



## GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

Media Contact:  
Sam Mamet, Executive Director  
1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203  
(p) 303-831-6411 • (f) 303-860-8175  
[smamet@cml.org](mailto:smamet@cml.org)  
[www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org)

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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### DATA REVEALS COLORADO'S POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS SERVE RESIDENTS WITH GREATER EFFICIENCIES

**January 4, 2018- Denver, CO**— The Colorado Municipal League's (CML) 2018 *State of Our Cities & Towns Report* looks at the essential services of municipalities that ensure public safety. The report, based on data from a statewide survey conducted in the fall of 2017 of cities and towns statewide, reveals that both police and fire departments are delivering services more efficiently than ever before.

#### Police

Current public perceptions of police work, driven primarily by events occurring elsewhere in the country, are a challenge facing today's police departments. Police are responding by working more closely with residents and local businesses on crime prevention and reporting. New technology is also helping to build public trust with the deployment of officer-worn body cameras to record officer-civilian contacts and the ability to revive opioid drug overdose victims through the administration of antidotes. The survey found:

- All - Share one or more service with another police department (e.g. 9-1-1 dispatch, training, SWAT, crime lab, drug enforcement task force)
- 59% - operate community policing programs (16% plan to soon)
- 51% - Use officer body cameras (21% plan to soon)
- 47% - have deployed opioid revival drugs to officers
- 32% - Employ civilian community service officers
- 69% - report challenges in recruiting new officers. Among reasons cited: inadequate pay/benefits, rural location, current public perceptions of police

#### Fire

The way residents use 9-1-1 services is reshaping municipal fire departments throughout the state. Two thirds of today's fire department calls are medical emergencies and fire departments are finding more efficient methods of response through full ambulance service, community paramedicine programs and alternative response vehicles. Innovations such as community wildland fire protection planning and new equipment such as fog nails and smoke curtains are making fire department's more effective. By the numbers:

- 48% - participate in a community wildland fire protection plan (10% plan to soon)
- 36% - operate full ambulance service. (An additional 16% provide emergency transport only)
- 33% - have instituted a specific program to promote wildfire mitigation (12% plan to soon)
- 13% - have merged with a district or neighboring city in last decade
- 52% - report challenges recruiting volunteers. Among reasons cited: working out of service area, training requirements, inadequate compensation, personal time constraints

Complete survey results and videos can be found at <http://www.cml.org/state-of/>

CML is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 269 cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org) or call 303-831-6411.

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