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STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

VOLUNTEER AND CAREER FIRE DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFICATION FOR NEVADA

February 11, 2003

OVERVIEW

In the State of Nevada there are three types of fire departments, which consist of volunteer, career and combination. The structure of the departments can also be varied with some departments being an individual volunteer fire departments but belonging to a larger fire district or agency. The association with the larger district may be through a funding or equipment source or because of a larger territory like a county or State agency. In classifying fire departments types, we reviewed and counted fire departments as both individual and district agencies.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Fire departments in Nevada have been classified as either volunteer, career or combination. The State Fire Marshal's Office used the following definition to develop the statistical information when classifying fire departments.

Volunteer

Volunteer departments consist of unpaid and usually unmanned fire stations where the firefighters respond to the station or directly to the incident. These firefighters volunteer their time for training, responding to calls, fundraisers and administrative duties. The formation of a volunteer fire department is based on a response need and the lack of funding to hire and train firefighters on a full-time basis. A department classified as volunteer will have no firefighters receiving wages for the purpose of emergency services or administration of the department.

Career

Career fire departments pay wages to all personnel on the department. The stations are manned 24 hours/7 days per week. There are no volunteers used in response to emergency needs. These departments are generally funded through the tax base and fees collected.

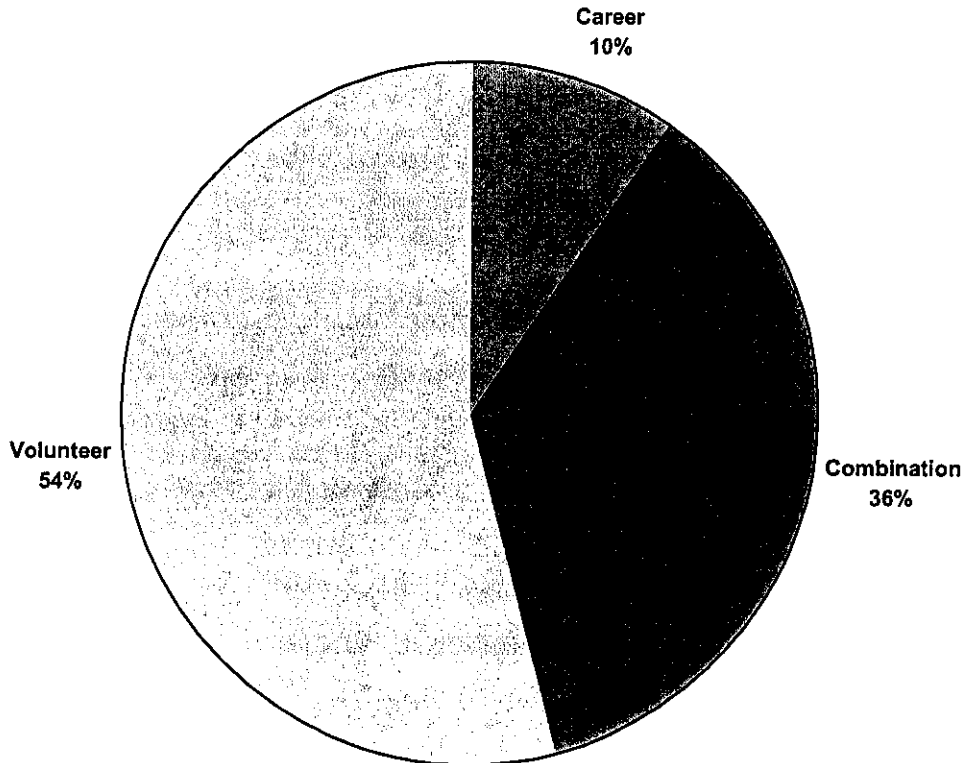
Combination

Combination fire departments have both full-time paid and volunteer firefighters for response to emergency calls. Some combination departments may only have one paid firefighter, chief or administrator receiving wages. The stations may have only one person on per shift but the majority responders are volunteers. While some mostly career departments may only use volunteers to supplement the existing full-time staff. The percentage of career to volunteer staff would be based on tax revenues and number of calls.

ANALYSIS

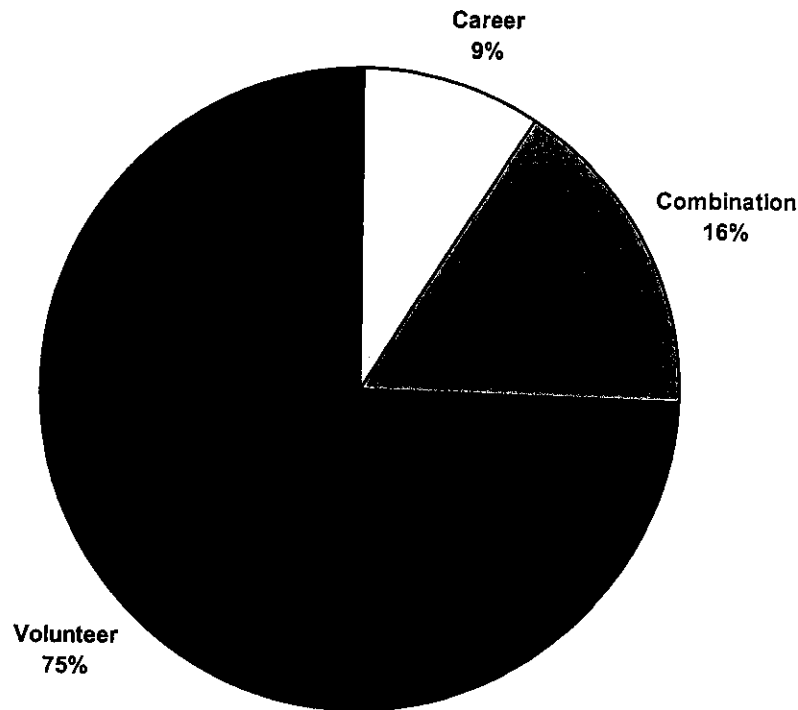
Based on the classification process, we determined there are an estimated sixty-one (61) fire districts or agencies in Nevada. Of these agencies, 54% are volunteer, 36% are combination and 10% are strictly career. For our purposes, we would consider that 90% of the fire departments in Nevada are volunteer.

Nevada Fire Districts and Agencies



When the individual fire departments were analyzed, we determined 75% were all volunteer, 16% combination and 9% were full-time career departments. Otherwise, approximately 91% of the departments in Nevada are volunteer.

Nevada Fire Departments



See attachment A for details

According to the Fact Sheet provided by the National Volunteer Fire Council, 73% of the firefighters in the United States are volunteers. That is estimated to at 784,700 volunteer firefighters. These volunteers save the localities across the country an estimated \$36.8 billion per year. See attachment "B" - NVFC Fact Sheet.

SUMMARY

In the State of Nevada, approximately 75% of our fire departments are volunteer and another 15% percent having volunteers to supplement the career staff. In the United State approximately 73% of all firefighters are volunteers.

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Attachment A
Career/Volunteer Status of Nevada Fire Departments

Career/Volunteer Status of Nevada Fire Departments
2/13/2003

FIRE DISTRICTS AND AGENCIES			
Reporting District	Career	Combination	Volunteer
Carson City Fire Dept.		X	
Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)		X	
Fallon/Churchill VFD		X	
Clark County Fire Dept.		X	

FIRE DEPARTMENTS			
Fire Department	Career	Combination	Volunteer
Carson City FD	X		
Warren Engine Company			X
Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)	X		
NDF - Southern Area Region Office	X		
Mount Charleston VFD (CC #81)		X	
NDF - Western Area Region Office	X		
Cold Springs VFD			X
Washoe Valley VFD/NDF Bowers #10	X		
Galena VFD		X	
Verdi VFD / NDF Station #5		X	
Panther Valley VFD			X
Peavine Volunteer Fire Dept			X
NDF - Northern Area Region Office	X		
Clover Valley VFD			X
Death-Starr VFD			X
Independence Valley VFD			X
Jarbidge VFD			X
Jiggs VFD			X
Lamoille VFD			X
Metropolis VFD			X
Midas VFD			X
Tecoma Township/Montello VFD			X
Mountain City VFD			X
Northfork VFD			X
Ruby Valley VFD			X
Ryndon Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Spring Creek VFD / NDF Station #1		X	
Ten Mile VFD			X
Crescent Valley VFD			X
Diamond Valley VFD			X
Dunphy VFD			X
Pine Valley VFD			X
White Pine Co. - Battalion Chief	X		
Steptoe Valley VFD/Cherry Creek			X
Baker Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Cold Creek Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Lund Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
McGill Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Ruth Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Lackawanna Fire Dept.			X
Snake Valley Volunteer FD			X
Fallon/Churchill VFD		X	
Clark County FPD		X	
Blue Diamond VFD (CC #80)			X
Bunkerville VFD (CC #71)			X
Cal-Nev-Ari VFD (CC #84)			X
Cold Creek VFD (CC #82)			X
Goodsprings VFD (CC #78)			X
Indian Springs VFD (CC #83)			X
Logandale VFD (CC #73)			X
Moapa Valley VFD (CC #72)			X
Mountain Springs VFD (CC #79)			X
Overton VFD (CC #74)			X
Sandy Valley VFD (CC #77)			X

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Career/Volunteer Status of Nevada Fire Departments
2/13/2003

FIRE DISTRICTS AND AGENCIES			
Reporting District	Career	Combination	Volunteer
Las Vegas Fire Dept.	X		
North Las Vegas Fire Dept.	X		
Boulder City Fire Dept.		X	
Henderson Fire Dept.	X		
Mesquite Volunteer Fire Dept.		X	
East Fork Fire & Paramedic Dist.		X	
Tahoe Douglas Fire Prot. Dist.	X		
Carlin Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Elko Fire Dept.		X	
Jackpot Fire Dept.		X	
Wells Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
West Wendover VFD		X	
Owyhee Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Goldfield Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Silver Peak Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Fish Lake Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Eureka Town Fire Dept.			X
Winnemucca Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Denio Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Golconda Fire Protection Dist.			X
Orovada Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Paradise Valley Fire Dept.			X
Winnemucca Rural Fire Dept.		X	
McDermitt Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Paradise Hills Fire Dept.			X
Austin VFD/Lander County FD			X
Battle Mountain VFD			X
Kingston Village VFD			X
Reese River Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Yomba Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Caliente Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Pahrnagat Valley/Alamo VFD			X
Panaca Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Pioche Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Eagle Valley VFD			X
North Lyon Fire Prot. Dist.		X	
Mason Valley Fire District		X	
Smith Valley Fire Protection Dist.			X
Central Lyon County FPD		X	

FIRE DEPARTMENTS			
Fire Department	Career	Combination	Volunteer
Searchlight VFD (CC #75)			X
Laughlin Fire Dept.		X	
Las Vegas Fire Dept.	X		
North Las Vegas Fire Dept.	X		
Boulder City Fire Dept.		X	
Henderson FD	X		
Mesquite FD		X	
East Fork Fire & Paramedic Dist.		X	
Gardnerville VFD			X
Topaz Lake VFD			X
Fish Springs VFD			X
Gardnerville Ranchos Fire-Rescue			X
Genoa VFD			X
Johnson Lane VFD			X
Ruhenstroth VFD			X
Topaz Ranch Estates VFD			X
Douglas County Engine Company			X
Sheridan Acres VFD			X
Jacks Valley VFD			X
Tahoe Douglas Fire Prot. Dist.	X		
Carlin Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Elko Fire Dept.	X		
Lee Engine Company			X
Jackpot Fire Dept.		X	
Wells Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
West Wendover VFD		X	
Owyhee Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Goldfield Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Silver Peak Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Fish Lake Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Eureka Town Fire Dept.			X
Winnemucca Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Denio Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Golconda Fire Protection Dist.			X
Orovada Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Paradise Valley Fire Dept.			X
Winnemucca Rural Fire Dept.		X	
McDermitt Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Paradise Hills Fire Dept.			X
Austin VFD/Lander County FD			X
Battle Mountain VFD			X
Kingston Village VFD			X
Reese River Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Yomba Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Caliente Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Pahrnagat Valley/Alamo VFD			X
Panaca Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Pioche Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Eagle Valley VFD			X
Fernley VFD		X	
Mason Valley Fire District		X	
Smith Valley Fire Protection Dist.			X
Central Lyon County FPD		X	
Dayton Valley VFD			X
Dayton VFD			X
Mark Twain VFD			X
Moundhouse VFD			X
Silver City VFD			X
Silver Springs VFD			X

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Career/Volunteer Status of Nevada Fire Departments

2/13/2003

FIRE DISTRICTS AND AGENCIES			
Reporting District	Career	Combination	Volunteer
Mineral County Fire		X	
Schurz Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Amargosa Valley VFD			X
Beatty Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Gabbs Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Manhattan Volunteer Fire Dept			X
Pahrump/Nye Co. Fire Dept.		X	
Round Mountain Volunteer FD		X	
Tonapah Volunteer Fire Dept.		X	
Currant/Duckwater VFD			X
Lovelock Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Storey County Fire Dept.		X	
Reno Fire Dept.		X	
Sparks Fire Dept.	X		
Pyramid Lake VFD			X
Airport Authority of Washoe Co.	X		
North Lake Tahoe Fire Prot. Dist.		X	
Ely Volunteer Fire Dept.		X	
61	6	22	33

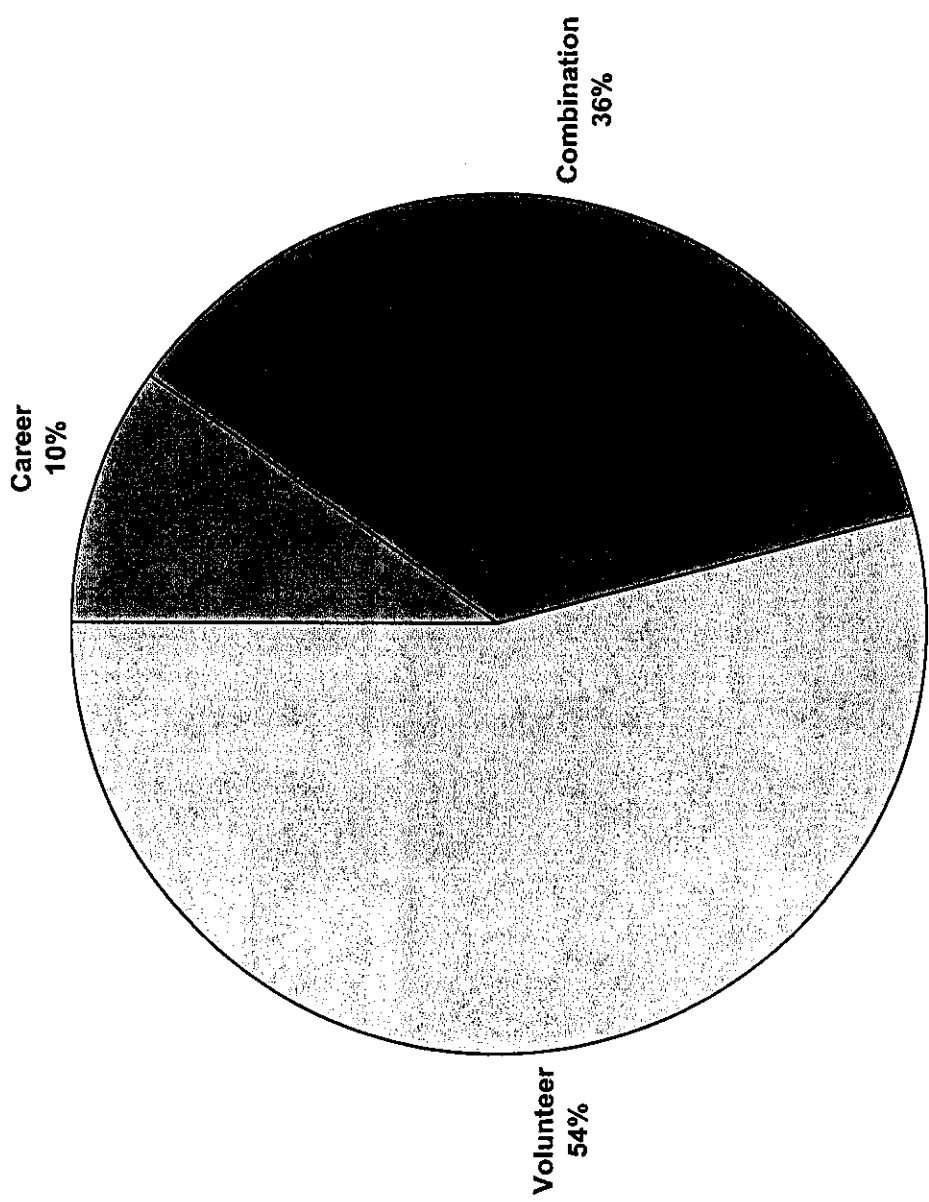
FIRE DEPARTMENTS			
Fire Department	Career	Combination	Volunteer
Stagecoach VFD			X
Hawthorne Fire Department		X	
Lunning Volunteer Fire Dept			X
Walker Lake Volunteer FD			X
Mina Volunteer FD			X
Schurz Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Amargosa Valley VFD			X
Beatty Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Gabbs Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Manhattan Volunteer Fire Dept			X
Pahrump/Nye Co. Fire Dept.		X	
Round Mountain Volunteer FD		X	
Tonapah Volunteer Fire Dept.		X	
Currant/Duckwater VFD			X
Lovelock Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Imlay Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Grass Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Rye Patch VFD			X
Storey County Fire Dept.		X	
Virginia City VFD			X
Largomarsino Volunteer Fire Dept.			X
Six Mile Canyon VFD			X
Virginia Highlands VFD			X
Reno Fire Dept.		X	
Brown-Huffaker Volunteer FD		X	
Gerlach VFD			X
Hidden Valley VFD			X
Lemmon Valley VFD			X
Palomino Valley VFD			X
Red Rock VFD			X
Silver Lake VFD			X
Sutcliffe VFD			X
Wadsworth VFD			X
Pleasant Valley Volunteer FD			X
Sparks Fire Dept.	X		
Pyramid Lake VFD			X
Airport Authority of Washoe Co.	X		
North Lake Tahoe Fire Prot. Dist.		X	
Ely Volunteer Fire Dept.		X	
152	14	25	113

Percentage of Departments 61 6 22 33
 excludes Federal & Other Agencies 9.84% 36.07% 54.10%

152 14 25 113
 align="right">**9.21% 16.45% 74.34%**

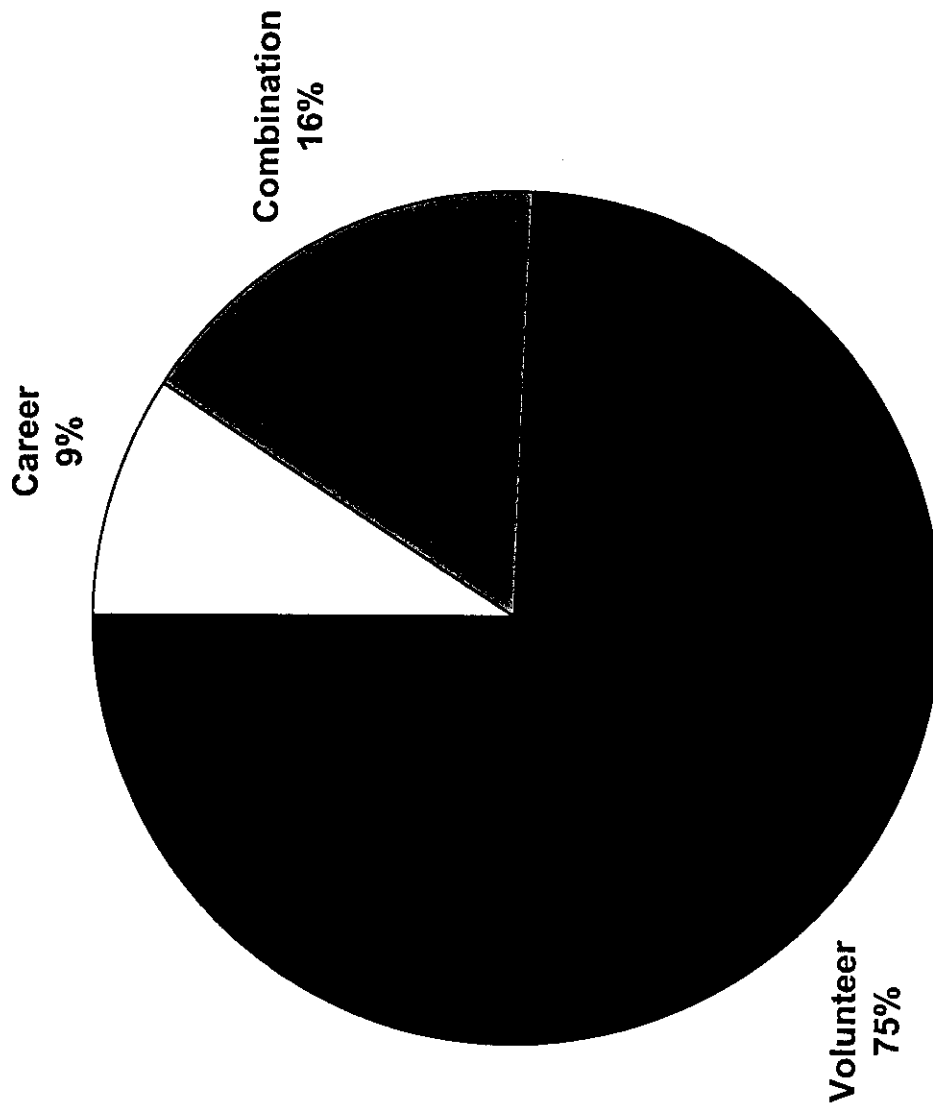
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Nevada Fire Districts and Agencies



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Nevada Fire Departments



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Attachment B
National Volunteer Fire Council Fact Sheet

Fact Sheet

The National Volunteer Fire Council is a non-profit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. Organized in 1976, the NVFC serves as the voice for the volunteer fire service. The NVFC is the volunteer fire service's representative in the national policy arena and on numerous national and international committees and organizations. Each state firefighter's association elects a representative to the NVFC.

We welcome you to browse our website at www.nvfc.org to learn more about the volunteer fire service and information regarding membership, training, legislation and meetings.

This Fact Sheet was produced in order to provide an overall picture of today's volunteer fire service.

- **Volunteers comprise 73% of firefighters in the United States.**
Of the total estimated 1,078,300 volunteer and paid firefighters across the country, 784,700 are volunteer.¹
- **Communities served by Volunteer Firefighters depend on them to be their first line of defense for many types of emergencies.**
Volunteer Firefighters are summoned to a wide array of emergencies across the country every day including fires, emergency medical incidents, terrorist events, natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, water rescue emergencies, high-angle and confined space emergencies, and other general public service calls. The public relies on Volunteers to be their first line of defense in these emergencies. Volunteers spend an enormous amount of time training to prepare for these emergencies.
- **The majority of fire departments in the United States are volunteer.**
Of the total 26,354 fire departments in the country, 19,224 are all volunteer; 3,845 are mostly volunteer; 1,407 are mostly career; and 1,878 are all career.²
- **Services contributed by Volunteer Firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$36.8 billion per year.**³

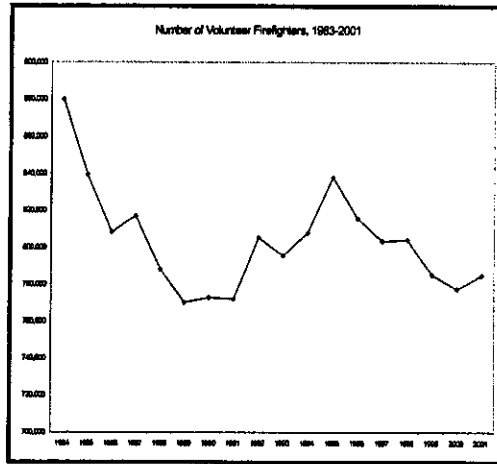
¹ *U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2001*. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, Massachusetts, December, 2002.

² *ibid.*

³ *Fire Protection in Rural America: A Challenge for the Future*. National Association of State Foresters, 1993.

- **The number of Volunteer Firefighters in the United States has declined 5-10% since 1983.**⁴

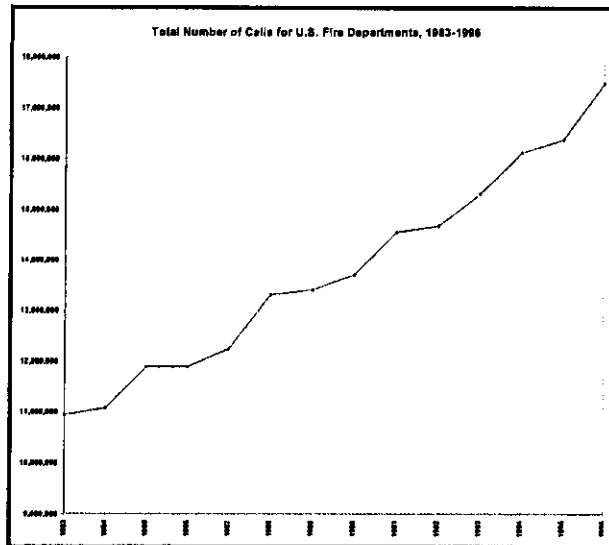
Major factors contributing to the decline include increased time demands, more rigorous training standards, and the proliferation of two-income families whose members do not have time to volunteer. The two greatest sources of increased time demands are increased emergency calls and increased training hours to comply with training standards.



- **Recruitment and retention of Volunteer Firefighters** is one of the key issues being addressed jointly by the NVFC and U.S. Fire Administration. The NVFC and USFA have released a report entitled *Recruitment and Retention in the Volunteer Fire Service: Problems and Solutions*. The NVFC also has adopted the *1-800-FIRE LINE* recruitment campaign. Under this campaign, individual states connect to the toll free number which prospective volunteers can call for information about volunteer emergency service opportunities.

- **Fire department call volumes continue to increase.**

Most fire departments across the country have experienced a steady increase in calls over the past decade.⁵ This is a major source of the increased time demands on Volunteer Firefighters. The increase in calls, coupled with the decline in the number of Volunteer Firefighters, means that fire departments are having to do more with less. Most of the increase is attributed to a sharp increase in the number of emergency medical calls and false alarms. The number of fire calls has actually declined over the period.



⁴ U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2001. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, Massachusetts, December, 2002.

⁵ U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2000. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, Massachusetts, December, 2001.

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- **Small and mid-sized communities rely heavily on Volunteer Firefighters.**
Small communities (those with populations under 10,000) across the United States are typically protected by all volunteer departments. In some cases, however, these communities have hired a few paid firefighters to assist. Mid-sized communities (those with populations above 10,000) are typically served by combination volunteer and paid departments. Large communities (those with populations over 100,000) are most often protected by combination volunteer and paid departments that consist of primarily paid staff. There are very few purely paid fire departments in the United States, but those that exist are primarily found in very urban areas.

Volunteer and Paid Firefighters in the U.S. by Population Protected, 2001⁶

Population Protected	Volunteer	Paid	Total
Under 2,500	391,350	7,200	398,550
2,500 to 4,999	158,050	8,150	166,200
5,000 to 9,999	107,900	12,300	120,200
10,000 to 24,999	80,950	43,300	124,250
25,000 to 49,999	25,050	43,000	68,050
50,000 to 99,999	5,900	43,100	49,000
100,000 to 249,999	5,250	43,300	48,550
250,000 to 499,999	4,650	26,300	30,950
500,000 to 999,999	5,500	34,200	39,700
1,000,000 or more	100	32,750	32,850

- **64 of the 102 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2000 were Volunteers.⁷**
The leading cause of death was heart attacks, followed by vehicle accidents.
- **Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians across the country meet national and/or state training standards.**
Each state adopts its own training requirements that apply to Volunteer Firefighters. Many states require that volunteers meet the National Fire Protection Association's *Standard 1001: Firefighter Professional Qualifications*. This establishes a very rigorous course of classroom and practical evolutions for basic training. This same standard is commonly used to train paid firefighters.

Likewise, volunteer emergency medical responders are trained to the national training criteria establish by the U.S. Department of Transportation and other standards setting bodies.
- **Volunteers invest a large amount of time serving their communities.**
There is no national average of the amount of time a Volunteer Firefighter gives to his or her community. Volunteering in the fire and EMS service, however, is one of the most demanding volunteer activities today. Time commitments include operational responses (often at a moment's notice), training, fund raising, vehicle and station maintenance, and various administrative duties.

⁶ ibid.

⁷ *Firefighter Fatalities in the U.S. 2000*. U.S. Fire Administration, Emmitsburg, Maryland, 2001.

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- **The cost to train and equip a firefighter is approximately \$4,500.**
Below are average expenses associated with firefighting:

Equipment

Protective Clothing	\$ 1,000
Self-contained Breathing Apparatus	2,500

Training

Firefighter I-II	\$500
Emergency Medical Technician - Basic	300
Hazardous Materials Awareness	75
Emergency Vehicle Operator	<u>75</u>
	\$ 4,450

- **Firefighting and emergency medical equipment is very expensive.**
The cost of firefighting equipment is listed below. Equipment can range in cost depending on features and specifications.

Fire pumper	\$150,000 - \$300,000
Ladder truck	\$350,000 - \$500,000
Ambulance	\$60,000 - \$110,000
Advanced life support medical equipment	\$15,000 - \$20,000

- **There are more than 2 million fires reported each year in the United States.⁸**
Many others go unreported, causing additional injuries and property loss.
- **Approximately 4,500 people die in fires in the U.S. annually.⁹**
An estimated 26,500 people are injured.
- **Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$8.5 billion annually.¹⁰**
- **Each year, fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined.**
- **Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death in the home; at least 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in residences.**
- **Volunteer Firefighters serve on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Urban Search and Rescue Teams.** Several of the US&R Teams such as Fairfax County, Virginia and Montgomery County, Maryland include volunteer members. US&R Teams have been deployed to disaster scenes both nationally and internationally.

⁸ *Fire Facts*. U.S. Fire Administration Web Page.

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ *ibid.*

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