



# Firefighter Life-Safety Initiatives and 2007 USFA Fatality Report

Nearly 48% of Firefighter Deaths are Stress Related and over 22% are Vehicle Collision

Many local Fire Departments are learning how they may avoid becoming a statistic. Along with the noted fatality data, inserted below are 16 Fire Safety Initiatives that are being adopted by organizations across the nation. For more information, visit the Everyone Goes Home website: [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com).

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities:	115
Count of Hometown Heroes:	8
Fatalities reported in Illinois:	5
Multiple Firefighter Fatality Incidents:	7
Firefighter Fatalities Associated with Wild land Incidents:	10

#### Type of Duty:

24	Responding	20.80%
11	Training	9.56%
37	On-Scene Fire	32.10%
8	On-Scene Non-Fire	6.95%
13	After	11.30%
20	Other On-Duty	17.30%
2	Returning	1.73%

Percent of Fatalities Related to Emergency Duty: 64.3%  
 Firefighter fatalities associated with suspicious/arson fires: 2

#### Cause of Fatal Injury:

19	Caught/Trapped	16.50%
1	Contact with	0.86%
4	Fall	3.47%
55	Stress/Overexertion	47.80%
4	Collapse	3.47%
3	Struck by	2.60%
26	Vehicle Collision	22.60%
2	Lost	1.73%
1	Other	0.86%

#### Nature of Fatal Injury:

16	Asphyxiation	13.9%
3	Crushed	2.60%
7	Burns	6.08%
2	CVA	1.73%
33	Trauma	28.60%
1	Electrocution	0.86%
52	Heart Attack	45.2%
1	Other	0.86%

#### Age of Firefighter When the Fatal Injury Was Sustained:

5	Under 21
6	21 to 25
9	26 to 30
26	31 to 40
31	41 to 50
21	51 to 60
16	61 and Over

37.4% of Firefighter Fatalities Under Age 40

Source: [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities)