

The American fire service, as the nation's first responders, is the first line of defense in the event of a fire, natural disaster, pandemic, terrorist attack, or other emergency. Here, FAMA and FEMSA members present 10 key facts about the American fire service.

As America's first responders continue to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic, they face personal health risk while their departments are threatened by fiscal pressures, furloughs, and layoffs. Federal support is critical to ensuring that our first responders continue to fulfill their role to locally respond to our nation's emergencies and disasters.

10 Key Fact Sources

1-4: NFPA Applied Research
 5: NFPA U.S. Fire Dept. Profile 2018; NFPA: Total Cost of Fire in the United States
 6: NFPA: U.S. Fire Department Profile 2018
 7: NFPA: U.S. Fire Department Profile 2018 & 4th Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service
 8: NFPA: 4th Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service
 9: NFPA U.S. Fire Dept. Profile 2018; NFPA: 4th Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service
 10: NFPA: 4th Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service

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FAMA/FEMSA
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Fire Apparatus
Manufacturers' Association

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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

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As the leading trade association for the fire and emergency services industry, 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.

10 key facts

about the fire
service & industry

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



Fire & All-Hazards First Response

- 1 Fire departments responded to over **37.3 million calls** in 2019, up from 36.7 million in 2018. On average, in 2019, a fire department responded to a fire in the United States every 24 seconds.
- 2 In 2019, there were **1.3 million fires** in the United States. These fires caused 3,700 civilian deaths and 16,600 civilian injuries. This is up from 3,655 deaths and 15,200 civilian injuries in 2018.
- 3 In 2019, the United States suffered **\$14.8 billion** worth of property damage from fire.
- 4 In 2019, **66%** of the 37.3 million emergency calls nationwide were for EMS and medical aid. This is up from 64% in 2018.

Personnel & Capabilities

- 5 In 2018, there were approximately **1,115,000 firefighters** in the U.S., up from 1,056,200 in 2017. Of the total number of firefighters in 2018, 370,000 (33%) were career firefighters and 745,000 (67%) were volunteer firefighters. Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$46.9 billion per year.
- 6 In 2018, most **career firefighters (67%)** were in communities that protected 25,000 or more people. Most **volunteer firefighters (95%)** were in departments that protected fewer than 25,000 people.
- 7 From 2016-2018, **62% of all fire departments provided EMS service**. Among departments that perform EMS, 55% have not trained all of their involved personnel.

Apparatus, PPE, & Communications

- 8 In 2015, **72% of all fire departments** had at least one piece of personal protective clothing that was 10 years old, up from 63% in 2010.
- 9 The U.S. currently has approximately:
72,100 pumpers
7,400 aerial apparatus
80,900 other suppression vehicles
50,700 other vehicles
57,500 stations
43% of all fire engines and pumpers were at least 15 years old in 2015, down from 46% in 2010. There were also roughly 5,620 pumpers that were at least 30 years old.
- 10 In 2015, **50% of all fire departments** did not have enough portable radios to equip all emergency responders on a shift, down from 51% in 2010.