



Third Fire Service Needs Assessment

Presentation to CFSI Board

**Dr. John R. Hall, Jr.
National Fire Protection Association
October 2011**



Would you like to know more?

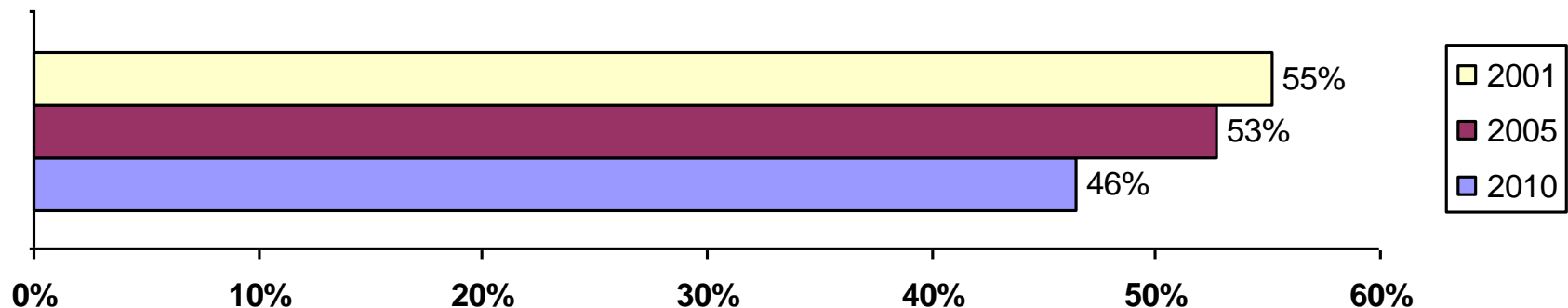
- Go to www.nfpa.org/needsassessment for free access to:
- The 200+ page full report, including extensive results by size of community.
- National and **state reports** from the two earlier studies.
- State reports for the latest needs assessment study will be released this week on Friday.
- General and topic-specific **fact sheets** derived from the main studies.



Training – Structural Firefighting

- 46% of all departments responsible for structural firefighting have *not* formally trained all involved personnel.
- This is down from 55% in 2001 and 53% in 2005.
- The need is decreasing but still substantial.

Percent of All Departments Where Not All Firefighters Involved in Structural Firefighting Are Formally Trained

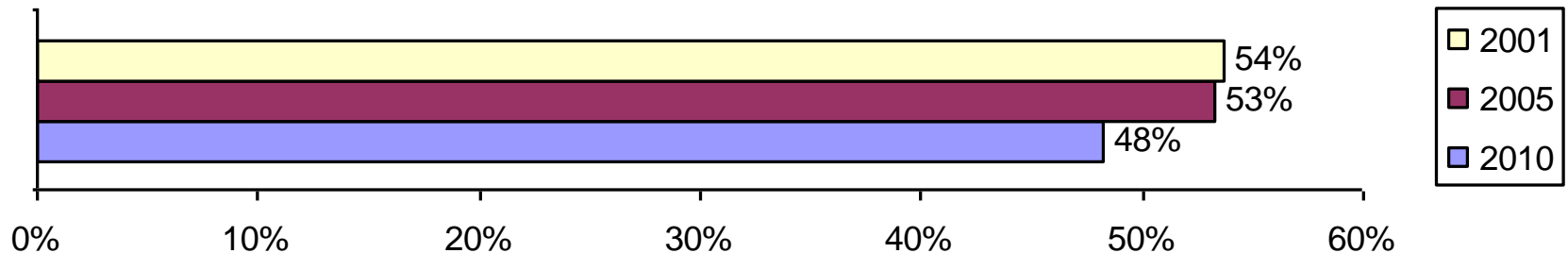




Training – Emergency Medical Service

- 48% of all departments responsible for emergency medical service have *not* formally trained all involved personnel.
- This is down from 54% in 2001 and 53% in 2005.
- The need is decreasing but still substantial.

**Percent of Departments Performing EMS
for Which Not All Involved Personnel Are Formally Trained**

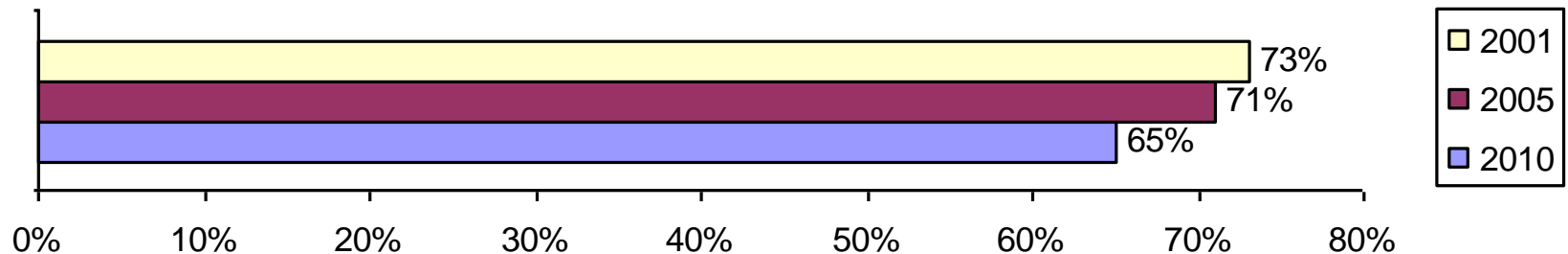




Training – Hazardous Material Response

- 65% of all departments responsible for hazardous material response have *not* formally trained all involved personnel.
- This is down from 73% in 2001 and 71% in 2005.
- The need is decreasing but still substantial.

Percent of Departments Performing Hazardous Material Response
for Which Not All Involved Personnel Are Formally Trained

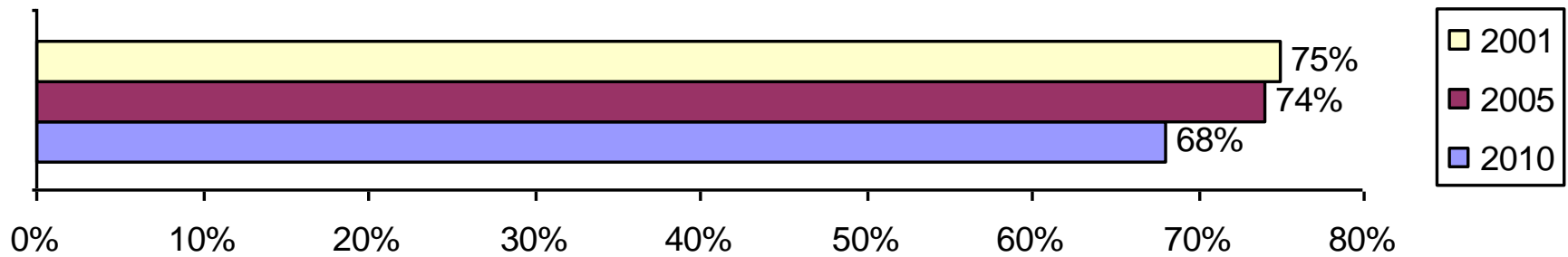




Training – Wildland Firefighting

- 68% of all departments responsible for wildland firefighting have *not* formally trained all involved personnel.
- This is down from 75% in 2001 and 74% in 2005.
- The need is decreasing but still substantial.

**Percent of Departments Performing Wildland Firefighting
for Which Not All Involved Personnel Are Formally Trained**

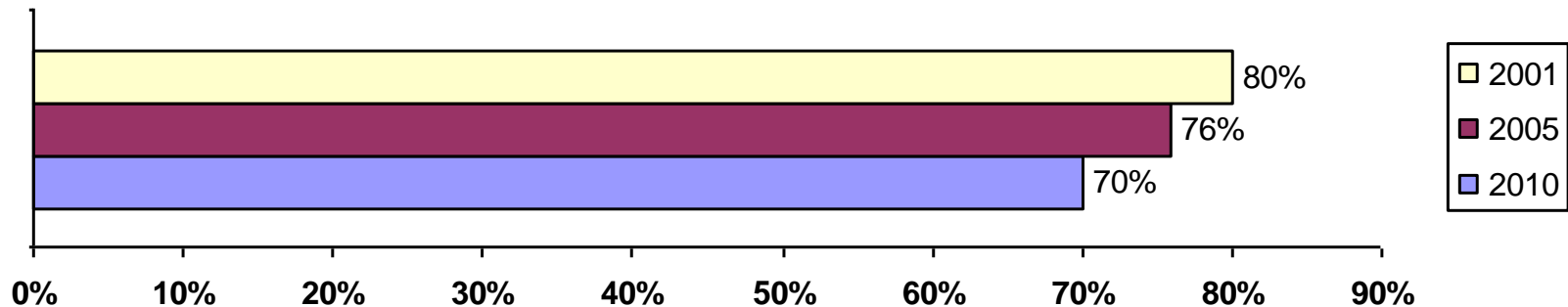




Program to Maintain Basic Firefighter Fitness and Health

- 70% of all departments do *not* have a program to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health.
- This is down from 80% in 2001 and 76% in 2005.

Percent of Departments
Without a Program to Maintain Basic Firefighter Fitness and Health





Adequacy of Personnel

- You need enough staffed stations to provide **adequate speed of response**.
 - We evaluate this against the response speed and distance guidance provided by the Insurance Service Office.
- You need enough people at a structure fire to provide a **safe and effective interior attack**.
 - We evaluate this against NFPA 1710 and NFPA 1720.
- Some departments need enough people to handle two or more simultaneous calls.
 - We do not evaluate this need.



Adequacy of Staffed Stations

- Most departments do *not* have enough staffed stations, regardless of size of community.
Percent without enough staffed stations:
 - 76% for under 5,000 population;
 - 63% for 5,000 to 10,000 population;
 - 76% for 10,000 to 25,000 population;
 - 70% for 25,000 to 50,000 population;
 - 63% for 50,000 to 100,000 population;
 - 72% for 100,000 to 250,000 population;
 - 82% for 250,000 to 500,000 population; and
 - 77% for at least 500,000 population.



Adequacy of Staffing on Apparatus

- We focused on population-size intervals where most firefighters are career firefighters.
 - We see progress in reducing need for departments protecting at least 250,000 population:
 - **23%** of departments did **not** assign at least four career firefighters to an engine or pumper. Down from 36% in 2001 and 33% in 2005.
 - We see little change and much higher need for departments protecting 50,000 to 250,000 population:
 - **67%** of departments did **not** assign at least four career firefighters to an engine or pumper. Largely unchanged from 70% in 2001 and 67% in 2005.



Personal Protective or Firefighting Equipment

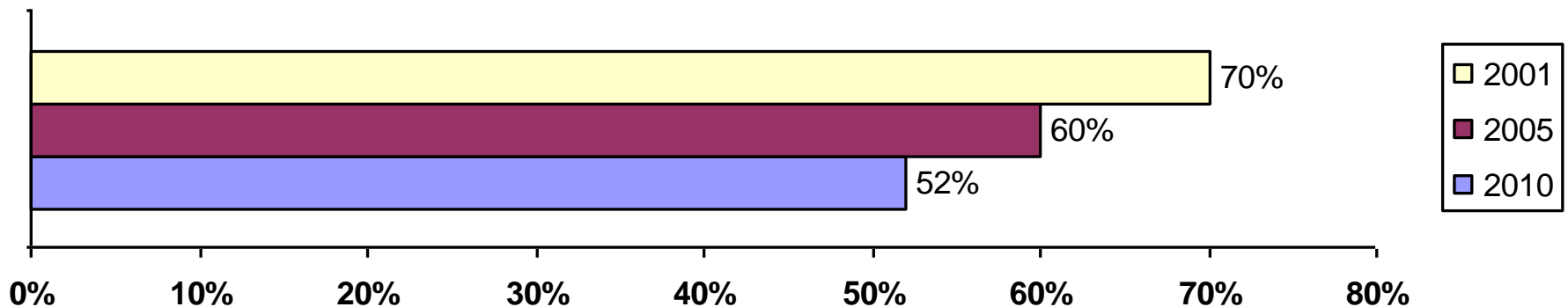
- Here is where we saw the largest reductions in need ... and the largest shares of grants and grant funds under the AFG program.
- We looked at four types of equipment:
 - Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
 - Personal alert safety system (PASS) devices
 - Personal protective clothing
 - Portable radios



Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

- 52% of departments do *not* have enough self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to equip all firefighters.
- This is down from 70% in 2001 and 60% in 2005.
- 55% of departments have some SCBA that is at least 10 years old.

Percent of Departments Where Not All Firefighters on a Shift Are Equipped With SCBA

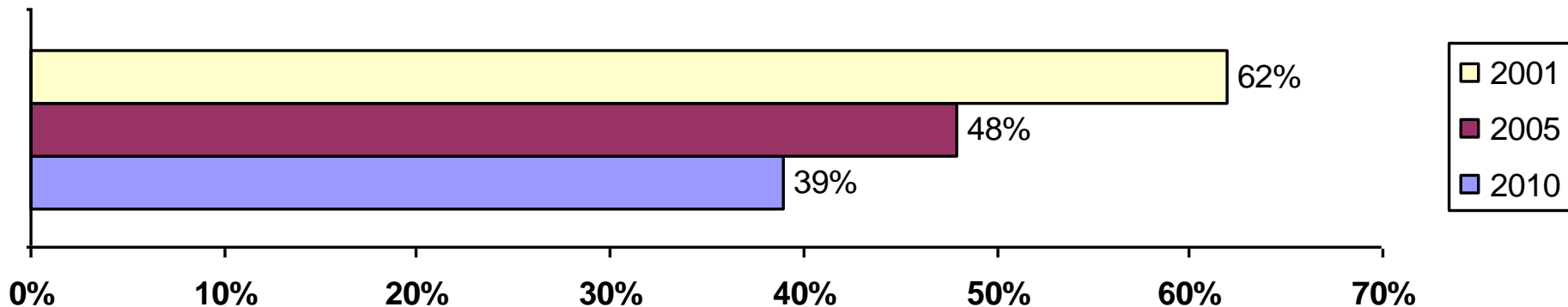




Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) Devices

- 39% of departments do *not* have enough PASS devices to equip all emergency responders.
- This is down from 62% in 2001 and 48% in 2005.
- The need is decreasing.

Percent of Departments Where Not All
Emergency Responders on a Shift Are Equipped With PASS Devices

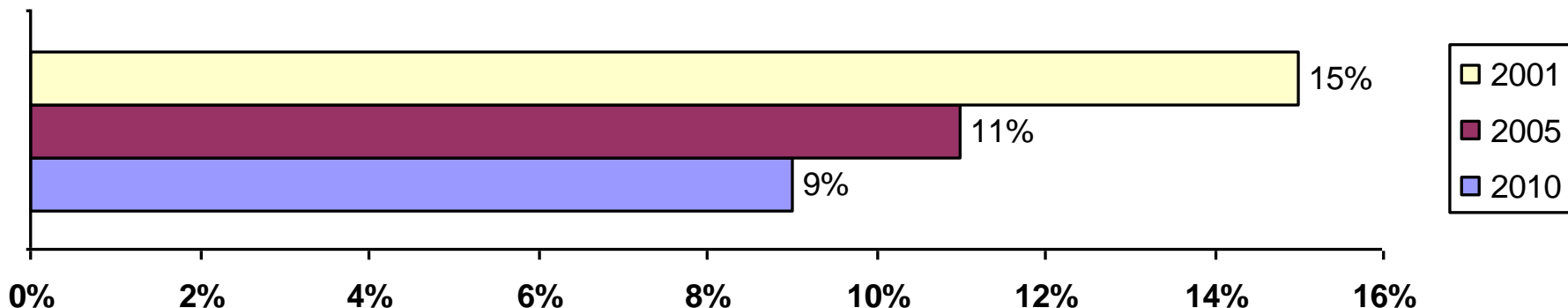




Personal Protective Clothing

- 9% of departments do *not* have enough personal protective clothing to equip all emergency responders.
- This is down from 15% in 2001 and 11% in 2005.
- 63% of departments have some personal protective equipment that is at least 10 years old.

Percent of Departments Where Not All Emergency Responders Have Their Own Personal Protective Clothing

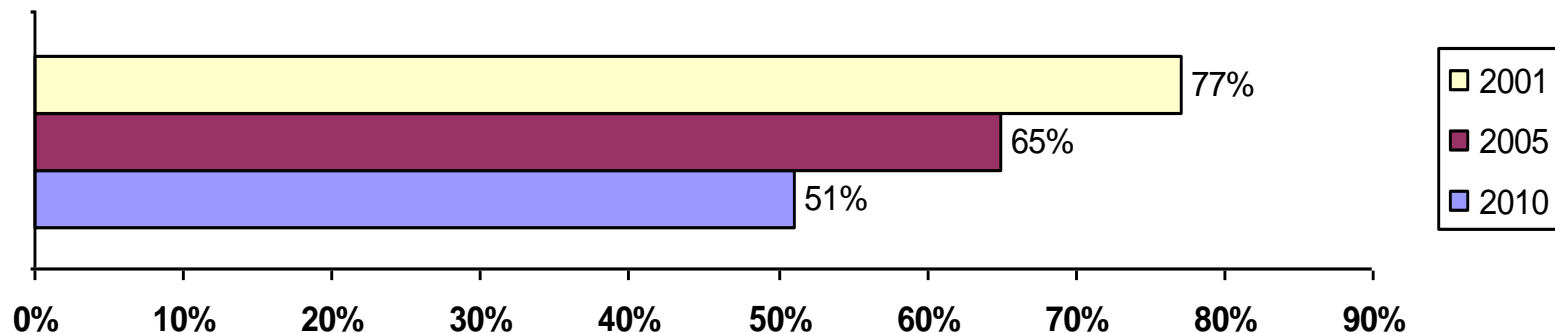




Portable Radios

- 51% of departments do *not* have enough portable radios to equip all emergency responders.
- For 63% not all radios are intrinsically safe in an explosive atmosphere.
- For 59% not all radios are equipped with water resistance.

Percent of Departments Where Not All
Emergency Responders on a Shift Have Portable Radios

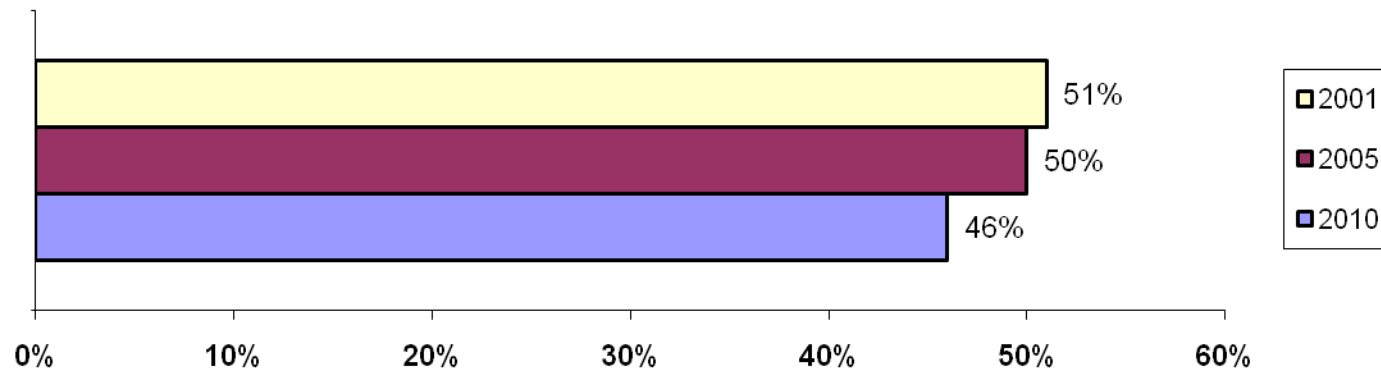




Fire Apparatus (Engines and Pumpers)

- 46% of engines and pumpers are at least 15 years old. We *are* holding the line on aging fire apparatus.
- 11% of engines are at least 30 years old. 66% of older engines are in communities with under 2,500 population.

Percent of Engines That Are At Least 15 Years Old

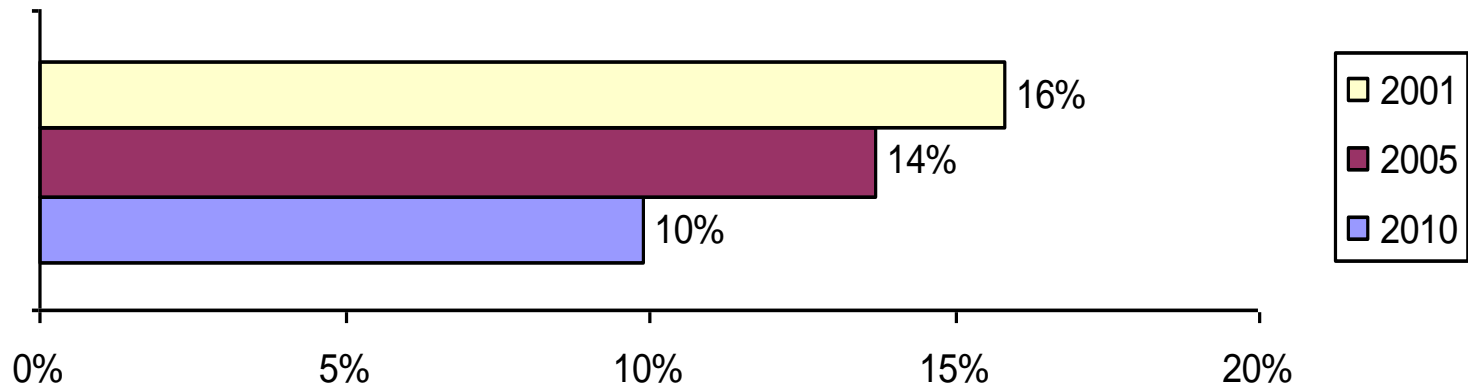




Fire Apparatus (Engines and Pumpers)

- The percentage of AFG grant funds used to purchase apparatus has been highest for the smallest communities.
- These purchases have also helped communities under 2,500 population to reduce their reliance on **converted** vehicles.

Percent of Converted Apparatus for All- or Mostly-Volunteer Departments Protecting Under 2,500 Population





Planning for Unusually Challenging Incidents

- Most departments have responsibility for one or more of the following types of unusually challenging incidents:
 - Structural collapse of building w/ 50 occupants (62% of departments said they were responsible)
 - Chemical/biological agent incident w/ 10 injuries (64%)
 - Wildland/urban interface fire affecting 500 acres (53%)
 - Mitigation of a developing major flood (28%)
- Very few departments can handle any of these incidents using only local specially trained personnel and local specialized equipment.



Planning for Unusually Challenging Incidents

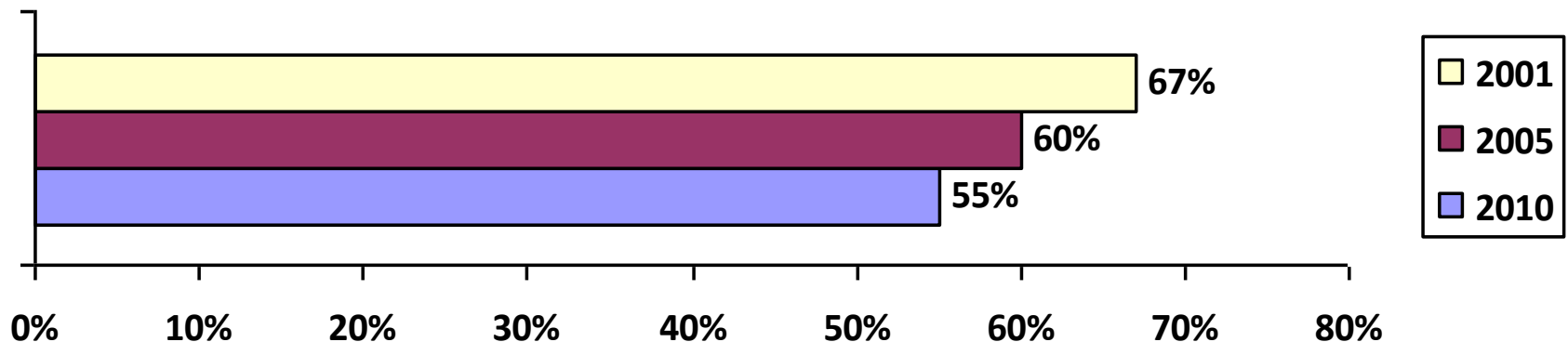
- Increasing percentages of departments now have **written agreements for working with others** on such incidents.
- Especially true for **wildland/urban interface** incidents.
 - National authorities have long taken the lead in facilitating the creation and maintenance of such written agreements.
- The survey did *not* ask:
 - How prepared is department to perform its role in such an agreement ?
 - Does department perform any simulations or exercises to test readiness to execute such agreements?



Planning for Unusually Challenging Incidents

- 55% of departments responsible for technical rescue and EMS at a structural collapse incident with 50 occupants do *not* have a written agreement for working with others.

Percent of All Departments Responsible for
Technical Rescue and EMS at Structural Collapse
With 50 Occupants That *Do Not* Have a
Written Agreement for Working With Others

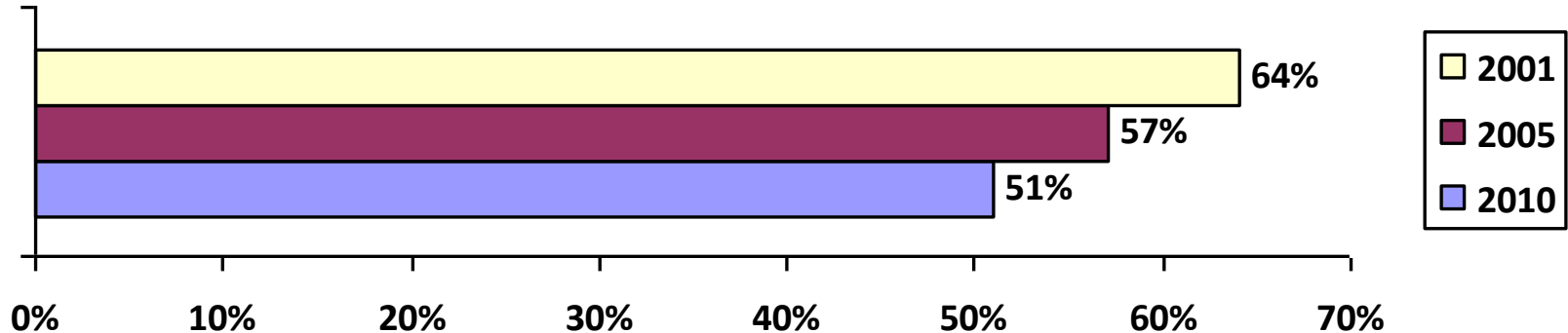




Planning for Unusually Challenging Incidents

- 51% of departments responsible for hazardous material response and EMS at a chemical/biological agent incident with 10 injuries do *not* have a written agreement for working with others.

Percent of All Departments Responsible for
Chemical/Biological Agent Incident
With 10 Injuries That *Do Not* Have a
Written Agreement for Working With Others

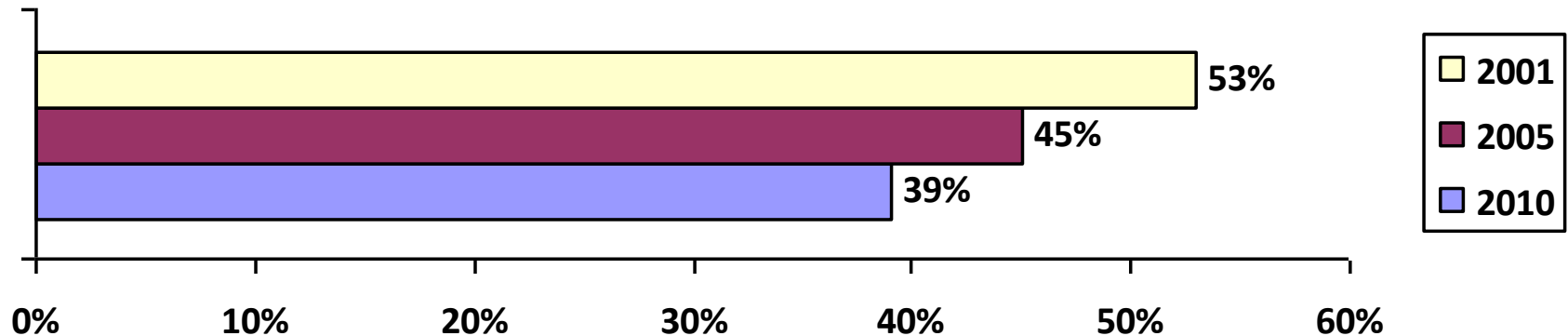




Planning for Unusually Challenging Incidents

- 39% of departments responsible for a wildland/urban interface fire affecting 500 acres do *not* have a written agreement for working with others.

Percent of All Departments Responsible for Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Affecting 500 Acres That *Do Not* Have a Written Agreement for Working With Others

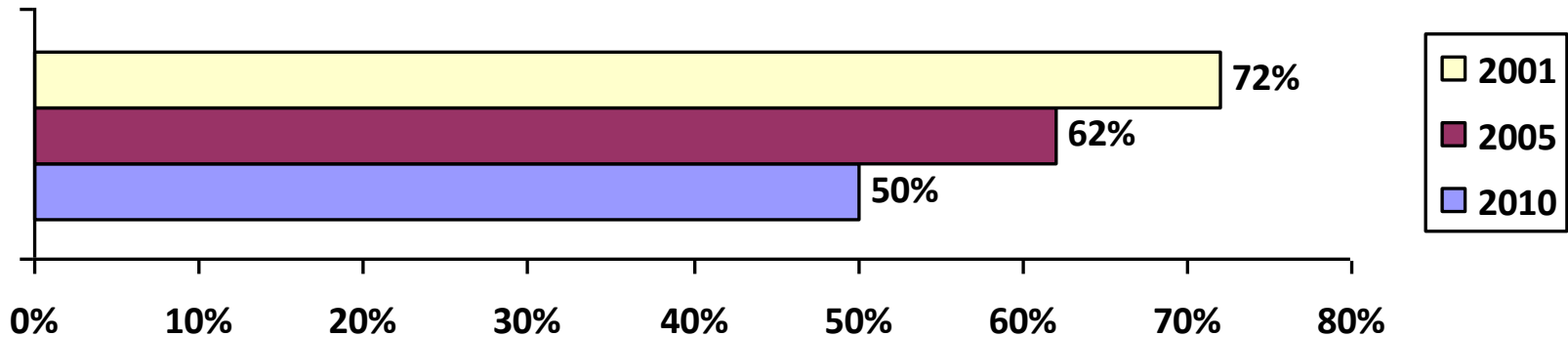




Planning for Unusually Challenging Incidents

- 50% of departments responsible for mitigating a developing major flood do *not* have a written agreement for working with others.

Percent of All Departments Responsible for Mitigation of a Developing Major Flood That *Do Not* Have a Written Agreement for Working With Others





Summary of Main Findings

- **Great deal of progress** in reducing needs
- **Remaining needs are still large.**
- Largest need reductions are for resources with largest shares of grants and grant funds under **AFG and SAFER grant programs.**
- These grant programs have been
 - Effective and cost-effective
 - Essential for the fire service to safely and effectively address responsibilities and challenges of the 21st century.



Summary of Main Findings

- **Needs are greater in smaller communities**
 - That is, a larger percentage of those departments did not have needed resources, for nearly every type of resource we asked about.
 - Especially the all-volunteer departments protecting communities with less than 2,500 population.
- **Progress in reducing needs across the board**
 - From the largest city departments to the smallest rural departments.
- Note the extent of the progress
- But also note the magnitude of the job still ahead.



Summary of Main Findings

- We have not only come a long way.
- We have found a way forward that can take us to the goal we all support:
 - A national fire service fully capable of protecting the lives, health and property of our communities against all the threats and hazards our communities have asked us to address.
- But success requires continued momentum and commitment
 - From local budgets to national grants.
- In our lifetimes, we have never faced a more difficult economic climate to pursue this goal.



Summary of Main Findings

- Success requires more than our energy and commitment.
- It requires us to persuade others to play their parts.
 - Local and state officials
 - Private-sector partners and allies
 - Our fellow citizens
- Making that case begins with a solid and compelling set of facts.
 - That is what the Fire Service Needs Assessment reports provide.