

USFA Releases 2006 Report on Firefighter Fatalities

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has released the report "Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2006." 106 firefighters died while on duty in 2006.

For two decades, the National Fire Data Center (NFDC) has kept track of firefighter fatalities and conducted an analysis of the fatalities that occur each year. Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts towards finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used to measure the effectiveness of current efforts directed toward firefighter health and safety.

The National Fallen Firefighter Foundation maintains the list of firefighters who die in the line-of-duty and are honored during the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. The names of these firefighters are commemorated on a plaque that is permanently installed at the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland. A list of the firefighters being honored by the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation for 2006 (a total of 91) can be found in Appendix D of the report.

The unique and specific objective of "Firefighter Fatalities in the United States" is to identify all on-duty firefighter fatalities that occurred in the United States and its protectorates, and to present in summary form the circumstances surrounding each occurrence. In addition to the 2006 overall findings, this study includes information on the hazards to firefighters presented by engineered lumber when it is exposed to fire conditions.

An overview of the 106 firefighters that died while on duty in 2006:

- 77 volunteer firefighters and 29 career firefighters died while on duty.
- There were 6 firefighter fatality incidents where 2 or more firefighters were killed, claiming a total of 17 firefighters' lives.
- 22 firefighters were killed during activities involving brush, grass, or wildland firefighting.
- Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 61 firefighters.
- 36 firefighters died while engaging in activities at the scene of a fire.
- 15 firefighters died while responding to or returning from emergency incidents.
- 9 firefighters died while they were engaged in training activities.
- 20 firefighters died after the conclusion of their on-duty activity.
- Heart attacks were the most frequent cause of death for 2006, with 50 firefighter deaths.
- 19 firefighters were killed as a result of vehicle crashes.

This report continues a series of annual studies by the USFA of on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States. It is available at www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ff_fat06.pdf (PDF, 3.0 Mb).

The USFA is the single public agency source of information for all on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States each year. This information is in the public domain and may be accessed on the USFA Web site at:

www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/



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