

The Fire Service in the United States of America



of **firefighters** in the United States.



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



TOTAL



18,873 are all volunteer

5,335 are mostly volunteer

2,459 are mostly career

2,785 are all career

29,452 fire departments in the country



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.

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



Call volume has **tripled** in the last **35** 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