

The Fire Service in the United States of America

VOLUNTEERS COMPRISE

67%

of **firefighters**
in the United States.



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

Sources: National Fire Protection Association; National Volunteer Fire Council