

FIRE & ALL-HAZARDS FIRST RESPONSE



FACT 1

Fire Departments in Ontario receive 490,000 calls for help from the public every year, which means that firefighters are responding to a call every minute of every day. The number of calls for assistance has increased by 38% over the past decade.

FACT 2

Approximately 85% of all fire department calls for assistance are for non-fire related emergencies, such as medical aid, motor vehicle collisions, floods, building collapses, natural disasters and other hazardous responses.

FACT 3

Ontario Fire Departments respond to 28,600 fires annually which cause on average 101 civilian deaths and 862 civilian injuries per year, making fire more deadly than all other natural disasters combined. Due to the ongoing public education and fire prevention activities of the fire service, the number of fires has actually declined over the past 10 years by 11%, and the number of preventable fires has declined by 32%.

FACT 4

Fires lead to \$414.3 million in direct property loss annually according to the Fire Marshal of Ontario.

PERSONNEL & CAPABILITIES

FACT 5

There are 30,000 firefighters across the province, of whom 64% are volunteer firefighters. Over 94% of communities in Ontario rely on volunteer fire fighters for all or part of their emergency response. Services contributed by volunteer firefighters save these communities an estimated \$ 1 billion per year.

FACT 6

Most career firefighters (94%) are in communities that protect a population of 25,000 or more while most volunteer firefighters (75%) are in departments that protect communities of less than 25,000.

APPARATUS & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

FACT 7

An estimated 68% of fire departments are using at least some firefighter personal protective equipment that is over 10 years old.

FACT 8

- There are 2,654 fire trucks in service in Ontario.
- Roughly 42% of all fire trucks are at least 15 years old and do not meet the minimum requirements of the Fire Underwriters Survey.
 - One of every 6 fire trucks is over 20 years old.

COMMUNICATIONS & INTEROPERABILITY

FACT 9

Only 12% of fire departments have radios which can communicate at emergency scenes directly with the police, ambulance or Emergency Management Ontario.

FACT 10

76% of fire departments do not have enough portable radios to equip all emergency responders who are on duty. The percentage of departments that cannot provide radios to all emergency responders is highest for communities with fewer than 25,000 residents.