



2020 Mukilteo Fire Department Annual Response Analysis

“Every city and town shall evaluate its level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data related to level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the city or town. (2) Beginning in 2007, every city and town shall issue an annual written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required by subsection (1) of this section. (2a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being met. (2b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve compliance.” RCW 35.103.040

The Mukilteo Fire Department mission is to plan for, prevent, and respond to fire, medical and disaster events. To achieve that mission, objectives have been set for turnout times and response (travel) times to emergency incidents. These are measured at the 90th percentile, meaning that 90% of the responses took less time than the time specified. The City includes all emergency response objectives that are less than three (3SD) standard deviations from the mean. This captures 99.7% of the responses. To calculate the standard deviation, the department analyzed all emergency responses for 2016 and 2017 (n=3,996). The department also reviews all objectives longer than 3SDs from the mean, 0.15% of all calls, to identify potentially correctable system issues.

The City has not defined objectives for certain types of responses, including special operations, aircraft rescue and firefighting, marine rescue and firefighting, and wildland firefighting. These responses require a response from a specialized regional resource or team not operated by the Mukilteo Fire Department. Their turnout and travel times are outside the control of the department.

Incident Volume

The basic measurement of the department’s workload has been the incident volume, or the number of times units responded to calls for help. Those incidents are classified as either “emergent” or “urgent”, commonly referred to as non-emergency. The classification is determined by the 911 dispatcher using pre-set response determinants based on information from the caller. Emergent incidents require an immediate response *and* the use of lights and sirens. Urgent incidents require an immediate response, but do not include the use of lights and sirens.

The department divides emergent responses into two categories, the incident volume in Mukilteo and automatic aid incidents to neighboring jurisdictions. Emergent incidents in Mukilteo require measurement against the City objectives.

The incidents in Mukilteo can be further divided by geographic area. Station 24's area includes the 1.95 square miles in the City limits north of 84th Street. Station 25's area includes the 4.67 square miles in the City limits south of 84th Street.

Measure	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
Total Incidents	2,321/100%	(7.3%) -183 incidents
Mukilteo Total Incidents	1,969/85%	(5.7%) -118 incidents
Automatic Aid Total Incidents	352/15%	(15.6%) -65 incidents
Emergent Incidents	1,955/84%	(13.9%) -316 incidents
Urgent Incidents	366/16%	57.1% +133 incidents
Emergent Incidents in Mukilteo	1,637/84%	(12.6%) -237 incidents
Automatic Aid Emergent Incidents	318/16%	(19.9%) -79 incidents
Station 24 (north of 84 th Street)	519/26%	(6.0%) -32 incidents
Station 25 (south of 84 th Street)	1,508/74%	(6.3%) -101 incidents

Incident volume was down significantly in 2020. This began in March as the COVID-19 pandemic began in earnest and continued throughout the year. Urgent incidents as a percentage of incidents continued to increase as enhanced screening of callers resulted in additional information. This information led to an urgent rather than an emergent response.

Turnout Time

Turnout time is measured as the time from when personnel are alerted to an incident by the communications center until the apparatus starts responding ("wheels rolling"). The City objective for apparatus (fire engines and ambulances) turnout time is 2:00 minutes from the time of dispatch with 90% compliance. This measurement applies to Mukilteo Fire units responding to emergent calls in Mukilteo. The turnout time is decreasing, and percentage of compliance is increasing, but neither meets their objective. Contributing factors to the extended time include differences between when the call is considered dispatched and when the crew has the information and cross-staffed units that require crews to move equipment to the appropriate apparatus for the call type. A station alerting system directly connected to the dispatch system may reduce some of the time delay.

Apparatus Turnout	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
Mean (Average)	0:01:36	9.1%
90 th Percentile	0:02:37	6.8%
2:00 Objective Met	70.1%	(7.6%)

Travel Time

Travel time is the time from when the apparatus starts responding to the incident ("wheels rolling") until they arrive on the scene ("wheels stopped"). The City objective for travel time is 5:40 minutes with 90% compliance. The travel time and percentage of compliance are essentially unchanged and neither meets their objective. Contributing factors include station locations, roadway layout, and traffic.

Apparatus Travel	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
Mean (Average)	0:04:06	6.0%
90 th Percentile	0:06:55	5.3%
5:40 Objective Met	80.7%	(3.0%)

Mukilteo Commitment Time

Measurement of the number of times an apparatus responds is used to gauge the department's workload. Measurement of the amount of time the apparatus is committed to an incident also indicates the department's readiness to respond to the next incident. It could also be considered as time out of service, on a call. Engines spend less time committed to calls unless there are a growing number of fire calls. Ambulances have significantly greater commitment time due to the time required to transport a patient to the hospital and return to the City. Mukilteo engine commitment time varied by four minutes and ambulance commitment time varied by two minutes over the four years analyzed. Increasing time in the future will be an indication to examine the number and type of units deployed.

Apparatus Commitment	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
Engine Commit (90th Percentile)	0:36:21	(11.8%)
Ambulance Commit (90th Percentile)	1:23:09	0.6%

EMS Response Types

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responses account for a significant portion of the fire department's incidents. These calls are divided into four primary categories, immediately life-threatening incidents (Upgraded Medic), advanced life support emergency incidents (Medic), basic life support emergency incidents (Basic), and basic life support non-emergency incidents (Basic Non-Emergency). Every instance of emergent response comes with a greater chance of being involved in or causing a motor vehicle collision.

The communications center utilizes protocols to identify the appropriate call type category. This determines the units and their response urgency. In November 2017, the communications center changed protocol systems. This resulted in a drop in the number of Basic incidents and an increase in the number of Medic and Basic Non-Emergency incidents. Over time, it is expected that the protocol system will result in more non-emergency responses.

EMS Response Types	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
Upgraded Medic	28	3.7%
Medic	564	(6.3%)
Basic	656	(0.8%)
Basic Non-Emergency	317	(6.5%)

Residential and Commercial Fire Responses

Fire responses are divided into two categories, residential and commercial. Responses are separated this way because the higher complexity of commercial fires requires more resources. While fire responses in Mukilteo are small, Mukilteo Fire apparatus respond to a significant number of fires with our automatic aid partners. This is beneficial in two ways. First, the responses allow Mukilteo crews to hone their firefighting skills through actual responses. Second, by working closely with our automatic aid partners, operational safety is improved as

the crews have experience working together. Due to the number of resources required, any residential or commercial fire in Mukilteo will always require a response from our automatic aid partners.

Fire Response Types	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
Mukilteo Residential Fires	5	No change
Mukilteo Commercial Fires	9	50.0%
Automatic Aid Residential Fires	15	(28.6%)
Automatic Aid Commercial Fires	39	62.5%

Automatic Aid

Snohomish County Fire Chiefs have adopted a policy of closest unit dispatch, meaning the closest appropriate resource is sent to the incident, regardless of department. This policy of automatic aid provides the best service to the caller as help arrives as soon as possible. Mukilteo's primary automatic aid partners are South Snohomish County Fire and Rescue (SSCFR), Everett Fire Department (EFD), and Paine Field Fire Department (PFFD), although in large emergencies it is possible that other departments would also respond.

South County and Everett both provide resources to and receive resources from Mukilteo Fire Department. Paine Field currently receives resources only, although their specialized units are available in the event of a downed aircraft in Mukilteo. The fire department monitors both the number of automatic aid incidents and the number of units sent to each incident. Based on closest unit dispatch, South County and Everett often provide multiple apparatus for a single incident. Mukilteo Fire, in contrast, normally only has one apparatus available to respond to an automatic aid incident.

Automatic Aid-Everett	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
MFD units to Everett Incidents	126	(11.3%)
Everett Emergent Responses	108	(19.4%)
Everett Urgent Responses	18	125.0%
EFD units to Mukilteo Incidents	89	(20.5%)
Mukilteo Emergent Responses	89	(20.5%)
Mukilteo Urgent Responses	0	No change

Automatic Aid-SSCFR	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
MFD units to SSCFR Incidents	198	(32.9%)
SSCFR Emergent Responses	184	(34.5%)
SSCFR Urgent Responses	14	No change
SSCFR units to Mukilteo Incidents	366	(30.3%)
Mukilteo Emergent Responses	344	(32.0%)
Mukilteo Urgent Responses	22	15.8%

Automatic Aid-PFFD	2020	Change from 2019 to 2020
MFD units to PFFD Incidents	35	(22.2%)
PFFD Emergent Responses	35	(18.6%)
PFFD Urgent Responses	0	(100%)

Summary

Incident volume was reduced in 2020 due to the pandemic. It has begun to slowly increase in the first quarter of 2021 but has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Mukilteo Fire Department staff will continue to monitor all response performance measures on a quarterly basis. As needed, policy recommendations will be brought to the City Council for consideration.