Other Cultural Considerations

- Firefighters consider their comrades as family.
- They place their lives in the hands of their peers.
- It’s common to prioritize the needs of the crew over the needs of the true family members.
- Willingly risk their lives.
- Member of a culture very few outside of firefighting can understand.
It’s a Calling…Not a Job

- Knowing from the **first day** it was a career.
- **Opportunities** to see beautiful places and forge **lifelong friendships**.
- Adventure, excitement, and **hard work**.
- “I feel like I got a lot more out of being a firefighter than I was ever able to give back.”
But What is the Cost of Doing Business?
Costs:

- Absence from home/spouse/family.
- Missed events such as birthdays and holidays.
- Life happening at home everyday and you’re not there.
- Long workdays at home can be the same as being gone.
- Continuous anxiety. The cycle of being gone and reintegration.
Longer, Catastrophic Fire Seasons

- Coming back from an assignment or season beaten up from the intensity and rigorous physical and mental demands.
- Increased exposure to psychological trauma
- Complexity of assignments / lack of resources
- Increased health hazards
  - Smoke inhalation
  - Covid
  - Toxic substances
- Political Concerns and Expectations