



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

LACEY FIRE DISTRICT 3

Our Mission

Lacey Fire District provides effective fire and life safety services to assist our Community in maintaining and improving quality of life.

Your Expectations

Efficiency in operations, and timely arrival to your emergency with sufficient numbers of trained personnel and appropriate equipment to deal with your emergency

The Challenge

To provide for the ever-growing needs of our community within the constraints of our approved budget.

2010

A successful annexation measure on the ballot in April provided a more direct relationship with the citizens of the City of Lacey; they are now annexed into the Fire District and have a direct vote on issues relating to fire and life safety services. An additional successful ballot measure in August increased the Board of Fire Commissioners from three to five, allowing for increased input into Fire District governance.

The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) approved a change in the fire protection rating for the unincorporated areas of the District without a hydrant within 1,000 feet, from 8A to 5. The District now has three different ratings; the City of Lacey is rated at 3; the unincorporated area with hydrants is rated at 4, and the unincorporated areas without hydrants is now rated at 5. An improvement in fire protection ratings equates to savings on fire insurance for our citizens.



Lt Dave Watterson directs the attention of Volunteer Firefighter Pete Gedde



Firefighters extinguish a car fire



Firefighters wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness



Firefighters extinguish a commercial trash compactor fire



Lieutenant Ryan Fox talks about fire prevention

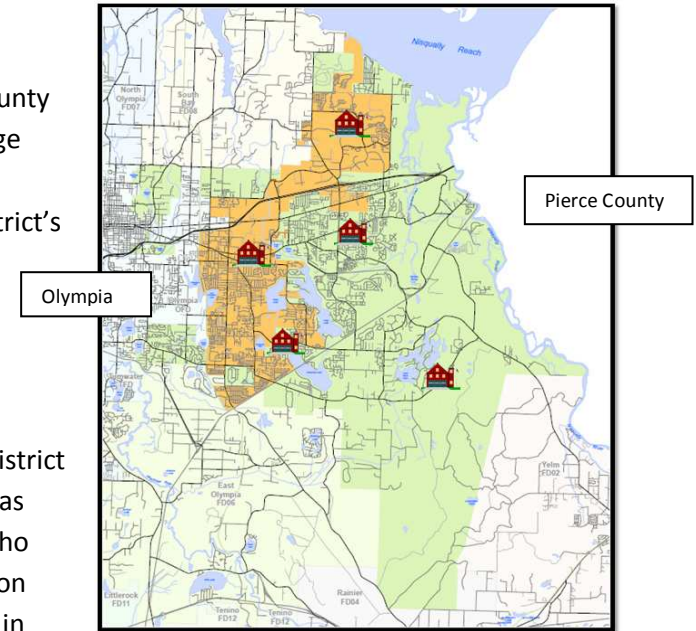
About Lacey Fire District

Lacey Fire District provides fire, emergency medical and other services from five stations strategically located within our 70 square mile service area. Situated in northeast Thurston County and bordered essentially by the Nisqually River and the City of Olympia, the service area (orange and green areas on the map to the right) is home to more than 86,000 residents. The area encompasses the Nisqually Indian Reservation and the City of Lacey. For over 50 years the District's relationship with the City of Lacey had been contractual in nature, but in 2010 an annexation measure placed on the ballot was passed by the City and the District, and the City of Lacey was annexed into the Fire District. The total assessed valuation of the District is more than \$9 billion dollars.

A second component of the annexation was presenting a ballot measure to the voters of the District regarding increasing the number of fire commissioners from three to five; that measure also was successful. The Fire District is now governed by a five-member Board of Fire Commissioners who serve staggered terms. The Board hires a Fire Chief, who implements the Board's policy direction into District operations and emergency services. The Commissioners annually adopt a budget; in 2010 the operating budget was \$11,914,298.96.

The District operates four of the five stations as 24-hour staffed stations. A three - shift rotation is used with 24 hours on duty followed by 48 hours off duty. Emergency personnel who provide this staffing include three Battalion Chiefs, 13 Lieutenants, 23 paramedics (3 of whom are Paramedic Lieutenants) and 38 firefighters. This career staff is supported and supplemented by a small, dedicated group of volunteer firefighters who provide additional staffing in the evenings, on weekends and holidays.

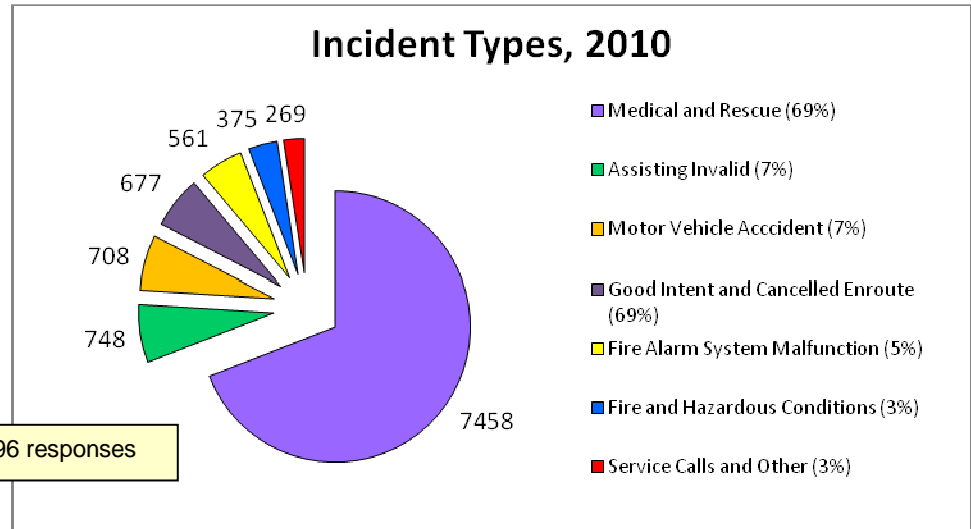
A Battalion Chief of Training, two Division Chiefs (EMS and Health & Safety), an Assistant Fire Chief, and a Fire Equipment Technician round out the Operations Division of the District. One part-time and two full-time employees in Finance, a Human Resources Officer, two vehicle maintenance technicians, two job-share Office Assistants, the Fire Chief and numerous administrative volunteers complete the District's necessary legal, administrative and operational support functions.



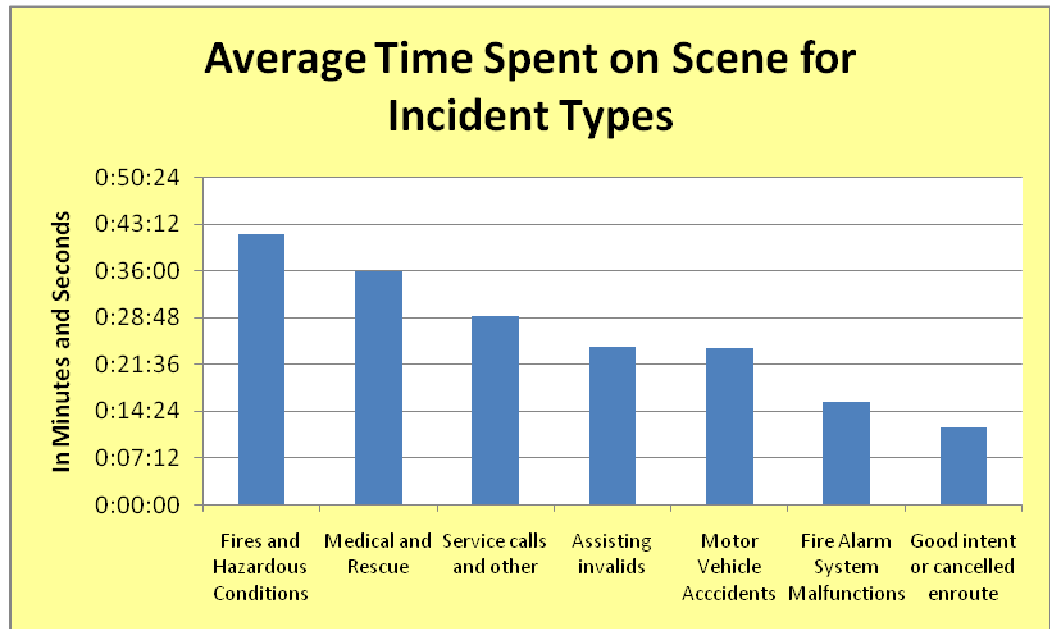
Incident Types, Overview

In 2010, Lacey Fire District was dispatched to 10,796 requests for assistance.

The total average time spent on scene for all responses was 31 minutes, 49 seconds; the time will vary by incident type.



10,796 responses

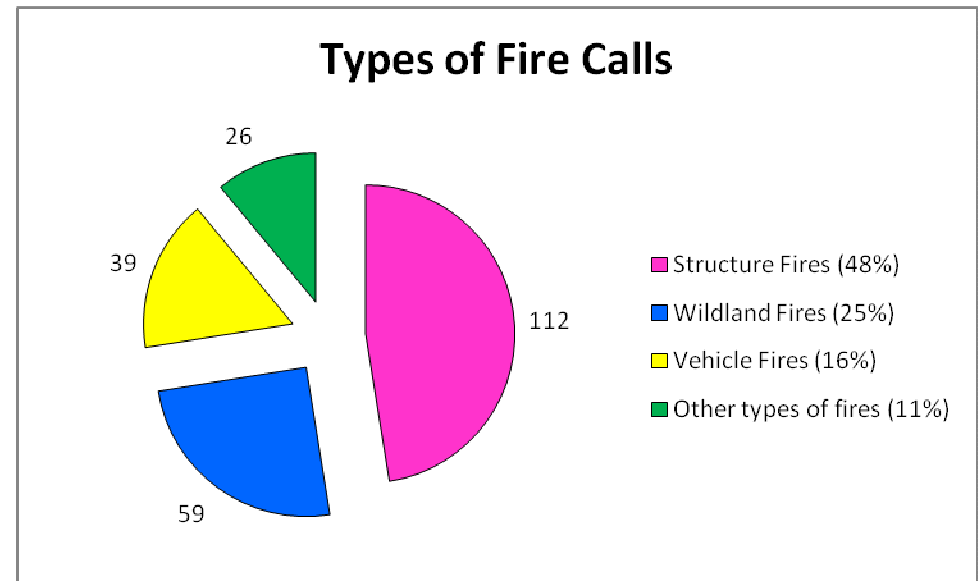


Fire Responses

Fire responses include calls where flames were present and required extinguishing. The District responded to 236 fire calls in 2010, spending an average of 45 minutes and 40 seconds on each fire call.

The types and number of fire responses break down as follows:

- 112 structure fires. These are fires in homes and businesses, roof fires and those fires that spread into the structural members of a house. In addition this category includes kitchen fires, chimney fires, sani-can fires, dock fires, and travel trailers parked and used as a semi-permanent residence. On average, a structure fire took over an hour to extinguish.
- 59 wildland or grass fires. These range from grassy or stubble fields to shrubs, trees, brush or cultivated fields. The average time spent on a wildland fire was over 24 minutes.
- 39 vehicle fires. These include all types of mobile property, including passenger cars, RVs, and commercial vehicles. Vehicles that are parked and used as a semi-permanent residence are included in structure fires. The average time spent on a vehicle fire was nearly 44 minutes.
- 26 other types of fires. These calls are mainly various types of outside garbage or rubbish fires. The average time spent on this type of fire was 30 minutes.



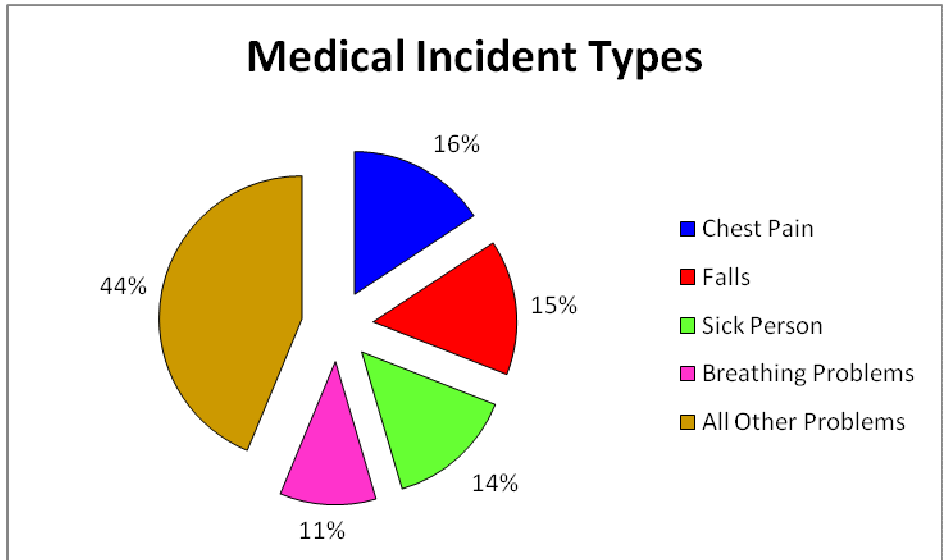
Emergency Medical Calls and Rescues

In 2010, Lacey Fire District responded to 7458 calls for emergency medical or rescue-related assistance. These types of calls include diabetic problems, falls, allergic reactions, chest pain – the entire gamut of medical problems that people experience. The chart to the right shows the top four categories of requests for assistance received by the dispatch center, plus the “other” category. On average, each emergency medical call takes nearly 36 minutes from receipt of alarm to leaving the scene.

Some of the emergency medical calls are handled by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs); these calls are referred to as BLS, or Basic Life Support (BLS) calls. In reviewing the District’s EMS call volume, 51% of the emergency medical calls received were managed by EMTs. On average, a BLS call lasts 26 minutes.

The other 49% required the services of the District’s paramedics. The paramedics are able to perform Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, including inserting a breathing tube, providing heart attack stabilizing drugs, relieving pain and managing other types of critical problems. On average, an ALS call lasts 46 minutes.

Rescues, although the District responded to only 10 in 2010, are time and personnel intensive. Often these types of calls involve specialized protective clothing and equipment for the responders, who then extricate people out of confined areas, out of tall trees, rescued from the ice or from up or down steep hillsides. An average rescue takes over an hour.

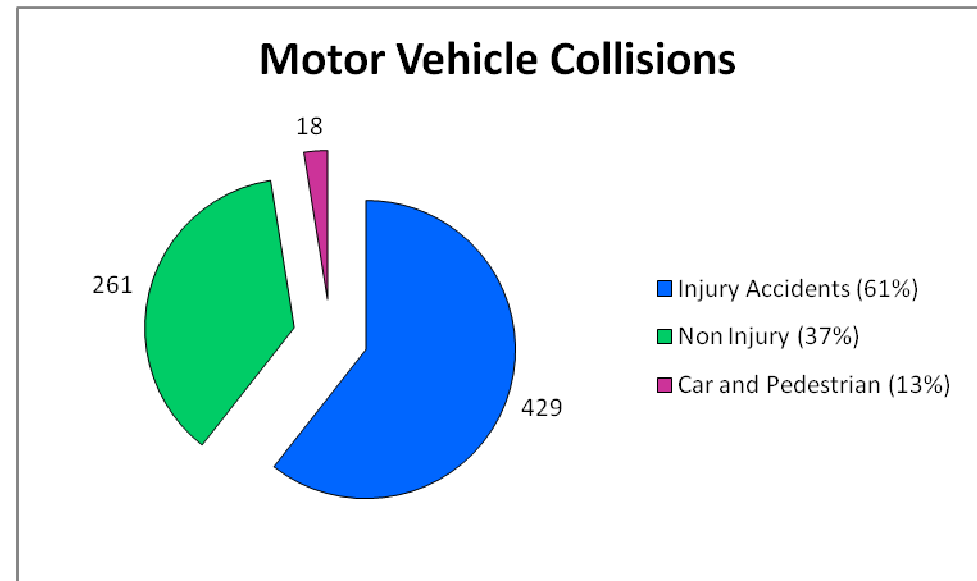


Motor Vehicle Accidents

Collisions between motor vehicles and pedestrians, bicyclists, trees, other objects and other vehicles account for nearly 7% of our total call volume. In 2010 Lacey Fire District responded to 708 motor vehicle collisions.

On average, a collision takes about 24 minutes from receipt of alarm to clearing the scene. While this may not seem like a long amount of time, it does not reflect the amount of apparatus, equipment and personnel working as a coordinated team to safely manage the incident.

Many tasks need to be accomplished for patients, who are often in critical and life-threatening condition. Many more tasks need to be accomplished to manage the dangers of the wrecked vehicle(s) and surroundings. Even collisions with no injuries have hazards that must be managed, such as broken glass and punctured gasoline tanks. Often collisions require the firefighters to work off the road in the brush and trees, around guard rails and on hillsides, but perhaps the most dangerous situation is with traffic moving past at 50 – 60 mph; not only must they focus on the necessary tasks but they must also maintain as awareness of the traffic hazards.

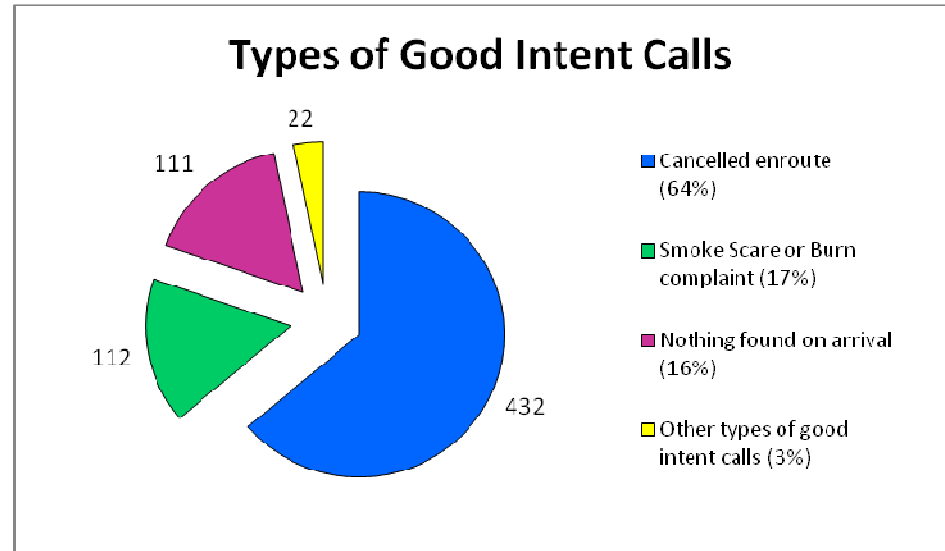


Good Intent Calls

The District responded to 677 “good intent” calls, or about 6% of the total number of responses, where the caller had good intentions but the situation turned out to be something harmless or entirely different than the caller thought.

A classic example is smoke from a barbeque that someone mistakes as coming from a house. Or steam from a dryer vent on a cold morning. Or they see an accident, but the vehicle leaves before the responders arrive. Many of the good intent calls are complaints about open burning, and often the party burning has a permit to do so.

A large portion of the good intent calls are those in which the responders are cancelled by the dispatch center before they even arrive. Cancellations can occur for a variety of reasons, but if the responders have any doubts they continue to the scene to ensure the safety of the citizens.



Fire Alarm System Activations

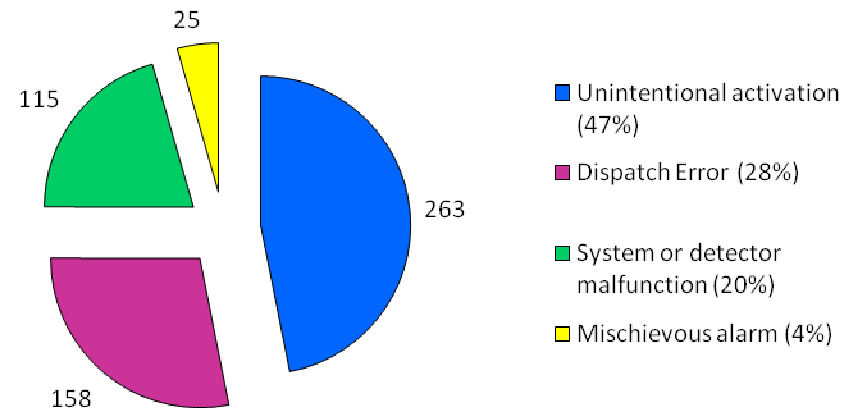
About 5% of the call volume, or 561 responses in 2010, were categorized as “fire alarm system activations or malfunctions.”

Many of the businesses in Lacey Fire District have fire alarm systems designed to activate when certain parameters are met, for example, when the detectors sense smoke or heat or when water pressure jumps unexpectedly. While these systems are at these times operating as designed, the activation still requires a Fire District response to investigate and ensure safety.

- 47% percent of the alarm activations were unintentional, such as the alarm company working on the system and forgetting to call the alarm company and Fire District
- 20% of the activations, or 115 responses, were due to malfunctions of system components.
- Mischievous activations, such as a child pulling an alarm station, accounted for 4% or 25 responses.
- Dispatch errors, or calls mistakenly dispatched, are included in this category as false alarms.

It is critical however, that each alarm activation be responded to and investigated because some activations are not malfunctions.

Types of Alarm System Activations



Other District Services

When not responding to emergencies and non-emergency calls for assistance, the District engages in a variety of activities and programs to provide additional service to our Community and to our members. These include:

- **Speedy Spotter Locator signs** – these crucial address signs help us find you in an emergency by providing easy-to-read house numbers. If we can't find you, we can't help you! In 2010 over 60 citizens added this helpful address locator system to their homes. For more information on the Speedy Spotter program, check out our website at http://www.laceyfire.com/prevention_speedyspotter.htm
- **Infant and Child car seats** – the District has six members who have completed the 40 hour program to be recognized as Infant and Child Car Seat Inspection and Installation Technicians. In 2010, these members inspected and placed over 100 car seats.
- **Burn permits** – during the open burning season, we issue free burn permits for District citizens living outside the urban growth management area.
- **Bicycle helmets** for children and adults – the District will provide a free bicycle helmet that is custom-fitted by trained District members. In 2010, over 150 helmets were custom fitted and distributed.
- **Blood pressure checks** – have your blood pressure checked for free at any of our staffed stations! In 2010, we provided blood pressure checks for more than 500 citizens.
- **Smoke detectors** – the District provides free smoke detectors for citizens without a working smoke detector in their home.
- **Vial of Life** – the District provides a free kit for citizens to record medical history and place in their home so that firefighters can access this critical information on an emergency medical response. You can download the Vial of Life forms from our website, www.laceyfire.com



Other District Services, Cont.

- **Chaplain program** – we are fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer member with a ministerial background to provide support for our citizens when an incident brings great trauma to their lives. The program also provides support to our members in their times of adversity.
- **School education programs** – every Kindergarten through 2nd grade class, public and private, receives a fire safety presentation during the month of October. In 2010 the District firefighters reached over 3,000 children with fire safety messages.
- **Santamobile** – a holiday event with our old-time engine, candy canes, holiday safety messages, and Santa and his helpers.
- **Community Services Committee (CSC)** – this independent but related service organization is supported by the District and the Firefighters Union IAFF Local 2903. The CSC targets the unmet needs of our community members encountered when on responses. The CSC also adopts families at Thanksgiving and Christmas; in 2010 the CSC adopted 26 families, one from each of 13 elementary schools for each holiday. In August 2010, the CSC sponsored the first annual Firefighter Pancake Breakfast at Cabela's – come join us in 2011!
- **Volunteer opportunities** – the District has many dedicated volunteers who serve the Community through a variety of programs from firefighting to reception to inventory and information specialists. If you are interested in volunteering at the District contact us at info@laceyfire.com.
- **Community Dispatch** – the District has a monthly community newsletter available on our website at www.laceyfire.com. If you would like to receive this newsletter at your email address, send us a request at info@laceyfire.com



Response Performance Standards

In 2007 the Board of Fire Commissioners adopted performance standards so you could judge our performance against your expectations. Here are the performance standards as set by the Commissioners:

	St 31 – Lacey core	St 32 – Lake St Clair	St 33 – Mullen Road	St 34 – Hawks Prairie	St 35 – Willamette Dr
Standard for Turnout Time (from dispatch to enroute)	3 minutes	3 minutes	3 minutes	3 minutes	3 minutes

Standard for Response Time: (from enroute to arrival)	St 31 – Lacey core	St 32 – Lake St Claire	St 33 – Mullen Road	St 34 – Hawks Prairie	St 35 – Willamette Dr
EMS call – 1 st arriving unit	11 minutes	15 minutes	13 minutes	13 minutes	14 minutes
Structure fire – 1 st arriving engine	11 minutes	15 minutes	13 minutes	13 minutes	14 minutes
Wildland fire – 1 st arriving engine	11 minutes	15 minutes	13 minutes	13 minutes	14 minutes
Specials operations call – 1 st arriving unit (rescue and hazmat calls)	17 minutes	17 minutes	17 minutes	17 minutes	17 minutes
Structure fire – full 1 st alarm assignment (3 engines, 1 ladder truck, 1 Battalion unit, 1 Chief Officer, 1 EMS unit)	17 minutes	17 minutes	17 minutes	17 minutes	17 minutes

Our standard is performance at 90%, which means that 90% of the time we will have a turnout time and response (travel) times as listed above.

Compliance with our Response Performance Standards – A Summary

The District publishes a separate Response Time Compliance Report so the citizens we serve can evaluate our performance. You may find it on our website at www.laceyfire.com, or you may contact info@laceyfire.com to receive a copy, or come by our headquarters station at 1231 Franz St SE, Lacey to request a copy of this report.

The following is a brief summary of the Response Time Compliance Report for 2010:

Standard	St 31 – Lacey core	St 32 – Lake St Clair	St 33 – Mullen Road	St 34 – Hawks Prairie	St 35 – Willamette Dr
Turnout time	97% of the time we had a turnout time of 3 minutes or less				
Response Times	% compliance with performance standard				
EMS call – 1 st arriving unit	97%	96%	98%	97%	98%
Structure fire – 1 st arriving engine	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%
Wildland fire – 1 st arriving engine	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Specials operations call – 1 st arriving unit	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Structure fire – full 1 st alarm assignment	22%	0%	17%	0%	33%

Providing emergency fire and life safety services is the priority of the District. Our accomplishments in meeting our performance standards reflect both our efforts at maintaining services (nearly 100% in most categories) and the impacts of reduced staffing (full first alarm assignment is usually not achievable) due to budget constraints.

Reductions in other services, such as inspections and public education, and deferral of all but necessary maintenance and operational expenses continues to allow the District to operate within the budget and meet increasing demands in an environment of decreasing revenue.

