

Table 343. The U.S. Fire Service: Departments and Personnel: 1990 to 2007

[(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 2007, there are an estimated 30,185 fire departments in the United States. These fire departments have an estimated 51,950 fire stations, 68,050 pumpers, 6,750 aerial apparatus and 74,350 other suppression vehicles. A fire department responds to a fire every 20 seconds]

Item	1990	1995	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fire departments									
Total	30,391	31,197	30,339	30,310	30,542	30,400	30,300	30,635	30,185
All career	1,949	1,831	2,178	2,044	2,018	1,917	2,087	2,321	2,263
Mostly career	1,338	1,660	1,667	1,480	1,582	1,242	1,766	1,731	1,765
Mostly volunteer	4,000	4,581	4,523	4,886	5,271	4,084	4,902	5,134	4,989
All volunteer	23,104	23,125	21,971	21,900	21,671	23,157	21,575	21,449	21,168
Fire Department personnel (1,000)	1,025.7	1,098.9	1,064.2	1,108.3	1,096.9	1,100.8	1,136.7	1,140.9	1,148.8
Career ¹	253.0	260.9	286.8	291.7	296.9	305.2	313.3	317.0	323.4
Volunteer ²	772.7	838.0	777.4	816.6	800.1	795.6	823.7	824.0	825.5

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Source: National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, Annual Fire Department Profile Report, an unpublished NFPA annual report.