

Arkansas Volunteer Fire Departments

Types of Fire Organizations

Volunteer
Combination
Paid

Funding Sources

Act 833	Federal Grants
Fire Dues/Subscription Fees	State Grants
County Tax	Private Industry
Fundraisers/Donations	
Appropriations from City/County Funds	

Overview of Volunteer Fire Department

# of All Fire Departments	1003
# of Volunteer Fire Departments	911*
# of Volunteer Departments with ISO Class Rating of 9 or higher**	603
Total projected savings to consumers based on lower insurance premium costs and ISO Ratings 7-9 that were lowered to Class 4	\$188,509,300 (does not include commercial property)

*Certified Fire Departments

Current Challenges to Lowering Volunteer Fire Department ISO Ratings

- Declining volunteer Base
- Overworked volunteer Base (present and future)
- Collection rates
- Obstacles to Improving Collections
- Statewide plan to lower ISO Rates by a targeted date and sufficient manpower
- Changes in the ISO Rating System
- Specify that funding provided must be spent on lowering a department's ISO rating
- The ability to identify efficient methods/processes to overcome obstacles to fire rating improvements.