

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/research](https://www.nfpa.org/research)

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



**FAMA/FEMSA**  
Governmental Affairs Committee  
[famafemsagac.org](https://famafemsagac.org)



**Fire Apparatus**  
**Manufacturers' Association**  
[fama.org](https://fama.org) | [info@fama.org](mailto:info@fama.org)

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 **42.4 million calls** in 2023, up from 42.1 million in 2022. On average, in 2023, a fire department responded to a fire in the United States every 23 seconds.
- 2 In 2023, there were **1.4 million fires** reported in the United States, down from 1.5 million in 2022. These fires caused 3,670 civilian deaths and 13,350 civilian injuries.
- 3 In 2023, the United States suffered **\$23 billion** worth of property damage from fire, up from \$18 billion in 2022, and \$15.9 billion in 2021.
- 4 In 2023, **67%** of the 42.4 million emergency calls nationwide were for EMS and medical aid, up from 66% in 2022.

## Personnel & Capabilities

- 5 In 2023, there were approximately **1,018,100 firefighters** in the U.S., down from 1,083,500 in 2022. Of the total number of firefighters in 2023, 383,000 (38%) were career firefighters and 635,100 (62%) were volunteer firefighters. Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$46.9 billion per year.
- 6 In 2023, most **career firefighters (73%)** 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 2018-2020, **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, **65% 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:
  - 68,800** pumpers
  - 7,400** aerial apparatus
  - 76,300** other suppression vehicles
  - 48,800** other vehicles
  - 54,600** 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.