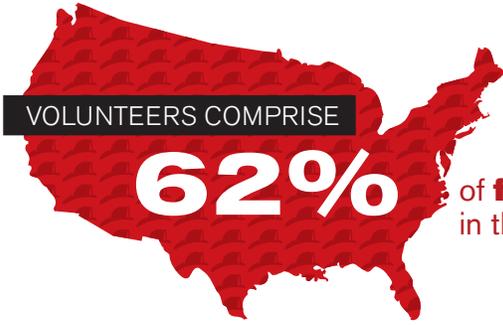


# The Fire Service in the United States of America



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 **2024** a fire department responded to a fire every **23 seconds**



The number of volunteer firefighters reached a low of

**635,100** in 2023.

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



Call volume has more than **tripled** in the last **40** 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