



GAC comments pertaining to
Recent Trends in Fire Apparatus Safety

Significant improvement in apparatus safety standards were introduced into NFPA 1901 specification in 1992.

An independent study has validated that over the past decade, safer fire apparatus has significantly reduced the number of firefighter deaths and injuries due to collisions...**

Over the past decade.....

- 15% reduction in collisions per call
- 40% reduction in injuries per call
- 20% reduction in fatalities per call

During the same time period...

- The number of new trucks entering service per capita is declining
- The number of emergency calls per year has increased by 40%
- The number of new trucks put into service per 100,000 calls has declined by 30%

With the aging baby boomer population, it is likely that emergency call frequency will increase. In spite of data demonstrating the impact of safer vehicles on fire fighter injuries and fatalities, the number of new apparatus available per call is declining.

Nearly half of all fire trucks are 15 years and older and the majority of US Fire Departments do not have an apparatus replacement plan. Replacement of obsolete apparatus not in compliance with the latest safety standards is required to further reduce firefighter fatalities and injuries and better cope with the rising frequency of emergency calls.

****Independent study by McMahon and Associates in association with Boston University commissioned by the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association in 2007**

March 28, 2007