

# City Infrastructure Capacity: Police, Fire, EMS, etc.

## Fire and EMT

Fire Chief Scott Elmer  
Interview April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and July 13, 2006

Chief has considered hiring extra help during the visitor season because of the higher volume of calls.

Expresses a need for an extra person and would specifically like to see a Full-time, Temporary Advanced Life Support EMT that would work only for the Visitor Months.

That position was hired for 2006—they will have to ask again in future years.

The fire department and EMT does drills on disaster training. There was one done in the spring on a plane crash

4 key staff from Sitka have participated in a region-wide training in Ketchikan, sponsored by Homeland Security, on responding to a large-scale terrorist attack on a cruise ship. Training program sponsored by Homeland Security but staff time paid for by the city.

“Sitka needs more ‘tabletop’ exercises on response to situations like cruise ship fire, pandemic on board cruise ship or other such situation” that would require full community participation and response (housing passengers in churches, Salvation Army Participation, Red Cross, etc.).

Currently the EMT has the capacity for 3 distinct emergency calls (ambulance capacity). Crews are trained in triage also in case of large scale emergency.

If all 3 ambulances are in use, crews go into crisis overdrive and speed up responses and can achieve a 10-15 minute patient to hospital turnover.

Fire Department:

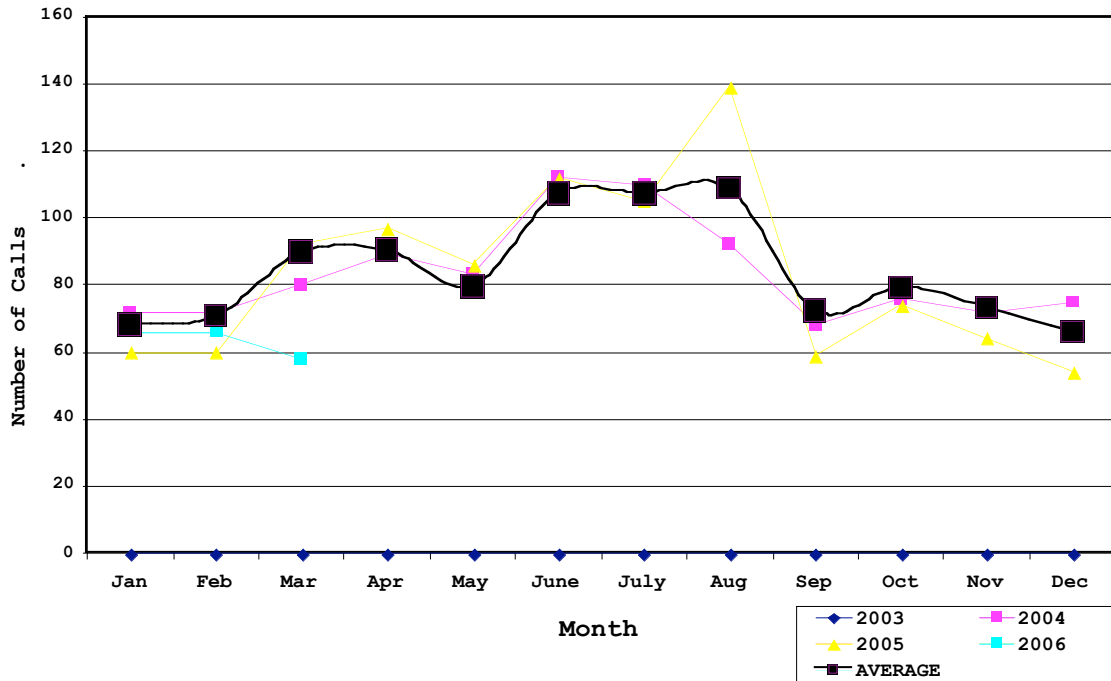
3 Fire Engines

No Ladder Trucks

No Tankers or Tenders

In the process of trying to get a ladder truck

## EMS Calls Per Month



Data From: Roberta White  
EMS Office Assistant

July 14<sup>th</sup> Comments: “After looking through the books, they have noted that the increase in calls is due to locals spending more time outside rather than cruise ship visitors”  
There are very few calls from folks getting off the cruise ships.

## Police Department

Interview with Sgt. Green (Handles traffic planning)  
School Resources Officer

- PD has closed part of Lincoln Street when there was 6 or 7 thousand in that day
- Had the boat schedule beforehand from the visitor’s bureau and planned out the street closing ahead of time
- Workload increases during the summer significantly because of visitors...  
Sometimes there is a little overtime but Sgt. Green said that they (PD) just deal with the extra role they must play as part of their job.
- During the summer he goes from School duty to going downtown street duty and public relations—otherwise would be doing traffic or more crime prevention.

- Would like to see security cameras at all of the harbor ports at the lightering docks. Would like to see security cameras at the ramps at the N + S Tomkins harbor
- The Police Department has to be careful of scheduling vacations and coverage of time.
- Have Received Training on Boat Interdiction and Training on Tactical Situations (people with guns).

Interview with Tim White (Tech Specialist), July 13, 2006

- Cell phone network often overloads
- Cell phone companies don't give information on what the capacity is for number of cells phones that can be used at one time nor how many registered cell phones there are in Sitka—consider this information proprietary
- Police department does not have an idea on cell phone capacity in town because the companies won't work with them and share the data
- Police and Fire department have satellite phones that they can use in case of system overload and also for when they respond to Baranof Warm Springs Calls

The Police/Fire/EMTs are going to have an ALMR (Alaska land marine radio) compatible console set up by November.

This is a huge system that ties in with satellite links and can communicate with a multitude of different local, state, and federal agencies throughout Alaska.

The Department of Defense is overseeing the system. The Coastguard is tied in and is slowly building into it as well as the other agencies in the Department of Homeland Security..

2-3 years before everyone in the state is fully operational.

This is going on across the county in an effort to tie in all the different authorities in case of disasters (hurricanes, attacks, etc).

Has used the system on a drill that the military did in N Alaska and the system worked well.

## Public Toilets

Total Number of Public Toilets from under the Bridge to Crescent Harbor (Bridge, Centennial Hall, Stoplight Corner, Crescent Harbor)

Total Women's Toilets: 12  
Total Men's Urinals: 12

Toilet/Person Capacity (Events under 6 hours) Rate from Public Events Planning Commission, Bath and East Somerset, England  
(<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/environment/Licensing/PlanningPublicEvent.htm>)

1 Toilet/ 100 Women  
1 Urinal/ 150 Men

Current Public Toilet Capacity for Events Under 6 hours (Typical Cruise Ship Visit?):

12 toilets \* 100 women/toilet = **1200 Women**

12 toilets \* 150 men/ toilet = **1500 Men**