The Fire Service in the United States of America

Volunteers comprise 67% of firefighters in the United States.

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

29,705 fire departments in the country

- 19,122 are all volunteer
- 5,206 are mostly volunteer
- 2,368 are mostly career
- 3,009 are all career

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

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.

Call volume has tripled in the last 30 years.

The volunteer fire service is an aging population. In communities under 2,500:
- 22% are under 30
- 24% are 30-39
- 20% are 40-49
- 34% are 50 and up

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

Sources: National Fire Protection Association; National Volunteer Fire Council

www.nvfc.org