

# National Fire Department Registry Summary

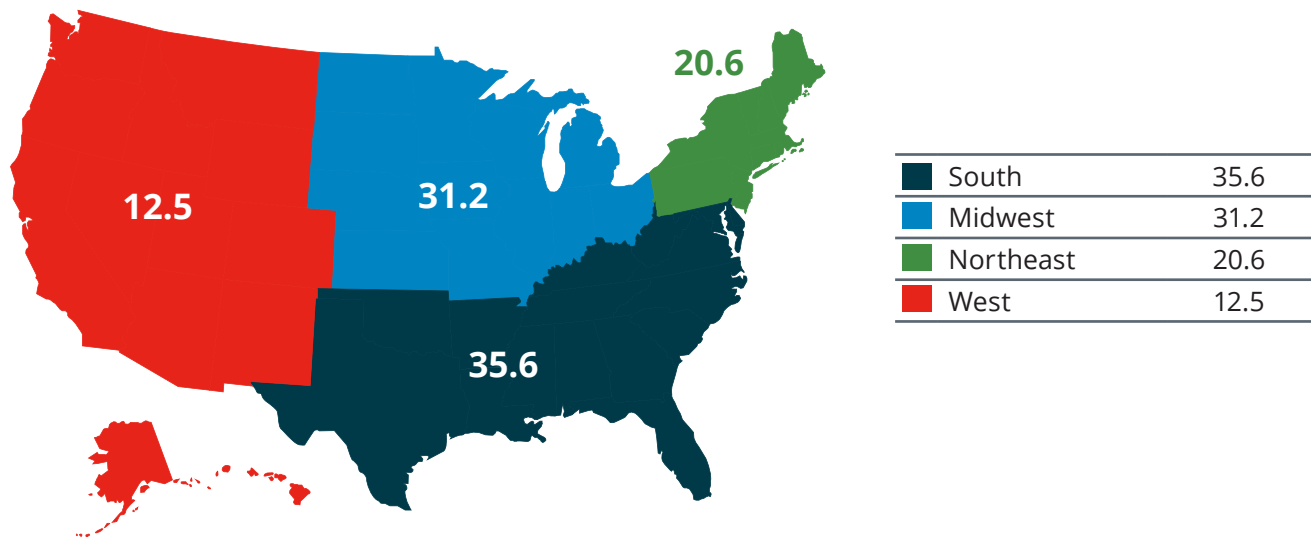
## Fire departments

The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Department Registry is a voluntary program, and it does not include all fire departments in the U.S. or its territories. As of January 2024, there were 27,166 registered fire departments, which constitute about 92% of the departments estimated to be in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

## Fire departments by census region

Figure 1 shows that most registered departments are located in Southern (36%) and Midwestern (31%) regions of the U.S.<sup>2</sup> Less than 1% of the registered fire departments are in U.S. territories.

**Figure 1. Percent of registered fire departments by census region (January 2024)**



Note: Total does not add up to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup>The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated that there were 29,452 fire departments in the U.S. in 2020 — the latest available estimate at the time of this analysis.

<sup>2</sup>The regions of the U.S. are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as the Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont); South (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia); Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin); and West (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming).



FEMA



U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America

## Fire departments by state

Table 1 shows the number of registered fire departments by state.

**Table 1. Number of registered fire departments by state as of January 2024 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories)**

State	Count
Alabama	818
Alaska	154
Arizona	238
Arkansas	692
California	849
Colorado	309
Connecticut	246
Delaware	58
District of Columbia	3
Florida	462
Georgia	463
Hawaii	12
Idaho	197
Illinois	1,106
Indiana	762
Iowa	738
Kansas	499
Kentucky	686
Louisiana	427
Maine	338
Maryland	261
Massachusetts	363
Michigan	972
Minnesota	722
Mississippi	419
Missouri	774
Montana	281
Nebraska	389
Nevada	88
New Hampshire	211
New Jersey	712
New Mexico	247
New York	1,660
North Carolina	1,082

**Table 1. Number of registered fire departments by state as of January 2024 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories) — continued**

State	Count
North Dakota	327
Ohio	1,137
Oklahoma	746
Oregon	309
Pennsylvania	1,804
Rhode Island	69
South Carolina	441
South Dakota	294
Tennessee	638
Texas	1,520
U.S. territories	13
Utah	189
Vermont	206
Virginia	556
Washington	403
West Virginia	401
Wisconsin	761
Wyoming	114
Total	27,166

## Stations

The registered departments represent 52,309 fire stations across the country.<sup>3</sup> Of the registered departments:

- ◆ 67.8% have 1 station.
- ◆ 17.0% have 2 stations.
- ◆ 15.2% have 3 or more stations.

## Organization type

The majority (96%) of registered departments are local fire departments that include career, combination and volunteer fire departments and fire districts. The remaining 4% comprise tribal, state and federal government fire departments; contract fire departments; private or industrial fire brigades; and transportation authority or airport fire departments.

<sup>3</sup>For counties in Georgia, Maryland, Nevada and Virginia, where it is known that both the county-level fire department registered and the individual fire departments associated with that county department also registered, the computation of the number of stations includes only the number of stations reported by the county-level department to avoid counting stations twice.

## Personnel

The registered fire departments are staffed by 1,210,600 personnel.<sup>4</sup> This figure includes career, volunteer and paid-per-call firefighters, as well as civilian staff and nonfirefighting personnel. There were a total of 1,058,800 active career, volunteer and paid-per-call firefighters representing 87% of the registered departments' personnel. Of the active firefighting personnel:

- ◆ 34.8% were career firefighters.
- ◆ 52.6% were volunteer firefighters.
- ◆ 12.6% were paid-per-call firefighters.

## Department type

Of the registered fire departments:<sup>5</sup>

- ◆ Career departments constitute 9.5%.
- ◆ Mostly career departments constitute 5.0%.
- ◆ Mostly volunteer departments constitute 15.5%.
- ◆ Volunteer departments constitute 70.0%.

## Department type by state

Table 2 shows the percent of registered fire departments by department type within each state and the District of Columbia.

**Table 2. Percentages of registered fire departments by department type within each state and the District of Columbia (January 2024)**

State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Alabama	79.1	8.9	4.1	8.0
Alaska	56.2	32.0	1.3	10.5
Arizona	30.6	23.0	14.9	31.5
Arkansas	84.0	9.0	2.6	4.4
California	28.7	25.9	15.7	29.8
Colorado	45.3	29.1	10.7	14.9
Connecticut	61.4	22.0	4.5	12.2
Delaware	41.4	56.9	0.0	1.7
District of Columbia	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7
Florida	34.6	10.8	15.6	39.0
Georgia	48.7	22.6	10.2	18.5
Hawaii	8.3	0.0	16.7	75.0
Idaho	56.6	31.1	4.1	8.2
Illinois	65.2	14.1	6.2	14.6

<sup>4</sup>There were 83 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis. For counties in Georgia, Maryland, Nevada and Virginia, where it is known that both the county-level fire department registered and the individual fire departments associated with that county department also registered, the computation of the number of personnel includes only the personnel counts reported by the county-level department to avoid counting personnel twice. Numbers of personnel were rounded to the nearest 100.

<sup>5</sup>The department type is based on NFPA definitions. (Career: 100% of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly career: 51% to 99% of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly volunteer: 1% to 50% of a department's firefighters are career. Volunteer: 100% of a department's firefighters are volunteer.) The numbers of fire department personnel are used to determine the department type. There were 83 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis.

**Table 2. Percentages of registered fire departments by department type within each state and the District of Columbia (January 2024) — continued**

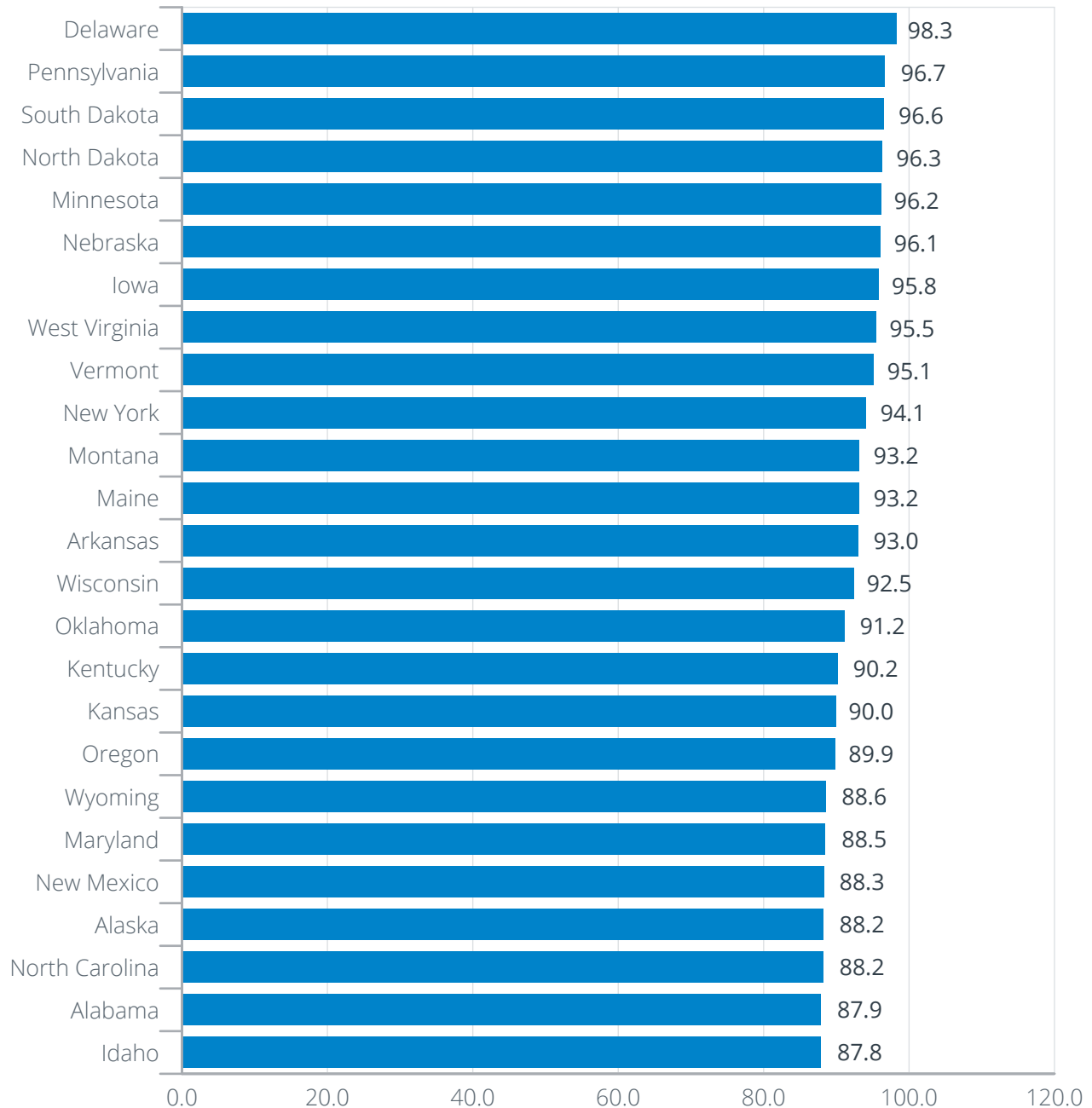
State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Indiana	72.5	14.5	3.5	9.5
Iowa	89.6	6.2	0.9	3.3
Kansas	78.6	11.4	3.8	6.2
Kentucky	75.7	14.5	4.0	5.9
Louisiana	47.3	36.8	5.6	10.3
Maine	69.3	23.8	3.3	3.6
Maryland	60.8	27.7	5.0	6.5
Massachusetts	24.0	28.7	15.4	32.0
Michigan	62.2	23.4	4.8	9.6
Minnesota	85.5	10.7	1.0	2.8
Mississippi	71.6	14.6	3.6	10.3
Missouri	71.2	12.6	4.7	11.5
Montana	82.2	11.0	1.8	5.0
Nebraska	92.2	3.9	0.5	3.4
Nevada	54.5	21.6	10.2	13.6
New Hampshire	53.3	29.5	11.0	6.2
New Jersey	75.1	11.8	4.8	8.3
New Mexico	78.1	10.1	2.4	9.3
New York	90.6	3.5	1.7	4.2
North Carolina	61.4	26.7	6.9	4.9
North Dakota	92.0	4.3	0.6	3.1
Ohio	60.4	21.3	5.5	12.8
Oklahoma	81.6	9.6	2.6	6.2
Oregon	44.2	45.8	3.9	6.2
Pennsylvania	90.0	6.7	0.7	2.6
Rhode Island	39.1	23.2	2.9	34.8
South Carolina	52.5	23.9	13.9	9.8
South Dakota	91.8	4.8	0.3	3.1
Tennessee	73.7	13.2	4.7	8.3
Texas	69.9	11.7	6.7	11.6
U.S. territories	15.4	0.0	15.4	69.2
Utah	64.4	21.3	5.3	9.0
Vermont	87.8	7.3	3.4	1.5
Virginia	70.7	16.9	5.4	7.0
Washington	39.2	38.4	10.7	11.7
West Virginia	90.7	4.8	1.3	3.3
Wisconsin	78.8	13.7	1.6	5.9
Wyoming	70.2	18.4	0.9	10.5
Total	70.0	15.5	5.0	9.5

Notes: 1. State totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

2. This analysis excludes 83 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel.

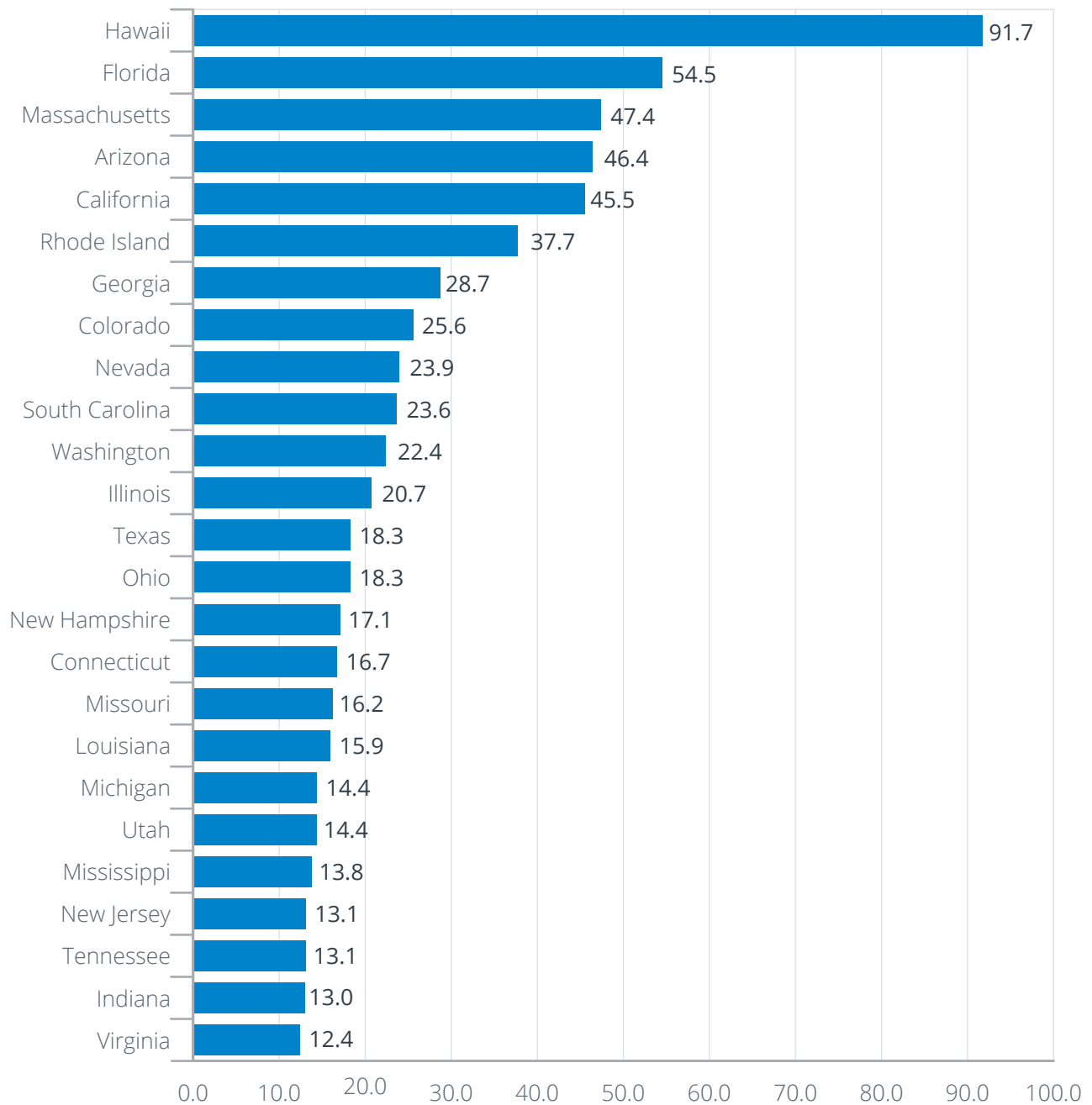
Figures 2 and 3 show the top 25 states (excluding the District of Columbia and U.S. territories) ranked by percentage of volunteer and career fire departments, respectively.

**Figure 2. Percent of registered volunteer and mostly volunteer fire departments top 25 states by rank (January 2024)**



Note: There were 83 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis.

**Figure 3. Percent of registered career and mostly career fire departments top 25 states by rank (January 2024)**



Note: There were 83 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis.

## Specialized services

Table 3 shows the percentage of registered fire departments that provide a specialized service. The leading specialized services provided include vehicle extrication (79%), fire/injury prevention and public education (65%), wildfire/wildland urban interface (WUI) (64%), and basic life support (BLS) services (61%). Only 5% of registered departments have fireboat service capabilities. Of the departments that provide fire investigation/fire-cause determination services, 20% have sworn investigators with power to arrest. In addition, about 71% of the nation's fire departments provide some level of emergency medical services (EMS).

**Table 3. Percentage of registered fire departments providing specialized services (January 2024)**

Specialized services provided	Percent
Vehicle extrication	78.5
Fire/injury prevention and public education	64.9
Wildfire/WUI	63.8
BLS	60.7
EMS nontransport response	40.3
Technical/specialized rescue	36.5
Fire investigation/fire-cause determination	35.7
Fire inspection/code enforcement	35.2
Departmental (in-house) training academy	22.7
Advanced life support	21.5
EMS ambulance transport	21.0
Hazmat team	17.9
Juvenile firesetter intervention program	13.7
Airport/aviation	8.0
Fireboat	5.0

For statistics on fire department specialized services provided in each state, please visit the National Fire Department Registry (Annual Registry Snapshots).

## Primary agency responsible for emergency management

Of the registered fire departments:

- 🔹 32% were the primary agency responsible for emergency management (EM) in their community.<sup>6</sup>
- 🔹 25% were not the primary agency responsible for EM in their community.
- 🔹 43% had blank values for this data element.

<sup>6</sup>EM is the integration and coordination of all-hazards mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities within a community for all (or most) agencies such as fire, EMS, public information, volunteer service, etc.



## Fire departments by Federal Emergency Management Agency region

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions V and IV accounted for 20% and 18% of the registered fire departments, respectively (Table 4).<sup>7</sup> Regions IX and X accounted for about 4% each of the registered departments.

**Table 4. Number and percentage of registered fire departments by FEMA region (January 2024)**

FEMA region	Count	Percent
Region I	1,433	5.3
Region II	2,381	8.8
Region III	3,083	11.3
Region IV	5,009	18.4
Region V	5,460	20.1
Region VI	3,632	13.4
Region VII	2,400	8.8
Region VIII	1,514	5.6
Region IX	1,191	4.4
Region X	1,063	3.9
Total departments	27,166	100.0

<sup>7</sup>The FEMA regions are defined as follows: Region I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont); Region II (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands); Region III (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia); Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee); Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin); Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas); Region VII (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska); Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming); Region IX (American Samoa, Arizona, California, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, Republic of Marshall Islands); Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington).