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

By Steve Prziborowski
Cellular Phone: 408-205-9006   Email: sprziborowski@aol.com

• 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)

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