

Emergency Scene Cameras

Seattle Fire Department

What is the technology?

Emergency scene cameras are digital cameras used to take photos at incidents the fire department responds to. The photos are collected as part of SFD's documentation of an incident response.

Why do we use the technology?

Collecting photos at response incidents is a best practice guideline from the National Fire Protection. These photos help provide medical professionals information during emergency responses, which can reduce potential for loss of life for patients. Photos of incident scenes also provide valuable information for SFD's Fire Investigation Unit.

Collection

After assessing a scene, first responders determine if emergency scene photos are of use for medical or other incident review purposes.

Use

Photos taken by emergency scene cameras may be shared with the Medic One doctor in order to provide appropriate patient care. Photos taken by the Safety Chiefs and the Fire Investigation Unit are used in open investigations related to collisions and fires.

Protections

SFD adheres to internal Policies and Washington laws governing the use, retention, and disclosure of photos. Access controls also exist around the use of emergency scene cameras, and is limited to Fire Investigators, Battalion Chiefs in Safety Units, and Medic One paramedic units.



The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/Surveillance](https://seattle.gov/surveillance).

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.



City of Seattle