



COLORADO

Division of Fire Prevention & Control

Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL RELEASES FIRE NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

LAKEWOOD, COLO. - (August 25, 2025) - The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) completed its biennial Fire Service Needs Assessment. Conducted from November 2024 to the end of December 2024, this project aimed to create a comprehensive census of all fire departments in the state. This includes departments staffed by career personnel, volunteers, or a combination of both. This report presents the findings from that data collection effort.

The purpose of this Fire Service Needs Assessment is to provide the DFPC with a detailed overview of the current resource capacity and training requirements of fire departments across the State of Colorado. Over fifty-seven percent (57%) of the fire departments in the state participated in the assessment, with 194 out of 340 eligible departments providing information about their resources and training needs.

Key takeaways from the survey include:

- The responding fire departments need an additional 1,121 career and 1,142 volunteer firefighters over the next 2 years.
- Fire departments report needing 753 new and replacement apparatuses over the next two years.
- To meet their equipment needs, fire departments would need to spend over \$25,282,489 over the next 2 years.
- Seventy-seven percent (77%) of fire departments cite time commitments as a barrier to obtaining state fire certifications.

Eighty-two percent (82%) of fire departments indicated they do not have adequate funding to address their top three needs. The overall ranking of needs showed that personnel was the top need, followed by apparatus, training, facilities, and equipment. A justification for these needs can be found in section four of the report. "While the needs of fire departments vary across the state, many face similar challenges, and the DFPC works hard to support these evolving needs," said DFPC Professional Qualifications Section Chief Lisa Pine.

The DFPC will use the information to help develop strategies to address the needs of Colorado's Fire Service. This effort will require more than just DFPC; it will demand the creativity, skills, and collective efforts of everyone engaged in or served by the Colorado Fire Service.

"We will use the information to help develop strategies to address the needs of Colorado's Fire Service," said DFPC Director Mike Morgan, "this is an effort that will take more than DFPC, it will take the creativity, the skills, and the efforts of everyone engaged in or served by the Colorado Fire Service." To read the 2024 Colorado Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey Results Report visit dfpc.colorado.gov/2024FFNeedsAssessment.

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About the Professional Qualifications and Training Section

The Professional Qualifications and Training Section of DFPC offers educational programs for various roles, including Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Responder, Driver Operator, Fire Officer, Youth Firesetter Prevention, Fire and Life Safety Educator, and Fire Instructor. Additionally, this section hosts three fire schools each year that provide National Fire Academy courses. It also supports other essential fire education and training programs to meet the needs of the fire service.

