

Table 352. The U.S. Fire Service: Departments and Personnel: 1990 to 2008

[(In thousands 1,025.7 represents 1,025,700.) A fire department is a public or private organization that provides fire prevention, fire suppression, and associated emergency and non-emergency services to a jurisdiction such as a county, municipality, or organized fire district. For 2008, there was an estimated 30,170 fire departments in the United States. These fire departments have an estimated 52,400 fire stations, 68,200 pumers, 6,725 aerial apparatus and 75,300 other suppression vehicles. A fire department responds to a fire every 22 seconds]

Items	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fire departments (Number)									
Total	30,391	31,197	30,339	30,542	30,400	30,300	30,635	30,185	30,170
All career	1,949	1,831	2,178	2,018	1,917	2,087	2,321	2,263	2,315
Mostly career	1,338	1,660	1,667	1,582	1,242	1,766	1,731	1,765	1,790
Mostly volunteer	4,000	4,581	4,523	5,271	4,084	4,902	5,134	4,989	4,830
All volunteer	23,104	23,125	21,971	21,671	23,157	21,575	21,449	21,168	21,235
Fire Department personnel (1,000)	1,025.7	1,098.9	1,064.2	1,096.9	1,100.8	1,136.7	1,140.9	1,148.5	1,148.9
Career ¹	253.0	260.9	286.8	296.9	305.2	313.3	317.0	323.4	321.7
Volunteer ²	772.7	838.0	777.4	800.1	795.6	823.7	824.0	825.5	827.2

¹ Career firefighters include full-time uniform firefighters regardless of assignment (i.e., suppression, administrative, prevention/inspection, etc.). Career firefighters do not include firefighters who work for the state or federal government or in private fire brigades. ² Volunteer firefighters include any active part-time (call or volunteer) firefighters.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, October 2009 Annual Fire Department Profile Report and prior issues (copyright 2009), <<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=955&URL=Research/Fire%20statistics/The%20U.S.%20fire%20service>>.

Table 353. Fires—Number and Loss by Type and Property Use: 2005 to 2008

[1,602 represents 1,602,000 and property loss of 10,672 represents \$10,672,000,000. Based on annual sample survey of fire departments. No adjustments were made for unreported fires and losses]

Type and property use	Number (1,000)				Direct property loss (mil. dol.) ¹			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fires, total	1,602	1,642	1,557	1,451	10,672	11,307	14,639	15,478
Structure	511	524	531	515	9,193	9,636	10,638	12,361
Outside of structure ²	78	82	85	71	93	262	707	129
Brush and rubbish	594	627	561	523	—	—	—	—
Vehicle	290	278	257	236	1,318	1,319	1,411	1,494
Other	129	131	123	106	68	90	³ 1,883	⁴ 1,494
Structure by property use:								
Public assembly	13	13	15	14	320	444	498	518
Educational	6	6	6	6	67	105	100	66
Institutional	8	8	7	7	40	42	41	22
Stores and offices	23	20	21	20	687	691	642	684
Residential	396	413	414	403	6,875	6,990	7,546	8,550
1–2 family homes ⁵	287	304	300	291	5,781	5,936	6,225	6,892
Apartments	94	92	99	96	948	896	1,164	1,351
Other residential ⁶	15	17	15	16	146	158	157	307
Storage	30	29	31	30	590	650	670	661
Industry, utility, defense ⁷	12	12	12	10	376	573	779	⁸ 1,401
Special structures	23	23	25	25	238	141	362	459

— Represents zero. ¹ Direct property damage figures do not include indirect losses, like business interruption, and adjustments for inflation. ² Includes outside storage, crops, timber, etc. ³ Includes California Fire Storm 2007 with an estimated \$1.8 billion in property loss. ⁴ Includes California Wildfires 2008 with an estimated \$1.4 billion in property loss. ⁵ Includes mobile homes. ⁶ Includes hotels and motels, college dormitories, boarding houses, etc. ⁷ Data underreported as some incidents were handled by private fire brigades or fixed suppression systems which do not report. ⁸ Includes three industrial property incidents that resulted in \$775 million in property loss.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, "2008 U.S. Fire Loss," NFPA Journal, September 2009, and prior issues (copyright 2009), <<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/OS.fireloss.pdf>>.

Table 354. Fires and Property Loss for Incendiary and Suspicious Fires and Civilian Fire Deaths and Injuries by Selected Property Type: 2005 to 2008

[511 represents 511,000. Based on sample survey of fire departments]

Characteristic	2005	2006	2007	2008	Characteristic	2005	2006	2007	2008
NUMBER (1,000)					One- and two-family dwellings	2,575	2,155	2,350	2,365
Structure fires, total	511	524	531	515	Apartments	460	425	515	390
Structure fires that were intentionally set	32	31	32	31	Vehicles	520	490	385	365
PROPERTY LOSS ¹ (mil. dol.)					CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES				
Structure fires, total	9,193	9,636	10,638	12,361	Injuries, total ²	17,925	16,400	17,675	16,705
Structure fires that were intentionally set	664	775	773	866	Residential property	13,825	12,925	14,000	13,560
CIVILIAN FIRE DEATHS					One- and two-family dwellings	10,300	8,800	9,650	9,185
Deaths, total ²	3,675	3,245	3,430	3,320	Apartments.. . . .	3,000	3,700	3,950	3,975
Residential property	3,055	2,620	2,895	2,780	Vehicles	1,650	1,200	1,675	1,065

¹ Direct property loss only. ² Includes other not shown separately.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, "2008 U.S. Fire Loss," NFPA Journal, September 2009, and prior issues (copyright 2008), <<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/OS.fireloss.pdf>>.