



Medford Fire Department 2005 Service Activities

Executive Summary
Dave Bierwiler, Fire Chief



The 2005 annual report reflects the emergency and business service activities of the Medford Fire Department. This information was collected from emergency incident reports, computer aided dispatch records, business activity accounting records, and from the department training records.

For the 12th consecutive year, the department's emergency response activities have continued to increase. During 2005, responses increased from 7,515 to 9,575. The additional 2,060 emergency incidents reflect a 27% increase over the previous year. Conservative projections indicate that the department's incident responses will increase to over 10,000 during 2006.

The response time goal of the department is to reach at least 80% of all emergency incidents within five minutes or less, from the time the department has been notified until it arrives. A slight improvement was seen in 2005 over 2004 (62% vs. 60.7%.) The five year trend, however, indicates that response times will most likely continue to trend down (2001 - 68% vs. 2005 - 62%.)

The Fire Department has reached the limit of its ability to adapt to the impact of this continuous growth of our community. As a result, the capability of the fire department to service the emergency requests continues on a downward trend.

A fire station location response time study was conducted this year. This initiative was based on a previous Graphical Information Systems (GIS) study which indicated that response times could be significantly improved by locating a fire station in the City's central core area. A response unit was staffed and located at the American Red Cross on Hawthorne Street (*Fire Station 1*) in the City's core service area. During the last seven months of 2005, this fire station responded to 88% of all emergency incidents within five minutes. The results of this study coincided precisely with previous studies, and the results should prove beneficial for future fire station location planning.

Non-emergency business related activities increased during calendar year 2005 as well. The accomplishments achieved were due to the commitment and dedication of the hard working firefighting, fire prevention, and fire support staff personnel. While emergency response activities occupied a bigger percentage of time, the department's personnel were able to "keep up" and to even exceed last years business related activities by 17%. The department administers and monitors 81 different business functions. Everything from training, apparatus maintenance, and pre-development sprinkler plan reviews, to the department's SafeKids coalition efforts, enjoyed both positive and productive results.

On another positive note, there were no citizen fire fatalities occurring in the City of Medford. Since 1981, there have been a total of 32 fire related deaths. Protecting the citizens in Medford continues to be the prime mission of the Medford Fire & Rescue Department. Through various public education and code enforcement initiatives administered by the Fire Prevention Bureau, fire safety in the community is continuously improving.

For questions regarding the 2005 Annual Report, you are welcome to contact Fire Chief Dave Bierwiler at (541) 774-2300 or via E-Mail at Dave.Bierwiler@cityofmedford.org

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