

2007 Annual Deployment Report



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Preface

The City of Spokane Fire Department is required by RCW Chapter 35.103 to adopt and maintain a written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- The existence of a fire department
- Services that the fire department is required to provide
- The basic organizational structure of the fire department
- The expected number of fire department employees
- Functions that fire department employees are expected to perform

It is further required to establish response performance objectives for the various emergency services it provides. The city must report its performance against these established objectives annually and describe consequences that are predictable for those objectives it is not currently meeting. This document constitutes the required annual report as defined by statute.

Agency Overview

The Spokane Fire Department has existed as a fire protection agency within the State of Washington since 1884. The fire department is a unit of the City of Spokane general government as required of first class cities under Chapter 35.22 RCW. The City of Spokane is the second largest city in the State of Washington, located adjacent to the Idaho border, and has a Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (equivalent to the Insurance Services Office) rating of three.

The Spokane Fire Department's service area is approximately 59 square miles and consists of a mix of urban, suburban, industrial and wildland areas. Historically, the Department has faced an ever-decreasing number of staffed units in the system as well as dramatic cuts in daily staffing primarily due to budgetary constraints.

	1988	1993	1998	2003	2007
*Number of Staffed Units	26	22	21	20	17
*Minimum Daily Staffing	73	69	66	63	56

**Excludes Battalion Chiefs*

The current primary services provided by the Spokane Fire Department include:

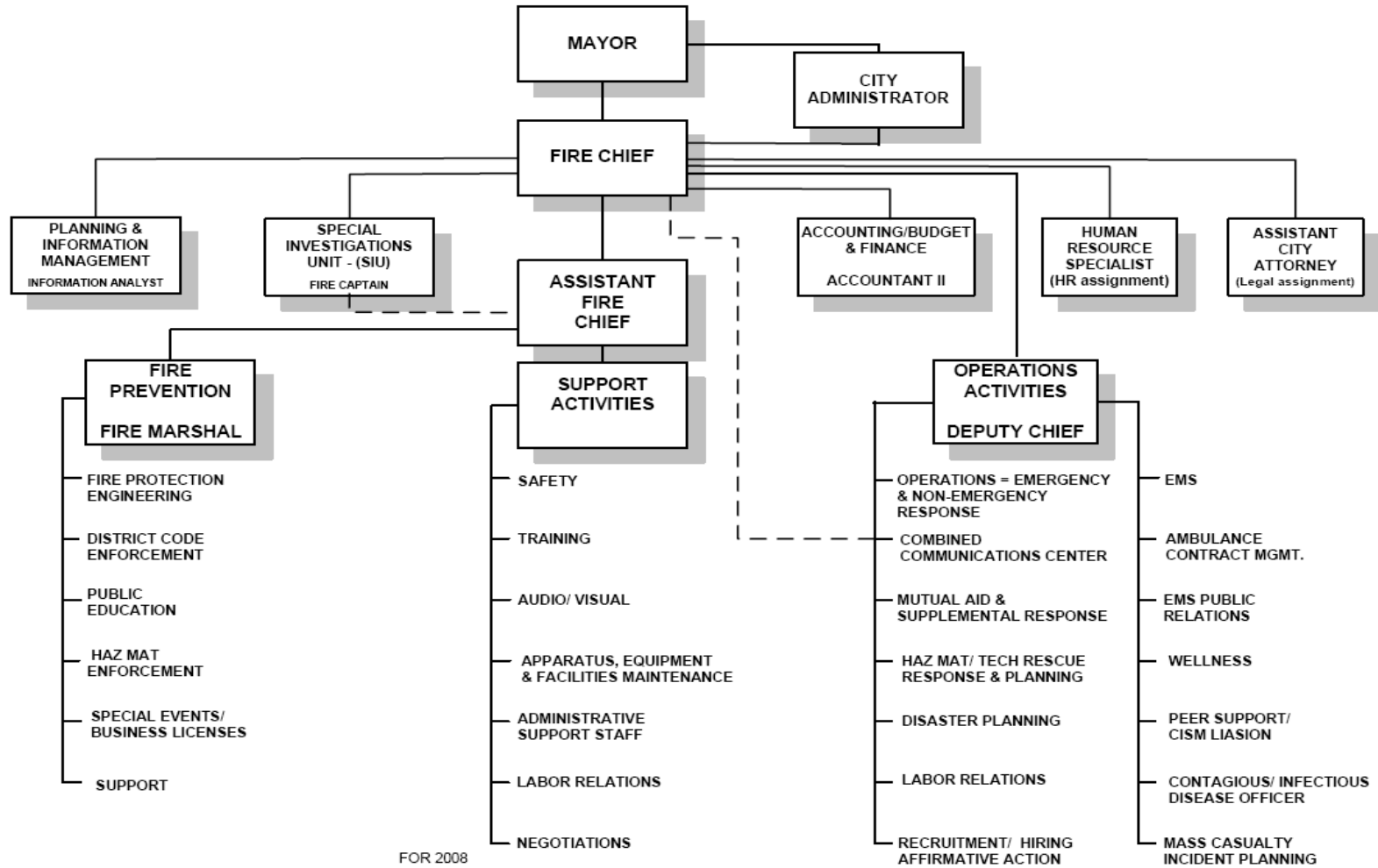
- Fire Suppression
- First Response Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Services
- First Response Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Medical Services
- Public Education
- Fire Prevention (Inspection, Fire Protection Engineering Services, Investigations)
- Hazardous materials "Specialist Level" Response
- Special Rescue (Marine, Technical, and USAR)

Organizational Structure

The Spokane Fire Department operates under a hierarchical chain of command. The chain of command, or organizational chart, and authorized staffing are described in the following chart on Page 3.

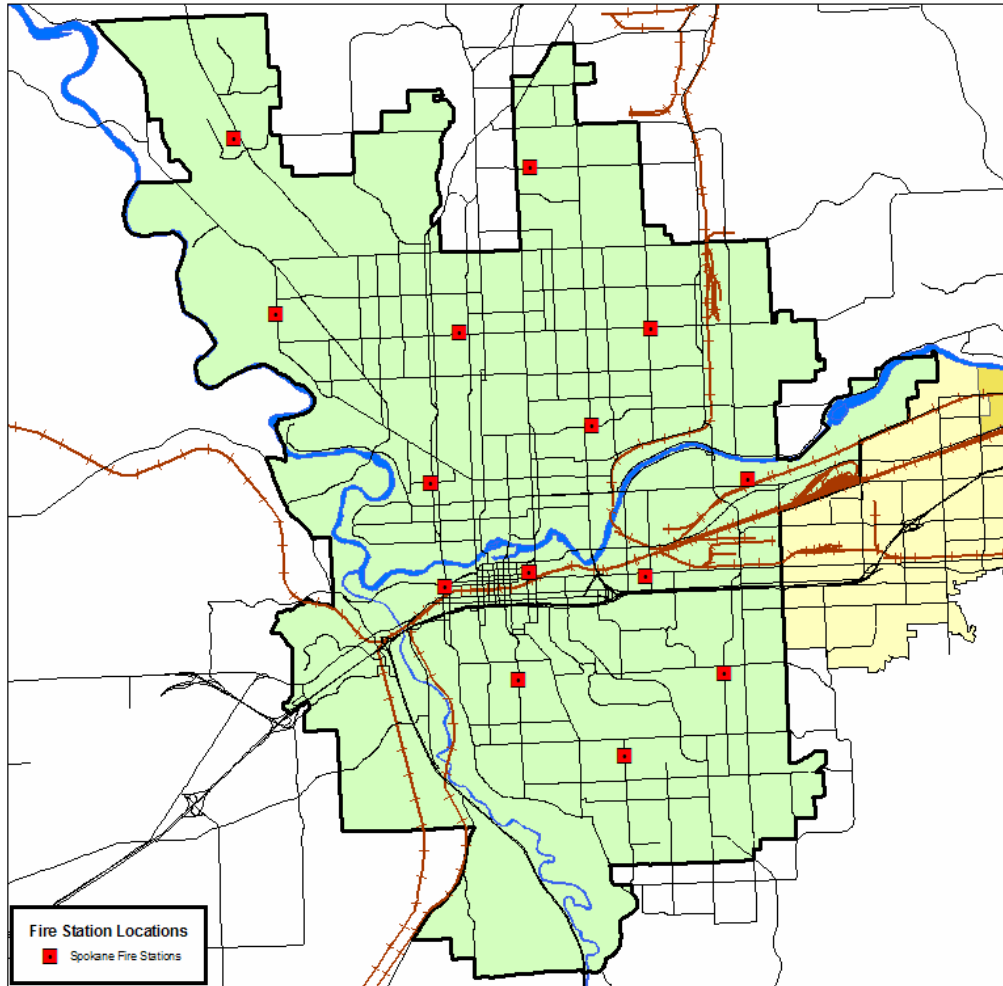
SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Facilities

The Spokane Fire Department provides emergency response service from 14 locations. The following map shows these sites in relation to the city boundaries.

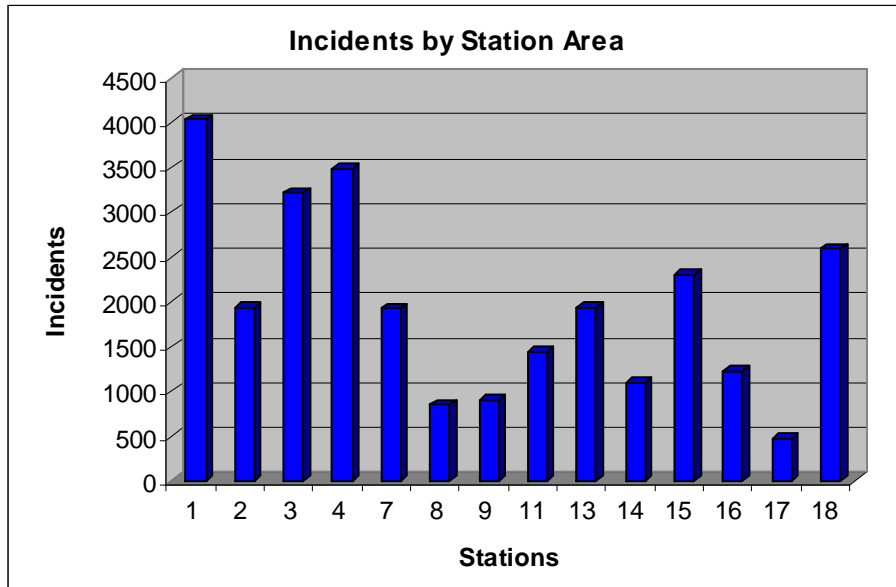


Response Activity

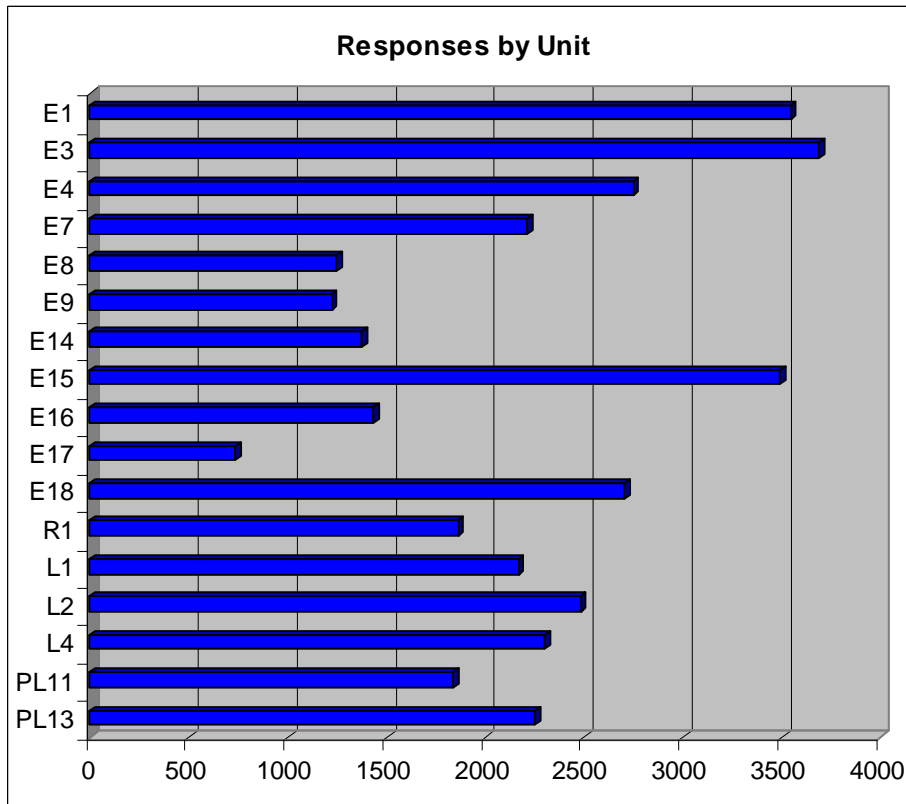
Total fire department responses in 2007 were as follows:

Emergency medical	16,785
Good intent	2,242
Service call	1,823
False call	1,396
Motor vehicle accident	1,463
Hazardous condition	720
Structure fire	302
Other fire	217
Vehicle fire	144
Wildland fire	156
Rescue	77
Overpressure/rupture	58
Weather/disaster	4
Special/other	2131
TOTAL INCIDENTS	27,518

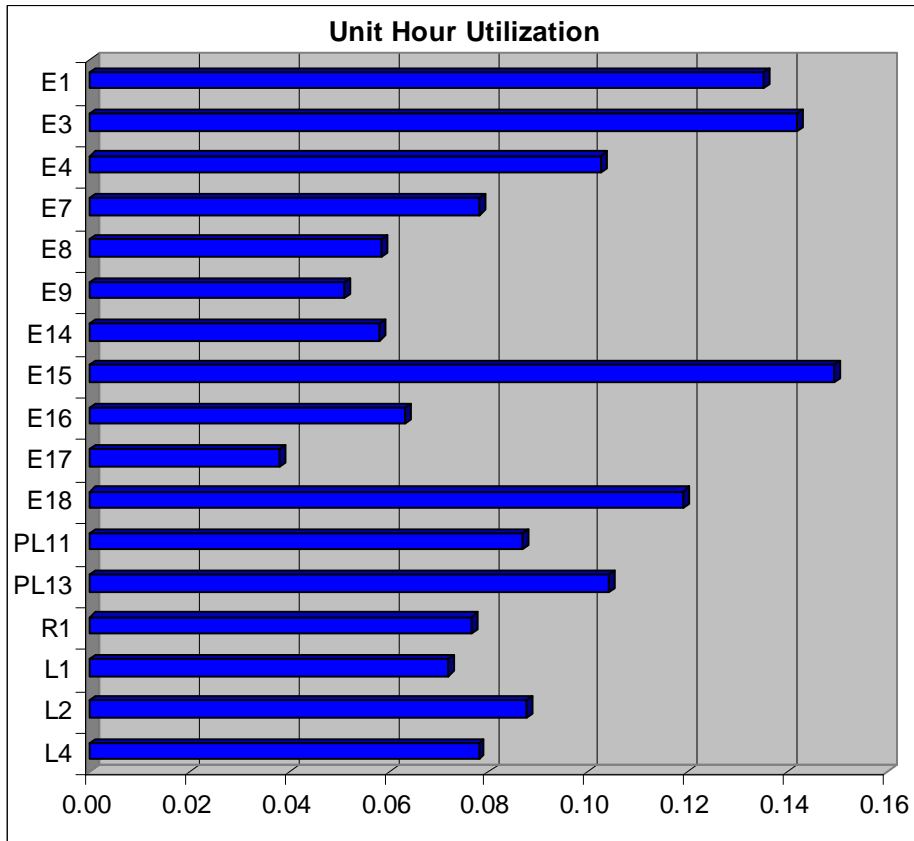
Responses during 2007 broken down by fire station service area are shown in the following chart.



Responses by unit during 2007 are shown in the following chart. Workload varied considerably between units.

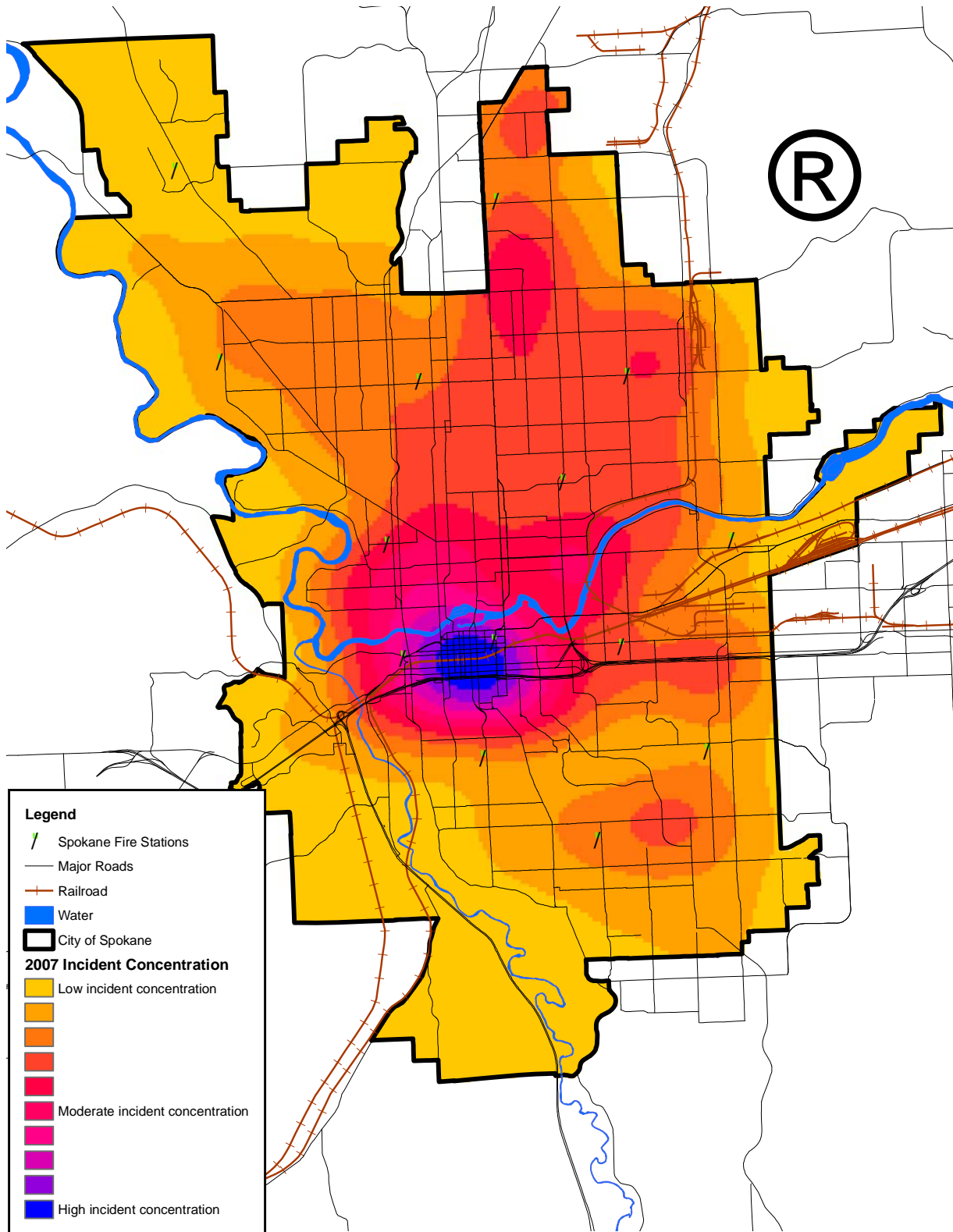


The time committed to response by each unit is shown below. The greater the unit hour utilization, the greater the percentage of time each unit was involved in a response.



Incident Concentration

Response activity tends to be greatest in areas of higher population density. The City of Spokane incident concentration follows this trend as shown in the following map.



Policy Statement

Emergency Response Functions

The primary emergency response functions performed by the Spokane Fire Department include the following:

- 1) Suppression of fires in buildings, vehicles, natural vegetation, and other property
- 2) Emergency medical response at both the basic life support and advanced life support level
- 3) Technical rescue and extrication (USAR Type III)
- 4) Marine rescue
- 5) Hazardous materials emergency response and control (Type I)

Response Standards

There are several component parts to response standards for which objectives are established. The Spokane Fire Department has established the following response time objectives for its services.

- 1) **Turnout time** – the period of time from initial dispatch to initiation of travel towards the incident.
The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of ninety (90) seconds, 90% of the time.
- 2) **Response time for the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident** – the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the incident to the arrival of the first unit at the scene of the incident.
The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the first arriving fire engine, 90% of the time.
- 3) **Response time for full first alarm assignment at a structure fire incident** - the period of time from notification of fire department response personnel of the incident to the arrival of all of the first alarm units at the scene of the incident.
The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eleven (11) minutes for the arrival of the full first alarm assignment at structure fire incidents, 90% of the time.
- 4) **Response time for the first fire department medical unit at an emergency medical (EMS) incident** – the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the EMS incident to the arrival of the first fire department unit at the scene of the incident.
The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of the first fire department unit at life-threatening emergency medical incidents, 90% of the time.
- 5) **Response time for the first fire department advanced life support medical unit at a priority emergency medical (EMS) incident** – the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the EMS incident to the arrival of the first fire department advanced life support unit at the scene of the incident.
The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of the first fire department advanced life support unit at life-threatening emergency medical incidents, 90% of the time.



- 6) Response time for arrival of a fire department unit at a technical rescue call** – the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the technical rescue incident to the arrival of sufficient resources to begin operations-level incident intervention.

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of a Fire Department unit at a technical rescue incident, 90% of the time.

- 7) Response time for arrival of a fire department unit at a marine rescue incident** – the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the marine rescue incident to the arrival of a fire department unit.

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of a fire department unit, 90% of the time.

- 8) Response time for arrival of a fire department unit at a hazardous materials incident**– the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the hazardous materials incident to the arrival of a fire department unit to begin operations-level incident intervention.

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of nine (9) minutes for the arrival of a fire department unit at a hazardous materials incident, 90% of the time.

Critical Tasking

Critical tasks are those activities that must be conducted in a timely manner by firefighters at emergency incidents in order to control the situation, stop loss, and to perform necessary tasks required for a medical emergency. The Spokane Fire Department is responsible for assuring that responding companies are capable of performing all of the described tasks in a prompt, efficient, and safe manner.

Fires - Critical tasking for fire operations is the minimum number of personnel to perform the tasks required to effectively control a fire in the listed risk category. Major fires (beyond first alarm) will require additional personnel and apparatus.

Emergency Medical – Critical tasking for emergency medical incidents is the minimum number of personnel to perform the tasks required to support the identified strategy based on the department’s adopted medical protocol.

Low Rise Residential Structure Fire (Structure under 55 feet in height)

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	3
Pump Operations	1
Attack Line	2
Search and Rescue	2
Ventilation	2
RIT	3
Other (hydrant and back up line)	3
Total	16

High Rise Residential Structure Fire (Structure over 55 feet in height)

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	3
Pump Operations	2
Attack Line	4
Search and Rescue	4
Ventilation	4
RIT	4
Other (hydrant and back up line)	4
Total	25

Moderate Risk Commercial Structure Fire

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	3
Pump Operations	2
Attack Line	4
Search and Rescue	4
Ventilation	4
RIT	2
Other (back up line)	4
Total	23

High Risk Commercial Structure Fire

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	3
Pump Operations	2
Attack Line	4
Search and Rescue	4
Ventilation	4
RIT	4
Other (back up line)	4
Total	25

Grass/Brush Fire (Not threatening structures)

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	1
Pump Operations	
Attack Line	2
Other	
Total	3

Vehicle Fire (Not threatening structures)

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	1
Pump Operations	1
Attack Line	1
Other	
Total	3

Emergency Medical (Non-life threatening)

Task	Number of Personnel
Patient Management	
Patient Care	2
Documentation	1
Total	3

Motor Vehicle Accident (With patient extrication)

Task	Number of Personnel	
	Surface street	Freeway
Scene Management	1	1
Patient Care	3	3
Extrication	4	4
Fire Protection	3	3
Documentation	1	1
Other (safety)	1	1
Total	13	13

Motor Vehicle Accident (No patient extrication)

Task	Number of Personnel	
	Surface street	Freeway
Scene Management	1	1
Patient Care	2	2
Extrication		
Fire Protection		
Documentation		
Other		
Total	3	3

Hazardous Materials

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	4
Entry Team	2
Backup Team	2
Decontamination	4
Research	1
Support	6
Other (medical)	1
Total	20

Technical Rescue

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	3
Operations	14
Patient Management	3
Documentation	1
Total	21

Marine

Task	Number of Personnel
Command/Safety	3
Operations	10
Patient Management	3
Documentation	1
Total	17

Alarm Assignments

In order to ensure sufficient personnel and apparatus are dispatched to an emergency event, the following first alarm response assignments have been established. "Total Staffing Needed" is the number identified in the Critical Tasking analysis above.

Low Rise Residential Fire (Structure under 55 feet in height)

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	3	9-11
Senior Ladder	1	4
Rescue	1	2
Squad		
Battalion Chief	2	2
Total Staffing Provided		17-19
Total Staffing Needed		16

High Rise Residential Fire (Structure over 55 feet in height)

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	4	12-14
Senior Ladder	2	8
Rescue	1	2
Squad		
Battalion Chief	2	2
Total Staffing Provided		24-26
Total Staffing Needed		25

Moderate Risk Commercial Fire

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	4	12-14
Senior Ladder	2	8
Rescue	1	2
Squad		
Battalion Chief	2	2
Total Staffing Provided		24-26
Total Staffing Needed		23

High Risk Commercial Fire

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	4	12-14
Senior Ladder	2	8
Rescue	1	2
Squad		
Battalion Chief	2	2
Total Staffing Provided		24-26
Total Staffing Needed		25

Grass/Brush Fire (Not threatening structures)

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	1	3-4
Senior Ladder		
Rescue		
Squad		
Battalion Chief		
Total Staffing Provided		3-4
Total Staffing Needed		3

Vehicle Fire (Not threatening structures)

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	1	3-4
Senior Ladder		
Rescue		
Squad		
Battalion Chief		
Total Staffing Provided		3-4
Total Staffing Needed		3

Emergency Medical (Non-life threatening)

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	1	3-4
Senior Ladder		
Rescue		
Squad		
Battalion Chief		
Total Staffing Provided		3-4
Total Staffing Needed		3

Emergency Medical (Life threatening)

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	2	6-8
Senior Ladder		
Rescue		
Squad		
Battalion Chief		
Total Staffing Provided		6-8
Total Staffing Needed		6

Motor Vehicle Accident (With patient extrication)

Unit Type	Number of Units		Total Personnel	
	Surface street	Freeway	Surface street	Freeway
Engine	1-2	1-2	6-8	6-8
Senior Ladder	1	1	4	4
Rescue	1	1	2	2
Squad				
Battalion Chief	2	2	2	2
Total Staffing Provided			14-16	14-16
Total Staffing Needed			13	13

Motor Vehicle Accident (No patient extrication)

Unit Type	Number of Units		Total Personnel	
	Surface street	Freeway	Surface street	Freeway
Engine	1	1	3-4	3-4
Senior Ladder				
Rescue				
Squad				
Battalion Chief				
Total Staffing Provided			3-4	3-4
Total Staffing Needed			3	3

Hazardous Materials

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	3	9-10
Senior Ladder	1	4
Rescue	1	2
Squad		
Hazardous materials unit	2	4
Battalion Chief	2	2
Total Staffing Provided		20-21
Total Staffing Needed		20

Technical Rescue

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	3	9-10
Senior Ladder	2	6
Rescue	1	2
Squad (tech rescue unit)	1	2
Battalion Chief	2	2
Total Staffing Provided		20-21
Total Staffing Needed		21

Marine Rescue

Unit Type	Number of Units	Total Personnel
Engine	1	3
Senior Ladder	2	4
Squad (marine rescue unit)	1	6
Rescue	1	2
Battalion Chief	1	2
Total Staffing Provided		17
Total Staffing Needed		17

Annual Performance Report

Response Performance Objectives

The following describes the adopted response time performance objectives established by the Spokane Fire Department and its performance during the evaluation period. The evaluation period is from January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007, and includes evaluation of only Life-Threatening emergency responses (11,707 total incidents).

1) Turnout time

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of ninety (90) seconds 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period:

The Spokane Fire Department met the turnout time objective 60% of the time. The Fire Department turnout time was 135 seconds, 90% of the time.

2) Response time for arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression Incident

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the first arriving fire engine, 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period:

The Spokane Fire Department met the response time objective 90.5% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the first arriving fire engine to fire suppression incidents was eight minutes and fifteen seconds, 90% of the time.

3) Response time for arrival of the full first alarm assignment at a structure fire incident.

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eleven (11) minutes for the arrival of the full first alarm assignment at structure fire incidents, 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period:

The Spokane Fire Department met the response time objective 79% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the first full alarm assignment to a structure fire was thirteen minutes and eleven seconds, 90% of the time.

4) Response time for the first fire department medical unit at an emergency medical (EMS) incident

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of the first fire department unit at life-threatening emergency medical incidents, 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period:

The Spokane Fire Department met the response time objective 96.3% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the first arriving fire department unit responding to a life-threatening emergency medical incident was six minutes and fifty one seconds, 90% of the time.

5) Response time for the first fire department advanced life support medical unit at a priority emergency medical (EMS) incident

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of the first fire department advanced life support unit at life-threatening emergency medical incidents, 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period

The Spokane Fire Department met the response time objective 91.5% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the first arriving fire department advanced life support unit responding to a life-threatening emergency medical incident was eight minutes and thirteen seconds, 90% of the time.

7) Response time for arrival of a fire department unit at a technical rescue incident.

The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of a Fire Department unit at a technical rescue incident, 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period:

The Spokane Fire Department met the response time objective 96% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the arrival of a Fire Department unit at a technical rescue incident was seven minutes and forty nine seconds, 90% of the time.

6) Response time for arrival of a fire department unit at a marine rescue incident – the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the marine rescue incident to the arrival of a fire department unit. The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of eight minutes and thirty seconds (8:30) for the arrival of a fire department unit to a marine rescue incident, 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period:

The Spokane Fire Department met the response time objective 65% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for arrival on marine rescue incident was thirteen minutes and thirty four seconds, 90% of the time.

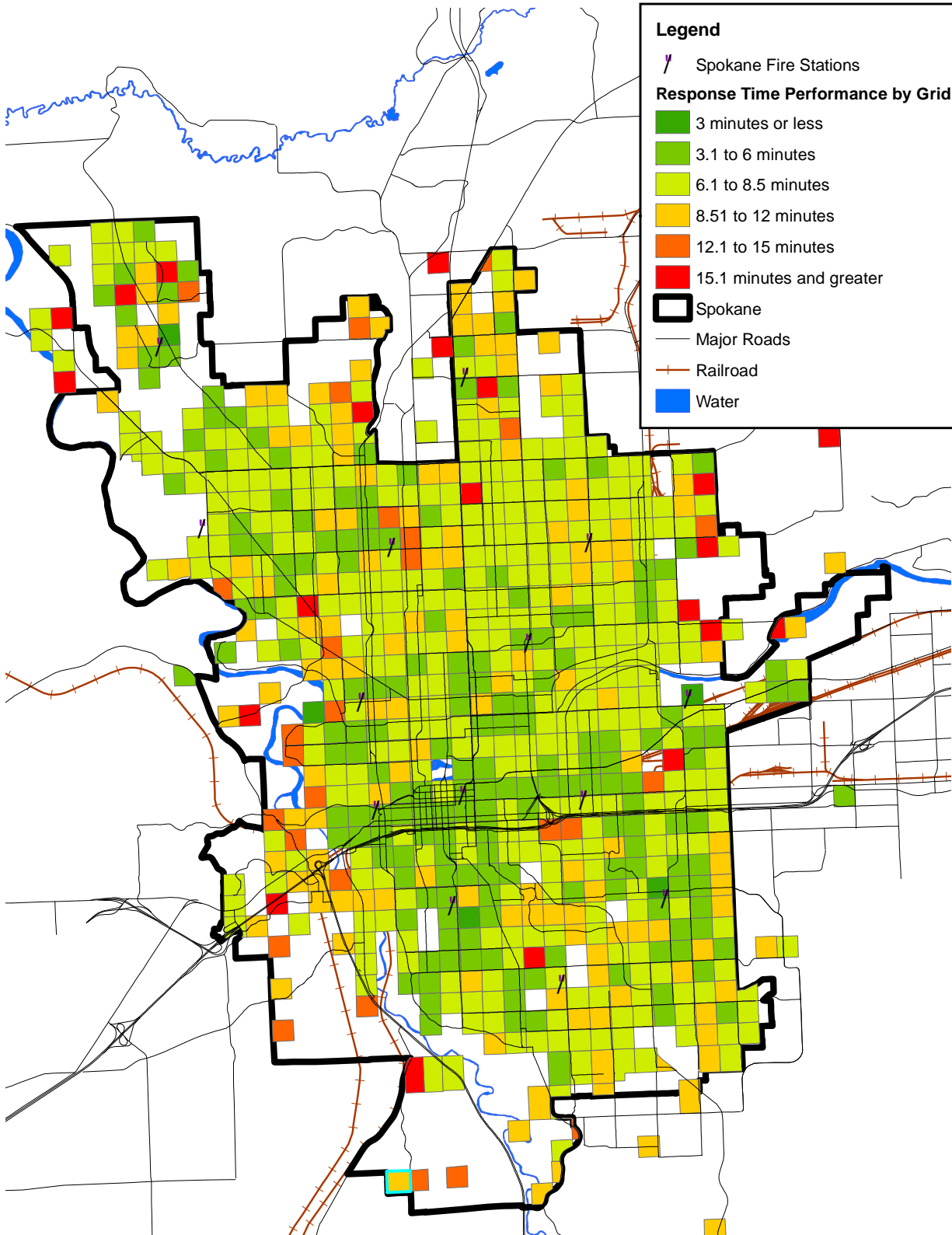
7) Response time for arrival of a fire department unit at a hazardous materials incident– the period from notification of fire department response personnel of the hazardous materials incident to the arrival of a fire department unit to begin operations-level incident intervention. The Spokane Fire Department has adopted a response time objective of nine (9) minutes for the arrival of a fire department unit at a hazardous materials incident, 90% of the time.

Actual department performance for the review period:

The Spokane Fire Department met the response time objective 92% of the time. The Fire Department's response time for the arrival of a fire department unit at a hazardous materials incident was eight minutes and eleven seconds, 90% of the time.

Geographic Analysis

The following map shows the city and the average response times for priority incidents within specific geographic regions. Response service is uniformly provided throughout the majority of the service area.



Predictable Consequences

The following describes the sequence of events involved with a fire in a structure and with cardiac arrest, a significant medical emergency. These explain the importance of response time in creating an effective outcome to an emergency and the results if response is delayed.

Response Performance and Outcomes

The ultimate goal of any emergency service delivery system is to provide sufficient resources (personnel, apparatus, and equipment) to the scene of an emergency in time to take effective action to minimize the impacts of the emergency. This need applies to fires, medical emergencies, and any other emergency situation to which the fire department responds.

Dynamics of Fire in Buildings

Most fires within buildings develop in a predictable fashion, unless influenced by highly flammable material or liquids. Ignition, or the beginning of a fire, starts the sequence of events. It may take some minutes or even hours from the time of ignition until flame is visible. This smoldering stage is very dangerous, especially during times when people are sleeping, since large amounts of highly toxic smoke may be generated during early phases.

Once flames do appear, the sequence develops rapidly. Combustible material adjacent to the flame heats and ignites which in turn heats and ignites other adjacent materials if sufficient oxygen is present. As the objects burn, heated gases accumulate at the ceiling of the room. Some of the gases are flammable and are highly toxic.

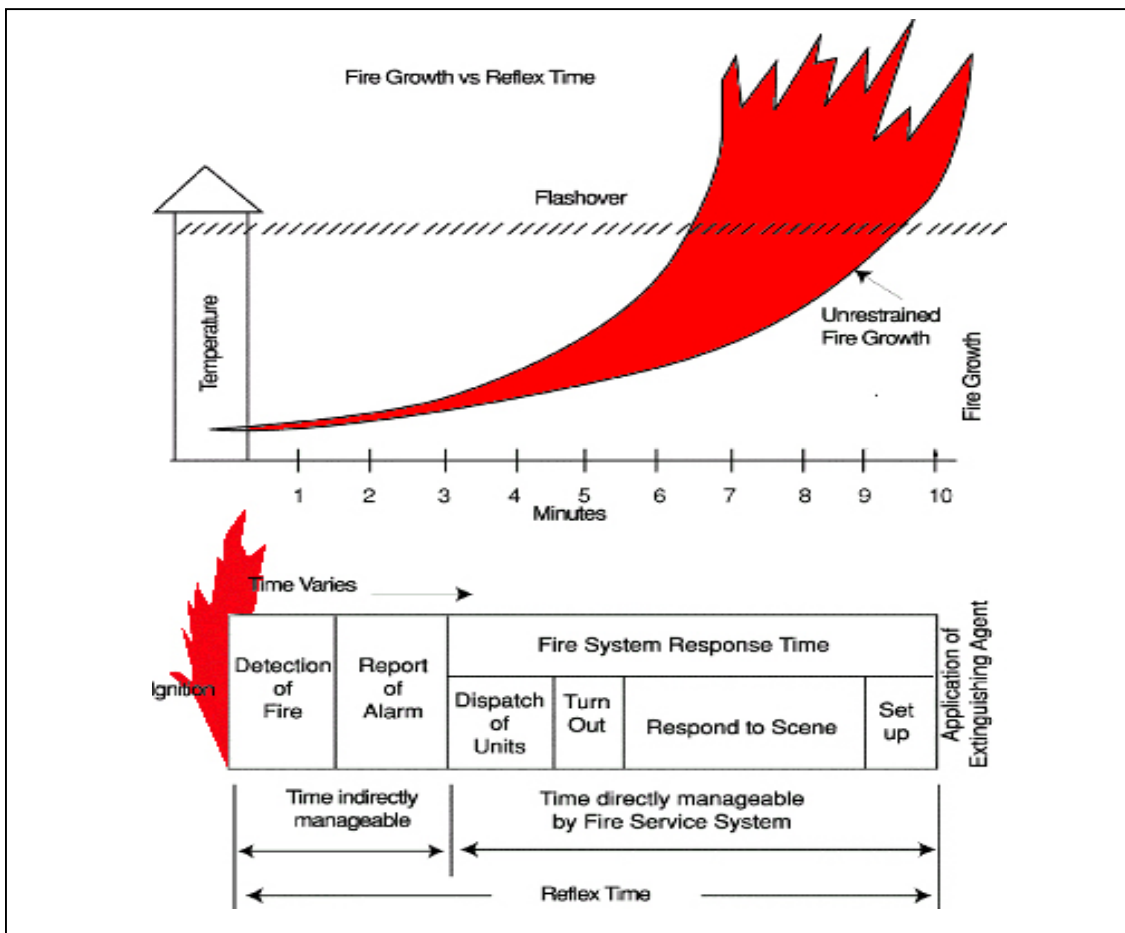
The spread of the fire continues quickly. Soon the flammable gases at the ceiling reach ignition temperature. At that point, an event termed “flashover” takes place; the gases ignite, which in turn ignites everything in the room. Once flashover occurs, damage caused by the fire is significant and the environment within the room can no longer support human life.

Flashover usually happens about five to eight minutes from the appearance of flame in typically furnished and ventilated buildings. Since flashover has such a dramatic influence on the outcome of a fire event, the goal of any fire agency is to apply water to a fire before flashover takes place.

Perhaps as important as preventing flashover is the need to control a fire before it does damage to the structural framing of a building. Materials used to construct buildings today are often less fire resistive than the heavy structural skeletons of older frame buildings. Roof trusses and floor joists are commonly made with lighter materials more easily weakened by the effects of fire. “Light weight” roof trusses can fail after five to seven minutes of direct flame impingement. Plywood I-beam joists can fail after as little as three minutes of flame contact. This creates a very dangerous environment for firefighters.

In addition, the contents of buildings today have a much greater potential for heat and smoke production than in the past. The widespread use of plastics in furnishings and other building contents rapidly accelerates fire spread and increases the amount of water needed to effectively control a fire. All of these factors make the need for early application of water essential to a successful fire outcome.

A number of things must happen quickly to make it possible to achieve fire suppression prior to flashover. The following figure illustrates the sequence of events.



Source: Commission on Fire Accreditation, International

The reflex time continuum consists of six steps, beginning with ignition and concluding with the application of (usually) water. The time required for each of the six components varies. The policies and practices of the fire department directly influence four of the steps, but two are only indirectly manageable.

The six parts of the continuum are:

1. **Detection:** The detection of a fire may occur immediately if someone happens to be present or if an automatic fire detection or fire suppression system is functioning. Otherwise, detection may be delayed, sometimes for a considerable period.
2. **Report:** Today most fires are reported by telephone to the 9-1-1 center. Call takers must quickly elicit accurate information about the nature and location of the fire from persons who are apt to be excited. A citizen well trained in how to report emergencies can reduce the time required for this phase.
3. **Dispatch:** The dispatcher must identify the correct fire units, subsequently dispatch them to the emergency, and continue to update information about the emergency while the units respond. This step offers a number of technological opportunities to speed the process including computer aided dispatch and global positioning systems.
4. **Turnout:** Firefighters must don firefighting protective clothing, assemble on the response vehicle, and begin travel to the fire. Good training and proper fire station design can minimize the time required for this step.
5. **Travel:** This is potentially the longest phase of the continuum. The distance between the fire station and the location of the emergency influences reflex time the most. The quality and connectivity of streets, traffic, driver training, geography, and environmental conditions are also factors.

6. Set up: Once firefighters arrive on the scene of a fire emergency, fire apparatus are positioned, breathing apparatus donned, hose lines stretched out, additional equipment assembled, and certain preliminary tasks are performed (such as ventilation) before entry is made into the structure and water is applied to the fire.

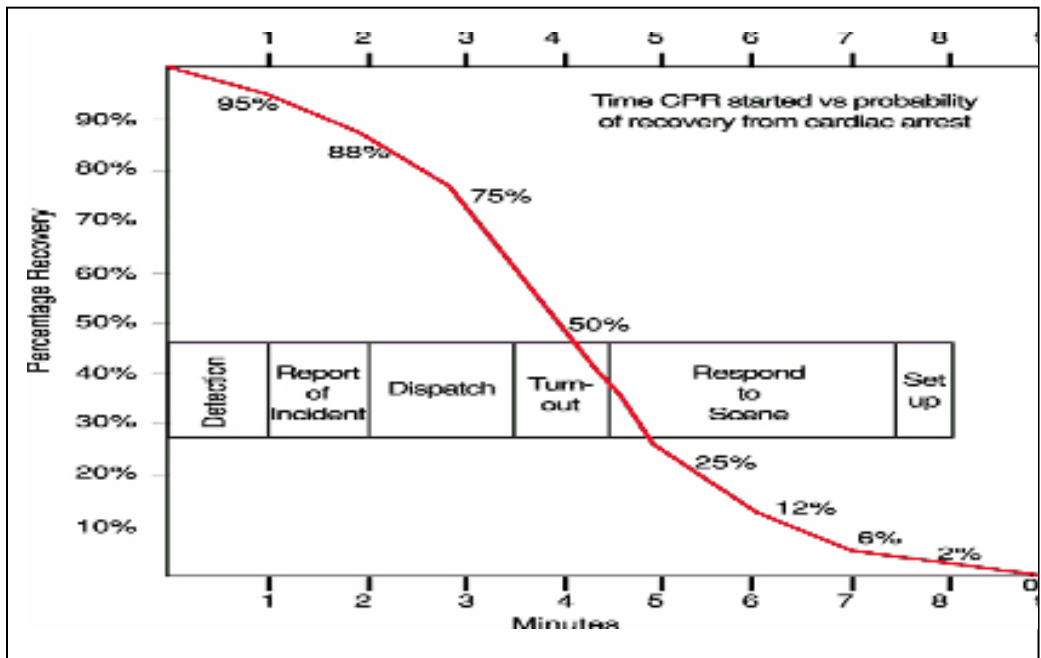
As is apparent by this description of the sequence of events, application of water in time to prevent flashover is a serious challenge for any fire department. It is reasonable though, to use the continuum as a tool in designing the emergency response system.

Emergency Medical Event Sequence

Cardiac arrest is generally used as the prototypical life-threatening medical event. A victim of cardiac arrest has mere minutes in which to receive definitive lifesaving care if there is to be any hope for resuscitation.

Heart attack survival chances fall by seven to ten percent for every minute between collapse and defibrillation. Consequently, American Heart Association guidelines now recommend the administration of cardiac defibrillation accompanied by effective cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as quickly as possible following cardiac arrest.

As with fires, the sequence of events that leads to emergency cardiac care can be visually shown, as in the following figure.



Source: American Heart Association

The probability of recovery from cardiac arrest drops quickly as time progresses. The stages of medical response are very similar to the components described for a fire response.

Research stresses the importance of rapid cardiac defibrillation and administration of certain drugs as a means of improving the opportunity for successful resuscitation and survival. An Oregon fire department studied the effect of time on cardiac arrest resuscitation and found that nearly all of their "saves" were within 1.5 miles of a fire station, underscoring the importance of quick response.

Factors - People, Tools and Time

Time matters a great deal in the achievement of an effective outcome to an emergency event. Time, however, isn't the only factor. Delivering sufficient numbers of properly trained and appropriately equipped personnel within the critical time period completes the equation.

For medical emergencies, this will vary based on the nature of the emergency. Most medical emergencies are not as time critical as structure fires. However, for serious trauma, cardiac arrest, or conditions that may lead to cardiac arrest, response time can be very critical.

Equally critical is delivering a sufficient complement of personnel to the scene to perform all concurrent tasks required to deliver quality emergency care. For a cardiac arrest, this can be up to six personnel: two to perform CPR, two to set up and operate advanced medical equipment, one to record the actions taken by emergency care workers, and one to direct and provide advanced patient care. Thus, for a medical emergency the real test of performance is the time it takes to provide the personnel and equipment needed to deal effectively with the patient's condition, not necessarily the time it takes for the first person to arrive.

Fire emergencies are even more resource critical. Again, the true test of performance is the time it takes to deliver sufficient personnel to initiate application of water on the fire. This is the only practical method to reverse the continuing internal temperature increases and ultimately prevent flashover. The arrival of one person with a portable radio does not provide fire intervention capability and should not be counted as "arrival" by the fire department.

Industry standards and worker safety regulations require that at least four personnel must be on scene to conduct interior firefighting operations. The initial arrival of effective resources should be marked as the point in time when at least four personnel, properly trained and equipped, have assembled at the fire.

Effective operations at the scene of fire emergencies also depend on the arrival of sufficient trained and equipped personnel to perform all of the duties and tasks required to control a fire event. Tasks that must be performed can be broken down into two key components: life safety and fire flow. Life safety tasks are based on the number of building occupants, their location, status, and ability to take self-preservation action. Life safety tasks involve the search, rescue, and evacuation of victims. The fire flow component involves delivering sufficient quantities of water to extinguish the fire and creating an environment within the building that allows entry by firefighters.

The number and types of tasks needing simultaneous action will dictate the minimum number of firefighters required to combat different types of fires. In the absence of adequate personnel to perform concurrent action, the command officer must prioritize the tasks, completing some in chronological order rather than at the same time, reducing overall fire emergency effectiveness.

These tasks include:

command	scene safety	search and rescue
fire attack	water supply	pump operation
ventilation	back-up	

The following chart illustrates the fire ground staffing recommendations of the Commission on Fire Accreditation, International.

The following definitions apply to the chart:

Low Risk – Fires involving small sheds and other outbuildings, larger vehicles and similar. Characterized by sustained attack fire flows typically less than 250 gallons per minute.

Moderate Risk – Fires involving single-family dwellings and equivalently sized commercial office properties. Sustained attack fire flows range between 250 gallons per minute to 1,000 gallons per minute.

High Risk – Fires involving larger commercial properties with sustained attack fire flows between 1,000 gallons per minute and 2,500 gallons per minute

Maximum Risk – Fires in buildings with unusual hazards such as high-rise buildings, hazardous materials facilities, very large buildings, and high life risk properties (nursing homes, hospitals, etc.). Though they may not require large sustained attack fire flows, they do require more personnel to perform tasks required for effective control.

Minimum Firefighting Personnel Needed Based Upon Level of Risk

Task	Maximum Risk	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Risk
Attack Line	4	4	2	2
Search and Rescue	4	2	2	
Ventilation	4	2	2	
Back-Up Line/Rapid Intervention	8	6	4	2
Pump Operator	1	1	1	1
Water Supply	1	1	1	
Utilities Support	1	1	1	
Command/Safety	2	2	2	1#
Forcible Entry	*			
Salvage	*			
Overhaul	*			
Communication	1*			
Operations Section Chief	1			
Logistics	1			
Planning	1*			
Staging	1*			
Rehabilitation	1			
Division/Group Supervisors	2*			
High Rise Evacuation	10*			
Stairwell Support	10*			
Totals:	53	19	15	6

Can often be handled by the first due officer.

* At maximum and high-risk fires, additional personnel may be needed.

See the definitions on the previous page

Conclusion

Status towards Department’s Performance Objectives

All of the Spokane Fire Departments adopted performance objectives are being met with three exceptions. Two of those three exceptions are affected by response circumstances that specifically cause negative impacts to the performance objectives. The impacts are identified in notes below.

- Turnout time (Actual - 134 seconds, 90% of the time. Target - 90 seconds, 90% of the time)
- Arrival of the full first alarm assignment on a structure fire (Actual – 13:11, 90% of the time. Target - 11:00, 90% of the time)*
- Arrival of sufficient resources to initiate marine rescue (Actual – 13:34, 90% of the time. Target – 8:30, 90% of the time)**

**Arrival of the full first alarm assignment includes two units; Rescue 1 and Spokane 20—both of which are located at Station 1. Because of their location and the fact that they are single-type resources, this performance measure as currently defined cannot be met.*

***The Marine Stations (Station 2 and 16) are required to don water rescue PPE prior to response. The Marine Apparatus are cross-staffed which adds to the response time.*

Status of Department’s Performance versus national standards

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a non-profit organization that, as a part of its mission, develops standards that are utilized by the fire service. Unless adopted by federal, state, or local law, NFPA standards are voluntary and therefore are not mandated on individual agencies. The Standards act as an industry ‘best practice’ and referenced during legal hearings, civil and criminal proceedings as well as planning projects throughout the country.

The NFPA Standard that is utilized by career fire departments for evaluation of response capabilities is NFPA 1710, “Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments.” This standard contains numerous performance objectives for staffing and service delivery times.

The Department’s turnout time, fire, and emergency medical service response time performance objectives are not the same as those outlined in NFPA 1710. The Department’s performance objectives, in most cases, include longer times than those in 1710. A comparison is shown in the following table. All times are measured at the 90th percentile.

Performance Element	Spokane Objective	Spokane Actual	NFPA 1710 Objective
Turnout Time	90 seconds	135 seconds	60 seconds
First unit arrival on a fire incident	8 min 30 sec	8 min 15 sec	5 minutes
Full first alarm assignment at a structure fire	11 minutes	13 min 11 sec	9 minutes
First unit at an emergency medical incident	8 min 30 sec	6 min 51 sec	5 minutes
First ALS unit at an emergency medical incident	8 min 30 sec	8 min 13 sec	9 minutes

Given the current resources and funding levels, the Department is not able to achieve NFPA 1710 standard compliance for staffing or services delivery performance objectives except for first advance life support unit arrival at an emergency medical incident.

Spokane

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2007

Annual Performance

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