

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Annual Report

In 2005 the Washington state legislature adopted House Bill 1756 in which a predominantly career fire department would be required to provide an annual written report on response times. The bill was later codified as Chapter 52.33 of the Revised Code of Washington.

This report is provided to meet the requirements of that legislation. Prepared in 2009 this report provides the data required for 2008 reporting period. While the District has established the time standards, the capturing of the actual times continues to be difficult. The current time stamp system offered by the computer aided dispatch system is not accurate, nor recorded to the second. This in fact can have a time difference of 1 minute 58 seconds should a time mark be initiated at the beginning of the minute and the second time stamp at the end of the minute. Further it has been shown that a radio call to the dispatcher and subsequent entry into the computer varies significantly. Radio transmissions can be delayed due to other radio traffic on the frequency. When the dispatcher receives the radio transmission and actually enters the unit status in the CAD system also varies. While we believe this to normally be between 15-18 seconds it can be delayed by minutes if the dispatcher is busy providing other urgent dispatching functions such as providing CPR instructions to the caller.

This report uses sample independent time tests, dispatch time records and percentage of average to indicate the best information we have as to our true times for each time measurement. While we have installed Mobile data computers in all apparatus that helps to improve the time accuracy, it does not complete the time stamps to the second. Snohomish County is in the process of purchasing a new CAD system that will significantly improve the accuracy of time stamps. The new system is hoped to be in place in 2011. Until a new CAD system is operational with second time stamps we will continue to provide our best ability to capture the time reports.

Mission Statement

**DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING A STATE OF READINESS, TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH
RAPID EMERGENCY INTERVENTION**

Vision

**TO PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM THAT EXCEEDS OUR CUSTOMER'S
EXPECTATIONS AND TO HAVE A REWARDING AND EQUITABLE WORKPLACE THAT
RECOGNIZES EACH MEMBER'S ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MISSION OF THE
ORGANIZATION**

Value Statement

**COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT WITH INTEGRITY WHILE WORKING TOGETHER AS A
TEAM.**

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ALARM REPORT

The following represents alarm totals for the District. You will notice that some of the years had substantial increases while one year saw a slight decrease. When averaged over the years the district has seen a 6.8% increase in alarm activity each year as shown in this ten year trend.

YEAR	ALARMS	AVG per day	% Change
1999	3649	10.0	14%
2000	3963	10.9	8%
2001	4273	11.7	8%
2002	4441	12.2	4%
2003	4789	13.1	7%
2004	4895	13.4	0.2%
2005	4773	13.0	-0.2%
2006	5664	15.5	8%
2007	5285	14.5	-7%
2008	5144	14.1	-0.3%

10 Year Average 4.1%

SERVICE CRITERIA

Turnout time: (The time from receipt of alarm to the time the fire apparatus leaves the fire Station) each fire stations goal turnout time is 90 seconds or less for each call but criteria has been established that acknowledges time needs for dependent on the type of incident responding to.

This criteria cannot be obtained on an accurate basis due to the limitations of the current communications system used by the fire district. While we can obtain the alarm time and show the time the dispatcher acknowledges the response of the apparatus we find that this information is not an accurate depiction of the true turnout time. Therefore the District chose to do random timed tests of the various companies for this category of time increment.

First Arrival Response Time: (The time measured from the first movement of the apparatus until arrival at the given incident location). The average first arrival response time goal being 300 seconds (5.0 minutes). The incident type is taken into consideration as to the expected response time. Larger fire apparatus will normally take longer than EMS type apparatus.

This criteria is based on the entry into the computer aided dispatch system by the dispatcher. The time criteria is not posted in seconds and times represent the full minute time as captured in the computer aided dispatch system. While the data has some inaccuracy it is the best indicator available to the district at this time. The times are most likely slightly less than what is shown because the dispatcher is unable to make an immediate entry into CAD upon radio voice acknowledgment of unit status.

Full Assignment Response Time: (The time measured from the first movement of a responding apparatus until the last assigned unit arrives at the scene). The fire district has established this time period shall be 690 seconds (11 minutes and 30 seconds) 90% of the time. The average full response time goal being 600 seconds (10.0 minutes.) A full response shall include the arrival of a minimum of 13 firefighting personnel.

This criteria just like the first is based on the entry into the computer aided dispatch system by the dispatcher. While the data has some inaccuracy it is the best indicator available to the district at this time. The actual times are most likely slightly less than what is shown because the dispatcher is unable to make an immediate entry into CAD upon radio voice acknowledgment of unit status.

The following charts show the times as they are available to this agency and indicate our best attempt at accuracy. It should also be noted that the only alarms analyzed and shown were the alarms within Fire District 7 and alarms that were categorized emergency response. No mutual aid calls or non emergency response calls were included in the following time charts.

STRUCTURE FIRE

Turn Out – Structure Fire

TURN OUT TIME	15 Tests		
(= or <) 90 seconds	6	40.0%	
91 to 120 seconds	5	33.3%	73.3%
121 to 132 seconds	3	20.0%	93.3%
133 to 144 seconds	1	6.7%	100%
➤ 144 seconds	0	0%	
Average Turn Out Time	1 minute, 22 seconds		

First Arrival – Structure Fire

ARRIVAL TIME	55 Responses		
(= or <) 300 seconds	22	40%	
301 to 345 seconds	9	16.4%	56.4%
346 to 390 seconds	11	20.0%	76.4%
391 to 435 seconds	2	3.6%	80%
➤ 436 seconds	11	20%	100%
Average First Arrival	5 min 25 seconds		

Full Assignment Arrival – Structure Fire

ARRIVAL TIME	32		
(= or <) 600 seconds	14	44%	
600 to 645 seconds	3	9%	53%
646 to 690 seconds	6	19%	72%
691 to 735 seconds	2	6%	78%
➤ 736 seconds	7	22%	100%
Average First Alarm	14 min 25 seconds		

WILDLAND FIRE INCIDENTS

Turn Out – Wild land Fire

TURN OUT TIME	6 Tests		
(= or <) 90 seconds	0	0%	
91 to 120 seconds	3	50%	100%
121 to 132 seconds	3	50%	100%
133 to 144 seconds	0	0%	100%
➤ 144 seconds	0	0%	
Average Turn Out Time	1 minute, 54 seconds		

First Arrival – Wild land Fire

ARRIVAL TIME	45 Responses		
(= or <) 300 seconds	20	44.4%	
301 to 345 seconds	3	06.7%	51.1%
346 to 390 seconds	3	06.7%	57.8%
391 to 435 seconds	4	08.9%	66.7%
➤ 436 seconds	15	33.3%	100%
Average WL Response	5 minutes 06 seconds		

OTHER FIRE INCIDENTS

Turn Out Time – Other Fire

TURN OUT TIME	11 Tests		
(= or <) 90 seconds	4	36%	
91 to 120 seconds	3	27%	63%
121 to 132 seconds	2	18.5%	81.5%
133 to 144 seconds	2	18.5%	100%
➤ 144 seconds	0	0%	
Average Turn Out Time	1 minute, 46 seconds		

First Arrival Time – Other Fire

ARRIVAL TIME	328 Responses +		
(= or <) 300 seconds	119	36.3%	
301 to 345 seconds	41	12.5%	48.8%
346 to 390 seconds	44	11.3%	60.1%
391 to 435 seconds	31	10.7%	70.8%
➤ 436 seconds	58	29.3%	100%
Average Arrival time	6 min 25 seconds		

There were 99 cancelled and 27 non-code responses not counted in this category

EMS INCIDENTS

Turn Out time - EMS

TURN OUT TIME	61 Tests		
(= or <) 90 seconds	30	49%	
91 to 120 seconds	19	31%	80%
121 to 132 seconds	6	10%	90%
133 to 144 seconds	4	7%	97%
145 to 156 seconds	2	3%	100%
Average Turn Out Time	1 min 38 seconds		

BLS Response Time

RESPONSE TIME	1328 Responses		
(= or <) 300 seconds	750	56.5%	
301 to 345 seconds	152	11.4%	67.9%
346 to 375 seconds	121	9.1%	77%
376 to 435 seconds	83	6.3%	83.3%
➤ 436 seconds	222	16.7%	100%
Average BLS Response	4 min 22 Seconds		

This report shows the 1328 BLS Code responses, there were 776 non code Responses not calculated in BLS Response times.

ALS Response Time

RESPONSE TIME	1215 Responses		
(= or <) 300 seconds	677	55.7%	
301 to 345 seconds	143	11.8%	67.5%
346 to 390 seconds	116	9.5%	77%
376 to 480 seconds	83	6.9%	83.9%
➤ 480 seconds	196	16.1%	100%
Average ALS Response	4 min 21 seconds		

There were no tests performed for turn out time of these Special operation incidents. These incident type were to infrequent to capture results. Based on the CAD reports and information the Turn out time will be calculated the same as structure fire response.

Response Time – Hazardous Materials Ops Level

RESPONSE TIME	2 Responses		
(= or <) 300 seconds	1	50%	
301 to 345 seconds	1	50%	100%
346 to 360 seconds	0	0%	100%
361 to 435 seconds	0	0%	100%
➤ 436 seconds	0	0%	100%
Average Resp. Time	5 min. 00 seconds		

Response Time – Hazardous Materials Tech Level

RESPONSE TIME	0 Responses		
(= or <) 300 seconds	0	0%	
301 to 419 seconds	0	0%	100%
420 to 539 seconds	0	0%	100%
540 to 720 seconds	0	0%	100%
➤ 721 seconds	0	0%	100%
Average Resp. Time	0 min 0 seconds		

Response Time – Technical Rescue

RESPONSE TIME	2 Responses		
(= or <) 300 seconds	2	1000%	
300 to 419 seconds	0	0%	100%
420 to 539 seconds	0	0%	100%
540 to 720 seconds	1	0%	100%
➤ 721 seconds	0	0%	100%
Average Resp. Time	3 min 50 seconds		

DEFICIENCIES

The following areas are deficient in the response times as established by the fire district.

STRUCTURE FIRE

First fire unit arrival	76.4%	13.6% deficient
First alarm assignment arrival	72%	18% deficient

WILDLAND FIRE

First unit arrival	57.8%	42.2% deficient
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OTHER FIRE

Turnout time	81.5%	8.5% deficient
First fire unit arrival	60.1%	29.9% deficient

EMS INCIDENTS

Basic Life Support arrival	77%	13% deficient
Advanced Life Support arrival	83.9%	6.1% deficient

The response times deficiencies indicate a continued deficiency despite efforts to improve response times. Wildland response is the most deficient area these fires are predominately in the less populated areas which may contribute to the increased response times. There are also a limited amount of Wildfire responses when compared to other types of fire that can change the stats with a few fires in long response time areas. In 2008 two additional stations were constructed and staffed during the latter part of the year but not for the full year so we anticipate 2009 stats to improve with the staffing of these two stations contributing for the full year.

CLOSING

This is the third Annual report is in response to Washington State SHB 1756 which requires a reporting made available to the public. This report is the best representation of the required reporting contents. We are continuing to work on more accurate information to be used the time reporting intent of the legislation.

Any questions of the contents of this report should be directed to Fire Chief Richard Eastman or one of the Fire District's Assistant Fire Chiefs.