Third Fire Service Needs Assessment

Presentation to CFSI Board

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Would you like to know more?

- Go to [www.nfpa.org/needsassessment](http://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.
• 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

![Bar chart showing the percentage of departments where not all firefighters are formally trained for structural firefighting from 2001 to 2010. The percentages are as follows: 55% in 2001, 53% in 2005, and 46% in 2010.](chart.png)
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

- 2001: 54%
- 2005: 53%
- 2010: 48%
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

- 73% in 2001
- 71% in 2005
- 65% in 2010
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**

- 2001: 75%
- 2005: 74%
- 2010: 68%
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

- 2001: 80%
- 2005: 76%
- 2010: 70%
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.
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
• 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.
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.
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

- 2001: 77%
- 2005: 65%
- 2010: 51%
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.
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

- 2001: 10%
- 2005: 14%
- 2010: 16%
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

- 51% in 2001
- 57% in 2005
- 64% in 2010
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

- 2001: 72%
- 2005: 62%
- 2010: 50%
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.