

Fire Department Responses to Travis County Medical Incidents Summary of Trends, Fiscal Years 2005-2011



Between FY 2005 and FY 2011, dispatches of fire units to EMS incidents in the AFD service area fluctuated between 43,900 and 52,800 incidents, with the highest call volumes occurring in 2007 and 2011. The apparent increase for the County ESDs mainly reflects the expansion of AFD contract dispatching to additional fire departments. By 2008, AFD was dispatching for all Travis County fire departments; the data for earlier years omit ESD incidents dispatched by other entities.



In the AFD service area, the percent of incidents where EMS units had earlier arrival times than fire units increased from 27% in 2005 to 36% by 2011. The order of arrival in the Travis County ESDs overall has held fairly steady, with EMS having earlier arrival times than fire units in 18-24% of incidents. This analysis focuses only on incidents where both agencies had onscene times, it does not take into account situations where one agency cancelled the other enroute.

Number of Medical Incidents with Fire Dispatch *			
Fiscal Year	AFD service area	Travis County ESDs	Total incidents
2005	43,893	5,428	49,321
2006	45,908	5,887	51,795
2007	51,941	10,997	62,938
2008	51,208	12,701	63,909
2009	47,768	11,859	59,627
2010	48,560	12,627	61,187
2011	52,755	13,195	65,950

* Defined as multi-agency incidents where EMS performed call-taking, EMS was the "parent" incident, and Fire Dispatch assigned a first responder unit to the incident. Excludes test calls.
Source: Trittech CAD Data Warehouse

Agency with earliest recorded arrival time*						
Fiscal Year	AFD Service Area			Travis County ESDs		
	EMS	Fire	# with both agencies at scene	EMS	Fire	# with both agencies at scene
2005	27%	74%	34,818	21%	79%	4,216
2006	24%	76%	36,511	18%	82%	4,571
2007	29%	72%	40,010	24%	76%	8,485
2008	31%	69%	40,976	24%	77%	10,040
2009	34%	66%	39,471	21%	79%	9,820
2010	36%	64%	40,386	20%	80%	10,652
2011	36%	64%	43,534	22%	78%	11,346

* Limited to medical incidents where both EMS and FIRE had first unit arrival times recorded, provided the arrival times were within one hour of each other. Does not take into account situations where one agency cancelled before arrival. The one-hour criterion was used to eliminate a small number of cases with clear data quality issues.
Source: Trittech CAD Data Warehouse



CAD does not track unit cancellations consistently; however, AFD units report cancel status in apparatus reports filed by each unit assigned to an incident. Between 2005 and 2011, approximately one-third (32-37%) of AFD units dispatched to medical calls reported being cancelled before or upon arrival at medical incidents.

The unit data, though, does not take into account multi-company responses where only some, not all, of AFD units were cancelled. A roll-up to the incident level of analysis finds around 30% of medical incidents involved the cancellation on or before arrival of all AFD units assigned to the incident.

AFD Officer Reports of Cancellation Status (RMS Apparatus Reports)				
Fiscal Year	Number of medical incidents	% with all units cancelled	% at least 1 unit not cancelled	% no data
2006	45,470	23%	74%	2%
2007	51,661	28%	69%	2%
2008	50,944	30%	68%	2%
2009	48,207	29%	67%	3%
2010	48,986	28%	69%	3%
2011	52,890	28%	69%	3%

Based on apparatus reports completed by AFD Engines, Ladders, Quints, Rescues, & AFR units. Medical incidents are defined as dispatched problem types beginning with 'EMS' where EMS performed calltaking. Includes auto-aid and mutual aid responses outside the AFD service area.
Source: FDM RMS database.