

Seattle Fire Department 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

INTEGRITY • TEAMWORK • COMPASSION • COURAGE • DIVERSITY



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MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF

There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.

- Winston Churchill

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

What a year it was for the SFD! 2016 brought many challenges and opportunities to serve as an organization. We experienced sadness, when we laid to rest several members of our Seattle Fire family. Our hearts stopped when we received news of the Greenwood explosion, especially after we saw the devastation of the blast, followed by relief, when we were informed everyone was ok. We played a key role in a multi-agency assessment of the East Duwamish Greenbelt, which led to a significant clean-up and change in the environment there. We worked diligently with the city's Vacant Buildings Task Force to target some of our most significant hazards, that can have a major impact on firefighter safety. Yes, it was quite a year.



Here to Serve

A lot of hard work went into moving the department forward in many areas. Thanks to the Resource Management Division, we deployed new Scott Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses. A piece of equipment that will make a difference for years to come. We took major strides forward in updating our High Rise, Critical Incident Stress Management and Uniform polices. Each of these updates, along with many others, help bring us into alignment with best practices in our profession. We implemented the first of our Standard Operating Guidelines, which will serve as an operations playbook, putting lessons learned into practice.

Throughout 2016, we sent our members around the world to train and assist in disaster management. Our personnel were deployed to Hurricane Matthew, flooding in Louisiana and wildland incidents throughout the region. Some the most significant assistance we provided, was in the deployment of our CISM team to tragic incidents here in our backyard. Each of these deployments were an opportunity for us to assist our neighbors during very difficult times, I am proud that each time we could answer the call.

Once again, 2016 surpassed the previous year's total responses. We finished the year with a more than 2% increase in responses, by responding to 97,042 incidents. Aid 2, our busiest unit in 2016, responded to more than 8,000 responses. Aid 25, Aid 5 and Aid 10 ended not far behind. Station 2 and Station 10 were the busiest stations and Engine 31 was the busiest engine with more than 4,000 responses. Overall, our EMS responses in the downtown corridor continue to rise at a faster pace than anywhere in the city. Many of the EMS calls are lower acuity or non-emergent responses. In 2016, our new Low Acuity Team came to fruition and hit the ground running.

One of the biggest challenges that we will face in 2017 is trying to keep pace with our daily staffing levels. Over the past two years, the number of retirements has been increasing and with more than 20% of the department at retirement age, I don't expect this trend to change for a while. We went many years without keeping pace with the retirements, now we will all need to work together to get through this difficult time until we can catch up.

I'm proud of the impact we make each day, whether it's taking the time to participate in an event, providing life-saving care or saving someone's home. We are helping our community when they need it most. I am incredibly excited about our future and where we are headed.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Harold D. Scoggins Seattle Fire Department

Photo Credit: John Odegard

ABOUT SEATTLE FIRE

ABOUT US

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 has existed as a fire department within the State of Washington since October 17, 1889, when the Seattle City Council passed Ordinance No. 1212. The services provided by the Seattle Fire Department include:

- Critical fire suppression services 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

OUR VISION

The Seattle Fire Department: a national leader in responding to and preventing emergencies with a commitment to excellence and teamwork.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Seattle Fire Department is to save lives and protect property through emergency medical service, fire and rescue response and fire prevention. We respond immediately when any member of our community needs help with professional, effective and compassionate service.

OUR VALUES

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.



STATIONS, MAP AND APPARATUS PROFILE

- 33 Fire Stations
- Medic One at Harborview Medical Center
- 33 Engines
- 11 Ladder Trucks
- 5 Aid Units (Basic Life Support)
- 7 Medic Units (Advanced Life Support)
- 2 Air Trucks
- 2 Hose Wagons
- 4 Fire Boats
- Additional specialized apparatus



TIERED RESPONSE SYSTEM

The Seattle Fire Department provides emergency response through five battalions, consisting of 33 fire stations (plus the 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, the department has 1010 uniformed personnel, 37 department chiefs, 950 firefighter/EMTs, 60 firefighter/paramedics and 72 civilian personnel.

Every day, there are 209 members responding to emergencies across the city. 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) 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 seven 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.





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 "flash over" at some time between five and 10 minutes after ignition, turning a typical "room and contents" fire into a structural fire of some magnitude.

TIME TEMPERATURE CURVE

The utility of the time-temperature curve for fire station placement is limited 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 (5-30 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.

CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL RATE

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 thus 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.



FIRE ALARM CENTER

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

The FAC dispatched resources to 97,042 incidents in 2016, up from 94,346 in 2015. Total calls coming into the FAC, emergency and administrative, have increased by 72.7% since 2011. In 2016, the FAC received 187,709 calls.

FAC personnel are working to increase the efficiency of the Emergency Medical Dispatch program by revisiting medical protocols and exploring how the application itself could be changed and/ or replaced. Improvements will result in better dispatcher workflow, decreasing the amount of time taken to dispatch appropriate resources to incidents. Dispatchers continue to use the Quality Enhancement Program which allows them to review each other's calls to learn best practices and make necessary adjustments to more effectively process calls.

CALL PROCESSING TIME

Phone pickup to first unit assigned

Seattle Fire Department call processing time standard is 60 seconds, 80% of the time.

Year	% of time call processing standard met
2016	85%
2015	81%
2014	79%
2013	78%
2012	50%

CALL VOLUME

Seattle Fire Department calls come from two sources: emergency 911 dispatch and administrative phone lines.

Year	Emergency Calls	% Increase	Administrative Calls	Total Calls Received	% Increase
2016	112,038	8.7 %	32,329	187,709	6.2%
2015	145,189	9.9%	31,578	176,767	10.9%
2014	132,071	4.3%	27,185	159,256	6.0%
2013	126,610	4.2%	23,558	150,168	7.4%
2012	121,485	4.0%	18,216	139,701	3.6%





TIME STANDARDS

SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE STANDARDS

The Seattle Fire Department Response Standards specify the criteria needed to most effectively and efficiently deliver fire suppression, technical rescue response, and emergency medical services. These Response Standards protect the community and the occupational safety and health of Seattle Fire Department employees. National Fire Protection Association Standard 1710 – the Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Technical Rescue to the Public by Career Fire Departments, was used as a guideline in the development of these Response Standards.

EMS TURNOUT TIME

Time unit assigned to en route

Seattle Fire Department turnout time standard is 60 seconds, 90% of the time.

Year	% turnout time met	
2016	50%	
2015	54%	
2014	51%	
2013	51%	
2012	50%	

FIRE TURNOUT TIME

Time unit assigned to en route Seattle Fire Department turnout time standard is 80 seconds, 90% of the time.

Year	% turnout time met	
2016	46%	
2015	52%	
2014	51%	
2013	47%	
2012	50%	



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FIRST ARRIVING ENGINE AT FIRE

En route to on-scene

Seattle Fire Department response time standard for the first arriving engine at a fire response is 4 minutes, 90% of the time.

Year	% of response time objective met	
2016	84%	
2015	83%	
2014	84%	
2013	84%	
2012	83%	

FULL FIRST ALARM ASSIGNMENT AT FIRE

Time unit assigned to en route

Seattle Fire Department response time standard for full first alarm assignment (15 firefighters) when responding to a fire is 8 minutes, 90% of the time.

Year	% turnout time met	
2016	86%	
2015	86%	
2014	89%	
2013	80%	
2012	83%	









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BASIC LIFE SUPPORT UNIT

En route to on-scene

Seattle Fire Department response time standard for the arrival of the first unit is 4 minutes, 90% of the time.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT UNIT

En route to on-scene

Seattle Fire Department response time standard for the arrival of an advanced life support unit with two firefighter/paramedics is 8 minutes, 90% of the time.

Year	% of response time objective met	Year	% turnout time met
2016	84%	2016	89%
2015	84%	2015	89%
2014	84%	2014	87%
2013	85%	2013	85%
2012	85%	2012	85%





FIREFIGHTING Significant Incidents

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Jan. 26	Multiple Casualty Incident - East Duwamish Greenbelt Firefighters were dispatched to a report of five people shot at an encampment under Interstate 5. The responding units performed rapid triage and extraction.
March 1	Central District Fatality Fire Firefighters responded to a single-family residential home; the homeowner was found deceased. The fire was ruled accidental and caused by faulty and/ or overloaded electrical system wiring.
March 9	Greenwood Natural Gas Explosion Crews responded to a report of a natural gas leak, which later reached its flammable range causing a catastrophic explosion. All nine members on-scene sutained injuries from the blast and a Mayday was called. In total, 36 nearby businesses sustained damage.
Sept. 5	Duwamish Container Fire Crews arrived on scene to find a shipping container on fire, surrounded by other shipping containers. The alarm was increased to a Hazardous Materials Incident Fire due to containers in proximity to the fire containing bulk propane and diesel fuel.
Sept. 27	Delridge Apartment Fire Firefighters responded to a three-alarm fire in a three-story multi-residential building. In total, approximately 122 firefighters were on scene to extinguish the fire.
Oct. 26	Discovery Park's Fort Lawton Homes Firefighters extinguished a fire in a large duplex with fire on all three levels and flames that had spread to the exterior. The damage estimate was 3,000,000 dollars.
Dec. 15	Woodland Park Zoo Firefighters were dispatched to the zoo, and arrived to find flames from the Night Exhibit building, where Zoo staff had evacuated guests and were evacuating the animals. Fire investigators were unable to determine a cause due to structural instability and partial collapse.

FIRE RESPONSES

Total number of fire responses by year.

Year	Total # of fire responses	
2016	15,787	
2015	15,079	
2014	14,260	
2013	13,388	
2012	12,651	







EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

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MEDIC ONE

Established in 1970 as a joint effort between Seattle Fire Department, Harborview Medical Center, and the University of Washington, the Medic One program combines rigorous training and innovative medical techniques in a two-tiered emergency response system. Firefighter/paramedics provide direct Advanced Life Support (ALS) services to the residents of Seattle, which previously could only be performed by a licensed physician. Unparalleled cardiac arrest survival rates have given Medic One a world class reputation, attracting representatives from public safety agencies around the world to study and attempt to replicate the program's success in their jurisdiction.

BATTALION 3 - PARAMEDICS

Sodium Nitrite Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Trial (SNOCAT)

In 2016, Battalion 3 participated in phase one of a first-of-its-kind drug trial. The SNOCAT is evaluating Sodium Nitrite Dosing and Safety in Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest. One hundred and forty patients were successfully enrolled in the trial program.

Paramedic School

Four new paramedics joined Battalion 3 after graduating from the MK Copass MD, Paramedic Training Program at Harborview Medical Center. Three additional firefighters or firefighter/EMTs began training to become paramedics in 2016. Members from Battalion 3 participated in a Recruitment and Retention Task Force to recruit a larger number of students for the 2017 class. The work of the taskforce focused on the selection process and creating a department-wide recruitment campaign. Their efforts increased the applicant pool to 15 candidates for the 2017 application period.

AID/MEDICAL RESPONSES

Total number of Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) responses by year.

Year	Total # of BLS responses	Total # of ALS responses
2016	60,151	19,303
2015	57,876	19,897
2014	56,464	19,256
2013	53,028	18,920
2012	49,696	19,386

Fellowship

In 2016, the first physician completed the two-year Emergency Medical Services Medicine Medical Director Fellowship through the University of Washington and Medic One. A new first year fellow started the fellowship.

Academy Participation

Battalion 3 participated in the Seattle Resuscitation Academies in March and October and were represented at several other regional and international Academies.

Visitors

In 2016, Battalion 3 had visitors from Australia, Denmark, England, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Taiwan, as well as from across the United States.



TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

The Seattle Fire Department has developed technical operations response Policies and Operating Guidelines (POG) that specify the roles and responsibilities of the fire department and the authorized functions of members responding to incidents that meet the definition of "technical operations" in accordance with NFPA 1710, which reads as follows:

- Those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment.
- These types of incidents include but are not limited to hazardous materials, technical and heavy rescue, marine fire response and rescue, dive rescue, wildland firefighting, and CBRNE response. However, in all cases, the fire department is limited to performing only those specific technical operations functions for which responding personnel have been trained and are correctly equipped.
- Firefighters are trained to operations level response to technical operations incidents. The Seattle Fire Department's response time standard for operations level firefighters is the same as a fire suppression call. Arrival of technical or special operations level trained response teams has not historically been tracked.









LOW ACCUITY ALARM PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In May 2014, the Low Acuity Alarm Task Force was created to investigate and provide recommendations on how to address the growing burden of non-emergent or lower acuity responses by the department. In 2015, the Task Force developed a Blueprint that described action steps necessary to implement a formal Low Acuity Alarm Program, The Blueprint reviewed historical data on lower acuity alarms, surveyed other jurisdictions to identify successful low acuity alarm strategies, and identified 10 recommendations. The new program went live in the summer of 2016, with two main objectives: improve unit availability and provide enhanced service to individuals calling with lower acuity complaints. The program has two full-time employees: a program manager and a case manager. Major activities include:

- Outreach and engagement with highutilizing individuals. Initial analysis shows a reduction in calls from individuals served by this program.
- Education, training, and resources for high-utilizing locations such as homeless shelters, assisted living facilities, and senior living. This approach has also demonstrated year-over-year call reductions.
- In-depth data analysis including low acuity trends, city-wide patterns, and location breakdowns.
- Establishing working relationships with similar programs from neighboring fire departments, healthcare services, Seattle and King County government agencies, nonprofits, and others.

HIGH UTILIZER PROGRAM

The High Utilizer Program tracks individuals who chronically rely on 911 for healthcare, transport, or other assistance. The Low Acuity Alarm Program case manager, a social worker with Aging and Disability Services, engages these individuals with direct outreach and care coordination. This multidisciplinary approach is paying off: enrolled high utilizers show a significant pattern of reduction in their 911 call volume.

MOBILE CRISIS TEAM

The Low Acuity Alarm Program launched a pilot in June 2016, where firefighters at Station10 would refer patients in mental health or substance abuse crisis to the King County Mobile Crisis Team, a specialized unit staffed with mental health professionals. By avoiding the ER, this unit helps these patients with more specialized treatment. This pilot will be expanded to additional stations in 2017.

90% Percent of MCT referrals successfully divert a patient from an ER

DESC NURSELINE

Through a partnership with King County EMS and Evergreen Health, a major homeless provider was provided with 24/7 access to a nurse call line. This new resource allows Downtown Emergency Service Center staff to refer lower acuity patients to a non-911 resource, significantly reducing call volume to their locations.



TRAINING

Recruit Academy

The 15.5-week Recruit Academy is based on testing and evaluative criteria established by the International Fire Service Accreditation Committee (IFSAC). The Seattle Fire Department's Training Division is a IFSAC accredited training academy. For the first time, in 2016, the Firefighter 2 professional qualifications were incorporated in the 750 hours of training.



Retention of New Hires

In 2016, the department worked to increase the retention rate for new hires. Several videos were developed providing potential new hires access to the realities of the physically and mentally demanding challenges of the academy.

Recruitment Strategy

Before 2016, applicants were required to have an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification prior to applying. This certification requirement was removed in 2016, and is now provided to employees once they are hired. Two senior EMS instructors were added to the training cadre, and are responsible for providing management and oversight of the new EMT Certification Program.

Driver Training

With an increase in training requirements, new apparatus, and change in protocols, nine additional instructors were added to the driver training cadre in 2016. This program will continue to expand in 2017.

Expansion of Joint Training Facility

In 2016, the city set aside an additional 4.7 acres of property just south of the Joint Training Facility for future expansion needs.

RECRUIT ACADEMY



45 Recruits successf

Recruits successfully completed Academy

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

24,000

Hours of structured formal training





USE OF JOINT TRAINING FACILITY



17,000 Attendees

Photo Credit: John Odegard

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Prevention Division works together with businesses and the community to provide the standard of life safety expected by those who work, visit and live in Seattle. The Fire Prevention Division is service-oriented, providing technical information to developers, architects, contractors, and other city departments.

The Fire Prevention Division is also responsible for the implementation, administration and enforcement of the Seattle Fire Code (SFC). The SFC provides fire and life safety standards for buildings, helping to protect people and property from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings and ensure firefighter and emergency responder safety during emergency operations.

The Fire Prevention Division is made up of specialized units. 2016 accomplishments include:



PLAN REVIEW

Fire protection engineers received and reviewed 1,629 architectural plans, completing 17% within 2 days; and 1,504 Fire alarm/Fire sprinkler systems, completing 30% of these within four weeks. The Plan Review unit was awarded a Unit Citation for their work in 2016.

FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

In 2016, the FIU investigated the origin and cause of 291 incidents; of these investigations 140 were determined to be accidental, 90 incendiary/arson, 16 had other causes, and 45 were left undetermined.

SPECIAL HAZARDS

Nearly 1,700 special hazard inspections took place in 2016; 1,465 were performed for hazardous materials permits and 221 were storage tank related inspections. More than 6,000 hazmat permits were issued.

RECORDS



The records team processed 3,447 Public Disclosure Requests and 247 complaints regarding fire and life safety.

ENGINEERING



Inspected 5,019 new construction sites, focusing on the installation and inspection of fire protection systems.

-0	5

SPECIAL EVENTS

Conducted approximately 2,166 inspections and issued 1,538 special event permits.



COMPLIANCE

Conducted 1,048 inspections.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Kids Safety Day

Organized and participated in Kids Safety Day at the Museum of Flight where more than 300 participants had the opportunity to visit with 15 different fire, police and safety organizations.

Station 18 Open House

As part of the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, Station 18 was remodeled and completed in 2016. More than 1,000 community members came to tour the station, learn fire safety information and meet their local firefighters.

Seattle Fire Day

With the Museum of History and Industry, hosted more than 650 attendees who participated in fire safety activities, firefighter story times, bunking gear demonstrations and tours of a fire engine, ladder truck and fireboat.

Harborview Holiday Party

In partnership with Safe Kids Seattle and Harborview Medical Center, home fire safety education was provided to more than 600 children.





24,529

Seattle youth were reached through children's programs

- A total of 15,104 children ages 3-5 received fire safety and injury prevention information through the preschool program.
- A total of 4,361 elementary students received fire and life safety information through the school-age education program.
- Eleven youth were referred to the Fire Stoppers Program, a fire setting intervention program, 7 completed it.

14,030

Individuals participated in community fire safety programs

- A total of 65 fire safety presentations were provided to underserved communities with 743 attendees.
- Community Fire Safety Advocates worked 192 hours and reached 3,189 community members with culturally and linguistically appropriate fire safety messages.

200 Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms were installed 470

Total community events firefighters participated in

- Firefighters participated in 241 pre-school and school-age visits and tours.
- Firefighters participated in 229 community events and tours.

9,397

People trained in CPR, AED, and first aid techniques for choking



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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.

seattle.gov/FIRE



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