



National Fire Department Census



FEMA

Why a National Fire Department Census?

In the spring of 1998, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) convened a Blue Ribbon Panel of prominent members of the U.S. fire service to review the structure, mission, and purpose of the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and to make recommendations for the future of the Federal fire focus. The Blue Ribbon Panel noted the lack of a comprehensive list of fire departments and baseline data for the definition of the composition, capabilities, and activities of the Nation's fire service. Their recommendation was for the USFA to develop a fire department census.

In the fall of 2001, the USFA launched a nationwide campaign for voluntary registration of fire departments by means of direct mailing, coordination with fire service organizations and State offices, referencing existing data sources, and conference promotions. By March 2004, close to 22,000 fire departments had registered with the National Fire Department Census.

The purpose of the census is to create a national database for use by the fire protection and prevention communities, allied professions, the general public, and the USFA. USFA will use the database to conduct special studies, guide program decisionmaking, and to improve direct communication with individual fire departments.

The census database provides a current directory of registered fire departments and includes basic information including address, department type, Web site, and number

of stations. The survey also collects information that will be released in summary format only: population and area protected, number of personnel, and specialized services.

City of ABC Fire Department	
Address:	ABC Street
	ABC, Maryland 21727
County:	WASHINGTON
Dept Type:	Mostly Career
Org Type:	Local
Website:	www.abcfiredepartment.com
Stations:	6 view additional addresses

Search results from the National Fire Department Census as displayed on the USFAWeb site.

Visit the National Fire Department Census on the USFA Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/fdonline/ to:

- view or download the current online directory;
- register your department in the fire department census; and
- update your department's information in the fire department census.

For more information about the National Fire Department
Census or to obtain a copy of the census form, contact:

**National Fire Department Census
United States Fire Administration**

16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
(800) 238-3358
www.usfa.fema.gov

FA-278/March 2004