

Fire

Fire Calls

The Minneapolis Fire Department had 19 fire stations located throughout the City and a Fire Training Facility located at 37th Avenue and Marshall Street Northeast. The department's typical response to a fire alarm was three engine companies, two ladder companies, a rescue rig, the Mobile Command Van, a Battalion Chief and the Incident Safety Officer. If additional resources were necessary and a second alarm response was indicated, an additional two engines, one truck, and the Deputy Chief were dispatched to the scene.

The Minneapolis Fire Department responded to 2,238 fire calls in 2002, along with 11,709 other fire-related runs. This included fires in buildings, vehicles, and other fires. There were 35 multiple alarms in 2002, a 35% increase from 2001.

Summary of Fires and Alarms 2002

	Number	Estimated Loss
Fires in building	1,142	\$14,093,545
Fires in vehicles	489	\$ 1,110,542
Other fires	607	\$ 30,965
False and silent alarms	5,234	\$ 0
Totals	7,472	\$15,235,052

Fire Prevention

The Minneapolis Fire Prevention Bureau continued its commitment to preventing fires from occurring, or minimizing the extent of the loss should a fire occur, through inspections for code compliance and fire prevention education. Inspections by Fire Prevention Bureau inspectors totaled 4,106 in 2002, down from 4,568 in 2001.

Emergency Medical Service

The Minneapolis Fire Department responded to 21,745 calls for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in 2002, an average of 60 EMS calls per day. Since 1973, medical emergency service in Minneapolis had been the joint responsibility of the Minneapolis Fire Department and the Hennepin County Emergency Medical Service, using a "dual response" approach when responding to emergency situations. The Fire Department provided Basic Life Support, as all firefighters were trained Emergency Medical Technicians. The Hennepin County ambulances were staffed by trained paramedics and were equipped to provide Advanced Life Support. As soon as an emergency call was received, the closest fire company and ambulance were dispatched. Because of the scattered fire station sites, the fire company usually arrived first (85% of the time in less than four minutes) and provided immediate attention. The ambulance crew took over medical care when they arrived and provided transportation to a hospital. This system allowed the necessary medical care to be on the scene as quickly as possible without the need for additional ambulances, which were expensive to equip and staff.

Arson

There were 258 fires in Minneapolis during 2002 for which the origin was determined to be arson. This represents 22% of the total 1,190 fires investigated in 2002. The Minneapolis Fire Department investigated all fires to determine, at a minimum, the extent of the loss and the cause of the fire. Whenever an accidental cause could not be determined and there was some evidence that the fire may have been deliberately set, a criminal investigation was conducted by the Police Department Bomb/Arson Squad.