



**Margate Fire Department
Staffing**

Acknowledgments

City Commission

City Manager's Office

Finance Department

Fire Administration

IAFF Local 3080 District Vice President



Mission Statement

The mission of the Margate Fire Department is to deliver the highest level of emergency medical services and fire protection to the community with professionalism and respect. We believe that your family is our family.



History

Proudly serving the community since 1956

Estimated 9,700 requests for service annually



"Old Betsy," the Margate Volunteer Fire Department's first fire truck
(Image previously published, courtesy of the Margate City Hall archives)

Calls for service include:

- Residential and commercial fires
- Advanced Life Support medical emergencies
- Various emergency rescue operations:
 - Vehicle extrication
 - Surface water rescue
 - Elevator entrapments



Fire Department Operations

Successful operation of the fire department depends on:

Quality fire trucks and equipment

Highly trained and educated firefighters

Necessary staffing to handle all hazards





Fire Department Operations

Rescue trucks are staffed with three personnel

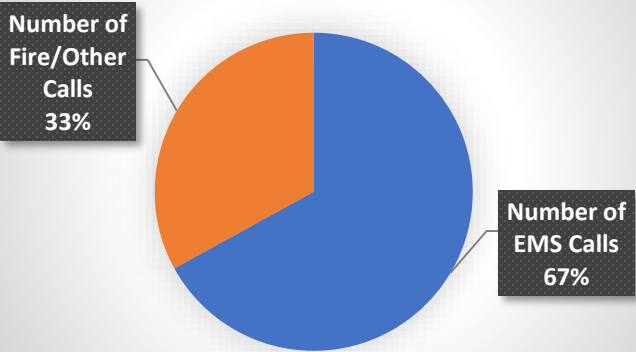
Fire trucks are staffed with two personnel



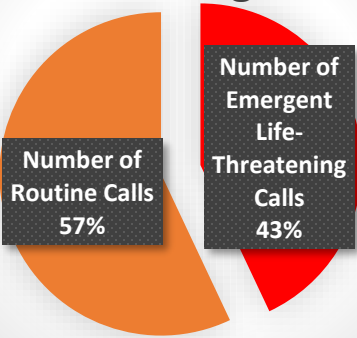
Margate Run Call Data 2023

Total Calls for Service	9,361
Number of Emergent Life - Threatening Calls	4,024
All other Emergency Calls	5,337
Number of EMS Calls	6,272
Number of Fire/Other Calls	3,089
Fire Trucks Responded	4,812
Rescue Trucks Responded	7,594
Percent of EMS Calls Fire Trucks Responded To	52%
Percent of Fire/Other Calls Fire Trucks Responded To	48%

2023 Fire v. EMS Calls



2023 Number of Life Threatening Calls

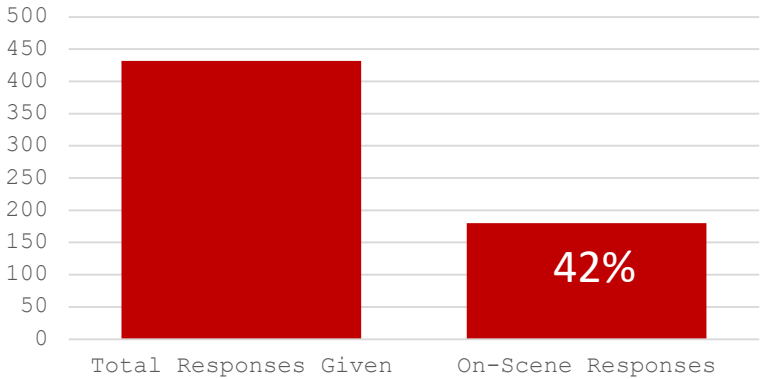


Margate Automatic & Mutual Aid

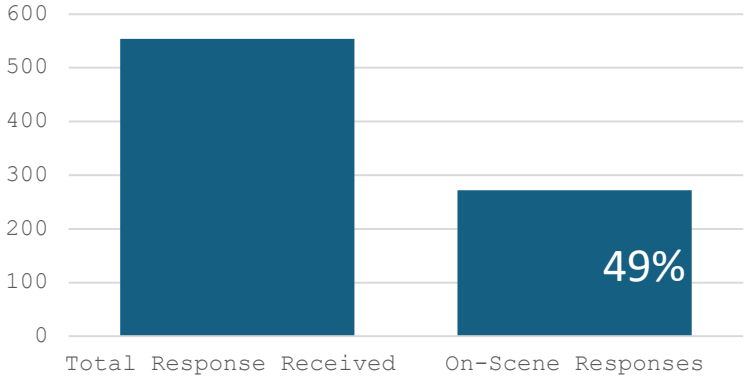
Call Data 2023

Total Responses Given	432
On-Scene Responses	180
*Given for Fire Calls	15
*Given for EMS Calls	90
*Given for Other Calls	75
Total Response Received	554
On-Scene Responses	272
*Received for Fire Calls	20
*Received for EMS Calls	182
*Received for Other Calls	70

**Total Responses & Aid
Given**



**Total Responses & Aid
Received**



Enhancing Fire Department Capabilities



NIST
**National Institute of
Standards and Technology**
U.S. Department of Commerce



What is the NFPA

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops codes and standards for fire safety, electrical safety, and emergency responses, by providing guidelines, education, and advocacy to improve safety and prevent losses.

Design and build of fire stations and fire trucks

Personal Protective Equipment

Building Codes and Construction Standards

Fire Prevention and Education

Firefighting Operations and Safety



Firefighting Operations and Safety

NFPA 1710

*Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations,
Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by
Career Fire Departments*

Defines the industry standard of fire truck staffing in order to accomplish all necessary tasks on a fire scene

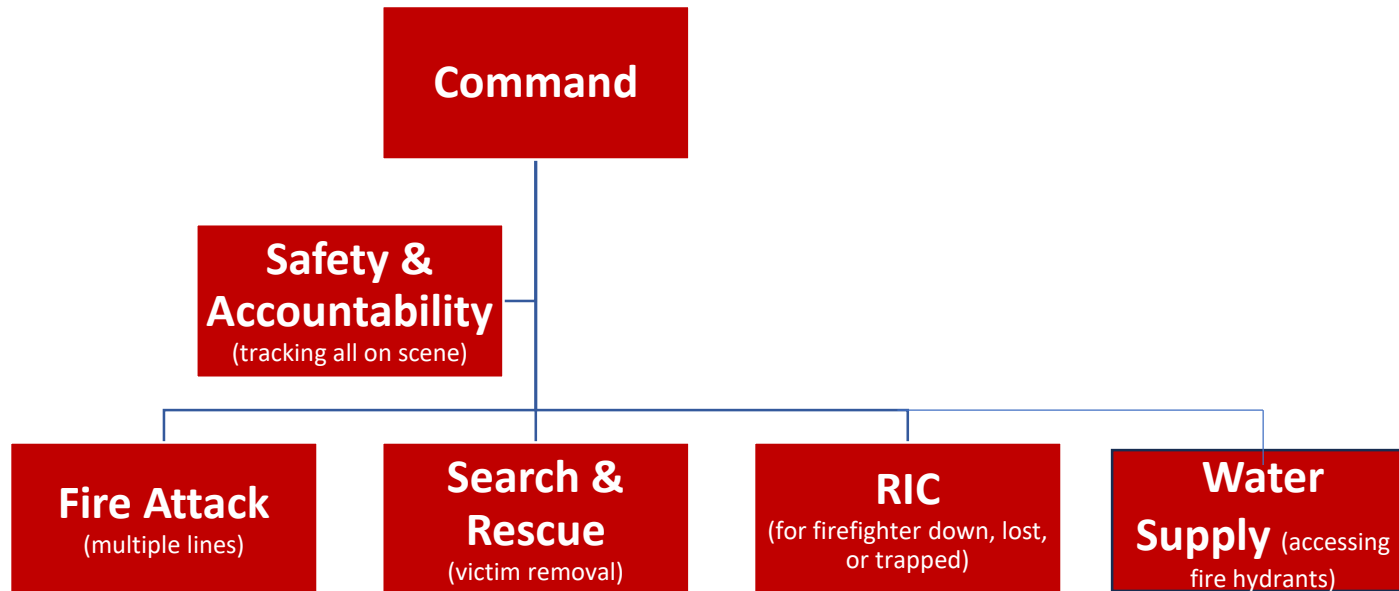
Establishes the minimum number of firefighters needed to safely handle fires in houses, apartment buildings, strip malls, and large commercial buildings

These requirements are set to provide “*effective, efficient, and safe protection to reduce the risk to lives and property*”



Firefighting Operations and Safety

NFPA 1710 has set forth these standards to guarantee a more coordinated and efficient approach to emergency operations:



Firefighting Operations and Safety



**1910.134 OSHA Federal Regulation
"2 in 2 out"**

**Firefighters engaged in interior structural firefighting work in the "buddy system"
(always be paired up)**

If entering a toxic environment, at least two firefighters must go in together

For every two firefighters inside the structure, there should be two outside ready to assist

Those firefighters that are inside the toxic environment must maintain constant visual or verbal contact



Firefighting Operations and Safety

Demonstrates that a well-staffed fire truck will significantly impact:

- The overall effectiveness of the Fire Departments
- Faster search & rescue
- Fire suppression
- Reduced property damage
- Lower casualty rates

Primary Search

*Search times
dropped by three
minutes with a
three-person crew*

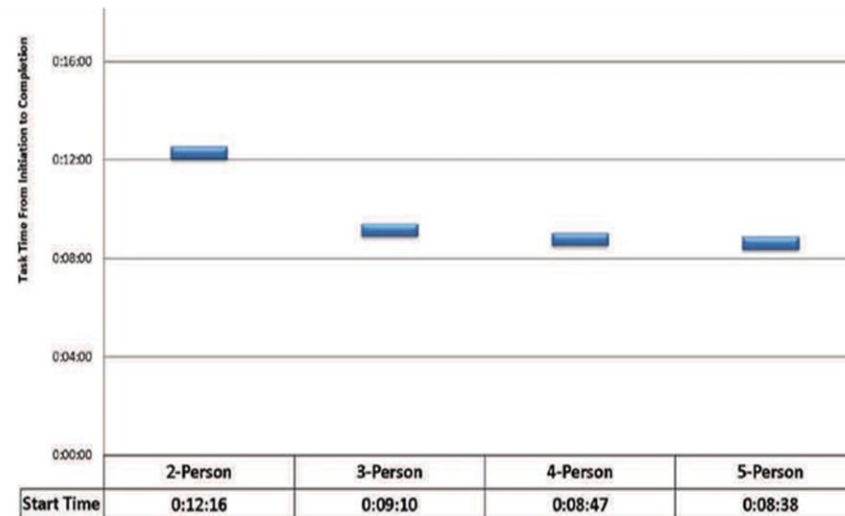
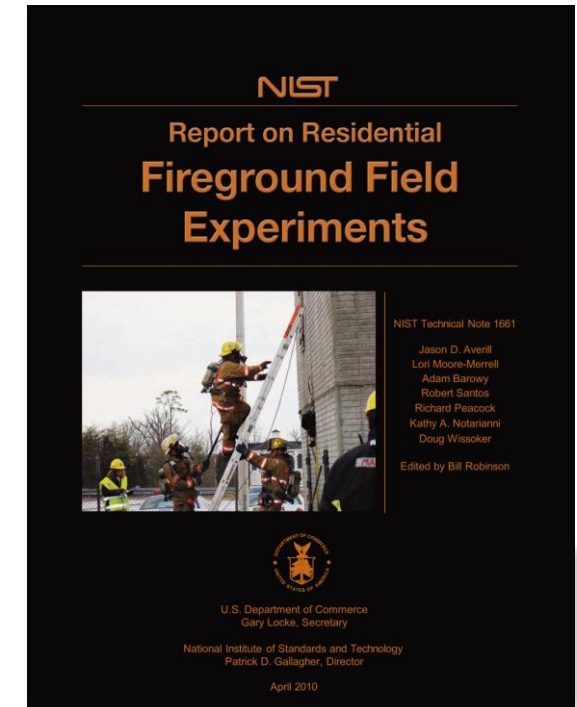


Figure 34: Times to Conduct Primary Search by Crew Size



Broward Countywide Standards and Mutual Aid

In 2002, residents voted for Closest Unit Response regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Margate Fire Department began this operation in 2023.

For those calls that are life-threatening, it is the requirement for each fire truck to include a three-person crew or an augmented response (meaning manpower must be pulled from a different unit)

Often, we must send the fire truck AND the rescue truck to fulfill our personnel requirements to assist neighboring cities

This leaves the originating zone without available units, compromising the area's response readiness for any additional emergencies



Staffing Increase



Advancing toward National and Regional Standards

To meet agreed upon service levels of all fire rescue agencies of Broward County

Decrease response times

Enhance services to the community



Broward Countywide Standards and Mutual Aid

Moving to a three-person fire truck staffing model will increase the availability of in-zone units and will ensure:

Rapid and consistent emergency responses

Maintaining better unit coverage for additional incidents

Increased safety and effectiveness of mutual aid responses

Reinforced community standards and expectations



The High Demands of Firefighting

Firefighting involves significant mental and physical strain, carrying risk of injury

A three-person firefighting crew will dramatically improve:

Coordination of fire operations to better disperse the workload

The risk of injury from trauma, overexertion, overheating, and cardiac demand

The availability of “backup” in a dangerous environment such as rapid changes in fire conditions

Compliance with the “two in, two out” rule of firefighter survival



Meeting Regional Standard

Fire Truck Staffing

Broward County is home to close to 2 million residents, an estimated 14 million visitors, and has a total of 128 fire trucks.

125 of 128 fire trucks are equipped with a minimum three-person crew.



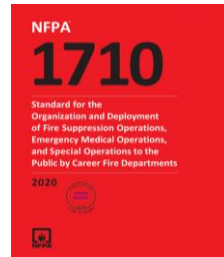
Enhancing Our Service



- Rapid initial fire attack
- Immediate Search & Rescue
- Establishment of water supply early
- Improves victim survivability
- Simultaneous tasking vs Sequential tasking
- Enables Command to maintain better control over the incident
- Enhances the safety measures taken to protect our residents and firefighters



Recommendation



Fastest Unit Response agreements throughout Broward County

Comparative analysis with local agencies

Moves toward the regional standard by staffing three firefighters on every fire truck



Summary

Increase fire department capabilities, efficiency, and safety

Increase availability of units for active emergencies by increasing crew autonomy

Meet the intent of industry standards such as NFPA 1710 and OSHA “Two in Two Out”

Strengthen the obligation to our neighbors in regards to “Fastest Unit Response”

Ensure patients the fastest possible care to effective Advanced Life Support treatments

