

» The fire service is America's first responders—the nation's first line of defense in the event of a fire, natural disaster, medical emergency, terrorist attack, or other emergency. Here, FAMA and FEMSA, associations that represent the companies and manufacturers that help first responders save lives, present 10 vital facts to know about America's fire service.



## FAMA/FEMSA Governmental Affairs Committee

[www.famafemsagac.org](http://www.famafemsagac.org)



### » Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association

The Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA) is the association of choice most committed to enhancing the quality of the emergency service community through the manufacture and sale of safe, efficient emergency response vehicles and equipment.



### » Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association

As the leading trade association for the fire and emergency services industry, the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA) represents over 150 companies that provide products and services to millions of fire and EMS professionals throughout the world. As the federal government institutes executive directives and legislative initiatives to better equip emergency service professionals, FEMSA is there.

# ten key facts

## ABOUT THE FIRE SERVICE AND INDUSTRY

America's first responders  
and the industry that helps  
them save lives



### » Fire & All-Hazards First Response

#### FACT 1

Fire departments responded to over 30.1 million calls in 2011, up from 28.2 million in 2010.

#### FACT 2

In 2011, there were 1,389,500 fires reported in the United States. This was a 4% increase from 2010. These fires caused 3,005 civilian deaths and 17,500 civilian injuries.

#### FACT 3

In 2011 the U.S. suffered \$11.7 billion worth of property damage from fire, up from \$11.6 billion in 2010.

#### FACT 4

In 2011 66% of all fire department calls were for medical aid. 27% were for other non-fire related emergencies such as rescues, natural disasters, car accidents, and other hazardous responses.

### » Personnel & Capabilities

#### FACT 5

In 2011 there were approximately 1,100,450 firefighters in the U.S. in 2011. Of the total number of firefighters 344,000 (31.2%) were career firefighters and 756,450 (68.7%) were volunteer firefighters. Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$129.7 billion per year.

#### FACT 6

In 2011 most career firefighters (73%) were in communities that protected 25,000 or more people. Most volunteer firefighters (94%) were in departments that protected fewer than 25,000 people. More than half were located in small, rural departments protecting fewer than 2,500 people.

#### FACT 7

In 2010 seven out of ten (70%) fire departments had no program to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health, down from 80% in 2001 and 76% in 2005.

### » Apparatus, Personal Protective Equipment & Communications

#### FACT 8

In 2010 three out of five (63%) departments had at least one piece of personal protective clothing that was 10 years old. This was down from 74% in 2001 but up from 59% in 2005.

#### FACT 9

In 2010 the U.S. had 66,800 pumpers, 6,800 aerial apparatuses, 72,800 other suppression vehicles (which included pumpers less than 1,000 gpm, hose usage, brush vehicles, tanker, etc.) and 51,300 stations.

- In 2010 nearly half (46%) of all fire department engines and pumpers were at least 15 years old, down from 51% in 2001 and 50% in 2005.
- There were also roughly 9,000 engines in the U.S. that were at least 30 years old.

#### FACT 10

In 2010 half (51%) of all fire departments did not have enough portable radios to equip all emergency responders on a shift, down from 77% in 2001 and 65% in 2005.