



# FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

## Patterns of Female Firefighter Injuries on the Fireground

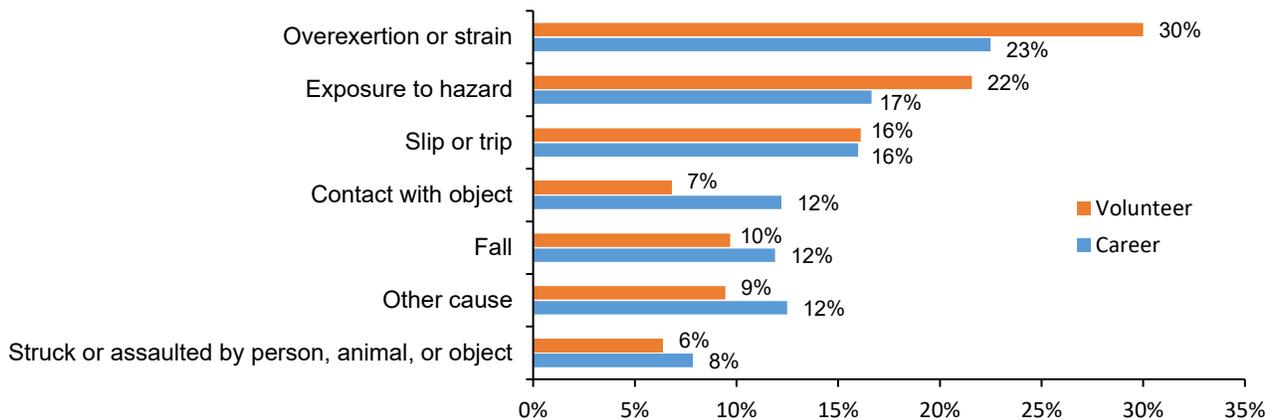
NFPA estimates that female firefighters experienced an average of 1,260 injuries on the fireground each year from 2010 to 2014. There were an estimated 82,550 female firefighters in 2014, according to the 2014 U.S. Fire Department Profile report.

Approximately two-thirds (65%) of the injuries were experienced by career firefighters. Volunteer firefighters experienced the remaining 35% of injuries.

The leading cause of injury was overexertion or strain for both career (23% of injuries) and volunteer (30%) firefighters, followed by exposure to hazard (17% career, 22% volunteer), and slip or trip (16% for career and volunteer).

- ▶ For career firefighters, other leading causes of injury were contact with an object (12%), fall (12%), and being struck or assaulted (8%).
- ▶ For volunteer firefighters, the other leading causes were fall (10%), contact with an object (7%) and being struck or assaulted (6%).

**Female Fireground Injuries by Cause of Injury, 2010–2014 Annual Averages**



The leading primary injury symptom was strain or sprain for both career (29%) and volunteer (19%) firefighters.

- ▶ Other leading primary injury symptoms for career firefighters included pain only (15%), contusion or bruise (9%), and exhaustion or fatigue (6%). Thermal burns, cut or laceration, and swelling each came to 6% of the total.
- ▶ For volunteer firefighters, other leading primary symptoms were exhaustion or fatigue (12%), smoke inhalation (10%), pain only (7%), and breathing difficulty or shortness of breath (6%). Thermal burns and cut or laceration each accounted for 5% of the volunteer firefighter injury total.

Source: NFPA Research: [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research)  
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