CHANGES ACROSS FIVE STUDIES

as part of

The Fifth Needs Assessment of the
US Fire Service

DECEMBER 2021
Since 2001, NFPA has surveyed fire departments across the United States multiple times to ascertain what services fire departments are providing and what resources they have to provide those services safely and effectively. With five surveys going back nearly 20 years, this needs assessment study can be used to track responses to certain questions over time.

While we cannot directly compare every question over every study, we can begin to gain some insight into how the resources available to the fire service have changed and, in some cases, how they have not. The study does not capture the same departments over this 20-year span; some departments that responded in 2020 had not responded in previous years, while some that did not respond did so for earlier surveys. Consequently, this report estimates overall fire department needs, but not the needs of an identical group over time, as the survey responses did not come from exactly the same fire departments for each of the five surveys.

While this study is not designed to analyze the effectiveness of efforts to properly equip fire departments (such as with government grants), it can be used to clarify areas of need for future efforts, as well as to get some directional information about ongoing endeavors.

Finally, it is not possible to study every question over time due to a variety of factors, such as changes in question structure. In addition, some questions have been added or deleted over time to reflect the evolution of the challenges facing the fire service, such as the relatively new focus on exposure and cancer.

Understanding the Survey
This Fifth Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey was conducted by NFPA beginning in 2020 and concluding in 2021. It follows earlier surveys completed in 2001, 2005, 2010, and 2015.

The goal of the survey was to identify the major needs of the US fire service by comparing what departments actually have with what existing consensus standards, government regulations, and other nationally recognized guidance documents state they need to have to be safe and effective.

Survey responses were received from 2,969 fire departments of all sizes. You can learn more about the survey’s structure and analysis in Appendix A.

All Report Sections:
- Staffing and Operations
- Community Risk Reduction
- Health and Wellness
- Facilities and Apparatus
- Wildland and WUI Firefighting
- Changes Across Five Studies
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Training and Certification
- Executive Summary
NFPA gratefully thanks the many fire departments that responded to the Fifth Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey for again providing us with the data necessary to make national estimates of fire department resources and capabilities. We also greatly appreciate the many contributions made by the following participants in our stakeholder advisory meetings and follow-ups:

Center for Public Safety Excellence: Debbie Sobotka
Fire Department Safety Officers Association: Eric Valliere and Rich Marinucci
International Association of Black Professional Firefighters: Malcolm Alston
International Association of Fire Chiefs: Rob Brown
International Association of Fire Fighters: Pat Morrison
International Fire Marshals Association: David Lynam and Kevin Sehmeyer
International Association of Wildland Fire: Kelly Martin
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association: Edward “Loy” Senter, Jr.
National Association of State Fire Marshals: Philip Oakes
National Association of State Foresters: Dan Smith
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation: Allan Graves and Gamaliel Baer
National Volunteer Fire Council: Dave Finger, Joe Maruca, and Kevin Quinn
US Fire Administration/National Fire Data Center: Richard Patrick and Bill Troup
Women in Fire: Amy Hanifan

Within NFPA, many people helped to make this report possible. Melissa Knight coordinated all stakeholder communication and feedback and was the key author of each module. Ben Evarts analyzed the data. Frank Deely, Jay Petrillo, and Steve Belski processed and entered data from the surveys, in addition to helping with questions from fire departments and contributing to the research questions. Nancy Schwartz provided invaluable support during the entire project from survey redesign to the final product. Doug Sternberg did the graphic design for the report covers. Maeghan Connor provided an editorial review of each module.

To learn more about research at NFPA, visit nfpa.org/research.
Email: research@nfpa.org

NFPA No. USS120-Changes
Survey Responses and Defining *Unmet Need*

The needs assessment study, as it has in the past, defines *unmet need* as not having the resources required to provide a service. For some questions, the survey asked about the *extent* of the need within the department. For example:

**Question:** How many of your emergency responders are equipped with wildland fire personal protective clothing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answers</th>
<th>Percent of Fire Departments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All (100%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most (76–99%)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many (51–75%)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some (26–50%)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few (1–25%)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None (0%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department does not perform wildland firefighting</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For this question, detailed information on the level of need is required. *Unmet need* is found by adding together the departments that perform wildland firefighting and cannot equip ALL their emergency responders with wildland firefighting equipment (in this case, a total of all the rows highlighted in yellow, or 57 percent). In some cases in this study, both the detailed survey responses and the aggregated unmet need numbers are shown to provide clarity to the reader. In other cases, detailed survey responses may be available in the accompanying Appendix.

**Department Size and Nomenclature**

The 2020 needs assessment survey was sent to fire departments of all sizes, from those protecting very large communities (500,000 people or more) to those protecting very small communities (fewer than 2,500 people). Table A below shows the total number of survey responses by community size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Size</th>
<th>Number of Departments That Responded to the Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 2,500</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,969</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The survey results throughout this report are often broken out by community size, as departments of different sizes have different operational capacities and needs. In some cases, departments may be grouped together across these strata (i.e., departments protecting more than 25,000 people would include the top 5 tiers of community size).
Contents
Key Takeaways: .........................................................................................................................................................CH-5
Stations ........................................................................................................................................................................CH-5
Apparatus ..................................................................................................................................................................CH-7
Firefighter Equipment and PPE ...............................................................................................................................CH-8
Fire Prevention and Public Education Programs .......................................................................................................CH-11
Additional Resources and Education About Previous Needs Assessment Studies ................................................CH-14
Appendix A: Survey Structure and Analysis ..............................................................................................................CH-14
  Survey Structure and Analysis ...............................................................................................................................CH-14
Appendix B: Fifth Survey of the Needs of the US Fire Service ..................................................................................CH-15
Survey Results: Changes from Previous Needs Assessments

What we looked at: The Fifth Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey and the results from the previous four studies. We analyzed questions that had been tracked over the course of previous studies if the questions were asked in the same way. The results are frequently broken out to show differences in unmet needs between departments serving communities of different sizes. Large and small departments both have resource challenges, but they’re often different. The response rate to the 2020 survey was lower than previous surveys.

Key Takeaways
- The proportion of older fire stations has grown, but some progress has been made in equipping fire stations with backup power. However, the percentage of fire stations with exhaust emissions control has remained stagnant since 2015.
- The number of departments lacking public education and fire safety programs has remained steady.
- More communities are conducting fire inspections than in the past.

Stations

The percent of stations that are over 40 years old has grown in each study since NFPA began surveying departments for unmet needs in 2001. There was a slight increase between 2015 and 2020. Figure 1 below shows that nearly half (44 percent) of all fire stations are over 40 years old, and that number has grown in departments of most sizes. Departments serving populations between 10,000 and 50,000 and 250,000 or more both saw slight decreases in the percent of stations over 40 years old.

Figure 1: Percent of stations over 40 years old by size of community across five studies
There has been progress in equipping fire stations with emergency backup power. Figure 2 below shows that 31 percent of fire stations lack emergency backup power. This is down from over 50 percent as recently as 2005. While this progress is encouraging, challenges remain among fire departments protecting smaller communities. Fifty-one percent of the fire stations in departments protecting communities of 2,500 people or less still lack backup power, and the percent of stations lacking backup power has increased since 2015 among departments protecting communities of 2,500 to 4,999 people.

**Figure 2: Percent of stations without backup power by size of community across five studies**

The percent of total fire stations not equipped for exhaust emissions control held steady at 56 percent between the 2015 and 2020 studies. Figure 3 below shows that the proportion of stations lacking this feature increased among some population sizes and decreased in others. Given the increasing evidence of and focus on firefighter occupational cancer, the lack of improvement in this area is troubling.

**Figure 3: Percent of stations not equipped for exhaust emissions control by size of community across five studies**
Apparatus

Figure 4 below shows that the proportion of engines/pumpers in use that are at least 15 years old increased from the 2015 survey to the 2020 survey, particularly in very small and very large departments. Departments protecting fewer than 5,000 people and those protecting over 250,000 people all saw increases in the proportion of older pumpers, while departments protecting midsize populations generally held steady or decreased.

**Figure 4: Percent of engines/pumpers in use that are at least 15 years old by size of community across five studies**
Firefighter Equipment and PPE

Since the first needs assessment survey in 2001, NFPA has tracked fire departments’ ability to provide their personnel with the equipment required to effectively and safely respond to emergencies. Figures 5 through 8 show how the results of the 2020 survey compared to previous years.

Figure 5 shows that the percentage of fire departments unable to equip all their emergency responders on a shift with portable radios has remained relatively unchanged since 2015. This was the case across departments of all sizes. The figure also shows that the progress from the first study (2001) to the third study (2010) seems to have stalled. From 2001 to 2010, there was a decline in departments reporting need in this area, but the unmet need has held steady since then across multiple surveys.

Figure 5: Percent of departments where not all emergency responders on a shift have portable radios by size of community across five studies

![Chart showing the percentage of departments where not all emergency responders on a shift have portable radios by size of community across five studies from 2001 to 2020. The chart indicates that the percentage has remained relatively unchanged since 2015.](chart.png)
Figure 6 shows that the proportion of fire departments where at least some SCBA is 10 years of age or older decreased from the 2015 survey. The decline was seen across departments of every size and seems to have reversed the increase that was seen between the 2010 and 2015 surveys.

**Figure 6: Percent of departments where not all emergency responders on a shift have portable radios by size of community across five studies**

![Bar chart showing the percent of departments where not all emergency responders on a shift have portable radios by size of community across five studies.](chart1)

Figure 7 shows that the percent of departments where not all emergency responders have their own personal protective clothing held steady at 13 percent between the 2015 and 2020 surveys. There was no consistent change in this category across departments of various sizes, but the need overall tends to be greater in departments protecting smaller communities.

**Figure 7: Percent of departments where not all emergency responders have their own personal protective clothing by size of community across five studies**

![Bar chart showing the percent of departments where not all emergency responders have their own personal protective clothing by size of community across five studies.](chart2)
The percent of departments where some personal protective clothing is at least 10 years old decreased from 72 percent in the 2015 survey to 64 percent in the 2020 survey (see Figure 8). This decline was seen across departments of all sizes and the overall results were more in line with the 2010 survey.

**Figure 8: Percent of departments where some personal protective clothing is at least 10 years old by size of community across five studies**
Fire Prevention and Public Education Programs

In addition to emergency response, many fire departments engage in a wide range of fire prevention and public education activities. These programs help protect the public from fire and its associated risks to life and property. The 2020 needs assessment study asked about a variety of these programs.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of departments that lacked certain engineering programs across the five studies (if the question was asked in all five). In general, there was a positive trend across hazard mitigation planning, active system testing, permit approval, and construction plans review from the 2015 survey to the 2020 survey.

**Figure 9: Percent of departments lacking particular engineering programs (including code enforcement) across five studies**
Figure 10 shows that there was little change in the percentage of fire departments lacking older adult fire safety programs, wildfire safety programs, school fire safety programs, and youth firesetter programs between the 2015 and 2020 surveys.

**Figure 10: Percent of departments lacking particular fire safety education programs across five studies**
Figure 11 shows that the percentage of fire departments in which no one performs code inspections has decreased since the 2015 survey. The percentage of departments where a separate inspection department, building department, in-service firefighters, or full-time fire department inspectors perform inspections all increased. This trend remained the same in very small departments (those protecting 2,500 people or less), though the overall proportion of departments where no one conducts fire code inspections is higher in small communities than in departments overall (Figures 11 and 12).

Figure 11: Who conducts fire code inspections across five studies

Figure 12: Who conducts fire code inspections in communities with less than 2,500 people across five studies
Additional Resources and Education About Previous Needs Assessment Studies

Previous studies are available at nfpa.org/needsassessment, as well as through NFPA’s Library (nfpa.org/library).

Appendix A: Survey Structure and Analysis

Survey Structure and Analysis

The survey used in the first four studies was developed by NFPA in collaboration with an ad hoc technical advisory group consisting of representatives from national organizations associated with the management of fire and related hazards and risks in the US. For the 2020 cycle, parts of the survey were redesigned to better reflect the current roles and responsibilities of the fire service. The content was revised based on input from representatives from the following organizations:

- Center for Public Safety Excellence
- Fire Department Safety Officers Association
- International Association of Black Professional Firefighters
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Fire Marshals Association
- International Association of Wildland Fire
- Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- US Fire Administration/National Fire Data Center
- Women in Fire

While new questions were added, many of the original survey questions did not change, enabling responses to be compared across the years. Any comparison where the question was changed is noted in the text. A copy of the survey is included in Appendix B.

The survey was sent out as a census, meaning that it was sent to all the US fire departments with administrative and fire response responsibilities who were listed in the NFPA fire service inventory. In 2020, 26,258 fire departments were sent the survey. In addition to mailing out a paper version of the questionnaire, the survey was offered online for the first time.

A total of 2,969 fire departments responded to the survey, with approximately 75 percent responding online and 25 percent filling out the paper version. Overall, the response rate was 11 percent, ranging from a 7 percent response from fire departments protecting populations of less than 2,500 to a 39 percent response from fire departments protecting populations of 500,000 or more. Some fire departments that responded in 2020 had not responded in previous years, while some that did respond in past years did not. Consequently, this report estimates overall fire department needs, but not the needs of an identical group over time, as the survey responses did not come from exactly the same fire departments for each of the four surveys.
PART I. BASIC INFORMATION

Name of person completing form: ____________________________

Rank/Title: __________________________________________

NFIRS/FDID: __________________________________________

E-mail address: ____________________________ Phone: (___)

1. Population (permanent residents) your department has primary responsibility to protect (exclude mutual aid areas): _________

2. Area (in square miles) your department has primary responsibility to protect (exclude mutual aid areas): _________

3. Number of buildings in community that are 3 or more stories in height (check one):
   - None
   - 1–4
   - 5–10
   - 11–24
   - 25–49
   - 50 or more

4. What share (%) of your budgeted revenue is from (total 100%)?
   - Taxes: _________
   - Fundraising: _________
   - Payment per call/Contract services: _________
   - Ambulance Billing: _________
   - Fees: _________
   - Insurance: _________
   - SAFER/AFG or similar grants: _________
   - Other: (specify) _________

PART II. PERSONNEL AND THEIR CAPABILITIES

5. What was the change in total full-time positions or full-time equivalents (FTE) in each of the following categories for your department since 2016? (Use a negative number for losses, ‘0’ for no change, and a positive number for gains.)
   - Firefighters: _________
   - Enforcement: _________
   - Education: _________
   - Risk Reduction: _________
   - Administration: _________

6. Does your department have a program to ensure diversity and inclusion in your hiring (or volunteer recruiting) and retention practices?
   - Yes
   - No

7. Total number of full-time (career) uniformed firefighters: _________ (If none, go to Question 12):
   - How many are female? _________
   - Average number of full-time career / paid firefighters on duty available to respond to emergencies: _________

8. Minimum number of on-duty career / paid personnel ASSIGNED to an engine / pumper (check one):
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3
   - 4
   - 5+
   - Not applicable

9. Number of on-duty career / paid personnel TYPICALLY STAFFING an engine / pumper (may be the same as the number assigned) (check one):
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3
   - 4
   - 5+
   - Not applicable

10. Minimum number of on-duty career / paid personnel ASSIGNED to a ladder truck / aerial (check one):
    - 1
    - 2
    - 3
    - 4
    - 5+
    - Not applicable

11. Number of on-duty career / paid personnel TYPICALLY STAFFING a ladder truck / aerial (may be the same as the number assigned) (check one):
    - 1
    - 2
    - 3
    - 4
    - 5+
    - Not applicable
12. Total number of active part-time (including call or volunteer) firefighters: _____

How many are female? _____

Average number of call / volunteer personnel available who respond to emergencies:

During weekdays: Days _____ Nights _____
During weekends: Days _____ Nights _____

13. How many active members of your fire department only fill support or auxiliary roles and have no direct firefighting activities?

If any, fill only those roles. Check all that apply.

- First aid
- Directing traffic
- Command post ops
- Rehab
- Water supply
- Communications
- Logistics
- Other (specify): ________________________


A. Is this a role your fire department performs? (check one)  Yes  No

B. What percentage of the personnel who perform this duty have received formal training (for example, in a classroom or online that meet the qualifications of NFPA 1001) at the local, regional, or state level (not just on-the-job training)?

- None (0%)
- Few (1–25%)
- Some (26–50%)
- Many (51–75%)
- Most (76–99%)
- All (100%)

C. What percentage of department personnel who perform this duty are certified to Firefighter Level I (NFPA 1001)?

- None (0%)
- Few (1–25%)
- Some (26–50%)
- Many (51–75%)
- Most (76–99%)
- All (100%)

D. What percentage of your fire department’s firefighters are restricted to exterior firefighting only?

- None (0%)
- Few (1–25%)
- Some (26–50%)
- Many (51–75%)
- Most (76–99%)
- All (100%)

15. Emergency medical service (EMS).

A. Is this a service your fire department provides? (check one)  Yes  No (skip to 15C)

B. If yes to 15A, what percentage of department personnel performing this duty are certified to the following levels? (For all that apply, include percentages for highest level. Total must equal 100%)

- No certification ______ %
- EMR: Emergency Medical Responder ______ %
- EMT: Emergency Medical Technician ______ %
- AEMT: Advanced Emergency Medical Technician ______ %
- Paramedic ______ %

C. Does your community provide ambulance services?

- Yes: Fire Department Based Service
- Yes: Government or Third Service
- Yes: Hospital Based
- Yes: Private
- Yes: Other (specify) ________
- No ambulance service

D. Does your fire department provide Tactical EMS for law enforcement operations?  Yes  No


A. Is this a service your fire department provides? (check one)  Yes  No (If no, go to Question 17)

B. What percentage of department personnel performing this duty are certified to the following levels? (For all that apply, include percentages for highest level. Total must equal 100%)

- No certification ______ %
- Awareness ______ %
- Operational ______ %
- Technician ______ %

17. Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)/Wildland (brush, grass, forest) firefighting.

A. Is this a role your fire department performs? (check one)  Yes  No (If no, go to Question 18)

B. What percentage of the personnel who perform this duty have received formal training (for example, in a classroom or online that meet the qualifications of NFPA 1051) at the local, regional, or state level (not just on-the-job training)?

- None (0%)
- Few (1–25%)
- Some (26–50%)
- Many (51–75%)
- Most (76–99%)
- All (100%)

C. Does this training include specialized Wildland-Urban Interface firefighting operations training?  Yes  No

D. How many of your emergency responders are equipped with wildland fire personal protective clothing?

- None (0%)
- Few (1–25%)
- Some (26–50%)
- Many (51–75%)
- Most (76–99%)
- All (100%)

18. Fire prevention (preparedness & mitigation).

A. Is this a role your fire department performs? (check one)  Yes  No (If no, go to Question 18)

B. If yes, what percentage of the personnel who perform this duty have received formal training (for example, in a classroom or online that meet the qualifications of NFPA 1031) at the local, regional, or state level (not just on-the-job training)?

- None (0%)
- Few (1–25%)
- Some (26–50%)
- Many (51–75%)
- Most (76–99%)
- All (100%)
   A. Is this a role your fire department performs? (check one)  
      - Yes  
      - No
   B. If yes, what percentage of the personnel who perform this duty have received formal training (for example, in a classroom or online that meet the qualifications of NFPA 1031 and 1033) at the local, regional, or state level (not just on-the-job training)?
      - None (0%)  
      - Few (1–25%)  
      - Some (26–50%)  
      - Many (51–75%)  
      - Most (76–99%)  
      - All (100%)

20. Active shooter response.
   A. Is this a role your fire department performs? (check one)  
      - Yes  
      - No (If no, go to Question 21)
   B. If yes, does your department have SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) / SOGs (Standard Operating Guidelines) in place addressing proper response and action taken at an active shooter event? (check one)  
      - Yes  
      - No
   C. Have your department’s personnel received multi-agency training (police, fire, EMS, Sheriffs, etc.) and been tested on the training and special equipment required? (check one)  
      - Yes  
      - No

21. Traffic control.
   A. Is this a role your department performs? (check one)  
      - Yes  
      - No
   B. If yes, what percentage of the personnel who perform this duty have received formal training (for example, in a classroom or online that meet the qualifications of NFPA 1091) at the local, regional, or state level (not just on-the-job training)?
      - None (0%)  
      - Few (1–25%)  
      - Some (26–50%)  
      - Many (51–75%)  
      - Most (76–99%)  
      - All (100%)

22. Basic firefighter fitness and health.
   A. Does your department have a program to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health (e.g., NFPA 1500)? (check one)  
      - Yes  
      - No (If no, go to Question 22C)
   B. Is the program associated with the IAFC / IAFF Wellness-Fitness Initiative (WFI)?  
      - Yes  
      - No
   C. Do you provide medical and physical evaluations meeting NFPA 1582 for all firefighters?  
      - Yes  
      - No (If no, skip to Question 23)
   D. How often?  
      - New firefighters only  
      - Every six months or annually  
      - Every two years  
      - Every three years  
      - Other ______
   E. Does this program include a fitness assessment for all firefighters?  
      - Yes  
      - No (if no, skip to question 23)
   F. How often?  
      - New firefighters only  
      - Every six months or annually  
      - Every two years  
      - Every three years  
      - Other ______

23. Does your department have a Behavioral Health Program?  
   A. Yes  
   B. No (If no, go to Question 25)

24. Which of the following are included in your behavioral health program (check all that apply)?
   - Fitness for duty evaluation
   - Cancer prevention education
   - Physical health education
   - Heart attack prevention education
   - Post-Traumatic Stress support
   - Trained behavioral peer support
   - Behavioral health education
   - Suicide prevention education
   - Relationship with a Behavior Specialist
   - Volunteer clinical interventions
   - Wellness preventative education
   - Other (please specify): __________

25. Does your department actively track exposures or have a mechanism for individual exposure tracking (including carcinogens, hazardous materials, and infectious diseases)?  
   - Yes—Department actively tracks
   - Yes—Mechanism for individuals
   - Yes—Both
   - No—None of these

26. Does your department have an Infection Control / PPE Decontamination Program (infectious and communicable disease hazards)? (check one)  
   - Yes  
   - No

27. Does your department have an Exposure Control / PPE Decontamination Program (carcinogen and other toxic hazards)? (check one)  
   - Yes  
   - No

28. Which of the following air quality measures does your department monitor at the fireground? (check all that apply)
   - 02 (Oxygen)
   - HCN (Cyanide)
   - CO (Carbon Monoxide)
   - Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)
   - Other (please specify) __________
   - Do not monitor

29. Which of the following cancer prevention best practices apply to your department? (check all that apply)
   - Cancer screening program
   - Second set of structural firefighter gear for all firefighters
   - SOPs/SOGs for cleaning gear after a fire
   - Gross decontamination of gear at the fireground
   - Provide cleaning wipes for use on face/neck/hands
   - Training to ‘shower within an hour’ after a fire
   - Prohibit structural firefighter gear in living quarters of fire stations
   - Other (please specify) __________
   - None of these
PART III. COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

30. Which of the following engineering programs or activities does your department conduct? (check all that apply)
   - Construction plans review
   - Permit approval
   - Permit inspections (for new construction)
   - Certificate of occupancy
   - Pre-incident planning
   - Routine testing of active automatic systems (e.g., fire sprinkler, detection/alarm, smoke control)
   - Hazard Mitigation Planning Assessment
     If you have a Hazard Mitigation Planning Risk Assessment program, does your plan include:
     - Natural disasters (hurricanes, wildfire, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes)
     - Industrial chemical disasters
     - Transportation disasters
     - No such engineering programs

31. Who conducts the fire code inspections in your community? (check all that apply)
   - Full-time fire department inspectors
   - In-service (on duty) firefighters
   - Separate inspection bureau
   - Building department
   - State department/fire prevention bureau
   - No one
   - Other (please specify) _____________

32. What percentage of commercial or inspectable properties are inspected once a year?
   - None (0%)
   - Few (1–25%)
   - Some (26–50%)
   - Many (51–75%)
   - Most (76–99%)
   - All (100%)
   - Not responsible for conducting inspections

33. Who determines that a fire was deliberately set? (check all that apply)
   - Fire department fire investigator
   - Regional/state fire task force investigator
   - Incident command or other front line or company fire officer
   - Police department
   - Contract investigator
   - Insurance investigator
   - Other (please specify) ________________

34. Which of the following education programs or activities does your department conduct? (check all that apply)
   - Youth firesetter program
   - School fire safety education program based on a national model curriculum
   - Car seat installation
   - Home fire sprinkler education
   - Home safety visits
   - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) instruction
   - Wildfire safety program based on a national model program
   - Older adult fire safety program based on a national model program
   - Fire Prevention Week™ activities
   - Free distribution of home smoke alarms
   - Free installation of home smoke alarms
   - Other prevention program (please specify) ________________________
   - No education program

35. Which of the following apply to the education programs or activities your department conducts? (check all that apply)
   - Based on a Community Risk Assessment
   - Ensure diversity & inclusion based on your community’s demographics
   - Collect data on number of people reached
   - Measure impact over time
   - None of these

PART IV. FACILITIES, APPARATUS, AND EQUIPMENT

36. Number of fire stations: _______ Number of stations over 40 years old: _______
   Number of stations having backup power: _______
   Number of stations equipped for exhaust emission control (e.g. diesel exhaust extraction): _______
   Number of stations with private or separate facilities for men and women: _______

37. Number of each type of apparatus in service and reserves (numbers by age should sum to total):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Engines / Pumpers</th>
<th>Ladders / Aerials</th>
<th>Tankers / Tenders</th>
<th>Ambulances or Other Transport Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Service</td>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>In Service</td>
<td>Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0–14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15–19</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20–29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38. Does your fire department have a plan for apparatus replacement on a regular schedule?
   - Yes, plan and budget
   - Plan only
   - No plan or budget
39. Which of the following does your department require prior to a member driving an emergency vehicle? (check all that apply)  □ Certification or specific training  □ Hands-on training using the actual vehicle  □ Demonstration of competency at least once a year  □ Formal driver’s training at least twice a year  □ None of these

40. Portable radios.
   A. What percentage of your on-duty emergency responders can be equipped with portable radios?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)

41. Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
   A. What percentage of your on-duty emergency responders can be equipped with SCBA?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)
   B. What percentage of your SCBA are 10 years old or older?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know

42. Personal alert safety system (PASS) devices.
   A. How many responding firefighters who work in immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) environment are equipped with a PASS device?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know

43. Personal protective clothing.
   A. How many of your emergency responders are equipped with personal protective clothing?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know
   B. How many of your department’s personal protective clothing is 10 years of age or older?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know
   C. Do you have reserve personal protective clothing sufficient to equip 10% of your emergency responders? (check one)  □ Yes  □ No  □ Don’t know
   D. Is your personal protective ensemble inspected and tested each year?  □ Inspected only  □ Tested only  □ Inspected and tested  □ None of these
   E. Does your department have laundering facilities or provide services (external) to clean contaminated personal protective clothing?  □ We have laundering facilities  □ We utilize an outside service  □ We have our own facilities and use an outside service  □ Neither facilities nor outside service

44. For what percentage of fireground incidents do you have a thermal imager / thermal imaging cameras available?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know

PART V. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

45. Multi-agency communication.
   A. Can you communicate by radio on an incident scene with your local/state/federal emergency response partners (includes frequency compatibility)? (check one)  □ Yes  □ No  □ Don’t know
   B. If yes to 45A, how many of your partners (agencies/departments) can you communicate with at an incident scene?  □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know

46. Dispatch.
   A. Who has the primary responsibilities [i.e., public safety answering point (PSAP)] of answering 911 calls?  □ PSAP that answers police, fire, and EMS calls  □ PSAP that answers fire and EMS calls  □ Police department  □ Fire department  □ Private company
   B. If the 911 call is determined to be a fire call, is that call processed by the same center that answered the initial 911 call?  □ Yes  □ No, the call is transferred to another center to be processed
   C. Does the 911 center that processes the fire call typically have one person that processes and dispatch the same fire call?  □ Yes  □ No, we typically have call takers and separate dispatchers.
   D. If no to 46C, does the 911 center that processes the fire call typically have at least 2 people on duty at all times?  □ Yes  □ No, sometimes we cut back to one person on duty  □ No, we never have two persons on duty
   E. Do you also have a backup dispatch facility? (check one)  □ Yes  □ No
PART VI. ABILITY TO HANDLE UNUSUALLY CHALLENGING INCIDENTS

47. Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) fire affecting structures.
   A. Is protecting structures in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) a role your fire department performs? (check one)
      □ Yes  □ No (If no, go to Question 48.)
   B. What is the maximum number of involved structures during a wildfire event your department could handle alone?
      □ 1  □ 2–5  □ 6–20  □ 21+
   C. What is the maximum area of a wildfire (acres) your department could handle alone?
      □ Less than 1 acre  □ 1–10 acres  □ 11–50 acres  □ 51–100 acres  □ Greater than 100 acres
   D. If you had a wildfire incident affecting 2–5 structures how far would you have to go to obtain enough people with specialized training and equipment for this incident? (check one)
      □ Local would be enough  □ Regional  □ State  □ National
   E. If you had a wildfire incident affecting 6–20 structures how far would you have to go to obtain enough people with specialized training and equipment for this incident? (check one)
      □ Local would be enough  □ Regional  □ State  □ National
   F. If you had a wildfire incident affecting more than 20 structures how far would you have to go to obtain enough people with specialized training and equipment for this incident? (check one)
      □ Local would be enough  □ Regional  □ State  □ National
   G. Do you have a plan for obtaining assistance from others for a wildfire? (check one)
      □ Yes, written agreement  □ Yes, informal  □ Yes, other (specify) ____________________________  □ No

48. At the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, did your department have an infection control program that meets the qualifications of NFPA 1581? □ Yes  □ No

49. Does your department currently have an infection control program that meets the qualifications of NFPA 1581? □ Yes  □ No

50. At the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, what percent of your emergency responders could you outfit with medical PPE?
      □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know

51. What percent of your emergency responders can you currently outfit with medical PPE?
      □ None (0%)  □ Few (1–25%)  □ Some (26–50%)  □ Many (51–75%)  □ Most (76–99%)  □ All (100%)  □ Don’t know

PART VIII. YOUR TOP 3 NEEDS IN YOUR WORDS:

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________