Fact Sheet
Louisiana Fire Service Needs Assessment

There has been substantial progress in reducing many fire department needs, although more remains to be done.

### Protective Equipment and Clothing

The 2010 percentage of Louisiana departments **without enough equipment to equip all personnel** (or all personnel on a shift, as appropriate) was:

- **27%** for **self-contained breathing apparatus** (SCBA), compared to 47% in 2001 and 35% in 2005;

![Departments Where Not All Firefighters on a Shift Are Equipped with SCBA](chart)

- **34%** for **personal alert safety system devices** (PASS), compared to 59% in 2001 and 40% in 2005;

![Departments Where Not All Firefighters on a Shift Are Equipped with PASS Devices](chart)

- **30%** for **personal protective clothing**, compared to 59% in 2001 and 19% in 2005; and

![Departments Where Not All Firefighters Have their Own Protective Clothing](chart)

- **35%** for **portable radios**, compared to 67% in 2001 and 46% in 2005.

![Departments Where Not All Firefighters on a Shift Are Equipped with Radios](chart)

### Training

In many fire departments, **not all involved personnel have been formally trained** in their emergency response duties. The 2010 percentage of Louisiana departments in which not all involved personnel have been formally trained was:

- **56%** for **structural firefighting**, compared to 73% in 2001 and 65% in 2005; and

![Departments Performing Structural Firefighting Where Not All Involved Personnel Are Formally Trained](chart)

- **64%** for **emergency medical service** (EMS), compared to 67% in 2001 and 65% in 2005.

![Departments Performing EMS Where Not All Involved Personnel Are Formally Trained](chart)

**Fitness and Health**

In many fire departments, **there is no program to maintain basic firefighter fitness and health.** The 2010 percentage of Louisiana departments with no such program was:

- 70%, compared to 92% in 2001 and 84% in 2005.

**Stations and Apparatus**

Some stations lack specific features, which are required by current standards but were not required when stations were constructed. Some stations are old enough that a variety of persistent or recurring problems are to be expected and replacement might be better and even cheaper. Some departments are using old fire apparatus.

- 40% of Louisiana fire departments do not have backup power for their fire stations.
- 72% of Louisiana fire departments do not have exhaust emission control for their fire stations.
- 26% of the fire stations in Louisiana are over 40 years old.
- 7% of Louisiana fire department engines and pumper are at least 30 years old.

**Unusually Challenging Incidents**

There has been little or no progress in increasing the ability of fire departments to handle **various unusually challenging incidents** with local trained personnel and specialized equipment alone:

- Provide technical rescue and EMS at a structural collapse involving 50 occupants; and
- Provide hazardous material response and EMS at an incident involving **chemical or biological agents** and with 10 injuries.
- **Wildland/urban interface (WUI) fire** affecting 500 acres; and
- Mitigation of a **major developing flood**.

However, there has been progress in the percentage of departments having written agreements for working with others. The 2010 percentage of Louisiana departments with **no** such written agreement was:

- 60% for structural collapse, compared to 66% in 2001 and 78% in 2005;
- 49% for chemical or biological incidents, compared to 75% in 2001 and 71% in 2005;
- 38% for wildland/urban interface fires, compared to 70% in 2001 and 59% in 2005; and
- 42% for developing major flood, compared to 82% in 2001 and 50% in 2005.

Success requires more written agreements, with each participating department knowing its role, providing resources needed to play its role, and helping test the plan in simulations and rehearsals.

**Cautions on interpretation**

**Trends.** For some states and most needs assessment survey questions, even large changes from one survey to another will not be statistically significant. Be cautious in interpreting results as trends.

**State-to-state comparisons.** States where a large share of departments serve small communities will tend to have greater needs according to the measures used here than states where a small share of departments serve small communities. State-to-state comparisons must be viewed with caution, particularly if the states have very different mixes of urban and rural communities.

**How rural is Louisiana?** The survey for Louisiana was based on the following responses:

- 11 of the 28 departments protecting populations of 25,000 or more;
- 13 of the 56 departments protecting populations of 10,000 to 24,999; and
- 38 of the 346 departments protecting populations of less than 10,000.

Access the full state report, other state reports and the national reports at [http://www.nfpa.org/needsassessment](http://www.nfpa.org/needsassessment).