

# The InfoGram



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## USFA Firefighter Fatalities in the United States 2016 Report released

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released their [Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2016](#) (PDF, 8.2 MB) report. Eighty-nine firefighters died in the line of duty in 2016: 56 firefighters from volunteer departments, 23 from career departments and 10 from wildland agencies.

Overall, USFA notes, firefighter fatalities have been trending downward with 1978 having the highest on-duty deaths at 173. In the past 10 years, only three years have seen 100 or more firefighter fatalities. Other notable facts:

- Highest cause of death was stress/overexertion (43), followed by vehicle collision (19) and “struck by” incidents (8).
- Nonemergency incidents accounted for 60 percent of fatalities.
- Nine firefighters died during training activities.
- There were two deaths from gun violence and one reported firefighter suicide.
- Combined, the line of duty deaths represent more than 1,700 years of active fire service experience.

The objective of this report is to identify and analyze all on-duty firefighter fatalities to increase understanding of their causes and how they can be prevented. USFA has kept [statistics about on-duty firefighter fatalities since 1977](#).

(Source: [USFA](#))

## Public comment sought on 2017 hurricane season communications

The 2017 hurricane season will go down in history as one of the worst on record, with 4 major hurricanes significantly affecting 7 states and two territories. While many areas are still recovering and will be for years to come, it is never too early to start identifying areas of response that were successes and those that need improvement.

To that end, [the Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) requests comments on response during the hurricane season](#). Specifically, the FCC is looking for information on things related to communications infrastructure and outages; 9-1-1 services; FCC’s response; interoperability; and the communications service user and provider experience, including the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts.

This is a valuable opportunity for state, local, tribal and territorial agencies to weigh in on how communications will be handled in future disasters. Though only a portion of the country was affected by the 2017 hurricane season, the entire country will benefit from this information-gathering process. [Agencies in affected areas are strongly encouraged to participate](#) (PDF, 159 KB).

Comments must be submitted by Monday, January 22, 2018.

(Source: [FCC](#))

## Highlights

USFA Firefighter Fatalities in the United State 2016 Report released

Public comment sought on 2017 hurricane season communications

Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program closes February 2

Webinar: Findings of the Oroville Dam Spillway Failure Investigation



U.S. Fire Administration

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

## Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program closes February 2

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the Fiscal Year 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) is now open, and the application period will close on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern.

The Fiscal Year 2017 AFG program will award \$310.5 million to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters against fire-related deaths and hazards.

FEMA awards AFG funding to fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS organizations and state fire training academies as well as other nonprofit organizations recognized for their experience and expertise with respect to fire prevention, fire safety programs and activities, or firefighter research and development programs.

Applicant tools, including the AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity, for this program will be available at the [Grants.gov website](https://www.grants.gov). The “[Get Ready Guide](#)” may be useful for potential applicants.

For fire departments/applicants requiring assistance please visit the [FEMA AFG website](#) or contact the AFG Help Desk at [firegrants@fema.gov](mailto:firegrants@fema.gov) or 1-866-274-0960. For congressional inquiries, contact Chris Rizzuto at (202) 786-9450 or Laura Cirillo Edwards at (202) 212-3041.

Since 2002, FEMA has awarded \$7.1 billion in fire grants. Historically, 84 percent of awards go towards purchasing PPE, vehicles and other operational equipment.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

## Webinar: Findings of the Oroville Dam Spillway Failure Investigation

A portion of the Oroville Dam spillway failed last February following Northern California’s wettest winter in over 100 years. The emergency spillway activated several days later, causing severe erosion and concern about failure. Nearly 200,000 residents downstream were evacuated.

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) will present and discuss the results of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-mandated forensic evaluation of the incident on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 12 p.m. Eastern. “[Findings of the Oroville Dam Spillway Forensic Investigation](#)” will discuss:

- The design, construction and performance of the dam.
- Physical factors contributing to the damage and failure.
- How human and organizational factors contributed.
- The value and limitations of physical inspection to dam safety.
- Lessons learned for improving dam safety practices.

For more information on the agenda, instructor and registration requirements, see the [ASDSO website](#). Pre-registration is required.

(Source: [ASDSO](#))

The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC). For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

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