

Summary Statistics on Two-Hatter Firefighters

In November 2004, the House Science Committee requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a study to determine, among other things, estimates of the number of career (paid) firefighters who volunteer their services during off-duty hours. These firefighters are known as two-hatter firefighters. In October, 2005, GAO reported that it could not provide nationwide data on the number of two-hatters because such data were not readily available.¹ In light of this situation, GAO requested that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) collect such information as part of its fiscal year 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program application process. Thus, DHS included the following question for volunteer, combination, or paid-on-call fire departments to address.²

How many of your volunteer firefighters are paid members from another career department?

DHS received 18,172 applications. Of these applications, 16,919 were submitted by fire departments.³ The following is a summary of the data collected based on unvalidated responses to this question.

Number of Two-Hatter Firefighters by Department Type

Number of two-hatters reported by volunteer fire departments	13,244
Number of two-hatters reported by combination fire departments	12,568
Number of two-hatters reported by paid on-call/stipend fire departments	1,922
Total number of two-hatter firefighters reported by fire departments applying for the fiscal year 2006 Assistance to Firefighter Grant	27,734

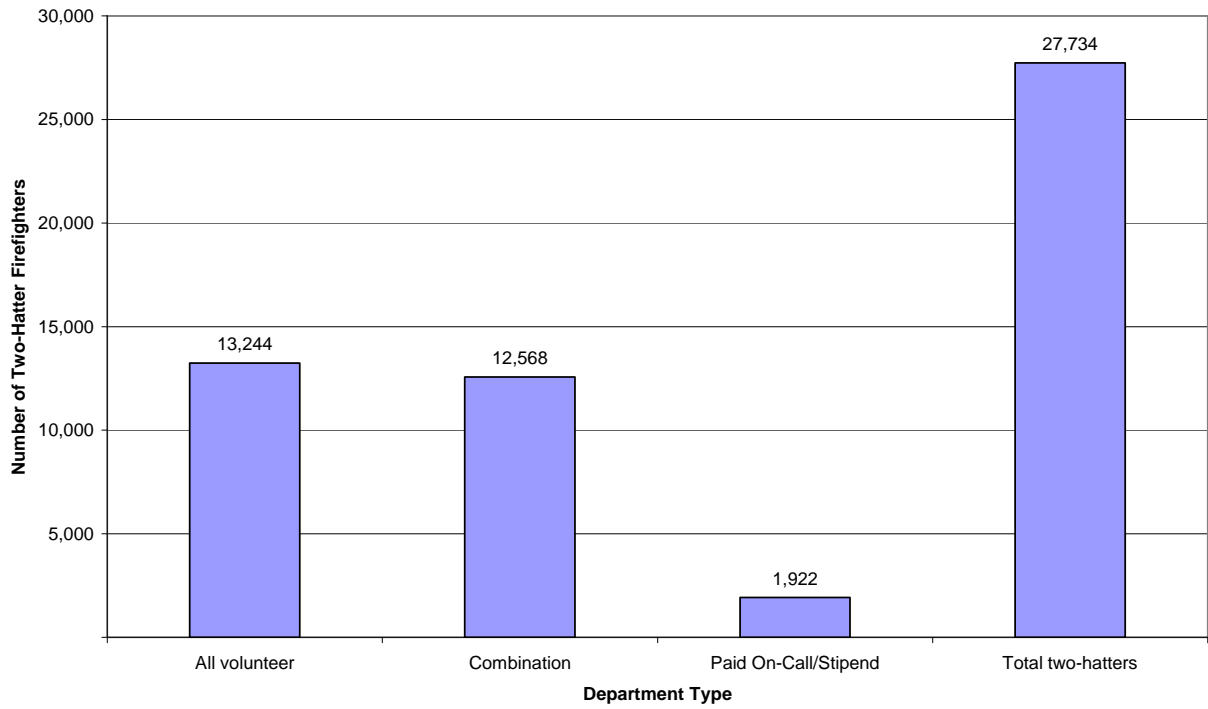
Source: data from DHS's fiscal year 2006 Assistance to Firefighters grant applications.

¹*Restrictions That Prohibit Career Firefighters from Volunteering during Their Off-Duty Hours*, Washington, D.C.: Oct. 2005).

²A volunteer fire department is composed of firefighters that are not paid for their services, whereas a combination fire department has both volunteers (unpaid firefighters) and career firefighters. A paid on-call/stipend fire department has volunteer firefighters that may have other occupations when they are not engaged in occasional firefighting. Although these firefighters have volunteered to become members and to respond to the call for help, they are compensated as employees during the time they are responding to an emergency scene or attending training. Alternatively, paid on-call stipend firefighters may receive a monthly stipend.

³Emergency Medical Service organizations may also apply for the Assistance to Firefighter grants. According to the fiscal year 2006 program guidance for this grant program, eligible EMS organizations are public or private nonprofit organizations that provide direct emergency medical services, including medical transport, to a specific geographic area on a first-due basis but are not affiliated with a hospital and do not service geographic areas where emergency medical services are adequately provided by a fire department.

Number of Two-Hatter Firefighters by Department Type



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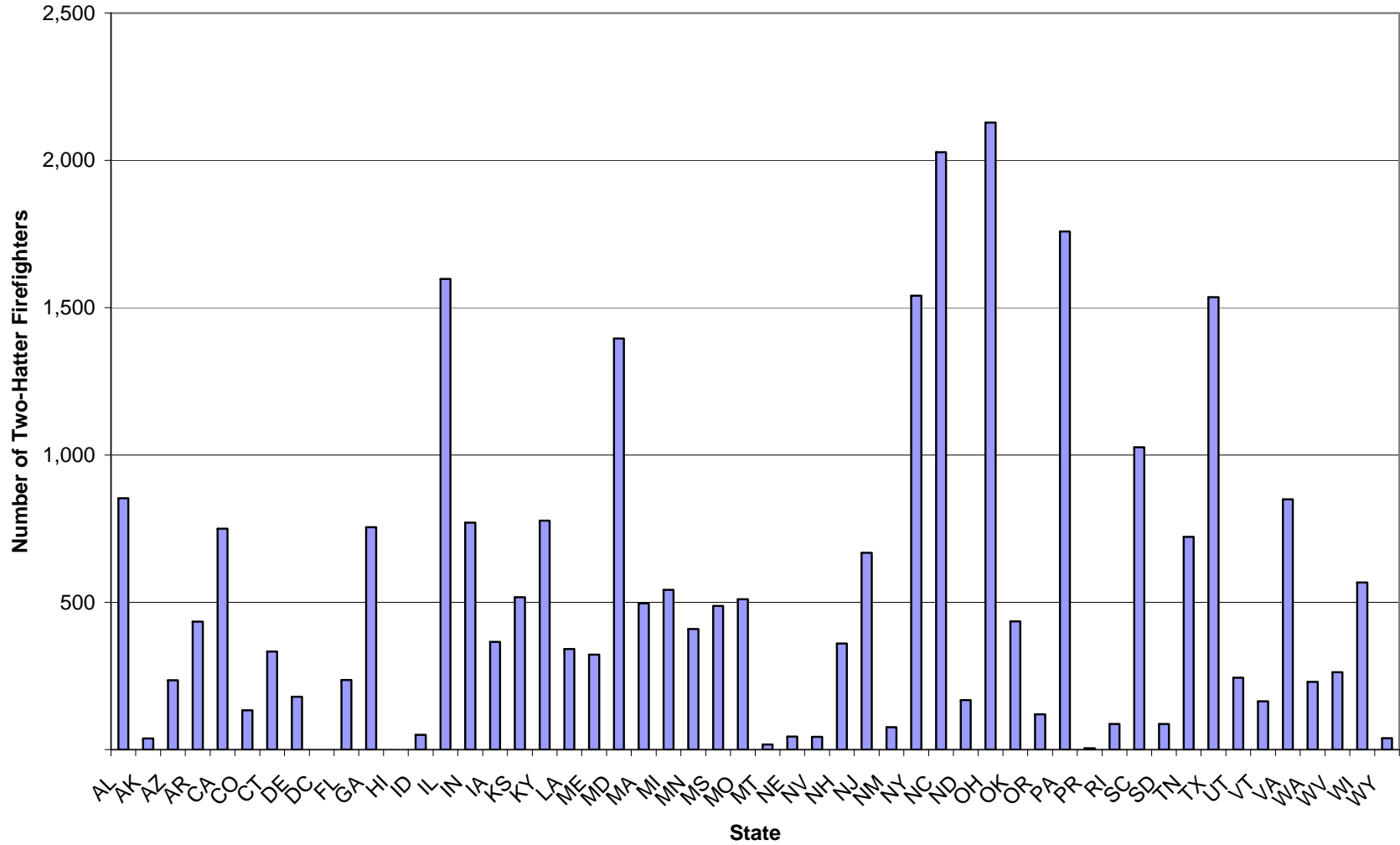
Number of Two-Hatter Firefighters By State

State	Number of Two-Hatter Firefighters
Alabama	853
Alaska	49
Arizona	243
Arkansas	434
California	756
Colorado	134
Connecticut	336
Delaware	179
District of Columbia	
Florida	236
Georgia	756
Hawaii	
Idaho	50
Illinois	1,599
Indiana	770
Iowa	365
Kansas	517
Kentucky	777
Louisiana	341
Maine	348
Maryland	1,395
Massachusetts	499
Michigan	544
Minnesota	409
Mississippi	488
Missouri	510

State	Number of Two-Hatter Firefighters
Montana	17
Nebraska	44
Nevada	43
New Hampshire	360
New Jersey	668
New Mexico	76
New York	1,541
North Carolina	2,036
North Dakota	168
Ohio	2,131
Oklahoma	435
Oregon	136
Pennsylvania	1,759
Puerto Rico	191
Rhode Island	87
South Carolina	1,026
South Dakota	87
Tennessee	722
Texas	1,556
Utah	244
Vermont	164
Virginia	850
Washington	233
West Virginia	263
Wisconsin	567
Wyoming	39
Total	28,031

Source: data from DHS's fiscal year 2006 Assistance to Firefighters grant applications.

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