

Group 4A

Surveillance Impact Reports (SIRs): 1) Emergency Scene Cameras SIR & 2) Hazmat Cameras SIR

Transportation & Utilities Committee

September 15, 2021

Seattle Fire Department Digital + Hazmat Cameras



Seattle Fire Department

Mission

The mission of the Seattle Fire Department is to save lives and protect property through emergency medical service, fire and rescue response and fire prevention. We respond immediately when any member of our community needs help with professional, effective and compassionate service.

Vision

The Seattle Fire Department: a national leader in responding to and preventing emergencies with a commitment to excellence and teamwork.

Values

Compassion, Courage, Diversity, Integrity, Teamwork

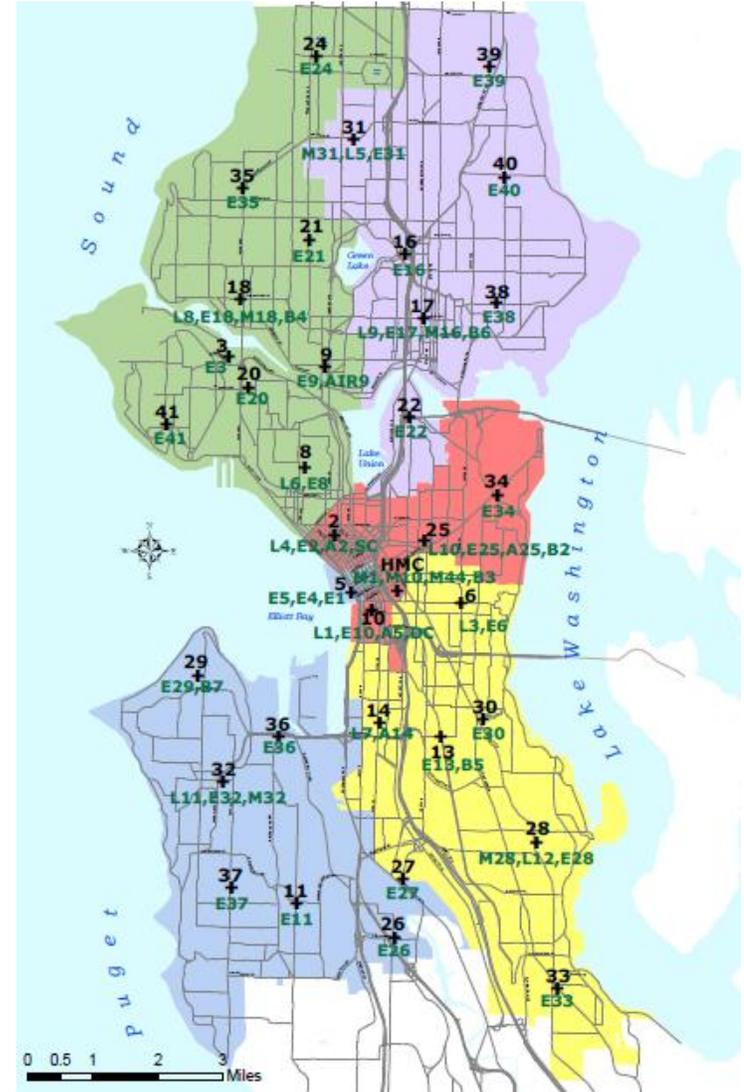
Facts about your Seattle Fire Department

Stations & Apparatus

- 33 Fire Stations
- Medic One at Harborview Medical Center
- 33 Engines, 11 Ladder Trucks, 5 Aid Units (BLS), 7 Medic Units (ALS), Additional specialized apparatus

Number of Responses

- Over 100,000 Annual Incident Responses
- Roughly 20,000 ALS responses each year
- 50-100 Hazmat responses each year



Emergency Scene Cameras

What is the technology?

- Emergency scene cameras are digital cameras used to take photos at incidents the fire department responds to. The photos are collected as part of SFD's documentation of an incident response.

Why do we use the technology?

- Collecting photos at response incidents is a best practice guideline from the National Fire Protection. These photos help provide medical professionals information during emergency responses, which can reduce potential for loss of life for patients. Photos of incident scenes also provide valuable information for SFD's Fire Investigation Unit.



Emergency Scene Cameras

Collection

- Emergency scene cameras are digital cameras used to take photos at incidents the fire department responds to. The photos are collected as part of SFD's documentation of an incident response.

Use

- Photos taken by emergency scene cameras may be shared with the Medic One doctor in order to provide appropriate patient care. Photos taken by the Safety Chiefs and the Fire Investigation Unit are used in open investigations related to collisions and fires.

Protection

- SFD adheres to internal Policies and Washington laws governing the use, retention, and disclosure of photos. Access controls also exist around the use of emergency scene cameras, and is limited to Fire Investigators, Battalion Chiefs in Safety Units, and Medic One paramedic units.



Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Cameras

What is the technology?

- Seattle Fire Department's HazMat team utilizes a tablet camera to livestream video via the FaceTime application, to a monitor located on the HazMat unit. The team uses a password protected MiFi connection for secure streaming from the tablet to the monitor.

Why do we use the technology?

- HazMat cameras allow first responders to detect and identify potentially hazardous materials or contaminants, while maintaining a safe distance from potential exposure. It also provides an Incident Commander with the real-time information required to make quick decisions.



Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Cameras

Collection

- In the event of a hazardous materials incident, Seattle Fire Department's HazMat team uses the HazMat tablet camera to livestream video to the HazMat unit. Still images may also be captured by screen shot on the tablet. The Incident Commander will determine if the technology use is necessary during an incident response.

Use

- The video and images captured via the HazMat tablet camera are used for surveying the incident scene and identifying potentially hazardous materials. The still images may be used for post-incident review or shared with law enforcement if reasonable suspicion of criminal activity exists.

Protection

- The tablets are password protected and can only be accessed by the HazMat team. Tablets use encryption to ensure data over the MiFi connection is secure. The FaceTime application also uses end-to-end encryption for the entire conversation stream. SFD stores still images on a secured drive, only accessibly to the HazMat team.



Questions