

EMS

What are Madison EMS and Fire response times to Secret Places and other Madison neighborhoods along Sigelkow Road?

General MFD Information:

- Madison Fire has 88 personnel on-duty every day as minimum staffing, with 12 Engines, 5 Ladders, 9 Paramedic Ambulances, and a Chief (Officer in Charge). All these units are fully staffed and available for any need in the city and are ready for immediate deployment. Engines and Ladders are staffed with 4 personnel, and ambulances are staffed with 2 Firefighter/Paramedics.
- Beyond Fire and EMS response, Madison Fire also provides Hazardous Materials response, Lake Rescue Services, Technical Rescue services, 3 units specializing in behavioral health care (CARES), as well as additional community paramedic services.
- Each medical response is dispatched with an Engine or Ladder and an ambulance, allowing for 6 care providers on scene. For cardiac arrests, we dispatch an additional Engine or Ladder, thus bringing the total number of responders to 10.
- Each fire response is dispatched with 3 Engines, 2 Ladders, 1 ambulance, and 1 chief (24 personnel). As soon as a fire is confirmed, we add a 4th Engine, a 2nd ambulance, and additional chiefs (30+ personnel).

What is Madison's equipment and personnel response to an EMS call from Station 14?

- Ladder 14 is dispatched. Ladder 14 is staffed 24/7 with 1 firefighter/paramedic and 3 firefighter/EMTs, allowing for the immediate delivery of paramedic-level care, ahead of the ambulance arrival.
- The nearest City of Madison ambulance is simultaneously dispatched. All Madison ambulances are continuously staffed with 2 firefighter/paramedics allowing for the full scope of pre-hospital care interventions.
- In 2025, Ladder 14 had an average response time of 7 minutes and 39 seconds (07:39) to your neighborhoods, bringing a firefighter/paramedic and 3 firefighter EMT's to the patient's side.
- In 2025, the closest paramedic unit (ambulance) was Medic 5, and they had an average response time of ten minutes and 11 seconds (10:11), therefore providing a total response of 3 firefighter/paramedics, and 3 firefighter/EMT's.

Do Madison and McFarland have an Advanced Life Support (ALS) agreement?

- Not presently. Madison participates in the 2-paramedic border drop agreement and presently participates in these agreements with other area EMS entities that staff ambulances with 2 paramedics, at all times. When any EMS agency (including McFarland) staffs their ambulance 24/7 with 2 paramedics, the Madison Fire Department would look to participate.
- An ALS agreement means the closest ambulance will be dispatched regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, for an agreed upon subset of dispatch codes. This is different than mutual aid assistance. Even without an ALS agreement, Madison and McFarland may call on each other for assistance and back-up if needed and have a strong and collaborative working relationship.

In the event of a fire:

- Ladder 14 is dispatched along with additional units as described above and would arrive within approximately 7 minutes and 39 seconds. It has 4 firefighting personnel as described above, along with a full complement of equipment.
- The additional responding apparatus will arrive within minutes, as they are fully staffed and ready, responding from additional MFD stations.

Does Madison and McFarland have a mutual aid agreement?

(Mutual aid is when a municipality is completely out of Fire/EMS resources and another community responds)

- Yes, Madison and McFarland participate in the County's mutual aid program.

Transportation

How does the City decide which intersections have traffic control signs, such as stop signs or yield signs?

The majority of low-volume, residential intersections in the City—and nationwide—operate without stop signs. This is intentional and based primarily on safety.

While stop signs can improve safety when used in the right locations, research shows that unwarranted stop signs can reduce safety. When unwarranted, drivers are more likely to ignore them, and some users develop a false sense of security. Overuse also reduces the effectiveness of stop signs where they are truly needed.

In some cases, converting an uncontrolled intersection to a two-way stop can increase vehicle speeds on the street without stop signs, since drivers no longer need to watch for cross traffic.

National standards guide when stop signs should be used. The City evaluates each location individually to determine whether stop signs are appropriate. Requests for traffic control signs at a specific intersection can be made to the Traffic Engineering Division. This webpage has more information and contact information.

How does Madison determine which intersection improvements to fund. For example, improved ped/bike crossings of Siggelkow Road?

- Safety projects such as pedestrian crossing improvements are prioritized through the City's Safe Streets Madison program.
- This program uses a ranking system based on safety factors such as the crash history, number of traffic lanes that must be crossed, the speed and volume of traffic, visibility and other factors.

- More information on the Safe Streets Madison program can be found at the project website: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/traffic-engineering/traffic-safety/safe-streets-madison>

Snow Plowing

Why are neighborhood streets not plowed with every snowfall?

- The Streets Division follows city policy that during active snowfalls and snow totals of less than 3 inches residential streets are not plowed so that major streets and connections, bus routes, and streets near hospitals, schools, and police and fire stations can be kept in drivable condition. For more information on snow plowing visit the [Street Division snow plowing page](#).

Public Transit

Can transit be extended to Southeast Madison/McFarland?

- The current Metro Transit [routes](#) were updated in recent years. Change to routes in this general area would be largely based on ridership potential. Service to McFarland would require an agreement between McFarland and Metro Transit. Metro Transit provides service to municipalities through a funding agreement.