



National Fire Protection Association  
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## FACTS ABOUT FIRE - 2008

### Fire Loss in the United States

- In 2008, U.S. public fire departments responded to 1,451,500 fires in the United States. These include 515,000 structure fires, 236,000 vehicle fires, and 700,500 outside and other fires.  
*Every 22 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States.*
- In 2008, there were 3,320 civilian fire deaths.  
*Nationwide, a civilian fire death is reported every 2 hours 38 minutes.*
- In 2008, 386,500 homes fires caused 2,755, or 83%, of civilian fire deaths.  
*On average, home fires kill eight people every day nationwide.*
- In 2008, 79% (13,160) of the 16,705 reported civilian fire injuries resulted from home fires.  
*Nationwide, a civilian fire injury is reported every 31 minutes.*

### United States Fire Service

- In 2008, there were 1,148,850 firefighters in the United States, serving in 30,170 departments. Of these firefighters, 321,700 were career and 827,150 were volunteer.
- All career fire departments totaled 2,315 (or 8% of all departments) in 2008, protecting 45% of the population. Mostly career departments totaled 1,790 (6% of all departments), protecting 17% of the population. Mostly volunteer departments totaled 4,830 (16% of all departments), protecting 17% of the population. All volunteer departments totaled 21,235 (70% of all departments), protecting 22% of the population.
- In 2008, a total of 104 firefighters were fatally injured while on duty. Of these, 42 were career, 54 were volunteer, and 7 were non-municipal (those not employed by local, public fire departments).
- In 2008, 79,700 firefighters were injured in the line of duty. Of those, 36,595 (46%) occurred during fireground operations.

### False Alarms in the United States

- In 2008, United States fire departments responded to 2,241,500 false alarms. Of the total of false alarms, 765,000 resulted from a system malfunction, 190,000 were malicious, 982,500 were unintentional, and 304,000 were others, such as bomb scares.

Visit NFPA's web site for additional fire statistics and a link to over forty printable fact sheets on the U.S. fire problem. <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=951&URL=Research/Fire%20statistics>

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Sources: *Fire Loss in the United States 2008*, by Michael J. Karter, Jr.; *U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2008*, by Michael J. Karter, Jr. and Gary P. Stein; *Firefighter Fatalities in the U.S.-2008*, by Rita Fahy, Paul R. LeBlanc, and Joseph L. Molis (firefighter fatality figures have been updated since publication); and *U.S. Firefighter Injuries- 2008*, by Michael J. Karter, Jr. and Joseph L. Molis.

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