

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 combat more severe storms and public health emergencies, they face personal health risk while their departments are often threatened by fiscal pressures and recruitment challenges. 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.

These 10 Key Facts have been sourced from data collected by:
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Find more resources and data at: [NFPA.org](https://www.nfpa.org)

Contact NFPA: +1 800 344-3555 (U.S. & Canada)



FAMA/FEMSA
Governmental Affairs Committee
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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.

2022 edition

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 **36.4 million calls** in 2020, down from 37.3 million in 2019. On average, in 2020, a fire department responded to a fire in the United States every 23 seconds.
- 2 In 2020, there were **1.4 million fires** in the United States, up from 1.3 million in 2019. These fires caused 3,500 civilian deaths and 15,200 civilian injuries. This is down from 3,700 deaths and 16,600 civilian injuries in 2019.
- 3 In 2020, the United States suffered **\$21.9 billion** worth of property damage from fire, up from \$14.8 billion in 2019.
- 4 In 2020, **65%** of the 36.4 million emergency calls nationwide were for EMS and medical aid. This is down from 66% in 2019.

Personnel & Capabilities

- 5 In 2019, there were approximately **1,080,800 firefighters** in the U.S., down from 1,115,000 in 2018. Of the total number of firefighters in 2019, 358,000 (33%) were career firefighters and 722,800 (67%) were volunteer firefighters. Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$46.9 billion per year.
- 6 In 2019, most **career firefighters (69%)** 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 2017-2019, **63% of all fire departments provided EMS service**, while 21% of department personnel who performed EMS, had no certifications.

Apparatus, PPE, & Communications

- 8 In 2020, **64% of all fire departments** had at least one piece of personal protective clothing that was 10 years old.
- 9 The U.S. currently has approximately:
71,800 pumpers
7,500 aerial apparatus
80,600 other suppression vehicles
50,800 other vehicles
57,000 stations
49% of all fire engines and pumpers were at least 15 years old in 2020, up from 43% in 2015. 9% were at least 30 years old.
- 10 In 2020, **50% of all fire departments** did not have enough portable radios to equip all emergency responders on a shift.