PLAN 390 Homework 2 Write Up

Using the Fire Department Dataset:

1. How long does it take Wake County Fire to respond to incidents, on average (i.e. the

time between when an incident is dispatched and when firefighters arrive on the

scene)? (hint: you can subtract lubridate date columns from each other). [1 point]

* 318.7927 seconds (approximately 5.3 minutes) is the average response time for Wake County Fire to respond to incidents.
* I calculated that from arrival\_time – dispatch\_time = response\_time\_secs
* Average (response\_time\_secs). I had to exclude all the NA values here using na.rm = TRUE

2. Does this response time vary by station? What stations have the highest and lowest

average response times? [0.5 points]

* Each station has a unique average response time ranging between 200 to 500 seconds
* Station 29 has the highest average response time, which is 495.7640 secs
* Station 13 has the lowest average response time, which is 223.0000 secs

3. Have Wake County Fire’s response times been going up or down over time? What might

be the reason for these changes? [0.5 points]

* Yes, it has been going up and down over time as seen in the graph below.
* The changes in response time could be due to the availability of resources and the time of the day. For example, if Wake County Fire is called multiple times a day to the same area or neighborhood, response times in other areas may suffer. The time of day has an effect on response times. Graveyard shift response times (12am – 6am) are generally the slowest because there are generally fewer firefighters on duty ready to respond to emergencies during those times.

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

4. At what times of day are fire calls most likely to occur? [1 point]

* 22h (11pm)

5. The dataset contains all types of fire department calls, other than emergency medical

services (which are removed to protect privacy). The codes for the different incident

types can be found on page 3-22 of the National Fire Incident Reporting System

Complete Reference Guide. How many calls to Wake County Fire are recorded in this

dataset, and how many of them are actual fires? [0.5 points]

* 229,047 calls to Wake County Fire are recorded in this dataset
* 17,231 calls to Wake County Fire are actual fires

6. It is reasonable that firefighters might respond more quickly to some types of incidents

than others (e.g., a building fire, code 111 might be higher priority than a cat stuck in a

tree, code 542). Using the reference guide linked above to determine appropriate

incident codes, evaluate the average response time to actual fires. Is this response time

faster than the average response time for all incidents? [0.5 points]

* It takes 311.1936 seconds (approximately 5.2 minutes) for Wake County Fire to respond to actual fires. It is faster than the average response time for all incidents, which was 318.7927 seconds (5.3 mins)

7. Repeat the analysis for questions 2-4 for actual fires, rather than all incidents. [2 points]