

Wichita Fire Department Past Practices

The goal of the Wichita Fire Department is to save lives and property by providing the fastest possible response when called to emergency situations. The strategy to accomplish this includes having an apparatus in every Fire Station at all times. There are times during the day when this is not a viable option due to units being on emergency calls and other duties such as formal training. The Wichita Fire Department adjusts to these occasions routinely during the day. These vacancies at the Fire Stations can be divided into short and long terms. These are dealt with in the following manner:

Short Term Vacancy:

Short time vacancies usually last from a few minutes to an hour or less. In these situations, the station is left vacant and adjacent stations closely monitor the dispatch channel for calls in the vacated area. This may be due to emergency calls, building inspections, attending a public event, or station training.

Vacation leave can also be granted in short term time frames of up to 4 hours. It is not unusual for a Squad unit to be taken off track during this time frame so an employee can have the requested time off.

Long term Vacancy:

Long term vacancies usually involve emergency incidents of an extended nature or for training where stations will report to a centralized location with other units to participate in a joint training exercise. These situations will require other stations to fill the vacated station until the incident is mitigated or the training has ended.

Vacancies at Fire Stations occurring because of extended or protracted emergency calls are outlined in a deployment model that is used to relocate resources within the city. This model has been in place for 10 years. It requires personnel at Headquarter Stations to monitor radio traffic and adequately adjust apparatus to other areas of the city. Occasionally it will require one apparatus to move to a location between two Primary Response Areas to cover both areas.

Vacancies because of training are scheduled four to seven times per year. Four to six units will report to a designated location five days per week for a three week period. Training sessions are broken into two and four hour daily sessions. This assures the Wichita Fire Department personnel receive all the mandated training. Apparatus participating in these training sessions are out of service and are only available in the situation if a large incident were to occur.

Staffing Short Falls 2012 through 2018

During the time period of 2012 to present day, the Wichita Fire Department has experienced days when adequate staffing was not available to fully staff all apparatus. This inadequacy has been attributed largely to unscheduled leave. Below is the frequency this has occurred in the past 6.5 years:

Year	Frequency	Duration
2012	3	12 hours or greater
2013	1	12 hours or greater

2014	4	12 hours or greater
2015	3	12 hours or greater
2016	10	12 hours or greater
2017	10	12 hours or greater
2018	5	12 hours or greater (5 times since 6-16-2018)