HEALTH & WELLNESS
as part of
The Fifth Needs Assessment of the
US Fire Service

DECEMBER 2021
Needs Assessment of the United States Fire Service: Health and Wellness

Fire departments are an essential part of public safety, responding to an ever-expanding list of hazards in our communities. While department members continue to fight fires and engage in activities to prevent fires from occurring, beyond these traditional roles fire departments work to mitigate other risks, from providing fall prevention education to addressing the opioid crisis. Firefighters provide emergency medical services, rescue people from a wide variety of dangerous situations, and mitigate incidents involving hazardous materials.

Firefighters face obvious safety risks during emergency situations, but some are less obvious. Repeated exposure to unhealthy environments and carcinogens can cause cancer, while high-stress incidents can strain behavioral health. These types of exposures occur frequently when responding to emergencies.

There are also needs for ongoing tracking of firefighter health and wellness concerns, such as fitness assessments and physical evaluations. While these needs go beyond the typical realm of on-scene firefighter safety, they can have an enormous impact on firefighter health and department operational strength. Because of the importance of these issues, the Fifth Fire Service Needs Assessment added several questions focused on firefighter health and wellness.

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 Sehlmeyer
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-Wellness
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 A. 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>Total</td>
<td>2,969</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).
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Survey Results: Health and Wellness

What we looked at: The Fifth Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey measured if United States fire departments have the resources necessary to deliver and maintain firefighter health and wellness programs. To see the changes from study to study, see the “Changes Across Five Studies” module.

Key Takeaways:
- Most fire departments (72 percent) do not have programs to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health.
- Most departments (61 percent) do not provide medical and physical evaluations that comply with NFPA 1582, Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, for all firefighters.
- Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of all fire departments in the United States do not have a behavioral health program. Larger departments are much more likely to have these programs, while only 14 percent of the smallest departments have behavioral health programs.
- Many fire departments do not engage in cancer prevention best practices.
- Most fire stations (56 percent) are not equipped for exhaust emissions control; this number rises to 82 percent in the smallest communities.

Fitness and Health Programs
The majority of fire departments (72 percent) do not have programs to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health. Figure 1 shows that larger departments are more likely to have these programs than smaller departments.

Figure 1: Firefighter fitness and health programs (by size of community protected)
Figure 2 shows that among larger departments, fitness/health programs are more likely to be associated with the IAFC/IAFF Wellness-Fitness Initiative (WFI).

**Figure 2: Fitness and health programs associated with the IAFC/IAFF WFI (by size of community protected)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected by Department</th>
<th>Is the program associated with the IAFC / IAFF Wellness-Fitness Initiative (WFI)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALL departments</td>
<td>9% Yes, 19% No, 72% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2,500</td>
<td>4% Yes, 12% No, 85% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>6% Yes, 16% No, 79% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>9% Yes, 30% No, 62% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>19% Yes, 32% No, 49% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>34% Yes, 32% No, 34% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>42% Yes, 33% No, 25% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>59% Yes, 31% No, 10% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>61% Yes, 17% No, 22% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>63% Yes, 25% No, 13% Departments Not Responding to Question</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of Fire Departments**

- Yes
- No
- Departments Not Responding to Question
### Medical/Physical Exams and Fitness Assessments

Most departments (61 percent) do not provide NFPA 1582-compliant medical and physical evaluations for all firefighters. While larger departments are more likely to provide these evaluations, roughly 20 percent of the departments that protect upwards of 25,000 people do not, as shown in Figure 3 below.

**Figure 3: Medical and physical evaluations for all firefighters (by size of community protected)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected by Department</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALL departments</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2,500</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 4 shows that most departments (57 percent) that provide physical and medical evaluations for firefighters do so every six months or annually. Nearly one-quarter (22 percent) of the departments only provide evaluations for new firefighters.

**Figure 4: Frequency of medical and physical evaluations in departments that provide them (by size of community protected)**

![Figure 4](image_url)
Even among departments that provide medical and physical evaluations, 43 percent do not include a fitness assessment for all firefighters, as shown in Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Provision of fitness assessments for all firefighters among departments providing medical and physical evaluations (by size of community protected)**

Among departments that conduct fitness assessments, two-thirds (66 percent) conduct them every six months or annually. Departments protecting larger communities tend to conduct assessments more frequently (Table 1).

**Table 1: How often do you conduct fitness assessments for all firefighters? (Only among departments that conduct fitness assessments)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Every Six Months or Annually</th>
<th>Every Two Years</th>
<th>Every Three Years</th>
<th>New Firefighters Only</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2,500</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL departments</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Behavioral Health

Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of the departments do not have behavioral health programs. Larger departments are much more likely to have these programs than smaller ones (Figure 6). Only 14 percent of the smallest departments (those protecting less than 2,500 people) have behavioral health programs.

Figure 6: Behavioral health programs (by population of community protected)
Within departments that have behavioral health programs, post-traumatic stress support is the most common feature, with 90 percent of all departments offering this support. There is a significant drop-off for other features. The next most common feature offered is cancer prevention education, which is available in 51 percent of the departments with behavioral health programs (See Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Features of behavioral health programs (among departments that have them) (by size of community protected)**
Tables 2-A through 2-C show the frequency of the different types of behavioral health programs among departments of different sizes.

**Table 2-A** Which of the following are included in your behavioral health program? (check all that apply)  
(only among departments with behavioral health programs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Post-Traumatic Stress Support</th>
<th>Cancer Prevention Education</th>
<th>Suicide Prevention Education</th>
<th>Trained Peer Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 2,500</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Departments</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2-B** Which of the following are included in your behavioral health program? (check all that apply)  
(only among departments with behavioral health programs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Wellness Preventative Education</th>
<th>Behavioral Health Education</th>
<th>Fitness for Duty Evaluation</th>
<th>Heart Attack Prevention Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 2,500</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Departments</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2-C Which of the following are included in your behavioral health program? (check all that apply) (only among departments with behavioral health programs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Physical Health Education</th>
<th>Relationship with a Behavior Specialist</th>
<th>Volunteer Clinical Interventions</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 2,500</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Departments</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exposure Tracking, Decontamination, and Air Quality

Slightly more than half (52 percent) of all departments do not provide individual exposure tracking (either department-based or a mechanism for individuals). Table 3 shows that exposure tracking at the department level is much more common among larger departments than smaller ones.

Table 3: Does your department actively track exposures or have a mechanism for individual exposure tracking (including carcinogens, hazardous materials, and infectious diseases)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Yes, Both</th>
<th>Yes, Department Actively Tracks Exposure</th>
<th>Yes, Mechanism for Individuals</th>
<th>No, None of These</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2,500</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All departments</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two-thirds (67 percent) of departments have infection control/PPE decontamination programs for infectious and communicable diseases (Figure 8).

**Figure 8: Infection control/PPE decontamination programs (infectious and communicable disease) (by size of population protected)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected by Department</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALL departments</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2,500</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sixty-three percent of departments have an exposure control/PPE decontamination program for carcinogens and other toxic hazards (Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Exposure control/PPE decontamination program (carcinogens and other toxic hazards) (by size of community protected)**

![Exposure control/PPE decontamination program chart](chart.png)

- **ALL departments:**
  - Yes: 63%
  - No: 37%
- **Less than 2,500:**
  - Yes: 47%
  - No: 53%
- **2,500 to 4,999:**
  - Yes: 66%
  - No: 34%
- **5,000 to 9,999:**
  - Yes: 79%
  - No: 21%
- **10,000 to 24,999:**
  - Yes: 86%
  - No: 14%
- **25,000 to 49,999:**
  - Yes: 93%
  - No: 7%
- **50,000 to 99,999:**
  - Yes: 94%
  - No: 6%
- **100,000 to 249,999:**
  - Yes: 96%
  - No: 4%
- **250,000 to 499,999:**
  - Yes: 94%
  - No: 6%
- **500,000 or More:**
  - Yes: 100%
  - No: 0%
Most fire departments monitor carbon monoxide (66 percent) and oxygen levels (59 percent) at the fireground, but nearly one-third (31 percent) do not do any air quality monitoring. Fewer departments monitor cyanide (33 percent) and volatile organic compounds (17 percent). Figure 10 shows that smaller departments are less likely to monitor air quality.

Figure 10: Air quality monitoring at the fireground (by size of population protected)
Cancer Prevention

There is a range of best practices to help prevent cancer among firefighters and this edition of the needs assessment survey asked whether departments have applied these practices. The most common of these practices was providing cleaning wipes for the hands/face/neck, which two-thirds (66 percent) of departments have implemented. However, many departments lack cancer prevention best practices and only 10 percent have cancer screening programs. Figure 11 shows the percent of all the departments utilizing each of these best practices and Tables 4-A and 4-B show detailed breakdowns of the practices by the size of the population protected by a department.

Figure 11: Cancer prevention best practices in fire departments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Percent of All Fire Departments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide cleaning wipes for use on face/neck/hands</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOPs/SOGs for cleaning gear after a fire</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross decontamination of gear at the fireground</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibit structural firefighter gear in living quarters of fire stations</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training to 'shower within an hour' after a fire</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second set of structural firefighter gear for all firefighters</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer screening program</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4-A Which of the following cancer prevention best practices apply to your department? (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Provide Cleaning Wipes for Use on Face/Neck/Hands</th>
<th>SOPs/SOGs for Cleaning Gear After a Fire</th>
<th>Gross Decontamination of Gear at the Fireground</th>
<th>Prohibit Structural Firefighter Gear in Living Quarters of Fire Stations</th>
<th>Training to Shower within an Hour After a Fire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 2,500</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Departments</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4-B Which of the following cancer prevention best practices does your department utilize? (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Second Set of Structural Firefighter Gear for All Firefighters</th>
<th>Cancer Screening Program</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>None of These</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500,000 or More</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 2,500</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Departments</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, most fire stations in the study (56 percent) are not equipped for exhaust emissions control; this number rises to 82 percent in the smallest communities. For more information, see the “Facilities and Apparatus” module.
Additional Resources and Education About Firefighter Health and Wellness

- IAFF/Firefighter Cancer Support Network Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month: iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month
- IAFF COVID-19 Resources: iaff.org/coronavirus/
- CDC/NIOSH Firefighter Cancer Resources: cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/health.html

Previous studies are available at nfpa.org/needsassessment, as well as through NFPA’s Library (www.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 included in the target population. 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) (If no, go to Question 15)  
      - 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) (If no, go to Question 15C)  
      - 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%)
      a. No certification ______%  
      b. EMR: Emergency Medical Responder ______%  
      c. EMT: Emergency Medical Technician ______%  
      d. AEMT: Advanced Emergency Medical Technician ______%  
      e. 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%)
      a. No certification ______%  
      b. Awareness ______%  
      c. Operational ______%  
      d. 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 19)
   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?  ❑ Yes  ❑ 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  ❑ Post-Traumatic Stress support  ❑ Relationship with a Behavior Specialist
   ❑ Cancer prevention education  ❑ Trained behavioral peer support  ❑ Volunteer clinical interventions
   ❑ Physical health education  ❑ Behavioral health education  ❑ Wellness preventative education
   ❑ Heart attack prevention education  ❑ Suicide prevention 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)

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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15–19</td>
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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%)  
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. __________________________________________________________