



# FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

## The United States Fire Service

**1,160,450** firefighters from 29,727 local fire departments protected the United States in 2015.

- ▶ **30%** (345,600) were career firefighters.
- ▶ **70%** (814,850) were volunteer firefighters.
- ▶ **7%** (85,100) of the firefighters were female.

Nationwide, 39% of fire departments provided no emergency medical services, 45% provided basic life support (BLS), and 16% provided advanced life support (ALS).

### Fatalities

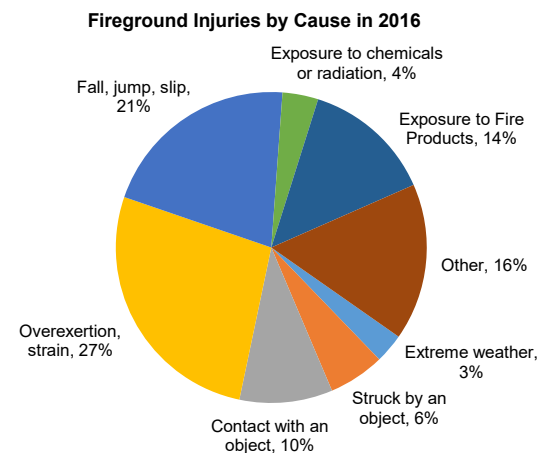
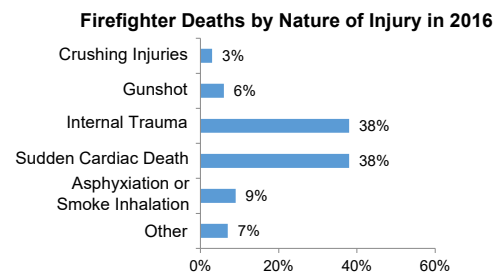
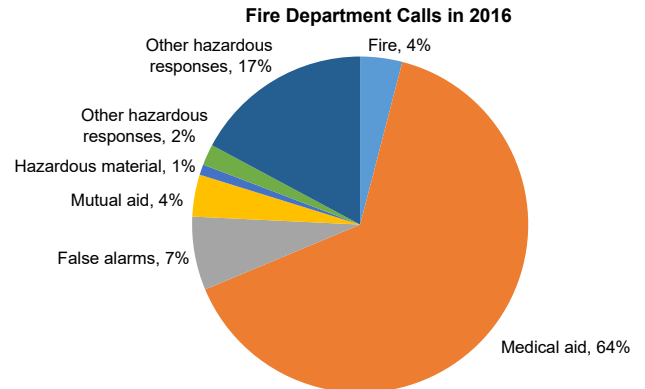
**69** on-duty firefighters were fatally injured in 2016.

- ▶ Sudden cardiac death and internal trauma each caused **26** fatalities.
- ▶ The largest share of deaths occurred while firefighters were responding to and returning from alarms (**17** deaths).
- ▶ **15** firefighters died on the fireground with **7** at structure fires.
- ▶ **17** firefighters died in vehicle crashes, the highest since 2008.

### Injuries

**62,085** firefighters were injured in 2016.

- ▶ Strain, sprain, and muscular pain were the leading type of injury.
- ▶ The leading type of duty where the most injuries occurred was on the fireground (39%), followed by non-fire emergencies (21%), other on-duty activities (18%), training (14%), and responding or returning to an incident (8%).



Sources: *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States - 2016*, *U.S. Firefighter Injuries - 2016*, *U.S. Fire Department Profile - 2015*, and *Fire Loss in the United States During 2016*

Source: **NFPA Research:** [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research)

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