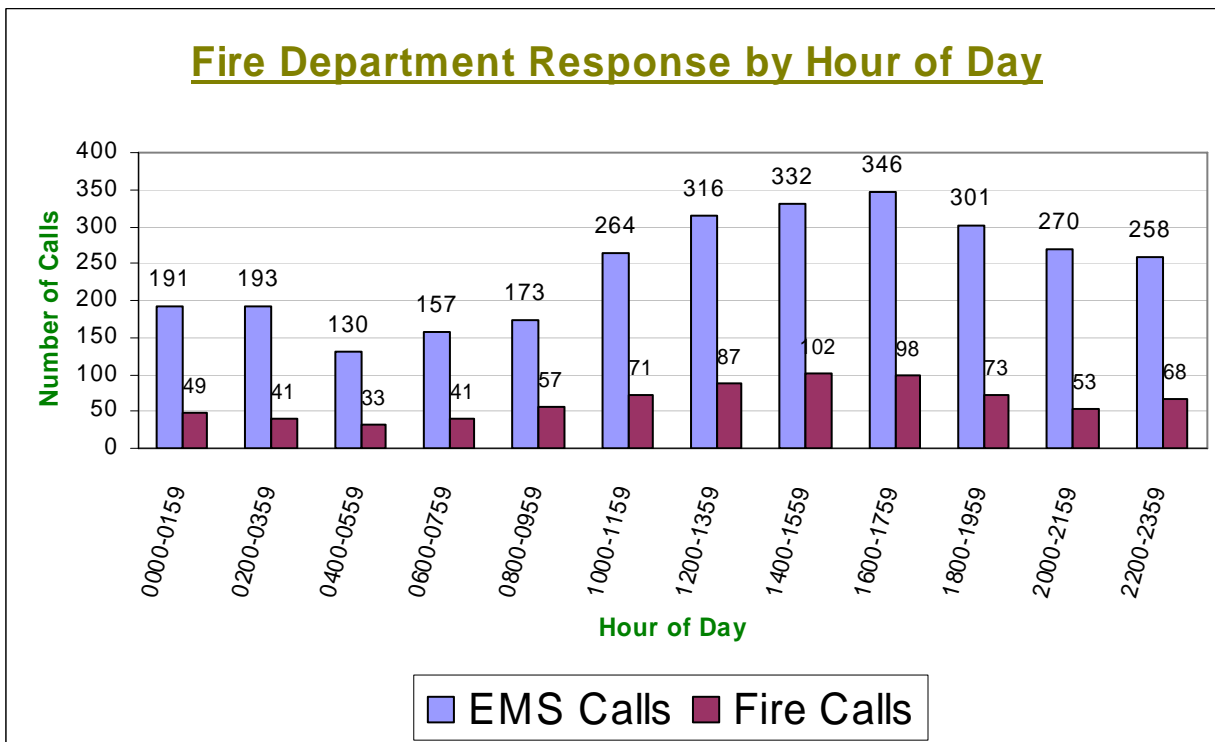
- ✓ Continue periodic Fire Safety Inspection of facilities around the community.
- ✓ Impacted the ability to do timely follow up to fire & life safety complaints.
- ✓ Ability to conduct follow-up on fire investigations.
- ✓ Continue fire safety education efforts in our school and around the community.

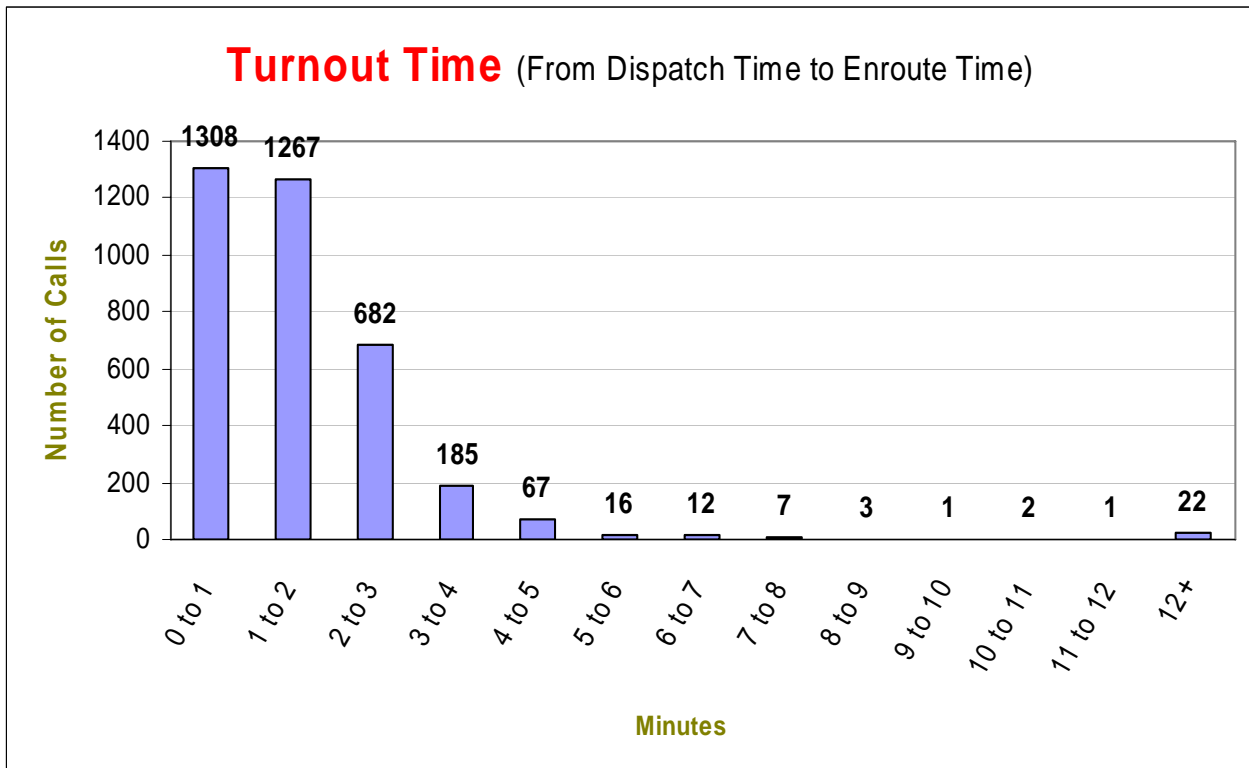
2005 RESPONSE STATISTICS & GRAPH

All Emergency Calls for 2005

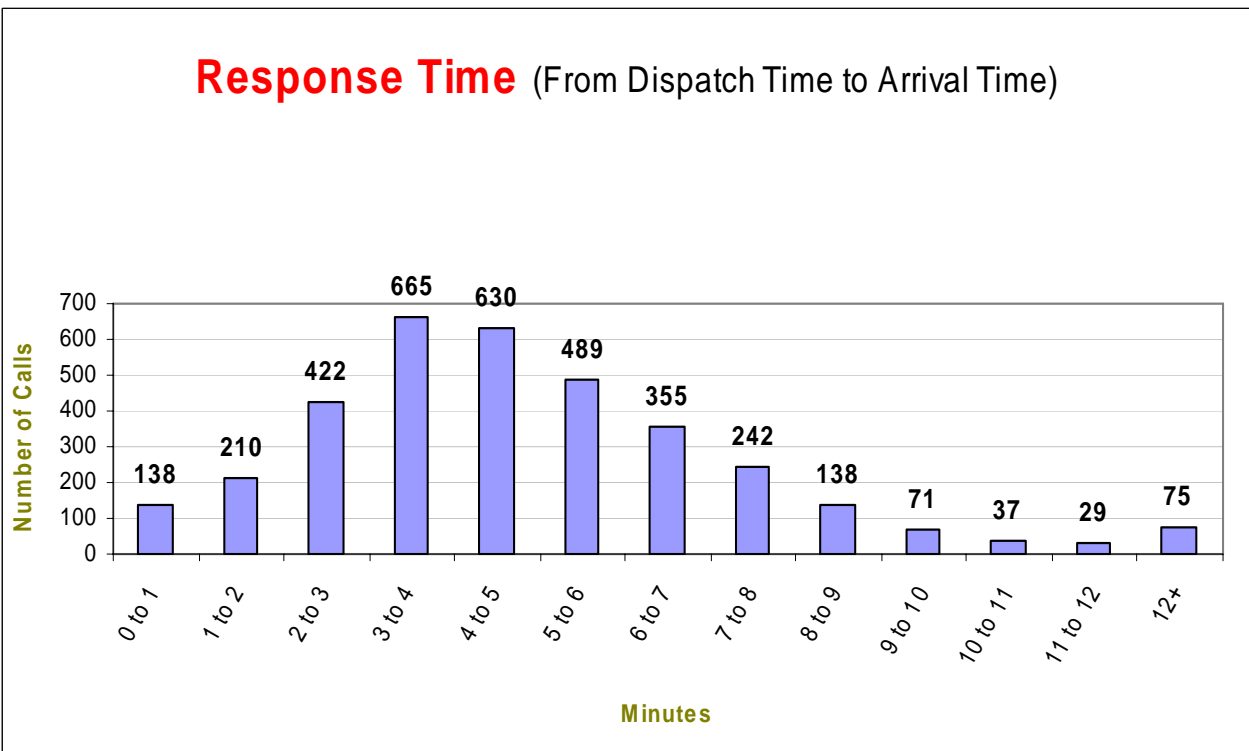


The highest number of responses were on **Saturdays**, but the number of calls are fairly evenly spaced out for the Day of the Week.

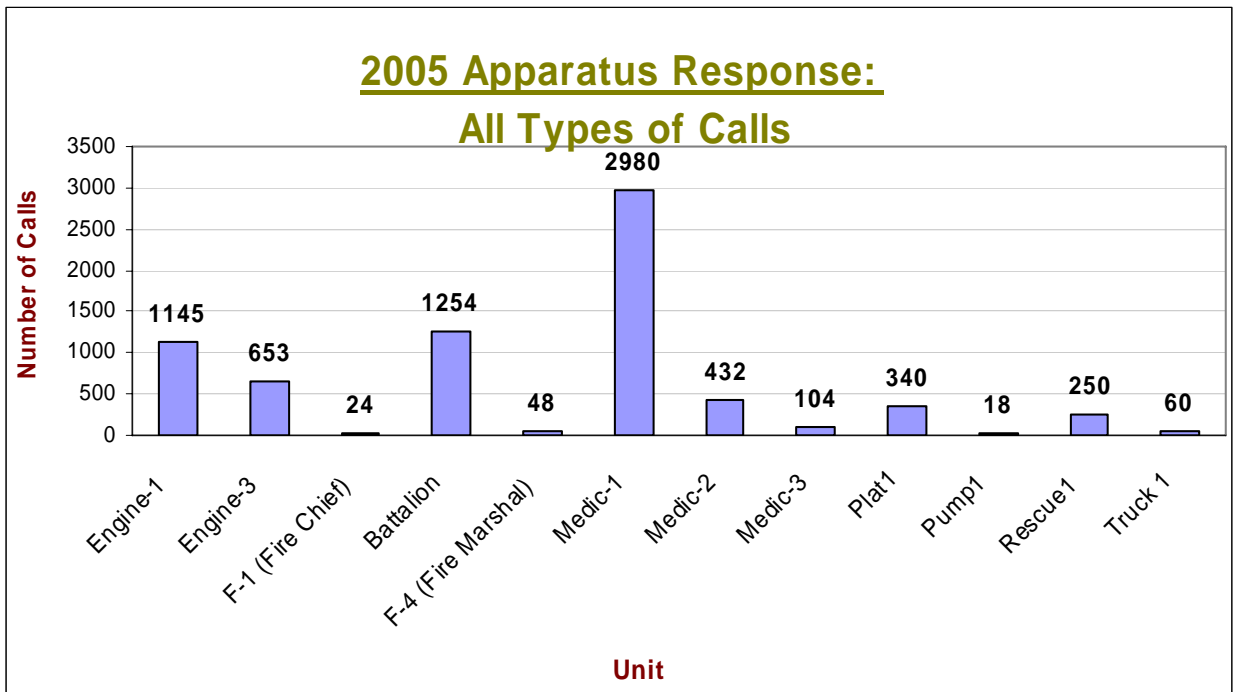




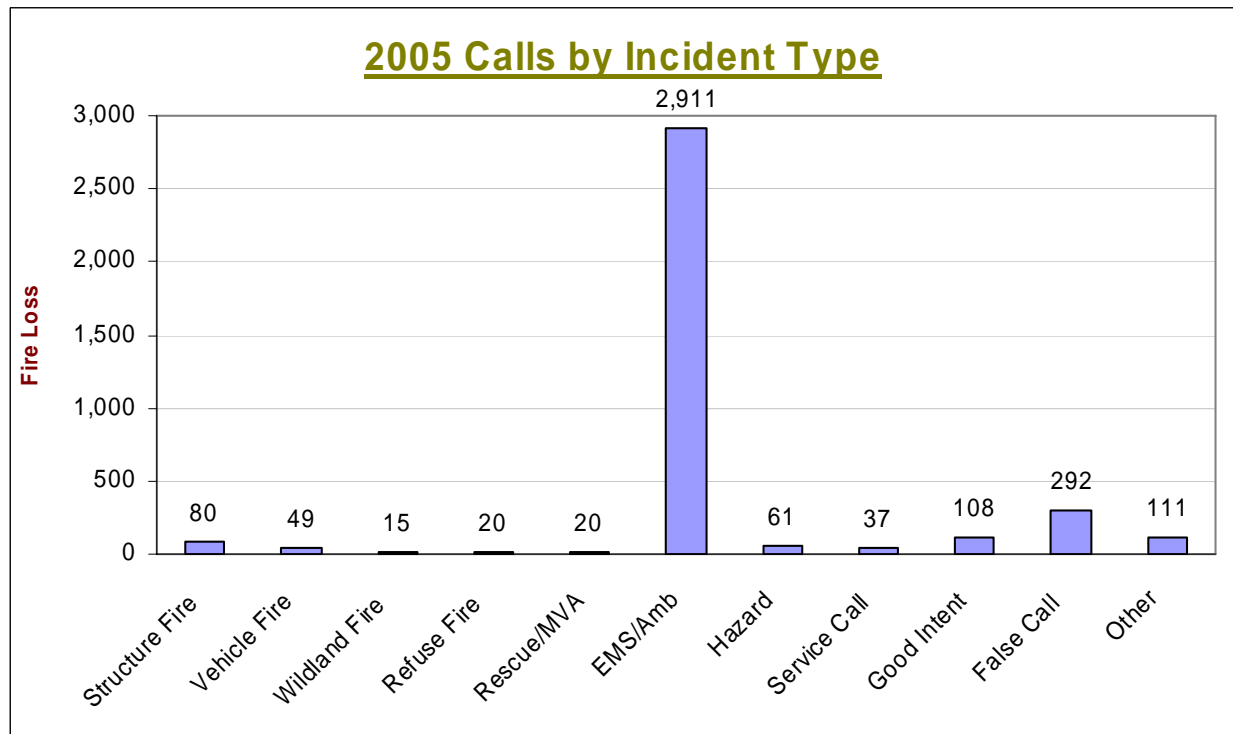
Thirty-Seven (37%) percent of the time, the apparatus were enroute to the call in under **one (1)** minute of the tone. There were **131** calls where no enroute time was recorded. This is due to being cancelled prior to apparatus movement from the station.



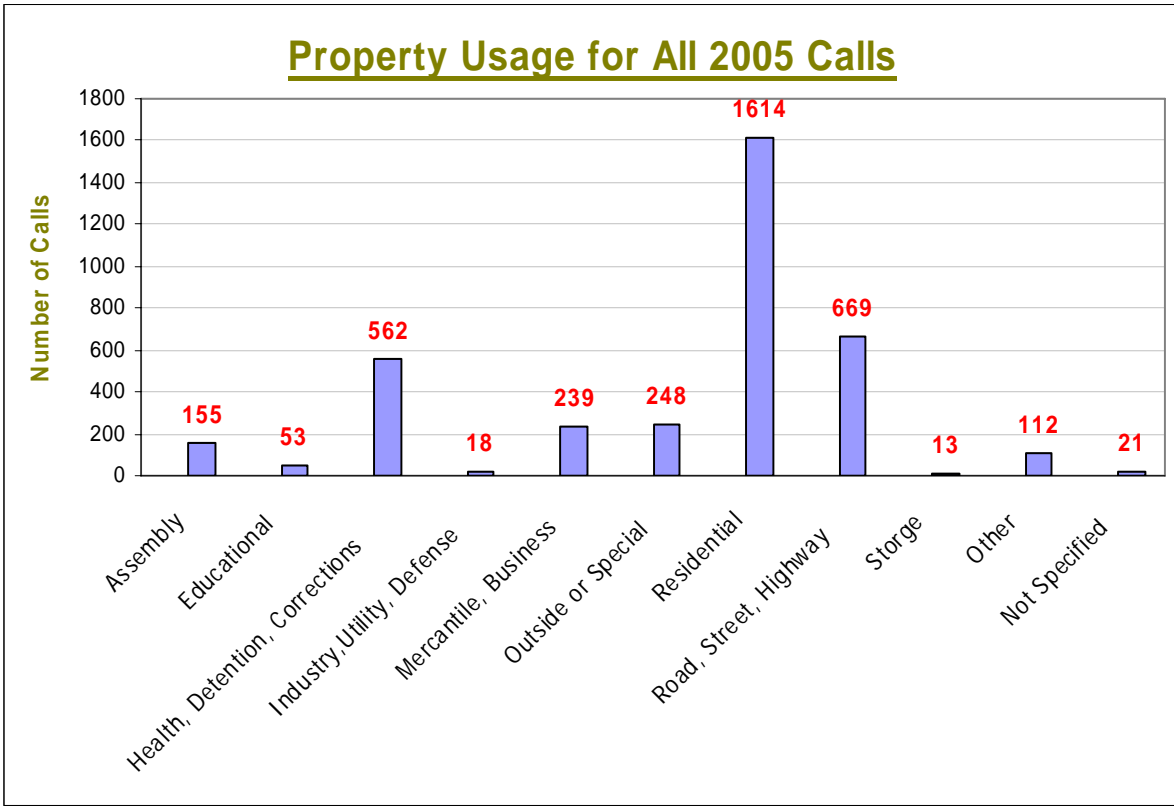
Fifty-Nine (59%) percent of the time, the first arriving apparatus is on-scene within **four (4)** minutes of the alarm. There were **72** calls where apparatus did not arrive at the scene. This was due to being cancelled prior to arrival.



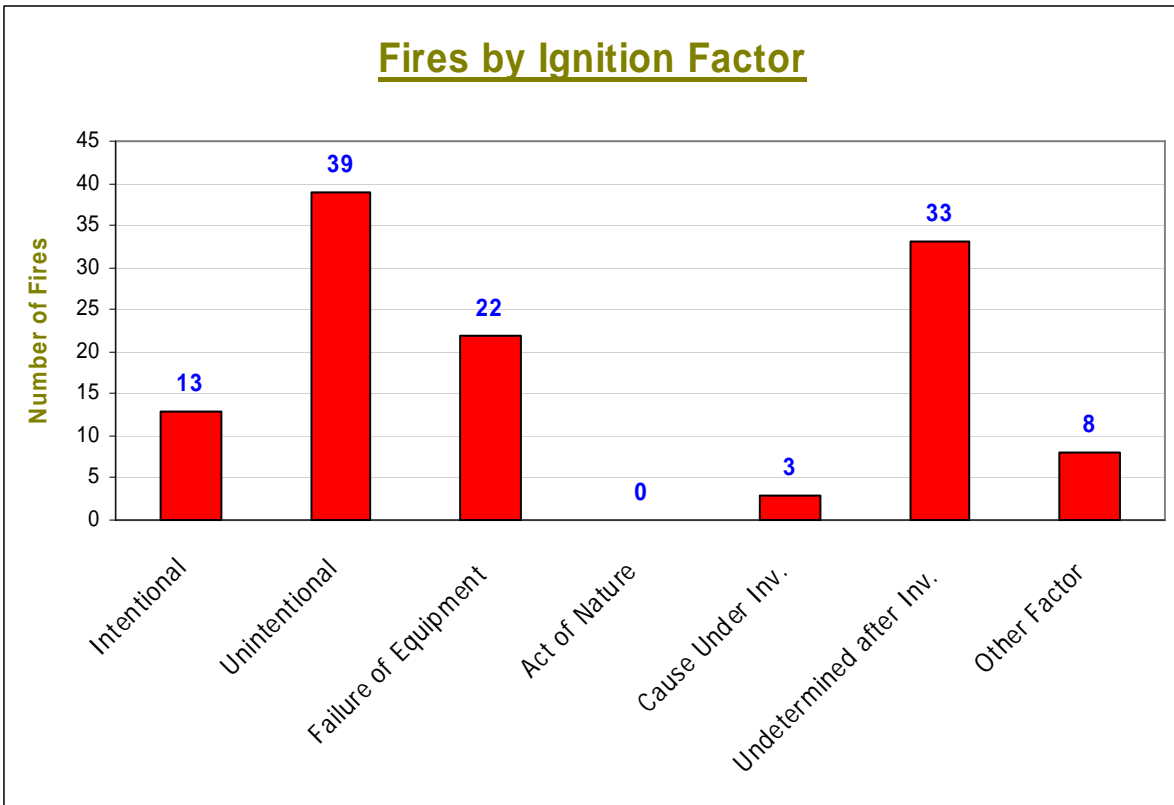
The bulk of responses were medical in nature. **Medic-1** is the first out ambulance. The on-duty Battalion Chief responds to provide scene management and support to the responders. **Engine-1** is the third busiest apparatus. **Engine-1** responds on all fires, but also responds on motor vehicle crashes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

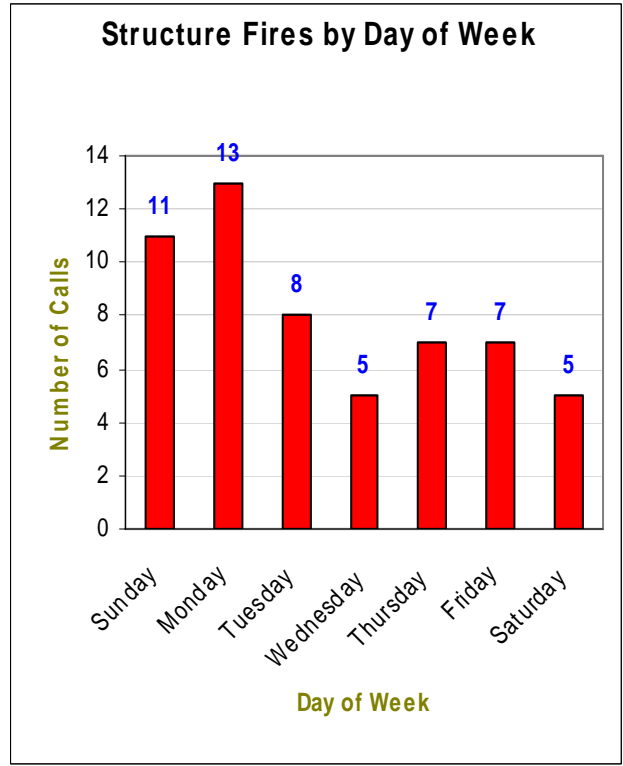
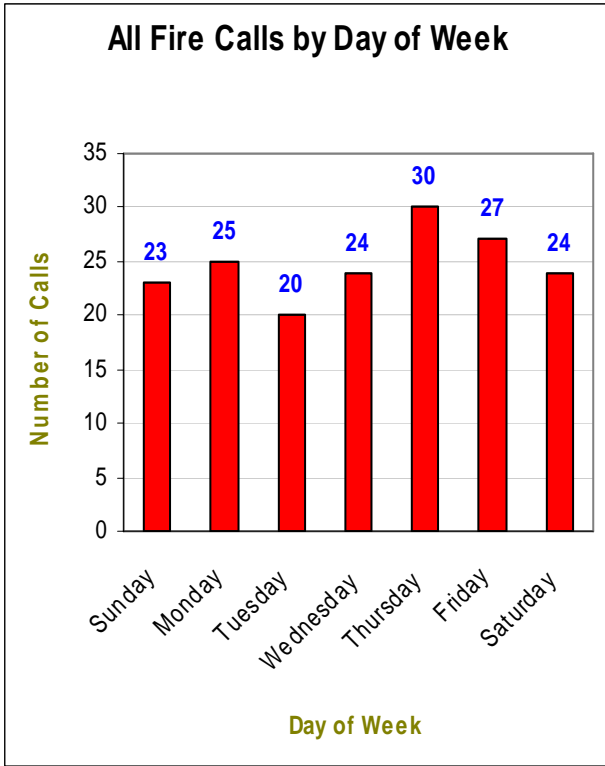


Seventy-Nine (79%) percent of calls were EMS/Ambulance calls. This number excludes all Rescue & Motor Vehicle Accidents, which may have also involved injuries requiring EMS services.

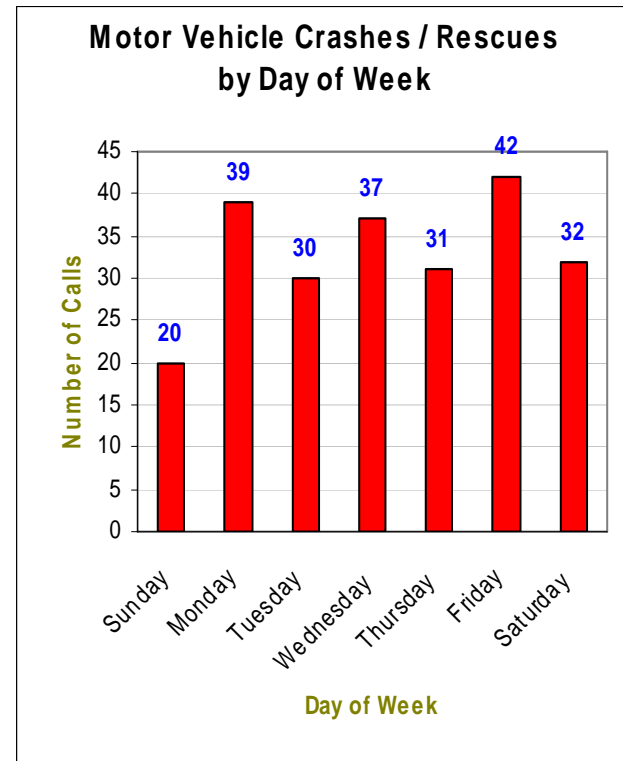
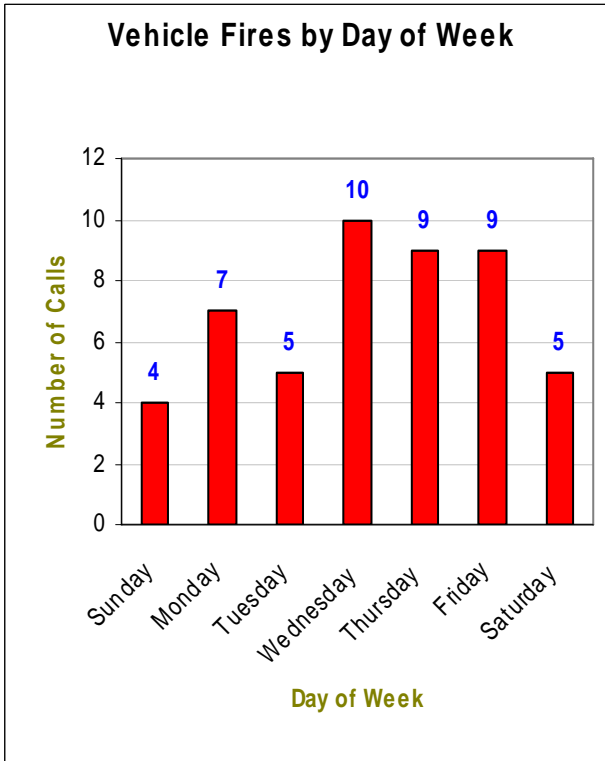


FIRE Calls for 2005





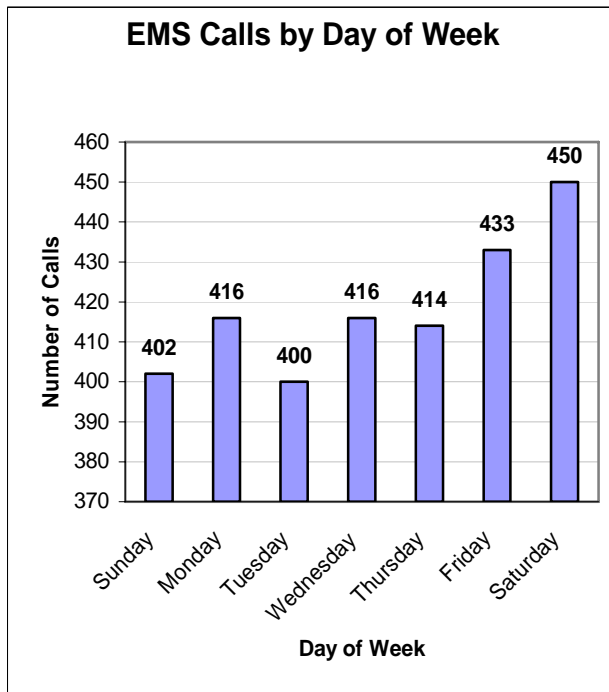
Thursdays were the high day of the week for fire calls in general, but **Monday** was for structure fires.



Wednesdays had the most vehicle fires.

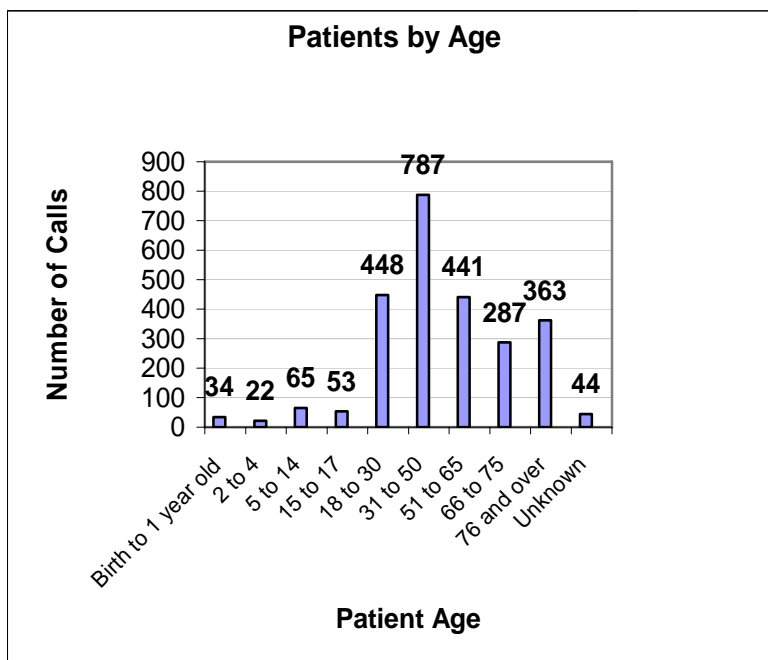
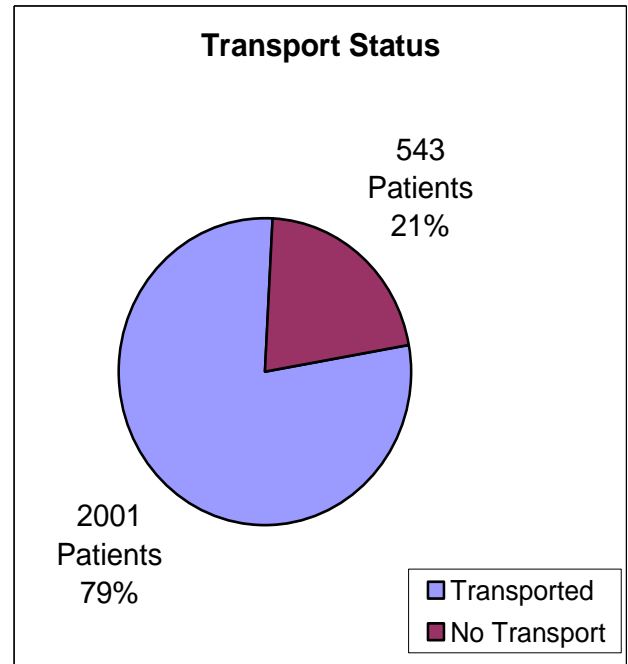
Fridays remain the most active days for motor vehicle crashes and rescue events.

EMS Calls for 2005

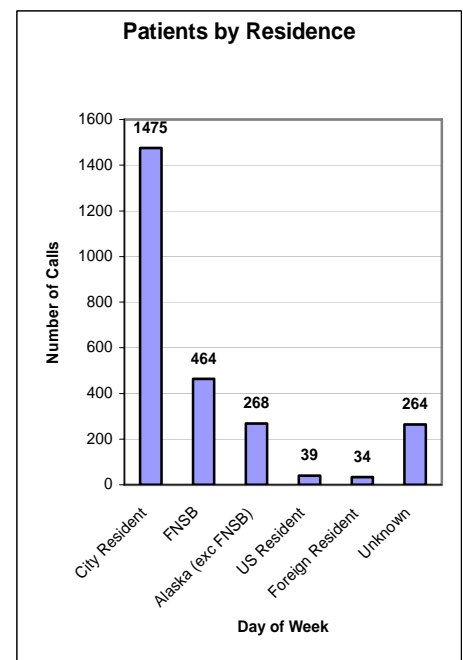


Saturdays became the most active day for EMS calls.

In 2005, there were **2931** EMS calls, with a total of **2544** patients assessed/treated.

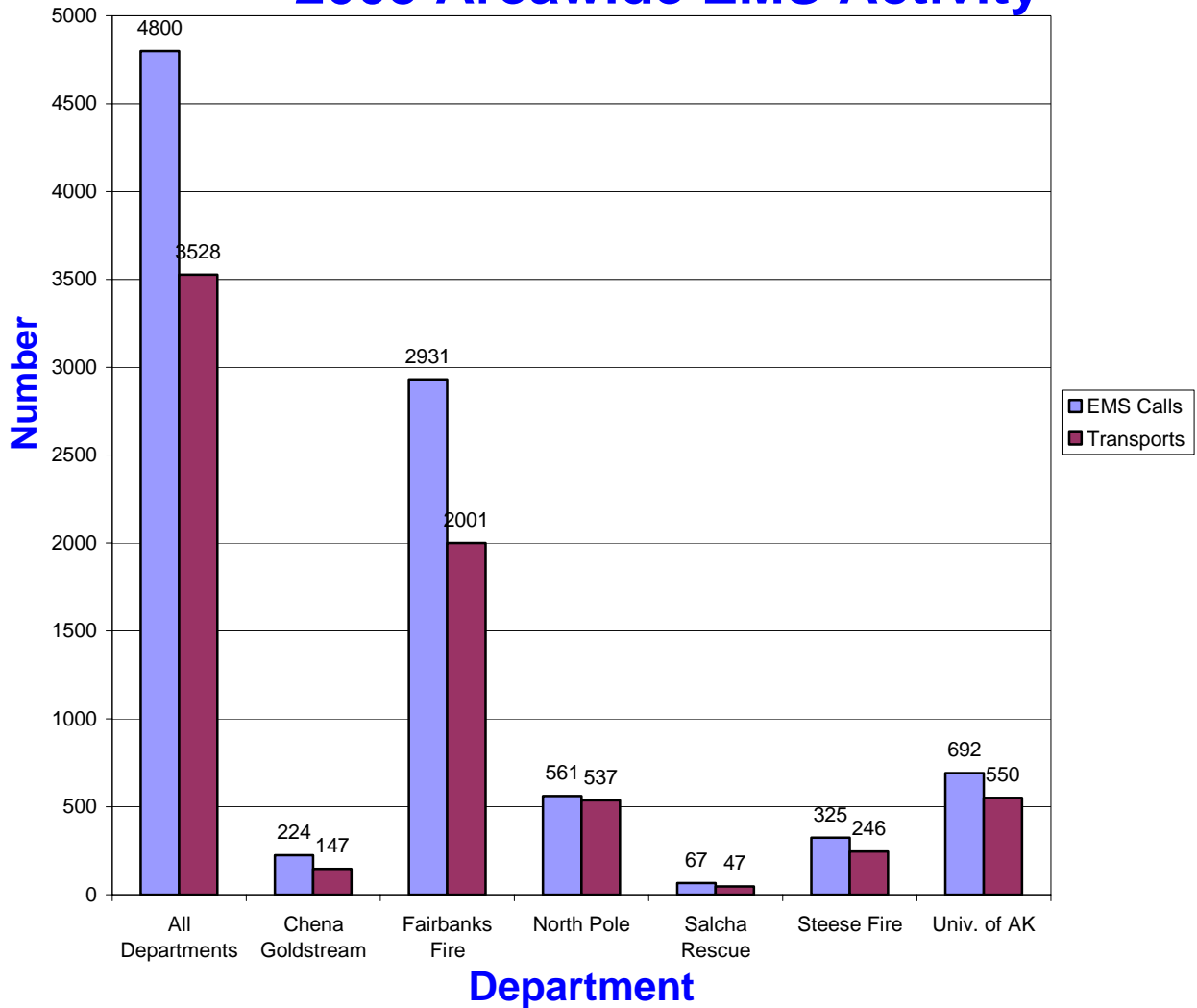


Patients (31 to 50) years old were the most common. The majority of patients were City residents.



Areawide Activity Comparison for EMS

2005 Areawide EMS Activity

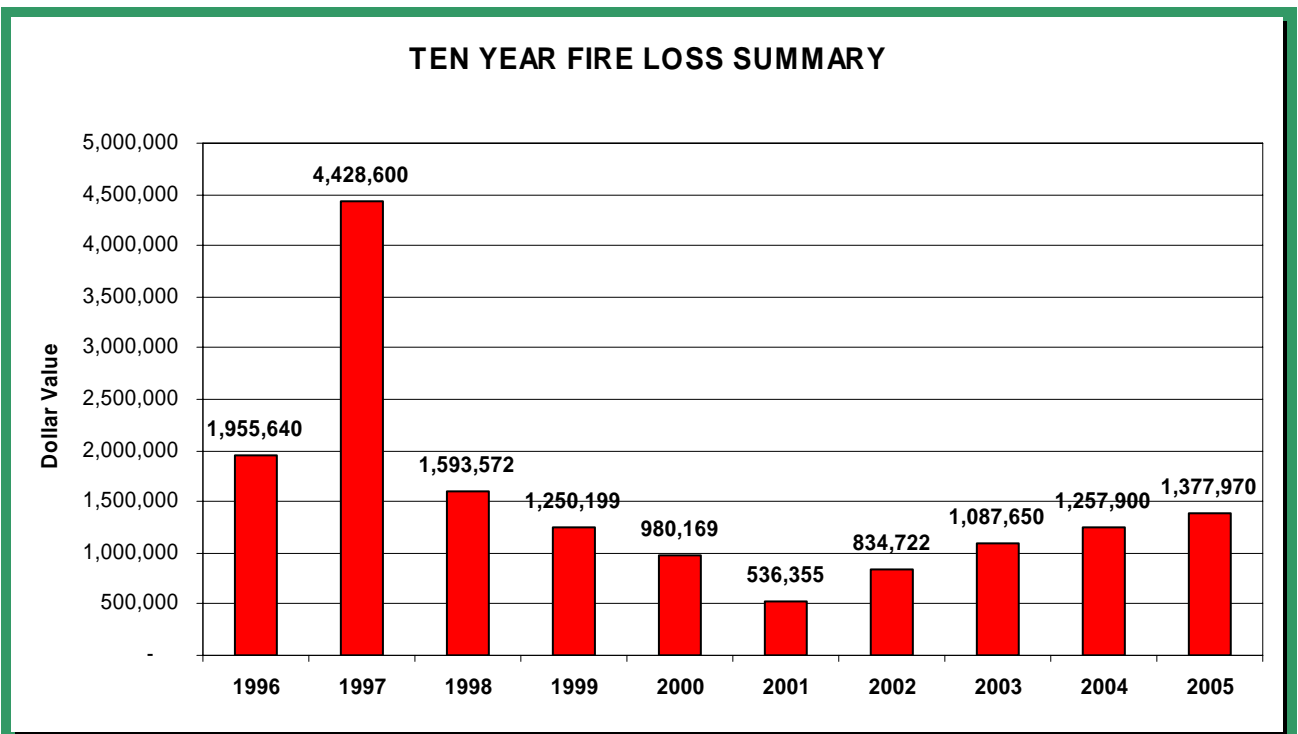
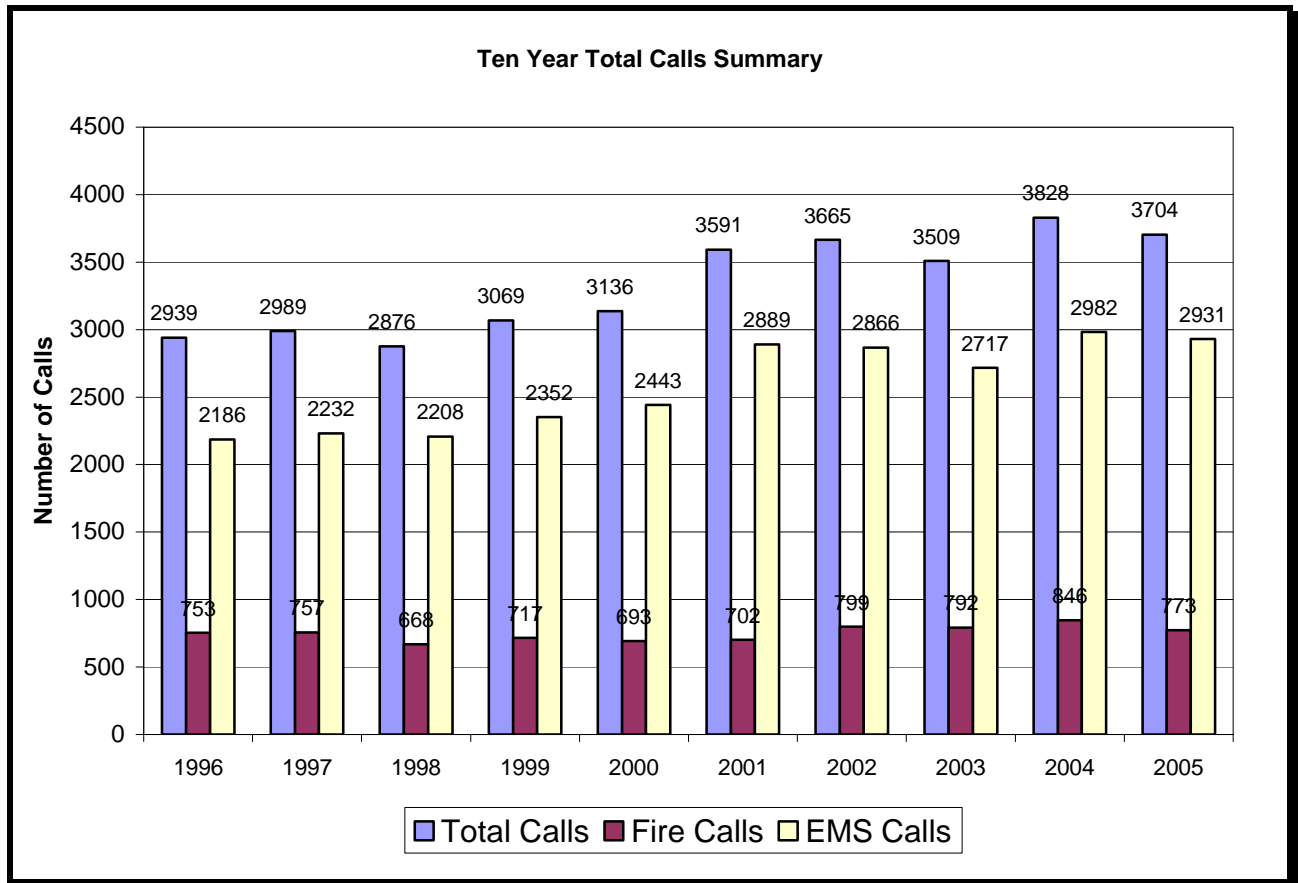


	EMS Calls	Transports	Transport Ratio
Chena Goldstream	(5%) 224	147	65.63%
Fairbanks Fire	(61%) 2931	2001	68.27%
North Pole FD	(12%) 561	537	95.72%
Salcha Rescue	(1%) 67	47	70.15%
Steese Fire	(7%) 325	246	75.69%
Univ. of AK FD	(14%) 692	550	79.48%
All Departments	(100%) 4800	3528	73.50%

Fairbanks Fire Department 5-Year Historical Comparison

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Number of calls:					
Fire	773	846	796	799	703
EMS	2931	2982	2717	2866	2889
Total	3704	3828	3513	3665	3592
Involving Arson	8	16	35	10	9
Average calls per day:					
Fire	2.10	2.28	2.16	2.18	1.91
EMS	8.04	8.14	7.44	7.85	7.97
Total	10.14	10.45	9.62	10.04	9.84
Fire dollar loss:					
Dollar Loss	1,377,970	1,255,150	1,087,650	834,722	536,355
Dollar Value Involved	32,346,825	150,470,310	45,504,555	33,239,233	55,292,248
Percentage Value Saved	95.74%	99.16%	97.60%	97.48%	99.02%
Dollar loss involving arson:					
Dollar Loss	23,765	30,950	199,100	188,130	97,025
Dollar Value Involved	153,515	26,931,000	697,530	17,315,000	1,535,318
Percentage Value Saved	84.51%	99.88%	71.45%	98.91%	93.68%
INJURIES					
Fire Service	5	0	1	0	1
Civilian Fire	6	5	5	7	10
FATALITIES					
Fire Service	0	0	0	0	0
Civilian Fire	0	0	0	1	2
APPARATUS					
Average Turnout Time	1:32	1:52	1:36	1:02	1:49
Average Response Time	5:18	5:45	5:25	4:56	5:23
Average Total Time	36:53	37:43	37:12	33:56	35:23
MUTUAL AID					
Given	27	20	17	11	12
Received	32	36	29	28	24

Historical Comparisons (1995 – 2004)



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