

Top 10 Contributing Factors To Firefighter Line-Of-Duty-Deaths

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- The information below regarding contributing factors to FF LODDs is not meant to criticize, point blame, or Monday morning quarterback.
 - If we truly want to honor our fallen brothers and sisters, and take care of our current and future brothers and sisters, we must learn from history....
 - The problem is we can do a better job at learning from history.
 - The definition of insanity: *Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results* (Albert Einstein)
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1. Command & control

- ✓ 1st in officer – hero or the zero
- ✓ Inadequate use of ICS
- ✓ Insufficient size-up/risk management evaluation
- ✓ Inadequate 360 degree hot lap
- ✓ Tactics didn't meet strategy
- ✓ Inadequate Incident Action Plan
- ✓ Span of control exceeded
- ✓ Lack of a fixed command post
- ✓ Command post location not known by all
- ✓ Insufficient personnel / resources
- ✓ Inappropriate decision making
- ✓ Failure to evaluate or solicit input

2. Fire Behavior & knowledge

- ✓ Flashovers occurring sooner
- ✓ Fires are burning hotter, faster
- ✓ Inadequately checking for extension
- ✓ Where will fire be in future?
- ✓ Insufficient initial and on-going training

3. Building Construction & knowledge

- ✓ Lightweight construction
- ✓ Truss roof / floor assemblies
- ✓ Inadequately checking for extension
- ✓ Insufficient initial and on-going training
- ✓ Structural collapse

4. Human / Cultural Items

- ✓ Personal wellness / fitness
- ✓ SCBA / air management issues
- ✓ Inappropriate use of Full PPE
- ✓ Inadequate use of seatbelts

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- ✓ Complacency
- ✓ Lack of situational awareness
- ✓ Human error

5. Communications

- ✓ Inadequate # of radios
- ✓ Radios not functioning
- ✓ Key items not being communicated
- ✓ Key items not being heard
- ✓ Inadequate # of frequencies

6. Safety / Staffing

- ✓ Lack of 2 in / 2 out or RIC
- ✓ Expecting an inadequately staffed/trained RIC / RIT to save the day
- ✓ Lack of accountability
- ✓ Freelancing
- ✓ Lack of crew integrity
- ✓ Inadequate # of personnel or resources

7. Water Supply

- ✓ Continuous water supply issues
- ✓ Initial hoseline(s) too small or inappropriately placed
- ✓ Lack of back-up hoseline(s)
- ✓ GPM needs to equal BTUs!

8. Fire Prevention

- ✓ Lack of pre-planning
- ✓ Lack of sprinklers
- ✓ Lack of inspections or inadequate locating of and following up on violations
- ✓ Insufficient fire detection systems
- ✓ Insufficient codes

9. Ventilation

- ✓ Lack of ventilation
- ✓ Inappropriate use of ventilation

10. Standard Operating Procedures

- ✓ Lack of SOPs / SOGs
- ✓ Insufficient training on SOPs
- ✓ Insufficient accountability on SOPs