



FAMA/FEMSA  
Governmental Affairs Committee  
famafemsagac.org

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 - representing the companies and manufacturers that help first responders save lives - present 10 vital facts about America’s fire service.



Fire Apparatus  
Manufacturers’ Association  
fama.org | 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  
femsa.org | info@femsa.org

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.

Sources

- 1-4: NFPA - Fire Loss in the United States During 2017
- 5: NFPA U.S. Fire Dept. Profile 2017; NFPA: Total Cost of Fire in the United States
- 6: NFPA: U.S. Fire Department Profile 2017
- 7: 2018 NFPA Research Data
- 8: NFPA: Fourth Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service
- 9: NFPA U.S. Fire Dept. Profile 2017; NFPA: Fourth Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service
- 10: NFPA: Fourth Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service

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

# 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 **34.7 million calls** in 2017.
- 2 In 2017, there were **1.3 million fires** in the United States, a slight decrease of 2% from 2016. These fires caused 3,400 civilian deaths and 14,670 civilian injuries.
- 3 In 2017, the United States suffered **\$23 billion** worth of property damage from fire, **up from \$10.6 billion** in 2016. This jump includes a \$10 billion loss due to Northern California wildfires.
- 4 In 2017, **64%** of the 34.7 million emergency calls nationwide were for EMS and medical aid.

## Personnel & Capabilities

- 5 In 2017, there were approximately **1,056,200 firefighters** in the U.S., down from 1,090,100 in 2016. Of the total number of firefighters in 2017, 373,600 (35%) were career firefighters and 682,600 (65%) were volunteer firefighters. Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$46.9 billion per year.
- 6 In 2017, most **career firefighters (72%)** 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 In 2015, **66% of all fire departments provided EMS service**, down from 69% in 2010. 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:
  - 66,400** pumpers
  - 7,200** aerial apparatus
  - 71,900** other suppression vehicles
  - 47,100** other vehicles
  - 51,000** 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.