

USFA: FF DEATHS LOWEST SINCE '93

Last year, the number of firefighters killed while on duty was the lowest it has been in more than 15 years.

According to a newly released USFA report in 2009, ninety firefighters died while on duty. It is the lowest number of deaths reported by the USFA since 1993 when the total was 81.

Thirteen of the 90 deaths were classified as Hometown Heroes. Firefighters who die of heart attacks or strokes within 24 hours of a response or training receive the designation, which was adopted after federal legislation was signed in 2003.

An analysis of statistics on the USFA Web site shows that the 2009 fatalities were the third lowest since the USFA began keeping records in 1977.

Traditionally, state fire marshals across the country are asked to check records to make sure all incidents were reported. The number of on-duty deaths last year may change in the next few months as more information is received.

During 2008, the USFA reported 118 firefighters lost their lives on duty.

Last year, heart attacks were blamed for 47.7% of deaths, 31.1% of deaths were due to traumatic injuries, and 8.8 were the result of strokes.

The preliminary records showed 46 were volunteer firefighters and 36 were career firefighters. Eight wildland fire personnel also were killed. Twenty-eight percent of those killed were under 40.

Stress and over exertion and vehicle collisions were listed as the top causes of the fatal incidents last year.

April was the deadliest month, with 14 deaths, followed by February and August, with 10 each.

Pennsylvania lost eight personnel last year, while New York lost seven.



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A PROVISIONAL REPORT
ON-DUTY FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES
Date Range 1/1/2009 to 12/31/2009

Number of On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities: 90
Count of Hometown Heroes: 13

Classification:

46 Volunteer 51.1%
36 Career 40%
4 Wildland Contract 4.44%
3 Wildland Full-Time 3.33%
1 Part-Time(Paid) 1.11%

Number of Multiple Firefighter Fatality Incidents: 6
Number of Firefighter Fatalities Associated with Wildland Incidents: 16

Type of Duty:

28 On-Scene Fire 31.1%
17 After 18.8%
15 Other On-Duty 16.6%
12 Responding 13.3%
9 On-Scene Non-Fire 10%
6 Training 6.66%
3 Returning 3.33%

Percent of Fatalities Related to Emergency Duty: 62.2%
Number of firefighter fatalities associated with Suspicious/Incendiary incidents: 6

Type of Incident:

35 Not Incident Related 38.8%
22 Structure Fire 24.4%
15 Wildland 16.6%
7 MVA 7.77%
4 EMS 4.44%
3 Other 3.33%
2 Vehicle Fire 2.22%
1 Outside Fire 1.11%
1 False Alarm 1.11%

Cause of Fatal Injury:

52 Stress/Overexertion 57.7%
16 Vehicle Collision 17.7%
7 Fall 7.77%
4 Struck by 4.44%
3 Caught/Trapped 3.33%
3 Other 3.33%
2 Collapse 2.22%
2 Lost 2.22%
1 Contact with 1.11%

Nature of Fatal Injury:

43 Heart Attack 47.7%
28 Trauma 31.1%
8 CVA 8.88%
5 Asphyxiation 5.55%
2 Burns 2.22%
1 Electrocution 1.11%
1 Violence 1.11%
1 Heat Exhaustion 1.11%
1 Other 1.11%

Age of Firefighter When the Fatal Injury Was Sustained:

2 - Under 21
3 - 21 to 25
5 - 26 to 30
18 - 31 to 40
24 - 41 to 50
23 - 51 to 60
15 - 61 and Over

Percent of Firefighter Fatalities Under Age 40: 28.9%

Type of Activity:

39 Not On Scene 43.3%
12 Advance Hose Lines 13.3%
12 Responding 13.3%
7 Unknown 7.77%
5 Other 5.55%
4 S&R 4.44%
3 Unknown 3.33%
2 Pump Ops 2.22%
2 Water Supply 2.22%
2 Scene Safety 2.22%
1 Support 1.11%
1 IC 1.11%

Time of Fatal Injury:

3 0100-0259
4 0300-0459
4 0500-0659
3 0700-0859
4 0900-1059
3 1100-1259
12 1300-1459
10 1500-1659
6 1700-1859
5 1900-2059
11 2100-2259
9 2300-0059
16 Unknown

Month of the Year:

9 January 10%
10 February 11.1%
8 March 8.88%
14 April 15.5%
3 May 3.33%
9 June 10%
5 July 5.55%
10 August 11.1%
3 September 3.33%
6 October 6.66%
4 November 4.44%
9 December 10%

Firefighter Fatalities by State by Location of Fire Service Organization:

2 Alabama 2.22%
1 Arizona 1.11%
3 California 3.33%
1 Colorado 1.11%
2 Connecticut 2.22%
2 Florida 2.22%
3 Georgia 3.33%
2 Illinois 2.22%
1 Indiana 1.11%
2 Kansas 2.22%
1 Kentucky 1.11%
5 Louisiana 5.55%
2 Massachusetts 2.22%
1 Maryland 1.11%
1 Maine 1.11%
3 Missouri 3.33%
3 Mississippi 3.33%
4 Montana 4.44%
6 North Carolina 6.66%
2 New Jersey 2.22%
7 New York 7.77%
3 Ohio 3.33%
4 Oklahoma 4.44%
8 Pennsylvania 8.88%
1 Rhode Island 1.11%
1 South Carolina 1.11%
5 Texas 5.55%
2 Utah 2.22%
3 Virginia 3.33%
2 Vermont 2.22%
1 Washington 1.11%
4 Wisconsin 4.44%
2 West Virginia 2.22%

Firefighter Fatalities by State by Location of Fatal Incident:

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