



# Seattle Fire Department Annual Report

# 2024

INTEGRITY

TEAMWORK

COMPASSION

COURAGE

DIVERSITY

HERE TO SERVE SINCE 1889

Photo by John Odegard

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# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



SEATTLE FIRE: WASHINGTON'S FIRST CLASS 1 PROTECTION DISTRICT

"YOU ARE THE SUM OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER SEEN, HEARD, EATEN, SMELLED, BEEN TOLD, FORGOT - IT'S ALL THERE. EVERYTHING INFLUENCES EACH OF US, AND BECAUSE OF THAT I TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT MY EXPERIENCES ARE POSITIVE."

- MAYA ANGELOU

2024 was an exciting and challenging year for the Seattle Fire Department. We set a new record number of incidents we dispatched units: 112,320.

Emergency medical calls continue to make up the majority of our work - 73 percent. Basic life support calls were relatively the same as 2023, and we saw a dip in the number of Medic One responses (cardiac, stroke, trauma) that we attended.

However, there was a rise in fire calls, with some of those being "false" alarms, where fire systems sound but there isn't an actual fire. This can be due to a fire panel malfunction or even a resident smoking near a detector. Those instances present a deep concern because they render units unavailable to respond to other "true" emergencies in their district.

All of this is happening against the backdrop of Seattle springing back to life with more people working downtown, construction projects back underway and many sporting, musical and cultural events that attract people to our city.

Our department has added a number of positions and programs over the past several years to mitigate the heavier workload: two peak-time aid units, new positions with the Mobile Integrated Health program, Nurse Navigation, and Medic 26 and Ladder 13. But housing and population projections indicate Seattle is likely to see quite a bit of growth in the near future. We will be challenged to meet the needs of this vibrant city with existing resources.

I am particularly proud of the ingenuity our personnel display when faced with difficult circumstances. As much as we use standard operating procedures and policies to guide our work, at times, a stroke of creativity is needed to meet the moment. Case in point: When a historic cold spell hit Seattle in mid-January, Health One and Station 39 firefighters partnered to utilize our Medical Ambulance Bus to provide warm food, clothes and a temporary break from the cold for our unhoused community.

There are more success stories in the following pages of this annual report, some big and some small. Taken together with all of the other actions of our Seattle Fire Department, I know we have an exceptional team that's serving this city incredibly well.

Sincerely,



**Fire Chief Harold D. Scoggins**



# ABOUT US

## OUR VISION

The vision for the Seattle Fire Department is to be a national leader in responding to and preventing emergencies with a commitment to excellence and teamwork.

The Seattle Fire Department strives to provide the best service possible by putting the community and its needs first. It is the department's goal to actively engage Seattle's residents. The Seattle Fire Department values and respects diverse internal and external cultures, constantly working to improve service delivery to all community members. Through feedback and other cooperative communication processes, the department works to ensure the community is informed of and able to access programs and services.

The Seattle Fire Department was established by Seattle Ordinance No. 1212 on Oct. 17, 1889. The services provided by the Seattle Fire Department include:

- Critical fire suppression and emergency medical care
- Technical teams, including technical and heavy rescue, dive rescue, tunnel rescue, marine fire response and hazardous materials (HazMat) response
- Fire prevention and public education
- Fire investigation
- Mutual aid response to neighboring jurisdictions

**Integrity:** We are honest, trustworthy and accountable. Honor guides our actions.

**Teamwork:** We each bring our own skills and experience, yet we recognize that we are better together. We support and depend on each other to achieve our goals.

**Compassion:** Caring is part of our job. We could not do what we do without a deep and motivating empathy for those we serve.

**Courage:** We show fortitude and determination in a crisis.

**Diversity:** We respect the different identities, experiences and perspectives of those that we work with and the community we serve.





Photo by John Odegard

# TIERED RESPONSE SYSTEM

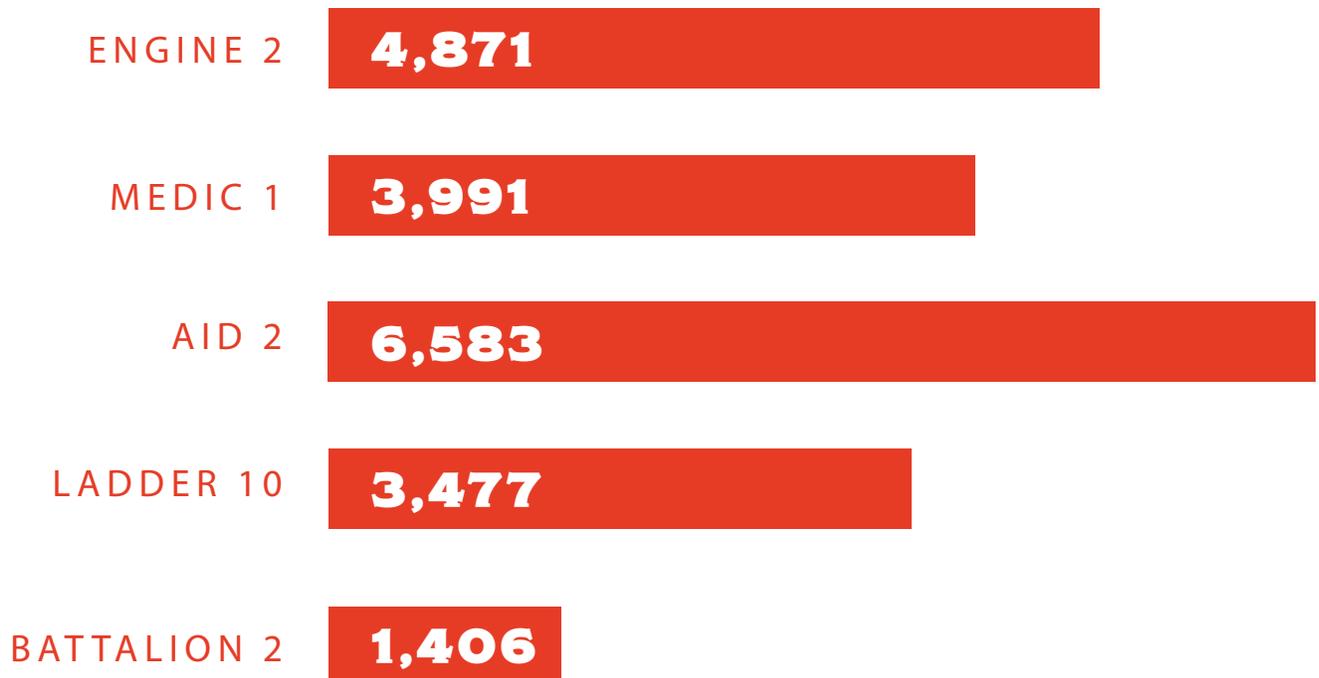
The Seattle Fire Department provides emergency response through five battalions, consisting of 33 fire stations (plus Battalion 3/Medic One at Harborview Medical Center) strategically placed around the city in order to maximize coverage and minimize response time.

These stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by four separate shifts. To meet the needs of the city and provide emergency response services to the residents of Seattle, in 2024, the department had 978 uniformed personnel and 88 civilian personnel. Uniformed personnel includes 886 firefighter/EMTs, 38 chiefs and 54 firefighter/paramedics. Every day, there are 216 members responding to emergencies across the city (220 with upstaffing for two daytime aid cars).

Depending on the type of emergency, the Fire Alarm Center will dispatch the appropriate resources to provide fire suppression, Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), Health One services and technical operations. All Seattle firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians. In a BLS incident, a fire engine, aid car and/or ladder truck will be the first responders. If a medical emergency requires ALS, one of the eight medic units will also be dispatched to the scene. Certain type of emergencies require multiple units. For example, an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest will have three units come to their aid. Similarly for fires and other emergencies, the dispatcher will assign the appropriate resources to protect life and property.

## 2024 BUSIEST UNITS

*Determined by total responding calls*



# STATION MAP & APPARATUS PROFILE

33 FIRE STATIONS

32 ENGINES

12 LADDER TRUCKS  
ONE LADDER TRUCK IS PART OF THE RESCUE 1 UNIT

5 AID UNITS

2 PEAK-TIME  
AID UNITS

8 MEDIC UNITS

3 HEALTH ONE UNITS

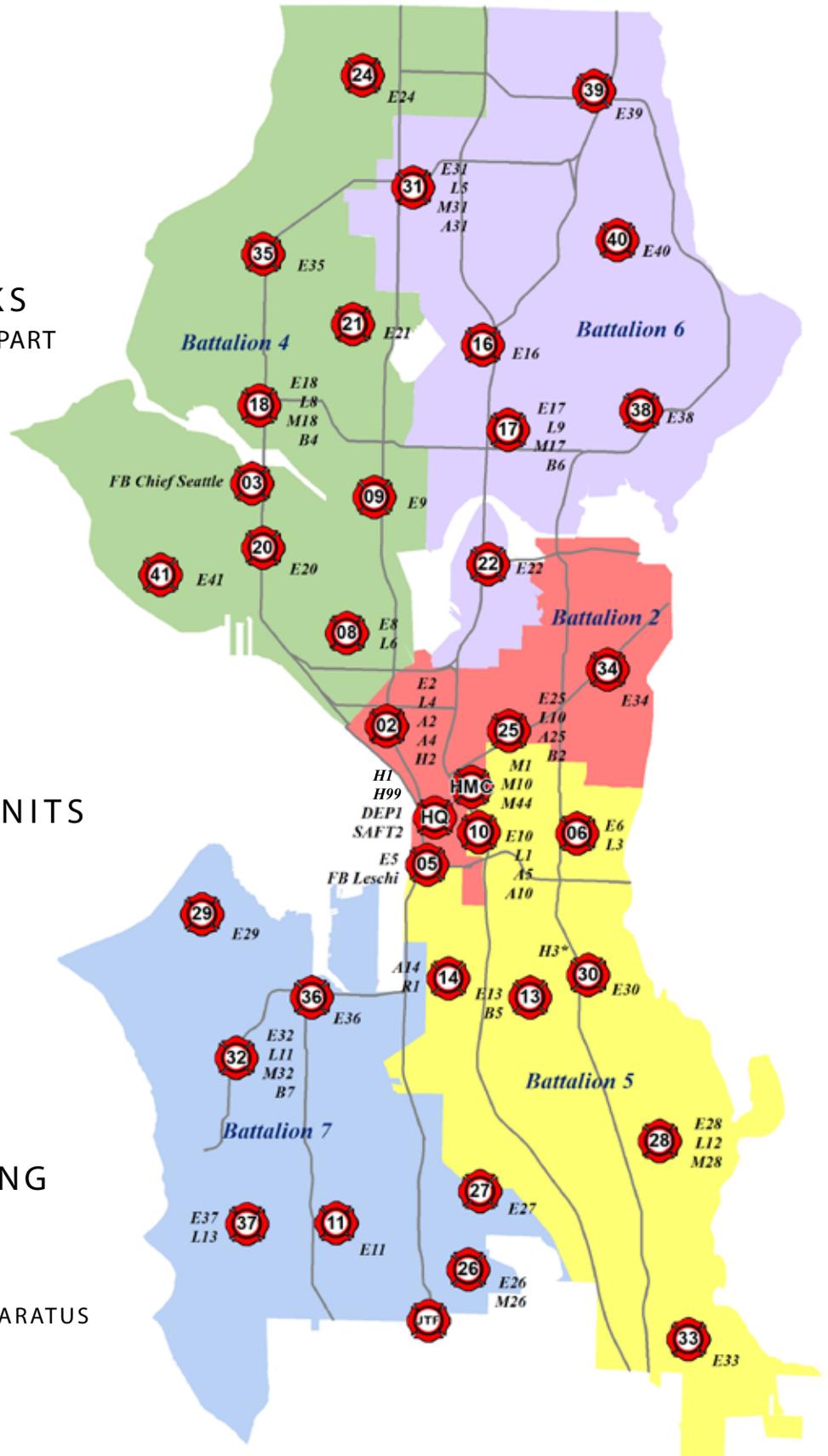
2 AIR TRUCKS

2 HOSE WAGONS

4 FIRE BOATS

1 SHARED TRAINING  
FACILITY (JTF)

ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED APPARATUS



# HIGHLIGHTS



## VACANT BUILDING LEGISLATION

In June, Mayor Harrell signed new legislation that allows Seattle Fire to order the remediation or demolition of dangerous vacant buildings. City Council unanimously approved the legislation in response to concerns about an increase in vacant building fires. The new city law authorizes the department to take immediate action if the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal deems the vacant building an imminent risk. Derelict buildings can be dangerous because they often have holes in floors, missing stairwells, are structurally unstable or present other hazards. As a result of the legislation, vacant building owners have been more proactive in either improving the building to meet Seattle Fire Code or proceeding with demolition efforts.

## SEATTLE FIRE FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Seattle Fire Foundation (SFF) made several impactful donations that support firefighter safety, health and response capabilities.

In partnership with the James D. and Sherry Raisbeck Foundation, in January, the SFF purchased 78 thermal imaging cameras, enough to outfit all engines and on-duty battalion chiefs. Thermal imaging cameras help firefighters see through smoky conditions to search for victims and keep track of one another. Firefighters can use them to monitor the fire's spread and visualize a plan of attack.

In July, the SFF donated two specially-outfitted SeaDoos to enhance the department's marine response capabilities. The rescue watercraft complement the existing rescue boats and rescue swimmer program while expanding the area of freshwater that can be reached quickly, increasing the odds of a successful rescue. The units provide better access to search areas near piers and docks as well as transport rescue swimmers well beyond their prior 300' limit from the shore.



The SFF has also continued its ongoing commitment to providing updated fitness equipment to ensure firefighter strength and mobility. After making its first equipment donation in 2023, an additional 10 stations received new weight racks in 2024. The foundation hopes to equip the remaining stations in the near future.



## COMMUNITY DONATES GARDEN AT FIRE STATION 41

Members of the Magnolia neighborhood came together to create a beautiful garden and gathering space in front of Fire Station 41, which was dedicated in September. The once plain and hardpacked beds were transformed into a beautifully landscaped gardenscape, complete with a public artwork sculpture. The idea for a garden bed refresh came about after a passing conversation between a member of the Carleton Park Garden Club and members of the fire station. Soon after, the garden club and Rainbow of Magnolia Landscaping formed a partnership to beautify the beds, including covering all costs with grants and donations. Our sincere appreciation to both for giving our art deco fire station a colorful and welcoming garden space for all to enjoy.

## WASHINGTON ALLIANCE FOR BETTER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with Washington Alliance for Better Schools (WABS), we hosted 84 high school students from Rainier Beach, Cleveland STEM, Chief Sealth International and Nathan Hale for a behind-the-scenes look at careers in the fire service. Through WABS Career Tours and Teach2Connect programs, students explored fire stations, met with firefighters and professional staff, and learned valuable life-saving skills such as hands-only CPR. Many students expressed interest in careers in public service, emergency medicine and firefighting.



## ENTRY-LEVEL FIREFIGHTER APPLICATION WINDOW

Seattle Fire opened its application period for entry-level firefighter/EMT in October, which generated more than 3,800 applicants. The department generally opens its application every two years to recruit prospective candidates. Applicants that pass various tests during the application window are invited to Seattle for in-person oral boards. The Public Safety Civil Service Commission then develops a register of candidates for the department to use as it hires for the upcoming recruit classes. As Seattle Fire works to strengthen staffing numbers, the Mayor and City Council have approved the department hiring 80 new firefighters in both 2025 and 2026.

## HEROES OF THE DEEP

The Seattle Kraken and One Roof Foundation honored Seattle Fire Department's rescue swimmers program as "Heroes of the Deep" for a remarkable rescue during the summer of 2024. On June 9, Seattle Fire received a 911 call about a man who had reportedly jumped from a pedestrian bridge. Already on the water testing equipment, Seattle Fire's fireboat crew acted fast, marking the last known location, allowing three of our rescue swimmers to dive in right away. They were able to locate the man within 10 seconds of entering the water. Despite the man being underwater for 15 minutes, life-saving efforts by firefighter EMTs and paramedics brought him back. Four of the department's rescue swimmers attended the game and accepted a \$32,000 donation on behalf of the Seattle Fire Foundation.



# SFD ANNUAL AWARDS

In April, the department held its annual awards ceremony at the Embassy Suites in Pioneer Square. The department wishes to thank the Seattle Fire Foundation and generous event sponsors. Their financial support allowed all Seattle Fire employees to attend at no cost. More than 350 employees, winners' guests and community members celebrated all of the recipients across multiple categories. The department is proud of each winner for their contributions and service to the community.



David Pearson  
*Civilian of the Year*



Firefighter Jordan  
Bradbury  
*Firefighter of the Year*



Captain Josh  
Pearson  
*Paramedic of the Year*



Captain Craig  
Patterson  
*Officer of the Year*



Battalion Chief  
Ben Haskell  
*Chief of the Year*



Ren Hauptman  
*Customer Service  
Award*



Ret. Debbie  
Brooks  
*Lifetime Achievement*



Ret. Deputy Chief  
Mark Larsen  
*Lifetime Achievement*



Ret. Lieutenant  
Sue Stangl  
*Lifetime Achievement*



Ret. Lieutenant  
John Cameron  
*Lifetime Achievement*

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) awarded Seattle Fire Assistant Chief Christopher Lombard the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award for his remarkable leadership and extensive contributions to public safety communications.



Photo by John Odegard

## EVERY SECOND COUNTS

### CASCADE OF EVENTS

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) has defined response time elements as a cascade of events. This cascade is similar to that used by the medical community to describe the events leading up to the initiation, mitigation and ultimate outcome of a cardiac arrest. It is imperative to keep in mind that certain intervals described, such as turnout and travel time, can

be directly influenced by the fire service via station locations and design, staffing levels as well as local rules and procedures for response. Other factors, such as the alarm interval, can be influenced indirectly through public education and engineering initiatives. The fire service can also influence the call-processing interval through its ability to define standards and compel performance by its dispatch centers.

### TIME TEMPERATURE STANDARD

The “time-temperature curve” standard is based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), which have established that a typical point source of ignition in a residential house will “flashover” at some time between five and 10 minutes after ignition, turning a typical “room and contents” fire into a structural fire of some magnitude.



The utility of the time-temperature curve for fire station placement is limited to a number of factors including:

- It does not account for the time required for the existence of a fire to be “discovered” and reported to the fire department via the 911 system.
- The time from ignition to flashover varies widely (five to 30 minutes depending on building characteristics); thus it cannot provide a valid basis for the allocation of resources.
- The curve is constantly shifting, given the numerous changes in building construction, built-in suppression systems, the increased use of fire resistive materials for furniture and other items typically found in the interior of occupied buildings.

In communities where the fire service is the principal provider of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) first response, the goal is for basic life support (CPR and defibrillation) to be available to the victim of a cardiac arrest within four minutes of the event, and that advanced life support (paramedic service) should be available within eight minutes or less of the event. Early notification, distribution and concentration of emergency response services are paramount to successful resuscitation efforts.

## THE GOLDEN HOUR STANDARD

In trauma events, the golden hour is the historic benchmark applied to victims with significant critical traumatic injuries. The golden hour reflects the concept that survivability decreases significantly if the patient isn't in the operating room within one hour of receiving a critical traumatic injury.

# RESPONSE STANDARDS

These response standards measure the delivery of fire suppression, technical rescue response and emergency medical services. Guided by National Fire Protection Association Standard (NFPA) 1710, the standards protect the community and occupational health and safety of Seattle Fire employees. The call processing standard is guided by NFPA 1225 (2022).

<b>RESPONSE TOTALS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Total number of responses</b>	106,453	111,319	<b>112,320</b>
<i>Basic Life Support</i>	64,127	66,336	<b>66,683</b>
<i>Advanced Life Support</i>	14,681	16,407	<b>14,839</b>
<i>Fire-type responses</i>	27,180	28,107	<b>30,370</b>
<i>Special operations</i>	407	385	<b>378</b>
<i>Mutual aid</i>	58	84	<b>50</b>

The "fire-type responses" category includes any incident where firefighters don turnout gear (ex: fires, vehicle collisions, automatic fire alarms, elevator rescues, etc.). These response standards measure the delivery of fire suppression, technical rescue response and emergency medical services.

<b>CALL VOLUME</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Total number of calls</b>	202,344	206,482	<b>201,776</b>
<i>Emergency calls</i>	172,568	176,513	<b>171,532</b>
<i>Admin calls</i>	29,776	29,969	<b>30,244</b>

The Fire Alarm Center is staffed 24/7 by firefighter/EMTs who have completed more than 1,000 hours of additional training to become certified dispatchers.

<b>CALL PROCESSING</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Calls processed within 60 seconds</b>	60%	51%	<b>51%</b>

NFPA 1225 (2022) states that 90% of the time dispatch centers should process high acuity fire and EMS calls within 60 seconds. This is the time from when the phone is first picked up to a unit assigned.

<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>EMS turnout time is within 60 seconds</b>	55%	57%	<b>55%</b>

*SFD turnout time standard is 60 seconds, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being assigned to being en route.*

<b>First BLS unit arrival is within 4 minutes</b>	75%	74%	<b>67%</b>
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*SFD response time standard for the arrival of the first Basic Life Support unit (aid car, fire engine, ladder truck) is four minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being en route to on-scene.*

<b>First ALS unit arrival is within 8 minutes</b>	82%	78%	<b>81%</b>
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*SFD response time standard for the arrival of an Advanced Life Support unit (medic unit with two firefighter/paramedics) is eight minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being en route to on-scene.*

<b>Average number of EMS responses per paramedic unit per day</b>	5.74	5.04	<b>4.35</b>
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*2022 number does not include Medic 44.*

<b>Total Advanced Life Support transports</b>	6,154	5,050	<b>5,139</b>
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*Includes total transports by medic and aid units.*

<b>FIREFIGHTING</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Fire turnout time is within 80 seconds</b>	60%	67%	<b>60%</b>

*SFD turnout time standard is 80 seconds, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being assigned to being en route.*

<b>First engine arrival is within 4 minutes</b>	76%	77%	<b>76%</b>
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*SFD response time standard for the arrival of the first fire engine is four minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being en route to on-scene.*

<b>First full alarm arrival is within 8 minutes</b>	95%	99%	<b>94%</b>
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*SFD response time standard for the arrival of a first full alarm assignment is eight minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being en route to on-scene.*

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Behavioral Health and Peer Support programs serve to support Seattle Fire's uniformed and professional staff in the face of potentially challenging and stressful situations on a day-to-day basis. The mental and emotional stress of the job require active strategies to combat mental health struggles, substance abuse, empathy fatigue and burnout.

In 2024, we launched several programs expanding our capacity and impact. RECESS (Resilience Education Coordination to Establish a Support System) is a pilot coaching program to help employees build holistic behavioral, mental and physical healthy habits tailored to each employee's specific needs.

We also upgraded our capacity to communicate with all members about resources plus greatly simplified the task of reaching out to peer support by implementing the PeerConnect app. This program also allows users to seamlessly integrate with other regional Peer Support teams thanks to a generous joint donation from the Seattle Fire Foundation, Seattle's Bravest Charity and Amazon/the Gary Sinise Foundation.

We continue to emphasize psychological safety of firefighters and community members by offering intensive Applied Suicide Intervention Skills courses to help participants feel ready, willing and able to help someone that may be feeling suicidal.

This year we were proud to offer courses in Mindful Performance facilitated by our in-house Mindful Performance coaches that have been fully certified by the University of California-San Diego Integrative Health's Center for Mindfulness. These coaches also helped mentally prepare three recruit classes for the challenging work of becoming a firefighter.





Accomplishments include:

- Enhancing the Peer Support team by 10, to 54 peers available to provide confidential help for any employee encountering professional or personal stress
- Providing hundreds of peer support interventions to support colleagues post-incident and during challenging personal circumstances
- Bringing on a second Peer Support team mental health professional
- Expanding our extremely popular Peer Support “Firedogs” Therapy Dog teams to five
- Deploying Peer Support members and a Firedog team to the International Fallen Fighters Memorial in Colorado Springs
- Conducting resiliency workshops on trauma, growth mindset and cognitive flexibility/ self-regulation
- Collaborating with local agencies and organizations to ensure uniform and professional staff have improved access to resources, education and care
- Providing drills with video on how to use Peer Support plus post-incident “emotional decontamination”



# MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH PROGRAM

As overall call volume grew for Seattle Fire in 2024, so too did referrals to the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) team. These referrals – a record 3,758 – came from every Operations unit in the department and spanned the full range of MIH services. These include immediate crisis intervention, case management for high utilizers of EMS, assistance to vulnerable adults, homeless outreach and referral, and more.

Health One units responded 1,378 times this year, meeting Seattle Fire units in the field

and following up on electronic referrals. With the addition of 19 new firefighters and new professional staff, the program continues its growth, with plans to add new days of service in 2025.

In January 2024, the MIH team mobilized to respond to a run of dangerously cold weather. In a department first, Health One utilized the department's Medical Ambulance Bus to serve as a mobile warming shelter, bringing hundreds of vulnerable individuals in from the elements.



## ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER PROGRAM

With support from Congressman Adam Smith and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the MIH program launched a novel Advanced Practice Provider program in 2024.

This program is a partnership with Harborview's Hobson Clinic and places an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (NP) within the Health One team. An embedded NP provides the team with a wealth of unavailable tools. A nurse practitioner can prescribe and dispense medications, provide wound care and street medicine, and submit clinical assessments and referrals. These capabilities will better help Health One crews reach under-resourced and needy patients.

## OVERDOSE RESPONSE EXPANSION

The Post-Overdose Response Team (Health 99) grew in 2024, adding more trained firefighters and partner referral resources.

In February, the MIH team supported Medic One as it launched Washington's first EMS buprenorphine program. A medication to treat opioid use disorder, buprenorphine eases withdrawal symptoms, protects patients from overdose and increases rates of engagement.

In November, with approval from the state Department of Health, Health 99 became the first EMT-Basic team in the nation to offer this medication.

Health 99 responded to 550 overdoses and follow-up runs in 2024, and in November, the Seattle Management Association honored team case manager Riley De Hoog with an award for their efforts with this team.



# OPERATIONS

## NEW WATER RESPONSE TEAM

The department launched in July a new Rescue Watercraft team, fully funded by the Seattle Fire Foundation. The pair of water skis, each outfitted with a fire-and-rescue equipment package, are positioned on Lake Washington to help reach anyone experiencing distress while on this side of the water.

The addition expands Seattle Fire's existing water response capabilities and allows the department to respond more quickly and to a larger geographic area in the fresh water. The rescue watercraft can safely and rapidly transport rescue swimmers well beyond the 300-foot limit that swimmers have when entering on their own from the shore.

In their first six months of operation, the rescue watercraft have been dispatched to multiple fresh-water incidents where their speed cuts response time and compact size allow them to access areas that other rescue boats cannot.

In October, the rescue watercraft were dispatched to an overturned catamaran on Lake Washington. The first watercraft, with a rescue swimmer onboard, went directly to the catamaran while the second unit responded to the shore to bring two more rescue swimmers to the scene. Fortunately, the catamaran occupants were uninjured, and responders righted the vessel.

The addition of the rescue watercraft has greatly improved marine responses on fresh water, and the program hopes to add a third watercraft to Lake Union in 2025.



## DEPUTY 1 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORTS

These reports help the department evaluate performance against the standards established in the SOGs. Each year, a number of incidents are selected for review, and officers then lead a discussion of the incident with their companies. The department evaluated 90 incidents in 2024. Key learnings influence training objectives and identify gaps that are tested in our Sim Labs for officers.

## SIMULATION LABS

Several years back, Seattle Fire established a new training program for its officers and chiefs based on one created by the Los Angeles Fire Department. Simulation Labs are exercises where officers and chiefs are presented with a simulated incident and practice the applicable strategy, tactics and applicable Standard Operating Guidelines within the context of their roles. The program has grown since it started in November 2023, with lieutenants, captains, chiefs and paramedics participating in the development of exercises.

## FULL RESPONSE PODCAST

Where our Post Incident Analysis case studies help us communicate what we did at an incident, our Full Response Podcast gives us an opportunity to share why we did what we did.

This podcast series is intended to take our Post Incident Analysis program into an open format discussion. Members hear directly from their peers who responded to the incident, learning what they observed before their critical decision making. Each episode is moderated by a battalion chief and typically includes three to eight members who responded to the incident. Production also includes a screen writer, audio/visual technician and editor.

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

With an eye for continuous improvement, the department revised three of its Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs): Low-rise, General Command and Natural Gas.

The SOGs provide the strategic and tactical playbook for firefighters and command staff on the incident ground. After a topic is selected, a team of firefighters develop draft guidelines, which are then circulated throughout Operations for feedback. Once changes are made, the final SOGs are incorporated into the in-service training coordinated by the Training Division. SOGs are updated as needed to reflect changes in practice or improved strategies.

## POST-INCIDENT ANALYSIS

Some of the most complex incidents are selected for a more in-depth review and internally published as a case study. The department completed one Post Incident Analysis for a multi-fatality fire.

# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Jan. 1

**Three-alarm fire in First Hill neighborhood:** Crews responded to a fire in a four-story vacant residential structure in the 800 block of Madison St. The fire spread to the roof, void space and top floor of an attached apartment building on 9th Avenue. Firefighters were familiar with the building, as a prior 3-alarm fire had occurred in June 2022, when it was formerly occupied. The main structure has since been demolished.



Photo by John Odegard

May 29

**Two-alarm houseboat fire on Lake Union:** The Fire Alarm Center received calls about a houseboat on fire on Lake Union, docked near the 1800 block of Westlake Ave. N. The fire had extended to an adjacent houseboat and a four-story commercial building. Crews quickly got the fire under control.

Jan. 13

**Two-alarm fire in Crown Hill neighborhood:** Firefighters battled a fire in a one-story vacant building in the 300 block of NW 85th St. The fire had begun to extend to buildings to the north and east, and crews were forced to take a defensive position when the roof started to collapse. Fortunately, there were no injuries.

April 26

**Water rescue at Magnuson Park:** A diver had not been seen for an hour and 45 minutes following a dive exercise. SFD fireboats, rescue boats and several crews responded from land. A private vessel located the missing diver floating and pulled them aboard, and transferred him to our crews upon SFD arrival. He was transported in critical condition to the hospital.

May 6

**Two-alarm fire in Ravenna neighborhood:** Crews were dispatched to a fire in an apartment complex in the 900 block of NE 63rd St. They found heavy smoke and flames coming from a window of a unit on the third floor. Firefighters took an offensive fire attack strategy and extinguished the fire within an hour and 40 minutes. Water damage caused displacement of 26 units.



Photo by John Odegard



## June 10

### **Two-alarm fire in Chinatown-International District**

**neighborhood:** Firefighters arrived to find smoke and flames coming from a two-story vacant building in the 1000 block of S. Jackson St. They took a defensive attack, putting water on the fire from the exterior of the building. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

## July 9

### **Brush fire in Georgetown neighborhood:**

The Fire Alarm Center received multiple 911 calls reporting a brush fire that had spread to a nearby RV and several semitrucks with attached trailers parked along E. Marginal Way S. Upon arrival, firefighters also observed the fire was impinging on high-energy wires, and at least three utility poles had been knocked down. Seattle City Light shut down the power, and crews worked quickly to extinguish the flames. Within an hour, the fire was under control.

## June 4

### **Fatal fire in Ravenna neighborhood:**

Crews responded to the same apartment building – now vacant – in the 900 block of NE 63rd St. that caught fire on May 6. As they arrived on scene, a person who had escaped the fire told responders that there were more people on the fourth floor. Crews worked quickly to raise ladders and rescued one person via the ladder and two by escorting them down the main stairway. Unfortunately, an adult female who was inside at the time the fire broke out was pronounced deceased at the scene.



Photo by John Odegard

## July 13

### **Two-alarm fire in Columbia City neighborhood:**

An apartment building under construction caught fire in the 3300 block of Claremont Ave. S. The first units on scene reported the flames had spread throughout the entire structure. The fire extended to a home immediately to the north of the property and to several cars on the south end. The intense heat and downed power lines forced firefighters to attack the fire from a defensive posture.



Photo by John Odegard

Sept. 11

**Two-alarm fire in Rainier Beach neighborhood:** An early morning fire broke out in a two-story vacant building in the 9200 block of Renton Ave S. The first units on scene reported flames visible on both floors and observed the roof and southern wall were at risk of collapse. Firefighters successfully prevented the fire from spreading to nearby homes.

Aug. 16

**Two-alarm fire in First Hill neighborhood:** Heavy smoke was reported on arrival in a three-story vacant building in the 1700 block of Belmont Ave. The fire had entered the void spaces of the building and extended to the roof, along with an occupied adjacent apartment building to the west. Seattle Fire encouraged nearby residents to close their windows and doors to prevent smoke exposure.

*Sign-up to receive emergency notifications at [alert.seattle.gov](http://alert.seattle.gov)*

Aug. 23

**Three-alarm fire in Genesse Park neighborhood:** Crews fought a fire in a home under construction in the 4000 block of 43rd Ave. S., which had extended to two adjacent homes north and south of the construction site. More than 100 firefighters worked to get the fire under control and evacuate impacted homes. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported.



Photo by John Odegard

Sept. 9

**Two-alarm fire in North Greenlake neighborhood:** A fire occurred in a 13-unit condominium complex in the 8800 block of Nesbit Ave. N. When firefighters arrived on scene, they reported flames had extended through all three floors of the building and toward a second condominium complex to the south. Crews worked quickly to evacuate both buildings and put water on the fire.



Photo by John Odegard



## Nov. 18

**Water rescue at Be'er Sheva Park:** The Fire Alarm Center received a call reporting a vehicle in the water at the park's boat launch. One occupant had escaped on their own and the other occupant was unaccounted for. Rescue swimmers, divers and rescue watercraft were deployed, and the patient was found after 30 minutes. They were transported to the hospital in critical condition.

## Nov. 19

**Rescue extrication in north end:** A bomb cyclone struck the region, toppling trees and taking down power lines. This resulted in a tree falling onto a car at NE 100th St. and 35th Ave. NE. Firefighters worked quickly to extricate the driver, who fortunately walked away with only minor injuries. Just as they removed the trapped driver, another tree fell behind the ladder truck. Crews used chain saws to remove the tree and return to service.

## Nov. 5

### **Trench rescue in North Green Lake neighborhood:**

Firefighters responded to a construction worker trapped in a trench next to a residence in the 1300 block of N. 80th St. Crews arrived to find an adult male in a five-foot trench that was pinned down by a tree stump and root system. They worked carefully to stabilize the trench and extricate the patient. He was transported to the hospital in stable condition.



## Dec. 12

**Elevator rescue in downtown:** Firefighters responded to a high-rise apartment building in the 1300 block of 4th Ave. and discovered a power outage had shut down all elevators in the building. The incident was upgraded to a rope rescue response when firefighters found three people trapped in an elevator that stopped in a blind shaft (no door access) near the 6th floor. They set-up a rope rescue platform from floor 21 and rappelled approximately 200-feet down the elevator to rescue the occupants.

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

## REMEMBERING DR. MICHAEL K. COPASS

The field of emergency medicine lost a pioneer when Dr. Michael K. Copass passed away in July 2024.

Dr. Copass started his career at the UW School of Medicine in 1969 as a neurology resident, and he went on to hold various prestigious positions, including director of Emergency Services at Harborview Medical Center, medical director of Seattle Fire Medic One, and medical director of Airlift Northwest. As director of the UW Medic One Paramedic Training at Harborview program, he shaped the careers of countless paramedics along with establishing one of the most rigorous and highly-regarded paramedic training programs in the U.S.

Dr. Copass, along with the late Dr. Leonard Cobb, truly revolutionized pre-hospital care in Seattle and across the nation with their contributions.



Dr. Copass will long be remembered for setting - and modeling - the highest standard of care for patients and highest expectations for those who provide their care.





## MEDIC ONE FOUNDATION

50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 2024, the Medic One Foundation proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of dedication to enhancing pre-hospital emergency care. Since its inception in 1974, the foundation has invested over \$35 million in programs such as paramedic training, innovative research and the provision of lifesaving equipment. This commitment has significantly improved patient outcomes and saved countless lives in our community. To mark this special occasion, the Foundation celebrated at its annual Lifesavers Gala, honoring the incredible impact of its supporters, paramedics and lifesaving mission. We want to again acknowledge our long relationship with the Medic One Foundation and the incredible support for Seattle Fire's Medic One program.

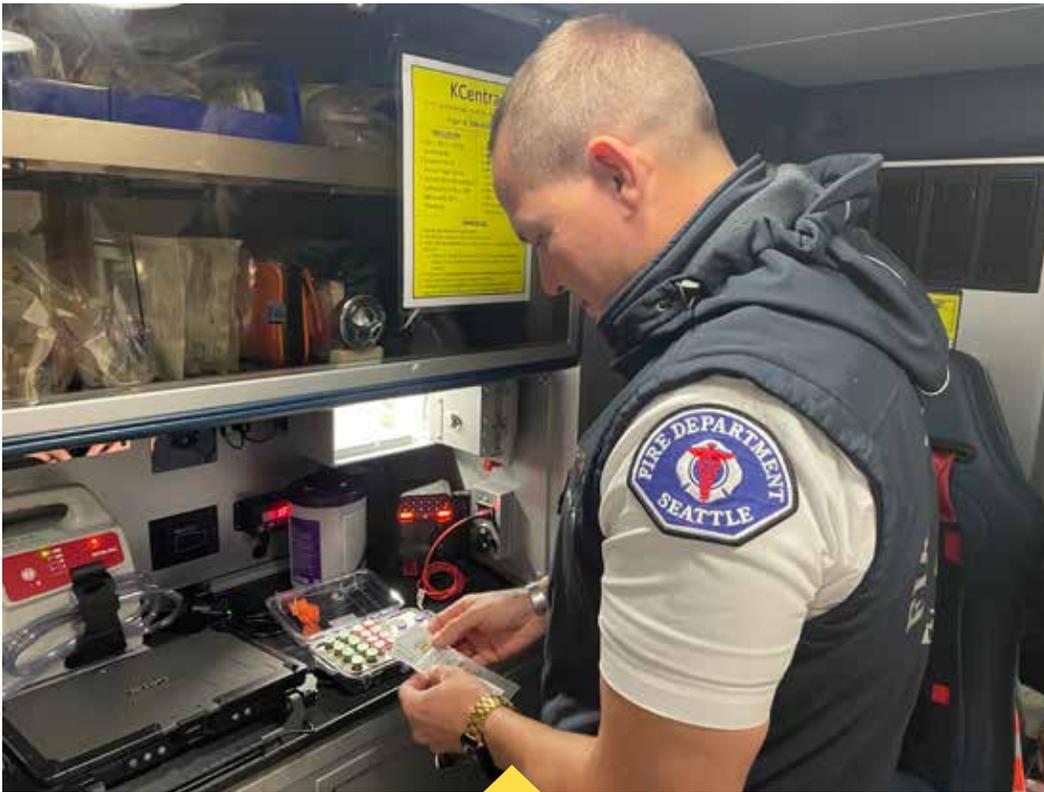


### PARAMEDIC CLASS 50

Seattle Fire welcomed four new paramedics in July 2024 as Paramedic Class 50 graduated. Paramedic students from seven agencies were trained through the UW Paramedic Training Program at Harborview, where they receive more than 2,000 hours of instruction, nearly double the national recommendation.

Along with their classmates from other fire and EMS agencies, they collectively amassed more than 12,400 patient contacts in the field and responded to more than 370 cardiac arrest patients. Seattle Fire is honored to support all of the paramedic training students through their time riding our Medic One units and being mentored by our paramedics.

Thank you to the Medic One Foundation for providing the financial support needed for our paramedics to become trained through this program and the ongoing support the foundation lends to the region's paramedics.



## BUPRENORPHINE PILOT PROGRAM

Seattle Fire became the first fire department in the state to administer buprenorphine when responding to suspected opioid overdoses. The pilot began in March 2024 when an initial group of paramedics were trained to deliver the medication, which acts to block the effects of opioids on brain receptors and alleviates withdrawal symptoms.

Many patients who receive naloxone – commonly referred to as Narcan – experience immediate withdrawal symptoms. Buprenorphine provides the gift of time, allowing Seattle Fire’s trained Health 99 team to respond to the scene and talk to patients about entering treatment or accepting other services.

A single dose of buprenorphine provides 24 to 48 hours of protection from opioid overdose. Regular use of buprenorphine has been shown to cut long term mortality from opioid addiction in half.

In October, the department was approved to expand the pilot to train additional firefighter/EMT-B’s working with Health 99 to administer the drug, becoming the first in the nation to do so.

Our thanks to the Washington State Department of Health for authorizing Seattle Fire and other EMS providers to use this innovative approach to the opioid crisis and help people recover.



## OVERDOSE UPDATE

Overdoses remain a significant concern for the City of Seattle. Many resources have been pulled together to provide a better strategy for responding to the suspected overdoses, whether from opioids or other substances. The City and service providers are working together to add more capacity for treatment and recovery, and innovative programs such as Seattle Fire administering buprenorphine is restoring hope for those who have been affected. Overall numbers for suspected overdoses (all substances) and opioid overdoses declined in 2024:

<b>RESPONSE TOTALS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>All overdoses</b>	5,109	6,538	<b>5,203</b>
<i>Suspected opioid overdose</i>	2,516	3,806	<b>3,016</b>



## GRANT FOR PULSEPOINT APPLICATION

Thanks to a grant from the Medic One Foundation, Seattle Fire continues to partner with PulsePoint. This app allows community members to track incidents occurring in their neighborhoods and also send alerts when a community member needs CPR. It works by sending alerts to PulsePoint app subscribers who are within a geographic area near a reported CPR call to 911. Look for the PulsePoint app in Google Play and the Apple App store.

# FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Prevention Division's (FPD) two most important roles are to prevent fires and other life safety emergencies before they happen, and to reduce the impact of emergencies that do occur. We do this by providing education and by enforcing the safety provisions contained in the Seattle Fire Code. Our work helps protect our communities and workers from fires, explosions and dangerous conditions. Our goal is to help everyone in Seattle stay safer at home, at work and wherever they go.

## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

FPD developed Seattle Fire's first official Community Risk Assessment (CRA). Seattle Fire has long practiced data-informed decision-making, however the CRA moves us to the next level of strategic planning and program evaluation as a best practice.

Community risk reduction represents a collaborative effort between Seattle Fire, other city departments, external partner agencies and the public. The CRA incorporates key information about the population we serve, our critical infrastructure, building inventory and condition, and incident data from a wide range of sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, King County Assessor, U.S. Department of Transportation and department data.

In addition to the CRA, FPD created an online community risk assessment dashboard for the public to research and learn about the

community and department programs and responses. This dashboard provides information at the neighborhood level and incorporates tools that show risks for different populations, including the elderly, people with lower income, disabilities, language accessibility or racial diversity. In 2025 and beyond, FPD will help facilitate the department's approach to developing programs that reduce our risks and evaluating those efforts.

## DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

Protecting the public and firefighters from derelict and dangerous buildings was one of Seattle Fire's top priorities in 2024. Vacant buildings that are not properly maintained or secured from entry create safety hazards for neighbors, the community and first responders. FPD maintains a list of dangerous and derelict buildings. Our inspectors provide education and enforcement to property owners.

Our goal is that property owners properly demolish or fix their buildings so they no longer violate fire code. When dangerous and abandoned buildings are demolished, new buildings and housing can be built. If needed, Seattle Fire refers cases to the City Attorney's Office for court orders to achieve safety or demolition. In 2024, FPD worked closely with the Mayor and Council to give the Fire Chief more tools to protect the community from dangerous buildings, including through demolition. As a result of this hard work, 60 dangerous buildings were either demolished (42 buildings) or restored to safety (18 buildings) in 2024.



**21,033**

fire inspections logged

**25,644**

fire protection systems tracked

**260**

fire incidents investigated by FIU

## PREVENTABLE OR "FALSE" ALARMS

Seattle Fire responds to more than 10,000 false alarms per year. This high volume of preventable alarms may not seem consequential, however it represents a true challenge. In a fire or medical emergency, every second of delay has a negative impact on our chance of saving a patient's life or limiting the spread and damage caused by fire.

In 2024, FPD focused on enforcement and outreach. We tracked maintenance efforts in more than 1,000 fire alarm systems, worked with hundreds of property owners to encourage them to voluntarily test and repair their systems, and also tripled the number of citations issued, to a total of 596 citations. We also offer building owners an opportunity to reduce their citation penalties by investing in their fire alarm system. In 2024, a total of 19 fire alarm systems were improved as a result of the invest-in-lieu process, which means they will transmit fewer preventable alarms in the future.

## SPECIAL EVENTS & TEMPORARY ASSEMBLY PERMITS

The FPD Special Events unit is a crucial part of the City's team for large events in Seattle, including Seafair, PrideFest, New Year's at the Space Needle, major concerts and professional sporting events. Our inspectors help event organizers plan for safe events, and during events, we are onsite to spot and remove possible safety issues such as overcrowding, unsafe use of indoor fireworks or chained and locked exits.

FPD officers provided onsite safety inspections for roughly 2,700 special events in 2024, including fairs, festivals and farmers market. We also issued more than 1,500 permits related to temporary events, including food trucks, weddings, conventions and concerts.

## SEATTLE FIRE CODE

The Seattle Fire Code provides fire and life safety standards for buildings, construction, events and certain operations and hazardous materials. The Seattle Fire Code also helps protect Seattleites' property and ensure firefighter and emergency responder safety during emergency operations.

FPD develops the Seattle Fire Code together with the Seattle Fire Code Advisory Board, a board of 15 members who represent different industries, labor groups and the public. The board members are nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. In 2024, FPD code experts also worked with the State Building Code Council to adopt the Fire Code for Washington state, participated in national committees working to update the International Fire Code and provided input on national standards governed by the National Fire Protection Association.

## FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) is dispatched to all structure fires. Generally, the FIU investigates fire incidents involving: (1) serious injuries or fatalities; (2) potential criminal activity; and (3) estimated property loss exceeding \$75,000. In 2024, the FIU investigated the origin and cause of 260 fire incidents. Of these, the FIU determined 93 were accidental; 107 were intentionally set; 59 could not be determined; and one was due to natural causes. We work closely with the Seattle Police Department when potential arson or other criminal activity is identified. In 2024, there were eight fatalities related to fires.

**\$19 MILLION**

estimated real property loss for fire incidents

**\$31 MILLION**

estimated amount of property saved for fire incidents



## SYSTEMS TESTING

In case of emergency, your life may depend on whether the fire alarm or sprinkler in your building activates. FPD provides oversight to testing and repairs of more than 25,000 fire protection systems in approximately 13,000 buildings in Seattle. More than 4,000 of those systems were repaired during 2024, helping ensure that these systems will work to save lives and property. At the end of 2024, there were still more than 4,000 systems with deficiencies in Seattle, so a high volume of work remains.

## BUILDING INSPECTIONS

As part of our annual building inspection program, FPD coordinates no-cost fire safety inspections for commercial, industrial and multi-family residential building in Seattle (roughly 15,000 buildings each year). The first inspection is performed by on-duty firefighters. If firefighters observe fire code violations that are not quickly resolved, they contact FPD for follow up. FPD also leads the department's activity when the public contacts Seattle Fire with questions and concerns about safety violations. FPD's team responds to these complaints by providing an onsite inspection and, if there are fire code violations, working with the owner to achieve safety.

In 2024, FPD officers handled nearly 1,500 inspections to resolve violations referred by Operations and the public or to support programs such as night club safety and derelict buildings. The FPD also conducted over 877 high-rise inspections and issued 832 permits for assembly occupancies such as theaters, galleries and restaurants.

## FIRE SAFETY IN NEW AND REMODELED BUILDINGS

In 2024, fire protection engineers reviewed more than 1,600 architectural plans and roughly 140,000 fire alarm or sprinkler devices to ensure that essential fire safety requirements are included in when new buildings are being designed. The New Construction Inspection team performed roughly 4,100 inspections for buildings undergoing construction or remodels. Inspectors work to reduce the number of fires at construction sites that can be deadly, since normal fire protection systems such as alarms and sprinklers are not yet installed. They also help ensure that new and remodeled fire protection systems meet the fire code so the systems will work when needed to save lives and protect property.

## SPECIAL HAZARDS

FPD staff issued nearly 5,100 HazMat permits for a variety of hazardous operations including the storage of propane, gasoline, diesel and other fuels; welding and other spark producing work; use of flammable gases; and laboratories with numerous chemicals on site. As part of the permitting process we provide inspections to help ensure site safety, along with a list of safe operating conditions.

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



**201,776**

calls to the fire alarm center

**44**

firefighter recruits completed  
recruit school

**76,254**

hours of department training

# FIRE ALARM CENTER



The Fire Alarm Center (FAC) represents the first contact callers have with Seattle Fire first responders. Patient, caring and knowledgeable, FAC dispatchers use their experience as a trained Seattle firefighter/EMT to skillfully work through the various protocols to quickly send the right resources.

By policy, the FAC is staffed with seven members working each of the four 24-shifts, including a shift lieutenant. With full-time staffing lower than the policy sets, the department fills open positions with pool dispatchers, trainees and dispatchers able to work overtime.

To address the shortage, the FAC is internally recruiting new dispatchers and has scheduled multiple training classes to increase staff numbers.

The FAC fielded 201,776 calls (emergency and administrative) in 2024. To support dispatchers in their stressful role, they receive resiliency training and support from the department's Behavioral Health program.

## FAC FIRE AND RESCUE PROTOCOLS

The FAC implemented Fire and Rescue Protocols in 2024 through our Corti dispatch protocol software. These protocols form the questions that are asked of callers and create standardization of call processing for fires and rescues to communicate pre-arrival information to the caller for the safest actions during an emergency.

## NURSE NAVIGATION

2024 marked the almost second full year of our partnership with GMR and its Nurse Navigation program. This innovative approach to call triage allows FAC dispatchers to route non-emergency medical calls to a state-registered nurse who can better assess the caller's needs.

As total 911 call volume increases each year, the nurse can spend more time evaluating the caller's symptoms, provide self-care information, schedule local medical appointments and Telehealth, and arrange ambulance rides if appropriate.

# TRAINING

The Training Division is responsible for training all Seattle Fire personnel, from newly-hired recruits to tenured members. We strive to meet applicable standards while providing timely and relevant training to all personnel, with the goal of delivering exceptional fire, rescue and emergency medical services to our community.

## RECRUIT TRAINING

Training conducted two recruit schools in 2024, providing comprehensive training in Firefighter 1 and 2 skills, including hoseline operation, ladders, forcible entry, ventilation, search, apparatus driving and EMS.

Forty-four recruits graduated from training, having demonstrated the skills, determination and commitment necessary for serving Seattle.

## OPERATIONS TRAINING

In 2024, Operations training facilitated 76,254 combined hours of training to Seattle Fire Department

members, ensuring that every firefighter is prepared for a wide range of incidents and emergencies. This represents an unwavering commitment to excellence in training, reflecting the department's dedication to maintaining the highest standards of readiness.

## STAFF

Recruit training is staffed by the recruit training coordinator, two lead recruit instructors and guest instructors, who are temporarily assigned as needed when classes are in session.

Operations training is staffed by the battalion chief of Training, the operations training coordinator, two operations training lieutenants, one EMS training coordinator, the driver training coordinator and four operations training firefighters.

All Training Division operations are supported by a dedicated staff of administrative professionals.

# COMMISSARY AND SERVICES

**3,131**

hoses tested

**260**

ladders tested

**1,119**

appliances tested

**1,000**

SCBA bottles tested



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE

Every year, hundreds of firefighters across the Pacific Northwest undergo rigorous structural collapse training, transforming from basic rescue personnel into highly skilled collapse rescue technicians. This intensive program equips them with the expertise to lead heavy rescue operations in the most extreme disaster situations, including large-scale building collapses.

Participants learn to stabilize, lift, shore, cut and breach heavy concrete and steel structural components using specialized equipment. They also develop the ability to conduct systematic searches and extrications of victims trapped deep within rubble piles or heavily compromised structures.

This level of expertise cannot be taught solely in a classroom setting. Instead, it requires hands-on experience in a specially designed collapse training environment. Built using cranes, this site incorporates multiple layers of heavy concrete and steel structural elements, replicating the worst-case scenario, a complete building collapse. Before training begins, structural engineers evaluate the site to ensure that it remains stable and does not fail precipitously or catastrophically during training exercises.

By providing firefighters with this advanced training, the program ensures that when disaster strikes, highly trained professionals are ready to respond, saving lives in the most challenging and hazardous conditions.

## FLEETS & FACILITIES

- The City of Seattle is moving to replace fossil fuel vehicles with electric vehicles, so we installed EV charging stations at various fire stations throughout the city for EV Fleet expansion. When all projects are done in 2025, Seattle Fire will have 63 EV chargers on premises. The \$1.25 million in funding came from the Drive Clean Grant Funds, with zero cost to Seattle Fire.
- Fleets submitted orders for four new ladder trucks and is anticipating current engine orders to arrive soon to replace the older first-line apparatus.
- Mobile Integrated Health welcomed a new apparatus (Health1) in 2024, which includes a system for wheelchair movement and extreme weather shelter during patient evaluations.
- Seattle Fire Station 31 is currently responding from the interim Fire Station 31 at 10503 Interlake Avenue N. while a permanent station is being built at 11302 Meridian Avenue N. The new station, slated to be completed in late 2025, will serve residents in the rapidly growing North Seattle area. This new facility is 22,000 square feet and will be the home of Engine 31, Ladder 5 and Medic 31, with an in-building electrical grid that can support a future EV fleet.





**130** station tours

**150** community visits

**36** apartment fire safety presentations

**296** CPR classes

**21** firefighter story times



# PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Affairs Division provides public education and information, community outreach, media relations and offers CPR training to members of the community. We coordinate all of the fire station tours, school visits, parades and many other events and activities involving Seattle Fire personnel. We also manage Seattle Fire's internal and external communications, including social media accounts, publications and the website.

## MEDIC 2

Seattle Fire's bystander CPR program provides low-cost certification and free hands-only courses to Seattle residents, schools and organizations. In 2024, Medic 2 taught 5,535 people the life-saving skills of CPR. To support the increased demand for classes, Medic 2 hired 28 new instructors, several of whom can instruct in additional languages. The program began offering community classes at Seattle Parks and Recreation Community Centers and held its first community class in Spanish.

If you are interested in scheduling a CPR class for your organization or to sign up for a community class, visit [seattle.gov/Medic2](http://seattle.gov/Medic2). Public classes are also listed on the City's calendar app, Trumba.

## SMOKE ALARMS

Public Affairs worked with the Mayor's Office of Innovation and Performance to include Seattle Fire's free smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) combination alarm program on the City's Affordable Seattle portal. This site provides information about free and discounted services available to Seattle residents.

In 2024, we installed 106 smoke/CO alarms and 13 strobe smoke alarms for deaf/hard of hearing residents. If you or someone you know needs a smoke alarm, visit [www.seattle.gov/affordable](http://www.seattle.gov/affordable) to see if you qualify.

## CONDUCTED 911 SURVEY

"Have you ever called 911 for a fire or medical emergency, and did you receive the response you expected?" was among a handful of questions we invited Seattle residents to answer in a brief online survey in fall 2024. With as diverse a community that we have, we know that not everyone knows when to call 911 or what to expect when the fire department arrives. We are using the responses to help refine some of our educational materials and presentations around 911.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We know that children, immigrants and refugees, lower-income households, older adults and limited English speakers are among those most vulnerable to fire injury. To help get fire prevention and safety information to them, we spend a significant amount of time in the community at scheduled events and activities. Among our 2024 activities:

- Our Community Fire Safety Advocates, a group of bilingual community leaders trained in fire safety, attended 15 events and provided fire safety information and demonstrations to 4,200 residents.
- We held Fire Safety Fairs at Fire Stations 26, 28 and 39, which attracted 1,200 children and their caregivers to meet their neighborhood firefighters, learn about smoke alarms, develop fire escape plans and meet the department's therapy dogs.
- Our signature summer event, the Fire Day at MOHAI, welcomed 2,000 people to see the exhibits, tour the fireboat, explore fire apparatus and hear the Fire Chief read a fire safety story. Our thanks to MOHAI and sponsors for making this event free to all.
- We joined the Boys & Girls Club of King County and Starbucks at their back-to-school event, engaging with 1,500 children and caregivers.
- We provided 36 fire safety presentations to apartment residents, primarily in older adult and subsidized housing sites.

## AFTER THE FIRE

Residents who experience a significant residential fire may need help navigating the path to services and returning home. Seattle Fire updated its After the Fire handbook that is given to residents to support them through this process. The book features information for how to know if it's safe to re-occupy your home, how to clean and restore contents, and provides important contact numbers for further assistance all in one place. To request a copy, email [fireinfo@seattle.gov](mailto:fireinfo@seattle.gov).

# FIRE CONNECT PODCAST



Watch the episodes online  
[youtube.com/SeattleFireDepartment](https://youtube.com/SeattleFireDepartment)



## FIRE CONNECT PODCAST

The Public Affairs public information team partnered with the department's workforce development coordinator to develop and produce a five-part podcast series to support Seattle Fire's 2024 recruitment campaign for entry-level firefighter/EMTs. The Fire Connect podcasts featured firefighters discussing being a woman in the fire service, preparing for the hiring process, some of our special programs, promotional opportunities and the recruit school experience. Although the application window is now closed, the videos are available to watch on Seattle Fire's YouTube channel.

## KING COUNTY FIRE CHIEF ASSOCIATION SUPPORT

The fire chiefs in King County have made a commitment to recruiting job seekers who would be excellent firefighters and EMTs but may not have seen themselves in this career path. Key to recruiting a diverse range of candidates is marketing the two workshops the King County Fire Chiefs Association holds each year. Public Affairs has developed the marketing and communications plan for the workshop, which led to nearly 270 prospective candidates attending in 2024.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

The division led the coordination for several major press events including firefighter recruitment; a groundbreaking for the new Fire Station 31; the buprenorphine pilot and later program expansion to include firefighter/EMT-B; vacant building legislation; new landscaped garden at Fire Station 41 and highlighting the department's first father/daughter duo. Public Affairs also supported several press events hosted by the Seattle Fire Foundation regarding the launch of the rescue watercraft program and donation of thermal imaging cameras. The public information team responded to thousands of media inquiries in response to significant incidents, new programs and recent initiatives.



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**Chapter 35.103 RCW:** Revised Code of Washington Chapter 35.103 was passed into law during the 2005 legislative session (House Bill 1756). This law mandated certain response criteria be established and measured by fire departments across the State of Washington beginning in 2007 with an analysis of responses in 2006. The requirement was passed and is now the law for all substantially career fire departments. The purpose of this law is to report to the Governing Body of each fire jurisdiction, as well as to the residents of any given area, how the fire department is doing in meeting its established emergency response standards. These standards take into consideration a number of response types: A) Fire Suppression, B) Emergency Medical Services - Basic Life Support (BLS), C) Emergency Medical Services - Advanced Life Support (ALS), D) Special Operations (i.e. Hazardous Materials response and Technical Rescue response), E) Aircraft rescue and firefighting, F) Marine rescue and firefighting, G) Wildland firefighting.

