

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Trebisacci, Staff Liaison to NFPA 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*

FROM: John Hall

DATE: December 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Excerpts from the national report of the Third Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey with special relevance to your technical committee

The material copied below contains the tables, figures and text of sections from the needs assessment survey report that relate to needs defined in whole or in part by requirements from your standard. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Personal Protective Clothing

Overall, 9% of departments cannot provide all emergency responders with their own personal protective clothing. (See Table 3-8.) Table 3-9 estimates what fraction of personal protective clothing is at least 10 years old. Table 3-10 indicates what fraction of departments have a reserve of personal protective clothing equal to at least 10% of emergency responders.

Table 3-D converts the results of Table 3-8 into estimates of the number of firefighters in departments that cannot provide all emergency responders with their own personal protective clothing. Table 3-D also shows from Table 3-9 what percent of departments have at least some personal protective clothing that is at least 10 years old.

Table 3-D. Firefighters in Departments Where Not All Firefighters Are Equipped With Personal Protective Clothing and Percent of Personal Protective Clothing That Is At Least 10 Years Old by Size of Community (Q. 30a, 30b)

Population Protected	Estimated Firefighters in Departments That Do Not Have Personal Protective Clothing for All Firefighters	Estimated Percent of Departments With At Least Some Personal Protective Clothing That Is At Least 10 Years Old
500,000 to 999,999	0	47%
250,000 to 499,999	0	37%
100,000 to 249,999	1,000	38%
50,000 to 99,999	0	35%
25,000 to 49,999	1,000	44%
10,000 to 24,999	2,000	53%
5,000 to 9,999	6,000	58%
2,500 to 4,999	16,000	65%
Under 2,500	52,000	69%
Total	77,000	63%

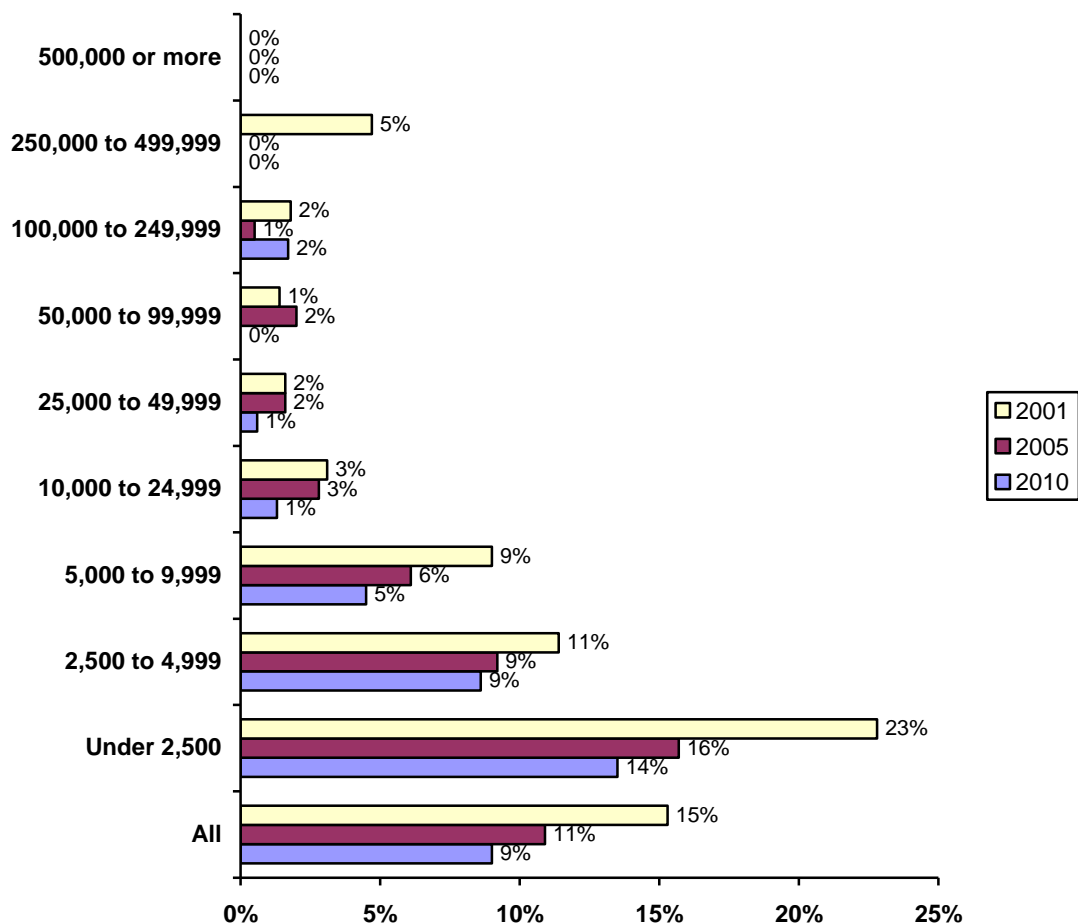
The above projections are based on 4,648 departments reporting on Question 30a and 4,617 reporting on Question 30b. “Don’t Know” responses are treated as unknowns. Numbers are shown to nearest thousand and may not sum to totals because of rounding. See Tables 3-8 and 3-9.

Q. 30a: How many of your emergency responders are equipped with personal protective clothing? All, Most, Some, None

Q. 30b: How much of your personal protective clothing is at least 10 years old? All, Most, Some, None

Figure 3-8 shows how the percentages of departments where not all emergency responders have their own personal protective clothing have changed over the years.

Figure 3-8. Percent of Departments Where Not All Emergency Responders Have Their Own Personal Protective Clothing by Size of Community, for Three Studies



There has been considerable progress, with the overall percentage of departments in need declining from 15% in 2001 to 11% in 2005 and 9% in 2010. That is nearly 2,000 departments moving from need to not-need between the first and third surveys, with just over 2,000 departments still in need. Progress has occurred across the board.

This shift may in part reflect the influence of the equipment portions of the U.S. Fire Administration grants. For grants during 2001-2004, grants to purchase firefighting or personal protective equipment accounted for an estimated 71% of total grants and 64% of total dollars granted for all grant recipient departments.¹³ These percents applied across all population protected groups, except for the smallest communities, where the percents of dollars granted used to purchase apparatus were by far the highest.

¹³ *Matching Assistance to Firefighters Grants to the Reported Needs of the U.S. Fire Service*, FA-304, U.S. Fire Administration, October 2006.

Overall, nearly two-thirds (63%) of departments reported that some of their personal protective clothing was at least 10 years old. (See Table 3-9.)

Figure 3-9. Percent of Departments Where Some Personal Protective Clothing Is At Least 10 Years Old by Size of Community, for Three Studies

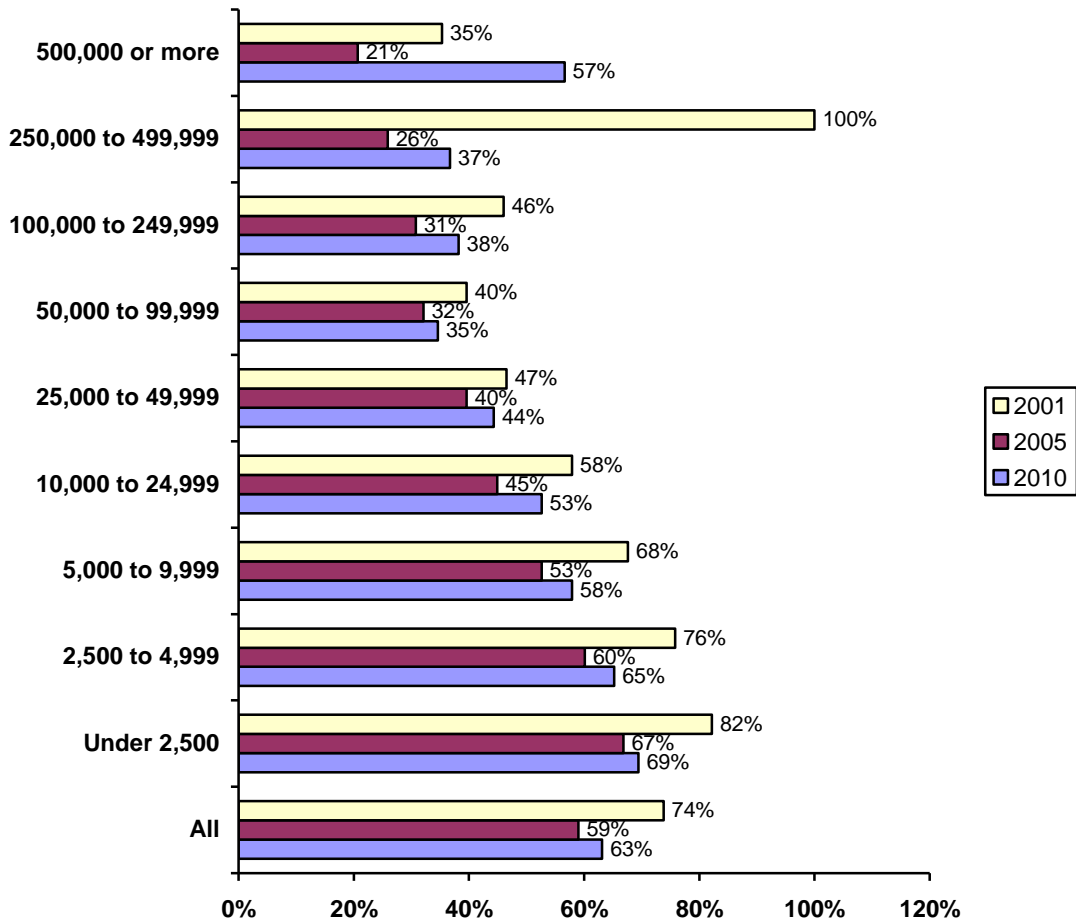


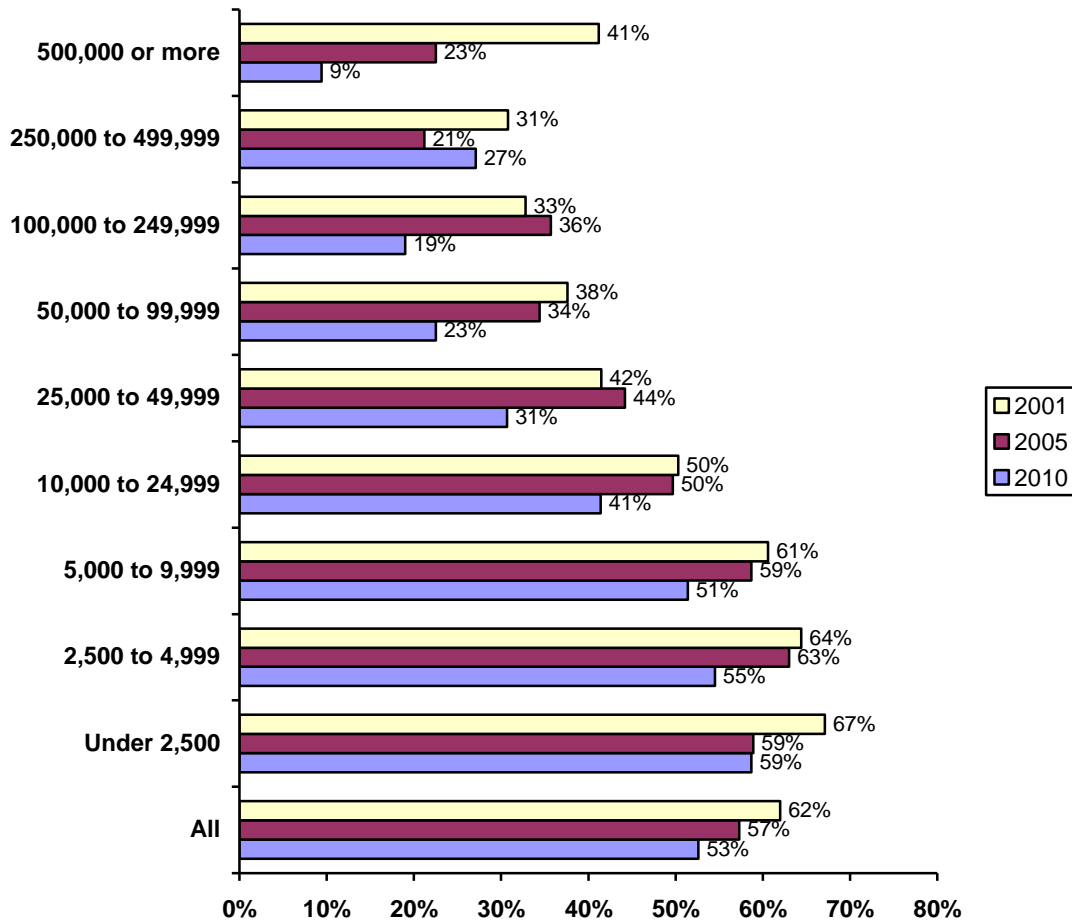
Figure 3-9 shows changes over the years and surveys in the percentages of departments with some personal protective clothing that is at least 10 years old.

There has been some progress overall from the first to the third surveys, but the picture is muddled by many increases in need from the second to the third surveys.

Overall, half of departments do not have reserve personal protective clothing sufficient to equip 10% of emergency responders. (See Table 3-10.)

Figure 3-10 shows how the percentages of departments have changed over the years with respect to not having reserve personal protective clothing sufficient to equip 10% of emergency responders. “Don’t Know” entries in Table 3-10 have been allocated as unknowns.

Figure 3-10. Percent of Departments Without Enough Reserve Personal Protective Clothing to Equip 10% of Emergency Responders by Size of Community, for Three Studies



There has been some progress overall from 62% of departments reporting in the 2001 survey that they did not have a sufficient reserve of personal protective clothing, to 57% in 2005 and 53% in 2010. Progress has been across the board.

Table 3-8
What Fraction of Emergency Responders
Are Equipped With Personal Protective Clothing?
by Community Size
(Q. 30a)

<u>Population of Community</u>	<u>All</u>		<u>Most</u>		<u>Some</u>		<u>None</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
500,000 or more	53	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	53	100.0%
250,000 to 499,999	62	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	62	100.0
100,000 to 249,999	234	98.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.7	238	100.0
50,000 to 99,999	447	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	447	100.0
25,000 to 49,999	1,078	99.4	5	0.5	2	0.2	0	0.0	1,085	100.0
10,000 to 24,999	2,912	98.7	33	1.1	3	0.1	3	0.1	2,951	100.0
5,000 to 9,999	3,585	95.5	137	3.6	23	0.6	10	0.3	3,755	100.0
2,500 to 4,999	4,456	91.4	366	7.5	41	0.8	12	0.2	4,875	100.0
Under 2,500	11,214	86.5	1,422	11.0	252	1.9	76	0.6	12,964	100.0
Total	24,040	91.0	1,963	7.4	322	1.2	105	0.4	26,430	100.0

Source: NFPA 2010 Survey of the Needs of the US Fire Service

The above projections are based on 4,648 departments reporting on Question 30a. Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Q. 30a: How many of your emergency responders are equipped with personal protective clothing?

Reference for definition of need: NFPA 1500

Table 3-9
How Much of Department's Personal
Protective Clothing Is At Least 10 Years Old?
by Community Size
(Q. 30b)

<u>Population of Community</u>	<u>All</u>		<u>Most</u>		<u>Some</u>		<u>None*</u>		<u>Don't Know</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
500,000 or more	0	0.0%	2	3.8%	23	43.4%	28	52.8%	0	0.0%	53	100.0%
250,000 to 499,999	0	0.0	0	0.0	22	35.5	38	61.3	2	3.2	62	100.0
100,000 to 249,999	0	0.0	0	2.5	83	34.9	144	60.5	5	2.1	238	100.0
50,000 to 99,999	12	2.7	10	2.2	130	29.1	288	64.4	7	1.6	447	100.0
25,000 to 49,999	21	1.9	35	3.2	424	39.1	603	55.6	2	0.2	1,085	100.0
10,000 to 24,999	82	2.8	199	6.7	1,272	43.1	1,395	47.3	3	0.3	2,951	100.0
5,000 to 9,999	94	2.5	413	11.0	1,662	44.2	1,581	42.1	5	0.1	3,755	100.0
2,500 to 4,999	320	6.6	522	10.7	2,325	47.7	1,690	34.7	18	0.4	4,875	100.0
Under 2,500	1,299	10.0	2,377	18.3	5,238	40.4	3,929	30.3	121	0.9	12,964	100.0
Total	1,829	6.9	3,564	13.5	11,177	42.3	9,697	36.7	163	0.6	26,430	100.0

Source: NFPA 2010 Survey of the Needs of the US Fire Service

* Includes departments that reported in Table 3-8 that they had no personal protective clothing.

The above projections are based on 4,617 departments reporting on Question 30b. Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Q. 30b: How much of your personal protective clothing is at least 10 years old?

Reference for definition of need: NFPA 1851

Table 3-10
Does Department Have Reserve Protective Clothing
Sufficient to Equip 10% of Emergency Responders?
by Community Size
(Q. 30c)

<u>Population of Community</u>	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No*</u>		<u>Don't Know</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number Depts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
500,000 or more	48	90.6%	5	9.4%	0	0.0%	53	100.0%
250,000 to 499,999	43	69.4	16	25.8	3	4.8	62	100.0
100,000 to 249,999	184	77.3	43	18.1	11	4.6	238	100.0
50,000 to 99,999	341	76.2	99	22.1	7	1.6	447	100.0
25,000 to 49,999	739	68.2	327	30.1	19	1.8	1,085	100.0
10,000 to 24,999	1,698	57.5	1,198	40.6	56	1.9	2,951	100.0
5,000 to 9,999	1,799	47.9	1,904	50.7	52	1.4	3,755	100.0
2,500 to 4,999	2,177	44.6	2,609	53.5	89	1.8	4,875	100.0
Under 2,500	5,170	39.9	7,320	56.5	474	3.7	12,964	100.0
Total	12,197	46.1	13,522	51.2	711	2.7	26,430	100.0

Source: NFPA 2010 Survey of the Needs of the US Fire Service

* Includes departments that reported in Table 3-8 that they had no personal protective clothing.

The above projections are based on 4,616 departments reporting on Question 30c. Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Q. 30c: Do you have reserve personal protective clothing sufficient to equip 10% of your emergency responders?