
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE DISTRICT 6



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Cover Photo by: PIO David Schmitke

INTRODUCTION

Clark County Fire District 6 was formed in 1954 to provide fire protection to the Hazel Dell, Lakeshore, Felida, Mount Vista and Salmon Creek areas. Initially an all-volunteer department, it has grown through the years in response to increasing calls for service. Today, the department has over 75 full and part-time employees and 10 Support Services volunteers.

Fire District 6 provides fire protection/suppression and Emergency Medical/Advanced Life Support Paramedic services to our community. The District is active in the community, providing fire and injury prevention programs, station tours, school visits and other events.

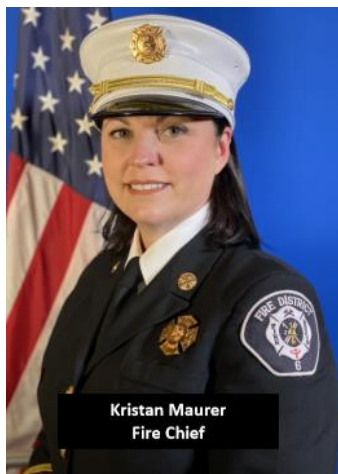
Washington State law requires cities and fire protection districts to establish service-delivery and response-time objectives and evaluate their level of service, deployment delivery and response time objectives on an annual basis. The annual report is to contain the predictable consequences of any deficiencies and address the steps necessary to achieve compliance with the District's established objectives.

In 2006 the Fire District 6 Board of Fire Commissioners adopted a Resolution establishing certain policy statements and response time performance objectives as official policy for compliance with Washington State Law and for determining emergency medical, fire and rescue resource deployment. The objectives have been revised twice in an effort to ensure the objectives are reasonable.

Please visit the District's web site at www.ccf6.org for more information about your fire district, the programs we provide and the latest news.

"Dedicated To Excellence In Protecting And Serving Our Community"

LETTER FROM FIRE CHIEF KRISTAN MAURER



Dear Residents of Clark County Fire District 6,

Serving those who live, work, and visit our community is an extremely rewarding experience. Community service is the essence of what brings us as individuals together and connects us to something greater than ourselves. That connection is why we're here. Our culture is focused on that connection and community service. We are dedicated to excellence in protecting and serving our community.

This community has graciously supported us through the years, and we could not provide the level of professional services we do without that support. We constantly see the gifts given to us from the community in our facilities, apparatus, equipment, and most of all our personnel.

I am honored to work with the incredible men and women of Clark County Fire District 6. 2021 was no different in the way they responded with professionalism every day. They continue to make a positive difference in the lives of so many.

Many times, people think of firefighters as, "just putting out fires." However, we are unique at Clark County Fire District 6. All our response units provide Advanced Life Support. We support this operation through an Emergency Services Levy. This is a voter approved levy that requires renewal every six years. The levy allows us to staff units with cross-trained Firefighter/Paramedics. This gets advanced medical treatment to you in less time than an ambulance could respond to your residence. It is important to start treatment early in medical emergencies.

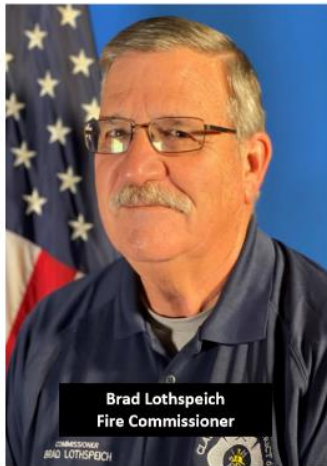
During 2021, even through the pandemic, we continued to grow and improve. We added new positions to increase our staffing and we staffed an additional fire engine. These modifications decrease our response time and get us to you quicker. Every decision and purchase we make focuses on protecting and serving our community.

There are still exciting things to come from Clark County Fire District 6 and we could not do any of it without you, trusting us, to humbly serve you. I remain committed to the success of this fire district. Thank you for your continued support. We will continue to think of innovative ways to provide the best service to the community we serve.

Respectfully,

Kristan Maurer

LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER CHAIR BRAD LOTHSPETCH



It is my honor to represent the Board of Fire Commissioners for Clark County Fire District 6 as the Board Chair the last two years. I am proud to be associated with Fire District 6 for over 40 years, both on the line and now as a Fire Commissioner.

The last two years our workplaces were transformed, our routines were upset, and we gave up some things we take for granted. These years have tested and shaped us more than we realize.

Confronting every challenge with resolve, our staff and personnel navigated numerous changes in responses to our community and interpreting fluctuating mandates.

As we move forward, I think we will be stronger within our own department and the community.

Some good news, we have ordered two new fire engines that will be paid for through a savings account that we place funds in every year, so we don't have to ask our citizens for a voter approved bond. We are replacing apparatus that have served us well over the years but the wear and tear of responding to thousands of calls a year has taken their toll.

More good news, I am very proud of our Fire District receiving first place in the Washington State Fire Commissioner's Management Excellence award competition. All aspects of how a fire department is managed, responses, apparatus, training and safety are considered. To be selected best in the state is quite an honor.

I am extremely proud of the men and women that serve our citizens. They are dedicated to providing outstanding fire and EMS service to our community with compassion and integrity.



Again, a big thank you to our community for your continued support! It's an honor to serve you.

Brad Lothspeich

ADMINISTRATION REPORT



TESTING

It was a busy year around District 6 and *testing* was the key word. We held an entry exam, hiring 11 new Firefighters; a Battalion Chief exam, placing 3 members on the eligibility list; and a Captain exam, placing 4 names on the list. We closed the year out by advertising for another entry exam in 2022.



The pandemic continued into its second year but the availability of a vaccine helped to lessen the strain as over 90% of District personnel became vaccinated. Our operations continued to focus on learning the impacts and adapting our department to maintain full functionality as new variants of the virus emerged.



RETIREMENTS

Two of our senior members retired this year, Firefighter Jeff Van Laeken after 27 years of service and Firefighter Paramedic Heather Gehring after 20 years of service. They will be missed for their dedication and willingness to take on many important projects in support of the District.



Also leaving in 2021, Firefighter Shawn Crawford after 4 years of service and Maintenance Supervisor Arnie Kuchta after 13 years of service.



We want to congratulate and thank all of these members for their contributions to the District and their years of dedicated service to our community!

FIRE ACADEMY

NEW FIREFIGHTER HIRING

The 2020-24 Strategic Plan called for the transition of the two-person Squad 63 to a three-person Engine 64 in March 2021. We hired 11 new firefighters to help staff this unit and to fill for recent retirements. This group completed an accelerated 4 week academy in February and was ready for response on March 1st.



FIRE CADETS



2021 saw the return of our in-person Fire Cadet training. Last year's classes were held virtually with the exception of a year-end celebration for our seniors. The Cadets have been busy training and have volunteered for many projects such as the 9-11 flag memorial and Santa's Posse.



TRAINING

This past year we emphasized our members completing the IFSAC Firefighter I & II, and Haz Mat Operations certifications. We were successful in certifying over 95% of our first responders.

OPERATIONS REPORT



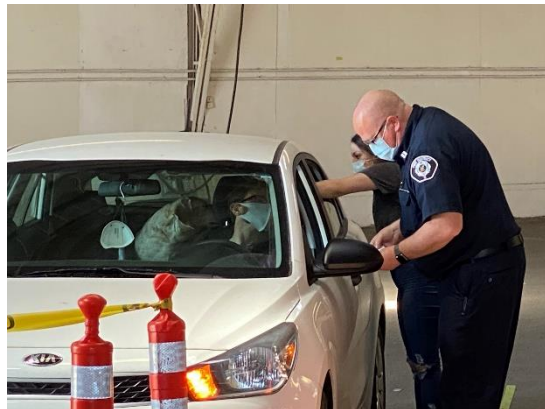
OPERATIONS

2021 has been a year of change and challenge. We have settled into year two of the COVID pandemic and only two things are constant: change, and the high level of service our personnel provide our citizens. We have managed through changes in PPE, operational procedures, response plans and state requirements - to name a few.

For the first time, District 6 hired eleven *lateral* firefighters and held the first ever in-house fire academy to prepare them for shift work.

We placed a 4th engine company into service and altered response plans to increase coverage and reliability to our most emergent calls for service. In addition, this service increase generated 3 new officer promotions.

Our personnel assisted Public Health and the National Guard with a new concept, drive through vaccination clinic to fight the



spread of COVID-19. We have also received a COVID-19 testing machine to provide in-house testing for personnel.

This year Operations has also spec'd and ordered two new Pierce pumpers with the expected arrival in October of 2022 and placed a new Battalion Chief vehicle into service.

Beyond the challenges of the COVID pandemic, District 6 has also been forced to navigate a changing world for our law enforcement partners. Washington House bill 1310 put a

spotlight on Police use of force and dramatically changed the way law enforcement engages the public. This has created some unintended consequences with some of our responses to mental health emergencies and other similar type events. The Washington Fire Chiefs association has lobbied for clarification and changes to the bill that we hope to see in early 2022.

District 6 personnel continue to work hard regardless of the challenges and risks, and we look forward to serving our community to an even higher level in the new year.



LOGISTICS REPORT



CONSTRUCTION

During 2021 we completed a driveway repair at Station 62 which corrected several broken panels and decreased the angle of approach in both driveways and the front apron. Completion of this project improved public safety by repairing trip hazards in the sidewalks and driveways while decreasing the impact to the apparatus as they come and go. The total cost of this project was \$86,470.68.



Preliminary work has begun for a remodel of Station 61 with the objective of meeting Essential Facility standards. Once completed, it will house 2 companies, command and support staff, and the Cadet program. This project will ensure we are prepared to serve the community for the next 20 to 30 years. We are currently working to develop the final cost estimates based on 60% drawings so that a budget can be developed.

FLEET

A small work group led by Operations completed our new pumper specification. Using the apparatus replacement schedule as our guide, two pumpers have been specified and ordered through Pierce.

The Fleet Module in OperativeIQ is in its testing phase. This tool will enable the district to track repairs more thoroughly and notify staff when preventative maintenance is due. We are looking forward to launching this module.

Finally, we have hired a full-time mechanic to serve the fire district. Brad Osborn came from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue and brings almost two decades of experience with him including 10 years working on fire apparatus. Brad has been an amazing addition to the District in his work, personality and demeanor.



FACILITIES

Operative IQ has really helped the Maintenance Division manage the varying facility and fleet maintenance demands. In 2021, we processed 926 tickets, approximately 80% of which were related to building, equipment or apparatus.

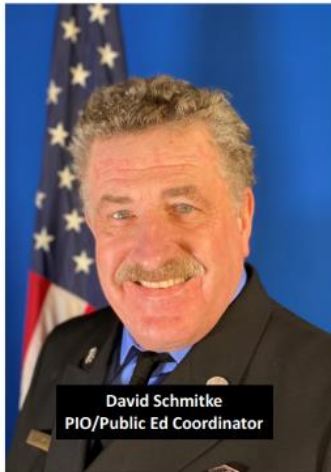


HYDRANT MAINTENANCE



As the construction projects at 62 and 63 are completed, and the fact that we again have a full staff managing the fleet and facilities, hydrant maintenance is again a priority.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT



MEDIA COVERAGE (PIO)

We had a slight improvement in our earned media after last year's COVID-related media drop-off. We had local, regional, and even national coverage on a partner project with AAA Washington, WSDOT and area Tow Operators called "Slow Down/Move Over". It is a national effort to get motorists to slow down when they see emergency vehicles on the side of the freeway

and was born from a number of injuries and fatalities—especially to tow operators.



PUBLIC EDUCATION



Finally, after a long break we were able to go back to our schools for Fire Prevention Month. I did have to make an adjustment to the curriculum, considering that we were not able to go inside the buildings. The presentation was shortened to minimize the students' exposure to October weather, and to emphasize the message of fire safety.



We were also able to resume the Fire Prevention Poster Contest, albeit without the luncheon at the fire station. Many schools chose not to participate this year, citing difficulty in students re-adjusting to live, in-person education.

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Social Media: Just when you think you have Facebook figured out it changes the algorithm (and its name), so we're back to square one. We haven't lost any "likes" or followers, but the process of attracting a larger audience is much more difficult—not just for us but for any agency using Facebook.

Our Twitter feed remains a viable platform for emergency updates on road closures, etc., but we do not actively use Twitter for "warm and fuzzy" subjects. We have also made marked progress on

Instagram. Every time we post on Facebook, we also post on Instagram...steadily building a larger follower base.

Websites: We have been able to hone the appearance and function of our external website and have received compliments on its appearance from the community and other agencies. The internal site has been updated and is very new. We are still in the process of populating it and double checking the accuracy of all links and resources.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Last summer we faced a daunting challenge after an invitation from the Clark County Sheriff's Office. A relatively new PIO was assigned the challenge of planning media coverage of the funeral of CCSO Detective Jeremy Brown. I was asked to help coordinate the assignment. The unfortunate event and procession went very smoothly and helped to further a positive relationship with our partners in law enforcement as well as other PIOs.



In 2022 our challenge will be to develop and manage a campaign to inform voters of the EMS levy lid lift.

RESPONSE TIME COMPLIANCE

Based on the performance policy and objectives outlined in State law and identified elements deemed appropriate in the Department's emergency services delivery, a statistical data analysis was conducted. This report has been prepared to meet the requirements of Board Resolution 2006-03. The report is divided into seven objective areas and two informational areas, detailing the District's compliance with its established response objectives.

1. Turnout Time (Fire and Emergency Medical)
2. Fire Suppression Incident – First Arriving Unit
3. Fire Suppression Incident – Full First Alarm Compliment
4. Emergency Medical – Basic Life Support – First Arriving Unit
5. Emergency Medical – Advanced Life Support Arriving
6. Technical Rescue – Operations-Level Personnel Arrival
7. Technical Rescue – Technician-Level Personnel Arrival

Also included, for information only as it is not a specific objective:

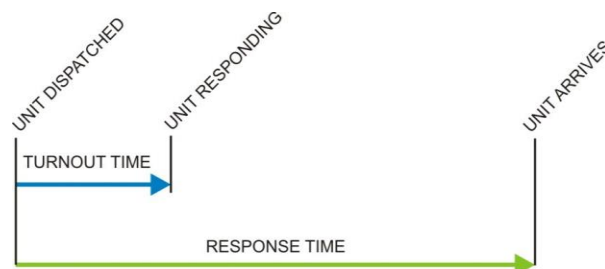
8. Response Time – All Units (a global look at response time)
9. Total Call Volume

REPORTING OF RESPONSE TIME

The two most critical measurements in the statistical analysis of response data are the Turnout Time and the Response Time.

The *Turnout Time* is a measurement of the elapsed time between the 911 Center dispatch to an incident and the apparatus responding to the incident.

The *Response Time* is a measurement of the elapsed time beginning with when the apparatus is dispatched to the incident and ends upon the arrival on scene of the incident.



FILTERING APPLIED TO INCIDENT ANALYSIS

Prior to analysis, filters are applied to the studied incidents. First, only Priority 1 and 2 responses are included.

Next, mutual aid (out of District), cancelled responses and non-emergency incidents are removed from calculations. Only the first-out engines and Squads were included, and only Code-3 responses in-District were included.

Out of 8,345 incident reports completed for 2021, the filtering resulted in 2,995 reports used for the compliance calculations.

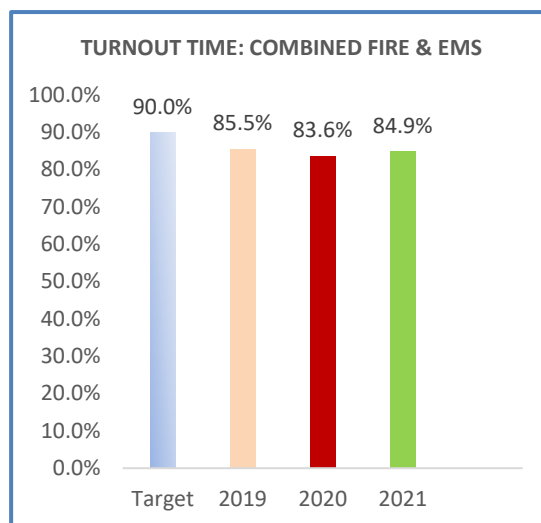
COMPLIANCE REPORT

1. TURNOUT TIME: COMBINED FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL

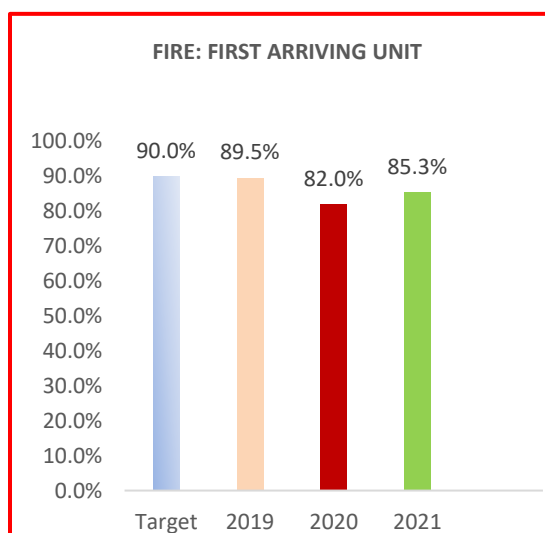
In 2021, Fire District 6 had a Turnout Time objective of two minutes (120 seconds), which the department should meet ninety percent (90%) of the time.

The responses used to determine turnout time compliance were filtered to exclude low priority, mutual aid, out of district responses, non-code 3 responses, and cancelled responses. This report includes all Priority 1 and 2 responses.

In 2021 the objective was achieved 84.9% of the time. The COVID pandemic and the additional protective equipment donned by all first responders on EMS calls has impacted these turnout times.



2. RESPONSE TIME: FIRE SUPPRESSION INCIDENT - FIRST ARRIVING UNIT



Fire District 6 adopted a response/travel time objective of six (6) minutes for the arrival of the first unit to a fire suppression incident, which the department should meet ninety (90%) of the time.

A Fire Suppression Incident includes all activities performed at the scene of a fire incident that expose personnel to the dangers of heat, flame, smoke, by-products of combustion, explosion or structural collapse and are coded in the NFIRS system in the 100, 200 and 400 categories. Responses from other jurisdictions (mutual aid) are not included in the calculation of the District's compliance with response time objectives.

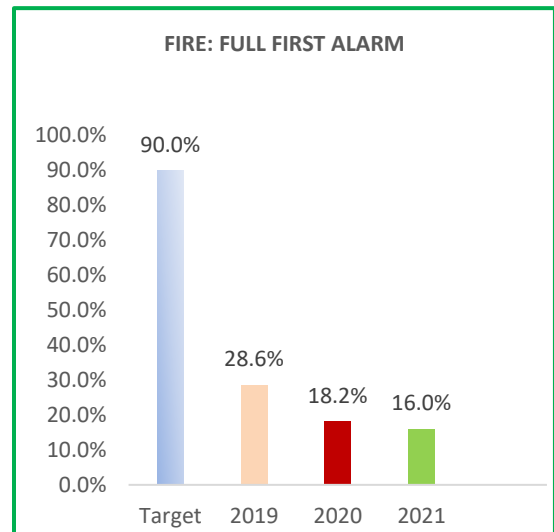
In 2021, FD6 apparatus had a response time of 6 minutes or less 85.3%. The District added an additional response unit in 2021 which has reduced our response times to some incidents.

3. RESPONSE TIME: FIRE SUPPRESSION INCIDENT – FULL FIRST ALARM

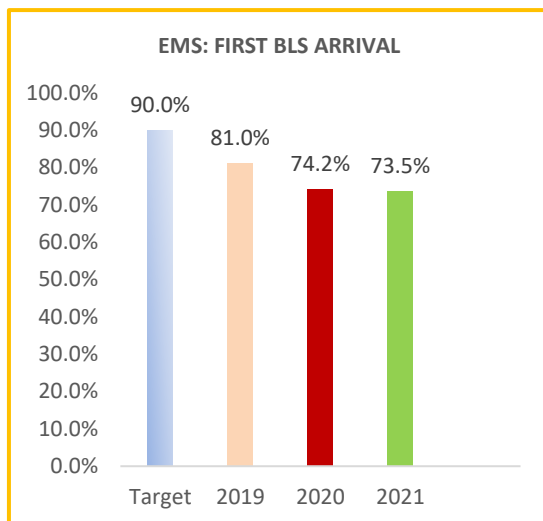
Fire District 6 adopted a response/travel time objective of nine (9) minutes from the arrival of the full complement of a 1st alarm response to a fire suppression incident, which the department should meet ninety percent (90%) of the time.

A Fire Suppression Incident includes all activities performed at the scene of a fire incident that expose personnel to the dangers of heat, flame, smoke, other products of combustion, explosion, or structural collapse. In previous years, responses from other jurisdictions (mutual aid) were not included in the calculation of the District's compliance with response time objectives. For 2019-2021 the full first alarm numbers included mutual aid companies necessary to complete the assignment.

In 2021, of the incidents which met the criteria for calculation, an objective of nine (9) minutes was achieved 16% of the time.



4. RESPONSE TIME: EMS INCIDENT – FIRST BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) ARRIVING UNIT



Fire District 6 adopted a response/travel time objective of six (6) minutes for the arrival of the first EMS unit with appropriately trained personnel on board to an emergency medical incident ninety percent (90%) of the time.

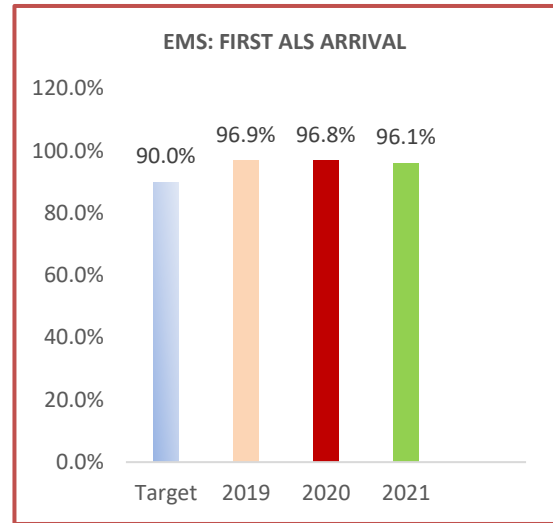
The disparity in this standard over previous years can be directly attributed to the COVID pandemic and the mandatory additional protective equipment worn by all first responders on BLS incidents.

In 2021, FD6 apparatus had a response time of 6 minutes or less 73.5% of the time.

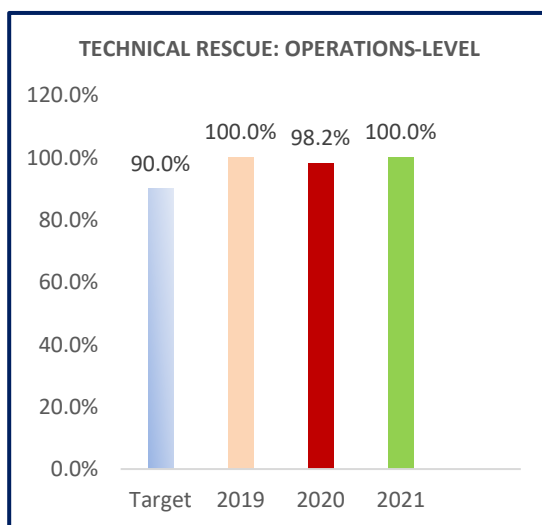
5. RESPONSE TIME: EMS INCIDENT – FIRST ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) ARRIVING UNIT

Fire District 6 adopted a response/travel time objective of nine (9) minutes for the arrival of an advanced life support unit with appropriately ALS emergency medical incident ninety percent (90%) of the time.

In 2021, District apparatus had a response time of 9 minutes or less 96.1% of the time.



6. RESPONSE TIME: TECHNICAL RESCUE – OPERATIONS-LEVEL PERSONNEL ARRIVAL



Fire District 6 adopted a response/travel time objective of nine (9) minutes for the arrival of the first unit with personnel trained at the Technical Rescue Operations level to a technical rescue incident ninety percent (90%) of the time.

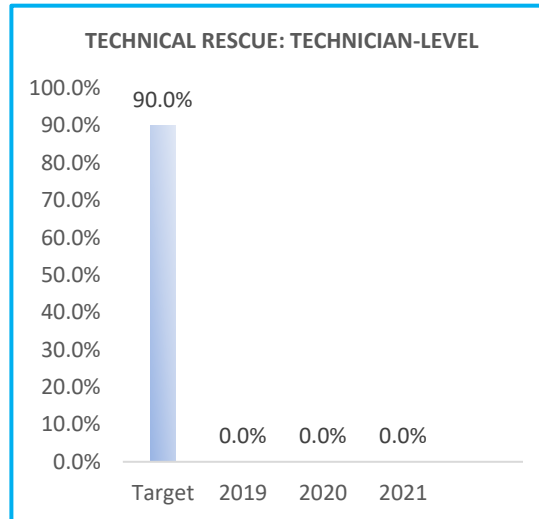
In 2021, for all responses made by Technical Rescue Team personnel within Fire District 6, the objective of nine (9) minutes was achieved on all for a compliance rate of 100%.

7. RESPONSE TIME: TECHNICAL RESCUE - TECHNICIAN-LEVEL PERSONNEL ARRIVAL

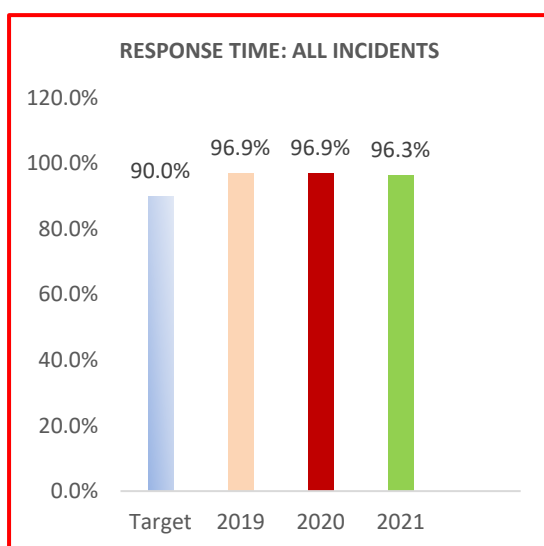
Fire District 6 adopted a response/travel time objective of thirty (30) minutes for the arrival of a sufficient number of appropriately trained and equipped Technical Rescue Technicians to perform operations at a technical rescue incident ninety percent (90%) of the time.

This data set is incomplete due to the structure of TRT callouts, responses, and resource tracking.

For 2018-2021, complete data for FD6 was unavailable for this report.



8. RESPONSE TIME: ALL INCIDENTS



A response time for all incidents is not an objective or response standard, however it is included in this report as it is a valuable measurement tool for the overall response within Fire District 6. It can reflect a more complete picture for the level of service provided by Fire District 6 to its citizens, but too many factors can affect its viability and usefulness as an actual objective.

The following data is provided for information purposes only.

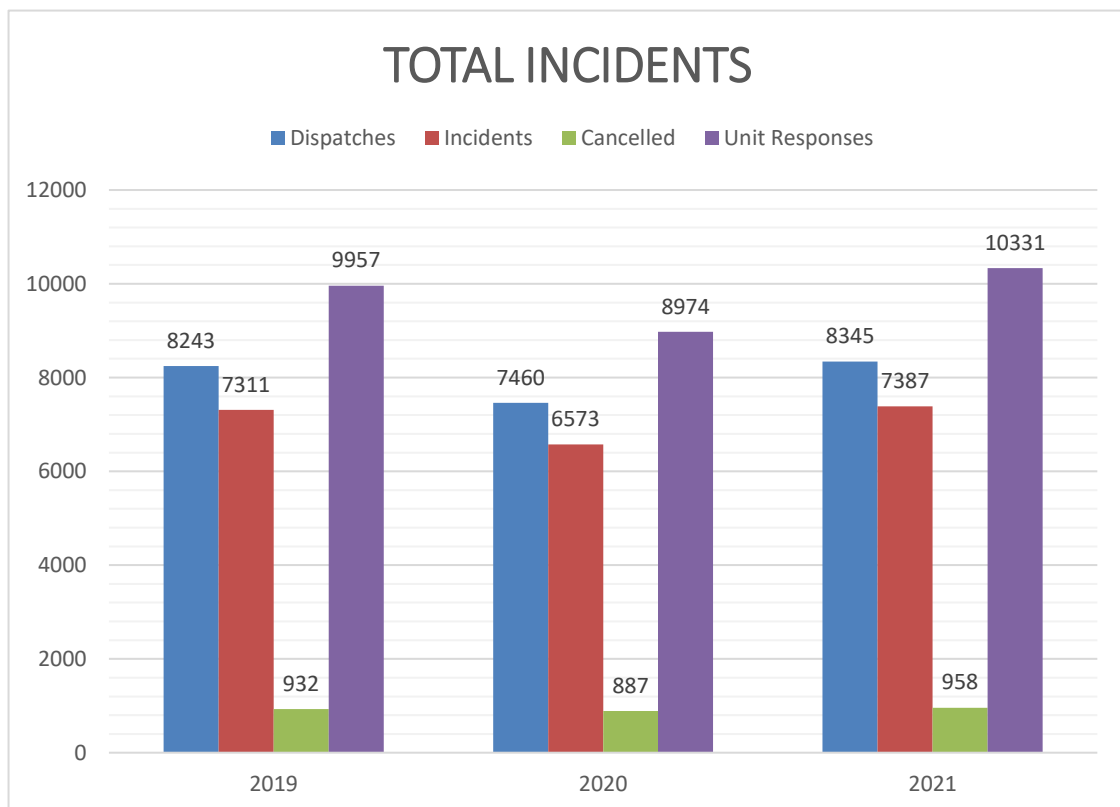
In 2021, of the incidents which met the criteria for calculation, an objective of six (6) minutes was achieved 96.3% of the time.

TOTAL INCIDENTS AND UNIT RESPONSES

Calls for emergency services within District 6 continue to increase annually. The charts below show the three year comparison for dispatched calls and the breakdown for calls used for this survey. 2021 showed a 12.4% increase in dispatched calls over the previous year and a 15.2% increase in unit responses.

Cancelled calls (Cxl) are calls that are dispatched to one of the fire stations, the dispatched crew responds, or prepares to respond, but is cancelled prior to arrival on scene. This can happen for a number of reasons and these response times can bias the data. Therefore, these cancelled calls are removed for this report.

Report Year	Dispatched Calls	FD6 Cxl	Total Incidents (No Cxl)	Cxl %	Unit Responses
2019	8,243	932	7,311	11.31%	9,957
2020	7,460	887	6,573	11.89%	8,974
2021	8,345	958	7,387	11.48%	10,331



GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

RESPONSE TIME – FIRE SUPPRESSION INCIDENT: FULL COMPLEMENT FIRST ALARM.

All three station response areas are subject to deficiencies due to travel distance to the furthest reaches of each station's response area. The District depends on a ladder truck response from neighboring fire agencies on certain fire call types. Due to the distance of neighboring fire stations, it is unlikely this objective can be met 90% of the time until those units are no longer needed to respond on a first-out basis.

The District added Engine 64 in 2021, replacing Squad 63. That engine will be replaced by a truck company at the end of 2023, allowing for a full complement first alarm assignment from within the District and a significant reduction in this response time.

RESPONSE TIME – EMS INCIDENT: ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT ARRIVING.

Historically, the most significant areas of deficiency are located within the extreme northeast and northwest sections of the District. They require the longest travel distances for Station 63/Salmon Creek and Station 62/Felida crews within their response areas.

With the addition of Squad 63 in Sept 2020 and its replacement with Engine 64 in March 2021, the District has benefited with greater coverage to meet the increasing call volume.

PREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCES

Areas of the District will continue to see deficiencies in response times at locations farthest from stations. Transportation routes to the most rural areas often do not allow for quick access due to absence of a direct route, narrow lanes, and other factors. Although offered by the District free of charge, address identification signs are often nonexistent, which can delay the arrival of responding units.

As the District grows there will be more incidents of simultaneous dispatches. There will be an increase in back-to-back emergency responses within a station's first-due area. Station 61 receives the greatest number of incidents and simultaneous emergencies are common.

Simultaneous incidents stress response capabilities of the District. Back-to-back incidents typically create longer overall response times since an apparatus from another station location or station area must respond a longer distance to cover the incident for the apparatus which is on another emergency.

Station 63 received the addition of Squad 63 in Sept 2020 to assist with coverage for these back-to-back incidents. The two-person Squad 63 transitioned to a three-person Engine 64 in March of 2021. It will transition again to a four-person Truck 63 at the end of 2023 to help support the increasing call demands within the District and to provide for a full first alarm response to structure fires.

ONGOING PLANS FOR COMPLIANCE

The District will consider the following steps to improve or maintain compliance:

Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) System and Locution Systems

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA, the 911 Center) manages emergency dispatches on the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. In 2020, District 6 subscribed and installed the Locution System for Stations 62 and 63 during construction. Locution Fire Station Alerting system is designed to reduce response times and improve audio clarity.

iSpyMobile software was added to all District cell phones and member's phones, providing additional pre-alert and emergency incident information.

Software Enhancements/Improvements to our Incident Reporting System

The District will continue to make improvements as needed in our Incident Reporting / Records Management System fields for "automatic requirements" of needed information to ensure necessary data is captured.

Track Specific Areas of Deficiency

The District will continue monitoring turnout and response times sorted by shift and station to determine where deficiencies exist and those will be addressed to ensure improvements when possible.

Monitor the Level of Back to Back (Simultaneous) Incidents

Continued monitoring of simultaneous (back-to-back incidents) for historical trends. Revision of staffing and deployment of apparatus has begun as part of the 2020-24 Strategic Plan, to reduce these coverage deficiencies.

Monitor Environmental (Weather-Related) Issues Impacting Responses

Capturing data and monitoring environmental issues affecting response times, such as snow, ice, etc. through the use of the department's emergency reporting program.

Unit Staffing

The District will continue to examine the levels of available staffed units to determine if any revisions need consideration for the future.

DATA RECORD SETS

Data collected for the purpose of this analysis included only incidents that occurred within Fire District 6's jurisdictional boundaries and were determined to need a Code 3 (lights/siren) emergency response by the department's personnel as dispatched by CRESA (911 Emergency Center).

Non-emergency responses are not included in the calculation of the reported turnout/response times. The report excludes cancelled responses and out-of-jurisdiction responses.

