



AFG AND SAFER: ESSENTIAL GRANTS FOR FIREFIGHTER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION

Background

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) programs are imperative to addressing the needs of **more than one million fire and emergency services personnel**.

Every community relies on firefighters to respond to a variety of emergency situations, including:

- structure fires,
- emergency medical services,
- hazardous materials response,
- wildland/urban interface fires, and
- much more.

Demand for fire and emergency services response has continued to grow. From 2010-2020, **the number of fire department calls increased by 23% to more than 36.4 million calls**.

Costs for turnout gear and fire apparatus continue **increase** while budgets **stagnate**.

The fire service is constantly being asked to do more with less.

Talking Points

Ensuring Community Safety

AFG and SAFER help ensure that fire departments are **adequately staffed and equipped**, improving overall public safety in both urban and rural areas.

Boosting Disaster Preparedness

It is in the federal government's best interests to ensure communities are **prepared to respond to disasters**.

AFG and SAFER support firefighter training and readiness, equipping them to handle natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, and large-scale emergencies, ensuring communities are **better prepared for crises**.

Protecting Local Economies

Well-funded fire departments are **essential for the economic stability of communities**, as they protect businesses, infrastructure, and homes from fire-related damages, fostering a secure environment for economic growth.

Firefighter Health & Safety

More funding allows fire departments to invest in modern equipment, training, and protective gear, thereby **reducing injuries, fatalities, and long-term health risks** for firefighters.