

F.I.R.E. Measure
(Fire Incident Response Effectiveness)

**A Frontline Analysis
Of Increased Fire Risk
In The City Of Milwaukee**





Milwaukee Professional FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION Local 215

5625 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213-4287
Telephone: (414) 259-8000 Fax: (414) 259-0375

President
BOBBIE R. WEBBER

Vice-President
DEAN T. GONZALEZ

Secretary
MICHAEL E. TORPY

Treasurer
STEVEN J. BUKOWSKI

The City of Milwaukee has long been recognized as a leader in fire suppression and fire safety. In recent years, Mayor Tom Barrett has attacked the Milwaukee Fire Department's budget, relying on and often referring to the 2005 Matrix study, a flimsy and misleading consultant's report that appears to exist only to rubber-stamp the Mayor's desire to slash staffing on frontline Engine and Ladder Companies.

We, the membership of the Milwaukee Professional Firefighters Association, Local 215, hold the protection of the City of Milwaukee's citizens from the ravages of fire and the provision of a high level of EMS service as two of the most critical elements of Public Safety that Milwaukee can provide.

The Milwaukee Fire Department has struggled in recent years to provide the high level of fire protection that Milwaukeeans need. We have stretched and pushed and struggled to do more with less as Mayor Barrett continues his assault on our staffing. The Mayor does not want you to dig too deep on these issues, because he cannot provide the answers. He most certainly does not want to have to explain why your life and property are less important now than they were prior to his arrival.

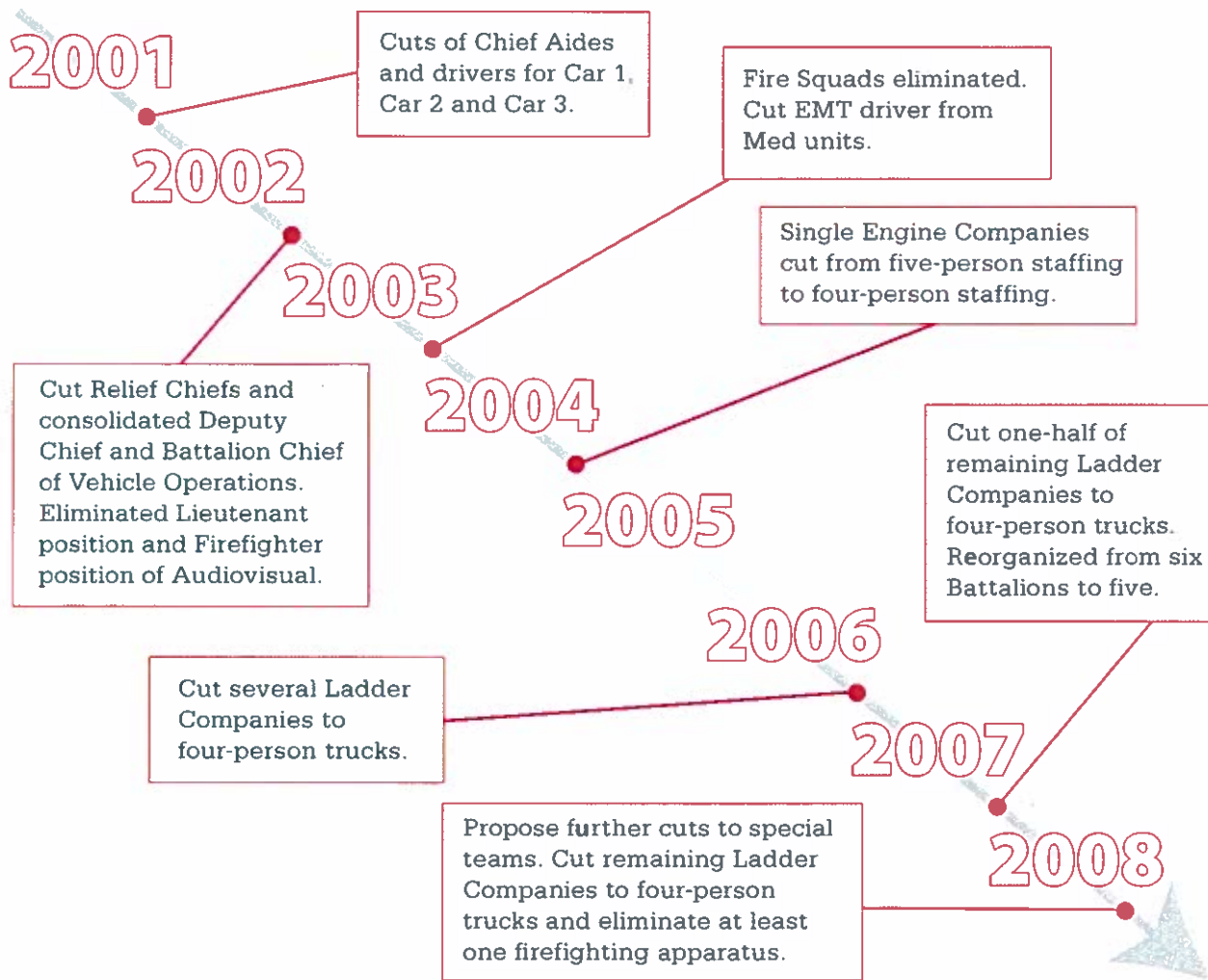
This frontline analysis evaluates data that is better suited to determine the effectiveness of firefighting resources. It digs deeper than the Matrix Study and offers evidence to counter the feeble contention that the Milwaukee Fire Department (and the safety of the public it serves) can continue to suffer staffing cuts. Pay close attention to Milwaukee's increased life and property loss to fire and the actual language used in the national staffing standard. Further, note the rise in injuries to firefighters over the last several years. This is hardly cost effective. The citizens of Milwaukee and the Common Council have been misled for too long.

Please read the following analysis and support your frontline Milwaukee Firefighters in their fight to provide you the firefighting capability and the life safety that you deserve. Remember, it is not what they cost, it's what they save!

Sincerely,
Your Frontline Firefighters

Table of Contents

| | |
|-------|---|
| 4 | Frontline Staffing Cuts |
| 5 | Mayor Barrett Proposes |
| 6 | Total Fires |
| 7 | Dollar Loss Per Fire |
| 8 | Civilian Deaths |
| 9 | Line Of Duty Deaths |
| 10-11 | Fire Department Suppression Services (NFPA 1710) |
| 12 | NFPA 1710 Summary |
| 13 | Firefighter Injuries |
| 14 | MFD Five-Person Trucks In Action |
| 15 | Five-Person Engine and Truck Studies |
| 16 | The Matrix Study Controversy |
| 17 | The Bottom Line |



Frontline Staffing Cuts Since 2000

| Position or Title | Positions Lost |
|---|----------------|
| Life-Saving Rescue Squads x 5 | 30 |
| EMT Drivers for Paramedic Units x 8 | 24 |
| Chief of Department Driver | 3 |
| Assistant Chief of Department Driver | 1 |
| Firefighting Deputy Chief Driver | 3 |
| Single Engine Company Firefighter x 20 | 60 |
| Ladder Company Firefighter x 8 | 24 |
| Audio-Visual Department Staff | 2 |
| Total Frontline Firefighter Positions Lost | 147 |

This represents well over 15% of Milwaukee Fire Fighting staffing. GONE!

Mayor Tom Barrett to Present Two Budgets to Aldermen

"In one budget, the city would hold the line on the solid waste fee but chop deeply into services, by closing two neighborhood libraries, leaving 56 police officers' jobs vacant and eliminating two firefighting companies."

"In the other budget, the city would raise the garbage fee by 28%, keep all 12 neighborhood libraries open and maintain current police strength, but would still shut down one fire company."

"Despite the cut in ladder truck crews and the elimination of one engine company, the mayor's preferred budget would keep some firefighters as "floaters" to fill in for sick or vacationing colleagues. That version of the budget would reduce staffing by 33 firefighters, compared with a cut of 52 in the version without the garbage fee increase, which chops a second engine company. Firefighters would be cut by attrition."

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, September 22, 2008

“Let me be clear. I oppose these cuts. It is my hope as the council approves the full picture of the financial situation facing the city, they too will oppose these cuts.”

- Mayor Tom Barrett

WTMJ, September 24, 2008

Mayor Barrett Proposes...

2009 Budget Proposal

"Rapid Intervention Team: Two rapid intervention teams will replace two ladder companies..."

"Elimination of Engine Company 20: There are currently two engine companies at the administration headquarters at 7th and James Lovell. One of these companies, Engine 20, will be eliminated."

The Mayor and Fire Chief are trying to slip in these cuts (on top of what they have already cut). They very discreetly propose the decommissioning of one engine company and two ladder companies. It should be very apparent from this plan and this analysis that both the Mayor and Fire Chief are no longer in the business of protecting the Citizens of the City of Milwaukee. They are now in the business of protecting their next terms as Mayor and Fire Chief. There is no other reason a Fire Chief would stand silent as his Firefighter staffing is ravaged.

Mayor Barret's Fire Department Executive Summary

"Mission: Build safe and healthy neighborhoods."

Huh?

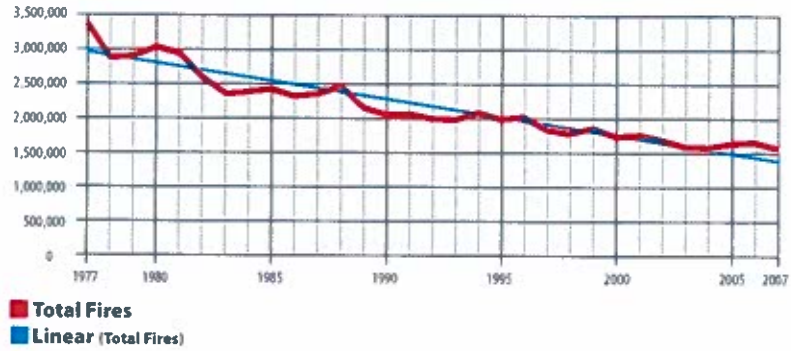
Mayor Barrett said they are doing everything they can to keep the cuts to a minimum but he points out that most other major cities, including New York only carry four firefighters per ladder truck.

*wisn.com
September 23, 2008*

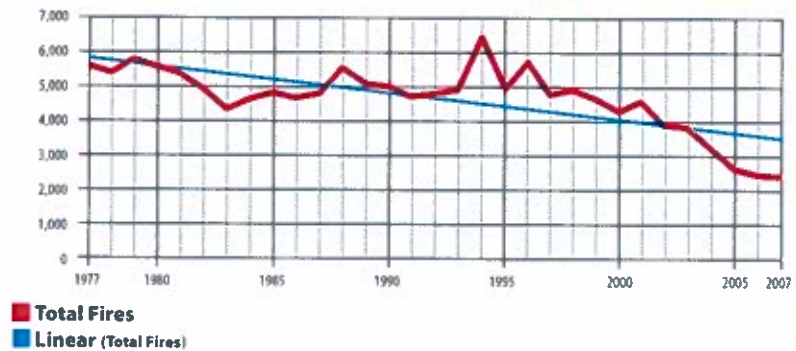
Fiction



Total U.S. Fires



Total Milwaukee Fires

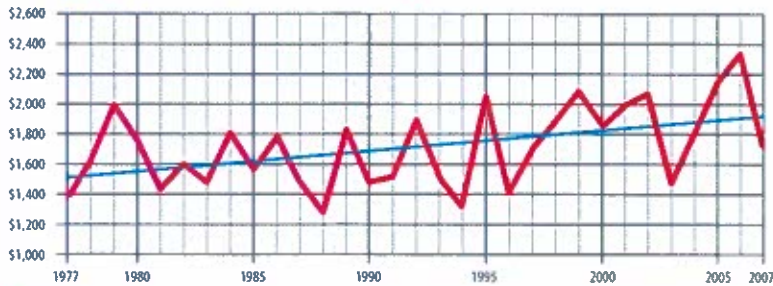


Total Fires

Do not be fooled by these statistics. While positive, they provide you with only a fraction of the information you need to make an informed decision about the appropriate level of fire protection you need. We are proud of our successes in reducing the number of fires in Milwaukee, but we also understand that the number of Fire Incidents in a year has no direct correlation to the level of risk faced by citizens and firefighters alike when they do suffer a Fire Incident.



Milwaukee Dollar Loss Per Fire



■ Dollar Loss Per Fire (Adjusted For Inflation)
 ■ Linear (Dollar Loss Per Fire - Adjusted For Inflation)

The Mayor's Budget also calls for closing at least one engine company and possibly two.

*wisn.com
 September 23, 2008*

Fact

Dollar Loss Per Fire

Sadly, you will lose an average of 26% more of your property to a Fire Incident now than in years past, even when adjusted for inflation.

Quite simply, against all of these odds, we simply do not have enough firefighters arriving early enough during Fire Incidents to accomplish all of these tasks. And, Mayor Barrett wants to slash our staffing even more?

Mayor Barrett will reply, over and over and over again, that the Milwaukee Fire Department has absolutely fantastic response times, as cited in the 2005 Matrix study. We do have great response times, but simple physics tells the informed citizen that if fewer firefighters arrive after their house catches fire,

fewer tasks can be accomplished immediately and simultaneously. Mayor Barrett has slashed 20% of the firefighters from most of the fire trucks that would respond when your house catches fire. The effect of this staffing reduction is that we are losing more property as a result of each Fire Incident. That a mayor would seek cost savings at the expense of tax payers' property is unconscionable.



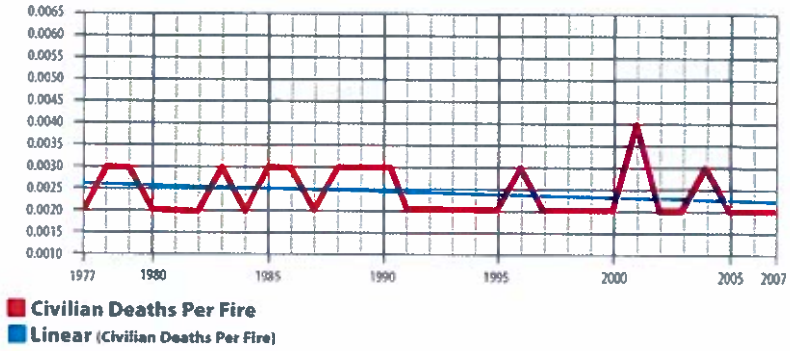
Fact

Firefighters said the only reason they were able to save four children from a burning house last summer is because they have five people on a truck.

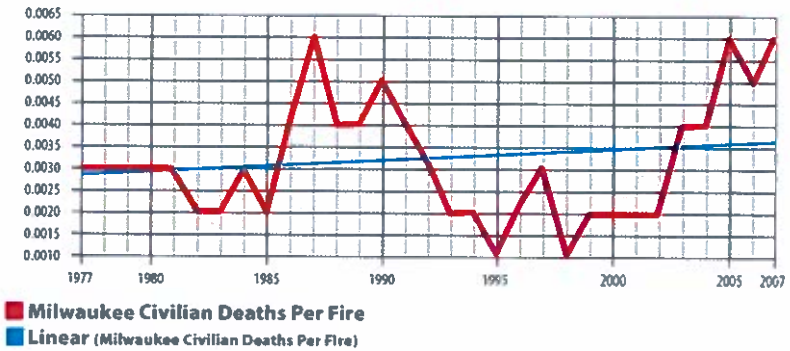
*wisn.com
 September 23, 2008*



U.S. Civilian Deaths Per Fire



Milwaukee Civilian Deaths Per Fire



Civilian Deaths

Mayor Barrett relies on a one-dimensional statistic when reporting on Milwaukee fire deaths. Since we have fewer Fire Incidents we generally have fewer fatalities per year. But, that is not the only number that matters. What matters is that when you do suffer a Fire Incident, how likely is it that the Milwaukee Fire Department's responding resources will be sufficient to save your life or the lives of your loved ones?

"Since cuts to the MFD began, fire deaths in the City of Milwaukee have more than doubled over the past 5 years versus the previous five years."

The statistics are startling. We actually lose more civilians per Fire Incident than in the past. And, when compared to the national trend, Milwaukee is going in exactly the wrong direction. Even with the tremendous loss of life suffered on September 11, 2001, the national trend is bright, as fewer and fewer lives are lost nationally per Fire Incident each year.

In Milwaukee, however, Milwaukeeans suffer an average of a 31% greater chance of suffering a fatality during a Fire Incident than 30 years ago, when there were many more Fire Incidents occurring.

Fact

"But when it comes time to ink a final budget in November, we'd urge public safety first, due respect for adequate levels of service and the absolute necessity for efficiency and creativity."

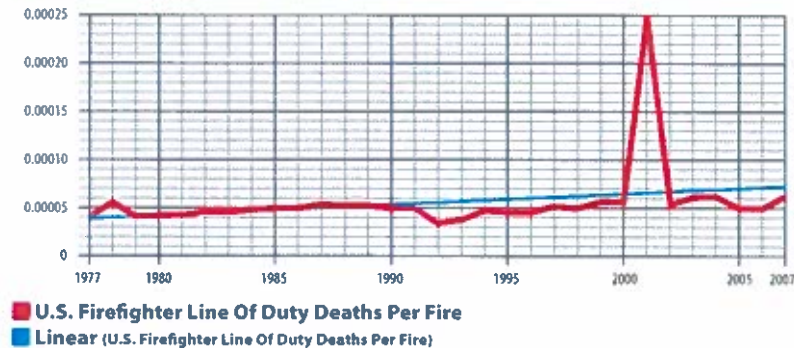
*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Editorial
September 24, 2008*

Fact

Alderman Mike Murphy says public safety is the council's highest priority. He suggested the mayor's threat to cut cops feels like politics as usual.

*todaystmj4.com
September 24, 2008*

U.S. Firefighter Line Of Duty Deaths



Line of Duty Deaths

The City of Milwaukee, under the guidance of Mayor Barrett, is sadly placing its firefighters at a greater risk of fatal injury. Statistics indicate that even though the total number of Fire Incidents occurring nationally continues to drop, the number of Firefighter Line-Of-Duty Deaths (LODD) per fire continues to climb. With 102 LODDs in 2007, we are on pace to continue this alarming trend. Something is dreadfully wrong: we are losing more firefighters in fewer fires.

In Milwaukee, we have, thankfully, narrowly missed suffering firefighter LODDs in recent years. Sadly, reality dictates that we will suffer more as time wears on and our fire crew staffing continues to be cut. Please consider contacting your alderman and Mayor Barrett and ask them to stop cutting firefighter staffing. This is for your safety, the safety of your loved ones, the protection of your property, and the safety of your Milwaukee Firefighters.

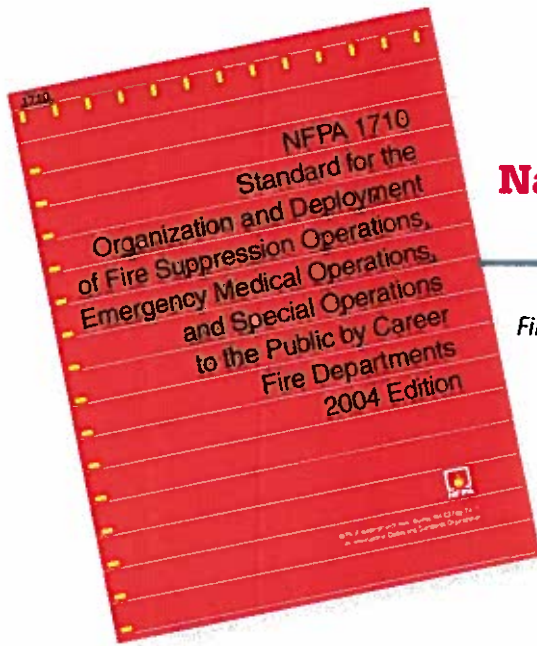
CLOSE CALL:

Firefighter Hailed As Hero For Rescue
He got captain out of burning house after crash through floor.

"As soon as we got down on the floor, it gave away a second later," Rueda said. "It was a split second. I tried grabbing onto the stairway. That didn't work. That stairway came down on top of us. We fell on the floor. I remember trying to cover up so nothing else fell on my head. I was thinking, 'Where's the captain?'"

"Captain, you OK? You OK? Can you hear me?" He wasn't responding. I get on his radio and I yell, "**Mayday! Mayday! Firefighter down!**"

Firefighter Anthony Rueda
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 22, 2008



National Fire Protection Association (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

Excerpts from the 2004 edition with annotations indicating accepted proposals for 2010 printing.

■ LOW HAZARD

■ HIGH HAZARD

CHAPTER FIVE:

Fire Dept. Suppression Services

5.2.3 Operating Units: Fire company staffing requirements shall be based on minimum levels necessary for safety, effectiveness and efficiency of emergency operations

(UNCHANGED IN PENDING 2010 REVISION)

5.2.3.1 Operating Units/Engines: Fire companies whose primary functions are to pump and deliver water and perform basic firefighting at fires, including search and rescue, shall be known as engine companies.

(UNCHANGED IN PENDING 2010 REVISION)

5.2.3.1.1 Operating Units/Engines/Minimum Staffing: These companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel.

(UNCHANGED IN PENDING 2010 REVISION)

The NFPA Fire Protection Handbook categorizes high-hazard occupancies as follows: schools, hospitals, nursing homes, explosives plants, refineries, high-rise buildings, and other high life hazard or large fire potential occupancies.

5.2.3.1.2 Operating Units/Engines/Hazard Staffing:

In jurisdictions with tactical hazards, high hazard occupancies, high incident frequencies, geographical restrictions, or other pertinent factors as identified by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, these companies shall be staffed with a minimum of five or six on-duty members.

(Significant and pertinent additions have been accepted and are scheduled for inclusion in the 2010 revision; revisions occur on a 6-year cycle for this standard.)

These additions will occur as follows:

5.2.4.2 Initial Full Alarm Assignment

Capability: For the purposes of this standard, the initial full alarm assignment capability is for a response to a structural fire in a typical 2000 ft.², 2-story, single-family occupancy without a basement and with no exposures (detached home). The hazards presented by this scenario are not unusual, as all communities respond to fire incidents in this type of structure on a regular basis. The NFPA Fire Protection Handbook categorizes occupancies in three broad groups:

- High-hazard occupancies (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, explosives plants, refineries, high-rise buildings, and other high life hazard or large fire potential occupancies).
- Medium-hazard occupancies (apartments, offices, mercantile and industrial occupancies not normally requiring extensive rescue or firefighting resources)
- Low-hazard occupancies (one-, two-, or three-family dwellings and scattered small businesses and industrial occupancies). The NFPA 1710 benchmark occupancy fits into this low hazard category.

5.2.3.2 Operating Units/Ladders:

Fire companies whose primary functions are to perform the variety of services associated with truck work, such as forcible entry, ventilation, search and rescue, aerial operations for water delivery and rescue, utility control, illumination, overhaul, and salvage work, shall be known as ladder or truck companies.

(UNCHANGED IN PENDING 2010 REVISION)

The pending 2010 revision of NFPA Standard 1710 further clarifies the need for 5 or 6 on-duty personnel per engine and ladder company.

5.2.3.2.1 Operating Units/Ladders/Minimum Staffing:

These companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel.

(UNCHANGED IN PENDING 2010 REVISION)

5.2.3.2.2 Operating Units/Ladders/Hazard Staffing:

In jurisdictions with tactical hazards, high hazard occupancies, high incident frequencies, geographical restrictions, or other pertinent factors as identified by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, these companies shall be staffed with a minimum of five or six on-duty personnel.

(Significant and pertinent additions have been accepted and are scheduled for inclusion in the 2010 revision; revisions occur on a 6-year cycle for this standard.)

These additions will occur as follows:

5.2.4.2 Initial Full Alarm Assignment

Capability: For the purposes of this standard, the initial full alarm assignment capability is for a response to a structural fire in a typical 2000 ft.², 2-story, single-family occupancy without a basement and with no exposures (detached home). The hazards presented by this scenario are not unusual, as all communities respond to fire incidents in this type of structure on a regular basis. The NFPA Fire Protection Handbook categorizes occupancies in three broad groups:

- High-hazard occupancies (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, explosives plants, refineries, high-rise buildings, and other high life hazard or large fire potential occupancies)
- Medium-hazard occupancies (apartments, offices, mercantile and industrial occupancies not normally requiring extensive rescue or firefighting resources)

- Low-hazard occupancies (one-, two-, or three-family dwellings and scattered small businesses and industrial occupancies). The NFPA 1710 benchmark occupancy fits into this low hazard category.

5.2.2.2.1 Fire Propagation: Given that the fire progression of a structure fire to the point of flashover (the very rapid spreading of the fire due to superheating of room contents and other combustibles) generally occurs in less than 10 minutes, *two of the most important elements in limiting fire spread are the quick arrival of sufficient numbers of personnel and equipment to attack and extinguish the fire as close to the point of its origin as possible.*

Data generated by the NFPA and used by the committee in developing this standard provide empirical data that rapid and aggressive interior attack can substantially reduce the human and property losses associated with structure fires.

The NFPA 1710 benchmark occupancy for the 4 & 4 minimum staffing requirement that is often referred to by the Mayor and Fire Chief is a low-hazard occupancy. It is for a fire in a 2000 ft.², 2-story, single-family occupancy without a basement and with no exposures. Milwaukee has very few of these and many more that fit into the high-hazard occupancy category.

“These kinds of reductions are going to impact our ability to give the level of service and safety to our members.”

**Bobbie Webber
MPFFA Local 215**

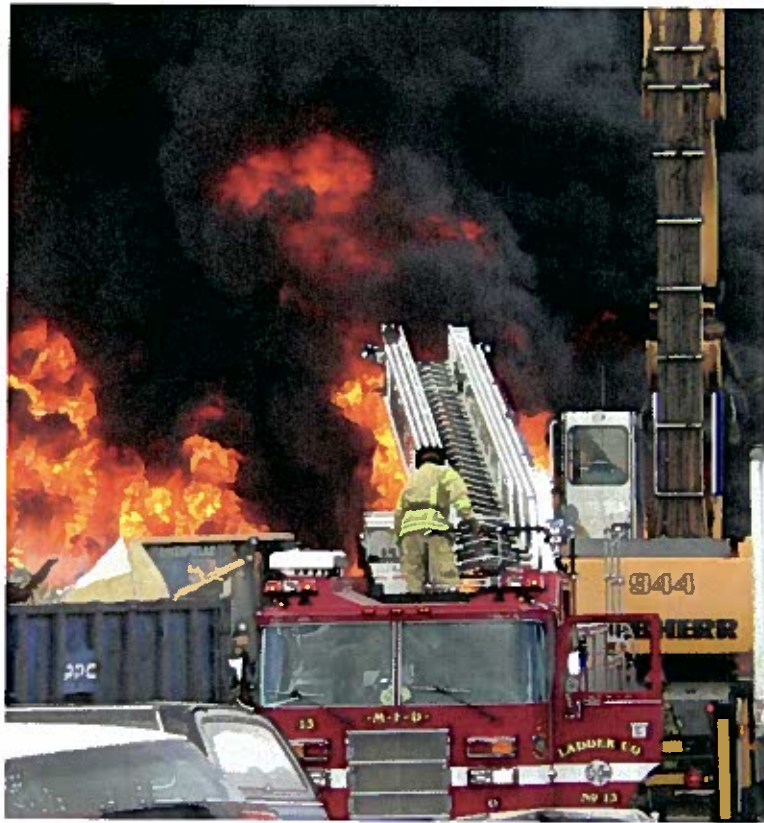
*wisn.com
September 23, 2008*

Fact

"We still send 24 to 30 firefighters to a 1 alarm blaze so we feel we are doing what is responsible in terms of providing the correct level of fire protection."

Mayor Barrett

wisn.com
September 23, 2008



NFPA 1710 Summary Statement

The minimum staffing requirements as set forth in NFPA 1710 ('04) have long been misrepresented, either through selective inclusion or exclusion or through the total misrepresentation of the specifications as set forth in the standard.

Engine and Ladder Company staffing levels are indeed set at a minimum of 4 and 4. However, NFPA 1710 specifies that this minimum staffing level is for a very specific type of low-hazard structure, as indicated above. While the Milwaukee Fire Department is responsible for providing fire protection to some of these low-hazard structures, we are responsible for providing fire protection to a great many more structures that are clearly classified as high-hazard occupancies.

NFPA 1710 provides the necessary clarification for city managers and fire department administrations in regards to necessary staffing where high-hazard occupancies or other critical conditions exist. It very clearly dictates that Engine and Truck Companies shall be staffed at a minimum of 5 or 6 firefighters.

The City of Milwaukee, per NFPA 1710, is required to staff all of its Engine and Ladder Companies with a minimum of 5 firefighters. Every Engine and Ladder Company in the City of Milwaukee is responsible for providing fire protection to many high-hazard occupancies. Many of our Engine and Ladder Companies are also responding to fires with a high frequency.

The City of Milwaukee is placing itself in a position of great liability if it chooses to ignore NFPA 1710 as it pertains to defining our fire protection needs. The Milwaukee Professional Firefighters Association – Local 215 has already proven that the City of Milwaukee is suffering greater life and property losses per fire than at any other time in our City's history.

Up to this point, Mayor Barrett and the Common Council have chosen to listen to the inaccurate and misleading Matrix Study, which only selectively reported NFPA 1710's minimum staffing requirements. Please listen to the fire protection experts. Otherwise, you are choosing to lose more lives and property.

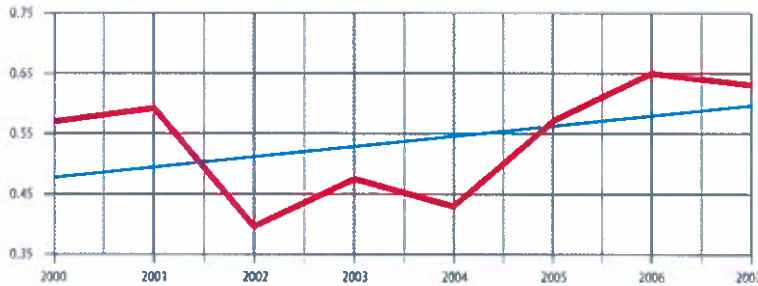
“Many citizens of Milwaukee may be confused with the arguments that Local 215 Union has presented at a time of severe flooding, record high gas prices, high unemployment in some areas of the city, and home foreclosures leaving people homeless. As public servants we should be more empathetic to less fortunate people and be more willing to *sit down with City Hall politicians* and discuss resolutions instead of displaying Neanderthal political tactics.”

Chief Douglas Holton on Local 215's objections to firefighter cuts in the proposed budget.

Less than one year earlier, Chief Holton was sitting down with City Hall politicians seeking a raise after four months on the job.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, November 8, 2007

Injuries Per Milwaukee Firefighter



■ Injuries Per Milwaukee Firefighter
■ Linear (Injuries Per Milwaukee Firefighter)

Firefighter Injuries

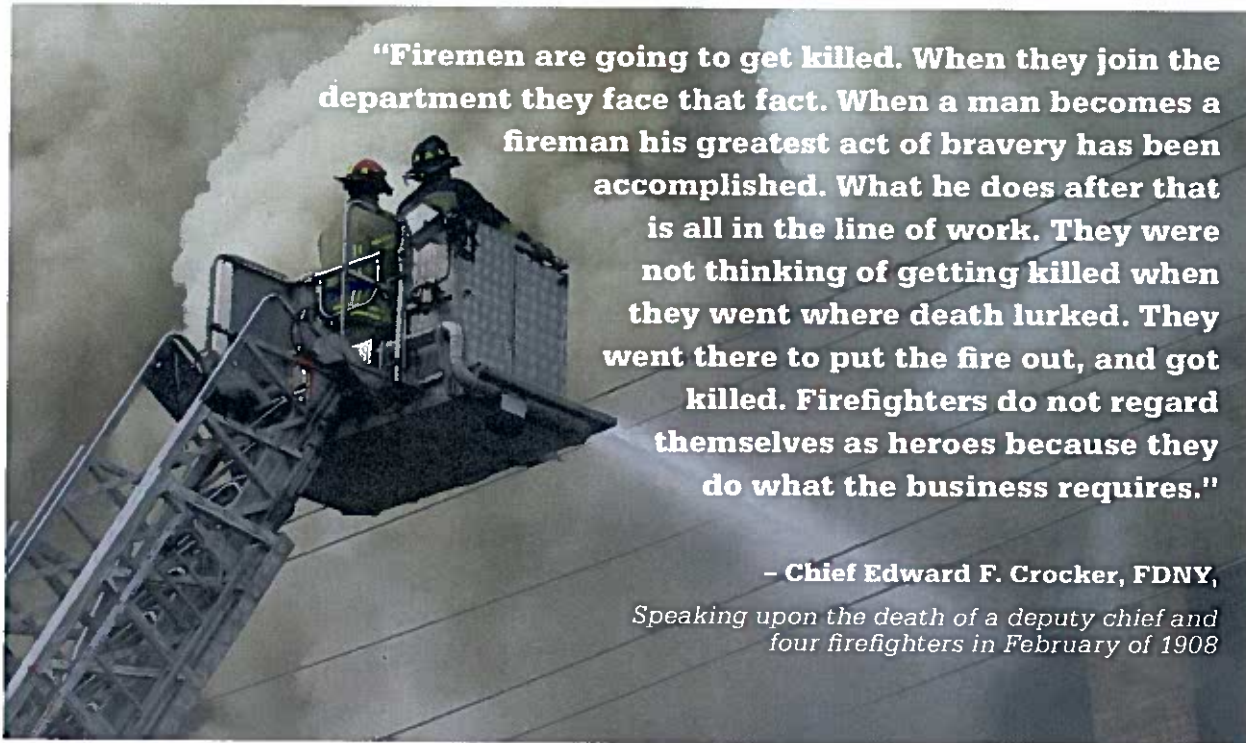
Milwaukee Firefighters are being injured at a far greater rate than ever before with our reduced staffing levels. The increased injuries result in more time lost and are hardly cost-effective. These cuts have been tried in other places with the same results.

A few years ago, the Washington, D.C., Fire Department ladder company staffing was reduced from 5 to 4 over the objections of the fire chiefs in that city. The staffing cuts led to duty disability injuries to their ladder truck personnel that cost the city more than the savings realized from the reduced staffing. They further realized that public safety truly was compromised as the efficiency of a ladder company is reduced by 50% with the removal of the 5th firefighter. In the absolute worst case scenario, 3 frontline firefighters were killed in action in the span of 2 years. The union

sued the city in an attempt to restore the previously cut 5th firefighter. Today, the Washington, D.C., Fire Department has restored the 5th firefighter on each of their 16 ladder companies.

This was reactive, and an unbearably costly way to learn this lesson. The City of Milwaukee would be wise to be proactive, and use the lessons learned in Washington, D.C. to prevent a similar tragedy here.

The Milwaukee Fire Department and the firefighters of Local 215 have for too long done more with less. As a result of the significant staffing cuts, we have struggled to provide the high level of quality service to the citizens of Milwaukee. We are now at a point of diminishing returns. Further cuts will further endanger both Milwaukee and its firefighters.



"Firemen are going to get killed. When they join the department they face that fact. When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work. They were not thinking of getting killed when they went where death lurked. They went there to put the fire out, and got killed. Firefighters do not regard themselves as heroes because they do what the business requires."

- Chief Edward F. Crocker, FDNY,
Speaking upon the death of a deputy chief and four firefighters in February of 1908

MFD Five-Person Trucks In Action

Ladder 9 – September 2008, 944 N. 20th St:

Truck 9 responded to an 18 unit apartment with occupants trapped in the upper units. There was heavy smoke pushing out of the structure. Firefighters of Truck 9 committed themselves to an aggressive rescue operation. They took a 35 foot ladder and removed an occupant from the west most apartment and then removed an occupant from the east most apartment. A third occupant was found in an apartment adjacent to the fire room and removed. All these operations were done prior to any hose line being stretched to the fire floor.

Ladder 9 – May 24, 2008, 1447 N. 30th Street:

"The crew of Ladder 9 entered the building without a hoseline, initiated a search, and located a child under some debris. The child was then transferred to Engine 28 for treatment. The crew of Engine 32 took a hoseline to the second floor, conducted a search, and located an unresponsive female patient. Members of Engine 32 and Ladder 9 removed the patient from the building and administered treatment, including immediate CPR."

*Chief Douglas A. Holton
(Excerpt from letter of commendation,
June 13, 2008)*

Ladder 5 – August 2007, 2320 Holton Street:

Truck 5 was dispatched to a report of a house fire with a child trapped. Truck 5 arrived as the first fire unit on the scene. Without the protection of a hose line, Fire Fighters quickly ascended to the second floor and located three children in the second floor rear bedroom. All three children were carried out of the building. The entire interior rescue effort took approximately one and one-half minutes.

“ The success of this rescue highlights the importance of having a Five-Person Truck Company ”

- Lt. Daniel Lipski



Since September 11, 2001, the Milwaukee Fire Department has lost 147 firefighting positions.

SUBJECT: *Conclusions and Recommendations of Phase Number 2 Crew Size Study*

From: *Vincent Dunn, Deputy Chief FDNY (Retired)*

“...when the hose stretch team was reduced 20%, the hose stretch time was increased approximately 50-75%.”

Five-Person Engine & Truck Studies

Metro Chiefs/International Association for Fire Chiefs, “Metro Fire Chiefs - Minimum Staffing Position”

In order to permit the effective operation of fire companies at the scene of a structure fire, the minimum number of personnel on both engine and ladder companies should be five members per unit.

National Fire Academy, Executive Development Program III, “Fire Engines are Becoming Expensive Taxi Cabs: Inadequate Manning”

The average time for the engine companies to complete the tasks is revealing. The three-person team average was 18.8 minutes. All personnel were exhausted, rubber legged, had difficulty standing up and were unfit for further fire fighting. The four-person team, conducting the very same test, averaged 10.29 minutes and upon completion, were nearing exhaustion. The five-person team averaged 6.15 minutes, and showed little evidence of fatigue at the end of the exercise.

International City Management Association, Managing Fire Services, 2nd Edition (Washington, DC:ICMA)

The ICMA cited various controlled and statistically-based experiments by jurisdictions and universities that reveal that if 16 trained fire fighters are not operating at the scene of a working fire within the critical time period, than dollar loss and injuries are significantly increased, as are the square feet of fire spread. Additionally, as fire fighting tactics were conducted for comparative purposes, five-person fire suppression companies were judged to be 100 percent effective in their task performance, four-person companies 65 percent effective and three person companies 38 percent effective. Six-person companies are judged 20 percent faster than four person companies.

The Matrix Study's primary contention is that we should fall in line with other departments' staffing levels, and then proceeds to compare the Milwaukee Fire Department to the Los Angeles, California, Fire Department and a host of other fire departments. The wide range of sizes and population densities makes this comparison quite suspect. Further, the study 'normalizes' all of the cities compared by referring to population density as a primary factor in determining the number of engine and ladder companies a given fire department should have. While it is important, it can by no means be the only argument.

- *What are the types and ages of the buildings housing these populations? What is the physical spacing between these occupancies? What are the transient or commuter populations?*
- *Minimal evaluation reveals that the City of Milwaukee has enormous swaths of extremely old, wood framed structures positioned extremely close together, much more so than out west. We also have a large commuter population, as evidenced by the morning and afternoon Interstate traffic patterns.*
- *Before decisions to reduce engine or ladder company staffing were made, these questions should have been answered. They speak more clearly to the threat posed by fire than does the Matrix Study.*

2000 – Structural Fire Response

| | ENGINES | TRUCKS | SUPPORT | TACTICAL/SUPPORT | RESERVE |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1st Alarm | 3 | 2 | 2BC, 1Sq, Car 15 | 22-25 / 5 | 34E, 14T |
| 2nd Alarm | 3 | 2 | Car 3, CCU*, CAIR | 22-25 / 8 | 30E, 12T |
| 3rd Alarm | 3 | 0 | 1BC, 1M | 12-15 / 4 | 27E, 12T |
| 4th Alarm | 3 | 0 | | 12-15 / 0 | 24E, 12T |
| 5th Alarm | 3 | 0 | | 12-15 / 0 | 21E, 12T |
| Totals | 15 | 4 | Car 3, 3BC, 1Sq, 1M, CCU*, CAIR | 80-95 / 17 | |

*CCU assumed to respond with full company complement and special equipment.
Life-saving Squads (LSQ) were 1 no person ambulances. Med units are now used in their place.
Note: 2nd Alarm - Also brings medic, BCI staff as well as MED MDs.

2008 – Structural Fire Response

| | ENGINES | TRUCKS | SUPPORT | TACTICAL/SUPPORT | RESERVE |
|-----------|---------|--------|--|------------------|----------|
| 1st Alarm | 3 | 2 | 2BC, 1M, Car 18, RIT | 20-23 / 9-10 | 34E, 13T |
| 2nd Alarm | 3 | 2 | Car 3, CCU*, CAIR | 20-23 / 6 | 30E, 11T |
| 3rd Alarm | 3 | 1 | 1BC, 1M, HURT* | 16-17 / 12 | 26E, 9T |
| 4th Alarm | 3 | 0 | | 12 / 0 | 23E, 9T |
| 5th Alarm | 3 | 0 | | 12 / 0 | 20E, 9T |
| Totals | 15 | 5 | Car 3, 3BC, CAR 18, RIT, 2M, CCU*, CAIR, HURT* | 80-87 / 27-28 | |

*CCU & HURT assumed to respond with full company complement and special equipment.
Note: 2nd Alarm - Also brings medic, BCI staff as well as MED MDs. All engine units are four wheeler companies (except E1 and E2).
As of 2008, four ladder truck companies are 11, 11, 16, 18, 110, 115 and 117.

The Matrix Study Controversy

When comparing responses to structure fires from the years 2000 and 2008, we send two less firefighters to each 1-alarm house fire in 2008. It is important to note that we send a much larger number of support personnel than in the past. These individuals, by their specific job functions, are not assignable to fighting the fire or mitigating the actual emergency. By the time we reach a 5-alarm level, we are down an entire fire company worth of firefighters as compared to 2000.

This is no surprise, given the fact that we have had our staffing slashed each year. The patchwork solution to this problem (irresponsibly advocated for by Matrix Consulting) is to send more fire apparatus to each fire to augment the initial responding firefighters. The result?

We are sending more apparatus to fires than ever before to provide fewer frontline firefighters than ever before. The rest of the City of Milwaukee, during these major emergencies, are left with 12% fewer fire apparatus to respond to their emergencies.

Coverage and public safety have not been compromised?

THE BOTTOM LINE

From The Frontline

This analysis was conducted because we are in a state of crisis within the Milwaukee Fire Department. The Mayor and the Fire Chief will look squarely into the camera and state that this is not the case. But, then, they do need to support each other's positions in order to protect their next terms.

- We hold the protection of the public and Milwaukee's firefighters to be critically important to public safety.
- We have suffered cut after cut after cut and the wear and tear is beginning to show.
- We are losing an average of 26% more property per fire, even when adjusted for inflation.
- Civilians suffer a higher risk of suffering a fatal injury per fire than ever before.
- Nationally, firefighter line-of-duty-deaths occur at a greater rate per fire than ever before. We have narrowly dodged this bullet numerous times and truly fear for our safety.
- NFPA Standard 1710, which deals with fire company staffing levels, has been misrepresented by the Mayor and blindly accepted by members of the Milwaukee Fire Department's upper echelon. According to the language in the standard, we are understaffed.
- Milwaukee Firefighter injuries (and the cost to the City associated with them) are up and rising.
- Numerous recent fire rescues of trapped civilians can be clearly attributed to the arrival of 5-person ladder companies on the scene.

NO MORE CUTS!



Milwaukee Professional
FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION
Local 215

Thanks to Aldermen Bohl (5th district), Donovan (8th district) and Witkowiak (12th district) for your support during these tough times.

The statistics used in this analysis are a matter of public record.



Milwaukee Professional
FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION
Local 215