

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Goal

When Fire and Emergency Medical Services employees respond to fires and medical emergencies, they strive to preserve lives and protect property. Their goal is to provide effective and efficient services that enhance a safe environment for the public.

Fire Department	MEASURE	2004	2005	2006	2007
↓	Paid fire and EMS staffing per 1,000 population served	.89	.93	1.0	1.0
↓	EMS responses per 1,000 population served (BLS and ALS)	66.2	65.2	66.9	64.5
So that....	Average EMS response times (ALS & BLS)	5:11 min	5:17 min	5:21 min	5:30 min
↓	% of EMS response times under 5 minutes (Goal = 90%)	53%	52%	51%	49%
↓	Total fire incidents per 1,000 population	27.4	26.6	34.4	26.2
↓	Total non-fire incidents per 1,000 population	12	9.6	17.0	12.4
So that....	Average fire (emergency) response times	5:58 min	5:53 min	6:02 min	5:59 min
↓	% of fire response times under 5.5 minutes (Goal = 90%)	43%	49%	46%	47%
So that....	% of building fires confined to area of Origin	58%	67%	44.8%	41%
↓					
Keep Community Safe					

*BLS = Basic Life Support and ALS = Advanced Life Support

Analysis

Increased staffing alone does not equate to decreased response times. Over the past four years response times for both Fire and EMS have increased even with an increase in staffing. Response times are based on many variables including:

- Fire and EMS staffing,
- Availability of emergency response resources,
- Number of simultaneous alarms at each fire station,
- Time in call center before dispatch,
- Time it takes fire or EMS staff to leave the station,
- Traffic and traffic control devices,
- Weather, and
- Distance of response resources from emergency.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

King County and Kirkland are leaders in EMS and pre-hospital care of patients in cardiac arrest and have been since the introduction of CPR in the late 1960s. Kirkland is on the forefront providing advanced cardiac care, including defibrillation, to patients in their homes, on the street, and at work.



Today people who suffer a cardiac arrest in Kirkland are three times more likely to survive than the national average, and among patients in ventricular fibrillation (a deadly cardiac arrhythmia where a quick shock from a defibrillator is the only treatment) the survival rate in Kirkland is approximately 40%. This is one of the highest survival rates in the world.

Being a leader means continually looking for ways to improve. The City of Kirkland and King County EMS, is participating in an exciting new study investigating the management and treatment of cardiac arrest. The Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC) performing the study includes large EMS providers throughout North America including San Diego, Toronto, Dallas and the entire states of Iowa and Alabama. Among this elite group Kirkland and King County are leaders. The King County group, including Kirkland, was the first to complete the required training and begin enrolling patients and is recognized as a top performer in compliance with study protocols.



The City of Kirkland EMS strives for 90% of response times to fall under 5 minutes; this goal is driven by the cardiac arrest survival rate curve. Through bystander CPR and quick response times, the chance of survival by a cardiac arrest patient increases. The Kirkland Fire Department is committed to leadership and excellence and providing world-class service to the community.

