

# **FIRE SERVICE MONTHLY HISTORY READING LIST**

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*“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”*—George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, 1905

The Fire Service draws many parallels with the military to include our rank structure, insignias, and sense of discipline to the mission of the organization. To support and enhance the potential for success in execution of the mission, the military has created a culture that places a large focus on the soldier being educated in the history of their respective service. If we look for a comparable commitment in the fire service, it sadly does not exist. The assumption is that the firefighter will demonstrate a level of personal discipline or may have a mentor or leader that embraces the knowledge of our fire service history. This assumption is short sighted and leaves our firefighters vulnerable to commit exactly what George Santayana espouses. We will be condemned to repeat the same actions detailed in the multitude of after-action reports for close calls and line of duty deaths.

General Mattis' book, *Call Sign Chaos*, sums it up quite profoundly when he stated that “If you haven't read hundreds of books, you are functionally illiterate, and you will be incompetent, because your personal experiences alone aren't broad enough to sustain you.” Essentially, if we do not read and learn about the errors, mistakes, successes, and lessons learned from past incidents we will assuredly continue to commit the same errors with the same results.

Reading and learning about our over 2,000 years of history is a personal and professional responsibility that will only aid and enhance our possibility of continued success on the fireground. The task is to honor those who lost their lives in the line of duty, not simply as a number, but to know their name and what they faced on their fateful day. Second, we must read about the incident, the conditions presented, the actions taken, the lessons learned, and determine what we could apply to our daily actions.

Following is a monthly list of notable and historic line of duty death reports that have made a tremendous impact on the fire service. The lessons learned from these reports have been the catalyst for many of the procedures and changes we have implemented from fire behavior training to the importance of the 360 lap. We owe it to those who died to understand and embrace these changes. In addition, we owe it to those we lead and work with side by side to learn, improve, and evolve.

The goal for this initiative is that each month, pick one of the listed reports. Review the reports and/or video and answer the following questions:

- What red flags/anomalies did you recognize?
- What actions would you take to change the outcome of the incident?
- What training or other immediate actions can you develop and implement from the report to deliver to your Shift / Battalion / Department?
- Do you think this outcome could occur in your FRD (or perhaps, again)?
- What doctrine, policy, or training do we have in place that leads you to believe it could/could not occur here?
- What changes should we make to stop the event from occurring again?

***Note – Due to the consistent changing of the specific links to the NIOSH reports on the CDC website, the main directory CDC Link is being provided. For each incident, you can enter in the respective name of the incident in the search area and retrieve the report.***

## January

- *January 5<sup>th</sup> Pang Warehouse*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Lieutenant Gregory Shoemaker
    - Lieutenant Walter Kilgore
    - FF Randall Terlicker
    - FF James Brown
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [https://www.interfire.org/res\\_file/pdf/Tr-077.pdf](https://www.interfire.org/res_file/pdf/Tr-077.pdf)
    - <https://www.historylink.org/File/3820>
  
- *January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Colorado Street Fire - Philadelphia Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - Lt Matt LeTourneau
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [PFD-Colorado-Street-Fire-Report.pdf \(phila.gov\)](#)
  
- *January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011– Baltimore County Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - Lt Mark Falkenham
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wsa4ml0rO-o>
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
  
- *January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 – FDNY Black Sunday Fire*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - FF John G. Bellew
    - Lieutenant Curtis W. Meyran
    - FF Richard T. Sclafani
  - Link to the incident review:
    - Bronx fire: [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - Brooklyn fire: [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - Article on the fire: <http://nymag.com/news/features/26574/index3.html>

## February

- *February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1996 – FDNY*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - FF Louis Valentino
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/02/07/nyregion/with-firefighter-s-death-brooklyn-loses-a-son.html>
  
- *February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1995 – Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire (Bricelyn Street Fire)*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Captain Thomas Brooks
    - FF Patricia Conroy
    - FF Marc Kolenda
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [https://www.interfire.org/res\\_file/pdf/Tr-078.pdf](https://www.interfire.org/res_file/pdf/Tr-078.pdf)
  
- *February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000 – Houston Fire Department (McDonalds Fire)*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - FF Lewis Mayo
    - FF Kim Smith
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
  
- *February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1991 – Philadelphia Fire Department (One Meridian Plaza)*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Captain David Holcombe
    - FF Phyllis McAllister
    - FF James Chappell
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [One Meridian LODD Report from FE](#)
    - Video: [1 Meridian Plaza.mpg - YouTube](#)

March

- *March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001 – Phoenix Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - FF Brett Tarver
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <https://www.phoenix.gov/firesite/Documents/072604.pdf>
  
- *March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1996 – Chesapeake Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - FF Frank Young
    - FF John Hudgins
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
  
- *March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003 – Cincinnati Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - FF Oscar Armstrong
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [Firefighter Fatality Notice for Oscar Armstrong, III \(fema.gov\)](#)
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)

April

- *April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Colerain Township Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Captain Robin Broxtermann
    - FF Brian Schirra
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <https://www.colerain.org/275/Line-of-Duty-Death-LODD>
  
- *April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Prince William County Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - FF Kyle Wilson
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - Video: [FLSTP Kyle Wilson - YouTube](#)

May

- *May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1999 – DCFD (Cherry Road Fire)*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - FF Louis Matthews
    - FF Anthony Phillips
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - [Detailed Report of Cherry Road](#)
    - Video: [Cherry Road Fire - ISFSI and UL FSRI Understanding and Fighting Basement Fires on Vimeo](#)
  
- *May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002 – St Louis Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - FF Bruce Morrison
    - FF Derek Martin
  - Link to incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - [USFA Synopsis](#)



## June

- *June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – FDNY (Vincent Fowler)*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - Captain Vincent Fowler
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - [Vince Fowler Story](#)
  
- *June 17, 1972 – Boston Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Lieutenant Thomas J. Carroll
    - Lieutenant John E. Hanbury
    - FF Charles E. Dolan
    - FF Joseph P. Saniuk
    - FF John E. Jameson
    - FF Thomas W. Beckwith
    - FF Paul J. Murphy
    - FF Richard B. Magee
    - FF Joseph F. Boucher, Jr.
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [The Hotel Vendome Fire and Collapse](#)
    - <https://www.firefighternation.com/leadership/hotel-vendome-remembering-the-worst-firefighting-tragedy-in-boston-s-history/>
  
- *June 18, 2007 – Charleston Fire Department (Super Sofa Store Fire)*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Captain Louis Mulkey
    - Captain Mike Benke
    - Captain Billy Hutchingson
    - Engineer Brad Baity
    - Engineer Mark Kelsey
    - Engineer Michael French
    - FF Melvin Champaign
    - FF Earl Drayton
    - FF Brandon Thompson
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - [FE Article on Super Sofa Store Fire](#)

July

- *July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1988 – Hackensack Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Captain Richard L. Williams
    - Lieutenant Richard R. Reinhagen
    - FF William Krejsa
    - FF Leonard Radumski
    - FF Stephen Ennis
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <https://www.nytimes.com/1988/09/21/nyregion/report-faults-leadership-in-jersey-blaze.html?pagewanted=1>
    - [NJ State Investigation](#)
  
- *July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 – Howard County Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - FF Nate Flynn
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/fire-rescue/resource/flynn-lodd-reportfinal-declassified>

August

- *August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1978 – FDNY (Waldbaum’s Supermarket Fire)*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Lieutenant James Cutillo
    - FF Charles Bouton
    - FF William O’Conner
    - FF James P McManus
    - FF George Rice
    - FF Harold F. Hastings
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <http://firegroundleadership.com/2018/08/02/the-waldbaum-fire-collapse-fdny-1978-remembrance/>
    - Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTzBg1YIZml>
  
- *August 22, 2021 – Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - Captain Joshua Baird
  - Link to incident review:
    - [Josh Laird AAR](#)

## September

- *September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 - FDNY*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - 343 FDNY Firefighters
  - Link to the incident review:
    - <https://www.nyfd.com/LODD-Master-List-5-Jul-2014.pdf>
    - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency\\_workers\\_killed\\_in\\_the\\_September\\_11\\_attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_workers_killed_in_the_September_11_attacks)
  
- *September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Wilmington Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed
    - Lieutenant Chris Leach
    - FF Jerry Fickes, Jr.
    - FF Ardy Hope
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - Audio and video: <https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/update-wilmington-de-double-lodd/>

**October**

- *October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001 – Houston Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - Captain Jay Jahnke
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [Captain Jay Jahnke, Firefighter Fatality Investigation Report \(texas.gov\)](#)
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
  
- *October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Hartford Fire Department, CT*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - FF Kevin Bell
  - Link to incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report](#)
    - [Article on LODD](#)

**November**

- *November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Baltimore City Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - Lieutenant James Bethea
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
  
- *November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Worcester Fire Department*
  - Firefighter killed:
    - Lieutenant Jason Menard
  - Link to incident review:
    - [Board of Inquiry Report](#)
  
- *November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1980 – Las Vegas, NV*
  - Notable impact – 84 civilians killed
  - Link to incident review:
    - [FE Article](#)
    - [Las Vegas AAR](#)

December

- *December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998 – FDNY (Vandalia Ave Fire)*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Lieutenant Joseph Cavalieri
    - FF James Bohan
    - FF Christopher Bopp
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - Video: [Wind Driven FDNY Vandalia LODD - YouTube](#)
  
- *December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 – Worcester Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Lieutenant Thomas Spencer
    - Lieutenant James Lyons
    - Lieutenant Timothy Jackson
    - FF Paul Brotherton
    - FF Jeremiah Lucey
    - FF Joseph McGuirk
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [The Perfect Fire - Esquire Article](#)
    - Video: [Worcester 6: Heroes Remembered - Full Documentary - YouTube](#)
  
- *December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1999 – Keokuk Fire Department*
  - Firefighters killed:
    - Assistant Fire Chief Dave McNally
    - FF Jason Biting
    - FF Nate Tuck
  - Link to the incident review:
    - [NIOSH Report Search Engine](#)
    - Video: [Simulation of the Dynamics of a Fire in a Two-Story Duplex - YouTube](#)