



State-wide Fire Statistics

- Structure fires infrequent and EMS calls predominant (MA Department of Fire Services)
- Cooking, by far, leading cause of residential structure fires (about 55%)
- Building fire incidents peak between 5PM and 8PM
- Building fires most prevalent during winter months, heating equipment 2nd leading cause



Regionalizing Fire Services

- Fire district statute not adequate for regionalizing fire services, use IMA statute
- Service levels vary widely, with full-time, hybrid (full-time and call), or all call departments
- Relative spending varies greatly, from less than \$20/capita to more than \$300/capita
- Call departments can be very low cost and provide good response times



Measuring Existing Service Levels

- Review existing staffing and station coverage
- Analyze dispatch system data on incidents and response times
- Map station locations and mileage to various locations
- Fire service delivery more station-centric than police services with mobile patrols



End Result

- Even if overall savings exist, fiscal impact on individual communities can vary
- Depending on allocation method, regionalizing a low cost with a higher cost operation often means cost increase to low spender
- If no savings on operating costs, improved service or long-term savings on capital/equipment possible