



# **Volunteerism, Emergency Services, and Community Resilience**

Nick Vora

Union County Emergency Manager

September 23, 2024

# Role of Volunteers in Union County



- Union County has 14 volunteer organizations that provide primary emergency services with approx. 166 total staff.
- Categories:
  - Fire
  - EMS
  - SAR
  - Law
  - Disaster Response
  - Emergency Communications

A photograph of firefighters at night, silhouetted against a large, bright fire in the background. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the intense fire. The firefighters are wearing full protective gear, including helmets and jackets. The overall atmosphere is one of a serious emergency response.

**How much do we rely on volunteers?**















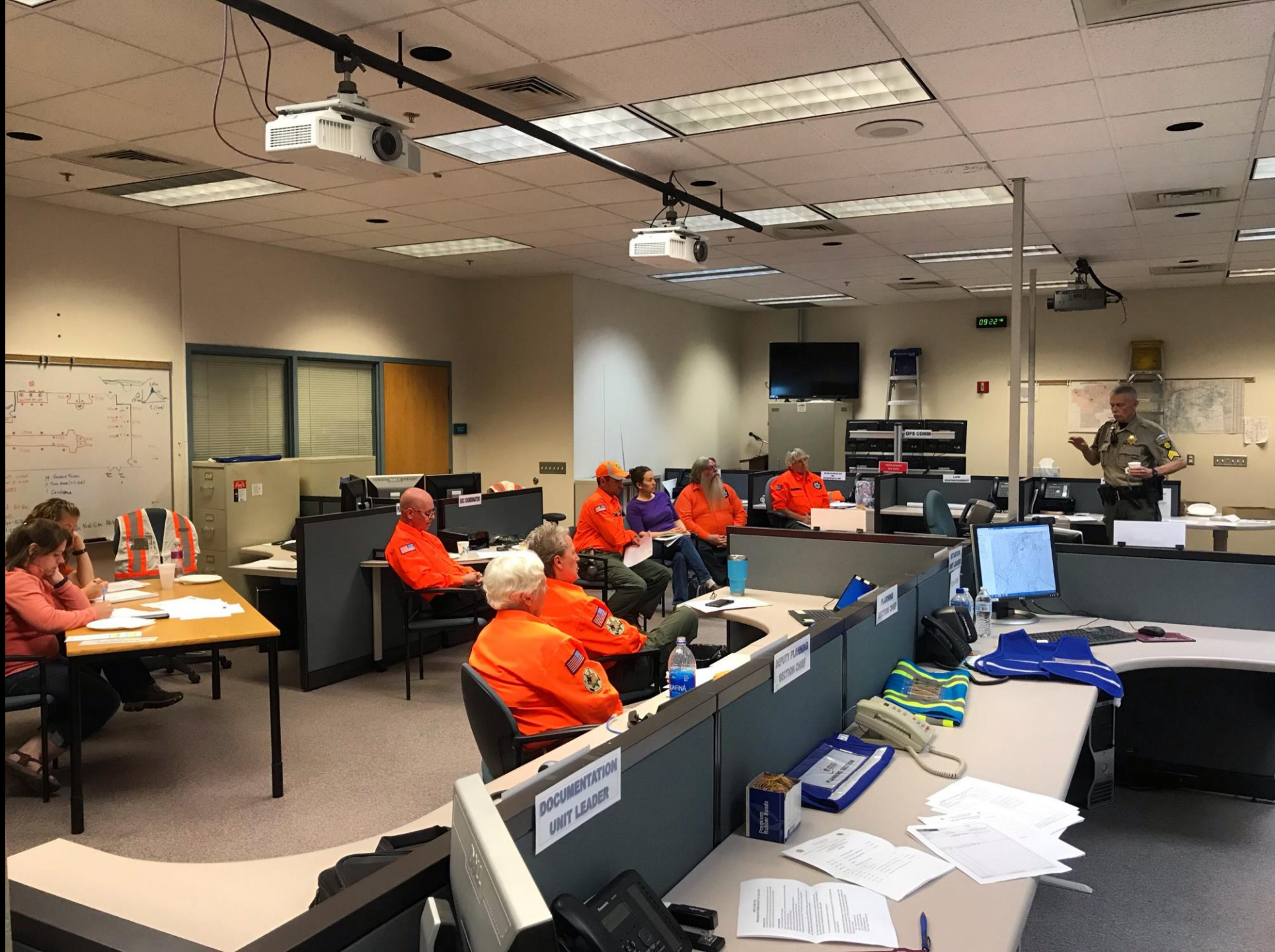
Union County Sheriff  
Search and Rescue

www.chdinc.org  
www.chdinc.org

ASCANDORA

BIOHAZARD



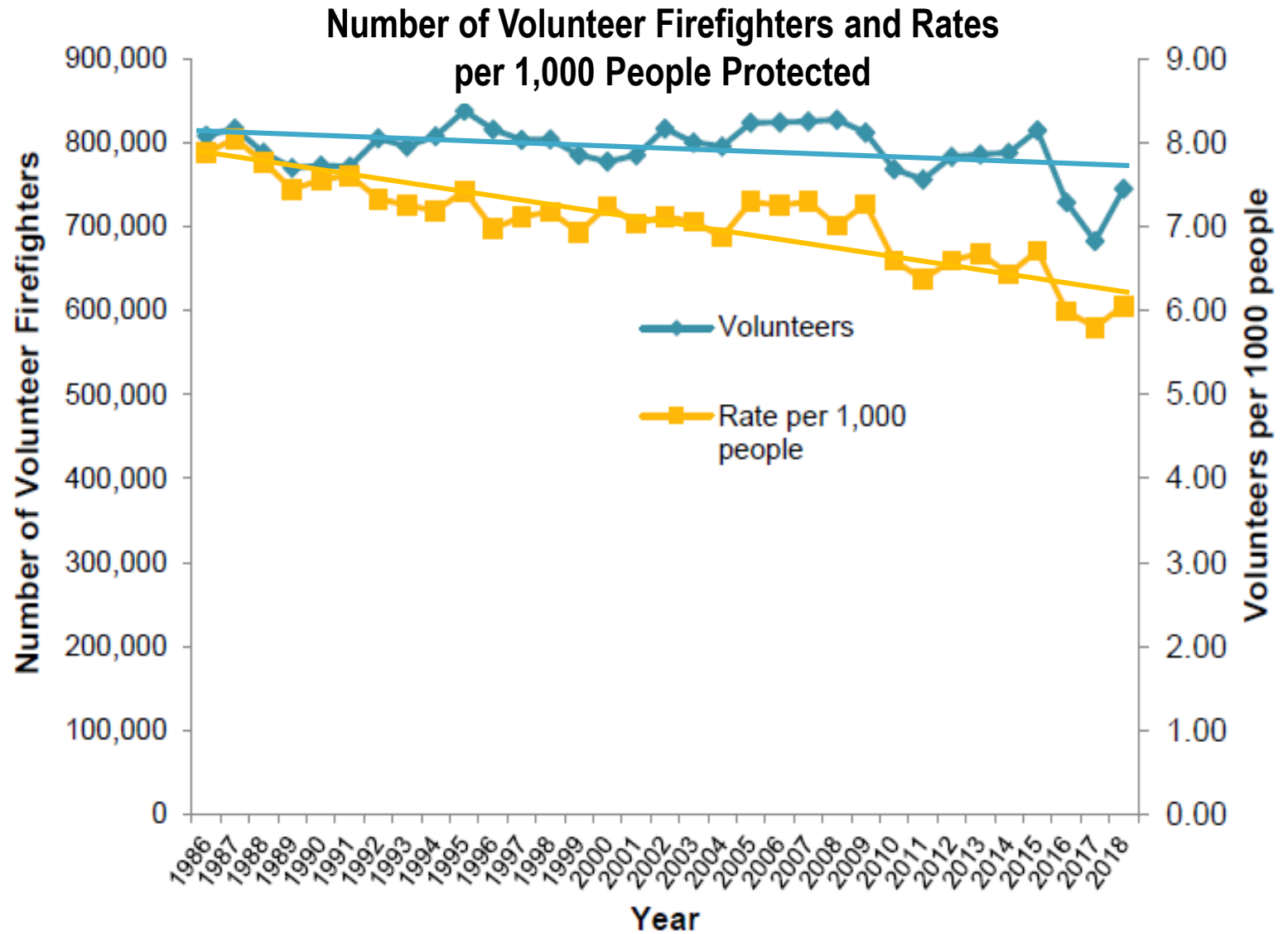


# The value of a volunteer: Union County Case Study

- 166 total volunteer staff from 14 agencies.
- Would require 51 FTEs to replace with career staff.
- Cost of employee is \$111,217 (2021 BLS data, \$33/hr)
- \$5.6 million/per year
- Each volunteer has an annual value of \$34,169.

# Changes in volunteerism

Source: 2020 NFPA US Fire Department Profile report. 1986-2018 data.



# Looking to the Future



Recruitment

Development

Retention