

Potential impact of fire service reductions on the University of Michigan

The University brings incredible vitality to Ann Arbor.

- The University spent \$1.14 Billion on research efforts in 2010.
- The University's physical properties (valued at nearly \$5.1 billion), including nearly 33.5 million square feet of building space.
- There are volumes of irreplaceable art, historical, and research collections throughout the city.
- The U-M employs approximately 39,000 people, with a total annual payroll and benefits of \$3.4 billion.
- More than 4,300 jobs have been created on campus and within the medical center in the past five years.
- Research activity has resulted in 2,392 invention disclosures and 76 new start-up companies since 2003. On average, a new company is formed every five weeks.
- Each home football game generates an estimated \$10 million for the local economy.
- Cultural activities attract more than 350,000 attendees each year.

The University has buildings, property, and people working across the entire City of Ann Arbor. As a result, the reduction of fire department resources anywhere in the City has a direct impact on the service the University will receive.

In the late 1980's, the Ann Arbor Fire Department operated 9 fire trucks and six stations.

By the early 1990's, Ladder 1 at station 1 was taken out of service.

In the early 2000's, Engine 1 at station 1 (111 N. Fifth Avenue) and Ladder 2 (Stadium and Packard) were taken out of service.

In the early 2000's, Station 2 (Stadium and Packard) was closed. This station's area included most of south-central campus, the UM Golf Course, the "Big House", and the many buildings and people on Kipke.

In 2011, the Department reduced its minimum staffing to 15 fire fighters per day. In the 1990's, the minimum was 24 fire fighters per day.

Starting in February 2011, the Department is "browning out" (closing) 1 fire station and 1 fire truck each day that the available staffing falls below 17 people. The stations and fire trucks that are shuttered rotate each month. In February Engine 3 (Jackson and Maple) was chosen to close. In March Engine 4 (Huron Parkway and Platte) was chosen. In April Ladder 5 (North Campus - Beal and McIntyre) was chosen. In May Engine 6 (Briarwood Mall) was chosen. These rotating closures will then repeat starting in June.

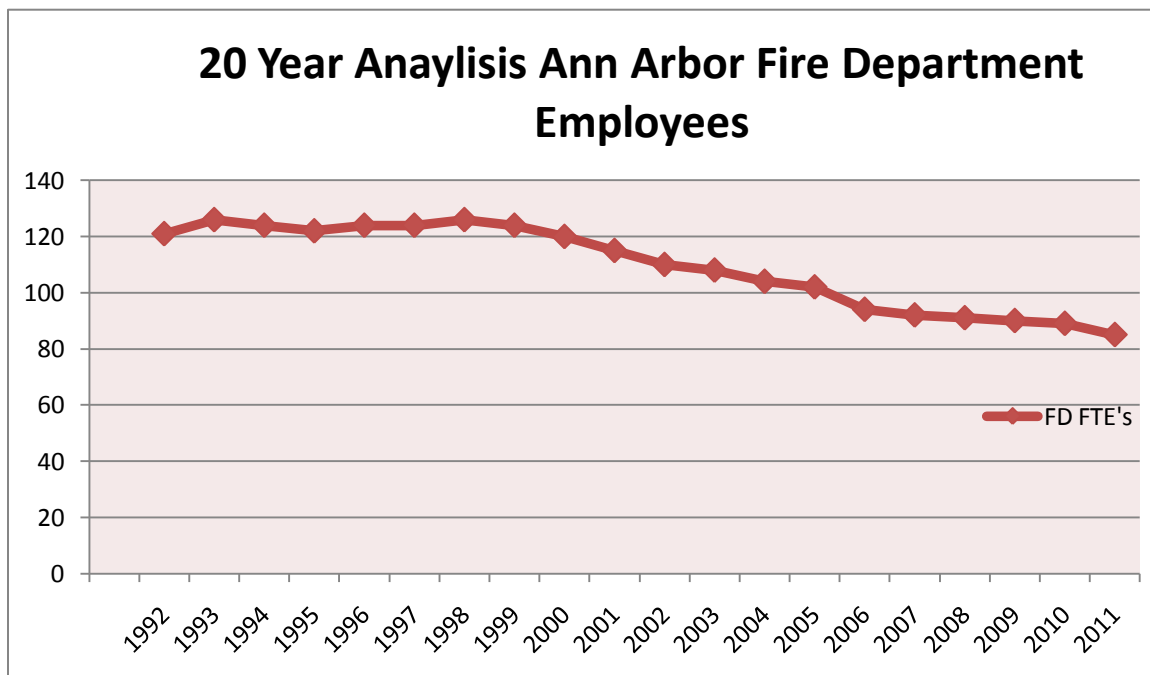
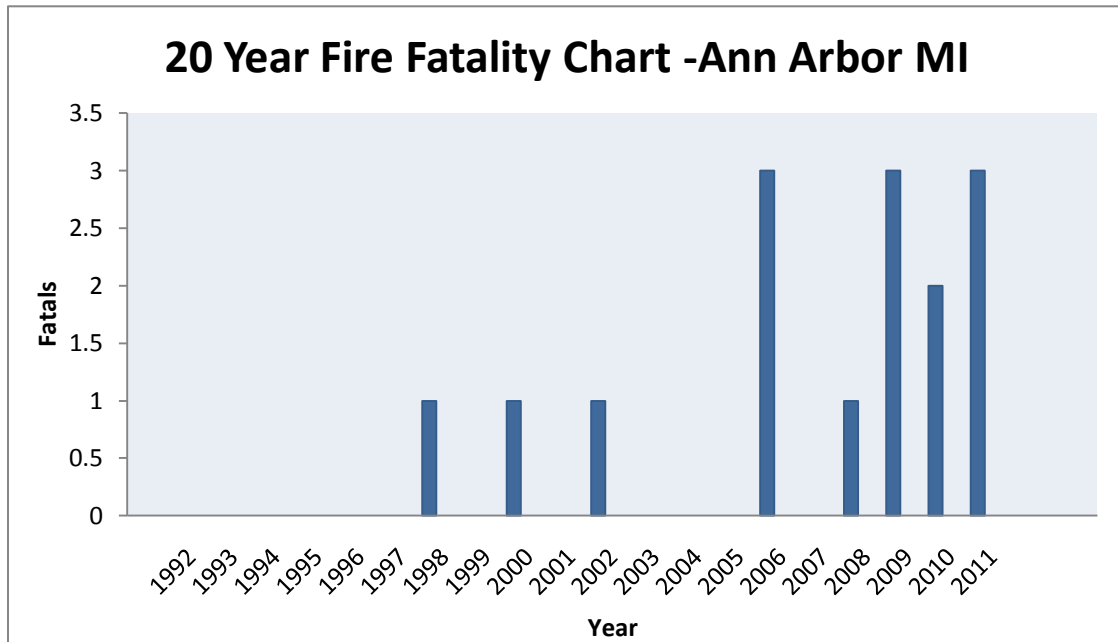
Since 2002 there have been nine chiefs and a 39% reduction in the number of firefighters.

Station 5, the North Campus Station, is actually owned by the University of Michigan. When the north campus station is closed, the closest fire station to respond to this area is either in downtown Ann Arbor or on the south side of the City at Huron Parkway and Platte. Response times to calls on north campus have risen significantly. A chart of response times to various University addresses is shown below. This chart shows actual response times to calls when Station 5 was open, and when it was closed this past April.

DATE	ADDRESS	RESPONSE TIMES	
		STATION 5 OPEN	STATION 5 CLOSED
29-Jan	1100 Baits	3:00	
6-Jan	1441 Baits	6:37	
3-Apr	1789 Beal		11:15
28-Jan	2101 Bonisteel	6:00	
14-Jan	2101 Bonisteel	5:00	
18-Mar	2281 Bonisteel	8:00	
18-Jan	1665 Dean	5:21	
10-Apr	2570 Draper		10:45
10-Jan	1931 Duffield	6:00	
7-Jan	1931 Duffield	5:28	
22-Jan	1931 Duffield	6:51	
2-Feb	1931 Duffield	5:43	
16-Mar	1931 Duffield	4:35	
24-Feb	2300 Hayward	6:00	
8-Apr	2300 Hayward		8:59
13-Apr	2300 Hayward		7:15
12-Jan	1230 Hubbard	8:17	
22-Jan	1310 Hubbard	7:00	
15-Apr	1310 Hubbard		8:55
24-Jan	1420 Hubbard	5:00	
23-Jan	1421 Hubbard	7:00	
9-Apr	1421 Hubbard		10:28
28-Apr	1430 Hubbard		9:11
17-Apr	1441 Hubbard		9:11
2-Apr	1646 McIntyre		10:06
24-Jan	1654 McIntyre	5:00	
8-Apr	2432 Stone		10:24

The city wide average response time of the AAFD is now almost six minutes to get one fire engine to the scene of an emergency.

The risk to life and property are enormous. In the past ten years there have been numerous fires in off campus neighborhoods that have resulted in fatalities, “near misses” where students have had to jump from windows or roof tops to escape a fire, and total loss fires involving fraternity houses. The rate of civilian fatalities from fires is rising as cuts have been made in the Fire Department. Two charts below illustrate the data collected during the last 20 years.



The University of Michigan deserves the absolute level best in fire protection. While reducing its fire department, the City has found ways to fund a new city hall, an underground parking structure, and a fountain that costs nearly a million dollars. The threat to life and property has been ignored. The ability of the University of Michigan to sustain economic strength, regional growth, and local property value has been ignored. The risk and potential loss due to a major fire, hazardous material release, or mass casualty incident has been ignored by the City of Ann Arbor.