

LOOKOUTS
COMMUNICATION
ESCAPE ROUTES
SAFETY ZONES

Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram



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U.S. Fire Administration Fatality Report

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The U.S. Fire Administration has released its report "Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2006" indicating there were 77 volunteer firefighter and 29 career firefighter fatalities during the year. The report covered type of duty death, cause of fatal injury, and nature of fatal injury along with other data.

Types of duty included activities ranging from non emergency to emergency related. Emergency activities included; responding to an emergency, on an emergency scene, returning from an emergency scene and others. Non emergency activities included training, administration activities and performing functions not related to an emergency incident.

Type of Duty	Number of Deaths
Fireground Operations	36
Other on Duty	21
Responding/Returning	15
Training	9
Non-fire emergency	5
After an incident	20
Total	106

The term "cause of injury" defined by this report referred to the action, lack of action, or circumstance that resulted directly in the fatal injury. The term "nature of injury" defined by this report referred to the medical cause of the fatal injury or illness.

Cause	Number of deaths
Stress/Overexertion	54
Vehicle collision	19
Caught/Trapped	13
Collapse	8
Struck by	6
Lost	3
Contact/Exposure	2
Other	1
Total	106

The nature of fatal injuries is listed by medical cause or illness.

Nature	Number of deaths
Heart attack	50
Internal trauma	24
Asphyxiation	12
Burns	8
Crushed	5
CVA	4
Electrocution	1
Other	2
Total	106

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

NWCG Handbook 3

Dispersion level Chart

Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increase fire intensity and long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, Intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fire-line Handbook Jan.'98

This article is very brief and reflects only a few of the factors that lead to firefighter fatalities of the past year. Firefighter deaths can be avoided if senior staff members, command staff officers, company officers and firefighters take the time to slow down, use the training that has been given, hold each other accountable, all while training, drilling, and understanding the policies that are in place.

Remember EVERY ONE GOES HOME!!! To obtain a copy go to

www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ff_fat06.pdf