



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

# A Prepared and Resilient Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2024-2027

January 2024



FEMA



## Mission Statement

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We support and strengthen fire and emergency medical services and stakeholders to prepare for, prevent, mitigate and respond to all hazards.

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



OCTOBER 19, 2023

# Thank You for Joining Us

U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit  
on Fire Prevention and Control 2023

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration

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In 2021, fires killed 3,800 and injured 14,700 people nationwide. Property damage due to fire reached \$16 billion for the year. Additionally, firefighters paid a high price with 141 firefighters killed in the line of duty.

In 2022, there were more than 1.2 million structure fires across the country, not to mention the 69,000 wildfires that scorched more than 7.5 million acres. In the last year, nearly 2,500 lives were lost to fire, including 276 children and 96 firefighters.

In 2023, the climate crisis continues to fuel more frequent, destructive and deadly wildfire. We have all seen the devastating effects of wildfire on our nation — from the wildfire tragedy in Maui killing 115 to the far-reaching impacts on air quality in many U.S. states from the wildfires in Canada. In addition to the growing burdens of wildfire, the demands on our nation's local fire departments continue to increase, further exacerbating daily fire impacts on all our communities.



# Letter From the U.S. Fire Administrator

Across our nation, fire is a threat to individuals, and it is a threat to our homeland security. Fire continues to be a leading cause of death and injury in the United States. In fact, if a fire occurs in a home today, occupants are more likely to die in that fire than they were 40 years ago. Additionally, fire departments are reporting challenges with insufficient resources to respond to increasing call volume and emerging threats.

It is the role of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to highlight the relevant issues facing our nation and the fire service ... and to identify solutions to address the devastating fire problem in America.

Every year, tens of thousands of individuals are seriously injured by fires. While fire can impact anyone, unfortunately, time and again it disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable populations — the elderly, our children, the disabled, and low-income families.



Inspired by tragic fires in 2022, Congress passed, and President Biden signed, legislation to give the USFA new investigative authority for major fires. This authority enables USFA to identify fire safety factors that contributed to fire growth or spread and led to large-scale loss and multiple fatalities.

President Biden also enacted legislation mandating long-life encased smoke alarms in public housing not equipped with hard-wired smoke alarms. This law will help ensure that life-saving smoke alarms cannot be disabled in public housing.

While these laws will help, unfortunately, the changes in our construction practices using lightweight building materials and the evolution of technology using lithium-ion energy and robotics pose new fire threats. Therefore, we must continue to research and develop solutions to curtail these threats.

The scourge of fire is not limited to our urban and suburban jurisdictions. Today, 99 million people or a third of the U.S. population live in the wildland urban interface (WUI) environment, yet most have no idea what the interface is or the dangers that it poses. The USFA, along with our federal, state, and local partners, is working to address the fire challenges in the interface, educate those who live and work in the WUI, and ensure that firefighters responding to a fire in the area are trained and equipped to respond safely, efficiently, and effectively.

Along with national fire organization partners, the USFA has launched a Fire Service National Strategy ("[U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control Proceedings](https://www.fema.gov)" ([fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov))) to address the threat of fire to our communities and the ramifications of fire on our nation's firefighters.

While the fire problem in America remains difficult, I feel confident that with our continued partnership at the federal, state, and local level, we can prevent future fires, reduce suffering, and ensure that more people across the nation have the tools to protect themselves and their families when disaster strikes.

We are stronger together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Moore-Herrell".

## About the U.S. Fire Administration

On May 4, 1973, the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control issued a report, "America Burning," which focused its attention on the nation's fire problem and the needs of the fire services and allied professions. USFA was established by Public Law 93-498, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, which called for the establishment of a National Fire Academy (NFA) to advance the professional development of the fire service personnel and of other people engaged in fire prevention and control activities; a technology program of development, testing and evaluation of equipment for use by the nation's fire, rescue and civil defense services; the operation of a National Fire Data Center (NFDC) for the selection, analysis, publication and dissemination of information related to the prevention, occurrence, control and results of fires of all types; and to take all necessary steps to educate the public and to overcome public indifference to fire and fire prevention.



From its beginning, USFA focused on supplementing, not duplicating, existing programs of training, technology and research, data collection and analysis, and public education. Today, the focus of the 4 stars in the USFA logo has been adjusted to include **fire and emergency medical services (EMS) training, research, the NFDC, and community risk reduction**. We consider these core components the crux of everything we do. With the recent reorganization, our work has expanded to include coordination of EMS programs and is focused on and related to local fire departments and the firefighters and paramedics who respond across the nation every day. This direct interaction at the local level translates into our capability to reduce the fire and EMS challenges across the nation.

The USFA will continue to adjust as new developments and challenges facing the fire and EMS community evolve, always with the intention of providing leadership and support in the shared responsibilities for public safety. As dangers and risks increase in nature, complexity and severity in the areas of hazardous material, pandemic disease, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, violent or hostile events, civil disorder, wildfire in the urban interface, and emerging technology, USFA will adapt as necessary to deliver on its mission.



# U.S. Fire Administration Mission

## Vision

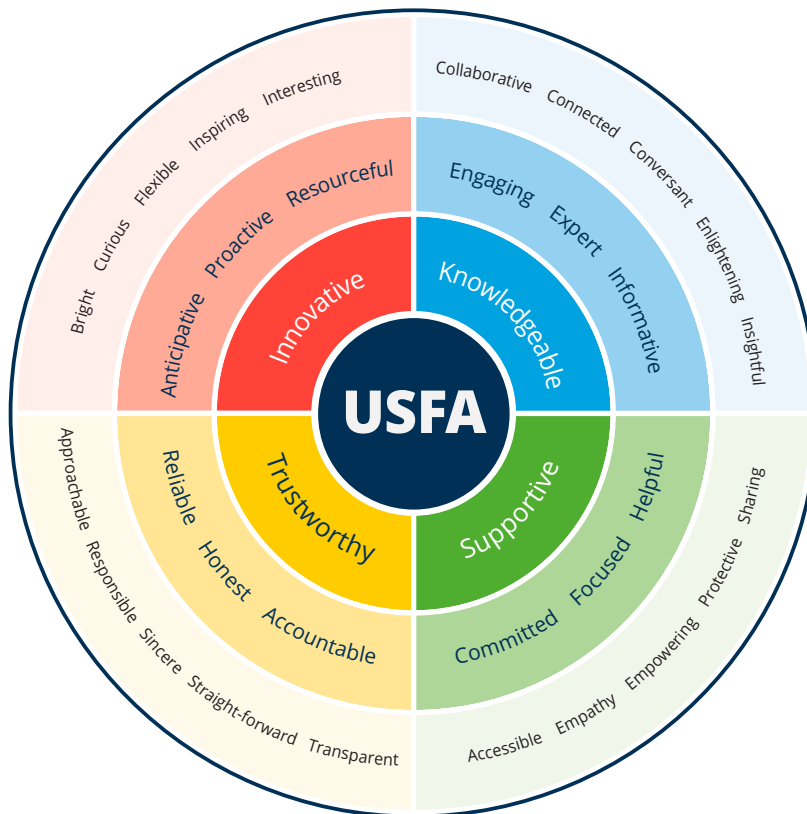
**A prepared and resilient fire and emergency medical services.** This vision statement is the focus of the USFA. It is intended to reflect the overall status and wellbeing of the nation's emergency response systems, as well as the nation's career and volunteer first responders.

## Mission

**We support and strengthen fire and emergency medical services and stakeholders to prepare for, prevent, mitigate and respond to all hazards.** Our mission statement describes who we are and why we exist. Ultimately, our stakeholders determine the programs we deliver. Our employees are committed to providing management and specialty training, leading the country's fire prevention efforts, providing research, and data collection and analysis. We are obligated and committed to deliver programs at the highest level possible in the most professional, efficient and cost-effective manner.

## Core values

The character of USFA is determined by the credibility, influence and engagement we have with our stakeholders. Our collective obligation to our core values builds and sustains the momentum necessary to be a high-performing organization. Fully involved participation is expected from all USFA employees and requires a personal commitment to the core values. We have a culture where employees demonstrate the behavior and performance for the organization with **integrity, honesty, excellence, accountability, respect, trust and communication.**



# U.S. Fire Administration Landscape

**The United States continues to have the highest per capita death rate and property loss of all major industrialized nations.** It is a congressional obligation for the USFA to track and report deaths and injuries from fire. It is likewise an obligation to try to prevent them. To meet the required legislative mandates and deliver on our mission, a reorganization of the USFA was planned, approved by consensus at the highest levels of leadership and implemented in January 2023. The organizational chart below reflects the current operational landscape.

## Reorganization

### Fire administrator/deputy fire administrator's office

The mission of the fire administrator's office is to lead the whole of the USFA. By doing so, the fire administrator's office establishes and strengthens the organization to in turn lead the nation's fire service. The role of the fire administrator is to envision, develop and implement programs that reduce the loss of life and economic impact from fire and related emergencies. This office provides leadership, advocacy, coordination and support to the USFA divisions, fire service organizations and first responders at large.

### National Fire Academy

The mission of the NFA is to promote the professional development of the fire and emergency response community and its allied professionals. The NFA supports state and local training organizations to fulfill their obligation to the career and volunteer fire and EMS. In addition, the NFA develops, delivers and manages educational and training programs that have a national focus outside state and local training missions or exceed state and local capabilities because of cost or audience. The programs are designed to support the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) goals to help state and local response agencies prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to local, regional and national emergencies. The NFA serves as the USFA's national focal point for advancing the professional development of fire service and emergency response personnel and allied professionals engaged in fire prevention and control, risk reduction, and life safety activities.

### National Fire and Emergency Medical Services Program Division

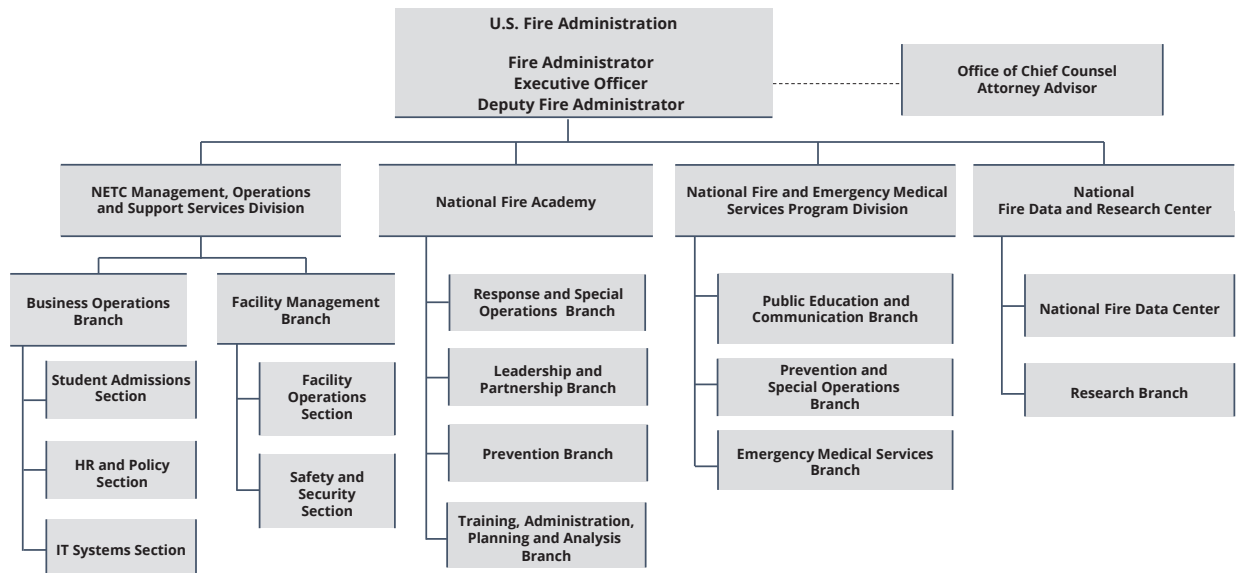
The mission of the National Fire and Emergency Medical Services Program (NFEMSP) Division is to lead the USFA's EMS, prevention, special operations, public awareness, outreach and communication efforts. The NFEMSP serves as the nexus for fire prevention and community risk reduction, EMS system advancement, and industry-wide collaboration for fire safety public education and communication. The NFEMSP leverages relationships with state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) partners, as well as private sector stakeholders who focus on data-informed solutions to the American fire problem, providing particular attention to at-risk vulnerable populations.

### National Fire Data and Research Center Division

The mission of the National Fire Data and Research Center (NFDRC) Division is to lead the nation in aggregation, assembly, mining and analysis of data from various sources to identify and track contributing factors to the fire problem in the U.S. by distinguishing major problem areas, assisting in setting priorities, determining solutions, and monitoring and reporting the progress of programs to reduce fire loss. The NFDRC leads the USFA research programs in fire life safety and firefighter and EMS responder health, safety and operational effectiveness. The NFDRC collaborates with the FEMA Grants Program Directorate, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate and other federal partners, as well as national fire and EMS organizations, to design and fund research to address pending fire service issues.

## National Emergency Training Center, Management, Operations and Support Services Division

The mission of the Management, Operations and Support Services (MOSS) Division is to manage, operate and provide administrative, functional and emergency support services to the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), which houses the USFA, NFA, Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and FEMA Office of the Chief Financial Officer staff. MOSS oversees and operates the NETC campus including campus maintenance, security, mailroom operations, duplicating services, real and personnel property management, warehousing, inventory, and all student services for both the NFA and EMI.



Sept. 20, 2023

## Stakeholder Engagement

In late 2022, the USFA met with major fire service organizations across the country to ensure the mission supports the current needs of fire and EMS responders. The stakeholder listening sessions revealed several opportunities for the USFA to better connect with the fire service at large and become more relevant. The opportunities identified are incorporated into this strategic plan. The topics deemed most important to external stakeholders included the following:



- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Communication and collaboration
- ◆ Relevance — modernize USFA
- ◆ Data and research

USFA leadership held a town hall with all staff to ensure internal stakeholder perspectives were addressed in the new strategic plan. Staff spent a full day committed to open discussion and small-group targeted discussions to arrive at the main drivers for the strategic plan. Many of these topics matched the external stakeholder group and included the following:

- ◆ Internal communication
- ◆ External communication
- ◆ Workforce
- ◆ Research and innovation
- ◆ Business processes/resources

Based on these internal and external sessions, the USFA Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 was developed.



USFA Organization Day

Our Mission is Possible!

# Strategic Plan Elements

Building on FEMA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, the USFA is leading by example and setting the standard for fire and EMS throughout the country.

## Federal Emergency Management Agency strategic framework



**2022-2026**  
**FEMA Strategic Plan**  
Building the FEMA our Nation Needs and Deserves



**Goal 1:**  
**Instill Equity as a Foundation of Emergency Management**

- 1.1 Cultivate a FEMA that prioritizes and harnesses a diverse workforce
- 1.2 Remove barriers to FEMA programs through a people first approach
- 1.3 Achieve equitable outcomes for those we serve



**Goal 2:**  
**Lead Whole of Community in Climate Resilience**

- 2.1 Increase climate literacy among the emergency management community
- 2.2 Build a climate resilient nation
- 2.3 Empower risk-informed decision making



**Goal 3:**  
**Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and Prepared Nation**

- 3.1 Strengthen the emergency management workforce
- 3.2 Posture FEMA to meet current and emergent threats
- 3.3 Unify coordination and delivery of federal assistance



## U.S. Fire Administration strategic framework

This strategic plan creates a platform for the USFA to achieve its vision and mission. The plan provides both strategic direction and operational focus.

America's fire and EMS progress is greatly enhanced by the USFA's efforts to take the lead on issues important to the fire service. The strategic goals are the foundation for our work towards a **fire-safe America**.

## Goals: Executive-Level Summaries

### **Goal 1: Establish USFA as the leader of the nation's fire and EMS.**

Raise the profile and overall relevance of the USFA in the eyes of the nation's fire and EMS agencies and providers. Leverage the USFA strong leader reputation and position to draw the whole fire service together to work and speak with 1 voice on issues of importance.

### **Goal 2: Prepare the nation's fire and EMS services to prevent, prepare for, respond to and mitigate all hazards.**

Leverage all components of the USFA to enable first responders and their agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to and mitigate all-hazards day-to-day emergencies and large-scale disasters through data, research, education, training and communications.

### **Goal 3: Inspire fire service and EMS research and technology innovation.**

Leverage relationships with FEMA/Assistance to Firefighters Grants research grantees, DHS Science and Technology Directorate and other federal agency partners, relevant national organizations, research labs, and SLTT stakeholders. Lead or collaborate on research and technology innovation relevant to the fire and EMS services that can go from theory to practice in the field.

### **Goal 4: Establish a prepared, resilient and engaged USFA workforce.**

Sustain the organization by hiring and developing highly skilled diverse employees committed to quality service. Promote a high-performance culture, maintain a safe and positive work environment, and achieve organizational and individual excellence. Encourage and empower active employee participation which is essential to the successful pursuit of our described vision and mission.

With an "Employee First" principle, we will establish a prepared, resilient and engaged USFA!

— Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell



Photo courtesy of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

# Goals and Objectives

## **Goal 1: Establish USFA as the leader of the nation's fire and EMS.**

- 1.1 Enhance USFA's external communication through strategic communications and stakeholder engagement.
- 1.2 Engage national fire and allied organization leaders regularly, identifying new strategic partners and maintaining existing partnerships.
- 1.3 Lead the whole of the fire service with **"One Voice"** by branding this initiative with a whole-of-community approach.
- 1.4 Educate congressional leaders and the whole of government on the USFA and the American fire service's challenges, needs and accomplishments, with regular congressional listening sessions and briefings.

## **Goal 2: Prepare the nation's fire and EMS services to prevent, prepare for, respond to and mitigate all hazards.**

- 2.1 Ensure responder education and training is available to assess community risks and address the variety of all-hazards incidents in the nation.
- 2.2 Engage with federal partners and external stakeholders to perpetuate climate change-driven responder education and training.
- 2.3 Provide continual professional development of fire and EMS personnel.
- 2.4 Promote diversity, equity and inclusion in fire and EMS.
- 2.5 Collaborate with federal partners and external stakeholders to promote emergency responder safety, health and wellness.
- 2.6 Engage national leaders to discuss new and emerging threats.

## **Goal 3: Inspire fire service and EMS research and technology innovation.**

- 3.1 Establish internal research expertise by recruiting and retaining the best and brightest in the state of science.
- 3.2 Collaborate with DHS Science and Technology, national laboratories, and other partners in the public and private arenas to prioritize first responder research initiatives.
- 3.3 Engage with national and global fire and EMS organization partners and researchers.
- 3.4 Modernize the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data system for enhanced data fusion and analytics.
- 3.5 Prepare the NFDRC to engage in geospatial and cloud-based environments.

## **Goal 4: Establish a prepared, resilient and engaged USFA workforce.**

- 4.1 Establish an employee-centric culture.
- 4.2 Promote and sustain a knowledgeable and responsive USFA workforce.
- 4.3 Improve USFA internal communication.
- 4.4 Simplify and streamline current administrative processes and procedures.
- 4.5 Empower USFA workforce to engage collaboratively.
- 4.6 Foster a climate of innovative thinking.

# 2024-2027 Strategic Plan

A prepared and resilient fire and emergency medical services



**Goal 1:**  
**Establish USFA as the leader of the nation's fire and EMS.**

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**#FireServiceOneVoice**

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**Goal 3:**  
**Inspire fire service and EMS research and technology innovation.**



- 3.1 Establish internal research expertise.
- 3.2 Collaborate with DHS Science and Technology, national laboratories, and other partners in the public and private arenas to prioritize first responder research initiatives.
- 3.3 Engage with external fire and allied national organization partners and researchers.
- 3.4 Modernize NFIRS for enhanced data fusion and analytics.
- 3.5 Prepare the NFDRC to engage in geospatial and cloud-based environments.

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## Measuring and Achieving Results

As a part of our strategic implementation plan, each objective is assigned a point of contact (POC) responsible for creating actions, initiatives and milestones to accomplish the objective. The POCs will record progress toward the accomplishment of each milestone. Meeting the established goals and objectives will provide a measure for the overall successful implementation of the strategic plan.

## U.S. Fire Administration Actions Beyond the Strategic Plan

The USFA is mission ready and involved in several significant programs and projects. These efforts include engagement both internally and externally, all to bolster the nation's fire and EMS responders' capacity, capability and overall operational performance as they respond to all hazards.



## Wildfire

FEMA, USFA, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and other partners are leaning into the national cohesive strategy including resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities and effective response capabilities. Together, we are helping to lead the new Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission statutorily required to deliver workable solutions to Congress.

We must create safer communities by implementing and enforcing codes and standards especially in the WUI and for underserved and vulnerable populations by advocating for housing that is affordable and fire safe.

The Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission brings together and aligns emergency managers, fire protection and public safety officials, planners, scientists, technology experts, and whole community resilience stakeholders to work with our partners in natural resources and land management. Our collective efforts will reduce wildfire risk and the impacts to communities and natural resources.

There are 2 other wildfire work groups addressing the expanding climate-driven wildfire challenge. These groups are the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and the Federal Interagency Working Group (IWG).

### Wildland Fire Leadership Council

The [WFLC](#) membership includes 19 federal, tribal, state and local members. WFLC members act as coordinators to implement the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy along with information sharing and scoping issues. The strategy focuses on action by federal and nonfederal actors.

### Federal Interagency Working Group

The IWG, made of up 17 federal departments and agencies, including FEMA, brings a comprehensive and coordinated all-of-federal government approach to wildfire resilience. The group focuses on executive agency action.



## Data Modernization

The USFA's NFDC is intended to provide accurate nationwide analysis of the fire problem, identify major problem areas, assist in setting priorities, determine possible solutions to problems and monitor the progress of programs to reduce fire losses. Due to the extremely outdated legacy data system known as NFIRS, antiquated technology, and the indifference of the nation's fire service toward continued contribution to a relatively obsolete system, the USFA is unable to deliver on its charge.

The USFA mission is hindered by a lack of credible and timely data from the nation's fire and EMS first response services. As a result, the USFA is ill-prepared to support and strengthen responders and cannot report on the nation's fire problem. This applies to first responder preparedness and national readiness for initial disaster response. Without sufficient quality data on community risks, capacity of our fire and EMS departments suffers. They are unable to report on or make crisis management decisions around responder and civilian injuries, fatalities, property saved and causes of fire.

There are major gaps between the current/legacy system and the requirements for a new, modern platform that will readily inform community emergency response capacity and capabilities for day-to-day incidents and large-scale disasters. Due to the limitations with the current legacy system, the quantity, quality and timeliness of NFIRS data submitted by states and local fire departments is inadequate. The current antiquated system's outdated code is not interoperable with modern systems, and regular fixes are costly. The legacy system is hosted with on-premises servers within the FEMA infrastructure and mandated to be shut down by 2025.

Further, the legacy system is not cloud-based, has a minimally acceptable level of security and does not have the capability for direct data capture, geolocation, analytics, dashboard reporting or data exchange via application programming interfaces (APIs). Gaps in the data standard used by the legacy system limit wildland fire data, community risk reduction factors and timeliness of data reporting. In addition to the gap in emergency resource capability assessment noted above, the lack of accurate, complete and timely all-hazards incident data means the federal government and SLTT agencies are ill-informed and unprepared to identify the nation's fire problem or the risks involving other hazards. Finally, the current NFIRS cannot share data with federal, SLTT, private sector or other equities via modern and dynamic APIs.

### Data modernization solution

As we look to the future, the USFA is seeking new ways to address our evolving challenges. An important element of this progression is the USFA's ability to collect, analyze and report actionable information in a timely manner. Working with the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, we are developing a new, modern cloud-based data and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). Additionally, we are developing an updated and streamlined core fire data standard that serves as the foundation for interoperability and data exchange with the new NERIS platform. Once developed and launched, the NERIS platform will replace the legacy NFIRS.



The goal of NERIS is to empower the local fire and emergency services community by equipping them with near real-time information and analytic tools that support data-informed decision-making for enhanced preparedness and response to incidents involving all hazards. NERIS will enable rapid integration and analysis of the best available and most authoritative data from a multitude of sources, now and in the future, including computer-aided dispatch systems, geographic information systems, physical and field sensors (e.g., Internet of Things), records management systems, APIs from other

systems, and data services from entities such as the National Weather Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Agriculture. It will also minimize the burden on emergency responders performing data entry while providing them with high-value incentives through user-defined and actionable analytic tools that support intelligence-led decision-making at the local level.

NERIS will provide automated analytics to enable self-service dissemination of summary data and the decision support tools for the nation's fire challenges to our SLTT stakeholders, as well as other interested persons such as those in academia and the private sector. To support this process, USFA staff will ensure the translation and usability of data and complex analyses from the NERIS platform. Additionally, data scientists and engineers nationwide will be able to leverage the data from this platform to conduct research and disseminate reports to both the fire service and decision-makers at all levels of government.

The vision is that a new National Fire Information and Analytics Platform (the platform) will be the premier source of information on the nation's fire problem and on the SLTT fire services' capacity and capability to handle the problem effectively, efficiently and safely. This approach aligns with and will measurably advance FEMA's Strategic Plan in 3 areas.

1. Instill equity in access to timely and quality information for fire departments, firefighters and the public.
2. Lead the community in resilience by ensuring the availability of data to inform prevention and preparedness efforts and assess overall capability of frontline response agencies.
3. Support and sustain a prepared nation through data-informed training and measuring readiness of frontline agencies and first responders.

The modernized platform and resulting datasets will empower the fire and emergency services community nationwide, along with USFA, FEMA, the Department of Agriculture/USFS, DOI and other entities by equipping them with an empirical basis for decision-making. Use of the platform will provide the community with new, more reliable predictive analytics to support enhanced preparedness and response to all-hazards incidents, WUI events, community risk reduction efforts, climate change threats and associated resilience and mitigation efforts, and future pandemic emergency response resource preparedness.

The new platform will be flexible and adaptable to the changing needs of the local fire service and first responders nationwide to ensure equity of service availability at the most local level and to enable local fire departments and emergency response agencies to access and use their own data for data-driven informed decisions.

# The National Strategy

The fire problem in America was addressed in 1947 by President Harry S. Truman after several horrific fires with tremendous loss of life.

In 1968, the Fire Research and Safety Act created the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, with a mandate to examine the nation's fire problem and formulate recommendations for improving fire safety. This led to the 1973 "America Burning" report, which set the course for efforts in the latter part of the 20th century to reduce the effects of fire. We are nearly one-quarter of the way through the 21st century, and **America is still burning**.

Driven by an urgency to meet these risks head-on and save lives, the USFA recently held a National Summit on Fire Prevention and Control in coordination with the leadership of national fire service organizations. Together, we assessed the fire problem including the challenges faced by firefighters in the U.S., and we formed a national strategy to address the identified challenges facing our nation's fire service. These strategies include:



## National strategy

- Prepare all firefighters for the climate-driven increase in wildfires in the WUI by providing them with the proper training and equipment.
- Invest in a national apprenticeship program to address the firefighter shortage and make the fire service more diverse and inclusive.
- Establish a comprehensive firefighter cancer strategy that invests in research, provides access to screening for firefighters and reduces and eliminates exposure to dangerous contaminants such as carcinogens or “forever chemicals,” which have been linked to cancer and other health problems.
- Provide behavioral health resources and suicide prevention initiatives for all firefighters.
- Create safer communities by implementing and enforcing codes and standards, especially in the WUI and for underserved and vulnerable populations by providing affordable and fire-safe housing.

The summit was the beginning of a comprehensive and strategic approach to addressing these challenges.



## The International Strategy

In support of the USFA mission and 4 strategic goals, the fire administrator's office established a new International Affairs function. Crisis management, first responder challenges and firefighting as a discipline pull together a global community — one in which the USFA is pleased to engage and proud to have new as well as bolstered relationships.

2022 and 2023 highlighted for the entire world the urgency of supporting one another, building capacity, and working "stronger together." With global disasters increasing in intensity and frequency and climate-driven impacts and energy transfers on the rise, building an International Affairs arm of the USFA filled a gap.

The USFA senior leaders and staff support international engagements at the NETC for classes, exercises and leadership dialogues. USFA is engaged around the world to share knowledge, hold technology transfers and engage with fire service officials on the global stage.

2023 is the preparatory year for an inaugural World Fire Congress scheduled for early 2024. Hosted by the USFA, this engagement is supported by the DHS and National Security Council. Fire service leaders from around the world will meet for the first time in Washington, D.C., creating a global fire services network. During this event, the participants will sign a commitment charter, dedicating themselves and their nations to supporting the initiative and meeting every 2 years.



In addition to the World Fire Congress, USFA leaders and experts engage broadly with foreign partners in working groups, conferences and visits. The USFA works closely with the Department of State as we identify areas of collaboration with different regions around the world.



## Conclusion

Despite our vast technological advances, these truths remain: During a fire today, you have less time to safely exit your burning home than at any time in history. Your chance of dying in a fire today is higher than 40 years ago.

Fire deaths, injuries and displacement disproportionately affect lower income communities and people of color. Safe and affordable housing should not be mutually exclusive. A compounding problem in cities across America is that those who survive are displaced long term or become homeless due to a lack of personal or local resources.

### Additional fire facts

- ▶ Technology including micromobility products powered by lithium-ion batteries are providing a new wave of fire causes.
- ▶ Automatic fire suppression systems like sprinklers save lives, yet resistance to these devices remains.
- ▶ 99 million people or a third of the U.S. population now live in the WUI environment, yet most have no idea what the WUI is or the dangers that it poses.
- ▶ Fire departments across the United States, both career and volunteer, are experiencing dramatic personnel shortages. This situation is a national problem and without intervention will continue to degrade the ability to meet emergency call volume demand throughout the country. We must invest in initiatives that encourage individuals to become active in career and volunteer fire service organizations in roles ranging from firefighter to emergency medical technician, paramedic, inspector, investigator, plans examiner, data analyst and community risk reduction expert.

**Fire is everyone's fight. The USFA cannot do it alone. We need every national, state and local fire service agency to engage. We also need every individual to act to make themselves savable. Whether it is a smoke alarm, a fire sprinkler or closing the doors, help firefighters help you. Together we can save lives.**



# Acronyms

<b>API</b>	application programming interface
<b>DHS</b>	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
<b>DOI</b>	U.S. Department of the Interior
<b>EMI</b>	Emergency Management Institute
<b>EMS</b>	emergency medical services
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>IWG</b>	Interagency Working Group
<b>MOSS</b>	Management, Operations and Support Services
<b>NERIS</b>	National Emergency Response Information System
<b>NETC</b>	National Emergency Training Center
<b>NFA</b>	National Fire Academy
<b>NFDC</b>	National Fire Data Center
<b>NFDRC</b>	National Fire Data and Research Center
<b>NFEMSP</b>	National Fire and Emergency Medical Services Program
<b>NFIRS</b>	National Fire Incident Reporting System
<b>POC</b>	point of contact
<b>SLTT</b>	state, local, tribal and territorial
<b>USFA</b>	U.S. Fire Administration
<b>USFS</b>	U.S. Forest Service
<b>WFLC</b>	Wildland Fire Leadership Council
<b>WUI</b>	wildland urban interface



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