

# Response Time Standards

In 2006, the Washington State Legislature adopted a measurement tool to help local governments that provide Fire and Medical emergency services to evaluate their Fire Departments. RCW 52.33. requires fire departments to adopt response time standards and to report to their governing body annually their performance in relation to those adopted standards. In 2007, the City of Yakima and the Yakima Fire Department adopted the nationally recognized time standards for responses. These standards represent fire service best practices and help maximize a fire department's chances of saving lives and property in various emergencies.

Meeting these time standards are critical to the fire department's ability to save lives and property. Continued annexations, new construction, and a rapidly increasing call volume is resulting in extended response times and overall failure to meet our adopted time standards. A Standards of Coverage Document is needed to adequately assess the Yakima Fire Departments staffing levels, station locations, and community needs. This type of assessment has not been done for the Yakima Fire Department in over 50 years.

## Fire Suppression

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Turnout Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for a fire suppression incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- **111 seconds**  
Met standard- **62%**

Travel Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for the arrival of the first engine company to a fire suppression incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- **242 seconds**  
Met standard- **60%**



Full First Alarm Assignment: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a response time standard of 480 seconds for the arrival of the full complement of a first alarm response to a fire suppression incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- **663 seconds**  
Met standard- **19%**

## Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

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Turnout Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 90 seconds for an EMS incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- 109 seconds  
Met standard- 41%

Travel Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for an EMS incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- 211 seconds  
Met standard- 67%

## Special Operations (Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue)

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Turnout Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for a technical rescue incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- 140 seconds  
Met standard- 50%

Travel Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for a special operations incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- 337 seconds  
Met standard- 41%

## Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)

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Turnout Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for an ARFF incident. This standard should be met 90% of the time.



2021 Average-76 seconds  
Met standard- 100%

Travel Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for an ARFF incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2022 Average- 115 seconds  
Met standard- 75%

## Wildland Fire

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Turnout Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for a wildland fire incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- **158 seconds**  
Met standard- **53%**

Travel Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for a wildland fire incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2021 Average- **395 seconds**  
Met standard- **31%**



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