

AFG AND SAFER APPROPRIATIONS

TALKING POINTS

- 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, while providing an economic stimulus to American businesses.
- Every community relies on firefighters to respond to a variety of emergency situations, including structure fires, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, technical rescues, and wildland/urban interface fires.
- 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.
- Both the AFG and SAFER grant programs improve the response capabilities in each of these emergency response areas and provide funding for crucial fire prevention and safety programs targeted toward high-risk populations.
- These two highly successful programs help ensure that our nation's fire departments have the necessary training, equipment, and staffing to respond to tens of millions of emergency calls annually.
- In addition, the need is great. Cost for turnout gear and fire apparatus continue to increase while budgets stagnate.

ASK

- Provide \$405 million in funding for each of the vital grant programs to ensure fire departments have what they need to keep themselves and their communities safe.

