



Seattle Fire Department Annual Report

2025

INTEGRITY

TEAMWORK

COMPASSION

COURAGE

DIVERSITY

HERE TO SERVE SINCE 1889

PHOTO BY JOHN ODEGARD

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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

"DO THE DIFFICULT THINGS WHILE THEY ARE EASY AND DO THE GREAT THINGS WHILE THEY ARE SMALL. A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES MUST BEGIN WITH A SINGLE STEP."

- LAO TZU

At the start of each year, the Seattle Fire Department reviews all the experiences, challenges and achievements that defined the year prior.

Each incident and individual served allows us to reflect on how we show up and live our values. These also form the basis of our annual report detailing how we are doing in serving the residents, businesses and visitors to our city.

Among the many events and activities that shaped 2025:

- Deployed members to Los Angeles in January to help with the devastating wildfires
- Hired seven new lateral firefighter-paramedics and received nearly 4,800 applications to be considered for entry-level firefighter/EMT
- Supported six Club World Cup matches and associated activities at Lumen Field with emergency medical services, fire suppression, logistics and hazard mitigation
- Responded to and investigated a series of serious arson fires in the Columbia City neighborhood
- Added a third rescue watercraft to support on-water response capabilities around Lake Union
- Sent members to serve with Washington Task Force 1 to respond to Skagit County flooding
- Engaged with thousands of community members through fire safety events, community forums, parades, cultural events, tours and visits
- Received funding to add staff for a new peak-time aid unit in 2026 and further expand Mobile Integrated Health services, including building out the post-overdose response team (Health 98) and conduct our first pop-up clinic to prevent additional overdoses



There are more details in the following pages that I hope you take a moment to read. These, taken together with other untold stories, show the dedication and care we have for this community. I'm proud of all the professional staff and uniformed personnel who together serve our city admirably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold D. Scoggins".

Fire Chief Harold D. Scoggins

ABOUT SEATTLE FIRE

OUR VISION

To be a national leader in responding to and preventing emergencies with a commitment to excellence and teamwork.

OUR MISSION

To save lives and protect property through emergency medical services, fire and rescue response, and fire prevention. We respond immediately when any member of our community needs help with professional, effective and compassionate service.

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 one another 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.

Seattle Fire strives to provide the best service by putting the community and its needs first. It is our goal to actively engage Seattle's residents. Seattle Fire values and respects diverse internal and external cultures, constantly working to improve its services to the community. Through feedback and cooperative communication processes, the department works to ensure the community knows about and can access programs and services.

The department was created by Seattle Ordinance No. 1212 on Oct. 17, 1889. The services we provide include:

- Critical fire suppression and emergency medical care
- Technical teams, including technical and heavy rescue, dive rescue, tunnel rescue, marine fire response, energy response, decontamination, and hazardous materials response
- Fire prevention and investigation
- Public education and life safety training
- Mutual aid response to neighboring jurisdictions



TIERED RESPONSE SYSTEM

Seattle Fire provides emergency response through five geographic battalions, consisting of 33 fire stations (plus 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 provide emergency response services and meet the needs of the City, in 2025 the department had 993 uniformed personnel and 94 civilian personnel. Uniformed personnel includes 902 firefighter/EMTs, 35 chiefs and 56 firefighter/paramedics. Every day, there are 216 members responding to emergencies across the city (220 with upstaffing for two daytime aid units, Aid 4 and Aid 31).

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), Health One services or 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 eight medic units will also be dispatched to the scene.

Certain types of emergencies require multiple units. For example, someone 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.

2025 BUSIEST UNITS

Determined by total responding calls

ENGINE 25 4,866

LADDER 10 3,425

AID 2 6,603

MEDIC 1 4,359

BATTALION CHIEF 2 1,382

STATION MAP & APPARATUS PROFILE

33 FIRE STATIONS

32 ENGINES

12 LADDER TRUCKS

ONE LADDER TRUCK IS PART OF THE RESCUE 1 UNIT

8 MEDIC UNITS

5 AID UNITS

2 PEAK-TIME AID UNITS

3 HEALTH ONE UNITS

4 FIRE BOATS

2 AIR TRUCKS

2 HOSE WAGONS

ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED APPARATUS

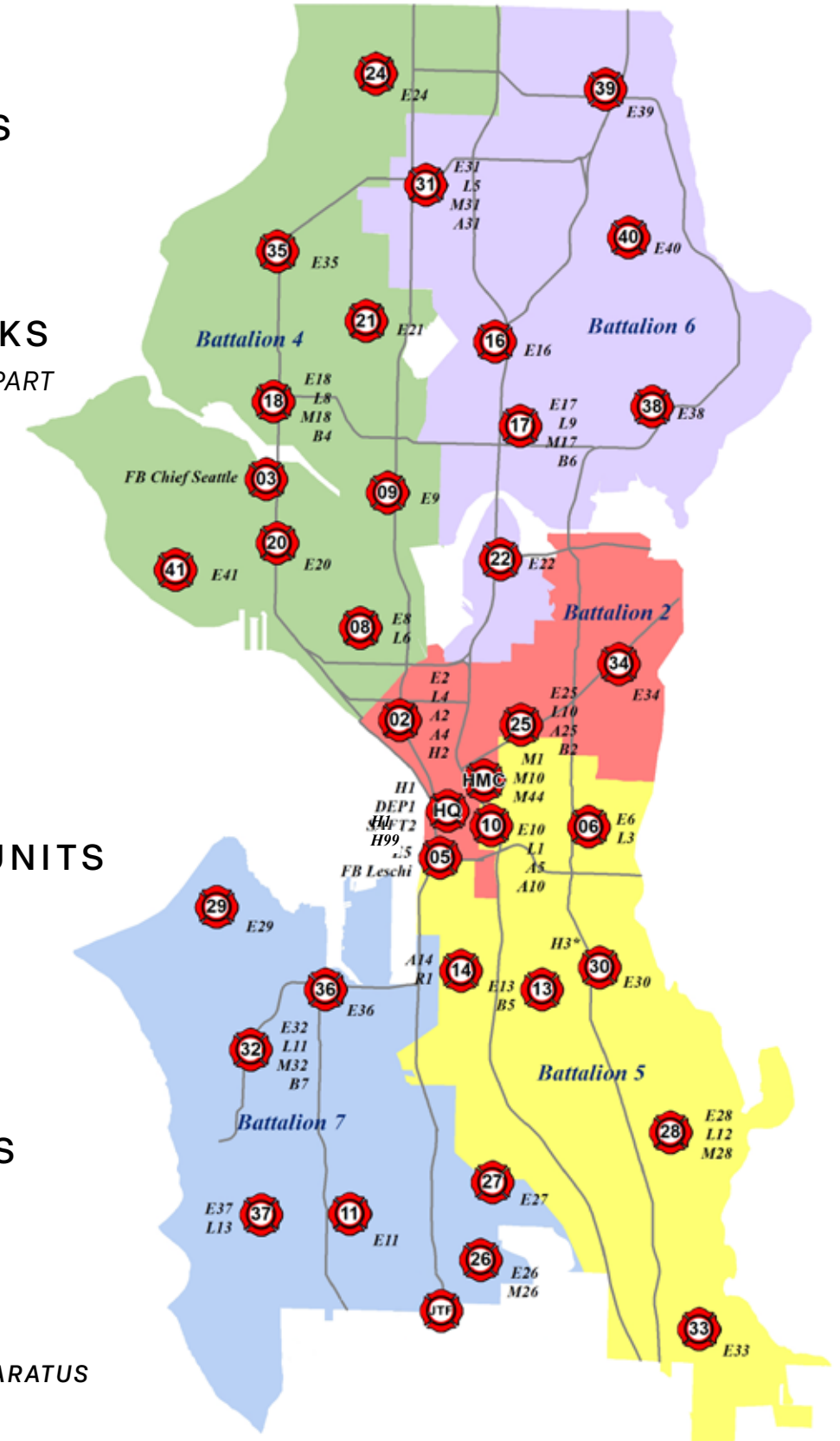




PHOTO BY JOHN ODEGARD

PHOTO BY JOHN ODEGARD

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 “flashover” at some time between five and 10 minutes after ignition, turning a typical “room and contents” fire into a structural fire of some magnitude.

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

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 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.

These response standards measure the delivery of fire suppression, technical rescue response and emergency medical services. Guided by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710, the standards protect the community and occupational health and safety of Seattle Fire employees. The call processing standards are guided by NFPA 1222 (as set in 2022).

RESPONSE TOTALS	2023	2024	2025
Total number of responses	111,319	112,320	108,763
Basic Life Support	66,336	66,683	64,693
Advanced Life Support	16,407	14,839	14,599
Fire-type responses*	28,107	30,370	29,129
Special operations	385	378	301
Mutual aid	84	50	41

*The "fire-type responses" category includes any incident where firefighters don turnout gear (ex: fires, vehicle collisions, automatic fire alarms, elevator rescues, etc.). These response standards measure the delivery of fire suppression, technical rescue response and emergency medical services.

CALL VOLUME	2023	2024	2025
Total number of calls	206,482	201,776	197,926
Emergency calls	176,513	171,532	167,548
Admin calls	29,969	30,244	30,378

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

CALL PROCESSING	2023	2024	2025
Calls processed within 60 seconds	51%	51%	59%

NFPA 1225 (2022) states that 90% of the time, dispatch centers should process high acuity fire and EMS calls within 60 seconds. This is the time from when the phone is first picked up to a unit assigned.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL	2023	2024	2025
EMS turnout time is within 60 seconds	57%	55%	58%

Turnout time standard is 60 seconds, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being assigned to being enroute.

First BLS unit arrival is within 4 minutes	74%	67%	67%
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Response time standard for the arrival of the first Basic Life Support unit (aid car, fire engine, ladder truck) is four minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being enroute to onscene.

First ALS unit arrival is within 8 minutes	78%	81%	80%
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Response time standard for the arrival of an Advanced Life Support unit (medic unit with two firefighter/paramedics) is eight minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being enroute to onscene.

Average number of EMS responses per paramedic unit per day	5.04	4.35	4.27
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Does not include Medic 44.

Total Advanced Life Support transports	5,050	5,139	5,600
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Includes total transports by medic and aid units.

FIREFIGHTING	2023	2024	2025
Fire turnout time is within 80 seconds	67%	60%	66%

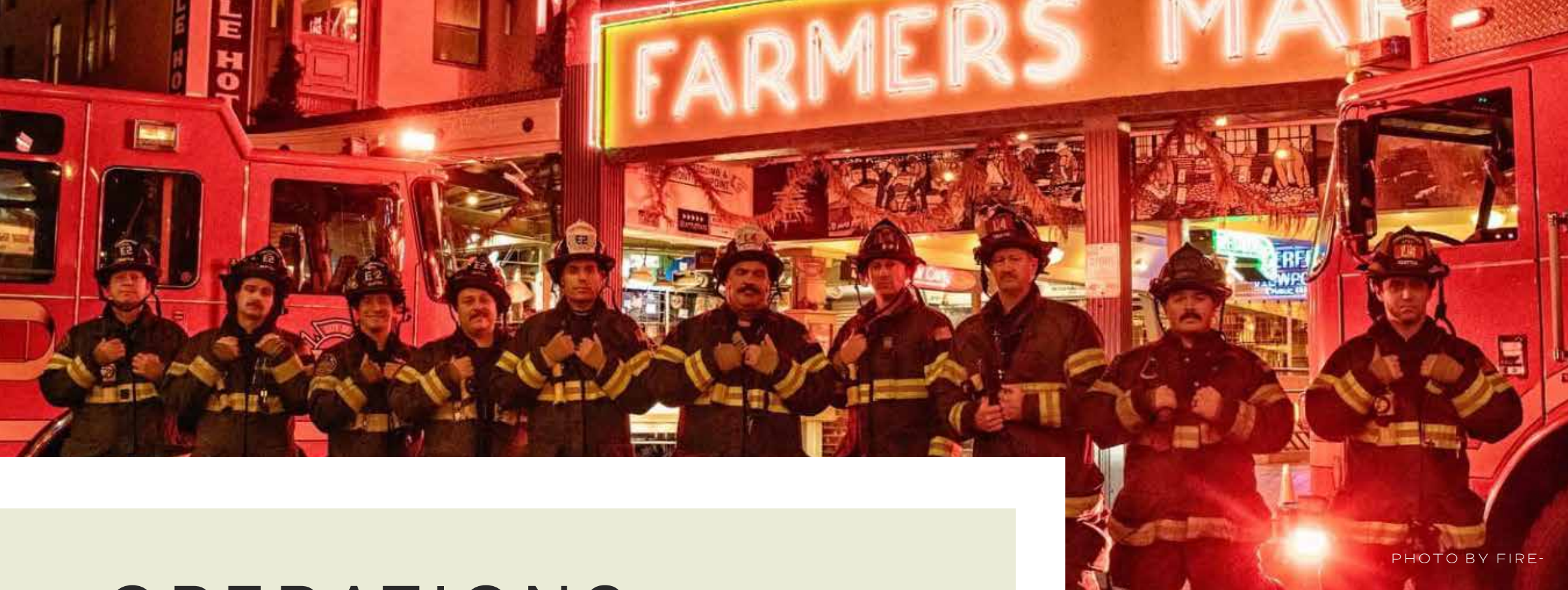
Turnout time standard is 80 seconds, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being assigned to being enroute.

First engine arrival is within 4 minutes	77%	76%	76%
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Response time standard for the arrival of the first fire engine is four minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being enroute to onscene.

First full alarm arrival is within 8 minutes	99%	94%	95%
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Response time standard for the arrival of a first full alarm assignment is eight minutes, 90% of the time. This is the time span between a unit being enroute to onscene.



OPERATIONS

PUGET SOUND ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

PSE leadership and Seattle Fire have continued to hold debriefs after all significant incidents involving natural gas. Operations members participated in a drill hosted by PSE at their Georgetown facility, where Seattle Fire sent its Haz Mat team, three chiefs and two ladder companies.

PSE also provided the funds to the Seattle Fire Foundation for purchase new natural gas detectors for the Haz Mat team at Fire Station 10. These replace Seattle Fire's own equipment, which required firefighter to measure than convert the readings in order to compare with PSE. This change means less time, less chance for error and greater safety for responders, utility workers and impacted residents/building occupants.

RESCUE SWIMMER PROGRAM

The Rescue Swimmer program added two new swimmers to their team in 2025, from 59 to 61. This moves the program closer to its goal of having a minimum number of rescue swimmers on duty each shift and in each battalion.

With funding from the Seattle Fire Foundation, the program began piloting use of a rescue strop for water rescues and a new handheld sonar to locate someone missing underwater. The foundation also purchased search and rescue wetsuits to continue the transition away from dry suits.

ACTING LIEUTENANT TASK BOOK

The department implemented a new, voluntary task book for firefighters who act as lieutenants. While not required for promotion, it helps provide a baseline of competency and is designed to prepare members for the role. Two cohorts were invited to pilot the task book in 2025, and their feedback is being incorporated

into subsequent cohorts in 2026.

RESCUE WATERCRAFT TEAM EXPANDS

Thanks to the Seattle Fire Foundation and its generous donors, the department received a third rescue watercraft in summer 2025. This one has been positioned on Lake Union and complements the two rescue watercraft that were put in service in July 2024 on Lake Washington. These SeaDoos are outfitted with lights and a rescue platform essential for making rescues on the water.

In the program's first full year, there have been multiple rescues made, including a person who fell from the log boom at Seafair. The team of rescue watercraft operator and rescue swimmer saw the incident and were able to respond in moments. The person was well below the water's surface when the team arrived, and they were able to bring him to surface quickly.

The nimbleness of the rescue watercraft has aided Seattle Fire in making several other rescues that otherwise would have been difficult to accomplish.

The department is working with the Seattle Fire Foundation to secure a fourth rescue watercraft to add at Lake Union, which will complete the current

deployment plans for this program.

PLANNING FOR WORLD CUP SOCCER

Seattle was one of the sites for FIFA's Club World Cup in summer 2025, which many viewed as a precursor for the actual World Cup matches taking place in various cities in North America 2026.

Working with many local, state and federal partners, Seattle Fire used the Club Cup matches to test its operational plans. From fire suppression to EMS to hazardous material detection, Seattle Fire was able to analyze the outcomes and build that learning into its plans for 2026.

Although the city has been host to many large events, the World Cup in 2026 raises the level of preparedness and planning.

SHARPENING THE SAW

Operations published two new and revised one Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). Two of the three SOGs published in 2025 provided guidance for Chief Officers in the form of in-person training and dialogue.

Operations continues to refine its performance by evaluating incidents through its Deputy 1 Significant Incident Reports (D1SIRs) and Post Incident Analysis programs. The Deputy 1 Significant Incident Reports capture vital learning outcomes and recognize areas where continued training will help the department meet its mission objectives. The key learnings inform training objectives for drills and multi-company operations to close gaps. Sixty-eight Deputy 1 Significant Incident Report were published in 2025, with company officers facilitating 269 reviews of these incidents.

Two incidents received more intensive scrutiny through the Post Incident Analysis program. The process includes collecting, analyzing and documenting lessons learned and effective actions taken at an incident through a published case study. At the request of a fellow fire department, a team from Seattle helped them conduct their own analysis of a significant incident. It is our hope that by sharing what we have implemented, other

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

QUARTER 1

Jan. 10 – 8100 block of 16th Ave SW: Two occupants rescued from a single-family residence fire.

Feb. 9 – 900 block of NW 54th Street: Three-alarm fire in a three-story building under construction with extension to eight neighboring occupied townhomes.

Feb. 28 - 1800 block 12th Ave: 2-11 fire in Capitol Hill apartment building.

March 2 – 2500 block Westlake Ave N.: Major Rescue Response for multiple patients from multiple vehicle collision.

March 10 – 9000 block 16th Ave SW: Exterior fire spread to the covered porch and contents of ADU.

March 30 – 5000 block 8th Ave NE: Exterior fire spread to floors 1, 2 and attic.

April 17 – 800 block Jefferson St: 2-11 fire in First Hill 17-story apartment building.

April 19 and 20 – 2-11 fire on Apr. 19 beginning in a Downtown Seattle restaurant with smoke activating automatic fire alarms at neighboring 30-story hotel. Crews returned in the early hours of Apr. 20 for a Natural Gas Major response.

May 4 – 32nd Ave W and W Galer St.: Rope rescue for patient who'd fallen 65' down Magnolia Bluff.

May 5 – 4500 block 19th Ave NE: Activated CO detector led to the discovery of intentionally created chemical reaction.

June 6 – 1000 block E. John St.: Fire involving solar panels on roof of Capitol Hill apartment building.

June 10 – Fairview Ave & N. Harrison St.: Natural Gas Major response for 6" line struck by excavation crews.

June 25 – 2100 block Westlake Ave N.: 2-11 fire at Lake Union marina, extending to roof of enclosed dock, sinking 40' boat.



QUARTER 2

QUARTER 3

July 5 – 4500 block 19th Ave NE: Fire in University District fraternity upgraded to a 2-11 when fire was found to have extended into void spaces.

July 24 – 900 block 20th Ave: 2-11 fire involving seven structures in the Central District.

July 30 – Two early morning incendiary fires in the Mt. Baker and Columbia City neighborhoods.

July 31 - 2300 block 17th Ave S.: 2-11 fire in Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Aug. 8 – 100 block 23rd Ave S.: Fire in basement mechanical room at The William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation.

Aug. 25 – 600 block Highland Dr.: Fire in Queen Anne low-rise apartment building.

Sept. 6 – 11200 block 1st Ave NE: 2-11 defensive fire in vacant Northgate apartment building.

Sept. 14 – 2500 block S. Myrtle St.: 3-11 brushfire beginning on I-5 near S. Myrtle St. and spread up the hillside to residential area.

Sept. 26 – 200 block 6th Ave S.: Rescue extrication of person pinned between an elevator and the floor.

Oct. 10 – 3600 block Evanston Ave N.: Fire in Wallingford single-family residence with one dog rescue and reunited with its owner.

Oct. 26 – 3800 block Ashworth Ave N.: 2-11 fire originating in an RV and extending to a single-family residence.

Oct. 27 – EB I-90 at Midspan: Water rescue for person who'd jumped off I-90 bridge. Patient rescued, transported to shore by Seattle Fire rescue watercraft.

Nov. 1 – 11100 block 59th Ave S.: Full response for an advanced basement fire in a Skyway single-family residence.

Nov. 7 – 29th Ave E./E. Cherry St.: Underground vault fire, CO2 applied to extinguish vault fire.

Nov. 13 – 7200 block East Green Lake Dr. N.: Kitchen fire with extension to the cockloft of Green Lake restaurant.

Dec. 1 – 8500 block Greenwood Ave N.: Multiple casualty incident (MCI) response for four overdose patients.

Dec. 11 – 11000 block Bartlett Ave NE: Defensive fire in Matthews Beach single-family residence.

Dec. 12 – 3200 block W. Commodore Wy: Water rescue response with two kayakers pulled from the west side of the Ballard Locks.



QUARTER 4

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PARAMEDIC TRAINING

All paramedics with Seattle Fire must serve the department as a firefighter/EMT for several years before applying for the Medic One program. After acceptance, they begin a rigorous 10-month program with more than 2,000 hours of classroom and field training before earning their white smocks.

We are honored to have been one of the first paramedic programs in the United States, dispatching our team of firefighter-paramedics to their first call on March 7, 1970.

LATERAL RECRUITMENT PROCESS

In late 2024, Seattle Fire invited nationally-certified firefighter/paramedics to apply as lateral hires for the department's esteemed Medic One program. Nationwide, there has been a shortage of paramedics. Seattle Fire and other King County emergency medical services programs have also felt the pinch and opted to increase paramedic staffing through a lateral hiring process.

With the support of the Medic One Foundation and the University of Washington's Medic One Paramedic Training program, Seattle Fire hired seven lateral paramedics in the spring.

After selection, these lateral paramedics attended Seattle's firefighter recruit training as a refresher before joining other regionally-hired lateral paramedics for an accelerated paramedic course intended to level set everyone's prior training to meet to the region's standard of excellence. A few paramedics had already been trained by the University of Washington Medic One program and were able to start riding Medic One units before the end of 2025.

TRADITIONAL PARAMEDIC TRAINING CLASSES

Seattle Fire was proud to have seven members in Paramedic Class 51. They celebrated their graduation from the training program in July 2025. Another 11 firefighter/EMTs were selected for Paramedic Class 52 and began their studies in September 2025.

Our deepest appreciation to the Medic One Foundation. They provide the financial support essential for training paramedic students and helping ensure that the paramedic training program continues to set the standard for excellence in the nation.

REMEMBERING LT/PM LARRY DOLL

The fire department and broader paramedic community lost a cherished colleague and friend in August. LT/PM Larry Doll passed away unexpectedly while off-shift. His passing left a profound mark on the department. In many workspaces you will see Larry's Eight Rules to Live By posted. This series of mantras reflect his personal and professional ethics, starting and ending with, Practice Kindness.

LT/PM Doll was a member of Recruit Class 91, joining the department in 2006. After working on Engines 11 and 31, he chose the path of paramedicine in 2012. Later, he promoted to Lieutenant and became a supervisor on A-shift as Medical Services Officer. He served the nation as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.



Paramedic Class 51 graduation

UW COLLEGIATE EMS PROGRAM PILOT

Collegiate Group (EMS) students approached Seattle Fire to coordinate providing emergency medical care to the UW Seattle campus community. The all-volunteer cadre of UW EMS students responds to medical emergencies, traumatic injuries and other calls on campus, often providing initial care as the first arriving Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). They hand patients off to Seattle Fire for continuing care and transport, when needed. All UW EMS students receive orientation, field training, and continuing education. While a more common model found on the East Coast, the UW EMS program is the first university-based EMS agency in Washington.

TRACKING OVERDOSES

After a peak in 2023, the number of suspected overdoses (all substances) has been slowly trending downward. The numbers remain a deep concern, which has driven a continued focus on finding new ways to provide effective interventions with patients experiencing overdoses.

OVERDOSES	2023	2024	2025
All overdoses	6,538	5,203	5,001
Suspected opioid overdoses	3,806	3,016	3,091

Overdose fatalities are also trending slightly down: 1,047 in 2024 and 914 last year.



MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH

The Mobile Integrated Health program jointly serves Seattle Fire's Operations division and its clients in the community. Through immediate response and ongoing case management, the program intervenes in crisis, people aging in place, behavioral health disorders, social need, medical care and much more.

Across all of its units, Health One responds 2,477 times in 2025, and the team fielded 3,506 referrals (including 235 Adult Protective Services reports), primarily from

firefighters. These runs and referrals yielded 1,564 individual clients enrolled for Mobile Integrated Health services, whether in-person or care coordination.

To give the team a new tool to address the most difficult cases, the program launched a new service in 2025: complex case management. This service devotes a dedicated case manager to the most challenging cases with a high degree of medical, social or behavioral complexity.

The Advanced Practice Provider service continued to mature this year and became a core element of the program. While splitting time between the Health One and Health 99 units, the team's nurse practitioner – staffed in partnership with Harborview – developed outreach and engagement strategies for medically complex clients. In November, she was recognized for her work with a prestigious UW Medicine Cares Award.

OVERDOSE TEAM

2025 saw continued growth and expansion of the Mobile Integrated Health overdose team. The Health 99 response unit expanded to five days a week while Health 98, the follow-up unit, entered full-time

service. The conjunction of the two units allows substantially deeper client engagement and referral potential. In 2025, Health 99's first-in-the-nation EMT-B buprenorphine program administered 120 doses following overdose.

Throughout the spring and summer, the Mobile Integrated Health team worked closely with partners from DESC, King County and UW Medicine to support the successful launch of the ORCA Center, a groundbreaking post-overdose stabilization center. Mobile Integrated Health members provided department-wide training on ORCA referral and transport while building a deep partnership to coordinate care for shared clients. In September, the center helped support a new Mobile Integrated Health event, a four-day pop-up clinic in Little Saigon aimed at helping individuals start long-acting opioid use disorder treatment.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Prevention Division works throughout the year to reduce fire and life safety risks in Seattle. Our mission is to prevent emergencies before they occur and to lessen their impact when they do. We advance this mission through education, enforcement of the Seattle Fire Code and data informed risk analysis. Together, these efforts help keep residents, businesses and visitors safe.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

In 2025, Seattle Fire began developing a comprehensive Community Risk Reduction plan to guide the department's strategies for reducing risk and minimizing the impact of emergency incidents. This work will continue into 2026 and beyond.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

Vacant and derelict buildings pose significant risks to the community and to first responders. Fire Prevention maintained Seattle's dangerous buildings list and worked directly with property owners to correct hazards or proceed with demolition. Legislation passed in 2024 helped streamline abatement efforts, resulting in 62 buildings brought to compliance in 2025 – 38 demolished and 24 restored.

PREVENTABLE OR "FALSE" ALARMS

Seattle Fire continues to respond to more than 10,000 false alarms each year, creating operational strain and slowing response to true emergencies. In 2025, Fire Prevention increased both outreach and enforcement. Inspectors monitored maintenance in over 1,000 alarm systems, engaged hundreds of property owners, and issued 628 citations. Twenty four systems were upgraded through the invest in lieu program, preventing future false activations.

SPECIAL EVENT AND TEMPORARY ASSEMBLIES

Fire Prevention supported safe operations at major city events – including Seafair, PrideFest, New Year's celebrations, concerts and professional sports – by identifying and correcting onsite hazards such as crowding, blocked exits and unsafe pyrotechnics. In 2025, division personnel conducted approximately 2,700 special event inspections and issued more than 1,600 temporary event related permits.

SYSTEMS TESTING

Fire Prevention oversees testing and repair of more than 26,000 fire protection systems in roughly 14,000 buildings. More than 4,500 systems were repaired in 2025, strengthening safety across the city. Nearly 3,000 systems remained in deficiency status at yearend, highlighting the ongoing need for compliance work.



PHOTO BY JOHN

26,000+
TOTAL INSPECTIONS
(OPS AND FPD ORIGINAL AND RE-

26,000+
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS TRACKED

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Seattle Fire provides an annual building inspection through which its Operations companies provide free fire safety inspections to more than 15,000 buildings each year. Fire Prevention coordinates this program and manages follow up inspections when code violations are found. In 2025, the division completed more than 1,700 follow up inspections from Operations referrals and public complaints, conducted over 690 high-rise program inspections, and issued 830 assembly permits for public spaces such as theaters, galleries and restaurants.

FIRE SAFETY IN NEW AND REMODELED BUILDINGS

The Plan Review team reviewed nearly 1,600 building plans and approximately 105,000 fire alarm and sprinkler devices. Seattle Fire and Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections continued two-day turnaround targets for select business projects and introduced streamlined over the counter permitting for sprinkler modifications affecting up to 24 devices—cutting weeks from timelines and reducing

costs for small businesses and multi-family housing maintenance projects. The New Construction Inspection team conducted more than 3,300 inspections to reduce fire risk at construction sites and ensure new fire protection systems meet code requirements.

SPECIAL HAZARDS

Fire Prevention issued more than 5,100 hazardous materials permits for fuel storage, welding, flammable gas use and laboratory operations. Each permit includes inspections and site-specific safety conditions.

FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) responded to all structure fires and investigated more than 280 incidents in 2025. Conclusions included 100 accidental fires, 125 intentionally set fires, 62 undetermined cases and one natural cause fire. Members of the FIU work closely with the Seattle Police Department when criminal activity is suspected.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



197,926
CALLS TO THE FIRE
ALARM CENTER

62
FIREFIGHTER
RECRUITS COMPLETED

7
LATERAL FIREFIGHTER/
PARAMEDICS

77,634
HOURS OF DEPARTMENT
TRAINING

The Fire Alarm Center is the first contact callers have with Seattle Fire. The dispatchers are all uniformed Seattle firefighter/EMTs. They receive specialized training before joining the dispatch floor. Drawing from their experience, they use the appropriate dispatch protocols to send resources quickly and provide the callers a reassuring presence.

Dispatchers received 197,926 calls to the Fire Alarm Center, a combination of emergency and administrative calls. They dispatched units on 108,763 responses and connected callers reporting low-risk medical issues to Washington-state certified nurses for closer evaluation.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

The Fire Alarm Center is a secondary Public Safety Answering Point – or PSAP – which receives fire and medical calls routed from the Seattle CARE Department’s 911 civilian dispatchers. In 2025, the two departments collaborated on improving standardized communications regarding specific call types, such as Scenes of Violence, Help the Firefighter, Fast Back-up and Expedited Responses. In partnership with other neighboring PSAPs, the Fire Alarm Center overhauled and updated mutual aid responses, processes and policies.

PUGET SOUND EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK

As part of a multi-year project, fire, EMS and law enforcement agencies across King County have moved to a new digital radio system. The Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) initiative required the FAC and Seattle Fire Support Services to reprogram all department portable radios, zone/channel updates and reidentified radios with new PSERN nomenclature in 2025.

EVENT SUPPORT

FIFA hosted several World Club Cup matches in Seattle, and the Fire Alarm Center provided communications equipment for all approximately 100 fire and Joint Hazard Assessment Team personnel working at each match.

VISITORS

The Fire Alarm Center hosted numerous tours and demonstrations of its use of Corti to the U. S. Coast Guard, Dallas Fire Department, Alaska 911, L.A. County trauma doctor, Taiwan EMS, Cambodia delegates and local organizations.

TRAINING

The Training Division is responsible for training all Seattle Fire personnel, from newly hired recruits to tenured members. They strive to meet applicable standards while providing timely and relevant training to all personnel, with the end goal of delivering exceptional fire, rescue and emergency medical services to our community.

STAFF

All Training Division operations are under the leadership of the deputy chief of Training and supported by a dedicated staff of administrative professionals, which includes senior management system analyst, one administrative staff assistant, two administrative specialists, and one facilities support coordinator.

Recruit training is led by the recruit training coordinator (Captain), who works with two assigned lead recruit instructors (Lieutenant) and numerous guest instructors who are temporarily assigned when classes are in session.

Operations training is led by the battalion chief of Training, who works with the operations training coordinator (Captain), two operations training lieutenants, one EMS training coordinator

(Lieutenant), one driver training coordinator (Lieutenant) and four Operations training firefighters.

RECRUIT TRAINING

Recruit training conducted three recruit classes, providing comprehensive training to 62 entry-level firefighter and seven lateral firefighter/paramedics. These new members were trained in basic firefighting skills, including hoseline operation, ladders, forcible entry, ventilation, search, apparatus driving, hazmat, rescue and EMS. They are certified to Firefighter 1 upon completion of recruit school and Firefighter 2 by the end of probation.

OPERATIONS TRAINING

In 2025, Operations training facilitated 77,634 combined hours of training to tenured firefighters, ensuring that every firefighter is prepared for a wide range of incidents and emergencies. This represents an unwavering commitment to excellence in training, reflecting the department's dedication to maintaining the highest standards of readiness.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE

In 2025, Seattle Fire continued to strengthen public safety and regional preparedness through strategic investments in training, equipment and firefighter safety - made possible by critical grant funding.

ENHANCING MARINE RESPONSE

Funding from the Port Security Grant Program allowed Seattle Fire to make important upgrades to the Leschi fireboat, including replacement of aging roll-up doors and the addition of a new forward-looking infrared (FLIR) camera. These improvements increase reliability and visibility during marine and low-light operations, enhancing safety on Seattle's waterways.

PROTECTING FIREFIGHTERS' HEALTH

Through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, all Seattle Fire operations personnel received PFAS-free particulate-blocking hoods, representing a major improvement in personal protective equipment and supporting long-term firefighter health and safety.

STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

Through funding from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), Seattle Fire trained 54 firefighters and regional partners in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Structural Collapse and Heavy Rescue operations. This specialized training enhances our ability to respond effectively to complex emergencies and reinforces coordinated response across the region.

UASI funding also supported the purchase of protective HazMat suits designed to safeguard responders from Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) hazards. These suits were distributed to partner agencies throughout the region, strengthening collective preparedness.

IMPROVING HAZARD DETECTION CAPABILITIES

With support from the State Homeland Security Program, Seattle Fire acquired three infrared spectrometer detectors to improve hazardous materials identification. These tools were shared with regional partners, and joint training was provided to the Joint Hazard Assessment Team to ensure safe and effective use during emergencies.

SAFETY

Seattle Fire launched a new internal app for its members to report threatening behaviors or assaults they experience while on the job. This information helps the department identify safety measures to strengthen or implement, and it also helps track cases that have been referred to the court system.

The department rolled out new safety equipment in 2025, including Sootsoap to improve member decontamination after fires, new anti-fog EMS/safety glasses and new turnouts with improved features.

A workgroup of 10 members helped test several turnout options and another 45 helped evaluate gloves, safety glasses, helmets and hoods. The testing led to several changes. Among the improvements: new, more reflective trim on turnout pants and jackets, another helmet option, new fire gloves knee-pads in turnout gear and new thumb loops in the jackets.

FLEETS & FACILITIES

The City of Seattle is committed to converting its fleet of vehicles over to electric where possible. Sixty-four chargers have been installed at 13 Seattle Fire facilities, helping to reduce the carbon footprint for administrative vehicles.

The department put in service two engines, one ladder truck, one Training Division pickup, one Logistics trailer and five vehicles used by the Fire Prevention Division in 2025.

With the partnership of Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Seattle Fire installed HAAS Alert Systems on 60 apparatus, for a total of 80 fleetwide. The systems send real-time alerts to motorists via their map apps and compatible vehicle navigation systems to alert them that emergency vehicles are approaching. It also sends alerts to other nearby Seattle Fire apparatus who may be rushing to an emergency. The aim is to reduce the risk of collisions with fire responders.



WELLNESS

In 2025, Wellness programming improved the operational readiness and wellbeing of Seattle Fire's workforce by focusing on physical fitness, mental resilience and preventing occupational injuries.

RESILIENCE INNOVATIONS

The department launched a mental performance coaching program to provide high-stress units with targeted resilience workshops and teach recruits strategies to successfully navigate drill school and beyond.

Over the course of the last two years, 10 firefighters completed the certification process as Mindful Performance coaches through a specialized program at University of California- San Diego's School of Medicine.

Behavioral Health offered Leading Resilient Teams workshops at officer academies and Battalion Chief meetings and facilitated three mindful performance workshops emphasizing building habits to operate at peak efficiency in high-stress situations.

STRESS EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

The Peer Support team created a Mental Wellness video for the annual Safety Stand Down to address the stigma of stress and encourage firefighters to access resources preventively. The department expanded its Therapy Dog team to six teams that provide care and support following stressful incidents and boost morale. Members of the department's Peer team attended the International Association of Fire Fighters' annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Colorado Springs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Behavioral Health also hosted four Crisis Intervention workshops on Suicide and Psychological First Aid, inviting other regional agencies to participate. They partnered with the Washington First Responder Wellness Task Force and University of Washington Behavioral Health Core to pilot education programs for mental health professionals learning to work with first responders.



PUBLIC

The Public Affairs division leads a wide range of activities, including Seattle Fire's media relations, community education, outreach, social media, website and public information work. The division also provides low and no-cost bystander CPR training to students, residents and businesses located in the city. Requests for fire station tours, community visits, parades, Firefighter Storytimes and many other activities involving Seattle Fire personnel and apparatus are coordinated by the division. The team also leads the department's efforts around accessibility and co-leads with the Human Resources division the annual firefighter/EMT recruitment.

CPR TRAINING

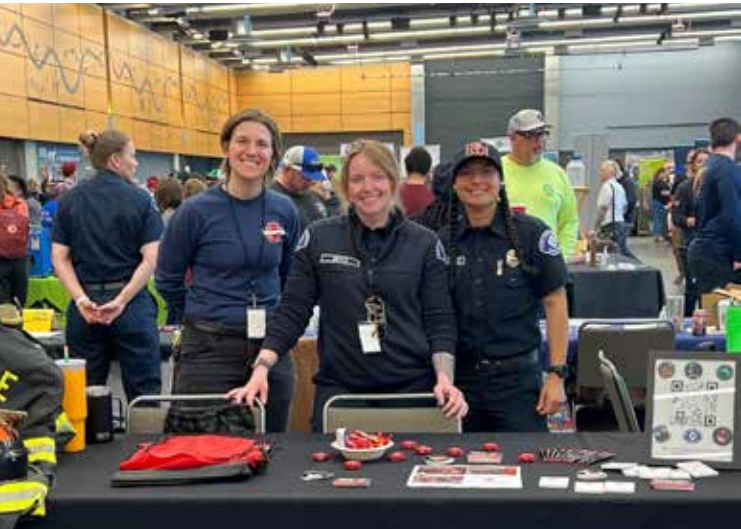
Seattle Fire's Medic 2 bystander CPR program provides low-cost certification and free hands-only courses to Seattle residents, schools and organizations. In 2025, Medic 2 taught 5,465 people the life-saving skills of CPR. 2025 was the first full year offering community CPR classes at both Seattle Fire headquarters and at community centers throughout The City of Seattle. Community CPR classes allow individuals to sign up and received CPR education. In total, Medic 2 hosted 47 community CPR classes attended by 480 individuals.

If you are interested in scheduling a CPR class for your organization or to sign up for a community class, visit seattle.gov/Medic2. Public classes are also listed on the City's calendar app, Trumba.

SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

The Public Affairs Division partners with the Operations Division to install free combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms in the homes of eligible seniors, individuals with disabilities or with lower incomes. Qualifications include owning the home where the alarms are being installed. Firefighters may also check that the status of alarms in a home when responding to a call at that residence. If you or someone you know may qualify for a free combination alarm, please visit Seattle Fire's website (www.seattle.gov/fire) or call 206-386-1400.

- 213** CPR SCHOOL-BASED AND
- 151**
- 128** TOURS OF FIRE STATIONS
- 105** SMOKE/CO ALARMS
- 20** FIREFIGHTER STORYTIMES AT SEATTLE



RECRUITMENT

Seattle Fire announced last year that it would begin accepting entry-level firefighter applications on an annual basis, starting with the October 2025 hiring window. Working together with Human Resources, Public Affairs led a multi-faceted effort to bring awareness to the exceptional career opportunities afforded as a firefighter and attract a strong applicant pool. Nearly 4,800 individuals submitted applications for the chance to be hired for Seattle's August 2026 and February 2027 recruit schools.

The team hosted six Fire Connect podcasts, each with a different focus on the various steps to becoming a firefighter to physical and mental fitness and career growth within the job. They assisted with both King County Fire Chiefs Association diversity recruitment workshops in 2025, including a significant planning role as Seattle Fire hosted the November workshop at North Seattle Colleges. They also helped host several online and in-person workshops aimed at answering questions about the application and career itself.

Podcast episodes and webinars are available on Seattle Fire's YouTube channel.

CHILDREN'S FIRE SAFETY EVENTS

Public Affairs coordinated Fire Safety Fairs at fire stations 26, 30 and 32, and welcomed community members of all ages to meet their neighborhood firefighters, learn about the importance of smoke alarms, develop fire escape plans, demo hands-only CPR, make art and crafts, and meet the department's therapy dogs.

The summer kicked off with what has become a hallmark fire safety event, the Fire Day at MOHAI. The event welcomed 1,500 people to meet local firefighters, see museum exhibits, tour the fireboat, explore fire apparatus, participate in safety games and hear the Fire Chief read a fire safety story. Our thanks to MOHAI and sponsors for making this event free to all.

APARTMENT FIRE SAFETY

Many Seattleites live in multi-residential housing, a growing trend that has been noted by the Public Affairs division. While some home fire safety tips work across all types of housing, those who live in apartments and condominiums have additional considerations, such as when to evacuate or shelter in place when an alarm goes off. In 2025, the team conducted almost 60 fire safety presentations to multi-residential buildings, with many focused on senior and lower-income housing.

ACCESSIBILITY

With an increasingly diverse city population, Public Affairs works to ensure that neither language, economic status nor disability limits Seattle residents from accessing critical fire and life safety information. The division leads the Community Fire Safety Advocate program, which arose in response to the tragic deaths of five people in a 2010 fire. This team of multi-lingual educators teaches in 12 languages fire safety at various events throughout the year. Translated handouts and videos are also available to assist individuals whose primary language is not English.

Public Affairs also works to ensure ADA compliance in department policies, the website and social media. In 2025, the division began leading a department wide effort to make all digital content accessible under WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards.

ARSON AWARENESS

After a string of intentionally set fires in the Mt. Baker and Columbia City neighborhoods over the summer, Public Affairs worked with the Fire Investigation Unit, neighborhood fire stations and local media to share information with neighbors to help them not only keep an eye open for suspicious activity but also take steps to protect their property. Team members and Fire Chief Scoggins also attended a community meeting in Mt. Baker.

The department helped publicize the Arson Alarm Foundation's award for information that would lead to the arrest or conviction of those responsible for setting arson fires.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Seattle Fire is deeply grateful for the support of the Seattle Fire Foundation, the Medic One Foundation and the generous donors to both. Both are nonprofit organizations that provide additional resources beyond what the city can allocate each year.

The Seattle Fire Foundation focuses on enhancing firefighter safety and effectiveness, the health and wellness of firefighters, and deepening the connection between the department and the communities it serves.

In 2025, the Seattle Fire Foundation donated a third rescue watercraft, funded two pilot projects for the rescue swimmer program, invested in behavioral health, paid for new memorial plaques and completed the first phase of fitness equipment replacement in fire stations. The foundation made a donation to preserve the fire department's history and provided a day of joy for the campers and staff attending Camp Eyabsut, which serves children and youth who have experienced burn trauma.

The Medic One Foundation is dedicated to improving pre-hospital emergency care in Seattle and King County. Their support is essential for the ability for fire departments and EMS agencies to train and equip new paramedics each year. The Medic One Foundation covered the cost of training our paramedic students enrolled in both Paramedic Class 52 and the lateral cadre.

A grant from the Medic One Foundation also ensure the availability of the PulsePoint mobile app. This tool alerts users to fires, flooding and utilities emergencies around them. Users can also opt to be notified when 911 has been notified of a cardiac arrest immediately nearby. This alerting increases the possibility for someone to provide bystander CPR until fire and emergency medical services can respond.

Each year, the Seattle Fire Department recognizes its uniformed and professional staff for their exceptional performance on and off duty. The department also recognizes members of the community and other partners for their role in supporting Seattle Fire's mission. The award recipients are nominated and selected by their peers. Award categories include commendations, unit and administrative citations, distinguished service, meritorious achievement, and certificate of merit.



Allison Dolzonek
Civilian of the Year



Firefighter William Whatley II
Firefighter of the Year



Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Smith
Paramedic of the Year



Lieutenant Paul Coale
Officer of the Year



Battalion Chief Brian Maier
Chief of the Year



Ruth Ethelston
Customer Service Award



Julie George
Fire Chief Claude Harris



Lieutenant/Paramedic Larry Doll
Lifetime Achievement



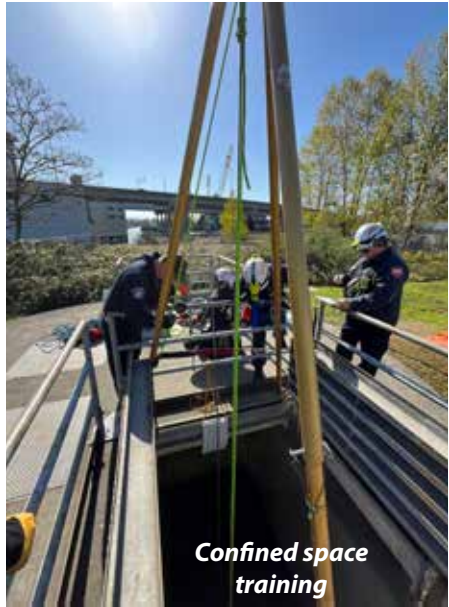
Firefighter Roger Bianchi (ret.)
Lifetime Achievement



Chris Santos (ret.)
Lifetime Achievement



The Chaplaincy Program
Community Service Award



Confined space training



Washington DC visit



Rescue extrication

PHOTO BY JOHN



Pride parade



Firefighter/Paramedic visit



Patient reunification



Firefighter Story Time



SFD visits the Mariners



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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.

