The Fire Service in the United States of America

Volunteers Comprise 65% of firefighters in the United States.

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

In 2021, there were:
- 36,624,000 fire department calls
- 26,291,000 medical aid calls
- 1,353,500 fire calls
- 8,979,500 other

29,452 fire departments in the country

- 18,873 are all volunteer
- 5,335 are mostly volunteer
- 2,459 are mostly career
- 2,785 are all career

The time donated by volunteer firefighters saves localities across the country an estimated $46.9 billion per year.

In 2021, a fire department responded to a fire every 23 seconds.

The number of volunteer firefighters reached a low of 676,900 in 2020.

Call volume has tripled in the last 35 years.

The volunteer fire service is an aging population. In communities under 2,500:
- 22% are under 30
- 23% 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