U.S. Fire Department Profile – 2015

April 2017

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Abstract
NFPA estimates there were approximately 1,160,450 firefighters in the U.S. in 2015. An estimated 345,600 (30%) of these were career firefighters and 814,850 (70%) were volunteer firefighters. Most of the career firefighters (71%) worked in communities that protected 25,000 or more people. Most of the volunteer firefighters (95%) were in departments that protected fewer than 25,000 people. There are an estimated 29,727 fire departments in the U.S. Of these, 2,651 departments were staffed by all career firefighters, 1,893 were mostly career, 5,421 were mostly volunteer and 19,762 were all volunteer. In the U.S., 13,500 (45.4%) of departments provided EMS service, 4,617 departments (15.5%) provided EMS service and advanced life support, and 11,610 (39.1%) of departments provided no EMS support.

Keywords: fire departments, firefighters, career, volunteer, EMS, fire stations, pumpers, aerial apparatus.

Acknowledgments
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Overview of 2015 U.S. Fire Department Profile

- There were 1,160,450 career and volunteer firefighters in the United States in 2015.

- The 345,600 career firefighters in 2015 represented a decrease of 0.2% from the previous year.

- 814,850 volunteer firefighters in 2015, an increase of 3.4% from the previous year.

- Since 1986, there has been a fairly steady increase in the number of career and volunteer firefighters. The number of career firefighters per 1,000 population is constant during this period, however the number of volunteer firefighters per 1,000 population is decreasing, although there was an uptick in 2015.

- In 2015, 85,100, or 7.3%, of the firefighters were female. Of the career firefighters 12,850 (3.7%) were female firefighters. There were 72,250 volunteer firefighters who were female, 8.9% of the total.

- 50.7% of firefighters are between 30 and 49 years old.

- 41.8% of volunteer firefighters have 10 or more years of active service (tenure period).

- There were 29,727 fire departments in the United States in 2015. Of these, 15.3% were all or mostly career departments and protected 64.9% of the U.S. population.

- Nationwide 39.1% of fire departments provided no emergency medical services, 45.4% provided basic life support (BLS) and 15.5% provided advanced life support (ALS).

- From 1980 to 2014, local fire protection service expenditures (adjusted for inflation in 2015 dollars) increased 170%.
The U.S. Fire Department Profile through 2015 Fact Sheet

There were 1,160,450 local firefighters in the United States in 2015.

- 30% (345,600) were career firefighters.
- 70% (814,850) were volunteer firefighters.
- Firefighters in smaller (less than 25,000 population) communities are more likely to be volunteers.
- Departments protecting larger communities tend to have a higher proportion of firefighters in the age groups 30-39 and 40-49 than smaller communities.
- 42% of volunteer firefighters have served at least 10 years.

29,727 fire departments protected the United States in 2015.

- All Career 2,651
- Mostly career 1,893
- Mostly Volunteer 5,421
- All Volunteer 19,762

Half the fire service is 40 or more years old.
2015 U.S. Fire Department Profile Infographic

- Total firefighters: 1,160,450
  - 73% are women
  - 30% of U.S. firefighters are career firefighters, while 70% are volunteer firefighters.
  - 41.8% of volunteer firefighters have 10+ years of active service.

- Total departments: 29,727
  - 9% All Career
  - 6% Mostly Career
  - 18% Mostly Volunteer
  - 67% All Volunteer

- 49% of the U.S. population is protected by the "All Career" fire departments.

- Apparatus & Stations:
  - Pumper: 71,800
  - Aerial Apparatus: 7,300
  - Other Suppression Vehicles: 79,050
  - Stations: 58,750
Background and Objectives

This report provides an overview of local and municipal fire departments in the United States. The analysis includes firefighters, fire departments, apparatus and stations. The results are based on data collected during the NFPA Survey of Fire Departments for U.S. Fire Experience (2015) and the NFPA Fire Service Survey where the data was collected over the period 2013-2015. An earlier report, *Fire Loss in the United States during 2015*, measured the national fire experience in terms of the number of fires that fire departments responded to and the resulting civilian deaths, civilian injuries, and property losses that occurred.

This year's report includes among its results:

- An estimate of the total number of firefighters (including career, volunteer, gender).
- Trends in the number of career and volunteer firefighters and rates.
- An estimate of the number of fire departments.
- Median rates of firefighters per 1,000 population by U.S. region.
- Number of firefighters by age group and community size.
- Number of volunteer firefighters by tenure period and community size.
- Number of fire departments (including career and volunteer).
- Average apparatus and station rates.
- Departments providing emergency medical services by community size.
- Direct expenditures on local fire protection.
Methods


The U.S. Fire Experience Survey utilizes a sample of fire departments in the United States to make national projections of the fire problem. The sample is stratified by the size of the community protected by the fire department. All U.S. fire departments that protect communities with a population of more than 2,500 are included in the sample. The 13,565 departments in the nine highest strata protect a population of 300,304,722 or 93% of the U.S. population as of July, 2015.

The remainder of the sample included 8,562 randomly selected departments from stratum 10 (less than 2,500 population protected), for a total sample size of 22,127 (74%) of all known fire departments to the NFPA in the United States.

A total of 2,605 departments responded to the 2015 fire experience survey. The national projections are made by weighting sample results according to the proportion of total U.S. population accounted for by communities of each size. Around any estimate based on a sample survey, there is a confidence interval that measures the statistical certainty (or uncertainty) of the estimate. We are confident the actual number of total firefighters falls within five percent of the estimate.

The NFPA Fire Service Survey is a three year cycle survey which attempts to survey about one-third of the states in the country each year. The survey includes questions on the number of career firefighters, the number of volunteer firefighters, length of work week, number of apparatus and stations, etc. In recent years, the survey has had a response rate of between 13-16% from departments.

The results in this report are based on local and municipal fire departments. State and federal firefighting entities were not included in this sample. No adjustments were made for private fire brigades, such as industrial or military installations.
Firefighters

There were approximately 1,160,450 firefighters in the U.S. in 2015, according to estimates based on NFPA’s 2015 National Fire Experience Survey (Table 1). This is an increase of 2.3% from 2014 (Table 2).

Career firefighters include full-time uniformed firefighters regardless of assignments, e.g., suppression, prevention/inspection, administrative. For the purpose of this survey, career firefighters include only firefighters in public fire departments that protect people, their residences, and public buildings; they do not include firefighters working in private fire brigades, or for state and federal agencies.

Volunteer firefighters include any active part-time (call or volunteer) firefighters. Active volunteers are defined as being involved in firefighting. Of the total number of firefighters, 345,600 (30%) were career firefighters, while 814,850 (70%) were volunteers.1

Most career firefighters (71%) are in communities that protect 25,000 or more people. Most volunteer firefighters (95%) are in departments that protect fewer than 25,000 people. Approximately half of the volunteer firefighters are with small, rural departments that protect fewer than 2,500 people (Table 1).

Since 1986, the number of career firefighters in the U.S. has increased steadily from 237,750 in 1986 to 354,600 in 2013, an increase of 49% (Table 2, Figure 1). In 2015 the number of career firefighters dropped from the high of 2013 to 354,600, a decrease of 2.5%. The rates of career firefighters per 1,000 people protected for mostly or all career departments have remained in a range of 1.54 to 1.76 career firefighters per 1,000 people protected (Table 2, Figure 1) during this period. Even though the number of career firefighters has increased overtime, the number of people protected by career firefighters has remained relatively level as the population in the U.S. has increased.

1 Note that these results are based on a sample survey, and as a result there is a 95% confidence interval associated with each estimate. Based on the data reported by the fire departments responding to the 2015 National Fire Experience Survey, the NFPA is confident that the actual number of career firefighters falls between 340,500 and 350,700; and the actual number of volunteer firefighters falls between 804,500 and 825,200.
### Table 1.
Career and Volunteer Firefighters by Gender in the U.S. by Population Protected, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Career Male</th>
<th>Career Female</th>
<th>Sub-Total</th>
<th>Volunteer Male</th>
<th>Volunteer Female</th>
<th>Sub-Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>38,150</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>39,250</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>40,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>33,400</td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td>35,550</td>
<td>4,750</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5,250</td>
<td>40,800</td>
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<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>25,150</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>26,350</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>28,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>49,400</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>51,250</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>53,300</td>
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<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>41,200</td>
<td>1,150</td>
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<td>6,500</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>7,050</td>
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<td>51,850</td>
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<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
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<td>1,200</td>
<td>22,700</td>
<td>95,450</td>
<td>7,250</td>
<td>102,700</td>
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<td>900</td>
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<td>Under 2,500</td>
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<td>650</td>
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<td>365,500</td>
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<td>404,550</td>
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<td>332,750</td>
<td>12,850</td>
<td>345,600</td>
<td>742,600</td>
<td>72,250</td>
<td>814,850</td>
<td>1,160,450</td>
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Note the number of volunteer firefighters for communities of 25,000 or more and the number of career firefighters for communities of less than 10,000 may change considerably from year to year because of their small size and sample variability.

Population protected is based on resident population and not the daytime and seasonal.

Table 2.
Number of Firefighters in the U.S., 1986-2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Aggregate Number</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Career Number</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Volunteer Number</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 Population</th>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>1,045,950</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>237,750</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>808,200</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>1,060,000</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>243,200</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>816,800</td>
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<td>252,500</td>
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<td>1989</td>
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<td>771,800</td>
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<td>3.54</td>
<td>344,050</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>756,400</td>
<td>6.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,129,250</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>345,950</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>783,300</td>
<td>6.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,140,750</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>354,600</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>786,150</td>
<td>6.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,134,400</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>346,150</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>788,250</td>
<td>6.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,160,450</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>345,600</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>814,850</td>
<td>6.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Number of Career Firefighters and Rate per 1,000 Population.

The number of volunteer firefighters declined in the late 1980s and late 1990’s, each time returning to the same level soon after. From 2005-2009, the number of volunteer firefighters was stable at a level slightly higher than any previously recorded other than in 1995. (Table 2, Figure 2). After a dip in 2010-2011, in 2012-2015, the number of volunteers appeared to increase and was in the range of 783,300 to 814,850, an increase of 4.0% over this period. When the rates of volunteer firefighters per 1,000 people protected for mostly or all volunteer departments are examined, the rates show a downward trend and range from a high of 8.05 in 1987 to a low of 6.37 in 2011 per 1,000 population protected. In 2015 the rate increased to 6.71 per 1,000 population protected.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 2011-2015 periods (Appendix 3), there were on average 27,450 (9.2%) Hispanic or Latino career firefighters; 24,350 (8.1%) African-American career firefighters; 2,500 (0.8%) Asian career firefighters and 13,750 (4.6%) female career firefighters. NFPA estimates that in 2015, there were 12,850 female career firefighters and 72,250 female volunteer firefighters employed by local fire departments.

A good way to develop a sense of the size of departments relative to the population they protect is to examine the rate of firefighters per 1,000 population. Table 3 and Table 4 provide the range of rates for career firefighters in departments protecting at least 10,000 people and for volunteer firefighters in departments protecting a population less than 25,000 people. It is important to note that the rates are based on data reported to the NFPA and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

Fire departments protecting communities of 10,000 people or more had median rates of 0.14 to 1.30 career firefighters per 1,000 people (Table 3). However, ranges for departments varied

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2 Figures are from the Annual Averages Tables Employment and Earnings (2011-2015) Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington D.C. These numbers can change considerably from year to year because of their small size and sample variability.

3 Note that these results are based on a sample survey, and as a result there is a 95% confidence interval associated with each estimate. Based on the data reported by the fire departments responding to the 2015 National Fire Experience Survey, the NFPA is confident that the actual number of female career firefighters falls between 12,300 and 12,850; and the actual number of female volunteer firefighters falls between 70,500 and 74,000.
considerably with community size and particularly for communities protecting fewer than 10,000 people. Note that the rates for a particular size of community varied considerably. Departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies, including length of work week, unusual hazards, geographical dispersion of the community, and scope of services provided (e.g., whether the department handles emergency medical calls).
Figure 2: Number of Volunteer Firefighters and the Rate per 1,000 Population.


U.S. Fire Department Profile- 2015, 4/17
Table 3.  
Career Firefighter Rates by Population Protected, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>6.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>3.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including length of work week, unusual structural conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographical dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Career rates are shown only for communities with populations of 25,000 or more, where departments are comprised of all career or mostly career firefighters. Also some of these departments have some volunteers, who are not reflected in these figures.

The low and high values are the lowest and highest values by size of community. The median value is chosen so that half the departments had higher values, and half had lower.
Fire departments protecting less than 25,000 people had median rates of volunteer firefighters per 1,000 persons in the range of 1.25 to 20.00 (Table 4). This wide range in median rates for smaller communities reflects the minimum number of firefighters needed to staff a department regardless of community size. Volunteer firefighters are often available on a part-time basis only; it may take more volunteers to ensure an adequate response to each alarm. The median rate for volunteer firefighters increases as population protected decreases.

Length of work week and its effect on rate of career firefighters per 1,000 population by size of community is provided in Table 5. Table 6 and Table 7 provide median rates for career and volunteer firefighters by region and size of community.

Of the 1,160,450 firefighters, the age group accounting for the largest share of firefighters was the 30-39 group, 26.7% of all firefighters (Table 8 and Figure 3). Many firefighters fell in the 40-49 age group (24.0%) and the next largest was the 20-29 age group (20.9%). Firefighters, age 50-59 accounted for a smaller share (17.2%), but still more than one-sixth of all firefighters. Few firefighters fell outside this combined range of 20 to 59 years old. Only 3.3% of firefighters were age 16 to 19, and another 7.9% were age 60 and over.

Age group patterns did vary somewhat by population of community protected (Table 9). Departments that protect less than 25,000 people and comprised mostly of volunteers tended to have higher proportions of firefighters in the under 30 age group, while departments that protect 25,000 people or more and are comprised mostly of career firefighters had higher proportions of firefighters in the 30-39 and 40-49 age groups. Departments protecting less than 2,500 people had the highest percentage of firefighters age 50 and older (30.8%).

When age group patterns by year are examined for the 1998-2015 period, there were slight changes over time (Figure 4). The 30-39 and the 40-49 age groups showed slight decreases over the period, while the 50-59 and 60 and over groups showed moderate increases over the period. Volunteer firefighter tenure periods show that more than two of every five (41.8%) volunteers have more than 10 years of active service. Almost two-thirds (65%) of volunteer firefighters have more than 5 years of active service (Table 10).
Table 4.
Volunteer Firefighter Rates by Population Protected, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>14.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>14.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>6.84</td>
<td>21.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including structural conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Volunteer rates are shown only for communities under 25,000, where departments are comprised of all volunteer or mostly volunteers. Also, some of these departments, particularly those with population protected of 5,000 or more, have some career firefighters, who are not reflected in these figures.

The low and high values are the lowest and the highest values by size of community. The median value is chosen so that half of the departments had higher values, and half had lower.

*Because there are a minimum number of firefighters to form even a single company, smaller communities of under 100 people can have very high rates.
Table 5.
Career Firefighters per 1,000 People for all Career Departments by Work Week and Population Protected 2013-2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>40-45 Hour</th>
<th>46-51 Hour</th>
<th>52-60 Hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including structural conditions, type of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community and other factors.

Career rates are shown only for communities over 25,000, where departments are comprised mostly of career firefighters.

*Insufficient data.
Table 6.
Median Rates of Career Firefighters per 1,000 People by Region and Population Protected, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,000</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including structures conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Career rates are shown only for communities over 25,000, where departments are comprised mostly of career firefighters.

As defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the four regions are:
Table 7.
Median Rates of Volunteer Firefighters per 1,000 People by Region and Population Protected, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>8.16</td>
<td>6.83</td>
<td>6.39</td>
<td>6.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>17.54</td>
<td>24.07</td>
<td>16.67</td>
<td>26.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The rates listed above are based on data reported to the NFPA, and do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates of a particular size of community department may vary widely because departments face great variation in their specific circumstances and policies including structural conditions, types of service provided to the community, geographic dispersion of the community, and other factors.

Volunteer rates are shown only for communities under 25,000, where departments are comprised of mostly volunteer.

As defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the four regions are:
Table 8.
Number of Firefighters in the U.S. by Age Group, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>38,100</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>242,050</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>310,100</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>278,800</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>199,450</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>91,950</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,160,450</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 3. Number of Firefighters in the U.S. By Age Group, 2015.

Source: NFPA Survey of Fire Departments for U.S. Fire Experience, 2015
Table 9.
Age Profile of Firefighters by Size of Community, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Community</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters under Age 30</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters Age 30-39</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters Age 40-49</th>
<th>Percent Firefighters Age 50 and up</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Career Firefighters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,000</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Volunteer Firefighters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 4:** Percent of Firefighters in the U.S. by Age Group by Year.

Table 10.
Volunteer Firefighter Tenure Period by Number and Percentage, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenure Active</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than one year</td>
<td>77,450</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 years</td>
<td>207,950</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 years</td>
<td>189,200</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 10 years</td>
<td>340,250</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>814,850</td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NFPA Survey of fire Departments for U.S. fire Experience, 2015.
Figure 5: Number of Volunteer Firefighters by Tenure Period, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Community</th>
<th>Percent of Firefighters less than 1 year</th>
<th>Percent of Firefighters 1-5 years</th>
<th>Percent of Firefighters 6-10 years</th>
<th>Percent of Firefighters more than 10 years</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,000</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fire Departments

There are an estimated 29,727 fire departments in the United States (Table 12). Of these, 2,651 (8.9%) of departments are comprised solely of career firefighters, and 19,762 (66.5%) of departments are comprised of all volunteer firefighters. An estimated 1,893 (6.4%) are mostly career, while 5,421 (18.2%) are mostly volunteer firefighters (Table 12).

Fire departments categorized as all career or mostly career represent 15.3% of all departments and protect 64.9% of the U.S. population, while departments categorized as mostly volunteer or all volunteer represent 85.0% of all departments and protect 35.1% of the U.S. population (Table 12).

The number of career or mostly career departments increased from 3,043 in 1986 to 4,544 in 2015, an increase of 49.3%, while the number of volunteer or mostly volunteer departments decreased from 26,797 in 1986 to 25,183 in 2015, a decrease of 6.0% (see Appendix 1).

The number of fire departments by size of community is provided in Table 13. Department type did vary considerably by population protected. For community sizes 25,000 and above, the percentage of departments classified as all career or mostly career ranged from 74.6 to 100%, while for community sizes less than 25,000, the percentage of departments classified as all volunteer or mostly volunteer ranged from 53.3 to 98.2% (Table 14).

---

4 A fire department is a public organization that provides fire prevention, fire suppression and associated emergency and non-emergency services to a jurisdiction such as a county, municipality, or organized fire district.

5 Department type is broken into four categories. All career departments are comprised 100% of career firefighters. Mostly career is comprised of 51 to 99% career firefighters, while volunteer is comprised of 1 to 50% career firefighters. All volunteer departments are comprised 100% of volunteer firefighters.
Figure 6: Locations of fire departments by population protected. Source: NFPA Fire Service Survey, 2011–2013.
Table 12.
Number of Departments and Percent of U.S. Population Protected by Type of Department, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Department</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percent of U.S. Population Protected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Career</td>
<td>2,651</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Career</td>
<td>1,893</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Volunteer</td>
<td>5,421</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Volunteer</td>
<td>19,762</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>29,727</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Department type is broken into four categories. All career departments are comprised 100% of career firefighters. Mostly career is comprised of 51 to 99% career firefighters, while volunteer is comprised of 1 to 50% career firefighters. All volunteer departments are comprised 100% of volunteer firefighters.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Number of Fire Departments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 - 249,999</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>1,320</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>3,529</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>4,283</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>5,409</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>14,253</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,727</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 14.
Department Type by Population Protected, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>All Career</th>
<th>Mostly Career</th>
<th>Mostly Volunteer</th>
<th>All Volunteer</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 - 249,999</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Departments</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Department type is broken into four categories. All career departments are comprised 100% of career firefighters. Mostly career is comprised of 51 to 99% career firefighters, while volunteer is comprised of 1 to 50% career firefighters. All volunteer departments are comprised 100% of volunteer firefighters.
Fire Department Apparatus and Stations

Estimates of the number of apparatus and stations in the United States for the 2013-2015 period indicate that there were 71,800 pumpers, 7,300 aerial apparatuses, 79,050 other suppression vehicles (which includes pumpers less than 1,000 gpm, hose usage, brush vehicles, tanker, etc.) and 58,750 stations. Table 15 provides a breakdown of the average apparatus and station rates by community size.6

It is worth emphasizing what the indicated rates in Table 15 really mean. The numbers reflect apparatus averages and station rates per 1,000 people by population protected reported to the NFPA. They do not represent recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.

The rates are higher for departments protecting smaller communities (under 2,500). This is because it takes a minimum number of apparatus and stations to operate a fire department regardless of the number of people protected. For instance, for a department protecting 1,000 people, you would expect according to Table 15 an average of 1.192 pumpers, 1.871 other suppression vehicles, 0.035 aerial apparatus, and 0.943 stations. The 0.943 stations per 1,000 people is the highest rate shown in Table 15, but for this community size it is equivalent to one station per department. Another way to put this is that for every 100 departments protecting 1,000 people, you would expect approximately 119 pumpers, 187 other suppression vehicles, 4 aerial apparatus, and 94 stations. For communities of 25,000 to 999,999, the rates tend to be quite similar: 0.056 - 0.107 pumpers per 1,000 people; and 0.024 - 0.067 other suppression vehicles; 0.014 - 0.022 aerial apparatus per 1,000 people, and 0.055 - 0.095 stations per 1,000 people.

Table 16, Table 17, Table 18, and Table 19 display the prevalence of pumpers, other suppression vehicles, aerial apparatus, and stations by size of community.

6 Note that these results are based on a sample survey, and as a result there is a confidence interval associated with each estimate. Based on the data reported by fire departments responding to the NFPA Fire Service Survey (2013 -2015), the NFPA is 95% confident that the actual number of pumpers falls between 71,650 and 71,950; aerial apparatus between 7,250 and 7,350; other suppression vehicles between 78,800 and 79,300.
Table 15.
Average Apparatus and Station Rates per 1,000 Population by Community Size, 2013-2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>Pumpers per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Other Suppression Vehicles(^7) per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Aerial Apparatus per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Stations per 1,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>0.056</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>0.058</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 - 249,999</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>0.041</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>0.083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>0.107</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>0.095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.185</td>
<td>0.138</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>0.321</td>
<td>0.298</td>
<td>0.037</td>
<td>0.310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>0.548</td>
<td>0.642</td>
<td>0.030</td>
<td>0.353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>1.192</td>
<td>1.871</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>0.224</td>
<td>0.224</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\(^7\) Other suppression vehicles include apparatus with pumps less than 1,000 gpm, hose wagons, brush fire vehicles, tankers, etc.

These results reflect average apparatus and station rates per 1,000 people by population protected reported to the NFPA. They do not reflect recommended rates or some defined fire protection standard.
Table 16.
Pumpers (1,000 gpm or greater) by Community Size, 2013-2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>1-5 Pumpers</th>
<th>6-9 Pumpers</th>
<th>10-19 Pumpers</th>
<th>20-39 Pumpers</th>
<th>40 or More Pumpers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 - 249,999</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No Pumpers</th>
<th>1 Pumper</th>
<th>2 Pumpers</th>
<th>3-4 Pumpers</th>
<th>5 or More Pumpers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note that pumpers reported above had a capability of 1,000 gpm or greater. Note that many departments reported other fire suppression vehicles including apparatus with pumps less than 1,000 gpm, hose wagons, brush fire vehicles, tankers, etc.
Table 17.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3-4</th>
<th>5 or More</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Other suppression vehicles include apparatus with pumps less than 1,000 gpm, hose wagons, brush fire vehicles, tankers, etc.
### Table 18.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>1-5 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>6-9 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>10-19 Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>20 or More Aerial Apparatus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>1-5 Stations</th>
<th>6-9 Stations</th>
<th>10-19 Stations</th>
<th>20-29 Stations</th>
<th>30 or More Stations</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 - 249,999</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No Stations</th>
<th>1 Station</th>
<th>2 Stations</th>
<th>3 Stations</th>
<th>4 or More Stations</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 to 24,999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 to 4,999</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2,500</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emergency Medical Services

The level of emergency medical service (EMS) provided by fire departments by size of community protected for the 2013-2015 period is provided in Table 20. The larger the community, the more likely EMS service was provided. Nationwide, 13,500 (45.4%) departments provided EMS with basic life support, 4,617 (15.5%) departments provided EMS with advanced life support, and 11,610 (39.1%) departments did not provide EMS.

U.S. Expenditures on Local Fire Protection

Table 21 provides expenditures on local fire protection by governments, with and without adjustment for inflation. Note that these expenditures adjusted for inflation, have risen 170% from 1980 to 2014. Other municipal service costs like police protection have risen in a similar manner.

Fire protection costs rose 113% from 1986 to 2014 after adjusting for inflation, while the number of career firefighters increased 46% (Table 2). Since chiefs of fire departments serving larger communities report problems with shrinking budgets or with level budgets combined with increasing responsibilities, this clear pattern of increasing fire department resources nationwide is difficult to interpret. Some of the factors possibly contributing to this increase in costs are (1) shrinkage of the work week8 for some departments, which results in a need to increase staffing and apparatus or to pay firefighters at overtime rates; (2) increased EMS responsibilities that require increased staffing and, in some communities, a more frequent replacement of apparatus; and (3) rising costs of retirement and health benefits.

8 This is the result at least to some extent of the Fair Labor Standards Act being applied to municipal fire departments.
Table 20.
Departments Providing Emergency Medical Service by Community Size (Percent), 2013-2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Protected</th>
<th>No EMS</th>
<th>BLS</th>
<th>ALS</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000,000 or more</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
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<td>70.7%</td>
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<td><strong>Nationwide</strong></td>
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<td>45.4%</td>
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BLS refers to fire departments providing basic life support and ALS refers to fire departments providing advanced life support.
Table 21.
Direct Expenditures on Local Fire Protection.

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Table 21
Direct Expenditures on Local Fire Protection. (Continued)

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*Adjustments were made to 2015 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.*
## Appendix 1. Number of U.S. Fire Departments

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>All Career</th>
<th>Mostly Career</th>
<th>Mostly Volunteer</th>
<th>All Volunteer</th>
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<td>1,683</td>
<td>1,335</td>
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<td>23,088</td>
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<td>1,729</td>
<td>1,405</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,799</td>
<td>1,303</td>
<td>3,878</td>
<td>23,335</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,949</td>
<td>1,338</td>
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<td>2,017</td>
<td>1,257</td>
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<td>1,843</td>
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<td>5,290</td>
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<td>5,530</td>
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<td>2,045</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2,651</td>
<td>1,893</td>
<td>5,421</td>
<td>19,762</td>
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</table>

A fire department is a public or private organization that provides fire prevention, fire suppression and associated emergency and non-emergency services to a jurisdiction such as a county, municipality, or organized fire district.

Appendix 2. Number of Fire Stations, Pumpers, Other Suppression Vehicles and Aerial Apparatus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>U. S. Fire Stations</th>
<th>Pumpers &gt;1,000 gpm</th>
<th>Other Suppression Vehicles*</th>
<th>Aerial Apparatus</th>
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<td>48,850</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-1998</td>
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<td>69,150</td>
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<td>6,400</td>
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<td>68,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
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<td>67,950</td>
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<td>2002-2004</td>
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</table>

* Other suppression vehicles include apparatus with pumps less than 1,000 gpm, hose wagons, brush fire vehicles, tankers, etc.

Appendix 3. Average Percentage of Career Firefighters by Gender, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (2011-2015)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages Tables Employment and Earnings

*Note: These statistics do not include volunteer firefighters