



Department of Employee Relations

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To The Honorable
Public Safety Committee
Common Council
City of Milwaukee

Dear Committee Members:

Common Council File# 070854 contains a report relative to occupational injuries and illnesses in the City of Milwaukee for 2006. This supplementary report has been prepared to provide the Committee additional information relative to injuries within the Fire and Police departments for the same time period.

Milwaukee Fire Department

The number of recordable cases in the Milwaukee Fire Department decreased by 3.8% in 2006. This reduction contributed to the decrease in recordable cases in the entire City. While the number of recordable case is an important indicator of the effectiveness of safety initiatives in the workplace, the analysis of injuries at the Fire Department must also consider the type of duty when the injury occurs.

Data reported by the Fire Department to the National Fire Incident Reporting System since 2000 is summarized below. It is important to acknowledge that the data as reported does not use recordable cases as a measure but the actual number of claims reported by the employees, independent of whether medical treatment was sought or whether lost time was incurred.

Approximately 66% of all MFD injuries can be classified as “emergent” injuries. These injuries occur at the fire ground, at non fire emergencies and responding to incidents. Approximately 34% of injuries are considered to be non-emergent and they include injuries associated with training activities and inspection and chore related injuries that occur at the engine houses.

Type of Duty	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Injuries	776	740	713	713	734	826	955

EMERGENT INJURIES							
At the Fire Ground	311	286	288	272	284	303	409
At Non-Fire Emergency	154	174	146	178	165	217	210
Responding to Incident	32	27	22	20	21	30	43
Total Emergent	497 65%	487 66%	456 64%	470 66%	470 64%	550 66%	662 69%
NON EMERGENT INJURIES							
Training	72	47	74	52	79	63	64
Other on Duty	207	206	183	191	185	213	229
Total Non-Emergent	279 36%	253 34%	257 36%	243 34%	264 36%	276 33%	293 30%

Over the last 7 years the Milwaukee Fire Department has reported an average of 779 injuries to National Fire Incident Reporting System. In 2006, the department reported a total of 955 injuries, an increase of 15.6% over the total injuries reported in 2005.

In 2006 injuries at the fire ground accounted for 43% of all injuries. Injuries at the fire ground in 2006 increased by approximately 35% over fire ground injuries in 2005. However it is important to note that the number of injuries at the fire ground in Milwaukee are well below the industry standard at 51%.

The total number of emergent injuries in 2006 increased by approximately 20% from 550 in 2005 to 662 in 2006. Emergent injuries represented 69% of total injuries in 2006.

Injuries that occur at non fire emergencies, responding to EMS, rescue or hazmat calls, accounted for 22% of all injuries in 2006. The number of injuries in this classification went down by 3% in 2006 when compared to 2005. However, Milwaukee's injuries and non fire emergencies are still above the industry's standard at 15%.

Other on duty injuries (inspection and maintenance duties) accounted for approximately 24% of all injuries in 2006. This represents a small reduction from 2005 when they represented 26% of all injuries. However the actual number of other on duty injuries in 2006 increased by 16 from 2005. Furthermore, Milwaukee's other on duty injuries are still above the industry's standard at 18%.

Training injuries in 2006 accounted for 6.7% of all injuries. This represents a small reduction in the proportion of training injuries from 2005 when they represented 7.6% of all injuries. Milwaukee's training injuries are below the industry's standard at 9%.

Throughout 2006 and continuing in 2007, the Fire Department has engaged in a comprehensive risk management program aimed at increasing safety and preventing injuries. The key components of this program are outlined in the department's Risk Management Plan. The Plan includes policies and procedures in place to ensure that personal protective equipment is available and adequately used, that emergency incident rehabilitation services are provided at fire scenes as necessary, and that all safety alerts are immediately and directly communicated to all members.

Milwaukee Police Department

The number of recordable cases in the Milwaukee Police Department decreased by 5% from 316 in 2005 to 300 in 2006. This reduction contributed to the decrease in recordable cases in the entire City. While the number of recordable case is an important indicator of the effectiveness of safety initiatives in the workplace, the analysis of injuries at the Police Department must also consider the type of duty when the injury occurs.

The MPD tracks workplace injury claims using the following categories:

- Duty Hazard: strains, sprains, fractures, hearing loss, lacerations, contusions, stress, scrapes, cuts, etc.
- Accident: auto, squad, and pedestrian accidents.
- Exposure: contacts with blood, saliva, drugs and communicable diseases.
- Assaults: intentional injuries to officer with or without instruments, dog bites, spitting, and others.

The following table summarizes the number of injury claims since 2000.

Type of Duty when Injury Occurred	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Duty Hazard	626 64%	758 73%	583 67%	571 62%	546 71%	624 74%	712 78%
Accident	75 7.7%	85 8%	76 8.7%	68 7.4%	60 7.8%	79 9.4%	62 6.7%
Exposure	97 10%	87 8%	69 7.9%	108 11.7%	44 5.7%	78 9.3%	83 9%
Assaults	172 17.7%	109 10.4%	136 15.7%	170 18.5%	118 15.3%	59 7%	60 6.5%
Total	970	1039	864	917	768	840	917

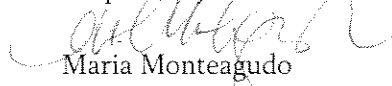
The average number of incidents since 2000 is 902. In 2006, there were 917 incidents, an increase of 9% over the total number of incidents in 2005. The majority of incidents (78%) can be classified as duty hazard injuries. These injuries increased by approximately 15% from 2005 to 2006.

Injuries stemming from accidents decreased by 21% from 79 in 2005 to 62 in 2006. Injuries stemming from assaults remained at the same level as 2005 when a sharp decline was experienced.

One of the areas of concern identified by the Police Department earlier this year was the significant number of recruits who were sustaining injuries while attending the training academy. Earlier this year, the Fire and Police Commission approved the addition of a mile and a half run to the Physical Ability Test for Police Officer. This additional component to the testing process may serve to screen out candidates who otherwise may not be suitable for employment or may be prone to injuries while attending the academy.

In light of concerns raised regarding an increasing number of Police Officer positions being used for light/restricted duty, the Police Department is currently reviewing the effectiveness and reasonableness of this program.

Respectfully submitted,


 Maria Monteagudo
 Employee Relations Director