



# **FIREFIGHTER DEATH AND INJURY STATISTICS**

**US and NY STATE  
2015**



# **The National Picture: analysis of 2015 deaths**

***source: NFPA, “FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES  
IN THE UNITED STATES - 2015”  
(June 2016)***



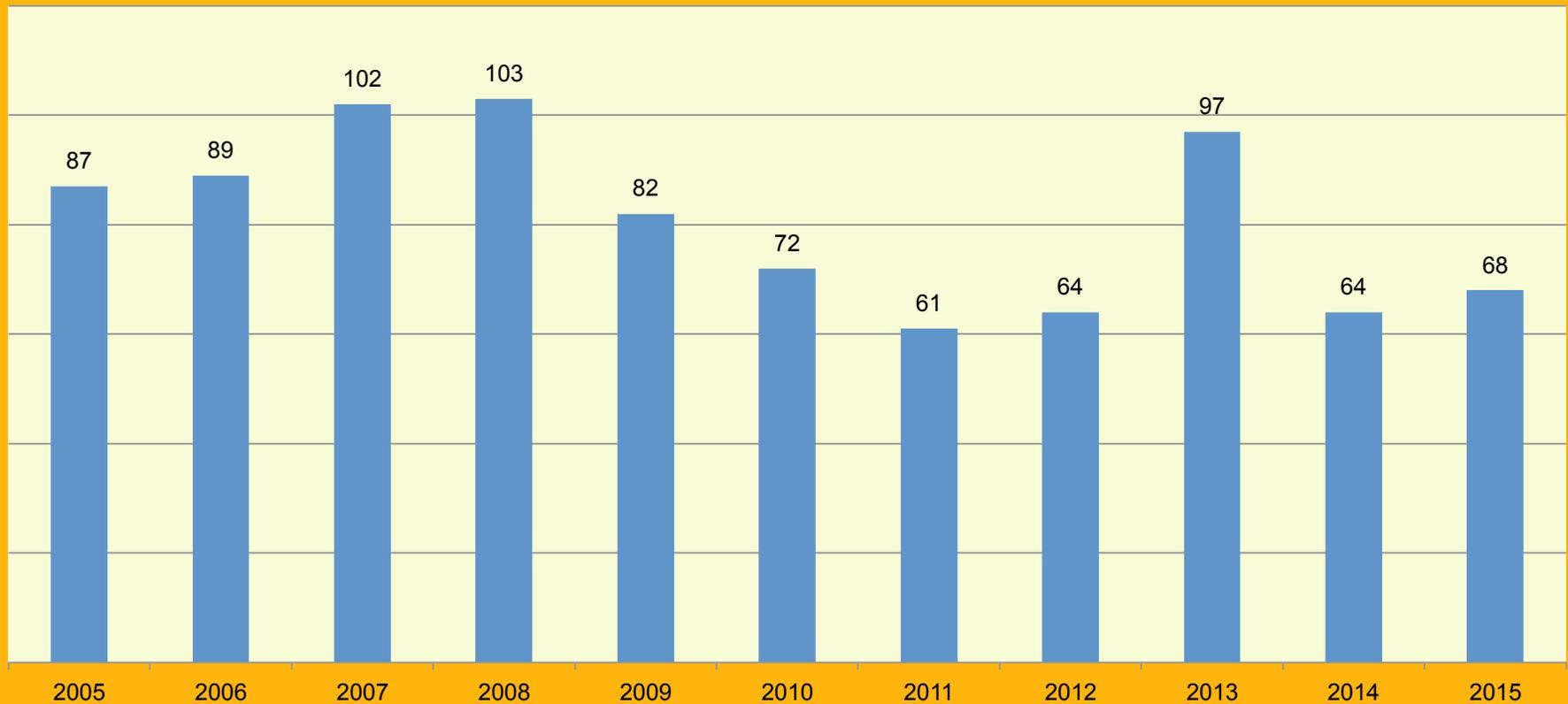
**Note: There are always discrepancies between NFPA and USFA casualty numbers due to differences defining “firefighters” and “line-of-duty”.**

**We generally use NFPA’s figures...**

# US Firefighting Deaths

*(Includes personnel such as military, contractors, wildland crews, etc.)*

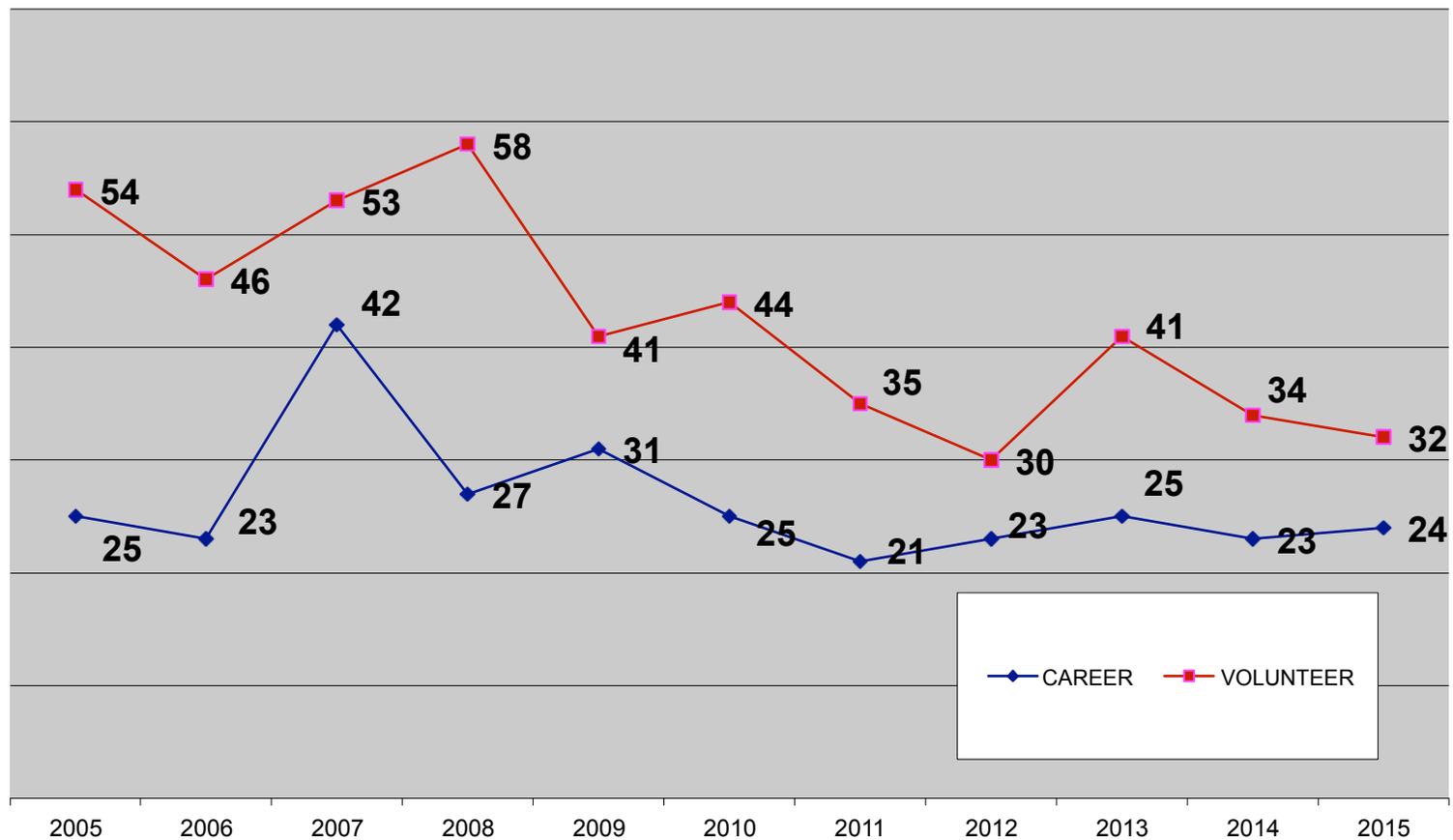
## On-duty U.S. firefighter deaths 2005-2015



# US Firefighter Deaths: Career & Volunteer

## 2005 - 2015

*(excludes non-FD personnel)*

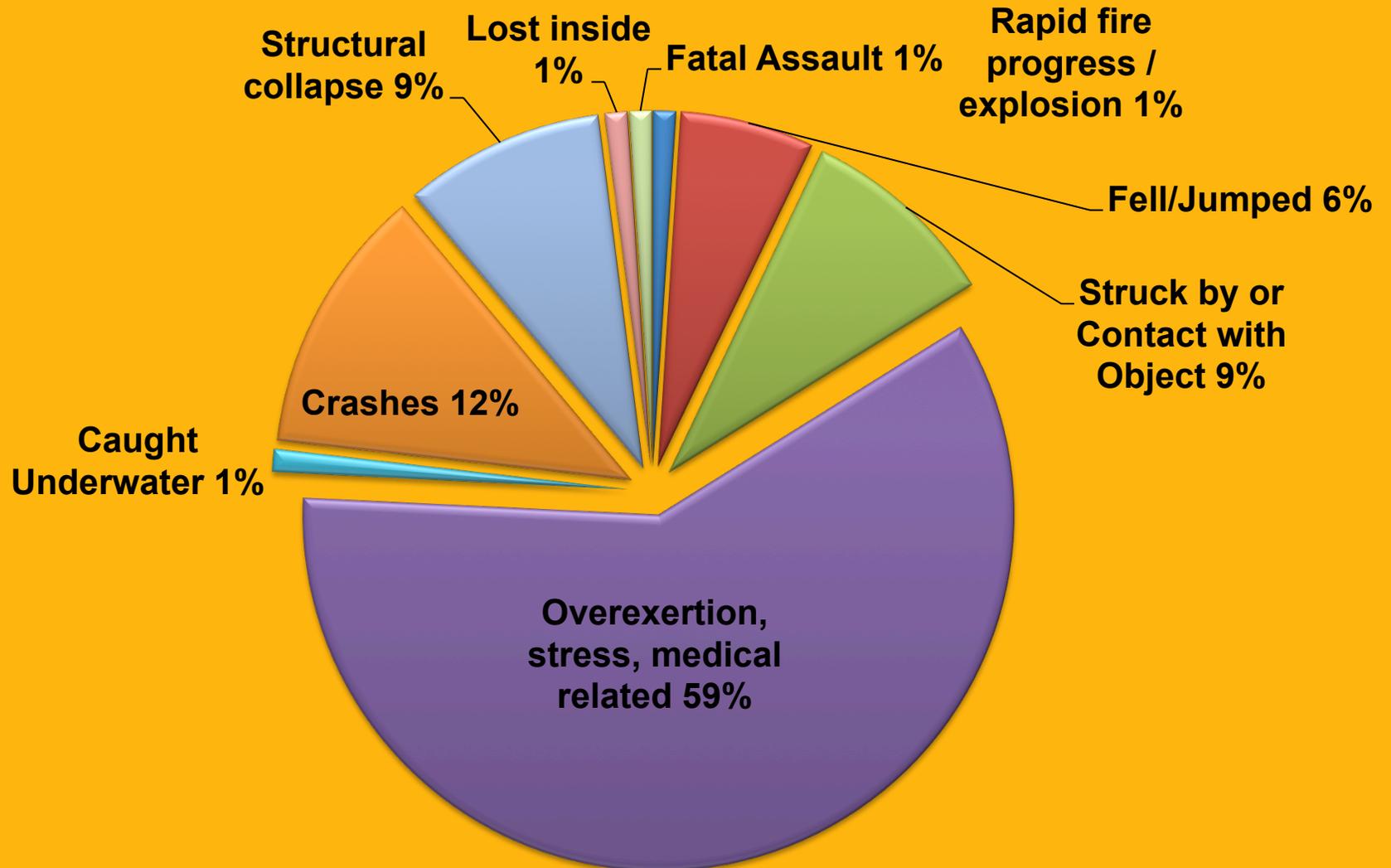


# US Firefighting Deaths by Type of Duty, 2015

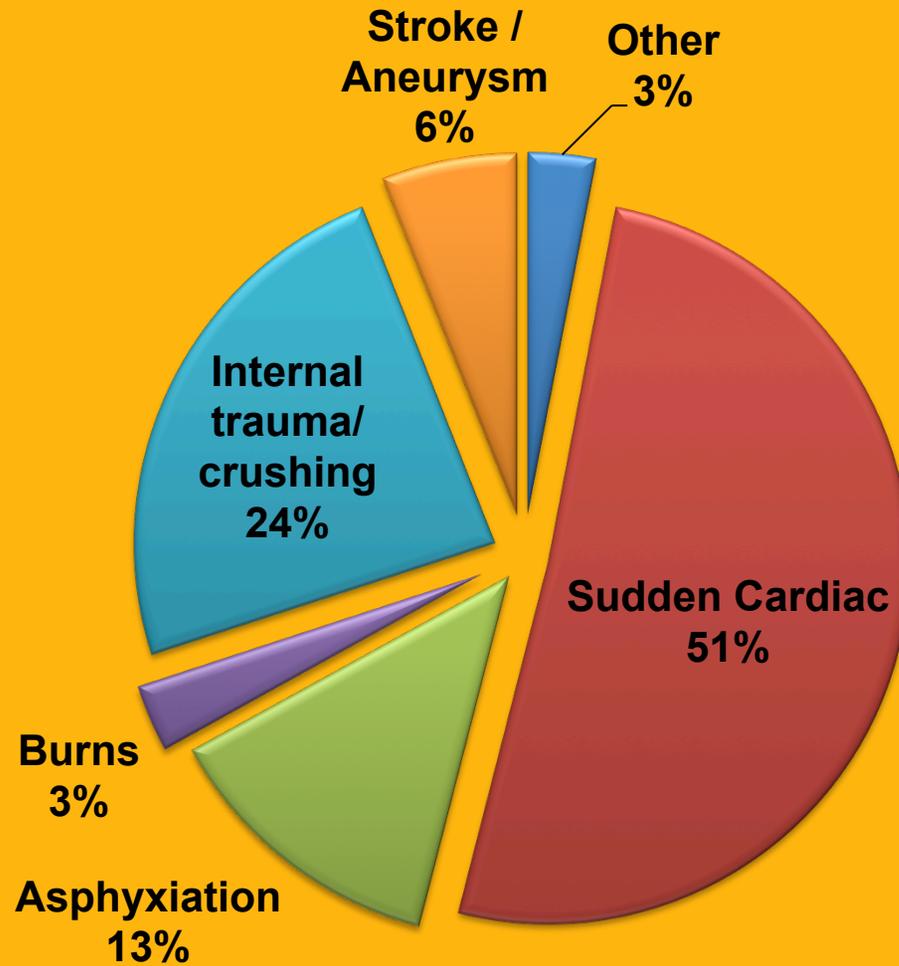
*source: NFPA*



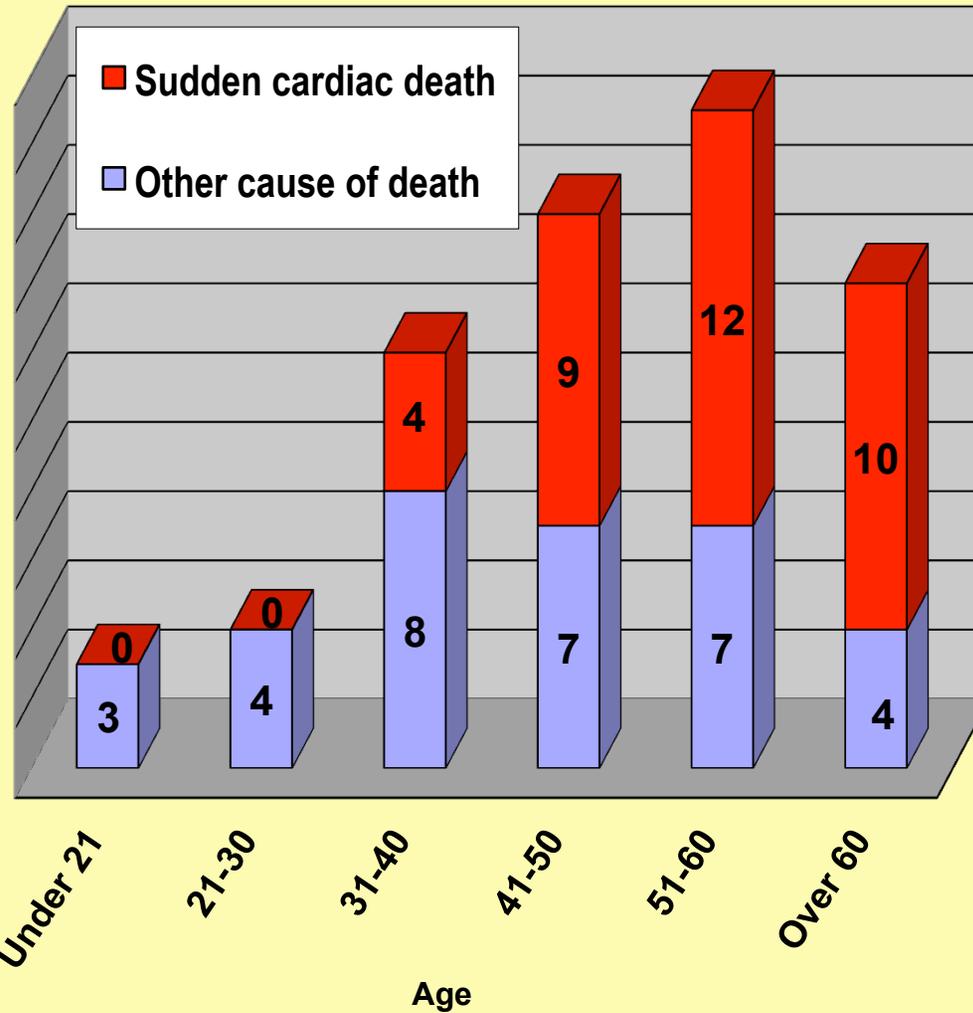
# US Firefighting Deaths by Cause of Injury, 2015



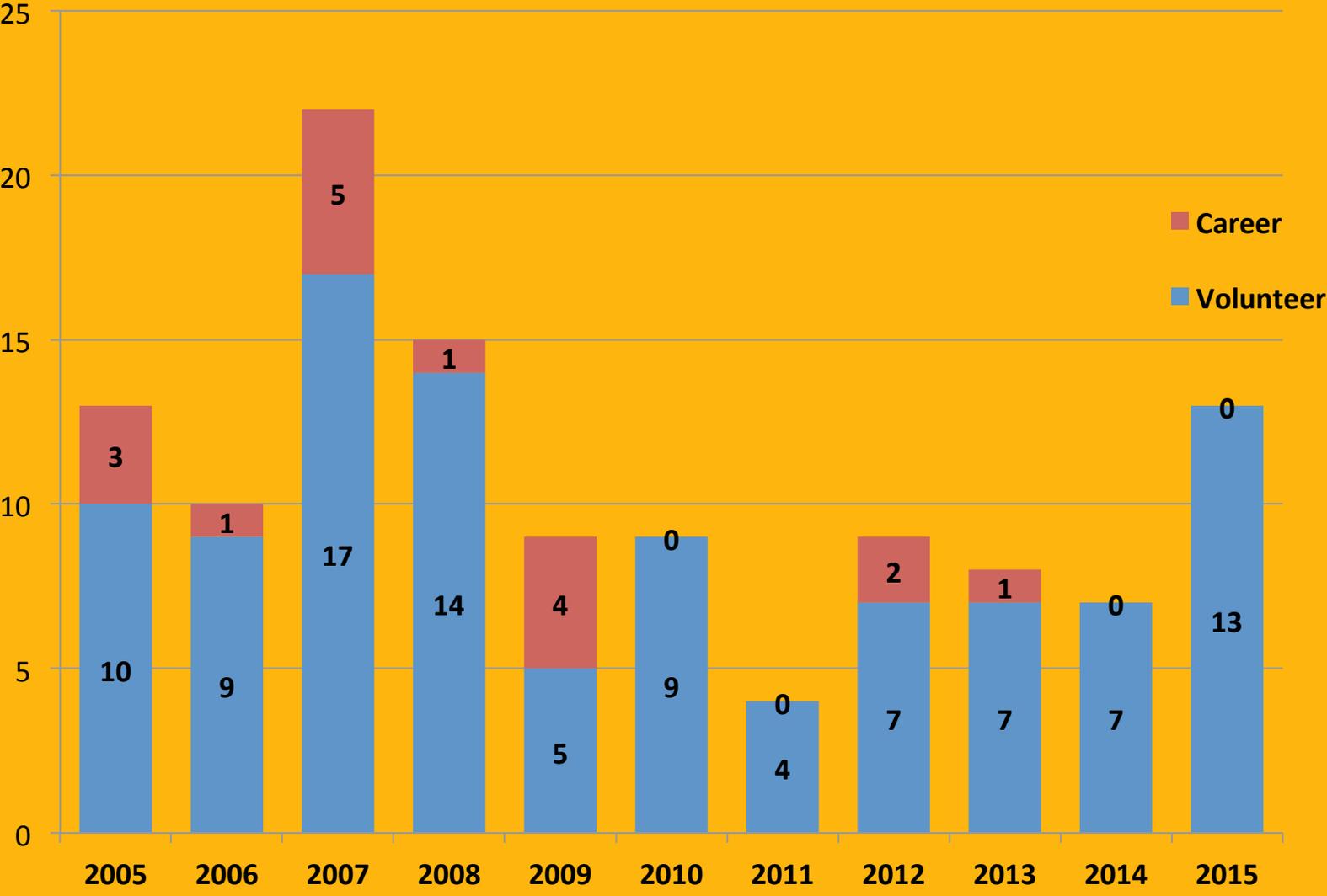
# US Firefighting Deaths by Nature of Injury, 2015



# US Firefighter Deaths by Age & Cause of Death, 2015



# US Firefighter Deaths in Motor Vehicle Accidents, 2005-2015





# **Background Information on US Firefighter Deaths**

**Source:**

**National Fire Protection Association**

# 2015 US Firefighter Fatalities

**68 firefighters died while on duty.**

- *“The largest share of deaths occurred at fire scenes (24)”*
- *“Sudden cardiac arrest accounted for the majority of on-duty deaths (35)”*
- *“Deaths among volunteer firefighters and deaths in road vehicle crashes continued low in 2015”*

*-- NFPA*

# **2015 Firefighting Fatalities**

## **Who is dying?**

- **Career firefighters (defined as those who are employed full-time as firefighters) suffered 24 deaths.**
- **Volunteer and part-time paid firefighters accounted for 32 deaths.**
- **12 additional deaths (6 were employees of federal land management agencies, 3 were federal contractors, 1 was an employee of a state land management agency, 1 was a civilian employee of the military, and 1 was a state prison inmate) were reported by NFPA.**
- **The median age of firefighters who died on duty was 49.5 years.**

# **2015 Firefighter Fatalities**

## **Why are we dying? Stress and overexertion are still leading killers**

- **The largest single cause (59%) of firefighter deaths in 2015 were medical - sudden cardiac vascular or cardiac events.**

“Of the 40 deaths in this category, 35 were classified as sudden cardiac deaths (usually heart attacks), three were due to strokes and one to an aneurysm.” – *NFPA*

- **The second largest cause of fatal injury to firefighters involved vehicles.**

“Vehicle crashes... claimed eight lives. Another five firefighters were struck and killed by vehicles- four at or during emergency responses and one in a deliberate act against the victim” – *NFPA*

# **2015 Firefighter Fatalities**

## **Where are we dying?**

**Over one-third (24) of firefighter fatalities occurred on the fireground.**

**11 firefighters died either en route or returning emergency calls - 8 of those due to sudden cardiac events, and 1 from a stroke.**

**10 firefighters died at non-fire emergencies, including 5 at medical emergencies.**

# **2015 Firefighter Fatalities**

## **Where are we dying?**

**17 of the 24 fireground deaths occurred at 16 separate structure fires. In addition there were 5 deaths at 3 wildland fires, and 2 deaths at vehicle fires.**

**9 sudden cardiac deaths occurred during training activities, including 5 who were working out at the station and 1 during a wildland firefighting fitness test.**

**1 firefighter committed suicide, and 1 was murdered**



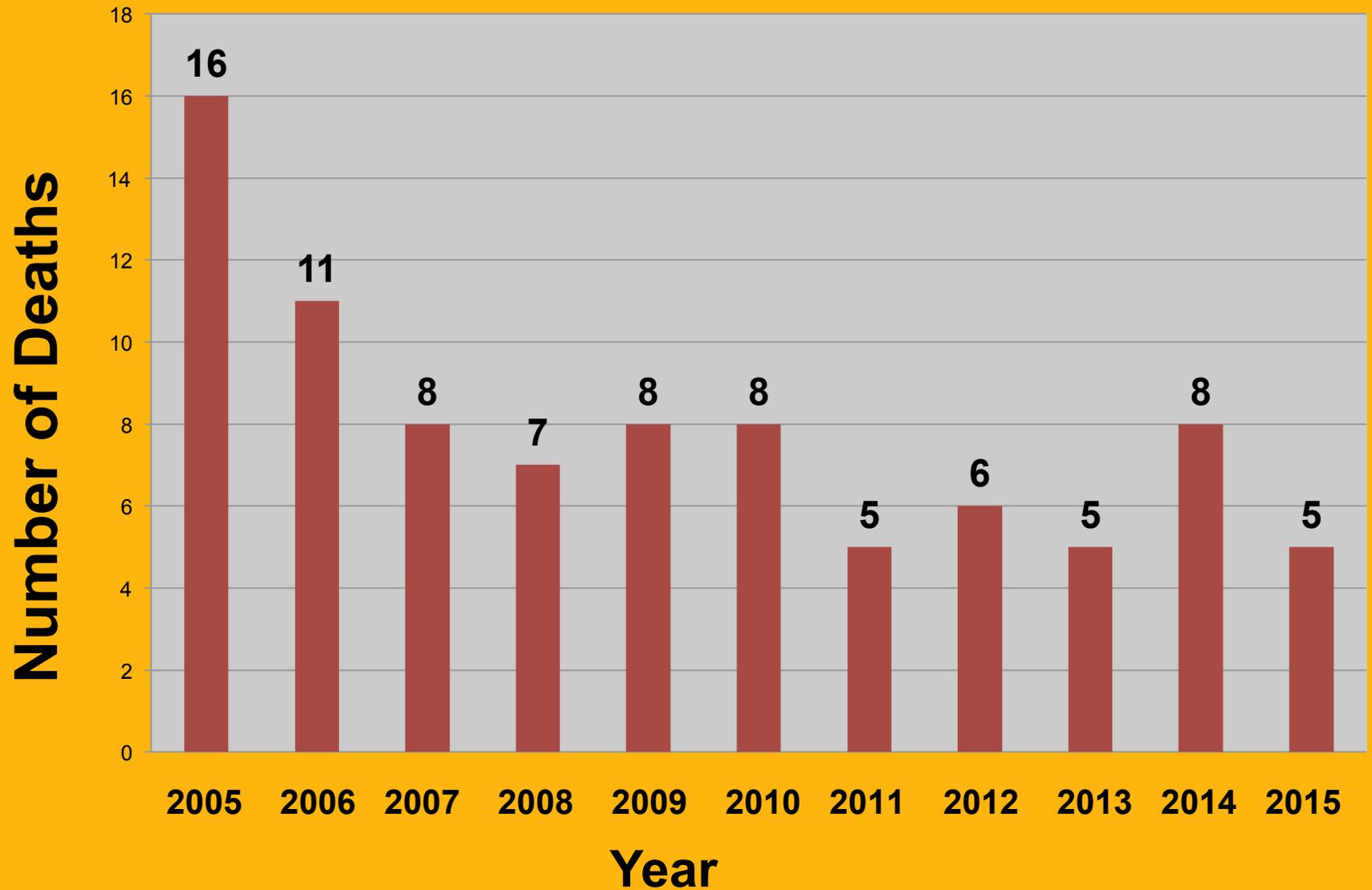
# **New York State Line of Duty Deaths and Injuries 2015**

**Note: Injury statistics are from the NYS Fire Incident Reporting System (report IIC series). Since participation is voluntary, the numbers are incomplete and reflect only reported casualties.**

**FDNY injuries are not included here. There were no FDNY deaths in 2015.**

**Fatality information taken from USFA.**

# New York State Line of Duty Deaths, 2005-2015





## 2015 NY State Line-of-duty deaths

■ **Charles V. Wallace, 2/3/15, age 74, Montgomery Volunteer FD**

Firefighter Wallace was struck by a van while directing traffic outside the fire station and died from his injuries a month later.

■ **Timothy T. Gunther, 5/4/15, age 54, Poughkeepsie FD**

Firefighter Gunther suffered a heart attack while battling a residential structure fire, he received treatment, including surgery, but died the following day.

■ **Lawrence G. Sesso, 8/22/15, age 40, Sayville FD**

Firefighter Sesso went into cardiac arrest several hours after battling a commercial structure fire.

■ **Barry Miller, 9/23/15, age 50, Bergen FD**

Chief Miller died from injuries sustained after the ambulance he was a passenger in collided with a backhoe loader.

■ **Jack H. Rose, 12/19/15, age 19, Mount Marion FD**

Captain Rose was separated from his unit while battling a basement fire, became unresponsive shortly after being removed from the basement, and succumbed to his injuries in a local hospital.

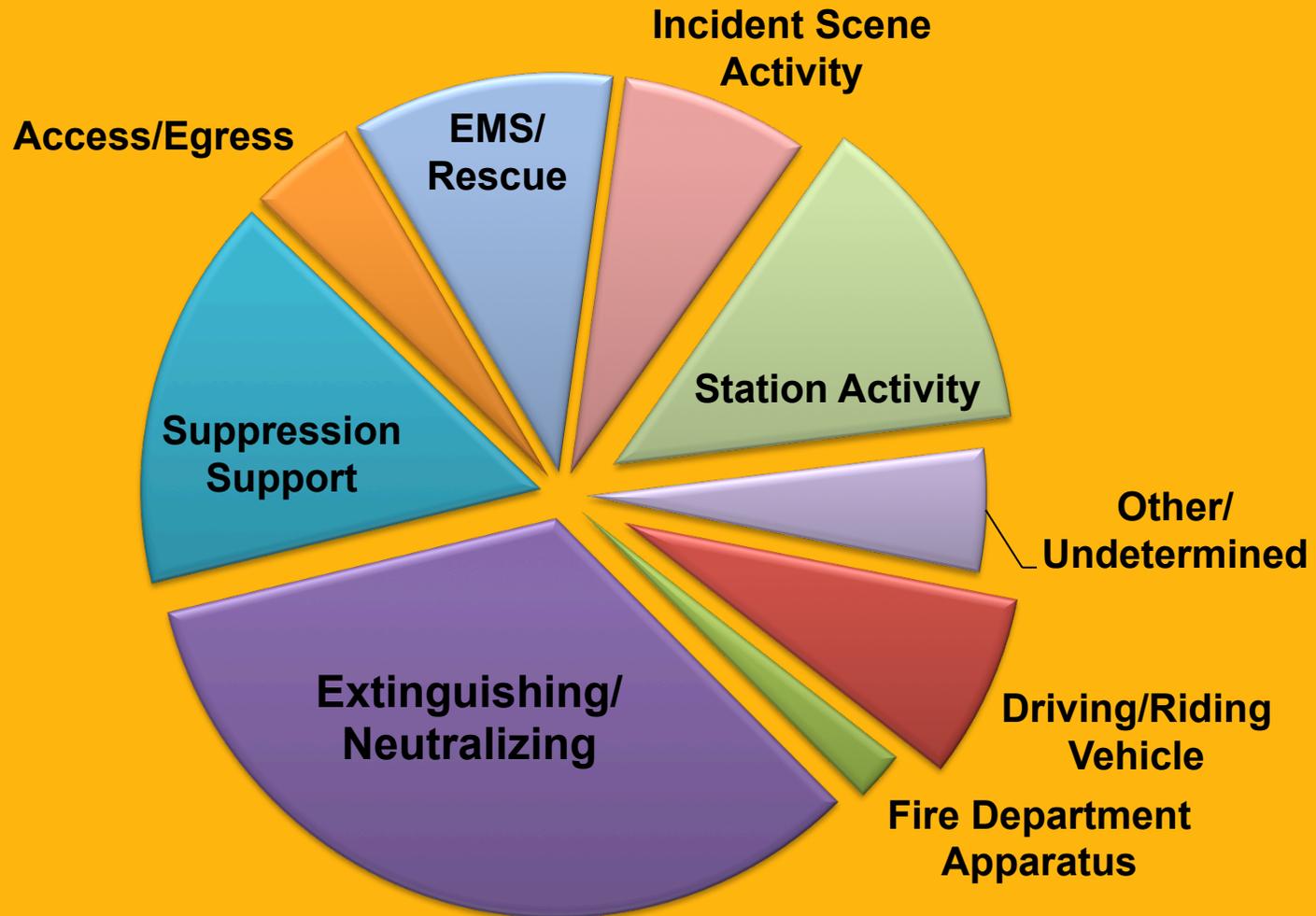


## **Online map 2009 to present with USFA list of line-of-duty deaths**

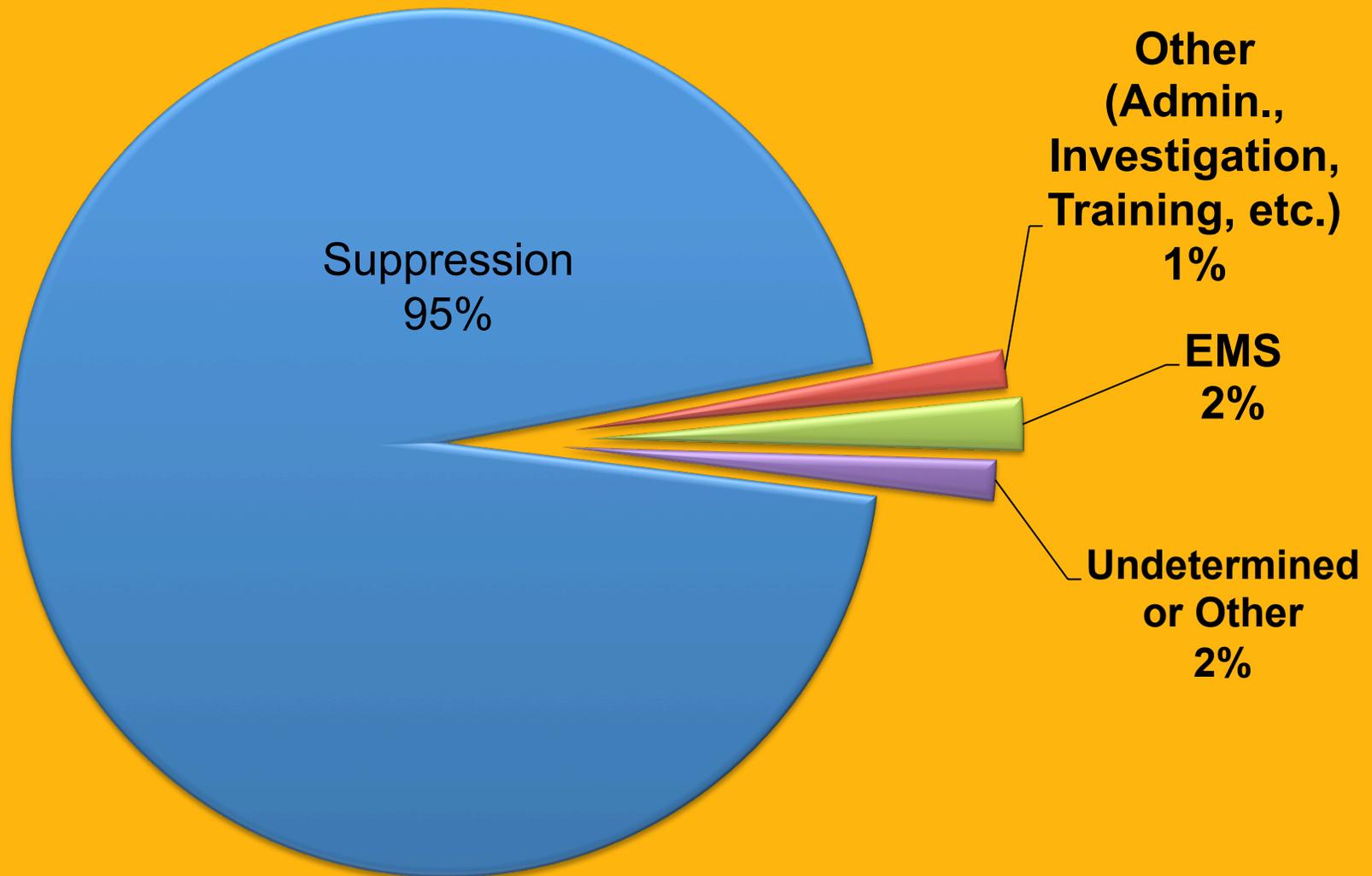
**Right-click map below, then  
“Open Hyperlink” to see where  
NYS LODDs occurred  
(with names, dates, details)**



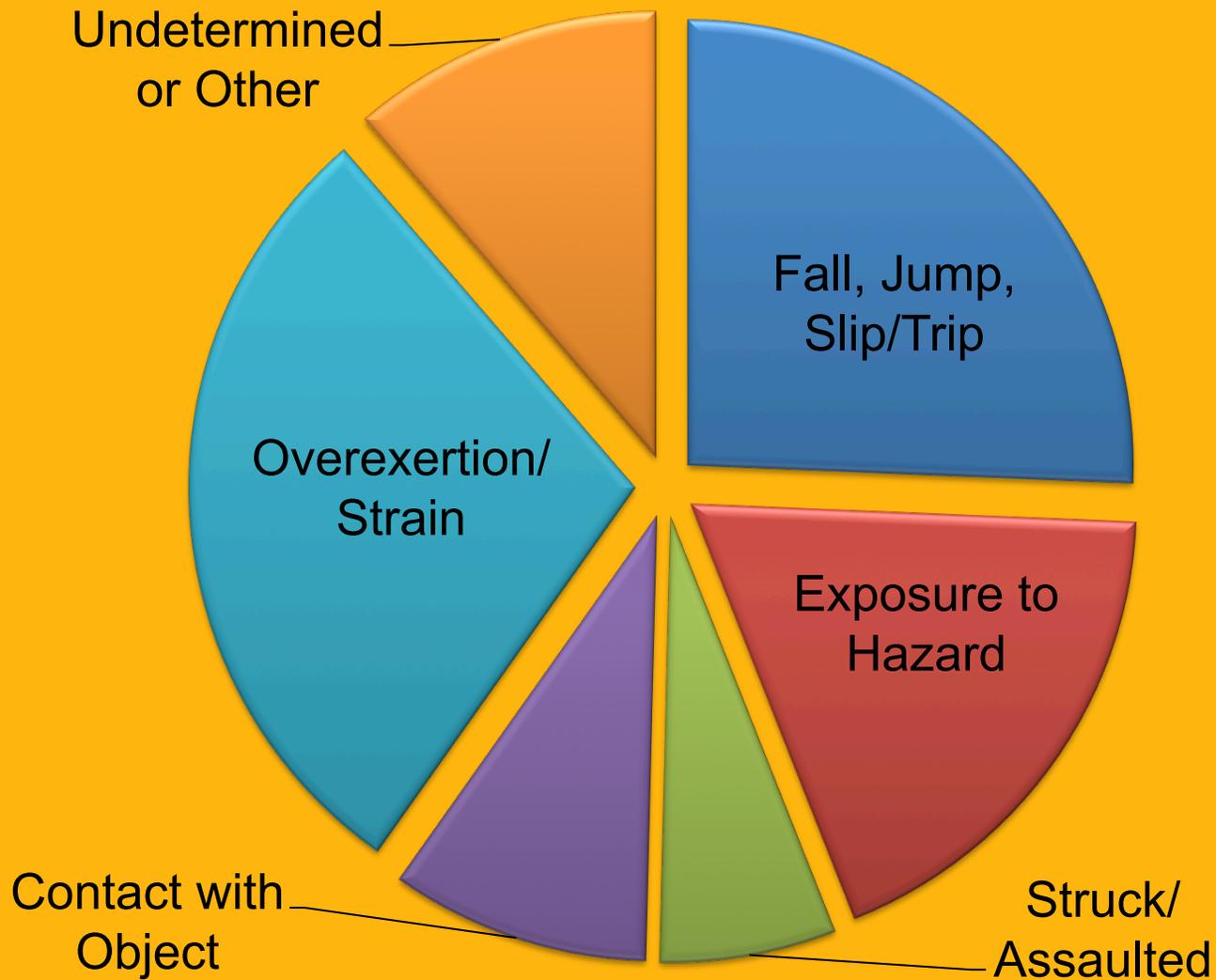
# 2015 NYS Fire Service Injuries by Activity (if reported)



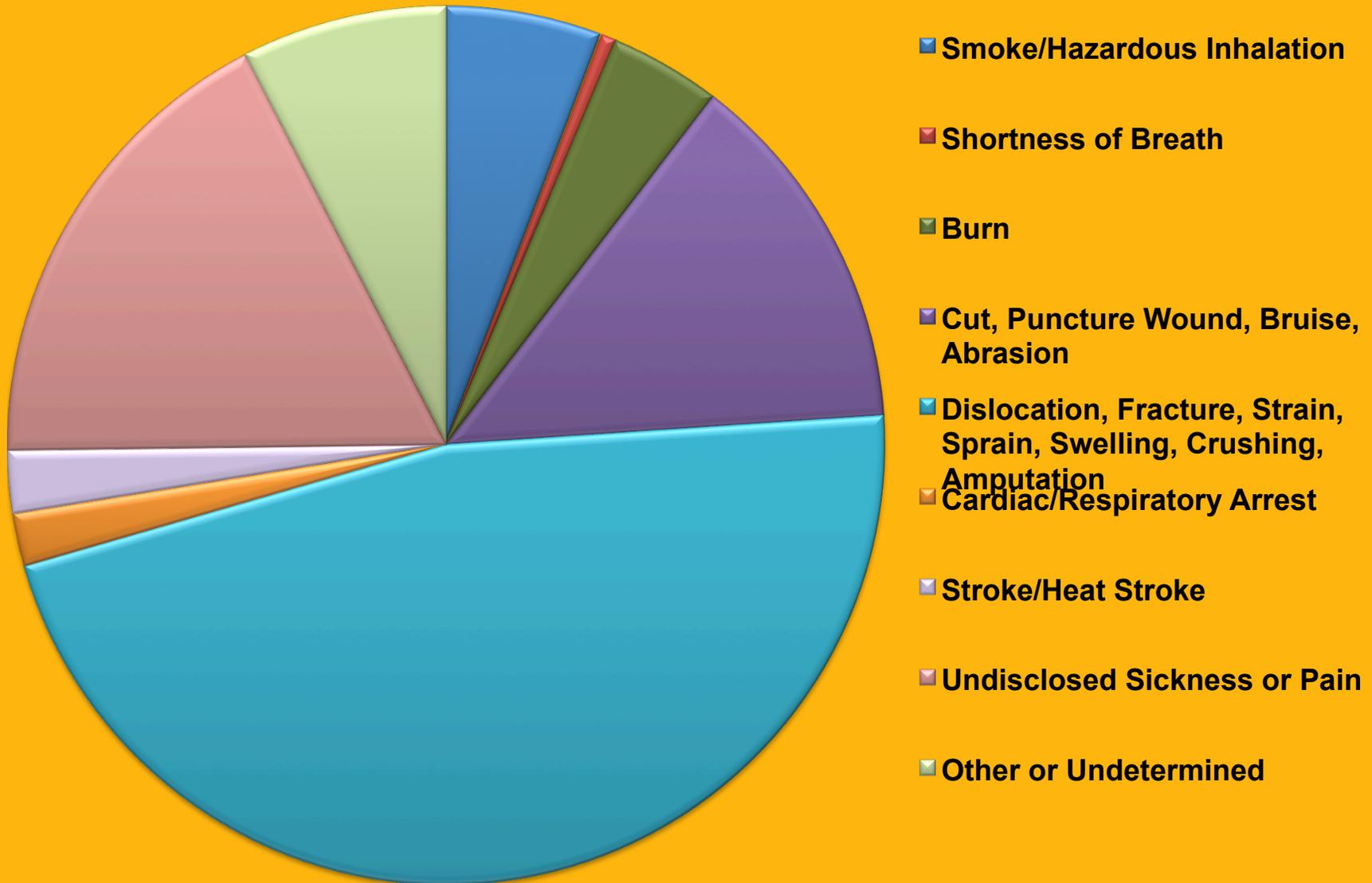
# 2015 NYS Fire Service Injuries by Type of Duty (if reported)



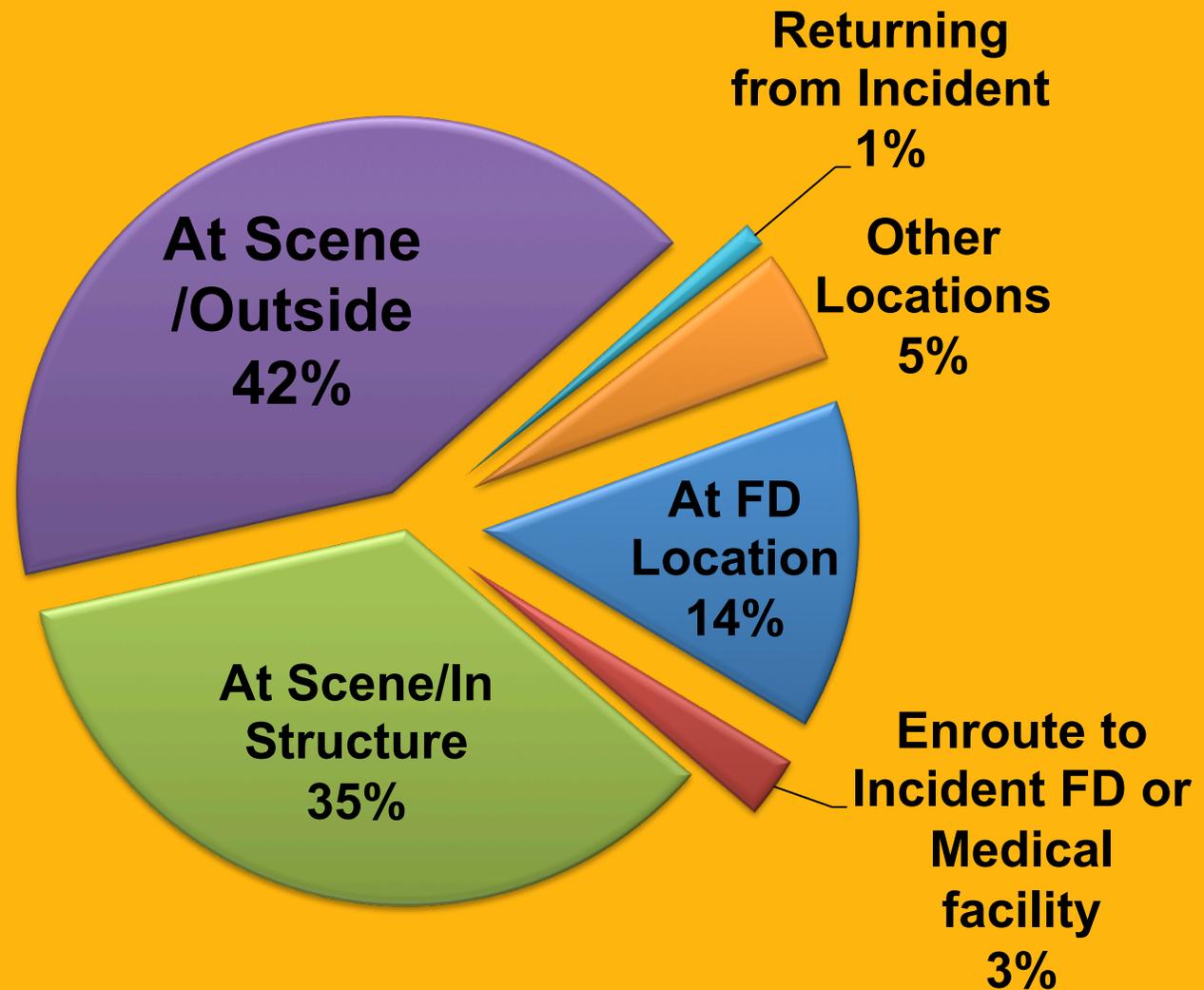
# 2015 NYS Fire Service Injuries by Cause (if reported)

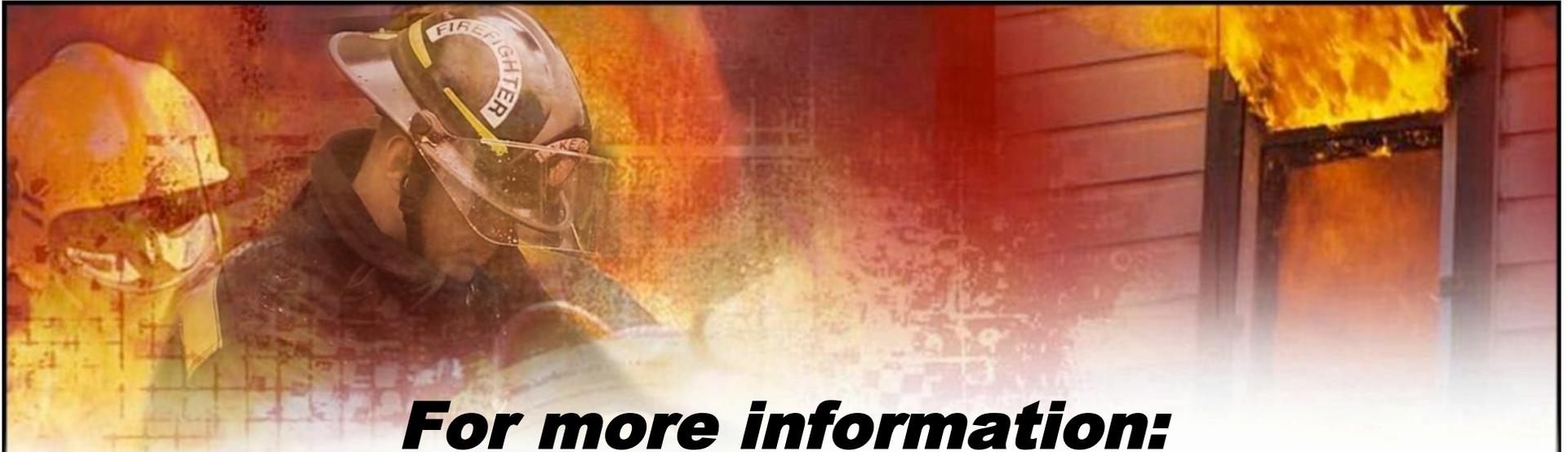


# 2015 NYS Fire Service Injuries by Symptom (if reported)



# 2015 NYS Firefighter Injuries by Location (if reported)





***For more information:***

**[Firefighter Fatalities in the United States \(USFA\)](#)**

**[Firefighter Fatalities in the United States \(NFPA\)](#)**

**[Firefighter Injuries in the United States \(NFPA\)](#)**

**[Patterns of Firefighter Fireground Injuries \(NFPA\)](#)**

**[What's Changed Over the Past 30 Years? \(NFPA, 2007\)](#)**

**[Firefighter Fatalities and Injuries resource page \(NFPA\)](#)**



## **Slides based on:**

*“Firefighter Fatalities in the US – 2015”* by NFPA

Casualty Report IIC Report 2.3 series by NYS OFPC

USFA provisional reports on firefighter fatalities

Compiled by Diana Robinson & Dan Kelly

**Thank you, and be safe!**