

The German Fire Service

1. Facts and Figures

Germany

Federation of 16 states and cities governed by a Federal Government

- 357.050 km² (137,849 sq miles)
- 82.5 million inhabitants

Fire Service

- 23,000 volunteer fire brigades
1.3 million volunteer firefighters
261,000 youth firefighters (aged 10-17)
- 100 professional fire brigades
27,600 professional firefighters
- 800 industrial fire brigades
30,000 industrial firefighters

2. Duties of the German Fire Service

- Firefighting
- Technical rescue interventions
- Environmental protection (including hazardous materials incidents)
- Specialist technical rescue: water rescue, high angle rescue (line rescue), divers
- Emergency medical service, transportation of patients
- Major Incident and Disaster Control

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3. Firefighting Appliances and Support Units

- Firefighting units
 - Pumping appliances (different sizes of pumps and tank volume)
 - Turntable ladders and aerial platforms
 - Hose carrier
- Technical rescue units
- Environmental protection units
(including hazardous materials response)
- Information and communication units
- Command and Control units

4. Equipment Overview

| | <i>Volunteer Fire Brigades</i> | <i>Professional Fire Brigades</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fire trucks < 7,5 t | 25 000 | 90 |
| Fire trucks > 7,5 t | 14 700 | 1000 |
| Turntable ladders | 1 980 | 380 |
| Rescue trucks | 5 500 | 780 |
| Other vehicles and appliances | 34 900 | 3300 |
| Ambulance vehicles | 580 | 1350 |

5. Legislation

Fire services are a community obligation. Tasks, duties and competences are regulated by state law.

Civil protection and disaster control are a federal and state obligation. Fire services are the lead agency in planning for disaster control.

Professional Fire Services are in charge in cities with > 100.000 inhabitants.

Volunteer fire services are on duty in all smaller cities and communities.

Costs (incl. personnel costs, equipment and buildings) are borne by communities and municipalities. Promotion for equipment is granted by the states.

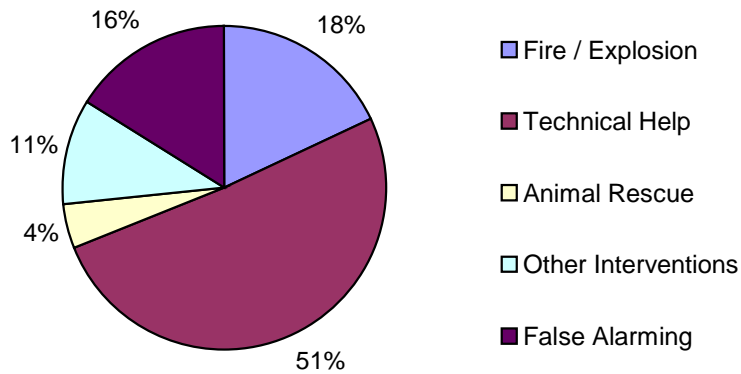
Intervention times

Some of the Fire Service state laws include regulations for intervention times.

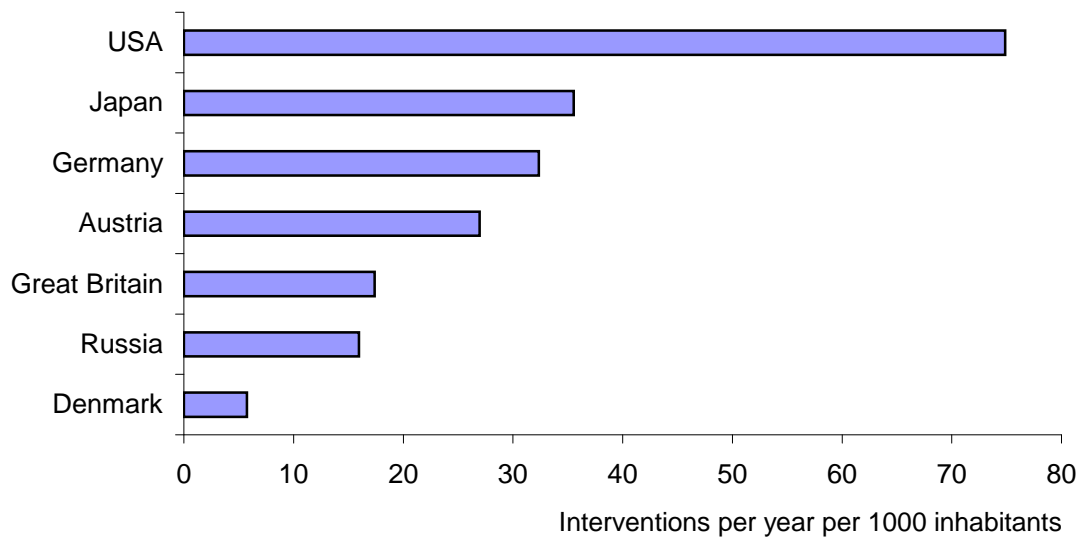
Fire Service planning is based on achievement of these requirements.

- Fire fighting: 8 to 12 minutes
- Emergency ambulance service: 6 to 12 minutes

6. Incidents and Interventions 2005



In international comparison, German firefighters have to deal with the third most incidents in the world.



7. Education and Training

Professional firefighters

Professional fire service is organised in 3 levels:

1. Firefighter level

To become a firefighter young men and women must have learnt a trade. After that they get 2 years of education and training with theoretical and practical shares.

2. Officer level

In officer level people work as incident manager or in leading positions within the brigade.

It is possible to work your way up from firefighter level to group manager level by on the job experience combined with one year advanced education and training. Otherwise young candidates with a bachelor degree (or diploma of university of applied sciences) can enter this rank directly. Training for these candidates is two years comprising mainly of firefighting theory, technical and scientific fundamentals, fire safety, leadership and with less emphasis on practical training.

3. Chief fire officer level

At chief fire officer level people work mostly as a department manager or as fire chief. There are also firemen and women at this level who serve as heads or department heads in state fire colleges and in state government. All over Germany there are about 400 people at chief fire officer level.

It is possible to develop to Chief Fire Officer level from officer level through further strategic level management experience and one years further education. There is also the possibility to enter this stage directly for University alumni with a Masters degree or equivalent diploma of engineering or sciences. They have to attend a two year training course in different fire service colleges and fire brigades to broaden their experience. This training course includes elements on fire service administration and legislation.

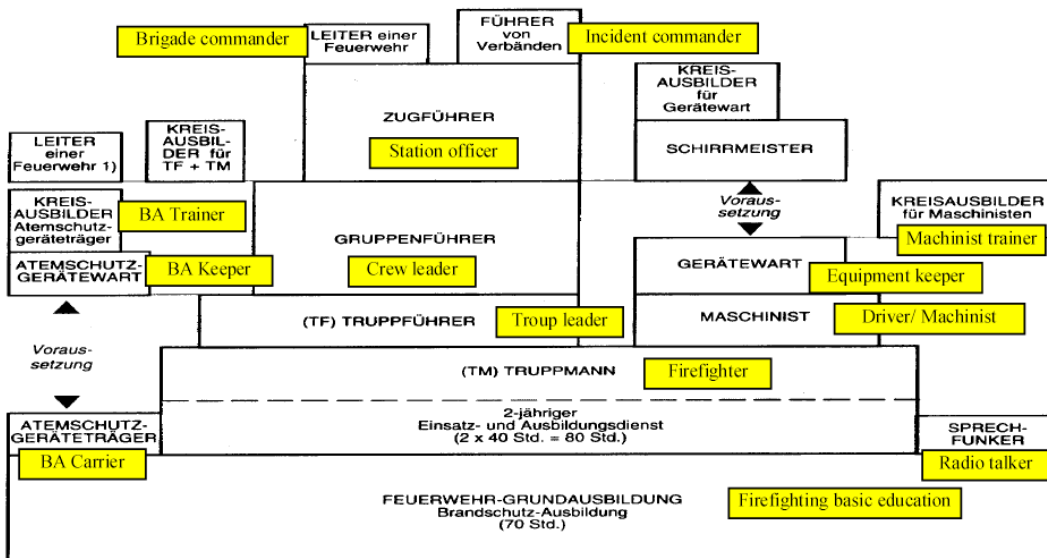
All professional firefighters, no matter what level they enter, have to take part in six months basic firefighting education and training. After that the types of education differ between the entering levels. Education and training takes two years.

Volunteer firefighters

Education for volunteer firefighters is composed from modules. The following picture shows possibilities for development within a volunteer brigade.

Feuerwehr-Ausbildung nach FwDV 2/1

Education for Firefighters



1) nur möglich bei Feuerwehr unter Zugstärke

Additional there are special courses for hazardous materials, first aid, emergency response and leadership for youth groups etc.

German Fire Services Association

Established 1851

Organisation

- A registered non-governmental association (Association Law)
- Politically independent
- No Trade Union

Tasks of the Association

- Lobbying
- Public relations and press centre
- 14 working commissions