



*Annual Report 2012*

**South King Fire & Rescue**



## From the Chief - A year of renewal...



Hello fellow citizens,

We are pleased to be your provider of fire and life safety services since 1949. The past few years have been difficult, but the future now looks bright! 2012 was a year of rebirth for South King Fire & Rescue. After losing nearly over 28% of all revenues since 2009, we turned the corner and look forward to 2013. Thanks to our citizenry approving a

\$3.5 million excess levy covering the years 2013 through 2016, coupled with grants received from the Federal Government to assist with procuring equipment and firefighting personnel, we have been able to sustain our emergency services and will rehire enough firefighters to re-staff an emergency aid car that we had to close in 2011.

Thank you for your support – Fire Chief Al Church

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Church", written over a red background.

## More Success with Federal Funding Grants...

In the summer of 2012, South King Fire & Rescue was awarded a Federal Grant called SAFER. SAFER stands for *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response*. This grant will pay the salary and benefits for 9 firefighter/EMTs for two entire years. During these tough economic times, South King Fire & Rescue has used our ability to recoup your federal tax dollars by submitting grant requests annually in an effort to fund costly equipment purchases. From 2002 to 2004 we were awarded three grants totaling \$965,362 in federal funds for equipment. From 2010 through the end of 2012 (including the SAFER staffing grant) we were awarded \$2,340,828 in federal funds.

**More to come in 2013!**

## Firefighter Line of Duty Cancer Death...



59 year old Firefighter John Moncrief died July 21st 2012 from a cancer known to be caused from long term exposure to toxic products of combustion. His death from this type of cancer is considered a line-of-duty death and he will be memorialized on the State monument. John was hired by Federal Way Fire Department (now South King Fire) on February 1st, 1989. He retired from South King Fire & Rescue on March

31st, 2011 after a 22 year career to spend time with his family. As John was known to say "See you on the rooftops".



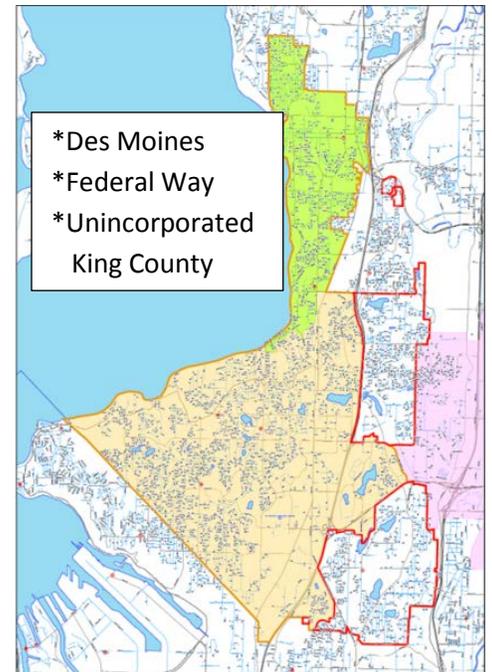
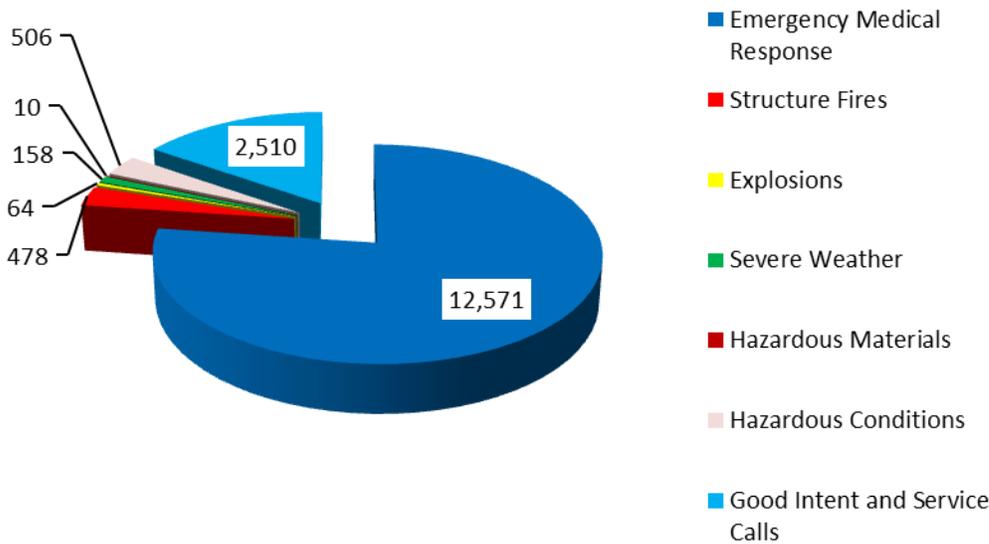
# Notes of significance in 2012...

2012 was a redefining year for South King Fire & Rescue with the passage of an excess levy to help restore basic level services to the community such as an aid car that was closed in 2011. The excess funds will be collected starting in 2013 and continuing through 2016. Thanks to our citizens for their overwhelming support.

In the early morning hours of November 4<sup>th</sup> of 2012, South King Fire & Rescue units responded to a tanker truck crash that took the life of a 68 year old driver. The tanker truck, hauling 9000 gallons of aviation fuel, went off the roadway, smashing through a concrete sound barrier and burst into flames. The tanker truck had collided with vehicles in the roadway from a previous incident. The 9000 gallons of fuel spilled into an unoccupied storage yard and caught fire as South King Fire units arrived at the scene.



## 2012 Call Volume - 16,298 calls...



Check out the NEW South King Fire & Rescue Facebook Page!

←---- Scan the QR code or go to

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)



**South King Fire & Rescue**  
**31617 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South**  
**Federal Way, WA 98003**  
**253-829-6234**

# 2012 Firefighter Retirements – Over 172 years of service!



**Deputy Chief**  
**Mike Knorr**  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1981  
**31 years**

**Deputy Chief**  
**Steve Trackwell**  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1981  
**31 years**



**Firefighter**  
**Mark McNally**  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1985  
**27 years**



McNally and Farmer circa 1986



**Firefighter**  
**Clint Farmer**  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1985  
**27 years**



**Firefighter**  
**Wynn Loiland**  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1981  
**31 years**

In November 2011, Wynn was struck by a vehicle while assessing the scene of a roll-over accident on South Bound I-5. Another vehicle lost control while approaching the scene and struck Wynn. His injuries were critical. He spent many months in the hospital. He is doing great and comes by the fire station often with his wife to visit. Go, Fight, WYNN!



**Public Educator**  
**Donna Conner**  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1987  
**25 years**

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# **SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE**

## **PERFORMANCE REPORT:**

### **RESPONSE STANDARDS FOR 2012**

#### **AS REQUIRED BY:**

#### **RCW 52.33**



**SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE**

## RESOLUTION NO. 413

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE, a.k.a. KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NUMBER 39, ESTABLISHING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, OR DECLARING IT ESTABLISHED, LISTING THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, DESCRIBING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS, AND ADOPTING STANDARDS FOR SERVICE.**

**WHEREAS**, South King Fire & Rescue, also known as “King County Fire Protection District Number 39” was organized in the year 1949, and therefore the Board of Fire Commissioners intends to “establish” the district’s fire department, or declare it as being heretofore established; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Legislature adopted House Bill 1756 during 2005, and such bill is codified as Chapter 52.33 of the Revised Code of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, such statute requires that each substantially career fire department be declared “established,” that the services provided by the district or department be listed, and among other requirements, that standards for service be adopted locally; and

**WHEREAS**, such statute also requires that an annual report be first prepared in 2007, describing compliance with the local standards and otherwise reporting to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, such statute also requires compliance with the locally established response time standards 90% of the time; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose and intent of this resolution is to provide policies and standards so as to comply with the intent of the new legislation;

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Since South King Fire & Rescue (King County Fire Protection District No. 39) was formed in 1949 and thereafter a substantially career fire department has been established, the Board of Fire Commissioners officially declares the fire department to be established.

**Section 2.** The municipal services provided by the district and the department, in accordance with the mission and statutes that govern fire protection districts and fire departments, are as follows:

- Fire suppression
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Hazardous Materials Response-Level A
- Hazardous Materials Response-Operations
- Technical Rescue/Special Operations
- Marine Rescue and Fire Fighting
- Wildland Fire Fighting
- Fire Prevention/Public Education

- Participation in Local Emergency Management

**Section 3.** The organizational structure of the fire department is best illustrated by reference to the attached organizational chart. However, the organization is generally described as governed overall by the elected policy-making and governing body – the Board of Fire Commissioners – whose policies are implemented and managed on a day-to-day basis by the appointed Fire Chief/Administrator. The Board and the Fire Chief/Administrator are aided in accomplishing the mission of the department by an appointed District Secretary, whose primary duties are administrative, including maintaining Board meeting minutes and records. Various fire service Officers, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), volunteer administrative personnel, and other staff personnel comprise the District’s work force and accomplish the delivery of vital services to the public.

**Section 4.** On the effective date of this Resolution, the District employs the equivalent of 152 full time employees (FTE’s), and enjoys the benefit of approximately 14 volunteers in non-operational i.e. non-firefighting capacities. Any changes or projected changes in these numbers will be addressed in subsequent annual reports.

**Section 5.** The fire protection district hereby establishes the following service delivery objectives, including specific response time objectives for the following major service components, as applicable:

A. Fire Suppression:

A.1 Structural Fires

- (1) Turnout time: two minutes thirty-five seconds (2 min 35 sec) or better 90% of the time; **the average turnout time goal being two minutes (2 min 00 sec).** (**Note:** This takes into account all firefighters being fully bunkered up in protective clothing prior to initiation of the response/travel time).
- (2) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), first arriving engine company: within five minutes thirty seconds (5 min 30 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 3 minutes and 30 seconds (3:30).**
- (3) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), full first alarm assignment: within nine minutes (9min 00 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal for the full alarm assignment being six minutes (6 min 00 sec).** (**Note:** the full first alarm assignment includes a minimum of 15 firefighting personnel and adequate apparatus/equipment for the incident).

A.2 Other Fire Incidents (vehicular, electrical, etc.)

- (1) Turnout time: two minutes forty-five seconds (2 min 45 sec) or better 90% of the time; **the average turnout time goal being two minutes (2 min 00 sec).** (**Note:** This takes into account all firefighters being fully bunkered up in protective clothing prior to initiation of the response/travel time).
- (2) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), first arriving engine company: within 6 minutes (6 min 00 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 3 minutes and 45 seconds (3 min 45 sec ).**

B. EMS:

- (1) Turnout time: two minutes thirty seconds (2 min 30 sec) or better 90% of the time; **the average turnout time goal being one minute thirty seconds (1 min 30 sec).**
- (2) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), BLS, first unit with “first responder” or higher: within 6 minutes (6 min 00 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 4 minutes (4 min 00 sec).**
- (3) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), ALS, within 8 minutes (8 min 00 sec) 90% of the time as provided by King County Medic One, who are administered by Public Health Seattle/King County. King County has adopted standards for King County Medic One responses.

C. Hazardous Materials:

- (1) Turnout time: three minutes (3 min 00 sec) or better 90% of the time; **the average turnout time goal being two minutes (2 minutes 00 sec).** (Note: This takes into account all firefighters being fully bunkered up in protective clothing prior to initiation of the response/travel time).
- (2) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), Hazardous Materials Operations level, first unit with “Operations” level trained personnel or higher: within 5 minutes 45 seconds (5 min 45 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 4 minutes (4 min 00 sec).**
- (3) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), Hazardous Materials Technician Trained, first unit with Level A trained personnel, within 10 minutes (10 min 00 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 8 minutes (8 min 00 sec).**

D. Technical Rescue/Special Operations:

- (1) Turnout time: three minutes (3 min) or better 90% of the time; **the average turnout time goal being two minutes (2 min 00 sec).** (Note: This takes into account all firefighters being fully bunkered up in protective clothing prior to initiation of the response/travel time).
- (2) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), Technical Rescue trained/certified personnel, within 10 minutes (10 min 00 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 8 minutes (8 min 00 sec).**

E. Marine Rescue and Fire Fighting:

- (1) Turnout time: 180 seconds (3 min) or better 90% of the time; **the average turnout time goal being 120 seconds (2 min 00 sec).** (Note: This takes into account all firefighters being fully bunkered up in protective clothing prior to initiation of the response/travel time).
- (2) Response time (aka “travel” time to the dock in the marina where the boat is moored), Marine 67 with a minimum of one (1) Pilot and one (1) Deckhand,

within 5 minutes (5 min 00 sec) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 4 minutes (4 min 00 sec).**

F. Wildland Firefighting:

- (1) Response time (aka “travel or road” time), first unit with Red Card (NWCG) certified Firefighters within 30 minutes (30 min) 90% of the time; **the average response time goal being 30 minutes (30 min 00 sec).** (**Note:** This standard has been developed for Statewide Mobilization events wherein certified wildland members are called back to duty for responses).

**Section 6.** The foregoing objectives shall be the goal for South King Fire & Rescue to be achieved at least **90% of the time** in accordance with the statute. In addition, the **average turnout and response time goals** are included for comparison of response objectives. Annually, commencing in 2007, the department shall evaluate its levels of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time objective throughout the district. The annual report shall define any geographic areas and circumstances in which the requirements of these standards are not being met. The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve the objectives.

**Section 7.** All terms used herein, such as “turnout time,” “response time,” “advanced life support,” and “fire suppression,” shall be as defined in the state statute. Within this resolution, the terms “South King Fire & Rescue,” “King County Fire Protection District Number 39” and “the District” shall be synonymous.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Fire Commissioners of King County Fire Protection District No. 39, doing business as South King Fire and Rescue, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006.

## **Policy Statements**

South King Fire & Rescue (aka King County Fire Protection District #39) has existed as a Fire District within the State of Washington since 1949. The fire district was organized under the tenants of Title 52 of the RCW’s, with the legal formation of the Fire District mandated by an affirmative vote of the residents residing within the district’s boundaries and by King County Fire Protection District #39 Commissioner Resolution.

South King Fire & Rescue provides service to 41 square miles including the cities of Federal Way and Des Moines along with approximately nine square miles of unincorporated King County. The Fire District serves a population of approximately 150,000 community members.

The services provided by South King Fire & Rescue include:

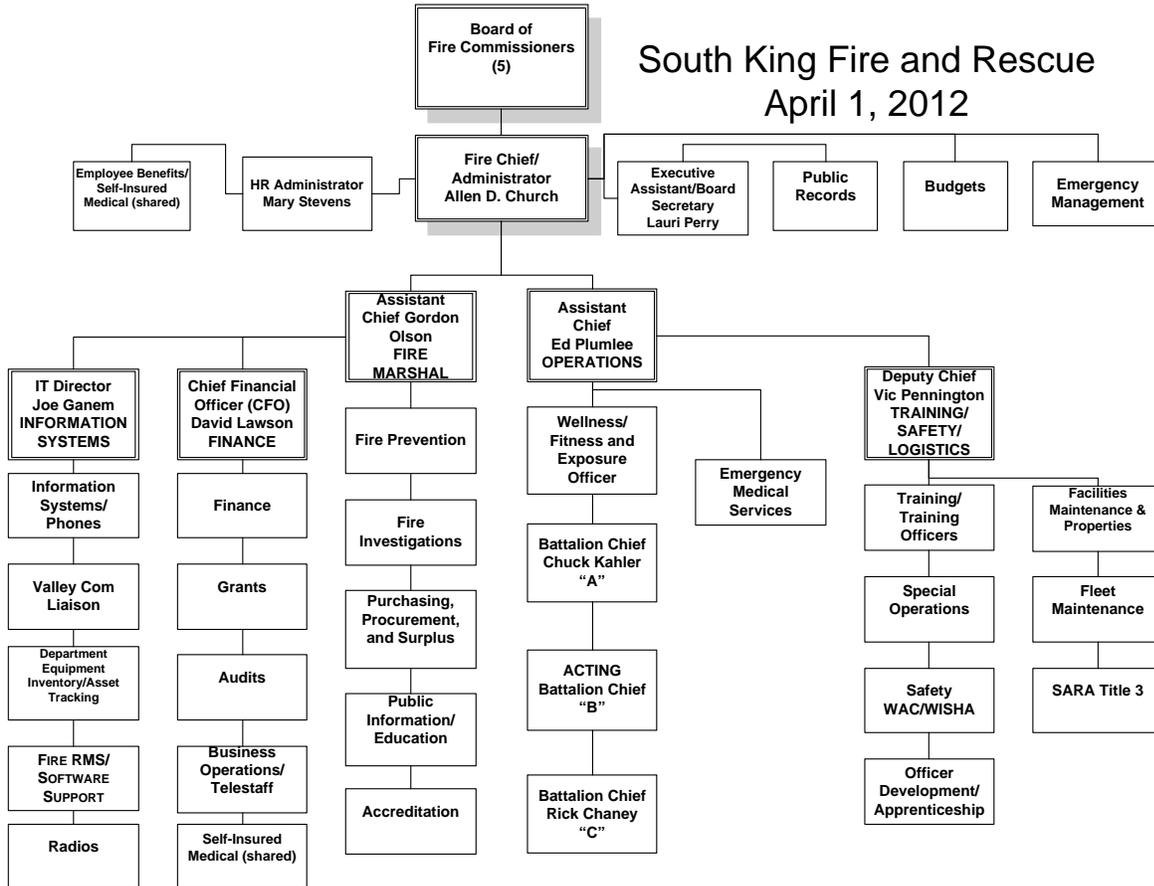
- a) Fire Suppression
- b) First Response Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Services
- c) Fire Prevention/Public Education
- d) Hazardous Materials Response-Level A
- e) Hazardous Materials “Operations Level” Response
- f) Technical Rescue/Special Operations
- g) Marine Rescue and Fire Fighting
- h) Wildland Fire Fighting
- i) Participation in Local Emergency Management

Total emergency responses in 2012 and prior years were broken down as follows:

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Emergency Medical Responses	12,571	11,914	11,458	11077
Structure Fire	478	469	384	164
Rupture/Explosion	64	33	43	40
Wildland/Vegetation Fires	NR	NR	NR	209
Other Fire Related Responses	NR	NR	NR	208
Severe Weather	158	3	78	NR
Hazardous Materials Responses	10	238	249	263
Hazardous Conditions	506	238	249	263
Good Intent, False, Service & Other	2,510	2,560	2,993	3,507
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,298</b>	<b>15,219</b>	<b>15,212</b>	<b>15,471</b>

# Fire Department Administration

South King Fire & Rescue operates under a chain-of-command, which has been established by an elected Board of Fire Commissioners. The chain-of-command, or organizational chart, looks like this as of April 1, 2012:



In 2012, South King Fire & Rescue started the year with one hundred forty-one employees. Staff reductions via retirement caused variable staffing throughout the year that is indicated below by quarter. Three of these positions are part-time. The total number, by assigned area of responsibility is as follows:

	Jan-Mar	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
<b>Chief Officers</b>	8	7	8	8
<b>Career Firefighters</b>	118	116	113	114
<b>Admin Support and Services</b>	15 – 3PT	15 – 3PT	15 – 3PT	16 – 2PT
<b>Total Staff (FTE)</b>	139.5	136.5	134.5	137
<b>Full FTE Headcount</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>138</b>

The functions performed by South King Fire & Rescue chief officers and career firefighters include the following:

- a) Emergency response to fires and medical aid emergencies by career fire department staff
- b) Emergency response to all motor vehicle accidents within the fire district
- c) Response to all hazards including Technical Rescue and Marine emergencies
- d) Mutual aid emergency responses when requested by neighboring jurisdictions
- e) Fire Inspections performed on an annual basis in the local businesses coordinated with the King County Fire Marshal’s Office
- f) Coordination with local Emergency Management Personnel from King County
- g) Hazardous Materials “Operations” level emergency response, coordinated with the Washington State Patrol as the designated Incident Commander
- h) Perform Fire Investigations in conjunction with Federal Way Police and assist the King County Fire Marshal’s Office with the investigation of fires within the City of Des Moines and unincorporated King County

## **Response Standards**

### **1) Structure and Other Fire Turnout Time**

#### **Structure and Other Fire Turnout Time Standard:**

South King Fire & Rescue has adopted a turnout time standard of Two minutes forty-five seconds (2 min 45 sec) 90% of the time with an average of two minutes (2 min 00 sec).

#### **Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2012:**

South King Fire & Rescue met the turnout time objective of two minutes forty-five seconds (2 min 45sec) 92% of the time with an average turnout time of one minute thirty seconds (1 min 30 sec). The fire department turnout time was two minutes twenty-six seconds (2 min 26 sec) 90% of the time.

### **2) Arrival of 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Engine Company at Structure Fire**

#### **Response Time Standard for 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Engine:**

South King Fire & Rescue has adopted a response/travel time standard of five minutes thirty seconds (5 min 30 sec) 90% of the time with an average time of three minutes thirty seconds (3 min 30 sec) for the first fire engine to arrive when responding to a fire suppression incident.

#### **Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2012:**

South King Fire & Rescue met the five minute thirty seconds (5 min 30 sec) response time objective 89% of the time with an average travel time of three minutes fifty-two seconds (3 min 52 sec). The fire department response/travel time for the arrival of the first fire engine to fire suppression incidents was five minutes thirty-five seconds (5 min 35 sec) 90% of the time.

### **3) Arrival of 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Engine Company at “Other” Fire Suppression Incident (i.e. electrical, vehicle, wildland & refuse)**

#### **Response Time Standard for 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Engine:**

South King Fire & Rescue has adopted a response/travel time standard of six minutes (6 min00 sec) 90% of the time with an average time of three minutes forty-five seconds (3 min 45 sec) for the first fire engine to arrive when responding to an “other” fire suppression incident.

**Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2012:**

South King Fire & Rescue met the six minute (6 min 00 sec) response time objective 78% of the time with an average travel time of four minutes twenty-nine seconds (4 min 29 sec). The fire department response/travel time for the arrival of the first fire engine to fire suppression incidents was seven minutes twenty-nine seconds (7 min 29 sec) 90% of the time.

**4) Deployment of full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident**

**Response Time Standard for Full 1<sup>st</sup> Alarm Response:**

South King Fire & Rescue has adopted a response/travel time standard of nine minutes (9 min 00 sec) to deploy the first full alarm assignment when responding to a fire suppression incident 90 % of the time with an average time goal of six minutes (6 min 00 sec). South King Fire & Rescue first full alarm assignment to a fire suppression response is a minimum of one engine and fifteen firefighting personnel.

**Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2012:**

South King Fire & Rescue deployed the first full alarm assignment to a fire suppression response in sixteen minutes seven seconds (16 min 07 sec) 90% of the time with an average full response/travel time of nine minutes forty-six seconds ( 9 min 46 sec).

**5) Turnout Time for BLS Emergency Medical Services**

**Basic Life Support-EMS Turnout Time Standard:**

South King Fire & Rescue has adopted a turnout time standard of two minutes thirty seconds (2 min 30 sec) 90% of the time with an average of one minute thirty seconds (1 min 30 sec).

**Basic Life Support-EMS Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2012:**

South King Fire & Rescue met the two minute thirty seconds (2 min 30 sec) turnout time objective 97% of the time with an average turnout time of one minute twenty seconds (1 min 20 sec). The fire department turnout time was two minutes five seconds (2 min 05 sec), 90% of the time.

**6) Arrival of Basic Life Support (BLS) unit at an emergency medical incident**

**Basic Life Support-EMS Response Time Standard:**

South King Fire & Rescue has adopted a response/travel time standard of six minutes (6 min 00 sec) 90% of the time with an average time of four minutes (4 min 00 sec) for the first emergency medical unit with two Emergency Medical Technicians.

**Basic Life Support-EMS Actual Department Comparison for the Year 2012:**

The South King Fire & Rescue met the six minute (6 min 00 sec) response time objective 84% of the time with an average travel/response time of four minutes eighteen seconds (4 min 18 sec). South King Fire & Rescue's response time for the first arriving unit responding to an emergency medical incident was six minutes forty-nine seconds (6 min 49 sec) 90% of the time.

South King Fire & Rescue's response time for the first arriving fire department unit responding to an advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical incident was five minutes fifty-two seconds (5 min 52 sec) 90% of the time with an average response time of three minutes forty-seven seconds (3 min 47sec).

**7) Arrival of Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit at an emergency medical incident**

**Advanced Life Support (ALS)-EMS Response Time Standard:**

South King Fire & Rescue does not provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) responses. ALS services are provided by King County Medic One. King County Medic One has a response standard of eight minutes (8 min 00 sec) 90% of the time for the arrival of the first ALS emergency medical unit with two King County Paramedics.

**ALS-EMS Actual Medic One Comparison for the Year 2012:**

South King Fire & Rescue has only partial data for medic units responding into its service area. The available data (through South King Fire & Rescue response records) shows King County Medic One (KCM1) meeting the stated goal 73% of the time with an average ALS travel/response time of six minutes forty-six seconds (6 min 46 sec). KCM1's ALS travel/response time for the first arriving medic unit was ten minutes twenty-five seconds (10 min 25 sec) 90% of the time. No data was available from King County Medic One at the time this report was written.

## 8) **Arrival of Hazardous Materials trained and equipped Technicians**

### **Hazardous Materials Response Time Standard:**

South King Fire & Rescue Firefighters are trained to Operations Level for response to hazardous materials incidents and supports the Washington State Patrol who is responsible for hazardous materials incidents within the fire district. In addition, South King Fire & Rescue supports a department Hazardous Materials Team consisting of fifteen (15) firefighters trained to the “technician” level. This team responds in conjunction with similarly staffed hazardous materials teams throughout the South King County area to ensure an effective and highly trained response to hazardous materials emergencies. South King Fire & Rescue’s response time standard for operational level Firefighters is the same as a fire suppression call.

South King Fire & Rescue has adopted a response/travel time standard of five minutes forty-five seconds (5 min 45 sec) 90% of the time with an average time of four minutes (4 min 00 sec) for the first unit’s arrival with operations level trained personnel. Responses requiring Technician Level Personnel have a time standard of ten minutes (10 min 00 sec) response/travel time with an average of eight minutes (8 min 00 sec)

### **Hazardous Materials Response Actual Dept. Comparison for the Year 2012:**

In 2012, the Fire District’s responded to three incidents dispatched as Hazardous Materials responses. Of the three emergency responses only one within SKF&R’s response area required hazardous materials technicians. There were three other hazmat response that was handled by operations trained personnel without a hazardous materials team response. The Fire District’s response time for the first arriving fire apparatus with operations level trained personnel as 4 min 56 sec 90% of the time. For the one hazardous material response requiring technician trained personnel the travel time was 27 min 30 sec

## 9) **Technical Rescue & Marine Firefighting Incidents**

In 2012 there were 15 Marine incidents and two Technical Rescue responses that meet the criteria for inclusion in this report. It is important to note that on September 10, 2012 Station 26 changed to Station 67. When conducting data analysis for 2012 both 26 and 67 unit identifiers need to be queried to reflect accurate responses for 2012.

The Marine unit turnout time was met 100% of the time with an average of 1 min 23 sec. The Marine unit travel time was 8 min 15 sec at 90% with an average of 6 min 5 sec.

The two measurable technical rescue responses were both to Steel Lake for drowning incidents. In both cases our TRT found the victims and resuscitation was initiated. The TRT turnout time was accomplished in 2 min 5 sec at 90%. The TRT travel time was 4 min 56 sec 90% of the time with an average travel time of 3 min 16 sec.

## **Predictable Results**

South King Fire & Rescue (SKFR) serves the communities of Federal Way and Des Moines along with a portion of unincorporated King County residing east of Interstate 5 (south of S. 272 St. to the Pierce Co. boundary). In addition, the department serves a small portion of Normandy Park and the west hill of Auburn via service contract. The department's service area covers 41 square miles with an approximate population of 150,000 residents. 2012 incident totals amounted to 16,298. An increase of 7.1% compared to 2011.

### **Operations**

In 2012 further staff reductions were made to Operations with the retirement of three firefighters and two deputy chiefs. The length of time it takes to get an effective firefighting force deployed to a structure fire has increased. The data is clear that the reduction of A64 in 2011 has increased the time it takes to get an effective firefighting force to a fire within South King Fire & Rescue's response area.

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the number of open/unfilled firefighter positions was 15. SKFR is doing everything within its power to make sure that additional layoffs and further reductions in service do not become reality.

In 2011 an aid car was put out of service due to budget shortfalls and that reduction is felt again in 2012. The loss of one response apparatus affects the entire District, especially when the concentration of responses increases or on structure fire responses when a full effective fire force (15 firefighters) is needed. In 2012, the amount of travel time required for fifteen firefighters to arrive at the scene of a structure fire (measured at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile) increased by three minutes twenty-three seconds from 12 min 44 sec in 2011 to 16 min 07 sec in 2012, which is a 26% increase. From 2010 to 2012 the time it takes to get an effective fire force to the scene of a structure fire has increased by 7 min 12 sec or an increase of 80.7%. The longer it takes to put enough firefighters on scene to begin interior operations, the greater the chance for life and property loss. It also shortens the working time firefighters have prior to building collapse, affecting firefighter safety.

## **Support Divisions**

The Prevention Division operated with a reduced staff in 2012. Two of the Deputy Fire Marshall positions were left unfilled due to revenue reductions. Along with staff reductions the administrative assistants working at Prevention at City Hall were moved back to St. 62, which is the headquarters for South King Fire & Rescue. The administrative staff positions duties were expanded to include some accounts receivable duties as well as staffing the reception desk and answering incoming calls to SKF&R. The result of these changes has reduced the administrative staff time for the Prevention Division.

The Public Education Division has virtually been eliminated at South King Fire & Rescue. What was once a valuable fire and injury prevention function by SKF&R has been severely hampered by the reductions that were made in 2011.

The Fleet Division, with the reduction of one mechanic, was not able to complete as much preventive maintenance work in 2012 as desired. A second contributing factor is the aging fleet of emergency response vehicles requiring additional general repairs. The priority for the fleet division as to ensure any safety related repaired were completed first; then preventive and general repair. Planning was done within the Division to determine exactly what was needed to stay within the NFPA and manufacture recommendations for fleet maintenance.

The Facilities Division was also impacted with the retirement and non-replacement of two staff members. At present time there is one facilities employee on staff to maintain eight fire stations totaling roughly 82,345 square feet of floor space along with the grounds around the station. The priorities for Facilities is fixing safety items as a first priority and putting some of the routine maintenance on hold.

## **Plan of Action**

During 2012, South King Fire & Rescue (SKFR) has worked on a financial and structural re-organization. Budgets have been further reduced, layoffs have occurred and positions opened up by retirements have gone unfilled. The result is a leaner budget that while increasing our response times and not providing for needed station and apparatus upgrades, does reduce the budget shortfall. These revenue reduction efforts leave the department with a \$2,000,000 dollar budget shortfall in 2012. The cuts were necessary, but not a viable long-term solution.

### **Revenue**

In 2012 South King Fire & Rescue was impacted further by declining assessed valuations with a revenue reduction of 7.79% or \$1,059,370.00. As mentioned in the 2011 report SKF&R placed a four-year special excess levy of \$3.5 million annually on the ballot in April of 2012. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 that excess levy was narrowly defeated with a yes vote of 59.3 percent falling short of the 60% super majority necessary to approve an excess levy. SKF&R decided to place an identical measure on the August 2012 ballot and that measure was approved by a super majority of the voters at 60.3%. The passage of a four-year \$3.5 million starting in 2013 will help sustain South King Fire & Rescue, allowing SKF&R to hire firefighters and re-staff an aid car that was

shut down in 2011. Daily staffing levels will be returned to twenty-seven firefighters 24/7 putting the aid car lost in 2011, back in service by mid 2013.

### **Personnel**

In December 2012, SKF&R was able to replace one of the vacant firefighter positions. An additional mechanic was hired in December to bring the fleet division up to its full complement of three FTEs. SKF&R submitted for and in August of 2012 received a Federal SAFER Grant to hire nine firefighters effective January 1, 2013. This Grant has no matching money stipulation for SKF&R and it provides 100% funding for nine firefighters for two years. Funds were placed into a capital account to offset the hiring of new firefighters on January 1, 2013

### **Capital Improvements**

Since 2008 SKF&R has relied mostly on Assistance to Fire Act Grants for funding Capital. Fortunately in 2012 grant monies were secured to replace our aging mobile data computers and portable radios. The Federal Grant funds awarded to SKF&R was \$523,215.00.

In 2012 a new roof at St. 68, the Training, Fleet and Facilities Station amounted to \$230,000 of capital monies. Other than capital expenditures mentioned SKF&R did not spent significant monies on facilities upkeep or apparatus replacement in 2012.

### **Lastly**

South King Fire & Rescue has worked hard to achieve the response time goals reflected in this report. With the approval of an excess levy in 2012 South King Fire & Rescue will be hiring enough firefighters to staff an aid car in mid 2013. This represents a significant improvement to our emergency response capability helping to keep response times closer to the standards set by SKF&R.

In 2012 South King Fire & Rescue took many steps to improve service deficiencies. The passage of an excess levy along with the award of Federal Grants for equipment and firefighters has helped stabilize the short-term revenue shortfalls that resulted from the recession of 2008. With the immediate budget shortfall more manageable now SKF&R can look strategically at the longer-term goals of funding SKF&R at acceptable levels that includes firefighters, support staff, apparatus, facilities and equipment. Fortunately SKF&R has a track record of excellent planning and execution that will help pave the way for 2013 and beyond.