

Port of Seattle Fire Department POSPD -Fast Facts-

Established:	July 1955
Staffing:	Sworn Personnel: 69 (Firefighters & Command Staff) Non-sworn : Four (Administrative Staff) Minimum on-duty staffing: 13
Equipment:	Three Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Trucks Two Firefighters 3000 Gallons of Water 410 Gallons of Foam One Structural Firefighting Engine Lt. and two Firefighters One Aid Car Lt. and two Firefighter/EMTs One Command Vehicle On-duty Captain

The Port of Seattle Fire Department is a full-service fire department that responds to aircraft incidents and accidents within a 5 mile radius of the airport and structural fires on and off airport property. It delivers emergency medical services on airport property as well as off-field. The department also has a highly trained, well-equipped Hazardous Materials Response Team.

POSPD has one of the best heart attack “save rates” in the United States. Traveling is stressful, and airports see a slightly higher heart attack rate than other community institutions. Port firefighter/EMTs are skilled in delivering important first treatment prior to the arrival of paramedics from off the airport.

In an aircraft accident, POSPD has two initial roles: the immediate suppression of fire, and coordinating the massive influx of firefighting and medical resources arriving from nearby jurisdictions. Airports have learned from difficult experience that careful management of those incoming resources provides the best outcome in emergency situations.

History

In 1997, the Port of Seattle Fire Department responded to an aircraft accident involving a small cargo plane that crashed on landing at Sea-Tac. Firefighters pulled the injured pilot from the wreckage and extinguished a fire just as flames were reaching the cockpit.

[The pilot credited POSFD with saving his life in a story published by the Seattle Times on Aug. 16, 1997.](#)

In 1996, an aircraft accident claimed one life on a plane bound for Sea-Tac that crashed on airport property near International Boulevard.

[The survivor was pulled from the wreckage by POSFD rescue teams, as documented in an Aug. 25, 1996 story in the Seattle Times.](#)