



FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

United States Fire Service Needs Assessment

There has been substantial progress in reducing many fire department needs, although more remains to be done. In nearly every area of need, **the smaller the community, the greater the need.**

Access the full national report and other outreach products at www.nfpa.org/needsassessment

Staffing

Career Firefighters: [NFPA 1710](#) requires NFPA 1710 at least four career firefighters per engine or pumper. The 2015 survey showed a 9–25 percentage point increase in the number of departments assigning fewer than four firefighters per apparatus.

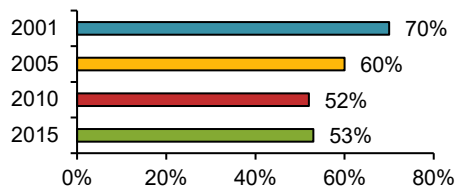
Volunteer Firefighters: [NFPA 1720](#) calls for a minimum of four firefighters on-site before starting an interior attack on a structure fire. Roughly four out of five volunteer fire departments respond with four or more firefighters.

Protective Equipment and Clothing

In 2015, the percentage of departments without enough equipment to outfit all personnel (or all personnel on a shift, as appropriate) was:

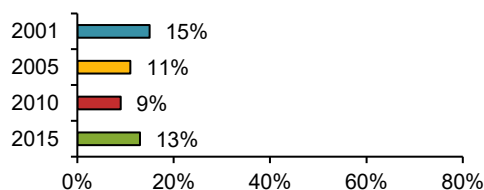
- 53% for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) compared to 70% in 2001 and 52% in 2010.

Departments Where Not All Firefighters on a Shift Are Equipped with SCBA



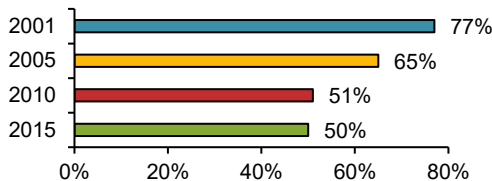
- 13% for personal protective clothing (PPC) compared to 15% in 2001 and 9% in 2010.

Departments Where Not All Firefighters Have Their Own PPC



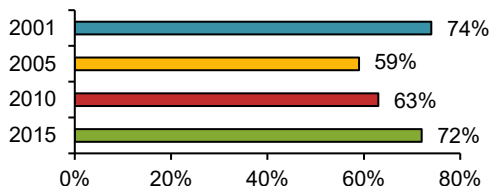
- 50% for portable radios compared to 77% in 2001 and 51% in 2010.

Departments Where Not All Firefighters on a Shift Are Equipped with Radios



- 72% for personal protective clothing (PPC) compared to 74% in 2001 and 63% in 2010.

Departments Where Some PPC Is At Least 10 Years Old



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

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