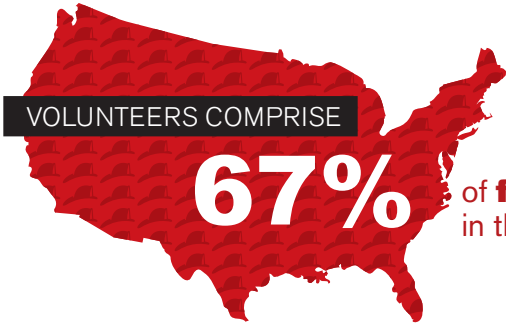


# The Fire Service in the United States of America



The first fire company in the United States was founded in **1678**.

In **2018** there were

- 36,746,500** fire department calls
- 23,551,500** medical aid calls
- 1,318,500** fire calls
- 11,876,500** other

TOTAL



**19,122** are all volunteer

**5,206** are mostly volunteer

**2,368** are mostly career

**3,009** are all career

**29,705** fire departments in the country



The time donated by volunteer firefighters saves localities across the country an estimated

**\$46.9 billion** per year.



In **2018** a fire department responded to a fire every **24 seconds**



The number of volunteer firefighters reached a low of

**682,600** in 2017.

The volunteer fire service is an aging population. In communities under 2,500:



Call volume has **tripled** in the last **30** years.

Volunteers are Often the First Line of Defense During:

- » Fires
- » Emergency Medical Incidents
- » Natural Disasters
- » Vehicle Accidents
- » Hazardous Materials Incidents
- » Terrorist & Active Shooter Events
- » Search and Rescue

Recruitment and Retention Challenges Include:

- » Time Demands
- » Increased Training Requirements
- » Increasing Call Volume
- » Aging Communities
- » Leadership Problems
- » Internal Conflict



[www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org)

Sources: National Fire Protection Association; National Volunteer Fire Council