

# FACT SHEET

## VIOLENCE AGAINST FIRE & EMS RESPONDERS

The [Center for Firefighter Injury Research and Safety Trends](#) (FIRST) at Drexel University has issued the following facts and solutions to address violence against fire and rescue service personnel.

### FIRST REPORTS THAT:

- In 2022, there were 593 media stories covering 174 assaults against first responders.
- To date in 2023, there have been 346 media stories.

### MORE FIRST CENTER FACTS:

- Between 57-93% of fire and EMS responders experience an act of verbal and/or physical violence at least once. Verbal violence is the most prevalent form.
- The range of physical violence ever experienced by fire and EMS responders is between 22.6-90% with patients being the most common perpetrator.
- In a study of nationally registered US EMTs, 8% of fatalities were due to assaults.
- Acts of violence experienced by fire and EMS responders are described as "struck by patient," "punched in the face by a drunkard," "tackled by a large man," and "assaulted by a combative patient".
- Paramedics have 14-fold higher odds for violent injuries than firefighter colleagues

Violence is a persistent workplace hazard that impacts fire and EMS responders' lives and mental health. Fire departments and EMS organizations can protect their membership **IMMEDIATELY** through implementation of the [SAVER Model Policies](#), developed by over 40 fire and rescue service experts (departments, unions, and national organizations).



For more information about how the SAVER Model Policies can keep your members safe, contact Dr. Jennifer Taylor, FIRST Center Director and connect with FIRST on social media.

 [jat65@drexel.edu](mailto:jat65@drexel.edu)

 267-359-6060

 [@getthedatafirst](https://twitter.com/getthedatafirst)

 [FIRST Center](https://www.facebook.com/FIRSTCenter)

The [Workplace Violence Prevention for First Responders](#) is now available through a partnership between FIRST and the International Association of Fire Fighters. This course gives responders the skills and knowledge to protect themselves in violent situations.



For more information about the IAFF's Violence Prevention Course to protect first responders, please contact Grady Valencis, Deputy Director of Health & Safety Operational Services.

 [gvalencis@iaff.org](mailto:gvalencis@iaff.org)  202-824-1555

SCAN HERE TO  
REGISTER FOR  
**WPV PREVENTION  
FOR FIRST  
RESPONDERS**

