

# **Overview of the 2022 White Paper on Fire Service**

Materials created by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency were translated by the International Fire Service Information Center

**The Fire and Disaster Management Agency  
(FDMA)**

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## Main Part

## Special Feature 1

# Improvement of firefighting and disaster prevention systems in light of recent large-scale natural disasters

## Status of the FDMA's response in light of recent disasters

- Based on the landslide disaster in Atami, Shizuoka in 2021, which caused extensive damage, the following measures have been implemented.
  - ▶ Established the “Guidelines for Cooperation among Related Organizations in Rescue and Search Activities in the Event of a Large-Scale Disaster” in June 2022 to ensure effective rescue and search activities through cooperation and coordination with related organizations such as the police and the Self-Defense Forces.
  - ▶ Establishment of high-spec drones for information gathering activities and small rescue vehicles with excellent mobility, etc.



Activity coordination meeting at the landslide disaster in Atami, Shizuoka



High-spec information gathering drones



Small rescue vehicle

## Our efforts regarding the “five-year strategy for accelerating disaster prevention, mitigation, and national resilience.”

- Under the “Five-Year Acceleration Strategy,” the FDMA has implemented eight measures, including “Measures to Enhance and Strengthen the National Fire-Service Teams for Large-Scale Disasters” and “Measures Concerning Volunteer Fire Corps as the Core of Regional Disaster Prevention Capabilities”



Vehicle equipped with central command function (Measures to Enhance and Strengthen National Fire-Service Teams for Large-Scale Disasters)



Small vehicle loaded with rescue supplies and equipment and equipped with a power pump

## 6th National Fire-Service Teams Joint Training

- Conducted the 6th National Joint Drill of National Fire-Service Teams to improve their skills and ability to work together (Map based training (July 27, 2022) and operating training (November 12 and 13, 2022)).



Map based training (FDMA)



Operating training (landslide disaster rescue training)



Operating training (tsunami castaway rescue training)



## Special Feature 2

### Measures regarding novel coronavirus

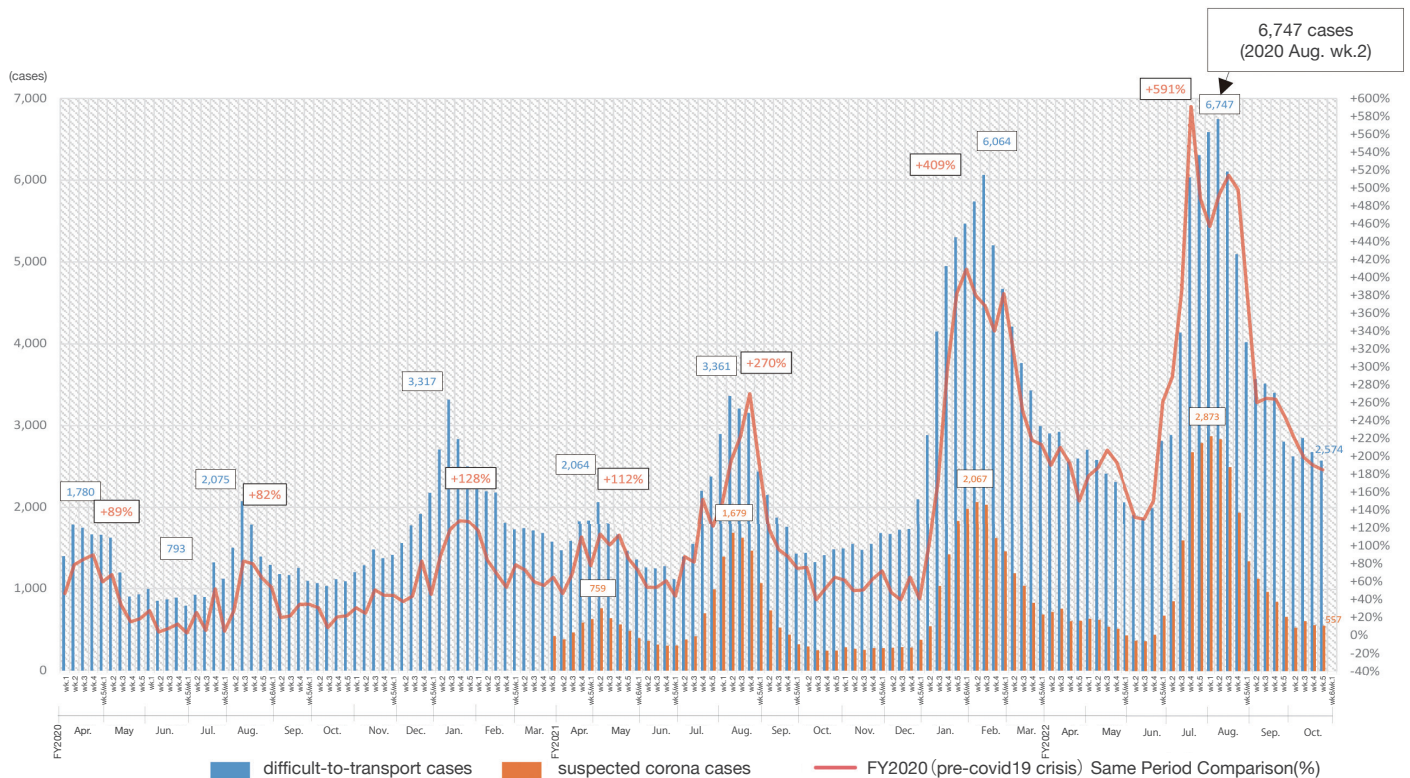
- As of November 1, 2022, the number of people infected with novel coronavirus in Japan was 22,360,872, and the cumulative number of deaths was 46,711 (according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare).
- The following measures have been implemented to prevent infection among ambulance team members at the scene of a disaster.

- ▶ Partially revised the “Infection Prevention Manual for Ambulance Team Members” in February 2022, based on communication from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
- ▶ To prevent shortages of infection-prevention equipment and material from interfering with Emergency operations, we will procure infection-prevention equipment and materials such as N95 masks and provide them to fire departments that need them, utilizing the supplementary budgets.



- The following measures have been implemented to deal with cases that are difficult to transport by ambulance.
- ▶ Since April 2020, a survey has been being conducted on the number of difficult emergency transport cases at 52 fire departments nationwide.
  - \*In the second week of August 2022, the number of cases reached 6,747, the highest number ever recorded (as of November 1, 2022) [Figure below].
- ▶ Requested firefighting agencies continue to promote efforts to encourage local residents to use ambulances in a timely and appropriate manner due to the sharp increase in the number of patients with Omicron strains and other emergency cases due to things like heat strokes.
- ▶ Requested prefectures and firefighting agencies implement and strengthen their Ambulance Advice Center Projects (#7119) as soon as possible.

[Results of the survey on the status of difficult-to-transport cases from each fire department (weekly comparisons)]



\*1 In this survey, “difficult-to-transport cases” are those reported by firefighting agencies to the FDMA of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications as cases in which the ambulance team members “made four or more referrals to medical institutions” and “stayed at the scene for 30 minutes or more. Of these cases, none were not able to be transported to a medical institution.

\*2 Surveyed headquarters = 52 in total: fire departments of government ordinance-designated cities, Tokyo Fire Department, and representative fire departments of each prefecture.

\*3 Suspected corona case = A case involving an injured or sick person with symptoms of suspected novel coronavirus infection (fever of 37°C (99° F) or higher, dyspnea, etc.)

\*4 Share the situation with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and prefectures, etc. to ensure the acceptance system of medical institutions.

\*5 These figures are preliminary.

\*6 This survey does not include those that were referred to medical institutions by health care centers.

- Promoted the full-scale introduction of online training for hazardous materials engineers, and as of October 1, 2022, online training was available in 41 prefectures.

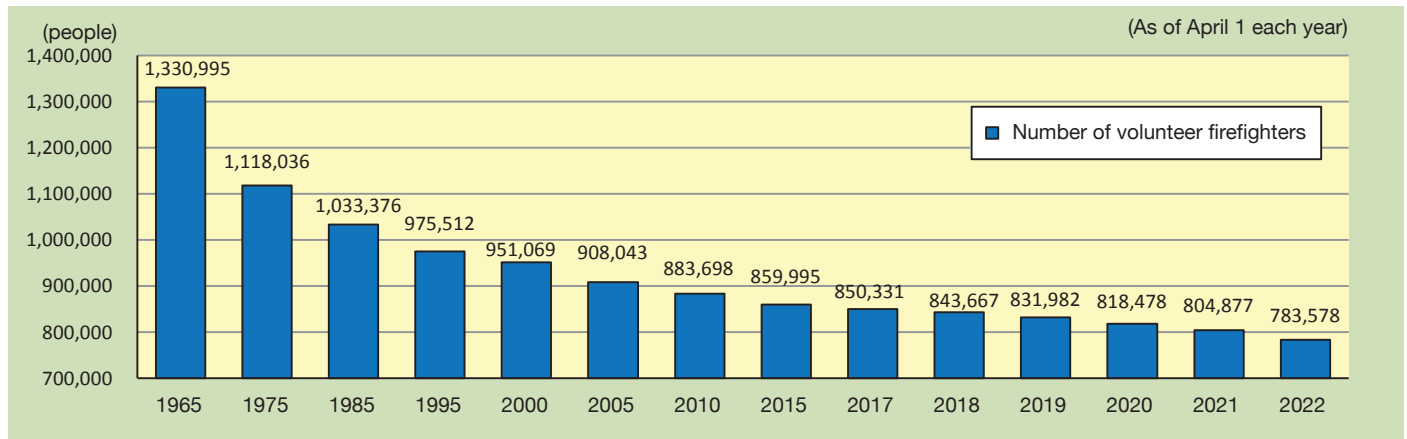
## Special Feature 3

# Enhancement and strengthening of regional disaster prevention capabilities with the volunteer fire corps at the core

### Current state of the volunteer fire corps

- The number of volunteer firefighters has been decreasing by more than 10,000 from the previous year since 2018. In 2022, in particular, the number of volunteer firefighters decreased by more than 20,000 from the previous year, and is now in a critical situation, falling below 800,000 for the first time. (As of April 1, 2022, 783,578, down 21,299 from the previous year.)
- Looking at the number of volunteer firefighters who have joined and left the volunteer fire corps in recent years, while the number of those who have left the corps has generally leveled off, the number of those who have joined has declined significantly, with a particularly marked downward trend in the number of younger members.

[Number of Volunteer Firefighters]



### Improvement of volunteer firefighters' compensation and measures to recruit members

- Established the “Standards for Compensation of Part-Time Firefighters,” which stipulates the standard amount of annual compensation, direct payment to volunteer firefighters, etc., and conducted the “Survey on the Status of Improvement of Volunteer Firefighters' Compensation” (as of April 1, 2022).
- The calculation method of local allocation tax has been revised since FY2022 to accurately reflect the financial demand for volunteer firefighters' remuneration, etc. paid by each municipality.
- Implemented a campaign to encourage firefighters to join the fire brigade, a “model project to improve the power of the fire brigade,” government subsidies for rescue equipment and materials, and free loans of multifunctional fire trucks equipped with rescue equipment and materials.

#### 「消防団員の報酬等の基準の策定等について」のポイント (令和3年4月13日付消防庁長官通知)

○ 「消防団員の処遇等に関する検討会」中間報告を踏まえ、消防団員の処遇改善を推進するため発出するもの

#### ① 「非常勤消防団員の報酬等の基準」の制定

##### 【基準の内容】

##### 1. 報酬の種類

年額報酬と出勤報酬の2種類とする。ただし、地域の実情に応じ、このほかの報酬を定めることを妨げない。

##### 2. 報酬の額

※以下の基準を踏まえ、市町村が条例で定める。

○ 年額報酬の額は、「団員」階級の者については36,500円を標準額とする。

「団員」より上位の階級にある者等については、業務の負荷や職責等を勘案して、標準額と均衡のとれた額とする。

○ 出勤報酬の額は、災害（水火災・地震等）に関する出勤については1日あたり8,000円を標準額とする。

災害以外の出勤については、出勤の態様や業務の負荷、活動時間等を勘案して、標準額と均衡のとれた額とする。

##### 3. 費用弁償

上記に掲げる報酬のほか、団員の出勤に係る費用弁償については、必要額を措置する。

##### 4. 支給方法

報酬・費用弁償とも、団員個人に対し、活動記録等に基づいて市町村から直接支給する。

#### ② その他(適切な予算措置、留意事項等)

○ 団員個人に対し直接支給すべき経費（報酬等）と、団・分団の運営に必要な経費（維持管理費等）は適切に区別し、各市町村において適切に予算措置すべきであること。

○ ①の基準は令和4年4月1日から適用するため、それまでに、各市町村において消防団と協議のうえ、十分な検討を行い、必要な条例改正及び予算措置を実施すること。

○ ①の基準を定めることとあわせ、条例(例)を改正するので、各市町村の条例改正にあたり参考にされたいこと。

○ 出勤報酬の創設等に伴う課税関係については、国税庁と協議の上、追って消防庁から通知すること※1。

○ 地方財政措置については、令和4年度から、①の基準等を踏まえて見直しを行う方向で検討することとしていること※2。

※1 令和4年3月23日付消防庁長官通知にて各都道府県知事等へ通知済。

※2 令和4年1月18日付消防庁次長通知にて算定の見直し内容を各都道府県知事等へ通知済。



消防団に関する詳しい情報はWEBで  
消防団員募集

消防庁 総務省消防庁

Firefighter Recruitment Poster

The Commissioner of the FDMA's Notification on “Volunteer Firefighter Compensation Standards”  
(April 13, 2021)



## Special Feature 4

### Promotion of Digital Transformation in the field of fire and disaster prevention

#### Expedite and facilitate emergency services by utilizing the Individual Number Card (My Number Card)

- Study on the use of the Individual number card held by the injured or sick person to enable ambulance team members to accurately and quickly grasp the injured or sick person's medical information, etc., and to speed up and facilitate emergency operations.

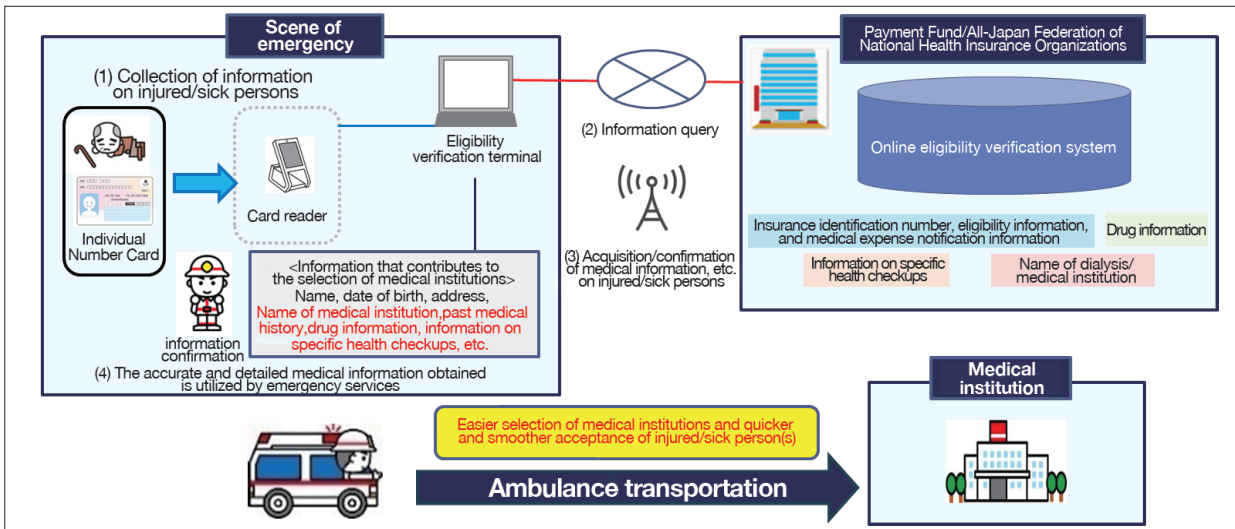


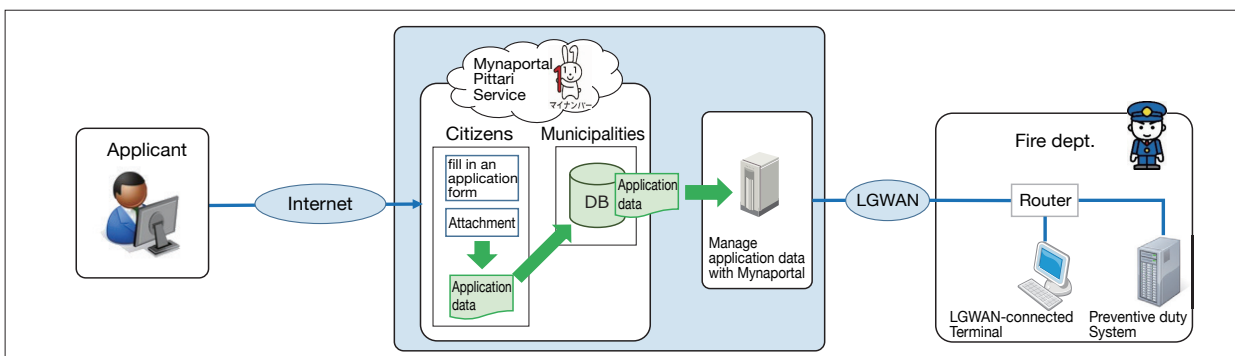
Illustration of emergency services using the Individual Number Card (My Number Card)

#### Promote the introduction of electronic applications for various procedures in fire laws and regulations

- The following efforts are being made to promote the introduction of electronic applications which can reduce the burden of counter visits.
  - ▶ Establishment of a standard model for electronic applications utilizing the Mynaportal "Pittari Service"
  - ▶ Created a manual for the introduction of electronic applications for fire departments.
  - ▶ Implementation support by advisors

#### Promote Digital Transformation in firefighting education and training

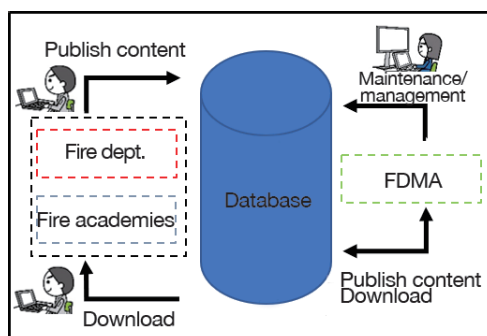
- The following efforts are being implemented to prevent injuries and accidents and to develop human resources with advanced



The overview of electronic applications, etc. using the Mynaportal Pittari Service

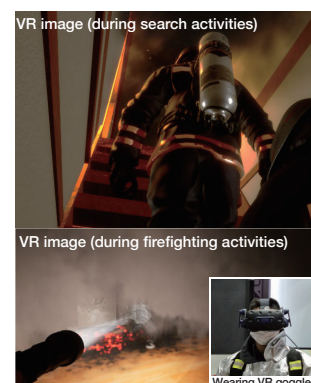
disaster response capabilities.

- ▶ Develop a "firefighting sharing website" where activity manuals, training materials, etc. are shared among related organizations.



The overview of firefighting sharing website

- ▶ Creation of training content using VR



\*The image of wearing VR goggles is for illustrative purposes only.

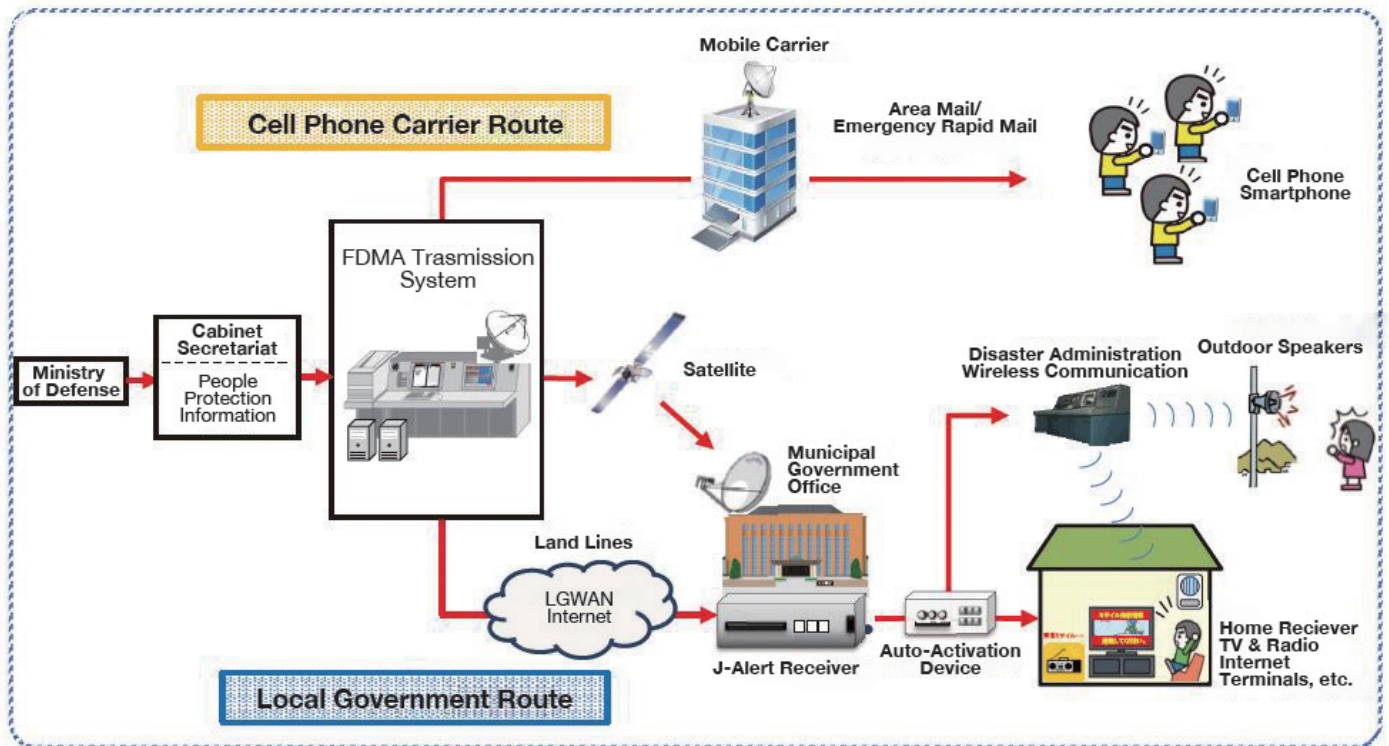
Training content utilizing VR

## Special Feature 5

### Response to the launch of ballistic missiles by North Korea on October 4 and November 3, 2022

- Since January 2022, North Korea has been repeatedly launching ballistic missiles with high frequency. In addition to prompt information transmission via J-Alert, the FDMA has been promoting the designation of evacuation facilities (emergency temporary evacuation facilities) in concrete and other solid buildings and underground facilities, and has resumed joint evacuation drills for residents in anticipation of ballistic missiles since FY2022, which had been suspended since June 2018.
- With regard to the ballistic missiles launched on October 4 and November 3, they passed or had the possibility of passing through Japan's territory and territorial waters. The FDMA immediately established the FDMA Emergency Management Headquarters headed by the commissioner to disseminate information via J-Alert, and request appropriate responses and damage reports from the areas subject to J-Alert, and received reports from all local governments that there was no damage.

[Information transmission by J-Alert at the time of ballistic missile launch]



- In light of the various opinions received on the transmission of information by J-Alert, including the need to further accelerate the transmission time of J-Alerts, the relevant ministries and agencies will work together to examine ways to improve the situation. Additionally, the FDMA also requested that municipalities that experienced difficulties in communicating information to their residents promptly restore or secure their information transmission systems by utilizing alternative means, and requested that municipalities nationwide conduct an emergency inspection of their J-Alert devices and confirm that they are working properly.

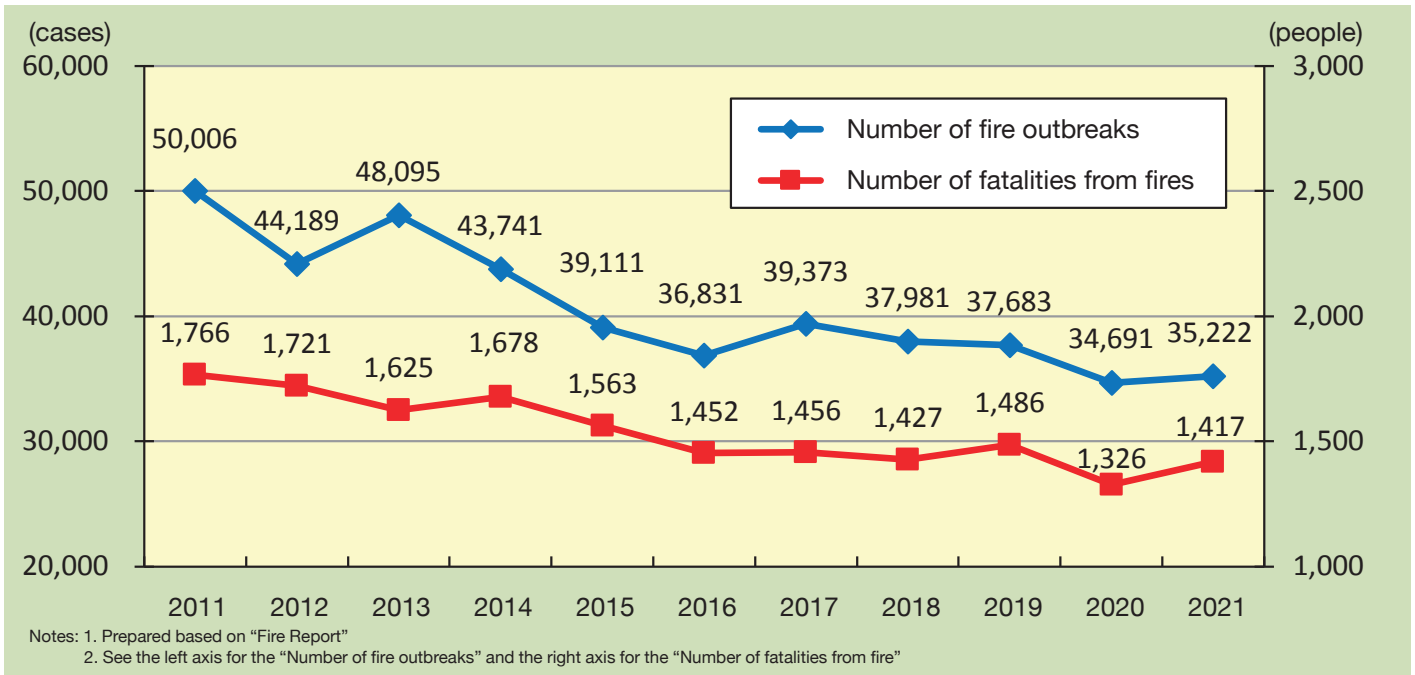
Major statistical figures in main part, etc.



## Current Status of Fires and Recent Trends (Chapter 1, Section 1)

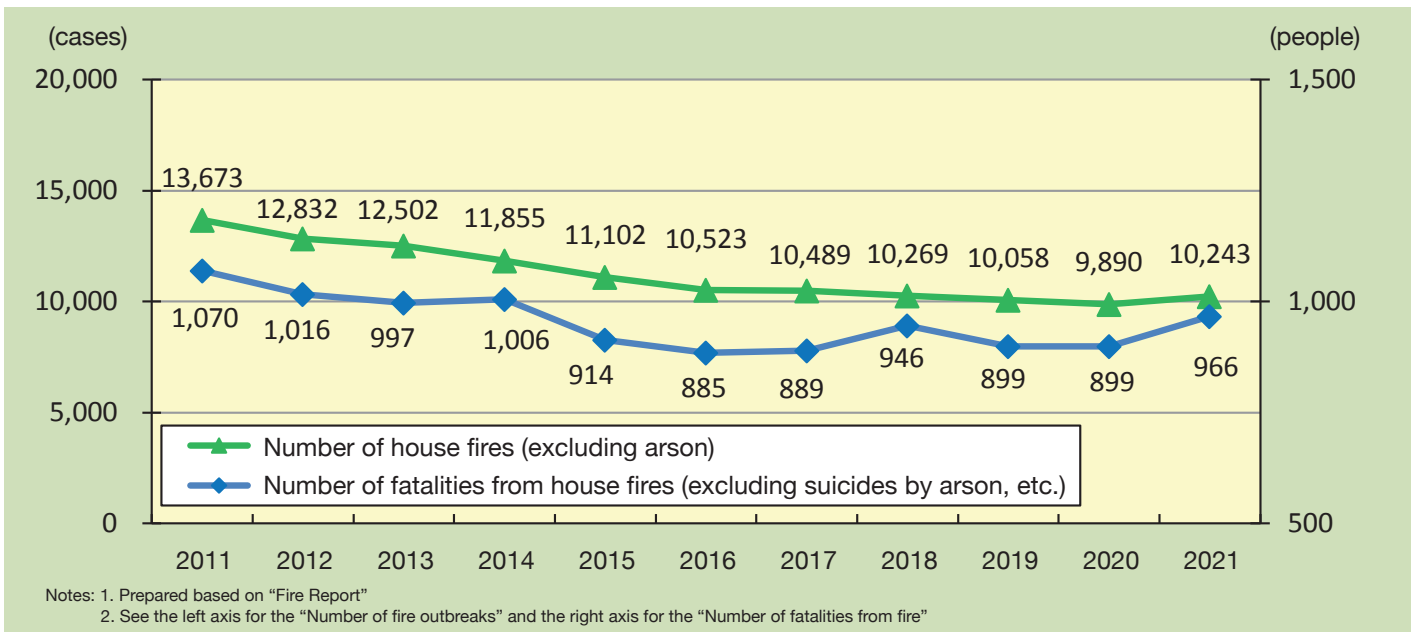
- The number of fire incidents and the number of fatalities from fires have been gradually trending downward over the past 10 years.
- The number of fire incidents in 2021 was 35,222 (up by 531 from the previous year), equating to 70.4% versus 10 years ago.
- The number of fatalities from fires was 1,417 (up by 91 from the previous year), equating to 80.2% versus 10 years ago.

[Trends in the number of fire incidents and the number of fatalities from fires]



- Most casualties from fires were caused by building fires. In terms of the number of building fires in 2021, house fires accounted for the largest number of fires by purpose of buildings.
- The number of fatalities from house fires (excluding suicides by arson, etc.) was 966 (up by 67 from the previous year).
- The number of house fires(excluding arson) in 2021 was 10,243.

[Trends in the number of house fires (excluding arson) and the number of fatalities from house fires (excluding suicides by arson, etc.)]



## Status of Fire Service Organizations (As of April 1, 2022) (Chapter 2, Section 1)

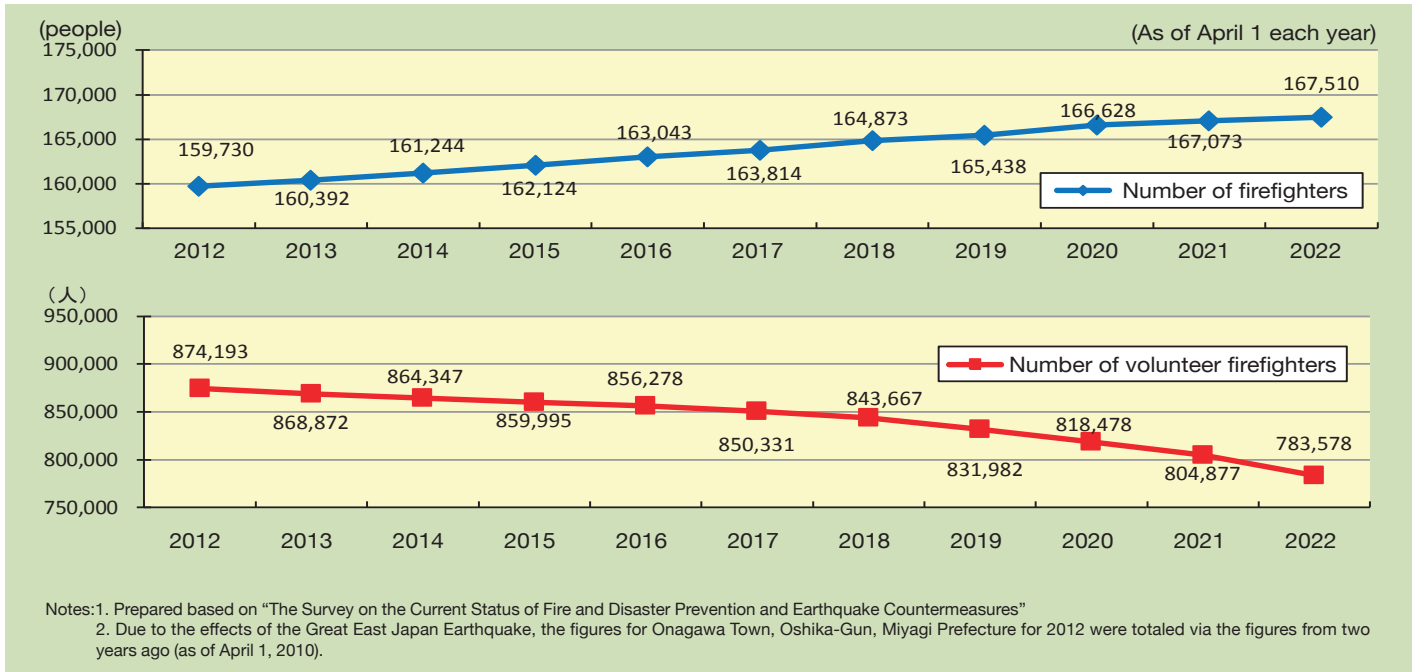
### ○ Fire departments

- 723 fire departments and 1,714 fire stations have been established. The number of firefighters is 167,510 (an increase of 437 from the previous year).

### ○ Volunteer fire corps

- The number of volunteer fire corps is 2,196 and the number of members is 783,578 (a decrease of 21,299 from the previous year).
- Volunteer fire corps have been established in every municipality.

[Trends in the number of firefighters and volunteer fire corps members]

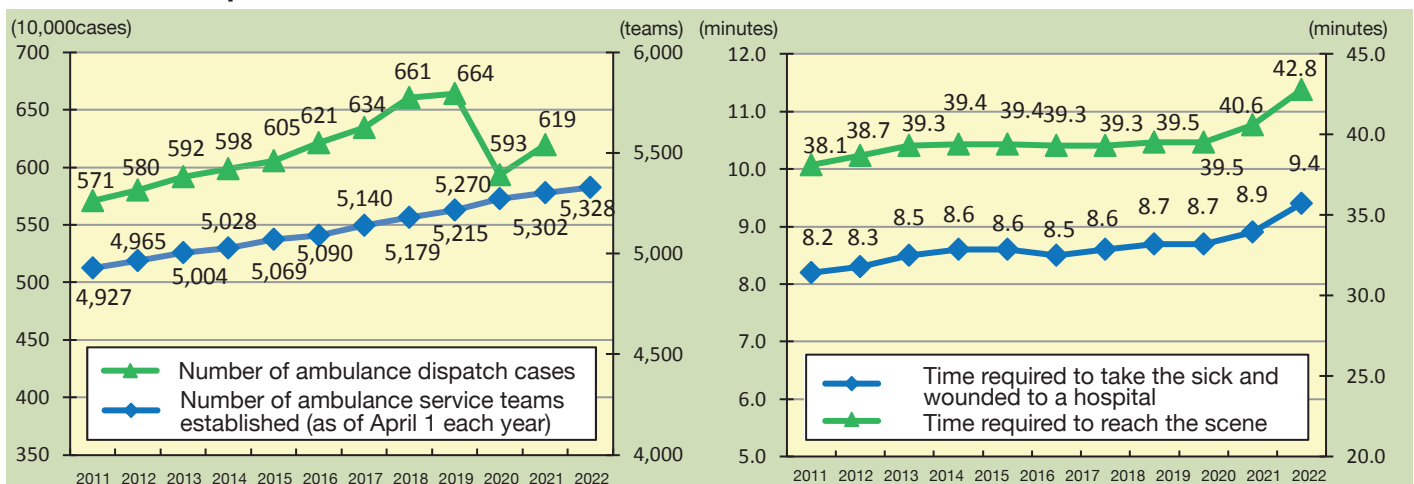


## Implementation Status of Ambulance Services (Chapter 2, Section 5)

- The number of emergency calls by ambulance during 2021 was about 6.19 million (an increase of about 0.26 million from the previous year).
- The number of ambulance service teams established as of April 1, 2022 is 5,328 teams (an increase of 26 teams from the previous year), which is roughly an 7% increase compared to 10 years ago.
- The average time required to reach the scene was about 9.4 minutes in 2021 (1.2 minutes longer than 10 years ago).
- The average time required to take the sick and wounded to hospital was about 42.8 minutes in 2021 (4.7 minutes longer than 10 years ago).

[Trends in the number of ambulance dispatch cases and the number of ambulance service teams]

[Trends in the time required to reach the scene and the time required to take sick and wounded to hospital by ambulance]



- Notes: 1. Prepared based on "The Annual Reports on Ambulance Service"  
 2. In the graph on the left, see the left axis for the "number of ambulance dispatch cases" and the right axis for the "number of ambulance service teams established (as of April 1 each year)".  
 3. In the graph on the right, see the left axis for the "time required to reach the scene" and the right axis for the "time required to take someone to a hospital".  
 4. Due to the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the figures for the right-hand graph were totaled by excluding the data for the fire department at the Otsuchi District Administrative Affairs Association in Kamaishi and the fire department in Rikuzentakata City in 2011.

## **Main Part**

### **[Chapter 1] Current Status of and Challenges for Disasters**

#### Section 1. Fire Prevention

[Column] Preventive Measures in Light of the Fire at a Building in Kita-ku, Osaka City

#### Section 2. Countermeasures to Disasters at Facilities for Hazardous Materials

#### Section 3. Countermeasures to Disasters at Petroleum Industrial Complexes

#### Section 4. Countermeasures to Fires in Forests and Fields

#### Section 5. Countermeasure to Storm and Floods

#### Section 6. Countermeasures to Earthquake

#### Section 7. Countermeasures to Nuclear Disasters

#### Section 8. Countermeasures to Other Disasters

### **[Chapter 2] Fire and Disaster Prevention Organizations and Activities**

#### Section 1. Fire Service Structure

#### Section 2. Promotion of Integration of Fire Department

#### Section 3. The Activities of Firefighting Personnel

[Column] Renewal of the FDMA's "Portal Site for Promoting the Career Advancement of Female Firefighters" on their website

[Column] Promotion of Women Joining Fire Brigades and Revitalization of Women Firefighters' Activities

#### Section 4. Education and Training Structure

#### Section 5. Ambulance Service System

[Column] Promotion of the Ambulance Adviser Center project (#7119)

#### Section 6. Rescue System

#### Section 7. Aerial Fire and Disaster Prevention System

#### Section 8. Integrated Fire Service Support and National Fire-Service Team for Disaster Response

#### Section 9. The Disaster Prevention Systems of National and Local Government

#### Section 10. Promoting the Computerization of Fire and Disaster Prevention

### **[Chapter 3] Responses for Public Safety**

#### Section 1. Efforts for Public Safety

#### Section 2. Response to the Case of a Ballistic Missile Launch by North Korea

[Column] Promotion of the Designation of Evacuation Facilities for the People Protection

### **[Chapter 4] Voluntary Fire and Disaster Prevention Activities and Building Communities that are Resistant to Disasters**

### **[Chapter 5] Responding to International Challenges**

[Column] Assistance to Ukraine in the form of firefighting and rescue equipment and materials

### **[Chapter 6]**

### **Research and Development on Science and Technology for Fire and Disaster Prevention**