

U.S. Fire Administration

# Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2012

August 2013



FEMA



## **U.S. Fire Administration**

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### **Mission Statement**

*We provide national leadership to foster a solid foundation for our fire and emergency services stakeholders in prevention, preparedness, and response.*



**FEMA**





# Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2012

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Prepared by

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Federal Emergency Management Agency

U.S. Fire Administration

National Fire Data Center

and

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

[www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org)

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## **Acknowledgments**

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This study of firefighter fatalities would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of many members of the fire service across the United States. Members of individual fire departments, chief fire officers, wildland fire service organizations such as the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as well as the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and many others contributed important information to this report.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) was responsible for compilation of a large portion of the data used in this report and the incident narrative summaries found in Appendix A. Their cooperation and work toward reducing firefighter deaths is gratefully acknowledged.

The ultimate objective of this effort is to reduce the number of firefighter deaths through an increased awareness and understanding of their causes and how they can be prevented. Firefighting, rescue and other types of emergency operations are essential activities in an inherently dangerous profession, and unfortunate tragedies do occur. These are the risks all firefighters accept every time they respond to an emergency incident. However, the risks can be greatly reduced through efforts to improve training, emergency scene operations, and firefighter health and safety.

## **Background**

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For 36 years, USFA has tracked the number of firefighter fatalities and conducted an annual analysis. Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts toward finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used to measure the effectiveness of current programs directed toward firefighter health and safety.

Several programs have been funded by USFA in response to this annual report. For example, USFA has sponsored significant work in the areas of general emergency vehicle operations safety, fire department tanker/tender operations safety, firefighter incident scene rehabilitation, and roadside incident safety. The data developed for this report are also widely used in other firefighter fatality prevention efforts.

In addition to the analysis, USFA, working in partnership with NFFF, develops a list of all on-duty firefighter fatalities and associated documentation each year. If certain criteria are met, the fallen firefighter's next of kin, as well as members of the individual's fire department, are invited to the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend Service. The service is held at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, during Fire Prevention Week in October of each year. Additional information regarding the memorial service can be found at [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org) or by calling NFFF at 301-447-1365.

Other resources and information regarding firefighter fatalities, including current fatality notices, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial database, and links to the Public Safety Officers' Benefit (PSOB) Program can be found at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>.



# **Introduction**

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This report continues a series of annual studies by USFA of on-duty firefighter fatalities in the U.S.

The specific objective of this study is to identify all on-duty firefighter fatalities that occurred in the U.S. and its protectorates in 2012 and to analyze the circumstances surrounding each occurrence. The study is intended to help identify approaches that could reduce the number of firefighter deaths in future years.

## **Who is a Firefighter?**

For the purpose of this study, the term firefighter covers all members of organized fire departments with assigned fire suppression duties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. It includes career and volunteer firefighters; full-time public safety officers acting as firefighters; fire police; state, territory and federal government fire service personnel, including wildland firefighters; and privately employed firefighters, including employees of contract fire departments and trained members of industrial fire brigades, whether full- or part-time. It also includes contract personnel working as firefighters or assigned to work in direct support of fire service organizations (i.e., air-tanker crews).

Under this definition, the study includes not only local and municipal firefighters, but also seasonal and full-time employees of USFS, NPS, BLM, BIA, FWS and state wildland agencies. The definition also includes prison inmates serving on firefighting crews; firefighters employed by other governmental agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Energy; military personnel performing assigned fire suppression activities; and civilian firefighters working at military installations.

## **What Constitutes an On-duty Fatality?**

On-duty fatalities include any injury or illness sustained while on-duty that proves fatal. The term “on-duty” refers to being involved in operations at the scene of an emergency, whether it is a fire or nonfire incident; responding to or returning from an incident; performing other officially assigned duties such as training, maintenance, public education, inspection, investigations, court testimony, or fundraising; and being on call, under orders, or on standby duty except at the individual’s home or place of business. An individual who experiences a heart attack or other fatal injury at home while he or she prepares to respond to an emergency is considered on-duty when the response begins. A firefighter who becomes ill while performing fire department duties and suffers a heart attack shortly after arriving home or at another location may be considered on-duty since the inception of the heart attack occurred while the firefighter was on-duty.

On Dec. 15, 2003, the President of the United States signed into law the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act of 2003. After being signed by the President, the act became Public Law 108-182. The law presumes that a heart attack or stroke is in the line of duty if the firefighter was engaged in nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity while on-duty and the firefighter becomes ill while on-duty or within 24 hours after engaging in such activity. The full text of the law is available at [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108\\_cong\\_public\\_laws&docid=f:publ182.108.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ182.108.pdf).

The inclusion criteria for this study have been affected by this change in the law. Previous to Dec. 15, 2003, firefighters who became ill as the result of a heart attack or stroke after going off-duty needed to register a complaint of not feeling well while still on-duty in order to be included in this study. For firefighter fatalities after Dec. 15, 2003, firefighters will be included in this report if they became ill as the result of a heart attack or stroke within 24 hours of a training activity or emergency response. Firefighters who became ill after going off-duty where the activities while on-duty were limited to tasks that did not involve physical or mental stress will not be included.



A fatality may be caused directly by an accidental or intentional injury in either emergency or nonemergency circumstances, or it may be attributed to an occupationally related fatal illness. A common example of a fatal illness incurred on-duty is a heart attack. Fatalities attributed to occupational illnesses also include a communicable disease contracted while on-duty that proved fatal when the disease could be attributed to a documented occupational exposure.

Firefighter fatalities are included in this report even when death is considerably delayed after the original incident. When the incident and the death occur in different years, the analysis counts the fatality as having occurred in the year in which the incident took place.

There is no established mechanism for identifying fatalities that result from illnesses such as cancer that develop over long periods of time and which may be related to occupational exposure to hazardous materials or toxic products of combustion. It has proved to be very difficult to provide a complete evaluation of an occupational illness as a causal factor in firefighter deaths due to the following limitations: the exposure of firefighters to toxic hazards is not sufficiently tracked; the often delayed long-term effects of such toxic hazard exposures; and the exposures firefighters may receive while off-duty.

### ***Sources of Initial Notification***

As an integral part of its ongoing program to collect and analyze fire data, USFA solicits information on firefighter fatalities directly from the fire service and from a wide range of other sources. These sources include the PSOB Program administered by the DOJ, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Interagency Fire Center, and other federal agencies.

USFA receives notification of some deaths directly from fire departments, as well as from such fire service organizations as the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, NFPA, the National Volunteer Fire Council, state fire marshals, state fire training organizations, other state and local organizations, fire service Internet sites, news services, and fire service publications.

### ***Procedure for Including a Fatality in the Study***

In most cases, after notification of a fatal incident, initial telephone contact is made with local authorities by USFA to verify the incident, its location, jurisdiction, and the fire department or agency involved. Further information about the deceased firefighter and the incident may be obtained from the chief of the fire department, designee over the phone, or by other forms of data collection. After basic information is collected, a notice of the firefighter fatality is posted at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial site in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and the USFA website, and a notice of the fatality is transmitted by email to a large list of fire service organizations and fire service members.

Information that is routinely requested from fire departments that have experienced a fatality includes National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)-1 (incident) and NFIRS-3 (fire service casualty) reports; the fire department's own incident and internal investigation reports; copies of death certificates and autopsy results; special investigative reports; law enforcement reports; photographs and diagrams; and newspaper or media accounts of the incident. Information on the incident may also be gathered from NFPA or NIOSH reports.



After obtaining this information, a determination is made as to whether the death qualifies as an on-duty firefighter fatality according to the previously described criteria. With the exception of firefighter deaths after Dec. 15, 2003, the same criteria were used for this study as in previous annual studies. Additional information may be requested by USFA, either through follow-up with the fire department directly, from state vital records offices, or other agencies. The final determination as to whether a fatality qualifies as an on-duty death for inclusion in this statistical analysis is made by USFA. The NFFF criteria as a line-of-duty death (LODD) for inclusion in the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service is made by NFFF.







Photo/Clifford White (2010), Neptune Aviation Tanker 11

## 2012 Findings

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Eighty-one firefighters died while on-duty in 2012, down by two deaths from the previous year. The 2012 total includes 12 firefighters who died under circumstances that were part of inclusion criteria changes resulting from the Hometown Heroes Act. When not including these fatalities for the purposes of a trend analysis, a 2012 total of 69 firefighter fatalities, while somewhat above the 64 total from 2011, is the second lowest number of annual firefighter losses over the past 36 years. Moreover, there have been three years in a row of record-low losses with 72 such deaths in 2010 being the third lowest on record.

As mentioned above, an analysis of multiyear firefighter fatality trends needs to acknowledge the changes from the Hometown Heroes Act; therefore, some graphs and charts either will or will not indicate the Hometown Heroes portion of the total. However, this does not diminish the sacrifices made by any firefighter who dies while on-duty or the sacrifices made by his or her family and peers.

In the same light, when conducting multiyear comparisons of firefighter fatalities in this report, the losses that were the result of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, are sometimes also set apart for illustrative purposes. This action is by no means a minimization of the supreme sacrifice made by these firefighters.



Figure 1. On-duty Firefighter Fatalities (1977–2012).

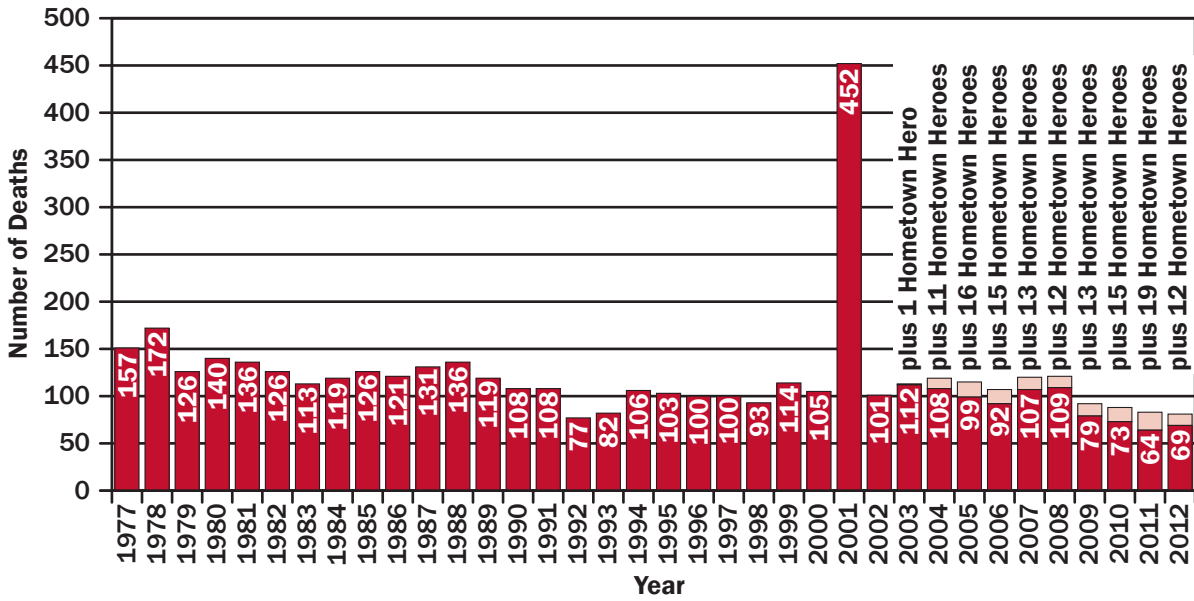
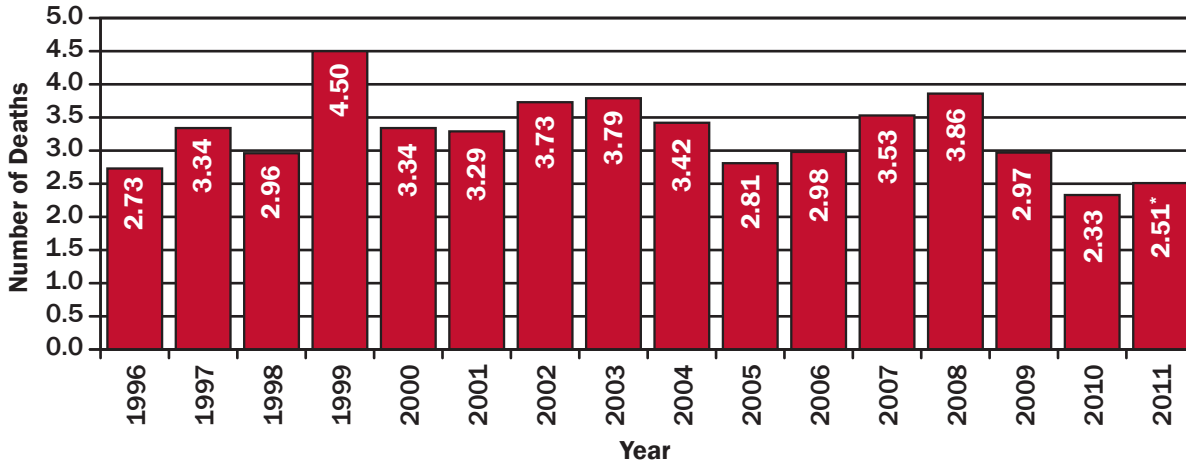


Figure 2. Firefighter Fatalities per 100,000 Fires.

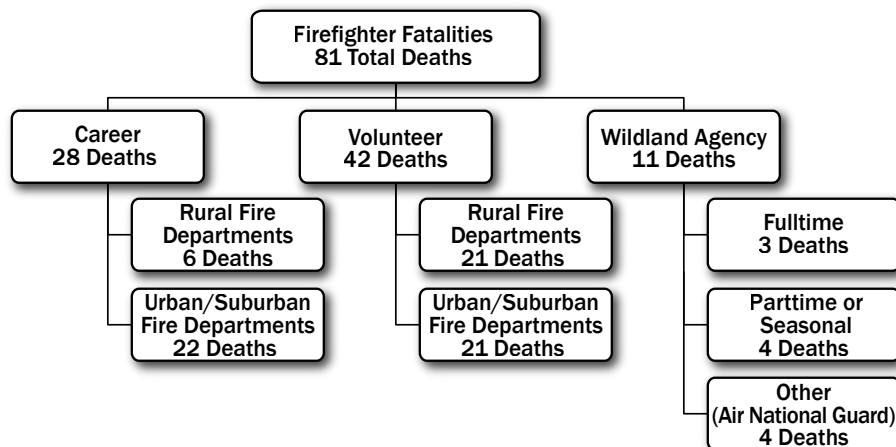


\*2012 ratio will be included in the 2013 report.

### Career, Volunteer and Wildland Agency Deaths

In 2012, firefighter fatalities included 28 career firefighters, 42 volunteer firefighters, and 11 part-time or full-time members of wildland or wildland contract fire agencies (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Career, Volunteer and Wildland Agency Deaths (2012).



## Gender

Of the 81 firefighters who died while on-duty in 2012, 80 were male and one was female.

## Multiple Firefighter Fatality Incidents

The 81 deaths in 2012 resulted from a total of 75 fatal incidents including four multiple firefighter fatality incidents. There were three firefighter fatality incidents where two firefighters were killed in each incident: a shooting, a structural collapse, and an aircraft crash on a wildland incident. There was one other multiple fatality incident, another aircraft crash which claimed the lives of four Air National Guard aircrew firefighters.

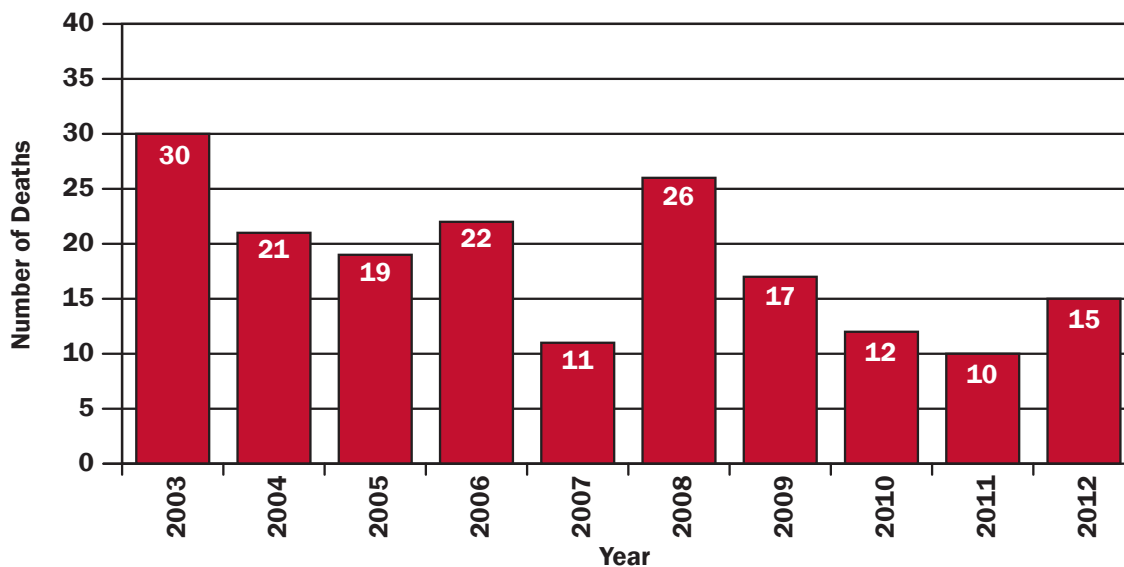
**Table 1. Multiple Firefighter Fatality Incidents.**

Year	Number of Incidents	Total Number of Deaths
2012	4	10
2011	3	6
2010	4	8
2009	6	13
2008	5	18
2007	7	21
2006	6	17
2005	4	10
2004	3	6
2003	7	20

## Wildland Firefighting Deaths

In 2012, 15 firefighters were killed during activities involving brush, grass or wildland firefighting. This total includes part-time and seasonal wildland firefighters, full-time wildland firefighters, and municipal or volunteer firefighters whose deaths are related to a wildland fire (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Firefighter Fatalities Related to Wildland Firefighting (2003–2012).**



**Table 2. Firefighter Deaths Associated with Wildland Firefighting.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Number of Deaths</b>	<b>Number of Fatal Incidents</b>	<b>Number of Firefighters Killed in Multiple-death Incidents</b>
2012	15	11	6
2011	10	9	2
2010	11	11	0
2009	16	13	5
2008	26	15	14
2007	11	11	0
2006	22	13	13
2005	19	15	6
2004	21	21	0
2003	30	22	10

In 2012, there were two multiple firefighter fatality incidents related to wildland firefighting, killing six, all related to aircraft crashes.

**Table 3. Wildland Firefighting Aircraft Deaths.**

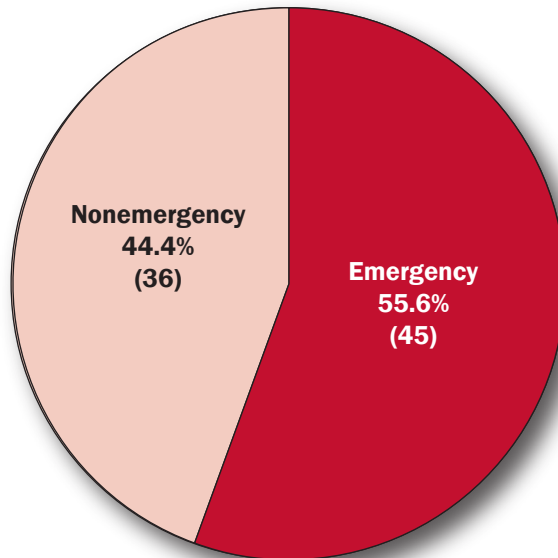
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Number of Deaths</b>	<b>Number of Fatal Incidents</b>
2012	6	2
2011	0	0
2010	0	0
2009	5	3
2008	16	4
2007	1	1
2006	8	3
2005	6	2
2004	3	3
2003	7	4



## Type of Duty

Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 45 firefighters in 2012 (Figure 5). This includes all firefighters who died responding to an emergency or at an emergency scene, returning from an emergency incident, and during other emergency-related activities. Nonemergency activities accounted for 36 fatalities. Nonemergency duties include training, administrative activities, performing other functions that are not related to an emergency incident, and postincident fatalities where the firefighter does not experience the illness or injury during the emergency.

**Figure 5. Firefighter Deaths by Type of Duty (2012).**



A multiyear historical perspective relating to the percentage of firefighter deaths that occurred during emergency duty is presented in Table 4.

**Table 4. Emergency Duty Firefighter Deaths.**

Year	Percentage of All Deaths	Percentage of All Deaths Excluding Hometown Heroes
2012	55.6	65.2
2011	54.2	70.3
2010	55.2	66.7
2009	63.3	82.2
2008	63.5	70.0
2007	64.4	72.4
2006	57.5	66.3
2005	52.1	60.6
2004	68.9	75.9
2003	69.0	69.6

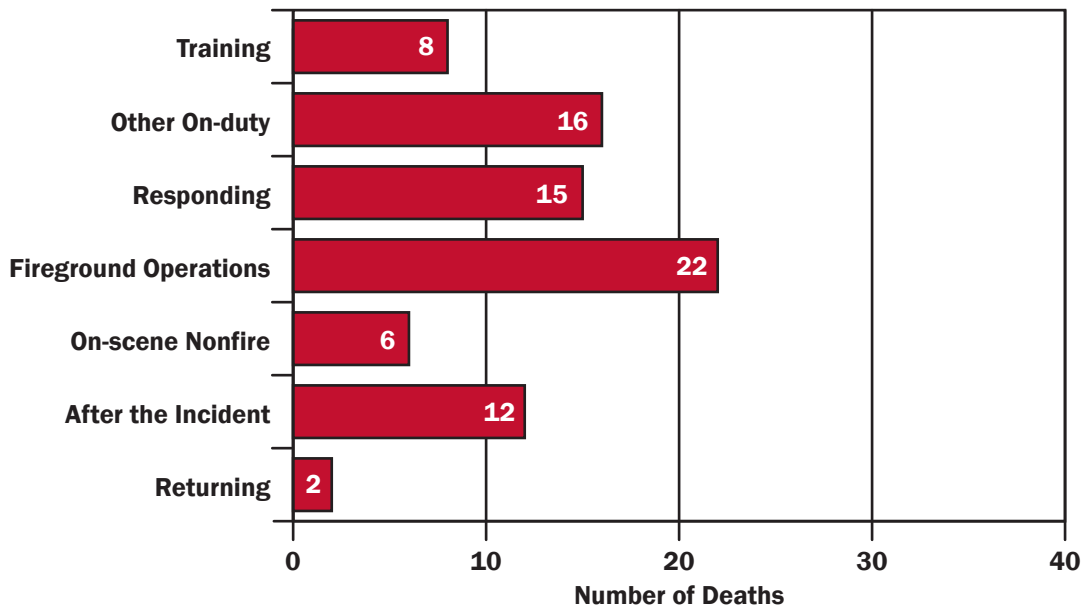
The number of deaths by type of duty being performed in 2012 is shown in Table 5 and presented graphically in Figure 6. As has been the case for most years, fireground duties are the most common type of duty for firefighters killed while on-duty.



**Table 5. Firefighter Deaths by Type of Duty (2012).**

Type of Duty	Number of Deaths
Training	8
Other On-Duty	16
Responding	15
Fireground Ops	22
On-scene Nonfire	6
After	12
Returning	2
Total	81

**Figure 6. Firefighter Deaths by Type of Duty (2012).**



### **Fireground Operations**

Of the 22 firefighters killed during fireground operations in 2012, 13 were at the scene of a structure fire, one at the scene of a vehicle fire, and eight others were at the scene of a wildland or outside fire. The average age of the firefighters killed during fireground operations was 45. Eight of the deaths were from volunteer fire departments, six were career, and eight were wildland (or wildland-related).

### **Type of Fireground Activity**

Table 6 shows the types of fireground activities in which firefighters were engaged at the time they sustained their fatal injuries or illnesses. This total includes all firefighting duties, such as wildland firefighting and structural firefighting.

**Table 6. Type of Activity (2012).**

Advance Hose Lines	13
Support	3
Incident Command	2
Water Supply	1
Scene Safety	1
Unknown	2



## Fixed Property Use for Structural Firefighting Deaths

There were 13 fatalities in 2012 where firefighters became ill or injured while on the scene of a structure fire. Table 7 shows the distribution of these deaths by fixed property use.

**Table 7. Structural Firefighting Deaths by Fixed Property Use in 2012.**

Residential	6
Commercial	6
Other	1

## Responding/Returning

In 2012, 17 firefighters died while responding to or returning from 16 emergency incidents. Fifteen of the firefighters died while responding to incidents and two, one heart attack and one vehicle collision involving fire apparatus, died while returning from an incident.

Four of the 15 firefighters killed while responding to an incident died from heart attacks and one from a stroke.

Seven of the firefighters who died while responding to incidents were killed by trauma caused by motor vehicle collisions, twice as many as the previous year, including four in privately owned vehicles (POVs) and three in fire department apparatus.

While responding to an incident, one firefighter was killed when he was struck by a falling tree and two firefighters were shot and killed as they arrived at the scene of an intentionally set fire.

Of the four firefighters killed while responding in fire department apparatus, two were wearing seat restraints and two were not (both of whom were fully ejected from the apparatus). Of the four firefighters killed in their POVs, one was wearing a seat restraint, two were not (one of these fully ejected from the vehicle), and one is unknown.

**Table 8. Firefighter Deaths While Responding to or Returning From an Incident.**

Year	Number of Firefighter Deaths
2012	17
2011	11
2010	16
2009	15
2008	24
2007	26
2006	15
2005	22
2004	23
2003	36

## Training

In 2012, eight firefighters died while engaged in training activities. Four of the deaths were due to heart attacks, one from a cerebrovascular accident (CVA), and one from a heat-related injury. One firefighter fell during a training activity at the fire station that involved climbing the aerial ladder, and one firefighter drowned while participating in dive rescue training in a man-made lake at a local quarry.



**Table 9. Firefighter Fatalities While Engaged in Training.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Firefighter Deaths</b>
2012	8
2011	8
2010	12
2009	10
2008	12
2007	11
2006	9
2005	14
2004	13
2003	12

### ***Nonfire Emergencies***

In 2012, 15 firefighters were killed where the type of emergency duty was not related to a fire.

Nine of the 15 were responding to (five firefighters) or at the scene of motor vehicle accidents (four firefighters). Of the four firefighters killed while operating at the scene of a motor vehicle accident, two died from heart attacks and two were struck by other vehicles crashing into the scene.

Two firefighters were killed in separate instances where firefighters dismounted from their vehicles to evaluate roadways that had become blocked by treefall during severe weather events and then were themselves struck by falling trees.

One firefighter died from a heart attack while at the scene of a false alarm in a commercial structure. Another firefighter died from traumatic injuries suffered when the apparatus he was riding in crashed off the roadway while returning from an incident involving the report of a carbon monoxide detector sounding at a residence.

One firefighter died from a heart attack after returning home from a drowning call where he responded to the station and worked communications. Another firefighter died at home from a heart attack within 24 hours of working several emergency calls.

### ***After the Incident***

In 2012, 12 firefighters died after the conclusion of their on-duty activities. Ten of the deaths were due to heart attacks. In one case, the cause of death was heat exhaustion, and in another case the firefighter had been diagnosed with a thoracic aneurysm. All 12 of the fatalities were classified as Hometown Heroes where no symptom or complaint of illness became evident or was reported during duty.



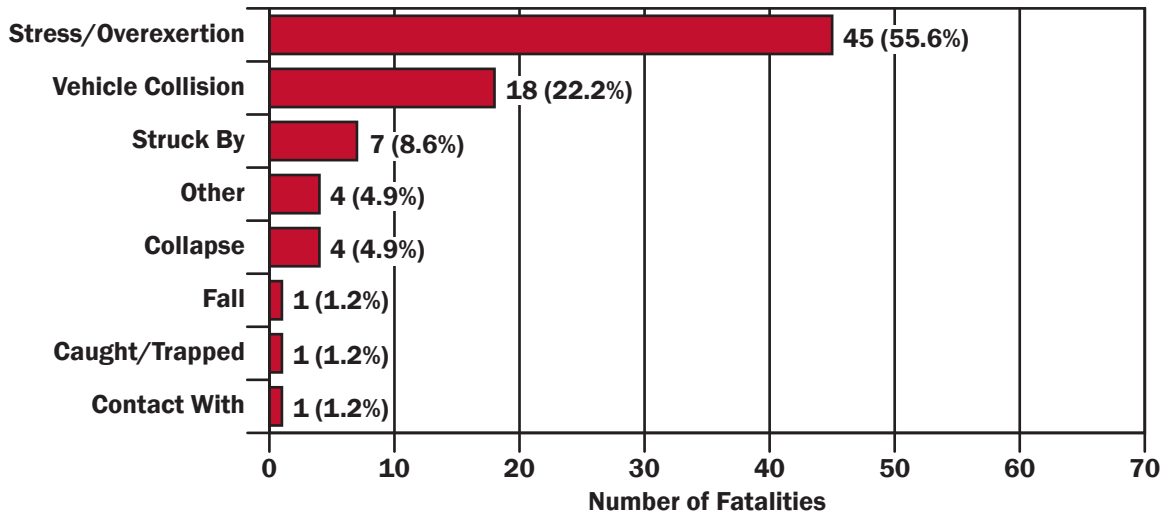


## Cause of Fatal Injury

The term “cause of injury” refers to the action, lack of action, or circumstances that directly resulted in the fatal injury. The term “nature of injury” refers to the medical cause of the fatal injury or illness, which is often referred to as the physiological cause of death. A fatal injury is usually the result of a chain of events, the first of which is recorded as the cause.

Figure 7 shows the distribution of deaths by cause of fatal injury or illness in 2012.

**Figure 7. Fatalities by Cause of Fatal Injury (2012).**



### Stress or Overexertion

Firefighting is extremely strenuous physical work and can be one of the most physically demanding of human activities.

Stress or overexertion is a general category that includes all firefighter deaths that are cardiac or cerebrovascular in nature such as heart attacks, strokes, and other events such as extreme climatic thermal exposure. Classification of a firefighter fatality in this cause of fatal injury category does not necessarily indicate that a firefighter was in poor physical condition.

In 2012, 45 firefighters died as a result of stress or overexertion:

- Thirty-nine firefighters died due to heart attacks.
- Three firefighters died due to a CVA.
- Two firefighters died from heat exhaustion.
- One firefighter died from an aneurysm.



**Table 10. Deaths Caused by Stress or Overexertion.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Fatalities</b>	<b>Hometown Heroes</b>
2012	45	55.5	12
2011	50	60.2	19
2010	55	63.2	15
2009	50	54.9	13
2008	54	45.0	12
2007	55	51.4	13
2006	55	53.9	15
2005	62	53.9	16
2004	66	55.5	11
2003	53	46.9*	1

\*Includes Hometown Heroes: one in December 2003 and an average of 14 for the years 2004-2012.

### **Vehicle Crashes**

In 2012, 18 firefighters died as the result of 14 vehicle crashes, six involving POVs, six involving apparatus, and six from two separate incidents involving aircraft.

- One firefighter and members of his fire department were dispatched to the report of a vehicle crash with injuries on a local interstate highway. The firefighter responded in his personal vehicle, a passenger car. The vehicle involved in the original crash was in the median of the highway. The firefighter responded through an on-ramp but needed to cross over the active lanes of the highway to access the emergency scene. As he attempted to cross the highway, his vehicle was struck by a tractor-trailer truck at the driver's side door. The firefighter was transported to a local hospital but was pronounced dead later due to a traumatic head injury; he was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.
- One firefighter was responding to his fire station for a structure fire in his personal vehicle, a 2009 Jeep Grand Cherokee. As he crested a hill during his response, his vehicle became airborne and landed hard on the roadway. The firefighter lost control of his vehicle and struck a tree. He was not wearing a seatbelt and died from injuries sustained as he was ejected from the vehicle through the windshield. The law enforcement report on the crash cited excessive speed as a factor in the crash.
- One firefighter was responding to the fire station in a personal vehicle and was struck by an on-coming vehicle. Firefighters and emergency medical personnel responded to the scene and found the firefighter and his passenger trapped in their vehicle. The firefighter, who was not wearing a seatbelt, died as the result of the blunt force trauma injuries he received in the crash.
- One firefighter and other members of his fire department responded to a mutual aid structure fire with a tanker (tender). Upon their arrival on the scene, the tanker discharged its load of water into a dump tank. The firefighter was positioned at the rear of the tanker and operated the unit's dump valve. When the driver saw that the pump panel indicator lights showed an empty tank, he departed the scene to refill. As the tanker was en route to the fill site, the driver encountered icy roadway conditions, the driver lost control of the vehicle, and the apparatus crashed. The icy road conditions were attributed to water spillage from fire apparatus responding to the original structure fire. Unbeknownst to the driver of the tanker, the firefighter had remained on the back step of the vehicle while it traveled to the fill site. When the tanker crashed, the firefighter was ejected and struck the roadway, sustaining fatal traumatic injuries. Speed was cited as a contributing factor in the crash.



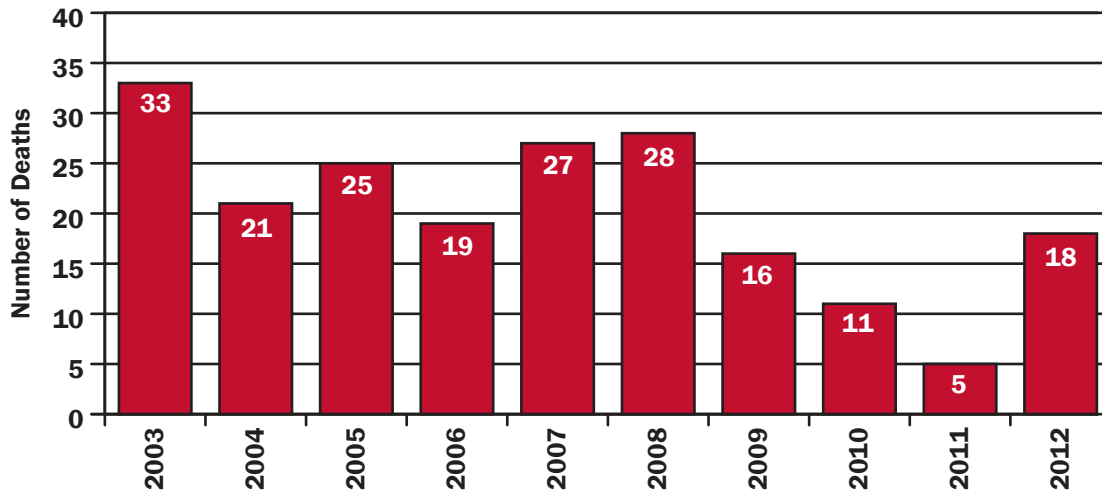
- One firefighter was responding to a report of a carbon monoxide detector sounding at a residence as a front seat passenger in a 2008 Ferrara pumper. As the unit returned from the incident, the right wheels of the apparatus left the roadway and the unit slid into the ditch, partially due to a soft shoulder, and struck a utility tower. The firefighter was directly impacted by the collision and suffered massive head and chest trauma. He was killed instantly. The firefighter was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash.
- One firefighter was a shift commander and was also assigned as the department's communications officer. One of the duties of the communications officer involved attendance at regularly scheduled operations committee meetings at a regional dispatch center. These meetings were considered on-duty and the firefighter was paid for his time if he was off-duty. As he drove home from the meeting on his personal motorcycle, the firefighter was involved in a crash when another driver pulled onto the roadway directly in front him. The cause of death was trauma related to the crash.
- Two aircrew firefighters were conducting air tanker operations. Their aircraft was a Lockheed P2V-7. The aircraft crashed while attempting the second fire retardant drop of the day. Both pilots were fatally injured. The investigation into the circumstances of the crash has not been completed.
- One firefighter and his Type 5 engine crew were assigned to the Montezuma Fire near Sells, Arizona. The firefighter was riding in the right front passenger seat of the engine, a 2009 Chevrolet 5500 with a 500-gallon tank. While conducting active fire operations, the engine veered off the right side of the highway, overcorrected, crossed back over the roadway, flipped forward, and landed with the weight on the hood and cab. Then the engine bounced, landing on its wheels, and coasted back across the highway. The firefighter received fatal injuries in the crash when the cab was crushed; he was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash. Factors cited in the crash included driver distraction, driver inexperience, the condition of the roadway, and vehicle characteristics.
- A six-member aircrew was operating a C-130 Hercules aircraft on a wildland firefighting mission. The aircraft was equipped with a modular firefighting system with a capacity of 3,000 gallons of fire retardant. The aircraft had successfully conducted a fire retardant drop on the fire and it was in the process of making a second drop when the crash occurred. As the aircraft made its run, it encountered turbulence from a thunderstorm and crashed. The four aircrew firefighters of the flight deck were killed, and the two aircrew firefighters operating the firefighting system in the rear of the aircraft were injured but survived. A report concluded that all four firefighters died during the crash impact and not during the post-crash fire.
- One firefighter was a passenger in a 1999 Pierce fire engine responding to a motor vehicle crash. The driver of the engine lost control on a curve, ran off of the right side of the road, and impacted several trees and a utility pole. Both right side doors were removed by the force of the crash. The firefighter was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal traumatic injuries.
- One firefighter was on his way to administer a physical abilities test to a new paramedic firefighter candidate. He was operating his department-assigned vehicle, a 2004 Ford Explorer. As the firefighter drove north on a local interstate highway, another vehicle that was also northbound lost control and struck the fire department vehicle, causing it to roll. The firefighter was wearing his seatbelt but sustained fatal traumatic injuries in the crash.
- One junior firefighter at age 17, the youngest firefighter killed in 2012, was a passenger in a pickup truck driven by a friend as he responded to an outside fire in a wooded area. The driver lost control of the pickup on a curve, struck a telephone pole, and the vehicle ended up on its roof. The passenger side of the vehicle was crushed. The junior firefighter received fatal injuries in the crash. Both the driver and junior firefighter were wearing their seatbelts at the time of the crash. Excessive speed was cited as a factor in the crash.



- One firefighter was the driver and sole occupant of a tanker (tender) responding to a wildland fire. As the firefighter approached an intersection, he swerved and applied the brakes to avoid some traffic control posts in the roadway. The tanker began to roll and rotate before striking a utility pole. The vehicle continued to roll and struck a second utility pole, ejecting the firefighter from the vehicle. As the vehicle came to a final resting position, the apparatus water tank came off of the frame of the truck and landed on top of the firefighter. The firefighter was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash and died from his injuries.
- One firefighter was a passenger in a vehicle driven by another firefighter responding to a crash involving a tractor-trailer. For reasons that are not clear, the vehicle left the roadway and rolled. There are conflicting reports regarding the firefighter's location after the crash — he may have been ejected, but suffered fatal head and back injuries.

***In 2012, two of three fire chiefs killed in vehicle collisions were not wearing a seatbelt. Both were operating their POV. The third, operating a fire department vehicle, was wearing a seatbelt.***

**Figure 8. Firefighter Fatalities in Vehicle Collisions (Including Aircraft).**



### ***Lost or Disoriented***

For the second year in a row, no firefighters died in 2012 by becoming lost or disoriented inside of a burning structure.

### ***Caught or Trapped***

One firefighter was killed in 2012 when he became caught or trapped inside of a 2 1/2-story wood frame residential structure when fire conditions changed rapidly, and the fire overcame his position. While recognizing the tragedy of even a single occurrence, this is the lowest number for this particular cause of firefighter deaths in a single year on record. Moreover, there have been an average of seven firefighters lost each year by becoming caught or trapped over the past decade (2003-2012) and an average of almost 17 deaths each year during the decade before that (1993-2002). This classification covers firefighters trapped in wildland and structural fires who were unable to escape due to rapid fire progression and the byproducts of smoke, heat, toxic gas and flame. This classification may also include firefighters who drowned and those who were trapped and crushed.



## **Collapse**

Four firefighters died in 2012 as a result of structural collapses in three separate incidents. Over the past decade, the average number of firefighters killed per year from a structural collapse as a cause of fatal injury has been four.

- Members of a fire department were dispatched to a mutual-aid structure fire in a movie theater. Upon arrival on-scene, firefighters were directed to the rear of the structure, where they advanced an attack line into the rear of the theater. A ladder pipe master stream was flowed onto the structure from the front of the building. The roof of the structure collapsed, trapping three firefighters in the debris, one of whom died of smoke inhalation and thermal injuries.
- Three firefighters advanced a handline into the structure of a working restaurant fire. Conditions changed rapidly, and one of the firefighters pushed the other two toward the exit prior to being overcome by fire progress himself. The roof of the restaurant collapsed, and firefighters were not able to rescue him.
- Two firefighters along with other members of a ladder company were assigned to work at a multiple alarm fire in a five-story building. Once on-scene, ladder pipe operations were set up, and firefighters were assigned to check for fire extension in an exposure building. A catastrophic collapse of the fire building occurred, and the exposure building was struck by falling debris. Four firefighters were trapped in the collapse. Other firefighters rescued the trapped firefighters from the building, but two did not survive their injuries. The cause of death for both firefighters was mechanical asphyxia.

## **Struck by Object**

In six incidents, being struck by an object was the cause of seven fatal firefighter injuries in 2012. Over the past ten years, the average annual loss for this cause category has been seven firefighter deaths per year.

- One firefighter and members of his fire company were dispatched to a vehicle crash on a local interstate highway. The weather at the time was a mix of snow and hail. A vehicle passing by the incident spun out of control and slid into the area where responders and others were standing, striking and killing the firefighter.
- One firefighter and his engine company were dispatched to a gas leak that resulted from a vehicle that struck a gas meter. The apparatus was parked to shield the scene from passing traffic and the emergency lights of the apparatus and a law enforcement vehicle on-scene were in operation. All responders were wearing high-visibility safety vests. As they stood near the scene, several of the responders were struck by a passenger van, killing one. The van that struck the three responders made no effort to brake and may have sped up prior to the impact. The driver of the van faced second-degree murder charges and other charges related to the incident.
- One firefighter was responding to a structure fire in his personal vehicle. The area was undergoing severe weather including high winds at the time. During the response, the firefighter came upon a vehicle that was stopped and had been hit by a falling tree. Without warning, additional trees fell, striking and killing the firefighter.
- One firefighter, part of a wildland engine crew, was killed on the fire line when a large cedar tree fell and struck her.
- Firefighters were dispatched to a report of a timber fire in their area with further reports that the fire was approaching a residence. One firefighter was the passenger in the first unit arriving on-scene. He jumped out of the apparatus to assist the driver while the apparatus was repositioned. As the apparatus moved backward, the firefighter was struck and run over by the vehicle.



- Two firefighters responded along with others to the report of a fire. An individual had intentionally set a vehicle on fire, and the fire had spread to a house. As firefighters arrived on the scene, they were fired upon by the occupant of the home. Two firefighters were struck and killed. One had arrived on the first-due engine and the other in an ambulance.

**Since 1996, there have been 17 firefighters killed where the object that they were “struck by” was a bullet. In four of these incidents, taking six firefighters’ lives, an intentionally set fire was used as bait to draw responders into a cowardly and deadly trap.**

## **Fall**

One firefighter died in 2012 as the result of a fall, well below the 10-year average of 4.7 deaths per year.

- Firefighters were participating in a training activity at the fire station that involved climbing the aerial ladder of a 2011 Pierce Quantum 105HD ladder truck. The aerial was fully extended at a climbing angle of approximately 65 degrees. As one firefighter climbed the ladder for the second time during the session, he accidentally fell backward from the tip of the ladder, tumbled down within the rails of the ladder, then off to the right side, striking the right rear stabilizer (outrigger), and landing on the pavement. He sustained massive traumatic injuries as a result of the fall.

## **Other**

Four firefighters died in 2012 of a cause that is not categorized above.

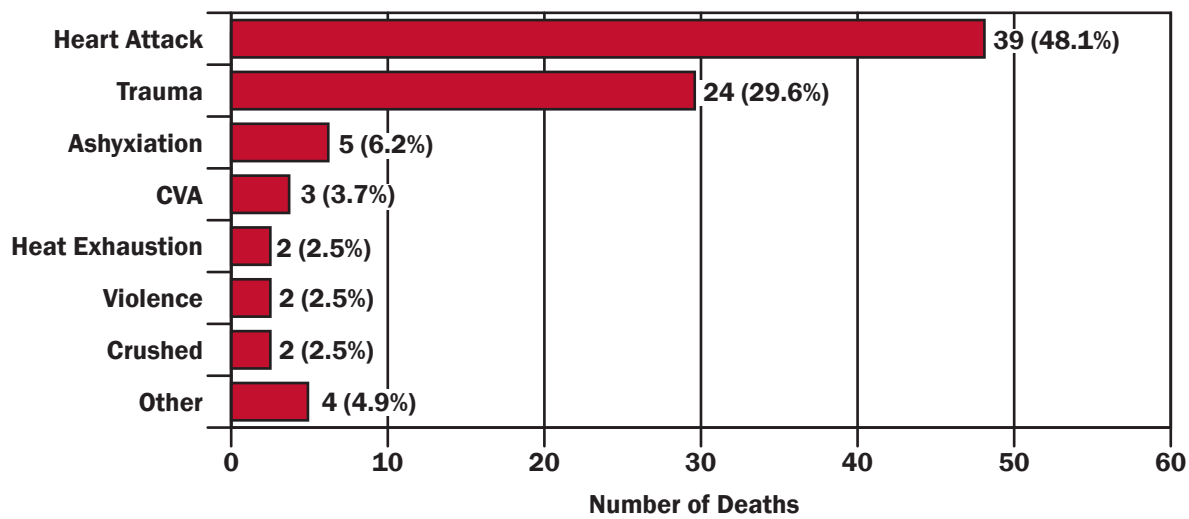
- One firefighter and his ladder company were dispatched to the report of an apartment fire. When they arrived on the scene, the firefighter walked toward the structure and then suddenly collapsed and shortly thereafter died. The death was caused by a pulmonary embolism.
- One firefighter was participating in dive rescue training in a man-made lake in a local quarry. He was performing the second dive of the day when he surfaced, indicated that he was in distress, and went under water. The diving instructor recovered him from a depth of approximately 60 feet. The autopsy reported drowning as the cause of death.
- One firefighter became sick at the scene of a vehicle fire but did not request treatment at that time. Later in the day, he began having trouble breathing and became unconscious. After being treated in two hospitals, he passed away from a cause still to be determined.
- One firefighter was discovered deceased in his firehouse bunk. His death was attributed to natural causes. No other details were reported.



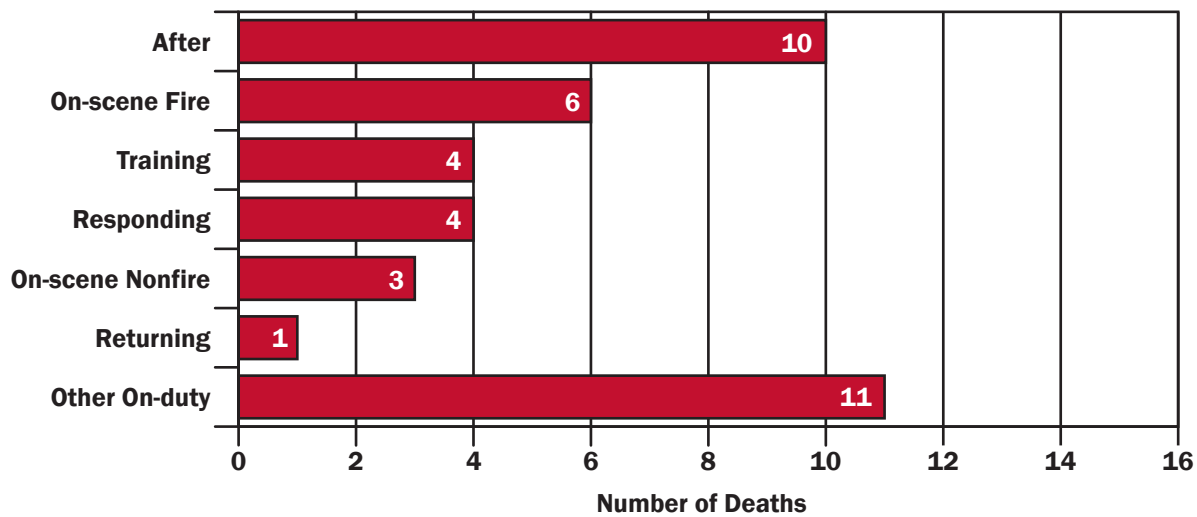
## Nature of Fatal Injury

Figure 9 shows the distribution of the 81 firefighter deaths that occurred in 2012 by the medical nature of the fatal injury or illness. For heart attacks, Figure 10 shows the type of duty involved.

**Figure 9. Fatalities by Nature of Fatal Injury (2012).**



**Figure 10. Heart Attacks by Type of Duty (2012).**



**Heart attacks: As the perennial leading nature of fatal injury for firefighter fatalities in the U.S., in 2012 when not including Hometown Heroes, there were 29, the lowest year on record and well below the 20-year average of 40 per year.**



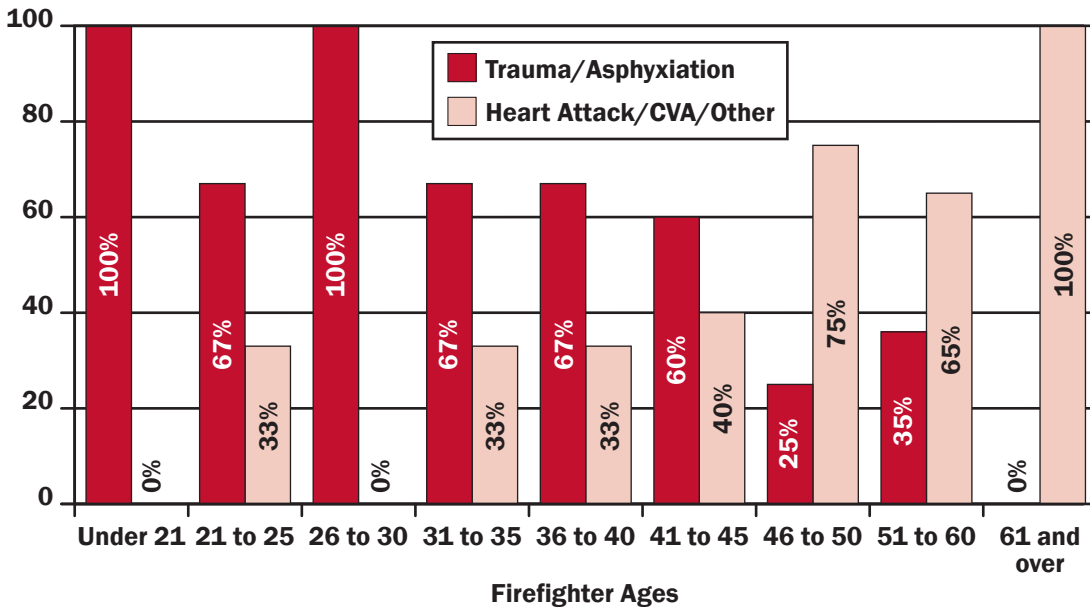
# Firefighter Ages

Figure 11 shows the percentage distribution of firefighter deaths by age (at the time of injury) and nature of the fatal injury. Table 11 provides a count of firefighter fatalities by age and the nature of the fatal injury.

Younger firefighters were more likely to have died as a result of traumatic injuries, such as injuries from an apparatus accident or becoming caught or trapped during firefighting operations. Stress-related deaths are rare below the 31 to 35 years of age category and, when they occur, often include underlying medical conditions.

**Four of the six firefighters killed in 2012 who were under the age of 21 died in motor vehicle accidents while responding to or returning from an incident (one Engine and three POVs). Two and possibly three of the four were not wearing seatbelts.**

**Figure 11. Fatalities by Age and Nature (2012).**



**Table 11. Firefighter Ages and Nature of Fatal Injury (2012).**

Age Range	Heart Attack/CVA/Other	Trauma/Asphyxiation Total
under 21	0	6
21 to 25	1	2
26 to 30	0	3
31 to 35	1	2
36 to 40	2	4
41 to 45	2	3
46 to 50	15	5
51 to 60	15	8
61 and over	12	0

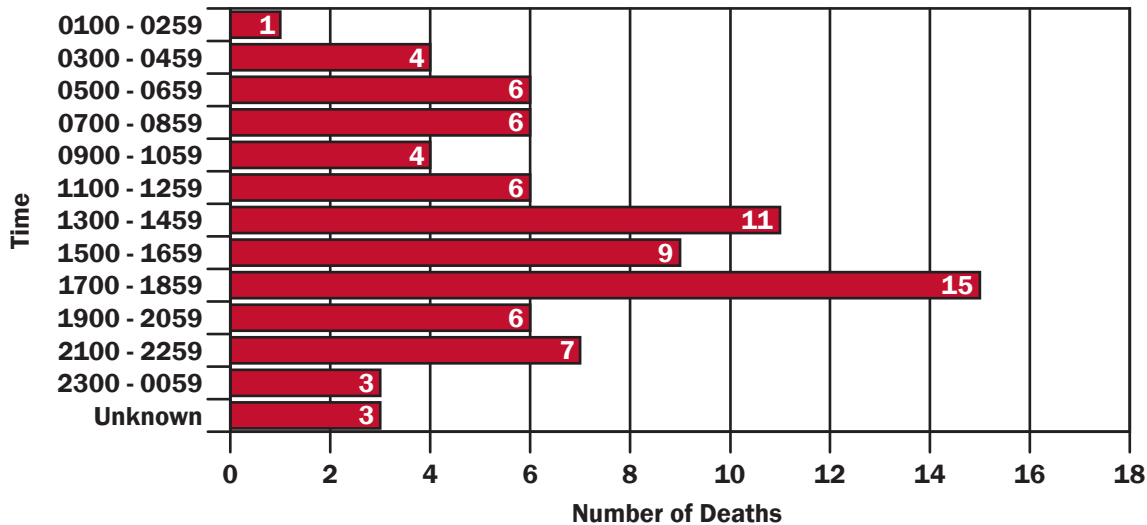




## Deaths by Time of Injury

For 2012, the distribution of firefighter deaths according to the time of day when the fatal injury occurred is illustrated in Figure 12. The time of fatal injury for three firefighters was either unknown or not reported.

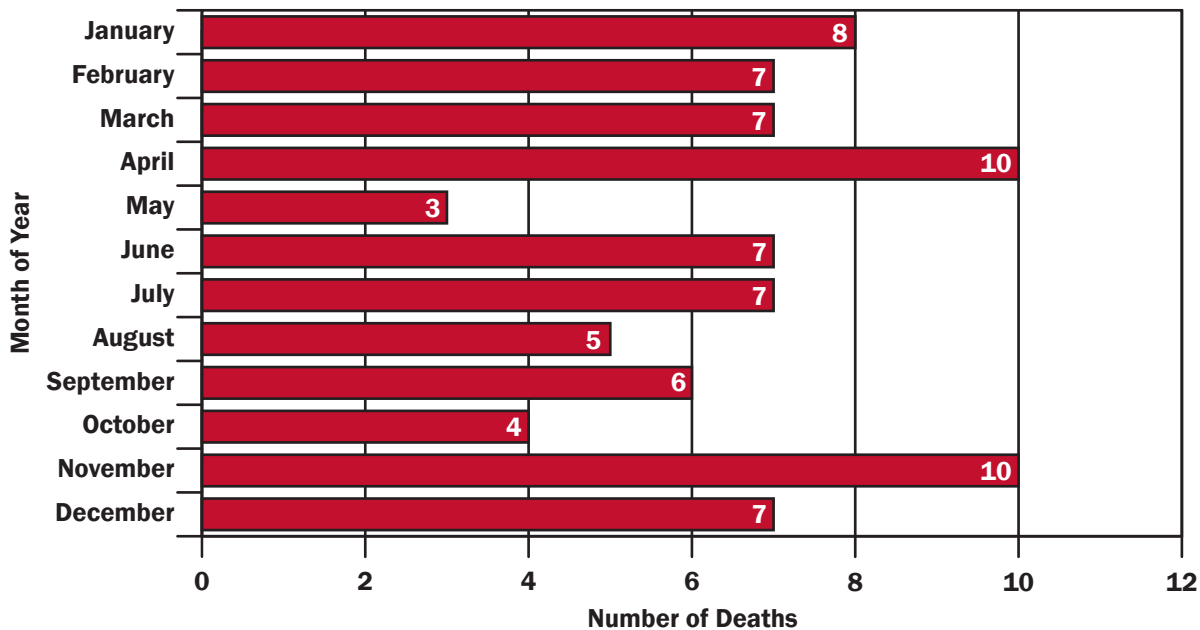
Figure 12. Fatalities by Time of Fatal Injury (2012).



## Firefighter Fatality Incidents by Month of Year

Figure 13 illustrates the 2012 firefighter fatalities by month of the year.

Figure 13. Deaths by Month of Year (2012).



## State and Region

The distribution of firefighter deaths in 2012 by state is shown in Table 12. Firefighters based in 31 states died in 2012.

The highest number of firefighter deaths, based on the location of the fire service organization in 2012, occurred in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, with nine deaths each. New York and Texas had the next highest totals of firefighter fatalities in 2012, with six firefighter deaths each.

**Table 12. Firefighter Fatalities by State by Location of Fire Service\* (2012).**

State	Fatalities	Percentage
CO	1	1.2
HI	1	1.2
AR	1	1.2
WY	1	1.2
IA	1	1.2
MS	1	1.2
AZ	1	1.2
NH	1	1.2
WA	1	1.2
NM	1	1.2
DE	1	1.2
NJ	1	1.2
ID	1	1.2
SC	1	1.2
ME	1	1.2
FL	2	2.5
IN	2	2.5
CT	2	2.5
MT	2	2.5
TN	2	2.5
MO	3	3.7
OH	3	3.7
MI	3	3.7
IL	4	4.9
VA	4	4.9
WI	4	4.9
CA	5	6.2
NY	6	7.4
TX	6	7.4
NC	9	11.1
PA	9	11.1

\*This list attributes the deaths according to the state in which the fire department or unit is based, as opposed to the state in which the death occurred. They are listed by those states for statistical purposes and for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the NETC. Due to rounding, percentage totals may not add up to 100.



Figure 14. Firefighter Fatalities by Region (2012).

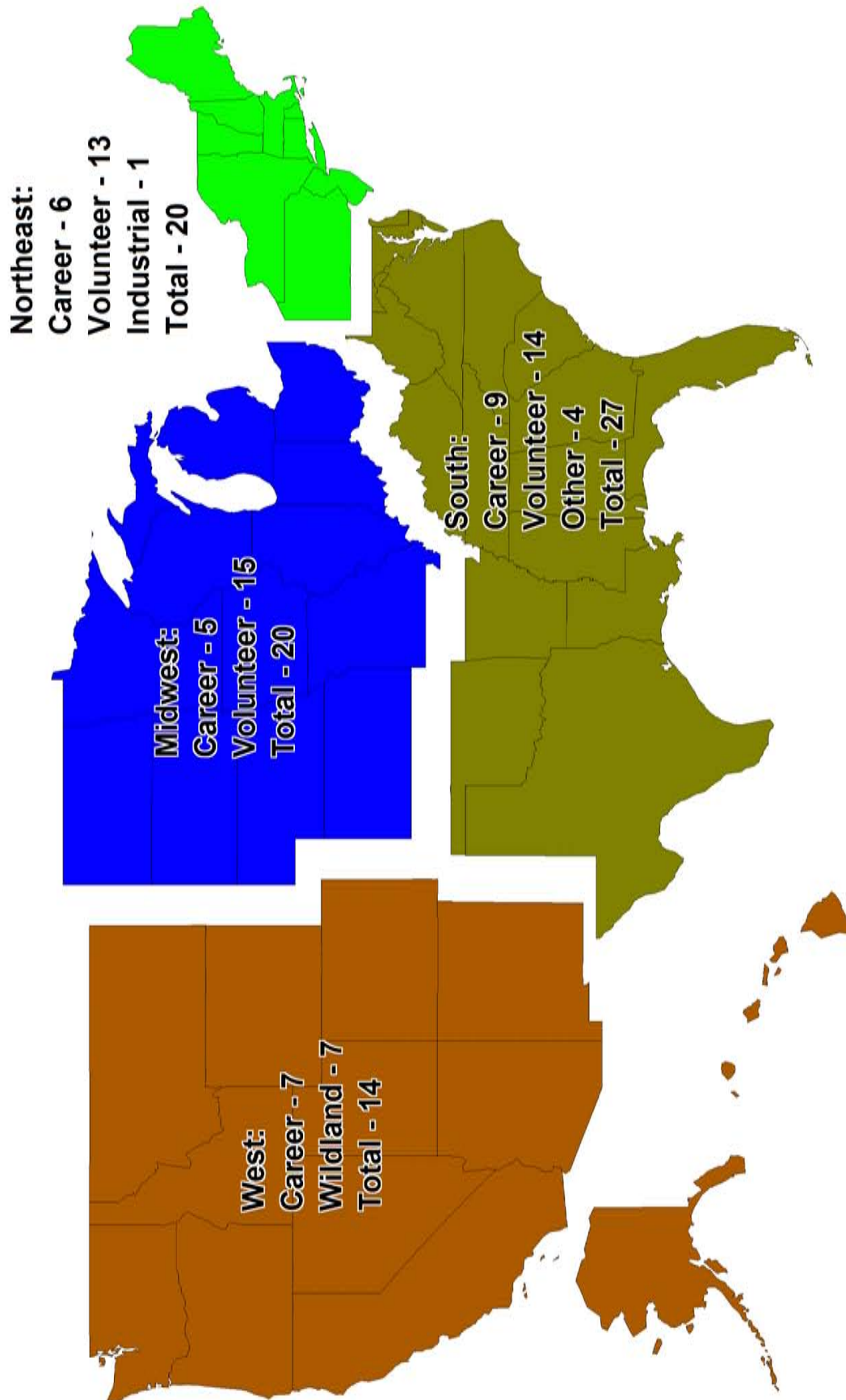


Figure 15. On-duty Firefighter Fatalities by Fire Department Location (2012).

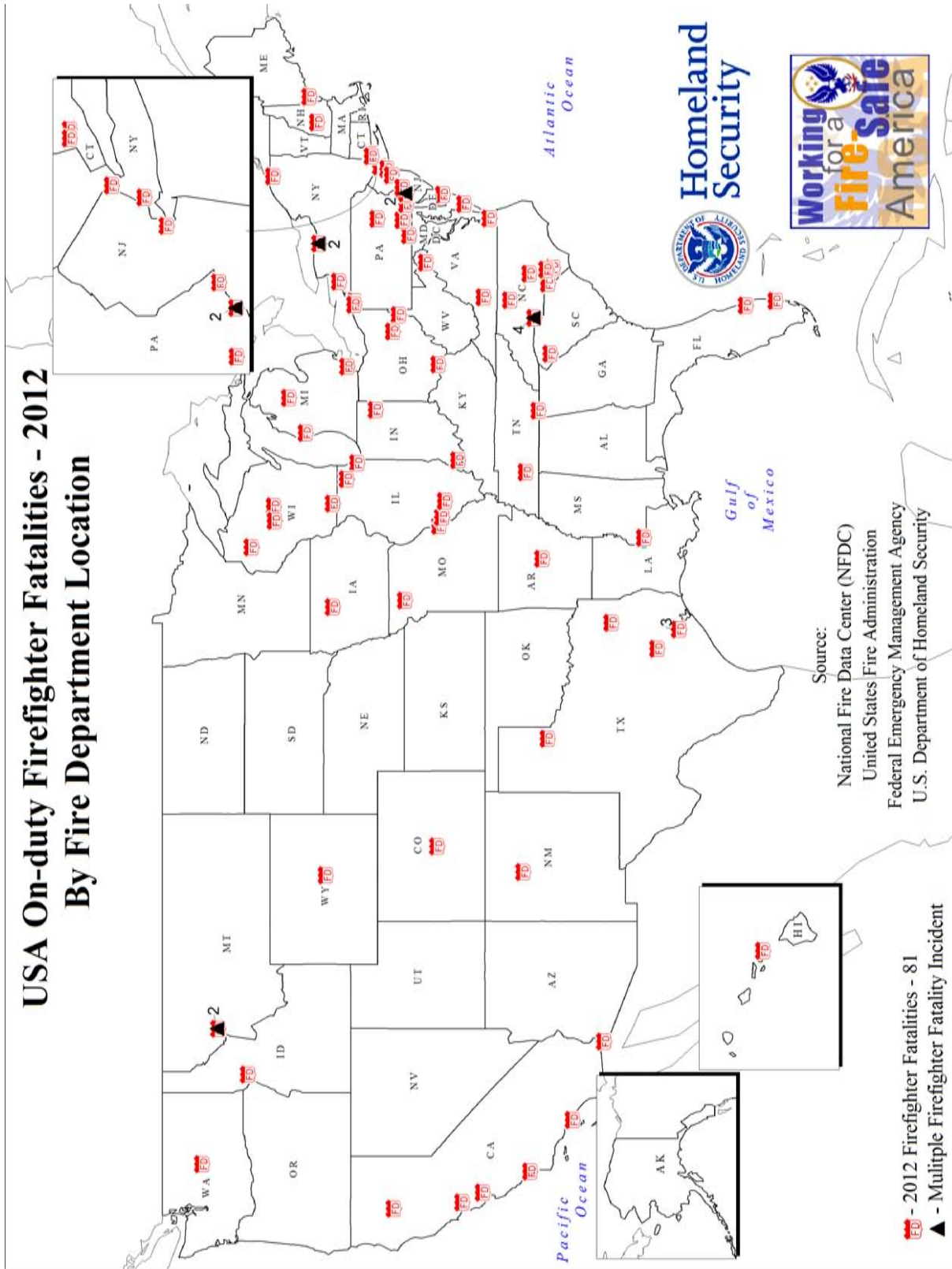
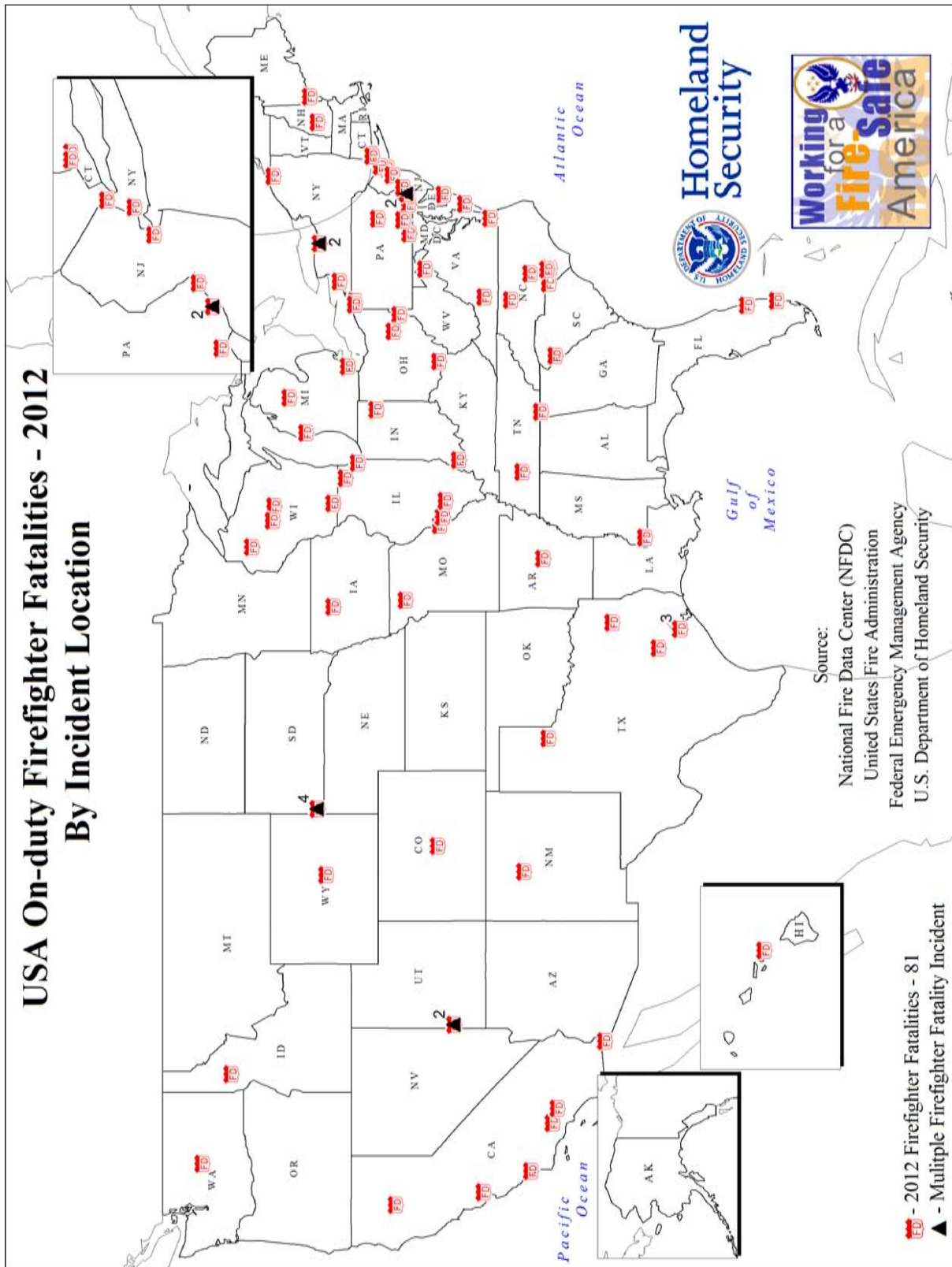


Figure 16. On-duty Firefighter Fatalities by Incident Location (2012).



## ***Analysis of Urban/Rural/Suburban Patterns in Firefighter Fatalities***

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The U.S. Census Bureau defines “urban” as a place having a population of at least 2,500 or lying within a designated urban area. “Rural” is defined as any community that is not urban. “Suburban” is not a census term but may be taken to refer to any place, urban or rural, that lies within a metropolitan area defined by the Census Bureau, but not within one of the central cities of that metropolitan area.

Fire department areas of responsibility do not always conform to the boundaries used by the Census Bureau. For example, fire departments organized by counties or special fire protection districts may have both urban and rural coverage areas. In such cases, where it may not be possible to characterize the entire coverage area of the fire department as rural or urban, firefighter deaths were listed as urban or rural based on the particular community or location in which the fatality occurred.

The following patterns were found for 2012 firefighter fatalities. These statistics are based on answers from the fire departments and, when no data from the departments were available, the data were based upon population and area served, as reported by the fire departments.

**Table 13. Firefighter Deaths by Coverage Area Type (2012).**

	<b>Urban/Suburban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Firefighter Deaths</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>81</b>



## Appendix A

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In memory of all firefighters  
who answered their last call in 2012  
To their families and friends  
To their service and sacrifice



Photo/Brad Cowan, West Webster Fire District, New York



Jan. 4, 2012 — 1544 hours

**Leo Lionell Crisanto**  
**Inmate Firefighter**

Age 54, Wildland Full-time  
California Department of Corrections  
and Rehabilitation,  
California

Firefighter Crisanto was near the conclusion of a 20-minute, 0.66-mile exercise hike near Camp San Luis. During the hike, Firefighter Crisanto collapsed. Other firefighters began CPR and EMS was activated. An Automated External Defibrillator was utilized and Firefighter Crisanto was transported to a local hospital. Firefighter Crisanto arrived at the hospital at 1628 hours and was pronounced dead a short time later. The cause of death was listed as a heart attack.

Jan. 6, 2012 — 1616 hours

**William J. “Bill” “Jumbo” Elliott**  
**Firefighter**

Age 49, Career  
Pompano Beach Fire Rescue,  
Florida

Firefighter Elliott and other firefighters were participating in a training activity at the fire station that involved climbing the aerial ladder of a 2011 Pierce Quantum 105HD ladder truck. The aerial was fully extended at a climbing angle of approximately 65 degrees. Firefighter Elliott climbed the ladder for the second time during the session.

For unknown reasons, Firefighter Elliott fell backward from the tip of the ladder, tumbled down within the rails of the ladder, came over the right side of the ladder, struck the right rear stabilizer (outrigger), and landed on the pavement. He sustained massive traumatic injuries as a result of the fall. Firefighters provided emergency medical treatment and Firefighter Elliott was delivered to a local hospital by ambulance within five minutes of his fall as a trauma code. Despite the efforts of firefighters and hospital personnel, Firefighter Elliott was pronounced dead due to multiple blunt force injuries at 1624 hours.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-01 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201201.pdf>).





Jan. 8, 2012 — 2143 hours

**Samuel Butler Sr.**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 52, Volunteer  
Evans Crossroads Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
North Carolina

Chief Butler and the members of his fire department were dispatched to the report of a vehicle crash with injuries on a local interstate highway. Chief Butler responded in his personal vehicle, a passenger car.

The vehicle involved in the original crash was in the median of the highway. Chief Butler responded through an on-ramp but needed to cross over the active lanes of the highway to access the emergency scene. As Chief Butler attempted to cross the highway, his vehicle was struck by a tractor-trailer truck at the driver's side door. The impact pushed Chief Butler's vehicle to the side of the road.

A law enforcement officer on the scene of the original crash witnessed the crash involving Chief Butler. The law enforcement officer and firefighters provided emergency medical assistance to Chief Butler, and he was transported to a local hospital but was later pronounced dead due to a traumatic head injury.

Chief Butler was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. The front air bag in his vehicle did deploy.

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Jan. 9, 2012 — 0630 hours

**David Lee Crenshaw**  
**Firefighter**

Age 63, Volunteer  
Pendleton Volunteer Fire Department,  
South Carolina

Firefighter Crenshaw and the members of his fire department were working on the scene of a vehicle crash. Firefighter Crenshaw was operating the pump of an engine on the scene when he suddenly collapsed.

Firefighter Crenshaw had been a member of the fire department for 50 years, serving 21 years as the chief of the department. His death was attributed to a heart attack.

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Jan. 18, 2012 — 1740 hours

**Brandon Lee Little**  
**Firefighter**

Age 19, Volunteer  
United Hook and Ladder Company 33,  
New Oxford, Pennsylvania

Firefighter Little was responding in his personal vehicle, a 2009 Jeep Grand Cherokee, to his fire station for a structure fire. As he crested a hill during his response, his vehicle became airborne and landed hard on the roadway. Firefighter Little lost control of his vehicle and struck a tree.

Firefighter Little was not wearing a seatbelt and he was ejected from the vehicle through the windshield. Firefighters and law enforcement officers responded to the scene and found that Firefighter Little had died as a result of the crash.

The law enforcement report on the crash cited excessive speed as a factor in the crash.



Jan. 18, 2012 — 1822 hours  
**Duane Kanoelehua Ibarra**  
**Firefighter III**

Age 50, Career  
Maui County Department of Fire  
and Public Safety,  
Hawaii

Firefighter Ibarra was on-duty as the Fire Apparatus Operator at the Makawao Fire Station.

At 1401 hours, Firefighter Ibarra and his crew responded to a report of a structure fire just a few houses from Firefighter Ibarra's home. Law enforcement officers arrived at the scene first and discovered and controlled a cooking fire. Firefighter Ibarra and his crew utilized equipment to remove smoke from the home and returned to service.

At approximately 1530 hours, Firefighter Ibarra entered the station's physical fitness area to work out. Another firefighter spoke with Firefighter Ibarra at approximately 1600 hours. At approximately 1820 hours, Firefighter Ibarra was discovered facedown and unresponsive in the physical fitness area. Firefighters began to provide emergency medical care to Firefighter Ibarra but discontinued their efforts when it became clear that Firefighter Ibarra had been down for some time. His death was caused by a heart attack.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-03 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201203.pdf>).

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Jan. 19, 2012 — 1330 hours  
**Bruce Alan Turcotte**  
**Firefighter**

Age 58, Volunteer  
Hopelawn Engine Company No. 1,  
New Jersey

Firefighter Turcotte responded as the driver of a heavy rescue company to a working mutual-aid structure fire. When the unit arrived at the scene, the crew went to work as a Rapid Intervention Crew, and Firefighter Turcotte remained with the apparatus. When an additional handline was needed in the interior, Firefighter Turcotte assisted with the deployment of the line but did not operate in the interior of the structure.

At approximately 1425 hours, Firefighter Turcotte was found in the cab of his apparatus by a local resident. He was slumped over the wheel and unresponsive. He was removed from the cab and CPR was initiated. He was transported to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead due to a heart attack.

The structure fire was found to be arson-caused.



Jan. 24, 2012 — 1250 hours  
**Walter Clayton Sumner**  
**Captain**

Age 49, Volunteer  
Cranesville Volunteer Fire Department,  
Pennsylvania

Captain Sumner and the members of his fire department were dispatched to stand by in a neighboring community while the firefighters from that community were involved in an incident. Captain Sumner was the driver and officer in charge of an engine company. At the conclusion of the incident, firefighters washed the engine and returned it to service at 1502 hours.

At 1437 hours the next day, Captain Sumner called his wife and his Assistant Fire Chief to complain of a cardiac emergency. Firefighters and EMS responders found Captain Sumner at his home in severe cardiac distress. He was transported to the hospital but did not recover. Captain Sumner died on Jan. 24, 2012, as a result of a heart attack.

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Feb. 1, 2012 — Time Unknown  
**Douglas Dale “Doug” Haase Sr.,**  
**Senior Firefighter/Engineer/  
Paramedic**

Age 60, Career  
St. Charles Fire Department,  
Missouri

Firefighter Haase and his crew participated in training on a new hydraulic extrication tool and on a new piece of apparatus from 0830 hours to 1033 hours. The training included extensive use and movement of the hydraulic extrication tools.

At 1033 hours, Firefighter Haase and his crew responded to an emergency move-up assignment to a neighboring community. They were released from this assignment at 1045 hours. The crew continued with training activities for the day and responded to an EMS incident at 2156 hours and a fire alarm activation at 2223 hours.

Firefighter Haase retired to his sleeping quarters at 2245 hours. At 0700 hours, Firefighter Haase was discovered pulseless and nonbreathing in his quarters. His death was caused by a heart attack.

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Feb. 2, 2012 — 1830 hours  
**David Michael William Flint**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 49, Volunteer  
Franklin Township Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Pennsylvania

Chief Flint was responding to the fire station in a personal vehicle and was struck by an oncoming vehicle. Firefighters and emergency medical personnel responded to the scene and found Chief Flint and his passenger trapped in their vehicle.

Chief Flint was extricated and transported to the hospital. Despite the efforts of firefighters and emergency medical workers, Chief Flint died as the result of the injuries he received in the crash. The cause of death was listed as multiple blunt force trauma.

Feb. 13, 2012 — 0345 hours  
**Zachary Taylor “Zach” Whitacre**  
**Firefighter**

Age 21, Volunteer  
Gore Volunteer Fire and Rescue,  
Virginia

Firefighter Whitacre and other members of his fire department responded to a mutual aid structure fire with a tanker (tender). Upon their arrival on the scene, the tanker discharged its load of water into a dump tank. Firefighter Whitacre was positioned at the rear of the tanker and operated the unit’s dump valve.

When the driver saw that the pump panel indicator lights showed an empty tank, he departed the scene to refill. As the tanker was en route to the fill site, the driver encountered icy roadway conditions, the driver lost control of the vehicle, and the apparatus crashed. The icy road conditions were attributed to water spillage from fire apparatus responding to the original structure fire.

Unbeknownst to the driver of the tanker, Firefighter Whitacre had remained on the back step of the vehicle while it traveled to the fill site. When the tanker crashed, Firefighter Whitacre was ejected and struck the roadway, sustaining fatal traumatic injuries. Speed was cited as a contributing factor in the crash.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-06 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201206.pdf>).

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Feb. 16, 2012 — 1328 hours  
**Charles Matthew “Matt” Waller**  
**Firefighter/Fire Marshal**

Age 47, Career  
Memphis Fire Department,  
Texas

Fire Marshal Waller returned to his office after inspecting and replacing smoke detectors at the city hall building that morning. At approximately 1328 hours, an Assistant Chief discovered Fire Marshal Waller collapsed on the floor behind his desk. He was transported by ambulance to the hospital. Fire Marshal Waller was transferred to another hospital in Amarillo, and then to hospice care, where he died on Feb. 25, 2012, at 1317 hours. The death was due to a CVA.

The Texas State Fire Marshal’s Office prepared a detailed report on this incident. The report is available at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmlodinvesti.html>.





Feb. 22, 2012 — 2030 hours

**Jeremy Ryan Tighe**  
**Firefighter**

Age 19, Volunteer  
McCutchanville Fire Department,  
Indiana

Firefighter Tighe and another firefighter responded to a report of a carbon monoxide detector sounding at a residence. Firefighter Tighe was a front seat passenger in the 2008 Ferrara pumper.

As the unit returned from the incident, the right wheels of the apparatus left the roadway and the unit slid into the ditch, partially due to a soft shoulder, and struck a utility tower. Firefighter Tighe was directly impacted by the collision and suffered massive head and chest trauma. He was killed instantly. Firefighter Tighe was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash.

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Feb. 28, 2012 — 1138 hours

**Gerald R. Wetherell**  
**Firefighter/EMT**

Age 74, Paid-on-call  
Denton Township Fire Department,  
Michigan

Firefighter/emergency medical technician (EMT) Wetherell and the members of his fire department were dispatched to respond to an incident involving the crash of a snowmobile. Firefighter/EMT Wetherell responded to the fire station. The fire chief requested the response of the department's snowmobile rescue unit.

Firefighter/EMT Wetherell and another firefighter prepared the snowmobile response unit, a task that involved hooking up a trailer that carried the snowmobile to a tow vehicle. The unit began to respond to the scene with Firefighter/EMT Wetherell as a passenger. During the response, Firefighter/EMT Wetherell became ill and the unit was diverted to the local ambulance station.

Firefighter/EMT Wetherell was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he died a short time later due to a heart attack.

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Feb. 29, 2012 — 0619 hours

**Mark G. Ratledge**  
**Fire Captain**

Age 35, Career  
Cottonwood Fire Protection District,  
California

Captain Ratledge and the members of his fire company were dispatched to a vehicle crash on a local interstate highway. The weather at the time was a mix of snow and hail.

Captain Ratledge was standing by the roadside between a fire apparatus and a law enforcement vehicle with a law enforcement officer and a passenger of one of the cars that was involved in the earlier crash. A passing vehicle lost control and slid into the area where Captain Ratledge and the others were standing. Captain Ratledge was killed. The law enforcement officer and civilian were both injured.



March 4, 2012 — 0317 hours  
**Nolan Ervin “Goat” Pittman**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 45, Volunteer  
Centreville Volunteer Fire Department,  
Mississippi

Chief Pittman and the members of his fire department responded to a working residential structure fire. Chief Pittman assisted with exterior firefighting operations as firefighters attempted to limit the spread of the fire.

At approximately 0415 hours, Chief Pittman and another firefighter became nauseous. Both firefighters were transported to the hospital by a law enforcement officer. At the emergency room, Chief Pittman suffered a heart attack and died.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-11 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201211.pdf>).

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March 4, 2012 — 1350 hours  
**Jamison Nicholas Kampmeyer**  
**Lieutenant/EMT**

Age 34, Volunteer  
Colby Fire Department,  
Wisconsin

Lieutenant Kampmeyer and the members of his fire department were dispatched to a mutual-aid structure fire in a movie theater. When they arrived on-scene, Lieutenant Kampmeyer and other firefighters from his department were directed to the rear of the structure.

Lieutenant Kampmeyer and three other firefighters advanced an attack line into the rear of the theater. A ladder pipe master stream was flowed onto the structure from the front of the building. A roof collapse occurred, trapping Lieutenant Kampmeyer and two other firefighters in the debris. When Lieutenant Kampmeyer was located in the structure, he had died of smoke inhalation and thermal injuries.

This incident involves a number of issues including command, building construction, accountability and coordination. The incident is more fully explained in NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-08 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201208.pdf>).



March 4, 2012 — 1750 hours

**Mark Wayne Morrison**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 53, Career  
St. Lucie County Fire District,  
Florida

Lieutenant Morrison responded to two incidents during the first part of his shift including a reported brush fire, a vehicle crash, and an EMS incident. At the conclusion of the last incident, firefighters returned to quarters at approximately 1533 hours.

Upon his return to the station, Lieutenant Morrison worked in his office. At approximately 1749 hours, Lieutenant Morrison was discovered in a chair in his office, unconscious and not breathing. Firefighters provided EMS treatment, and he was transported to the hospital. Lieutenant Morrison did not recover and was pronounced dead of a heart attack at the hospital.

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March 14, 2012 — 0833 hours

**Thomas William “Bill” Dillion**  
**Senior Captain**

Age 49, Career  
Houston Fire Department,  
Texas

Captain Dillion and his ladder company were dispatched to the report of an apartment fire. When they arrived on the scene, Captain Dillion walked toward the structure and then suddenly collapsed.

Firefighters on the scene provided emergency medical care and transported Captain Dillion to the hospital by ambulance. Despite these efforts, Captain Dillion was pronounced dead at 0921 hours. Captain Dillion’s death was caused by a pulmonary embolism.

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March 19, 2012 — 1000 hours

**Jonathan Dickinson Myers**  
**Firefighter**

Age 54, Career  
Norfolk Fire-Rescue,  
Virginia

Firefighter Johnson was discovered unconscious on the floor of his bunk room by firefighters. He had just completed physical fitness activities that included climbing his station’s aerial ladder. Firefighters provided emergency medical assistance and Firefighter Myers was transported to the hospital. The cause of death was a heart attack.



March 19, 2012 — 2248 hours

**Donald Lee Jones**  
**Captain**

Age 56, Career  
Jacksonville Fire Department,  
Arkansas

Captain Jones and his engine company were dispatched to a gas leak that resulted from a vehicle that struck a gas meter. The apparatus was parked to shield the scene from passing traffic, and the emergency lights of the apparatus and a law enforcement vehicle on-scene were in operation. Captain Jones and his crew were wearing high-visibility safety vests.

As they stood near the scene, Captain Jones, a member of his crew, and a law enforcement officer were struck by a passenger van. The van that struck the three responders made no effort to brake and may have sped up prior to the impact. The driver of the van faced second-degree murder charges and other charges related to the incident.

Captain Jones was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was listed as multiple traumatic injuries and was labeled a homicide.

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March 20, 2012 — 1510 hours

**Edward Richard Bernosky**  
**Firefighter**

Age 79, Volunteer  
Adena Volunteer Fire Company,  
Ohio

Firefighter Bernosky and another firefighter were delivering water in a fire department tanker (tender) to a remote camping site in their area. Firefighter Bernosky dragged a 100-foot section of 2 1/2-inch hose from the tanker to the water tank then drained and dragged the hose back to the tanker when the fill was complete.

As they left the area, the tanker became stuck in the mud. Firefighter Bernosky attempted to place bricks and rocks in the path of the tanker to provide traction but was not successful. A tow truck arrived and removed the tanker from the mud. As Firefighter Bernosky stood to leave the scene, he suffered a heart attack. He was transported to the hospital but did not recover.





April 3, 2012 — 1055 hours

**David L. Bailey**  
**Captain**

Age 50, Career  
Los Angeles County Fire Department,  
California

At approximately 0900 hours, four inmate crews began their hike above Fire Camp 14 in Santa Clarita. Captain Bailey and three other fire crew supervisors started the hike, with Captain Bailey taking the rear position to account for all of the inmates.

Upon returning to Fire Camp 14, it was determined that Captain Bailey had not returned, and a search operation was immediately initiated. Captain Bailey was found on the hiking trail in cardiac arrest at approximately 1055 hours. Rescue efforts were initiated and additional resources were requested through dispatch. Captain Bailey was flown to the hospital by fire department helicopter. Unfortunately, he was pronounced dead at 1220 hours.

The cause of death was listed as a heart attack.

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April 6, 2012 — 1630 hours

**John H. “Jack” Colbert**  
**Captain**

Age 60, Volunteer  
Birchwood Fire Department,  
Wisconsin

Captain Colbert and the members of his fire department were dispatched to a report of a drowning. Captain Colbert remained at the fire station and assisted with communications. After approximately an hour, Captain Colbert felt ill and went home. Approximately three hours later, firefighters were dispatched to Captain Colbert’s home for an ill person. Captain Colbert was transported to the hospital but later died as a result of a heart attack.

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April 7, 2012 — 0424 hours

**Kenny Dewayne Fox**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 39, Volunteer  
Decatur County Volunteer  
Fire Department Station 3,  
Tennessee

Chief Fox and the members of his fire department responded to a structure fire in a restaurant. Chief Fox responded to the fire station and then to the scene as a part of the crew of an engine company.

When they arrived on the scene, firefighters found a working fire. Chief Fox and two other firefighters advanced a handline into the structure. Conditions changed rapidly and Chief Fox pushed the other two firefighters toward the exit prior to being overcome by fire progress himself.

The roof of the restaurant collapsed and firefighters, including Chief Fox’s son, were not able to rescue him. The autopsy listed the cause of death as smoke inhalation and thermal burns with a carboxyhemoglobin saturation of 23 percent.



April 9, 2012 — 0550 hours

**Robert Peter Neary**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 59, Career  
Philadelphia Fire Department,  
Pennsylvania

Lieutenant Neary and his ladder company were assigned to work at a multiple alarm fire in a five-story building. Once on-scene, ladder pipe operations were set up, and Lieutenant Neary and other firefighters were assigned to check for fire extension in an exposure building.

**Daniel Sweeney**  
**Firefighter**

Age 25, Career  
Philadelphia Fire Department,  
Pennsylvania

A catastrophic collapse of the fire building occurred, and the exposure building was struck by falling debris. Lieutenant Neary, Firefighter Sweeney and two other firefighters were trapped in the collapse. Other firefighters rescued the trapped firefighters from the building. Lieutenant Neary and Firefighter Sweeney were killed in the collapse. The cause of death for both firefighters was mechanical asphyxia.

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April 12, 2012 — 1457 hours

**John Charles Winkelman**  
**Captain**

Age 54, Career  
Huntley Fire Protection District,  
Illinois

Captain Winkelman was a shift commander and was also assigned as the department's communications officer. One of the duties of the communications officer involved attendance at regularly scheduled operations committee meetings at a regional dispatch center. These meetings were considered on-duty, and Captain Winkelman was paid for his time if he was off-duty.

On April 12, 2012, Captain Winkelman attended a meeting of the operations committee from 1300 hours to approximately 1445 hours. As he drove home from the meeting on his personal motorcycle, Captain Winkelman was involved in a crash when another driver pulled onto the roadway directly in front of Captain Winkelman. The cause of death was trauma related to the crash.



April 12, 2012 — 1508 hours

**Adam Joseph Longo**  
**Firefighter**

Age 31, Career

Natrona County Fire Protection District,  
Wyoming

Firefighter Longo and his crew were participating in physical fitness training when they were dispatched to a wildland fire. Firefighter Longo drove the crew's squad truck in emergency mode back to the fire station to pick up their wildland apparatus.

About two minutes into the response, Firefighter Longo could not control the vehicle. He pressed the accelerator to the floor and the vehicle swerved. The company officer and another firefighter were able to bring the vehicle to a stop. Firefighter Longo was found to be exhibiting the symptoms of a CVA and he was transported to a hospital by ambulance.

Firefighter Longo was admitted to the hospital and underwent two surgeries. He was moved to a neurological unit but died on April 18, 2012. The cause of death was a CVA.

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April 15, 2012 — 1808 hours

**George Marshall Sanford**  
**First Lieutenant**

Age 67, Volunteer

Redding Fire & Emergency Services  
Company 1,  
Connecticut

At 1808 hours, the Redding Fire Department was dispatched to the report of a large brush fire near a local golf course. Firefighters, according to procedure, responded to the fire station and staffed apparatus for the response.

When First Lieutenant Sanford arrived at the station, the next vehicle set to respond on the incident was the ambulance. Firefighter Sanford was found unconscious next to the open driver's door of the ambulance by returning firefighters at approximately 1831 hours.

Firefighters began CPR and First Lieutenant Sanford was transported to the hospital. He was pronounced dead at 1912 hours. The cause of death was listed as a heart attack.



April 16, 2012 — 1500 hours

**Richard A. Nappi**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 47, Career  
New York City Fire Department,  
New York

Lieutenant Nappi and his engine company were dispatched to a fire in a large commercial occupancy. The fire was difficult to locate and sprinkler activation had controlled the fire but made smoke conditions more difficult.

Lieutenant Nappi and his crew worked under difficult conditions for over an hour and a half inside of the structure, attempting to locate the fire and stretching handlines once it was found. At 1432 hours, a command officer noticed that Lieutenant Nappi did not look well and the Rapid Intervention Team was directed to remove Lieutenant Nappi from the building for EMS evaluation.

Although he told EMS responders that he felt well during the evaluation, Lieutenant Nappi suffered a seizure and a heart attack while under EMS care. On-scene testing revealed an elevated level of carbon monoxide. Lieutenant Nappi was transported to the hospital by ambulance. He was pronounced dead at 1532 hours due to a heart attack.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-16 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201216.pdf>).

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April 18, 2012

**Mark Anthony Shepard Sr.**  
**Firefighter**

Age 49, Volunteer  
Rosehill Volunteer Fire Department,  
Texas

On April 18, 2012, Firefighter Shepard complained of feeling ill while at the fire station. He told an EMS Assistant Chief that he had not felt well since performing maintenance at the fire station during his shift on April 17, 2012. While speaking with the Assistant Chief, Firefighter Shepard became very pale and stated that he was having chest pains. Firefighter Shepard was escorted to the ambulance for a cardiac work-up and transported to a local hospital. Firefighter Shepard remained in the hospital for tests and on April 20, 2012, he collapsed, and all resuscitative efforts failed. Firefighter Shepard died at approximately 1725 hours.

The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office prepared a detailed report on this incident. The report is available at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmloddiinvesti.html>.



May 9, 2012 — Time Unknown

**Antonio C. Rodriques**  
**Firefighter**

Age 49, Career  
Yonkers Fire Department,  
New York

On May 9, 2012, Firefighter Rodriques participated in bailout training while on-duty. During the training, he told other firefighters and fire officers that he did not feel well and continued to complain of illness until he was admitted to the hospital on July 18, 2012. Firefighter Rodriques died on July 31, 2012 as the result of complications related to a hemorrhagic stroke he suffered during fire department training.

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May 16, 2012 — 0330 hours

**David Alan Wintz Sr.**  
**Fire Police Captain**

Age 65, Volunteer  
Bristol Fire Company,  
Pennsylvania

Fire Police Captain and the members of his fire department, along with numerous other firefighters and fire departments, responded to a report of two chemical tanks burning at a local chemical manufacturing facility. Upon his arrival at the scene in his personal vehicle, Fire Police Captain Wintz set up traffic control at an intersection approximately 2,000 feet from the burning tanks.

Smoke from the fires was minimal upon his arrival but became intense a short time later. Fire Police Captain Wintz retreated to his vehicle and drove away from the area. He called his wife to say that he was having difficulty breathing as he drove home. His wife called 911 when he arrived home and firefighters and emergency medical responders were dispatched.

Responders found Fire Police Captain Wintz in cardiac arrest. He was transported to the hospital by ambulance where he was pronounced dead at 0457 hours. The cause of death was listed as a heart attack.



May 17, 2012 — 2053 hours  
**William Richard Danes**  
**Firefighter**

Age 69, Volunteer  
Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Texas

Firefighter Danes was participating in ladder training at a training center. The training consisted of classroom and hands-on training. Part of the hands-on training involved climbing hand ladders in full structural fire-fighting protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

As Firefighter Danes descended a ladder, other firefighters noticed that he was not feeling well. He was supported on each side by a firefighter and laid on the ground. Firefighter Danes became unresponsive and emergency medical care, including CPR, was initiated.

Firefighter Danes was transported to a first-aid station and then to a local hospital by ambulance. Firefighter Danes did not recover and was pronounced dead at the hospital due to an acute heart attack.

The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office prepared a detailed report on this incident. The report is available at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmloddiinvesti.html>.

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June 3, 2012 — 1347 hours  
**Todd Neal Tompkins**  
**Captain**

Age 48, Wildland Contract  
Neptune Aviation Services, Inc.  
Montana

Captain Tompkins and First Officer Chambless were conducting air tanker operations near Modena, Utah. Their aircraft was a Lockheed P2V-7, Tanker 11.

The aircraft crashed while attempting the second fire retardant drop of the day. Both pilots were fatally injured. The investigation into the circumstances of the crash has not been completed.

**Ronnie Edwin Chambless**  
**First Officer**

Age 40, Wildland Contract  
Neptune Aviation Services, Inc.,  
Montana

For additional information about this crash, consult the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) website, NTSB identification WPR12GA243, at <http://www.nts.gov/aviationquery/>.



June 8, 2013 — 0800 hours  
**Anthony Ramone Polk**  
**Firefighter/Fuels Technician**

Age 30, Wildland Full-time  
Bureau of Indian Affairs —  
Fort Yuma Agency,  
Arizona

Firefighter Polk and his Type 5 engine crew were assigned to the Montezuma Fire near Sells, Arizona. Firefighter Polk was the right front seat passenger in the engine, a 2009 Chevrolet 5500 with a 500-gallon tank.

Firefighter Polk's engine was paired with another engine and assigned to patrol and provide initial attack to the west flank of the fire. The engines left Sells, Arizona just prior to 0800 hours driving south to check on a broken fire hydrant. The other engine was in the lead with Firefighter Polk's engine following behind. Approximately five miles south of Sells, Firefighter Polk's engine veered off the right side of the highway, overcorrected, crossed back over the roadway, flipped forward, and landed with the weight on the hood and cab. The engine then bounced, landing on its wheels, and coasted back across the highway to its final resting position.

Firefighter Polk received fatal injuries in the crash when the cab was crushed. Firefighter Polk was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash. Factors cited in the crash included driver distraction, driver inexperience, the condition of the roadway, and vehicle characteristics.

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June 10, 2012 — 2122 hours  
**Donald Lynn Suggs**  
**Assistant Chief**

Age 55, Volunteer  
Summerville Bunnlevel  
Fire and Rescue, Inc.,  
North Carolina

Assistant Chief Suggs and other members of his fire department responded on an engine to a mutual aid incident regarding a fire alarm in a commercial structure. The alarm was found to be unnecessary and the engine was cancelled while responding. The unit went available at 1043 hours.

At 2122 hours, firefighters and EMS responders were dispatched to Assistant Chief Suggs' home for a possible cardiac arrest. Responders found Assistant Chief Suggs in distress and assisted with treatment and transport to a hospital. Assistant Chief Suggs was pronounced dead at 0104 hours on June 11, 2012, due to a heart attack.



June 22, 2012 — 2219 hours

**George Syril Davis**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 62, Career  
Hollis Fire-Rescue,  
Maine

Chief Davis and the members of his fire department were dispatched to a report of illegal burning. Firefighters arrived on-scene and found that the incident was actually a dispute between neighbors and left the scene prior to the arrival of Chief Davis.

Chief Davis cancelled his response and diverted to the fire station to discuss the incident with his firefighters. Chief Davis left the fire station to return home at 1035 hours. Chief Davis was discovered by his wife unconscious and not breathing in the driveway of his home at 0045 hours on June 23, 2012. He was pronounced dead at the scene by responders due to a heart attack.

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June 27, 2012 — 1300 hours

**Ronald J. Keddie**  
**Firefighter**

Age 64, Volunteer  
Sheridan Fire Department,  
New York

Firefighter Keddie responded to his fire station when his department was dispatched to a motor vehicle crash. Firefighter Keddie was to bring additional equipment to the scene following the response of other firefighters.

When he did not arrive at the scene, firefighters discovered Firefighter Keddie at the fire station unconscious. Firefighter Keddie had died of a heart attack during the response.

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June 29, 2012 — 2145 hours

**John Lennox Echternach Jr.**  
**Lieutenant/EMT**

Age 54, Volunteer  
Boones Mill Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Virginia

Lieutenant Echternach was responding to a structure fire in his personal vehicle. The area was undergoing severe weather, including high winds, at the time. During the response, Lieutenant Echternach came upon a vehicle that was stopped and had been hit by a falling tree. Without warning, additional trees fell and struck Lieutenant Echternach. He received a fatal head injury and died at the hospital on July 2, 2012.

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July 1, 2012 — 0230 hours

**Rocky Edward Dunkin**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 24, Volunteer  
Niles Township Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Ohio

Lieutenant Dunkin responded to the scene of a motor vehicle crash with entrapment. Lieutenant Dunkin was one of the first firefighters on the scene and assisted other firefighters and a law enforcement officer with gaining access to the occupants of the vehicle.

The fire chief arrived on the scene and he ordered Lieutenant Dunkin to retrieve a backboard from the fire apparatus. As he began to complete the task, Lieutenant Dunkin collapsed. He was treated by responders and placed in an ambulance for transport to a hospital. Lieutenant Dunkin became unresponsive and CPR was initiated. The cause of death was listed as a heart attack.





July 1, 2012 — 1830 hours

**Paul K. Mikeal**  
**Lieutenant Colonel/Evaluator Pilot**

Age 42, Military  
145th Airlift Wing,  
North Carolina Air National Guard

**Joseph M. McCormick**  
**Major/Instructor Pilot**

Age 36, Military  
145th Airlift Wing,  
North Carolina Air National Guard

**Ryan Scott David**  
**Major/Navigator**

Age 35, Military  
145th Airlift Wing,  
North Carolina Air National Guard

**Robert S. Cannon**  
**Senior Master Sergeant/Flight Engineer**

Age 50, Military  
145th Airlift Wing,  
North Carolina Air National Guard

A six-member crew was operating a C-130 Hercules aircraft, MAFFS 7, on a wildland firefighting mission on the White Draw Fire near Edgemont, South Dakota. The aircraft was equipped with a modular firefighting system with a capacity of 3,000 gallons of fire retardant.

The aircraft had successfully conducted a fire retardant drop on the fire and it was in the process of making a second drop when the crash occurred. As the aircraft made its run, it encountered turbulence from a thunderstorm and crashed. The four members of the flight deck crew were killed and the two crew members operating the firefighting system in the rear of the aircraft were injured but survived. A report concluded that all four flight crew died during the crash impact and not during the post-crash fire.

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July 16, 2012 — 1130 hours  
**David Raymond Chew Jr.**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 30, Volunteer  
Bloxom Volunteer Fire Company,  
Virginia

Lieutenant Chew was a passenger in a 1999 Pierce fire engine responding to a motor vehicle crash. The driver of the engine lost control on a curve, ran off of the right side of the road, and impacted several trees and a utility pole. Both right side doors were removed by the force of the crash. Lieutenant Chew was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal traumatic injuries.

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July 23, 2012 — 0823 hours  
**Jon Robert Tibbetts**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 59, Career  
Sandoval County Fire Department,  
New Mexico

Chief Tibbetts was on his way to administer a physical abilities test to a new paramedic firefighter candidate. He was operating his department-assigned vehicle, a 2004 Ford Explorer.

As Chief Tibbetts drove north on a local interstate highway, another vehicle that was also northbound lost control and struck Chief Tibbetts' vehicle, causing it to roll. Chief Tibbetts was wearing his seatbelt but sustained fatal traumatic injuries in the crash.



August 10, 2012 — 1415 hours  
**Michael “Mouse” Burgan**  
**Captain**

Age 46, Volunteer  
Sugarcreek Fire Department,  
Ohio

Captain Burgan was participating in dive rescue training in a man-made lake in a local quarry. He was performing the second dive of the day when he surfaced and indicated that he was in distress and went under water. The diving instructor recovered him from a depth of approximately 60 feet. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was listed as drowning.

August 12, 2012 — 1250 hours  
**Anne Rosemarie Veseth**  
**Firefighter**

Age 20, Wildland Part-time  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest,  
Idaho

Firefighter Veseth was part of a wildland engine crew assigned to the Steep Corner Fire near Orofino, Idaho. Her crew was attempting to put in a fire line when a large cedar tree fell and struck her. She sustained a massive head injury and died immediately.

August 18, 2012 — 1800 hours  
**Jimmy Donald Randolph**  
**Inmate Firefighter**

Age 44, Wildland Full-time  
California Department of Corrections  
and Rehabilitation,  
California

Firefighter Randolph was assigned to the Buck Fire as a part of a strike team. At approximately 1800 hours, Firefighter Randolph advised a correctional officer that he had a headache. He was escorted to a medical team, evaluated, and given a three-day no-work note.

At approximately 0530 hours the next morning, Firefighter Randolph could not be awakened. He was treated and transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 1230 hours on August 19, 2012. The cause of death was listed as anoxic encephalopathy combined with complications of heat stroke.

August 20, 2012 — 0729 hours  
**Roulos Cedric Davis**  
**Captain**

Age 49, Career  
Chattanooga Fire Department,  
Tennessee

Captain Davis became ill shortly after reporting for duty. Firefighters provided medical care but Captain Davis did not survive his illness. The cause of death was a heart attack.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2013-01 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201301.pdf>).

August 20, 2012 — 2130 hours  
**Timothy J. Lamere**  
**Assistant Chief**

Age 47, Volunteer  
Constable Volunteer Firemen, Inc.,  
New York

Assistant Chief Lamere collapsed at home within 24 hours of participating in a fire department training activity the day before. The nature of fatal injury and cause were not reported.



Sept. 2, 2012 — 1530 hours  
**Richard “Rick” Schaefer**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 52, Career  
Hopkinton Fire Department,  
New Hampshire

Chief Schaefer suffered a heart attack while in the Con-toocook fire station near the Hopkinton State Fair. He was transported to the hospital by ambulance but did not recover.

Sept. 5, 2012 — 1623 hours  
**Steven C. Henry Sr.**  
**Fire Police Captain**

Age 53, Volunteer  
Columbia Consolidated  
Fire Department,  
Pennsylvania

Fire Police Captain Henry responded on a mutual-aid incident in a neighboring community. Fire Police Captain Henry assisted with scene security at a crash involving a school bus. He cleared the scene of the incident at 1657 hours. Fire Police Captain Henry felt ill after the incident and saw his physician the next morning.

On Sept. 6, 2012, at 1220 hours, firefighters and emergency medical responders were dispatched to Fire Police Captain Henry’s home for a cardiac arrest. Responders provided treatment and transported Fire Police Captain Henry to a local hospital. He was pronounced dead later as the result of a heart attack.

Sept. 16, 2012 — 1315 hours  
**Neal Wade Smith**  
**Captain**

Age 46, Volunteer  
Atascocita Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Texas

Captain Smith was engaged in a “Smoke Divers” class at a local fire training facility. He wore full structural firefighting protective clothing, including an SCBA.

After completing a training evolution, Captain Smith became ill and was transported to the hospital. Captain Smith suffered from a heat-related illness. His core body temperature was found to be 107 degrees Fahrenheit when he arrived at the hospital.

Captain Smith was treated at the hospital but died as a result of his injury on Sept. 17, 2012, at 1740 hours. The cause of death was listed as hyperthermia.

Sept. 17, 2012 — Time Unknown  
**Christopher Joseph Seelye**  
**Firefighter**

Age 61, Wildland Contract  
USDA Forest Service,  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest,  
Washington

Firefighter Seelye was assigned as a tree faller at the Klone Fire about 20 miles north of Wenatchee, Washington. As Firefighter Seelye worked on the fire line, he told other firefighters that he did not feel well. He was treated by EMS responders assigned to the fire and then transported to a local hospital. He died later that day in the hospital as the result of a heart attack.



Sept. 27, 2012 — 1712 hours

**Justin E. Townsend**  
**Junior Firefighter**

Age 17, Volunteer  
Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Department,  
Delaware

Junior Firefighter Townsend was a passenger in a pickup truck driven by a friend as he responded to an outside fire in a wooded area. The driver lost control of the pickup in a curve, struck a telephone pole, and the vehicle ended up on its roof. The passenger side of the vehicle was crushed. Junior Firefighter Townsend received fatal injuries in the crash.

Both the driver and Junior Firefighter Townsend were wearing their seatbelts at the time of the crash. Excessive speed was cited as a factor in the crash.

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Sept. 30, 2012 — Time Unknown

**John D. Grabowski**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 49, Part-time (Paid)  
Riverview Fire Department,  
Michigan

Lieutenant Grabowski was on-duty on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012. During his shift, he participated in a training exercise involving the foam system on one of the department's apparatus. There had been some operational problems with the system, so the training necessitated several adjustments to the system on the top of the apparatus by Lieutenant Grabowski. His shift ended at 1800 hours.

The following morning at approximately 0803 hours, Lieutenant Grabowski was found unconscious in the parking lot of his employer. He was treated and transported to the hospital but died as the result of a heart attack.

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Oct. 9, 2012 — 1730 hours

**Larry Dean Nielsen**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 60, Volunteer  
Gilmore City Fire Department,  
Iowa

Chief Nielsen was a passenger in a fire department engine responding to a barn fire. A few minutes after departing the fire station on the response, Chief Nielsen told the driver of the apparatus to pull over, he was not feeling well.

The driver pulled the apparatus to the side of the road and Chief Nielsen exited the vehicle. Chief Nielsen collapsed to the pavement. EMS was summoned and the driver and Chief Nielsen's spouse began CPR. Chief Nielsen was transported to the hospital by ambulance but did not survive the medical emergency. The cause of death was listed as a heart attack.



Oct. 27, 2012 — 0945 hours

**Donald Edward Felton**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 70, Career  
Southern Park County Fire Protection  
District, Colorado

Chief Felton was alone in the fire station working at his desk. A firefighter arrived at the station at approximately 1115 hours and discovered Chief Felton deceased in his office. His death was caused by a heart attack. The coroner estimated the time of death as 0945 hours.

Oct. 27, 2012 — 1900 hours

**Robert Eugene Van Wormer**  
**Battalion Chief**

Age 47, Career  
Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit,  
California

Battalion Chief Van Wormer was on assignment in Santa Cruz working an investigation. He was having dinner with an associate. Battalion Chief Van Wormer lost consciousness and was immediately transported to the hospital. His death was caused by a heart attack.

Oct. 29, 2012 — 2030 hours

**Russell F. Neary**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 55, Volunteer  
Easton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1,  
Connecticut

Lieutenant Neary and the members of his fire department responded to a report of a structure fire. While returning to quarters, firefighters encountered debris in the roadway that had been blown down by Hurricane Sandy. Firefighters began to remove the debris from the roadway when sections of a tree or trees fell into the roadway, striking Lieutenant Neary.

Nov. 2, 2012 — 1720 hours

**Herbert T. "Herbie" Johnson**  
**Captain**

Age 54, Career  
Chicago Fire Department,  
Illinois

Captain Johnson and his engine company crew were dispatched along with other firefighters to a report of a structure fire in a 2 1/2-story wood frame residential structure. The first unit on the scene, a battalion chief, reported a working fire and found conditions on the first and second floors clear, with fire on the second floor of an enclosed porch to the rear.

When Captain Johnson and his unit arrived on the scene, there were reports from an arriving ladder company of fire visible from the attic. Captain Johnson and his crew secured a water supply and advanced a hose-line to the second floor. Fire conditions changed rapidly and the fire overcame Captain Johnson's position. Other firefighters were able to remove Captain Johnson from the structure and bring him to the street.

Captain Johnson was transported by fire department ambulance to the hospital. He died at 1845 hours as a result of asphyxiation (smoke inhalation).



Nov. 3, 2012 — 1700 hours

**John McClelland Hall**  
**Deputy Fire Chief**

Age 48, Career  
Clarkton Volunteer Fire Department,  
North Carolina

Deputy Chief Hall responded to a structure fire on Nov. 3, 2012. He felt ill at the scene and was prescribed bed rest by a physician. On Nov. 4, 2012, he was found at home unresponsive and taken to the hospital. He died as the result of a cardiac illness on Nov. 7, 2012.

Nov. 5, 2012 — 0045 hours

**David Mitchell Tatum**  
**Lieutenant**

Age 55, Volunteer  
White Oak Fire Department,  
North Carolina

Lieutenant Tatum became sick at the scene of a vehicle fire but did not request treatment at that time. Later in the day, he began having trouble breathing and became unconscious. Lieutenant Tatum was treated and transported to Bladen County Hospital and then transferred to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville where he passed away from a cause still to be reported.

Nov. 6, 2012 — 1537 hours

**Walter M. Summerville III**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 55, Career  
Kernersville Fire Rescue Department,  
North Carolina

Chief Summerville responded with his fire department to a triple shooting incident. Near the end of the incident, Chief Summerville complained to fellow firefighters that he didn't feel well and went to sit in one of the department vehicles while the incident was concluded.

The following day while at a benefit event in the afternoon, Chief Summerville complained again to coworkers that he still did not feel well and departed work early for home. A short time later, Chief Summerville was discovered by a family member passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Nov. 11, 2012 — 2044 hours

**Mark Allan Haudenschild II**  
**Firefighter**

Age 26, Volunteer  
Washington Township Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Indiana

Firefighter Haudenschild was the driver and sole occupant of a tanker (tender) responding to a wildland fire. As Firefighter Haudenschild approached an intersection, he swerved and applied the brakes to avoid some traffic control posts in the roadway.

The tanker began to roll and began to rotate before striking a utility pole. The vehicle continued to roll and struck a second utility pole. Firefighter Haudenschild was ejected from the vehicle. The apparatus water tank came off of the frame of the truck and landed on top of Firefighter Haudenschild.

Firefighter Haudenschild was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash.



Nov. 11, 2012 — 2320 hours

**Walter Patmon Jr.**  
**Firefighter**

Age 61, Career  
Chicago Fire Department,  
Illinois

Firefighter Patmon was on-duty as the driver of a ladder company. He and his crew came on-duty at 0800 hours. During the day, Firefighter Patmon and his ladder company responded to two EMS incidents and a vehicle crash. At 2205 hours, Firefighter Patmon and his crew were the arriving ladder at a reported structural fire.

Firefighter Patmon donned his protective clothing and set up the aerial ladder for operations. The incident was found to be food on the stove and Firefighter Patmon returned the ladder to its bed. While driving back to quarters, Firefighter Patmon began to suffer shortness of breath and chest pains.

Upon arrival at the fire station at 2224 hours, Firefighter Patmon's symptoms quickly worsened. An ambulance was called and other firefighters provided care for Firefighter Patmon. He left for the hospital by ambulance at 2231 hours and arrived at the hospital at 2236 hours. Despite care given in the emergency room, Firefighter Patmon was pronounced dead at 2320 hours. The cause of death was a heart attack.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-29 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201229.pdf>).

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Nov. 13, 2012 — 1652 hours

**John Thomas Sayles**  
**Captain**

Age 38, Volunteer  
Pentwater Fire Department  
Michigan

Captain Sayles and members of his fire department responded on a mutual-aid structure fire in a neighboring community. While on the scene, Captain Sayles used a pike pole and a chain saw to remove heavy siding from the side of an old barn that had been converted into a residence. Captain Sayles performed much of the work above his head. The siding was removed to reveal a fire in the wall. Captain Sayles and other firefighters completed their work on the scene and returned to service after 1741 hours.

On Nov. 14, 2012, at 1755 hours, a 911 call was received from Captain Sayles' residence. Captain Sayles had collapsed. He was transported to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with a thoracic aneurysm. Eventually, the decision was made to transfer Captain Sayles to another hospital for treatment. During the transport, his condition worsened and he died.



Nov. 20, 2012 — 1610 hours

**Christopher M. Good**  
**Captain**

Age 36, Volunteer  
West Chester Fire Department,  
Pennsylvania

Captain Good responded with his fire department to a working structure fire. The incident was concluded at 1650 hours. The next morning, Nov. 21, 2012, at 0645 hours, Captain Good participated in a preplanning activity at a local hospital that concluded at 0830 hours. Captain Good returned to his home.

At 1100 hours, Captain Good collapsed at home and EMS responders were sent to the scene. Captain Good was provided with CPR and transported to the hospital. After approximately 40 minutes of effort in the emergency room, Captain Good was pronounced dead due to a heart attack.

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Nov. 27, 2012 — 1315 hours

**Michael Martin**  
**Firefighter**

Age 51, Industrial  
PPL Susquehanna LLC,  
Pennsylvania

Firefighter Martin was training at a local community college facility to become a part of his facility fire brigade. As he participated in an SCBA exercise, he felt ill and collapsed. The class instructor started CPR and called for assistance. Firefighter Martin was transported to the hospital but did not survive the heart attack.

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Nov. 30, 2012 — 2200 hours

**Jalen S.D. Smith**  
**Firefighter**

Age 20, Volunteer  
Jackson Heights Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Texas

Firefighter Smith was a passenger in a vehicle driven by another firefighter responding to a crash involving a tractor-trailer. For reasons that are not clear, the vehicle left the roadway and rolled. There are conflicting reports regarding Firefighter Smith's location after the crash; he may have been ejected.

Firefighter Smith suffered head and back injuries. He was transported to the hospital and treated but died as a result of his injuries on Dec. 3, 2012.





Dec. 2, 2012 — 1954 hours

**Timothy Paul Jansen**  
**Firefighter**

Age 45, Volunteer  
Santa Fe Fire Protection District,  
Illinois

At 1934 hours on Dec. 2, 2012, Bartelso/Santa Fe firefighters were dispatched to a report of a timber fire in their area with further reports that the fire was approaching a residence. Firefighter Jansen and another firefighter were the first to arrive on scene in a brush apparatus at 1953 hours. Firefighter Jansen was the passenger in the unit and jumped out of the apparatus to assist the driver while the apparatus was repositioned.

As the apparatus moved backward, Firefighter Jansen was struck and run over by the vehicle. As other firefighters arrived on the scene, they were told by bystanders that a firefighter had been run over. Firefighters discovered Firefighter Jansen lying in the roadway, unconscious, not breathing and pulseless. Firefighters requested an ambulance and focused their efforts on providing assistance to Firefighter Jansen. He was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead at 2128 hours. The cause of death was listed as crushing injuries to the pelvis, abdomen and chest.

For additional information regarding this incident, please refer to NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program report F2012-31 (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201231.pdf>).

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Dec. 8, 2012 — 0030 hours

**Eddy Wayne Meador**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 54, Volunteer  
Pattonsburg Fire & Rescue  
Protection District,  
Missouri

Chief Meador died as the result of a heart attack suffered within 24 hours of responding to several emergency incidents.

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Dec. 10, 2012 — 1230 hours

**Steven W. Fritz**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 58, Paid-on-call  
Rothschild Fire Department,  
Wisconsin

Chief Fritz responded to an emergency medical incident at 1230 hours and then went home. At home, he cleared snow from his driveway and then went inside the house to watch television. He was found deceased in his residence at approximately 1830 hours. His death was due to a heart attack.



Dec. 12, 2012 — Time Unknown

**Jeffery A. Hudson**  
**Private**

Age 46, Career  
St. Louis Fire Department,  
Missouri

Private Hudson and the members of his ladder company responded to multiple incidents during their shift. The last incident was a report of a gas odor. Firefighters returned to their quarters at approximately 0230 hours. Private Hudson was discovered deceased in his bunk in the morning. His death was attributed to natural causes.

Dec. 21, 2012 — 1254 hours

**Philip Alan Mortensen**  
**Fire Chief**

Age 67, Volunteer  
Brooklyn Fire & EMS Protection District,  
Wisconsin

Chief Mortensen and other members of his fire department responded to an emergency medical incident on Dec. 21, 2012. The incident was concluded at 1633 hours. At 1254 hours the next day, firefighters were dispatched to a report of a man down. Firefighters discovered Chief Mortensen in respiratory and cardiac arrest. He was treated and transported to a medical helicopter landing zone for further transport. The flight physician pronounced Chief Mortensen dead upon his arrival at the landing zone. His death was due to a heart attack.

Dec. 24, 2012 — 0541 hours

**Michael John Chiapperini**  
**Firefighter**

Age 43, Volunteer  
West Webster Fire District,  
New York

Firefighters Chiapperini and Kaczowka responded along with other firefighters to the report of a fire. An individual had intentionally set a vehicle on fire, and the fire had spread to a house.

**Tomasz Marian Kaczowka**  
**Firefighter**

Age 19, Volunteer  
West Webster Fire District,  
New York

As firefighters arrived on the scene, they were fired upon by the occupant of the home. Firefighter Chiapperini arrived on the first-due engine, and Firefighter Kaczowka arrived in an ambulance. Both firefighters were struck and mortally wounded. Two other firefighters and a police officer were also wounded in the shooting.

***Firefighter Fatalities From Previous Years***

April 24, 2007 — 2200 hours

**George R. Davidson III**  
**Firefighter/Training Officer**

Age 58, Volunteer  
Youngsville Fire Department,  
New York

Training Officer Davidson led and participated in a live fire training exercise for his fire department during the evening of April 27, 2007. During the event, Training Officer Davidson complained to the fire chief of not feeling well. The training exercise ended at approximately 2200 hours, and Training Officer Davidson went home.

Training Officer Davidson showered and went to bed when he arrived home. At 2315 hours, he began to have difficulty breathing and got out of bed. By midnight, his wife called 911 and requested an ambulance. Training Officer Davidson was transported to the hospital but was pronounced dead at 0122 hours on April 25, 2007, due to a heart attack.



Sept. 30, 2008 — 0700 hours  
**Remy Hathaway Pochelon**  
**Fire Safety Officer**

Age 54, Wildland Part-time  
United States Department  
of Agriculture, Forest Service  
Philipsburg, Montana

Safety Officer Pochelon was assigned as the Safety Officer on the Table Mountain Fire on Sept. 25, 2009. On Sept. 29, 2009, Safety Officer Pochelon was out on the fire line performing his duties, hiking long distances with a heavy pack, and working with firefighters and command officers. The next morning while still assigned to the fire, Safety Officer Pochelon suffered a CVA and died.

Nov. 7, 2008 — 0200 hours  
**Steven Francis Bouchard**  
**Firefighter**

Age 19, Volunteer  
Snowdoun Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Alabama

Firefighter Bouchard and the members of his fire department were dispatched to a vehicle crash. Firefighter Bouchard responded in his personal vehicle and was involved in a single-vehicle crash. He died as a result of injuries received in the crash on Nov. 11, 2008.

Nov. 8, 2010 — 1430 hours  
**Francis Arthur Ladue Jr.**  
**Firefighter**

Age 63, Volunteer  
Santa Rosa Volunteer  
Fire Department,  
Texas

Firefighter Ladue was operating an engine company performing resupply operations for a brush truck at a grass/brush fire in Cameron County. The engine featured an open passenger cab with the pump controls located mid-mount between the cab and tank.

Firefighter Ladue slipped while stepping down from the pump controls to the passenger side and hit the back of his head. Firefighter Ladue indicated he was not injured and refused treatment at the scene. After the fire was controlled, he returned to the fire station.

At approximately 1830 hours, he went home after refusing medical attention. Complaining of a headache to his wife, he went into a bedroom to rest. He was later found by his wife, unconscious and unresponsive. He was transported by ambulance to a hospital where an examination revealed an intracranial hemorrhage. Firefighter Ladue remained on life support until passing away on Jan. 9, 2011.

## Appendix B

### Firefighter Fatality Inclusion Criteria – National Fire Service Organizations

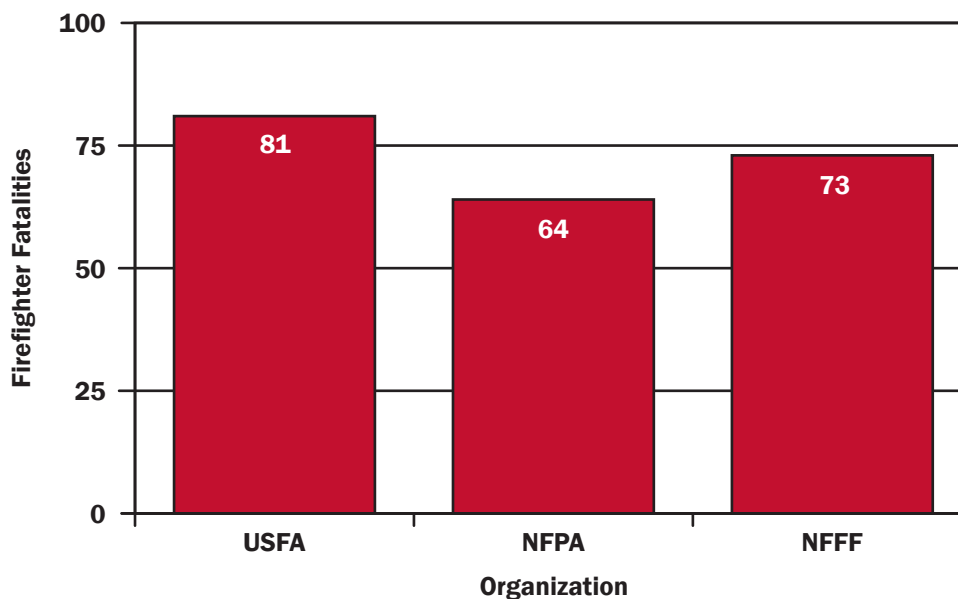
The NFPA, NFFF, USFA and other organizations individually collect information on firefighter fatalities in the U.S. Each organization uses a slightly different set of inclusion criteria that are based at least in part on the purposes of the information collection for each organization and data consistency.

As a result of these differing inclusion criteria, statistics about firefighter fatalities may be provided by each organization that do not coincide with one another. This section will explain the inclusion criteria for each organization and provide information about these differences.

USFA includes firefighters in this report who died while on-duty, became ill while on-duty and later died, and firefighters who died within 24 hours of an emergency response or training, regardless of whether the firefighter complained of illness while on-duty. USFA counts firefighter deaths that occur in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. protectorates, such as Puerto Rico and Guam. Detailed inclusion criteria for this report appear starting on page 2 of this report.

For 2012, USFA reported 81 on-duty firefighter fatalities.

#### Firefighter Fatalities in 2012 Incidents Occurring in 2012





## ***Inclusion Criteria for NFPA's Annual Firefighter Fatality Study***

### ***Introduction***

Each year, NFPA collects data on all firefighter fatalities in the U.S. that resulted from injuries or illnesses that occurred while the victims were on-duty. The purpose of the study is to analyze trends in the types of illnesses and injuries resulting in deaths that occur while firefighters are on the job. This annual census of firefighter fatalities in its current format dates back to 1977. (Between 1974 and 1976, NFPA published a study of on-duty firefighter fatalities that was not as comprehensive.)

### ***What is a Firefighter?***

For the purpose of the NFPA study, the term **firefighter** covers all uniformed members of organized fire departments, whether career, volunteer, combination or contract; full-time public service officers acting as firefighters; state and federal government fire service personnel; temporary fire suppression personnel operating under official auspices of one of the above; and privately employed firefighters including trained members of industrial or institutional fire brigades, whether full- or part-time.

Under this definition, the study includes, besides uniformed members of local career and volunteer fire departments, those seasonal and full-time employees of state and federal agencies who have fire suppression responsibilities as part of their job description, prison inmates serving on firefighting crews, military personnel performing assigned fire suppression activities, civilian firefighters working at military installations, and members of industrial fire brigades. Impressed civilians would also be included if called on by the officer in charge of the incident to carry out specific duties. The NFPA study includes fatalities that occur in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

### ***What does "on-duty" mean?***

The term **on-duty** refers to being at the scene of an alarm, whether a fire or nonfire incident; being en route while responding to or returning from an alarm; performing other assigned duties such as training, maintenance, public education, inspection, investigations, court testimony and fund raising; and being on-call, under orders or on standby duty other than at home or at the individual's place of business. Fatalities that occur at a firefighter's home may be counted if the actions of the firefighter at the time of injury involved firefighting or rescue.

On-duty fatalities include any injury sustained in the line of duty that proves fatal, any illness that was incurred as a result of actions while on-duty that proves fatal, and fatal mishaps involving non-emergency occupational hazards that occur while on-duty. The types of injuries included in the first category are mainly those that occur at an incident scene, in training, or in accidents while responding to or returning from alarms. Illnesses (including heart attacks) are included when the exposure or onset of symptoms are tied to a specific incident of on-duty activity. Those symptoms must have been in evidence while the victim was on-duty for the fatality to be included in the study.

Fatal injuries and illnesses are included even in cases where death is considerably delayed. When the onset of the condition and the death occur in different years, the incident is counted in the year of the condition's onset. Medical documentation specifically tying the death to the specific injury is required for inclusion of these cases in the study.



### ***Categories not included in the study***

The NFPA study does not include members of fire department auxiliaries, non-uniformed employees of fire departments, emergency medical technicians who are not also firefighters, chaplains, or civilian dispatchers. The study also does not include suicides as on-duty fatalities even when the suicide occurs on fire department property.

The NFPA recognizes that a comprehensive study of firefighter on-duty fatalities would include chronic illnesses (such as cardiovascular disease and certain cancers) that prove fatal and that arose from occupational factors. In practice, there is as yet no mechanism for identifying on-duty fatalities that are due to illnesses that develop over long periods of time. This creates an incomplete picture when comparing occupational illnesses to other factors as causes of firefighter deaths. This is recognized as a gap, the size of which cannot be identified at this time because of the limitations in tracking the exposure of firefighters to toxic environments and substances and the potential long-term effects of such exposures.

### ***2012 Experience***


In 2012, a total of 64 on-duty firefighter deaths occurred in the U.S., according to the NFPA inclusion criteria.

### ***National Fallen Firefighters Foundation***

In 1997, fire service leaders formulated new criteria to determine eligibility for inclusion on the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial. LODDs shall be determined by the following standards:

1. (a) Deaths of firefighters meeting the DOJ's PSOB Program guidelines, and those cases that appear to meet these guidelines, whether or not PSOB staff has adjudicated the specific case prior to the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.  
  
(b) Deaths of firefighters from injuries, heart attacks or illnesses documented to show a direct link to a specific emergency incident or department-mandated training activity.
2. While PSOB guidelines cover only public safety officers, the foundation's criteria also include contract firefighters and firefighters employed by a private company, such as those in an industrial brigade, provided that the deaths meet the standards listed above.
3. Some specific cases will be excluded from consideration, such as deaths attributable to suicide, alcohol or substance abuse, or other gross abuses as specified in the PSOB guidelines.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial was built in 1981 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The names listed there begin with those firefighters who died in the line of duty that year. Congress created the NFFF to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the tax-exempt, nonprofit foundation has developed and expanded programs to honor our fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers by providing them with resources to rebuild their lives. Since 1997, the foundation has managed the National Memorial Service held each October to honor the firefighters who died in the line of duty the previous year.



As of this writing, the foundation will be honoring 81 firefighters who died in the line of duty at the October 2013 Memorial Weekend. Of those 81 being honored, 73 died in 2012 as the result of incidents that occurred in 2012, and eight others died in previous years as the result of incidents that occurred in previous years.

The following section is a listing of the firefighters who will be honored by the foundation in October 2013, as of this writing.

Firefighter deaths that occurred in 2012 as the result of incidents that occurred in 2012:

### **Arizona**

**Anthony R. Polk**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs/Fort Yuma Agency

### **Arkansas**

**Donald L. Jones**  
Jacksonville Fire Department

### **California**

**David L. Bailey**  
Los Angeles County Fire Department

**Leo L. Crisanto**  
California Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation

**Jimmy D. Randolph**  
California Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation

**Mark G. Ratledge**  
Cottonwood Fire Protection District

### **Connecticut**

**Russell F. Neary**  
Easton Fire Department

**George M. Sanford**  
Redding Fire & Emergency Services  
Company 1

### **Delaware**

**Justin E. Townsend**  
Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Department

### **Florida**

**William J. Elliott**  
Pompano Beach Fire Rescue

**Mark W. Morrison**  
St. Lucie County Fire District

### **Hawaii**

**Duane K. Ibarra**  
Maui County Department of Fire  
and Public Safety

### **Idaho**

**Ronnie E. Chambless**  
Neptune Aviation Services, Inc.

**Todd N. Tompkins**  
Neptune Aviation Services, Inc.

**Anne R. Veseth**  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest,  
USDA Forest Service

### **Illinois**

**Timothy P. Jansen**  
Santa Fe Fire Protection District

**Herbert T. Johnson**  
Chicago Fire Department

**Walter Patmon Jr.**  
Chicago Fire Department



## Indiana

**Mark A. Haudenschild II**  
Washington Township Volunteer  
Fire Department

**Jeremy R. Tighe**  
McCutchanville Fire Department

## Iowa

**Larry D. Nielsen**  
Gilmore City Fire Department

## Maine

**George S. Davis**  
Hollis Fire-Rescue

## Michigan

**John D. Grabowski**  
Riverview Fire Department

**John T. Sayles**  
Pentwater Fire Department

**Gerald R. Wetherell**  
Denton Township Fire Department

## Mississippi

**Nolan E. Pittman**  
Centreville Volunteer Fire Department

## Missouri

**Douglas D. Haase Sr.**  
St. Charles Fire Department

**Jeffery A. Hudson**  
St. Louis Fire Department

**Eddy W. Meador**  
Pattonsburg Fire & Rescue Protection District

## Montana

**Christopher J. Seelye**  
USDA Forest Service, contractor

## New Hampshire

**Richard Schaefer**  
Hopkinton Fire Department

## New Jersey

**Bruce A. Turcotte**  
Hopelawn Engine Company No. 1

## New Mexico

**Jon R. Tibbetts**  
Sandoval County Fire Department

## New York

**Michael J. Chiapperini**  
West Webster Fire District

**Tomasz M. Kaczowka**  
West Webster Fire District

**Ronald J. Keddie**  
Sheridan Fire Department

**Timothy J. Lamere**  
Constable Volunteer Firemen, Inc.

**Richard A. Nappi**  
New York City Fire Department

## North Carolina

**Samuel Butler Sr.**  
Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department

**Robert S. Cannon**  
North Carolina Air National Guard,  
145th Airlift Wing

**Ryan S. David**  
North Carolina Air National Guard,  
145th Airlift Wing

**John M. Hall**  
Clarkton Volunteer Fire Department

**Joseph M. McCormick**  
North Carolina Air National Guard,  
145th Airlift Wing

**Paul K. Mikeal**  
North Carolina Air National Guard,  
145th Airlift Wing





**Donald L. Suggs**

Summerville Bunnlevel Fire and Rescue, Inc.

**Walter M. Summerville III**

Kernersville Fire Rescue Department

**David M. Tatum**

White Oak Fire Department

**Ohio**

**Michael Burgan**

Sugarcreek Fire Department

**Rocky E. Dunkin**

Niles Township Volunteer Fire Department

**Pennsylvania**

**David M. Flint**

Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department

**Christopher M. Good**

Good Will Fire Company

**Steven C. Henry Sr.**

Columbia Consolidated Fire Department,  
Columbia Fire Police

**Brandon L. Little**

United Hook and Ladder Company 33

**Michael Martin**

PPL Susquehanna LLC

**Robert P. Neary**

Philadelphia Fire Department

**Walter C. Sumner**

Cranesville Volunteer Fire Department

**Daniel Sweeney**

Philadelphia Fire Department

**David A. Wintz Sr.**

Bristol Fire Company

**South Carolina**

**David L. Crenshaw**

Anderson County Fire Department

**Tennessee**

**Kenny D. Fox**

Decatur County Volunteer Fire Department

**Texas**

**William R. Danes**

Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer  
Fire Department

**Thomas W. Dillion**

Houston Fire Department

**Jalen S.D. Smith**

Jackson Heights Volunteer Fire Department

**Neal W. Smith**

Atascocita Volunteer Fire Department

**Virginia**

**David R. Chew Jr.**

Bloxom Volunteer Fire Company

**John L. Echternach Jr.**

Boones Mill Volunteer Fire Department

**Jonathan D. Myers**

Norfolk Fire-Rescue

**Zachary T. Whitacre**

Gore Volunteer Fire and Rescue

**Wisconsin**

**John H. Colbert**

Birchwood Fire Department

**Steven W. Fritz**

Rothschild Fire Department

**Jamison N. Kampmeyer**

Colby Volunteer Fire Department

**Philip A. Mortensen**

Brooklyn Fire & EMS Protection District

**Wyoming**

**Adam J. Longo**

Natrona County Fire Protection District



## Deaths From Previous Years

### Arizona

**Deon J. Classay**  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency

### Florida

**Stephan C. Rich**  
Sarasota County Fire Department

### Mississippi

**Karlton A. K. Briscoe**  
Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department

### North Carolina

**Gerald L. Sundstrom Jr.**  
North Carolina Forest Service

### North Dakota

**Loren J. George**  
Minot Rural Fire Department

### Oregon

**Tony B. Chapin**  
Willamina Fire Department

### Pennsylvania

**Corey A. Baker**  
Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1

### Texas

**Francis A. Ladue Jr.**  
Santa Rosa Fire Department



Photo/National Guard Senior Airman Laura Montgomery, 145th Public Affairs

## **Acronyms**

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<b>BIA</b>	Bureau of Indian Affairs
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>CVA</b>	cerebrovascular accident
<b>DOJ</b>	U.S. Department of Justice
<b>EMS</b>	Emergency Medical Services
<b>EMT</b>	emergency medical technician
<b>FWS</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>LODD</b>	line-of-duty death
<b>NETC</b>	National Emergency Training Center
<b>NFFF</b>	National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
<b>NFIRS</b>	National Fire Incident Reporting System
<b>NFPA</b>	National Fire Protection Association
<b>NIOSH</b>	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
<b>NPS</b>	National Park Service
<b>NTSB</b>	National Transportation Safety Board
<b>POV</b>	privately owned vehicle
<b>PSOB</b>	Public Safety Officers' Benefit
<b>SCBA</b>	self-contained breathing apparatus
<b>USFA</b>	U.S. Fire Administration
<b>USFS</b>	U.S. Forest Service

