



### Duracell Volunteer Firefighters Poll 2011

*This national survey was conducted online by IPSOS Public Affairs on January 4-11, 2011 using a national sample of 523 volunteer firefighters members of the National Volunteer Fire Council. For more information please visit: <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5104>*

**NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.**

Region (Based on QS3: Please select the state where your volunteer fire department is located)

	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Northeast	153	29
Midwest	122	23
South	184	35
West	74	14

1. On average, how many hours per week do you spend serving as a volunteer firefighter?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1-5	12	10	13	11	19
6-10	29	32	31	23	32
11-20	35	39 <sup>w</sup>	34	38 <sup>w</sup>	23
21-40	16	15	12	18	19
More than 40 hours	8	4	10	10	7
Don't know/Not sure	0	0	1	0	0

2. And how many hours per week do you spend working on your paid profession?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1-5	0	0	1	0	1
6-10	1	0	1	1	0
11-20	2	3	2	1	0
21-40	21	28 <sup>s</sup>	18	17	22
More than 40 hours	63	52	69	70	58
I'm retired from my paid profession	10	14	4	8	12 <sup>m</sup>
Not applicable	4	3	5	3	5
Don't know/Not sure	0	0	1	0	0

3. In a given year, approximately how many times do you have to take an un-paid leave from your paid profession in order to fulfill your duties as a volunteer firefighter?

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
None	42		43	38	46	38
One to five times per year	29		27	34	27	30
Six to ten times per year	15		16	12	16	15
More than ten times per year	12		11	16	9	18
Don't know/ Not sure	2		3	1	2	0

4. Which of the following is the most common time of the day you are called upon to serve as a volunteer firefighter?

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
6 a.m.- Noon	6		9 <sup>s</sup>	6	4	4
Noon-6 p.m.	19		18	23	17	19
6 p.m. –Midnight	51		50	46	54	53
Midnight-6 a.m.	13		10	15	15	12
Don't know/ Not sure	11		13	11	10	12

5. During which season does your volunteer fire department receive the greatest volume of emergency calls?

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Winter	15		15	7	19	18
Spring	5		2	11 <sup>ns</sup>	4	3
Summer	17		11	22 <sup>ns</sup>	13	32 <sup>ns</sup>
Fall	5		7	6	4	3
Equally during all seasons	54		63 <sup>mw</sup>	51	55 <sup>w</sup>	38
Don't know/ not sure	4		3	3	4	7

6. Taking into account all sources (federal funds, donations, fundraising, etc.); does your volunteer fire department have sufficient funds to sustain all the areas in which it operates?

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Yes	31		39 <sup>sw</sup>	35 <sup>w</sup>	26	22
No	64		56	62	70	66
Don't know	5		5	3	4	12 <sup>nmc</sup>

7. Do you and/or your family ever invest your own money in purchasing firefighter supplies and/or equipment for you or your department?

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Yes	86		84	84	89	87
No	14		16	16	11	14

**[Q8 ASKED TO 'YES' RESPONSES – THOSE WHO SPEND THEIR OWN MONEY ON PURCHASING SUPPLIES AND/OR EQUIPMENT – AT Q7; n=459]**

8. Approximately how much of your own money do you and/or your family invest each year in purchasing firefighter supplies and/or equipment for you or your department?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
\$0 to \$100	18	24 <sup>s</sup>	21 <sup>s</sup>	12	14
\$101 to \$500	55	54	52	55	63
\$501 to \$1,000	17	14	18	22	13
More than \$1,000	8	5	9	9	11
Don't know/ not sure	2	3	1	2	0

9. In general, which of the following are the three most critical pieces of equipment you need as a volunteer firefighter?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Personal Protective Equipment	71	75	66	70	72
Radios and communication devices	60	60	62	58	62
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	52	62	48	48	45
Updated fire apparatus	33	23	36 <sup>n</sup>	38 <sup>n</sup>	32
Heavy tools/machinery (e.g. Jaws of Life, portable pump, ladders, etc.)	19	18	23	17	20
Thermal imaging cameras	17	15	15	19	20
Fire hoses, extinguishers, and hand held tools	17	15	21 <sup>w</sup>	20 <sup>w</sup>	10
PASS devices	9	9	12	9	5
None of the above	1	1	2	1	3
Don't know/ not sure	1	1	0	1	1

10. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

<u>Total</u>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat Disagree
Faulty equipment could represent a risk to my life and the lives of others.	93	6	1	0	0
Our community relies on volunteer rescue personnel in emergency situations.	90	8	1	0	0
I could not do my job correctly if my equipment did not work properly.	87	10	1	1	1
Being a volunteer firefighter means that sometimes I have to risk my life to save the lives of others.	79	18	2	1	0

10. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

<u>Regions</u>	Total Agree (strongly/somewhat agree)					Total Disagree (somewhat/strongly disagree)				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
Faulty equipment could represent a risk to my life and the lives of others.	99	99	98	98	100	1	1	1	1	0
Our community relies on volunteer rescue personnel in emergency situations.	98	97	98	98	99	1	2	1	0	0
I could not do my job correctly if my equipment did not work properly.	98	97	98	97	100	1	1	2	2	0
Being a volunteer firefighter means that sometimes I have to risk my life to save the lives of others.	97	97	98	96	99	1	0	3	2	0

11. Approximately how many years have you been serving as a volunteer firefighter?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Less than a year to 10 years	22	18	16	23	39 <sup>nms</sup>
11-20 years	24	18	21	30	24
21-30 years	26	21	39 <sup>nsd</sup>	23	20
More than 30 years	28	43	24	23	16

12. Which of the following are the main reasons why you became a volunteer firefighter?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
In order to give back to my community	75	71	77	76	80
Our town relies on volunteers to serve as emergency personnel in times of need	58	57	59	55	62
It is a fulfilling occupation	41	44 <sup>w</sup>	40	45 <sup>w</sup>	28
There is nothing better than protecting life and property	30	24	29	33	30
I wanted to follow in my parent's footsteps	18	25 <sup>sw</sup>	19	15	12
One or more of my friends are volunteer firefighters	17	18	16	16	16
I wanted to save lives	13	15	12	15	7
I enjoy the thrill	12	11	9	11	19
I have a personal or family experience being rescued or helped by a firefighter	6	4	6	7	8
None of the above	1	1	1	2	0

13. How many generations of your family have served as volunteer firefighters?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
You are a first-generation volunteer firefighter	51	42	49	53	69 <sup>nms</sup>
Two generations	26	26	29	25	22
Three generations	15	21 <sup>w</sup>	16 <sup>w</sup>	14 <sup>w</sup>	4
Four generations or more	4	7	3	3	1
I have a sibling(s) that have served as a volunteer firefighter(s)	4	4	3	4	4
Don't know/ Not sure	0	0	0	1	0

[Q14 ASKED TO ONLY PARENTS; N=442]

14. Would you want your own children to serve as volunteer firefighters?

	<u>Total</u> n=442	<u>Northeast</u> n=122	<u>Midwest</u> n=103	<u>South</u> n=161	<u>West</u> n=56
Yes	63	53	64	66 <sup>n</sup>	77 <sup>n</sup>
No	5	6	2	5	5
At least one of my children already serves as a volunteer firefighter	28	36 <sup>sw</sup>	32 <sup>w</sup>	25	13
Don't know/ Not sure	4	5	2	4	5

[Q15 ASKED TO THOSE WHO ANSWERED 'YES' – WOULD LIKE CHILDREN TO BECOME A FIREFIGHTER – AT Q14; N=280]

15. Which of the following are the top two reasons why you would want your child(ren) to serve as a volunteer firefighter?

	<u>Total</u> n=280	<u>Northeast</u> n=65	<u>Midwest</u> n=66	<u>South</u> n=106	<u>West</u> n=43
So they can give back to their community	79	86	76	75	81
It is a fulfilling occupation	50	43	55	56	42
Without our job, there would be a lack of rescue personnel in our area	38	35	39	40	37
There is nothing better than protecting life and property	27	14	29 <sup>n</sup>	37 <sup>n</sup>	21
Would like for them to follow in my footsteps	25	37 <sup>w</sup>	21	25	16
So they can save lives	11	11	11	12	10
It is a thrilling occupation	4	0	3	7	2
None of the Above	1	0	0	2	2
Don't know/ Not sure	0	0	0	0	2

**[Q16 ASKED TO THOSE ANSWERED “NO” – DO NOT WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO BECOME A FIGHTFIGHTER  
– AT Q14; N=20]**

16. Which of the following are the top three reasons why you would not want your child(ren) to serve as a volunteer firefighter? (Please select up to three)

	<u>Total*</u> n=20	<u>Northeast*</u> n=7	<u>Midwest*</u> n=2	<u>South*</u> n=8	<u>West*</u> n=3
It can be stressful	45	43	50	50	33
It is a dangerous occupation	40	29	0	50	67
It can be hard on your mental health	40	43	50	50	0
The resources are not available to fund the job appropriately	35	29	50	25	67
It takes up too much personal time.	35	29	100	25	33
It is an unforgiving occupation	25	14	50	25	33
None of the Above	5	14	0	0	0
Don't know/ Not sure	0	0	0	0	0

\*Very small base; results not suitable to be used for public release.