



SILOED POLICY

**Fewer fire engines
more mandated
density**

ORGANIZING AGAINST OUR FLAWED HOUSING POLICY . 6/8/26

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Balance of safety and growth

— a significant safety mismatch

Something laid bare by the LA fires:

They had **187 fire trucks**, and **over half were non operational**

This is not isolated to LA

There has been an aggressive consolidation of emergency equipment manufacturers

- After the crash in 2007/8 many city budgets were strained, and they started deferring maintenance of fleets and deferring purchases of new equipment

■ **NBC REPORT** · **Published 1/8/25**

The LA City Fire Department was assessing the impact of a **\$17.8-million budget reduction** in the weeks before the Palisades Fire destroyed hundreds of structures and burned more than 15,000 acres.

*LA Fire Chief warned last month about budget cuts
– NBC Los Angeles*

The most comprehensive history of the consolidation was written by antitrust lawyer Basel Musharbash 1/25/25

Did a Private Equity Fire Truck Roll-Up Worsen the L.A. Fires?

During the LA fires, dozens of fire trucks sat in the boneyard, waiting for repairs the city couldn't afford. Why? A private equity roll-up made replacing and repairing those trucks much pricier.

“

...the increasing price is a result of a private equity firm, American Industrial Partners, consolidating the fire truck industry and forcing up prices across the board. For decades before the 2010s, the fire apparatus industry was characterized by relatively stable ...prices and ample production capacity.

— Basel Musharbash

SKYROCKETING COSTS AND DELIVERY TIMES SINCE 2015:

Pumper trucks:

\$300,000 to
\$500,000 **now \$1
million**

Ladder trucks:

\$750,000 to \$900,000
to \$2 million

Delivery time:

Under a year
**Now between 2
years and 4.5 years**

All fire equipment — including air packs — similarly affected

California is competing with with other states for delivery:

They include Washington, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, and Pennsylvania

From its inception in the 50s and 60's the market was competitive with manufacturing in smaller companies across the country.

After the crash of 2007, cities started to wait on repair and replacement. Orders dropped by half, and the companies were aging out.

A private equity group, American Industrial Partners (AIP), saw an opportunity.

Between 2016-17 things started to change. Smaller companies were bought up and at least 44% of fire truck and ambulance companies were held just by the renamed REV Group.

Fast forward to now:

Three dominant manufacturers control 2/3-3/4 of all manufacturing

REV Group

Oshkosh

Rosenbauer

- By consolidating and closing manufacturing plants, delivery capacity dropped.
- When cities started placing orders again, during Covid, they were shocked by huge increases in price and delivery times

- **The top producers have not attempted to increase production; a tighter market kept their prices high.**
- **They are also using “floating prices” — increasing the price when the truck finally goes into production, claiming their costs have increased over the years since the order was placed.**

Altogether, these facts paint an alarming picture. A handful of financiers have been allowed to transform a critical, once-vibrant industry into a rent-extracting racket.

— **Basel Musharbash**

To remedy the price fixing, he recommends lawsuits brought by AGs, cities, and fire departments — aided by the FTC and the DOJ's Antitrust Division.

This situation has played out in emergency medical equipment as well.

The consolidation of fire equipment manufacturers, increasing fire risks, strained city budgets, escalating replacement and repair costs, extended delivery times, with no relief for dense, mandated housing construction in known hazard areas.

Our legislators should put these things together — a dire shortage of first responder equipment should be a signal to balance safety with growth.

Fire apparatus crisis sparks investigations, lawsuits over soaring prices and delays

The IAFF called for federal scrutiny of manufacturers more than a year ago. Now states and local governments are launching investigations and lawsuits over alleged price fixing and market consolidation.

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Fire fighters need modern, reliable equipment to keep our communities protected. Departments are waiting years and paying double for essential equipment. That's unacceptable, and it's putting lives at risk.

— IAFF GENERAL PRESIDENT EDWARD KELLY

<https://www.iaff.org/news/fire-apparatus-crisis-sparks-investigations-lawsuits-over-soaring-prices-and-delays/>

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