



Fire Department

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Alderman Michael J. Murphy
Chairman, Finance and Personnel Committee
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject: *Responses to Finance and Personnel Committee Inquiries*

Dear Alderman Murphy:

Per the October 16, 2006, hearing on the Milwaukee Fire Department's (MFD) 2007 Proposed Budget, the following are answers to the questions raised by Committee members.

1) Provide examples of the fire cause/arson investigation teams utilized in other communities.

A collaborative report by the United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association found that 94% of fire departments in cities of similar size to Milwaukee are currently involved in determining if a fire was deliberately set.

The most comprehensive review of other communities and their support of fire investigation units are found in a summary report from the United States Fire Administration (2004). During a period from 1989 to 2004, 143 state and local agencies were provided technical assistance with the goal to improve coordination between fire, police, and other agencies to build stronger fire cause investigation units for their communities. Over 80 cities, including Orlando, Florida, Buffalo, New York, Omaha, Nebraska, Louisville, Kentucky, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, San Francisco, California, Charlotte, North Carolina, Portland, Oregon, Cleveland, Ohio, Toledo, Ohio, Atlanta, Georgia, and Denver, Colorado participated in this effort.

2) What are the differences between Milwaukee's fire cause statistics and national statistics?

A recent U.S. Fire Administration report disclosed the leading cause of all fire incidents in the United States as "arson" at 28% (U.S. Fire Administration-National Fire Data Center: Fire in the United States 1992-2001; October 2004).

In comparison, the leading cause of all fire incidents in Milwaukee to 2006 year-to-date is "undetermined" at 39%, followed by "under investigation" at 29%.

3) For each of the MFD's nineteen fire education programs, list the number of staff and hours dedicated to each.

In 2005, the Milwaukee Fire Department dedicated approximately 14,691 staff hours to conducting the department's nineteen fire education programs. Attachment A details the program activity, the number of times each program was delivered, the number of contacts made, and the total hours dedicated to that program by delivery type.

For the committee's information, "staff delivery" indicates the program was conducted by the MFD's Fire Education staff, while "field delivery" indicates the program was conducted by a fire suppression company assigned to that program for a period of time. Finally, an "out of service" designation indicates that the company providing the program was not available for emergency response, while an "in service" designation indicates that the company was available for dispatch.

All of the department's fire education programs are conducted by on-duty personnel, with the exception of the Explorer Post program, which is conducted by off-duty members on a voluntary basis.

4) Provide the MFD's penetrating trauma statistics for the prior three-year period.

Milwaukee Fire Department							
Number of Life Threatening Penetrating Trauma by Type							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTALS
Gunshot Wounds	312	281	307	266	287	318	1,771
# Lived	294	269	294	241	266	285	1,649
# Died	18	12	13	25	21	33	122
% Lived	94.23%	95.73%	95.77%	90.60%	92.68%	89.62%	93.11%
Stabbings	132	131	130	88	125	130	736
# Lived	129	130	128	84	123	123	717
# Died	3	1	2	4	2	7	19
% Lived	97.73%	99.24%	98.46%	95.45%	98.40%	94.62%	97.42%
TOTAL PATIENTS	444	412	437	354	412	448	2,507
% Lived	95.27%	96.84%	96.57%	91.81%	94.42%	91.07%	94.38%

Coding Note: Gunshot Wounds and Stabbing/Cuttings are specifically identified in the Cause of Injury section of the patient care record. All patients with a traumatic Primary Working Assessment require a specific Cause of Injury code.

Includes traumatic PNBs who died in field following resuscitation attempts.
 Excludes traumatic DOAs (trauma patients who did not have resuscitation attempted).

5) Estimate the special duty (overtime) costs related to the Incident Safety Officer positions.

The estimated special duty costs related to the creation of three Incident Safety Officer positions in 2007 totals \$42,328.00 (estimate assumes 22 "hired" days per Officer @ 2006 rates). These costs will be funded through the department's special duty appropriation.

6) Of the structure fires experienced in 2005, how many were of a major/minor nature?

In 2005, the department responded to 647 structure fires. Using the amount of property loss as a determining factor, the City experienced 278 incidents of a minor nature (property loss < \$5,000) and 369 incidents of a major nature (property loss > \$5,000).

The following table details the property use and severity of these incidents.

**Milwaukee Fire Department
 2005 Property Loss Due to Fire**

<i>Property Use</i>	<i>Incidents: Loss < \$5000 Total</i>	<i>Incidents: Loss > \$5000 Total</i>	<i>Total # of Incidents</i>
<i>Residential</i>	190	303	493
<i>Storage</i>	61	35	96
<i>Undetermined</i>	0	3	3
<i>Assembly</i>	4	2	6
<i>Education</i>	2	3	5
<i>Health Care</i>	1	1	2
<i>Industrial</i>	1	0	1
<i>Manufacturing</i>	4	4	8
<i>Mercantile</i>	7	8	15
<i>Outside - Special Property</i>	3	3	6
<i>Property Use - Other</i>	5	7	12
Total	278	369	647

**ATTACHMENT A
Milwaukee Fire Department
Fire Education Programs - 2005 Detail**

PROGRAM	TYPE	TIMES DELIVERED	CONTACTS	PROGRAM TIME	TOTAL HOURS
Career and Recruitment	Individual	81	8,815	2 hours	162
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		63			126
<i>Field Delivery</i>	Out of Service	18			36
Eldersafe	Individual	8	723	3.5 hours	30
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		8			30
EMS / Health Fairs	Individual	25	3,300	4.5 hours	114
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		22			100
<i>Field Delivery</i>	Out of Service	3			14
Evacuation / Emer Prep	Individual	13	6,075	4 hours	52
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		13			52
Explorer Post	Volunteer				
FOCUS	Company	342	10,000+	3 hours	5,064
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		-			960
<i>Field Delivery</i>	Out of Service	342			4,104
Fire Apparatus Exhibitions	Company	63	40,000+	2 hours	504
<i>Field Delivery</i>	In Service	63			504
Fire Education Booths	Individual	106	44,562	3.5 hours	374
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		95			335
<i>Field Delivery</i>	Out of Service	11			39
Fire Extinguisher Training	Individual	23	1,079	4 hours	92
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		23			92
Operation First Responder	Company				
<i>Field Delivery</i>	In Service	Following incident response			
Historical Museum	Volunteer	2	150	4 hours	8
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		2			8
Juvenile Firesetter Program	Individual				
Occupational / Residential	Individual	55	4,355	2 hours	110
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		55			110
Multi Media Campaigns	Individual	70	300,000+	1 hour	70
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		70			70
Sesame Street Program	Individual	30	2,300	2.5 hours	151
<i>Staff Delivery</i>		27			135
<i>Field Delivery</i>	Out of Service	3			16
Survive Alive House	Company	180	14,000	5 hours	3,600
<i>Field Delivery</i>	Out of Service	180			3,600
Mobile Survive Alive House	Company	47	6900	5 hours	940
<i>Field Delivery</i>	Out of Service	47			940
Fire House Tours	Company	330	6500	1 hour	1,330
<i>Field Delivery</i>	In Service	330			1,330
Smoke Detector Hotline	Company	1,045	3100+	.5 hours	2,090
<i>Field Delivery</i>	In Service	1,045			2,090
Total Hours					14,691
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