

IMPACTS OF PROFESSION AS RECOGNIZED BY PARTNERS/SPOUSES

The Wildland Firefighter Partner/Spouse Perspective Survey was developed to measure the impacts a career as a federal Wildland Firefighter (WFF) has on both firefighters and their families. With increased awareness & legislative reform effective support can be developed to match the demands of our fire seasons.

Stressors

Partner/Spouse of WFF = "respondent"
wildland firefighter = "WFF"

60.2% report WFF's have been impacted by an incident at work that resulted in mental health challenges.

59.9% of respondents feel they are secondary to the commitments of their partner's job while 43.4% feel they're left to operate without a partner for 7+ months per year.



Current Stress Responses

Respondent

(reported often/regularly)

WFF

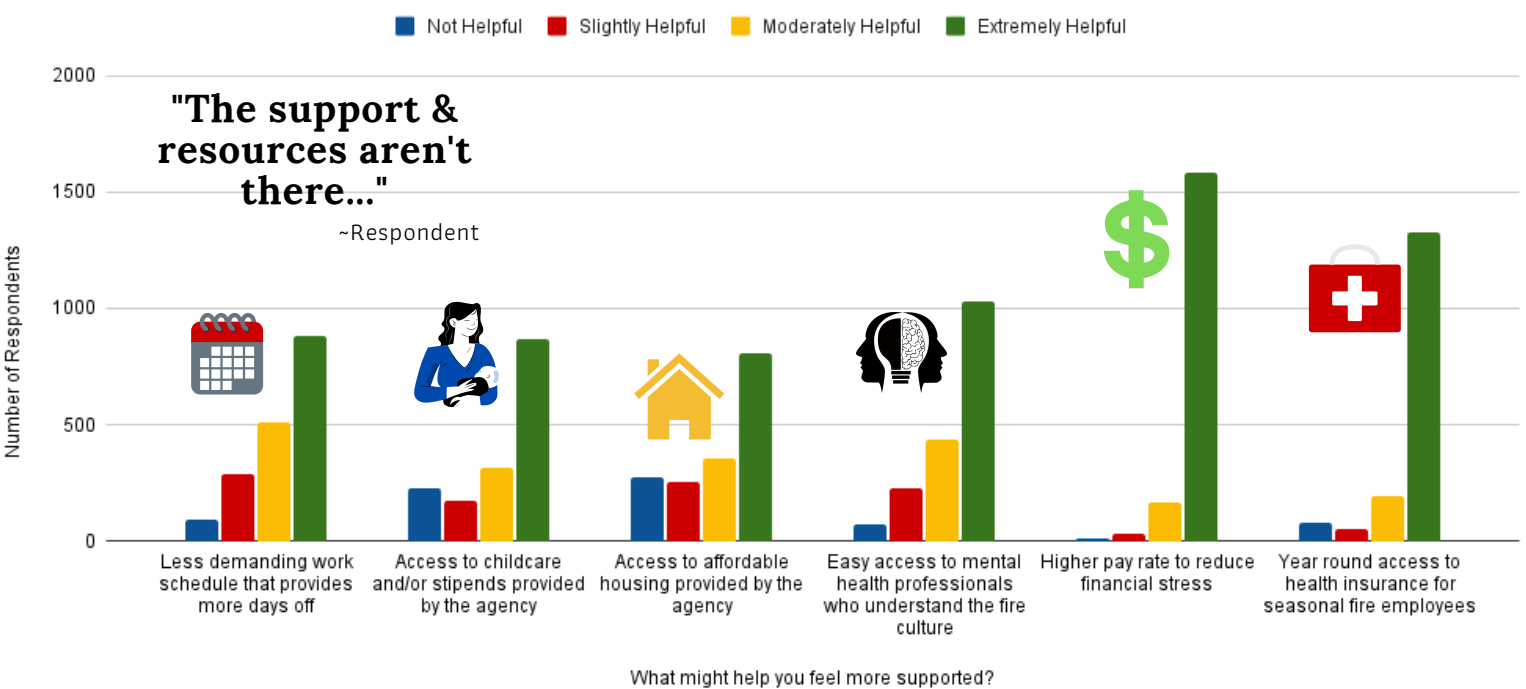
(reported by respondents as behaviors observed often/regularly, in WFF's during fire season, while off the clock)

- 78.1% feel stress due to WFF's absence
- 69.1% feel concerned about health of WFF
- 73.1% worry about possibility of tragic accident on fireline impacting them
- 11.5% feel confident if something were to happen to WFF while on duty, they'll be taken care of by agency
- 49.3% say maybe/yes they've considered separating from WFF due to strain on relationship from demands of job

- 56.6% answer calls/texts related to work
- 55.4% spend time on a screen
- 51.3% express anger/frustration about work
- 46.1% experience inadequate/poor quality sleep
- 46.4% spend quality time with family/friends
- 44.9% retreat, rest, recover
- 37.8% exhibit a sense of calm and ease while at home often/regularly

"If a fire doesn't kill my husband, the stress & anxiety will."

WHAT'S MISSING?



"The support & resources aren't there..."

-Respondent

MORE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND IN THE FULL DATA SUMMARY

www.grassrootswildlandfirefighters.com

"The mental health issues seem to have compounded over time with the nature of the job but also the loss of friends and co-workers to fire related deaths and suicide."

-Respondent

"This season is the fastest I've seen him burnout mentally & emotionally."

-Respondent

"My biggest challenge, in a household where we both fight fire, is that I may be expected to give up my career to carry and then raise a child."

-Respondent

"We've given too much, for too long, for too little."

-Respondent