

IFFA VOICE



Indiana Firefighters Association Established 1917

By Fire Fighters for Fire Fighters

John Gullion

PRESIDENT

4111 John Adams Rd
Lafayette, In 47909
jcgff11@gmail.com
765-474-4121
765-427-7858

Larry Robbins

TREASURER

1745 East 47th
Anderson, In 46013
indfa@aol.com
765-356-4168

Jim Morrow

VP/SOUTHWEST

3601 Rodenberg Avenue
Evansville, In 47720
spikemorrow@gmail.com
812-306-7180

Joseph Kruzan

VP/NORTHWEST

2825 Whisper Ct
Schererville, In 46375
josephkruzan@aol.com
219-313-0981

Hector Zaragoza

VP/WEST CENTRAL

6407 Wea Woodland Dr
Lafayette, In 47909
765-427-1511
hex450@gmail.com

Rev John Lefler

CHAPLIN

429 E Main
Plainfield, In 46168
jalefler47@gmail.com
812-457-6314

James Martin

BOARD CHAIRMAN

730 East Auman Drive
Carmel, In 46032
acjkmartin2@aol.com
317-846-6347
317-370-6437

Jay Massa

DIRECTOR

8655 Lake Hills Dr
St Johns, In 46373
chiefmassa@gmail.com
219-682-5160

Jerry Reynolds

DIRECTOR

978 Southernview Drive S
Lafayette, In 47909
mg54tf47@yahoo.com
765-427-4719

W Butch Kracy

DIRECTOR

9677 S Armstong Pl
Terre Haute, In 47802
b.kracy@aol.com
812-299-1516
812-243-9342

Joseph Davenport

DIRECTOR

7533 Geist Estates Drive
Lawrence, In 46280
boatsbm3@comcast.net
317-823-4418
317-989-5061

Roger Johnson

DIRECTOR

1330 23rd St
Columbus, In 47201
reddog@hotmail.com
812-373-0051
812-447-0356

Dan Sink

DIRECTOR

54866 Shorelane
West Elkhart, In 46514
574-533-7878

2019 IFA OFFICERS



To Members and Officers of the IFA

This years Emergency Response Conference was a great success as usual. All board members agreed that John Buckman did a great job revising the memorial service program. Jim Martin, Jerry Reynolds, and Chaplin Lefler helped with the Memorial Service, thanks to them. President Jeff Steele declined his nomination for President on the grounds of personnel reasons and in turn nominated John Gullion for President. Larry Robbins as Treasurer and John Lefler as Chaplin were sworn in for another term. Congratulations to the both of them for a job well done.

This year 2018/19 Chapter #9 and the city of Gary Indiana's active police and firemen and public safety officers are not schedule for increases in salaries and pensions for 2018-19. We are thankful however for the \$5,000.00 increase we received for 2015-16-17 pensions. We were saddened that the city of Gary 's general fund for 2018 and perhaps 2019 lack the funds needed for increases for our active and retired membership. This year Chapter #9 teamed up with the State Association, the IFA, Professional Firefighters of Indiana and the FOP to lobby the 2019 General assembly

- (1) for increase in the death benefit for all Public Safety Officers from \$12,000.00 to \$18,000.00.
- (2) Increase from \$150,000.00 to \$225,000.00 for all Safety Officers killed in the line of duty
- (3) Remove the 3% cap on 1977 pensioners regarding pension increases

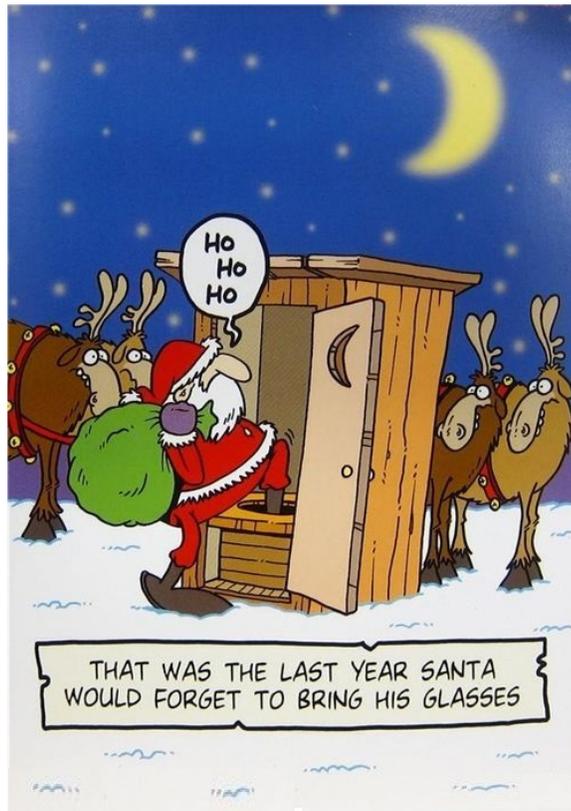
We were saddened by the recent deaths of former Fire Chief Willie Cherry, former Battalion Chief Alphonso Berry, Capt Emelio Ottomanelli and Wilford Phillips also Policeman Kirk Miller and John Curtis. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.

I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Healthy New Year

Respectfully Submitted

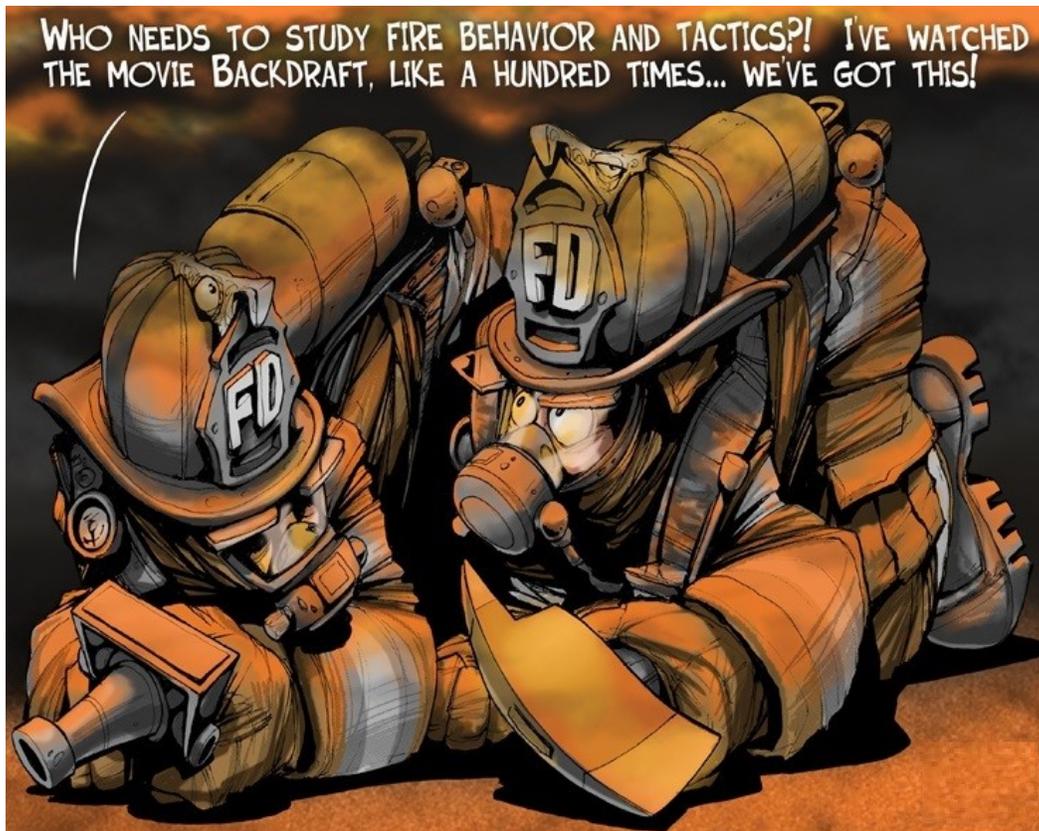
Jay Massa

District Director



20 things all rookie firefighters should know

Follow these 20 guidelines from day-one to lay the foundation of a long and successful firefighting career



Someone once said a smart person has knowledge, a wise person shares knowledge. Everyone learns through sharing knowledge and experience. No one benefits more from this sharing than the rookie.

1.Never disrespect this job by not caring.

It is an honor to be a firefighter. To become complacent is to dishonor those who have gone before us. This job is not just 10 days and a paycheck. Embrace training as a means to maintain the necessary level of proficiency. Truly loving this job means loving every aspect of it and therefore deserving to wear the badge. This is the greatest profession; treat it as such.

2.Lead by example.

Even a rookie can lead by example. Do your job well, every time, and that can rub off on the other members of your crew. Soon they may be trying to reach the standard that the rookie has set.

3.Arrive at work at least 30 minutes before shift change.

Preparation for that big fire begins when you walk through the door. Arriving early allows you to familiarize yourself with the apparatus you are assigned to before that 8:05 fire call. It will also endear you to the off-going crew by grabbing that end-of-shift call. Start off on the right foot — arrive early. If you are on time, you're late. If you're early, you're on time.

4.Talk to the off-going crew.

Don't let your counterpart leave without getting a report on what happened on that shift. If they had a fire, find out everything about it including what went right and what went wrong. You can learn a lot from both. Did they have any other interesting calls? Was there any equipment moved, replaced or sent in for repair? Don't be the one who frantically looks for the hook that is being repaired. Conversely, don't rush out the door at first sight of your replacement. Share your experiences with the crew that is relieving you. Give them the same courtesy that they extended to you.

5.Introduce yourself to everyone you meet.

Take the first step in the communication process. This is especially true on your first day in the house. Greet everyone you see with a hand shake and a "Hi, I am firefighter Smith, nice to meet you." Being new, it is imperative that you meet everyone as soon as possible because you rely on them for everything. The sooner you make them aware of your presence the better off you will be. Do not make your captain hunt you down. She will probably not know who you are, so find her and let her know you are on their crew.

6. Find out who is the senior firefighter.

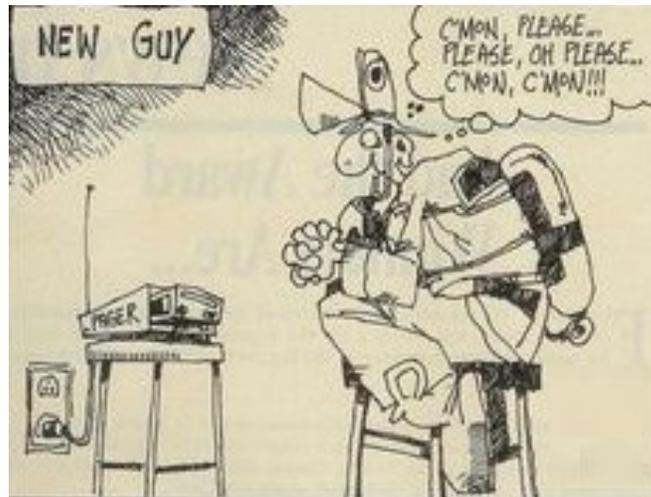
The "first whip" or senior firefighter will be your greatest asset. Ask him all of those questions related to your first day in that house. Which bed is mine? What housework do I do? Where can I find a mop? These types of questions should be asked of the first whip, not the captain. The captain has more important things to do than to show you where the mop bucket is. If no one steps up as the first whip, any of the other firefighters should help.

7. Find out your riding position and your responsibilities.

This information can also be obtained from the senior firefighter. He will instruct you on how the crew does things and how you fit in. Understand what is expected of you before you go out the door.

8. Check your equipment.

This rule can never be overstated. Failing to be prepared is preparing to fail. Check your PPE and SCBA. Check every nozzle every shift. Check the rest of the equipment on the engine or truck to make sure it is where you left it the day before. If you are there for the first time, check to see where everything is. Knowledge of what is in those cabinets means you have one less thing to worry about when the big one hits.



9. Wear your safety gear.

Contrary to what you might think you are not indestructible. You have been given protective clothing to ensure that you go home at the end of your shift. This clothing cannot protect you if it stays on the hook in the apparatus room. Wear your hood, pull down your helmet shroud, button your collar, and wear your structure gloves. Give yourself every chance of getting back home in the same shape as when you left.

10.If you have any questions, ask them.

Pride has no business impeding knowledge. Not asking something for fear of looking stupid will only get you in trouble. The bottom line is you need to know what you are doing even at the expense of looking cool.

11.Don't get caught up in the rumor mill.

The kitchen table is a great place for knowledge swapping. It is also where rumors are created, sustained and traded. As a rookie, don't take part in the rumor mill. You never know who you may offend. What you say can be incorrectly repeated and used to hurt you. If it is fire talk, sit there and absorb. If it is rumor talk, walk away.

12.Don't be in a hurry to gain acceptance.

Your actions will be closely scrutinized; they must speak for themselves. Pulling a pre-connect correctly is more important to your crew than the fact that you were the chief of your old department.

13.Be a team player.

Remember, when things go bad, all you have is your crew. Crew continuity is built at the fire house as well as on the fire scene. If asked, join your crew for P.T. or other nonfirefighting activities. Attend functions such as retirement parties with your crew. A good crew is built off duty as well as on.

14.Have fun.

As stated in rule 1, this is the greatest profession in the world. Being enthusiastic about being a firefighter can be contagious. Have fun cleaning the toilets as well as fighting fire. Develop a sense of humor; survival in the firehouse depends on it. Enjoying even the smallest aspects of this job is what leads to a happy career.

15.Have Pride

Be proud of where you work. You have chosen your department for a reason. You may not always agree with decisions that are being made above you, but do not let that diminish your love for the job and your department. Along with department pride comes company pride. As a rookie you should be looking forward to the time when you will have a permanent house. Work at being the best firefighter, on the best crew, at the best firehouse. Pride will push you to better yourself for the good of your crew. Company pride is the sincerest form of department pride.

16. Don't think, "Been there, done that."

You are only as good as your next call. Don't be overconfident. Whether you were a hero or a goat will not help you on the next emergency. What will help is the experience and knowledge that you gained.

17. Never stop learning.

You are finished with the academy and probation. You can stop reading and studying, right? Wrong. The day you stop reading about our job is the day you retire. There is a limitless supply of information out there for you to increase your knowledge base. Practice makes perfect works for reading as well as hands on.

18. Respect your elders.

There is an extensive amount of information held in the minds of the senior members of the department. To gain this information you must be willing to make the first move. Don't be afraid to ask them questions. Ask the senior engineers about how they fought fires in their firefighter days. Ask the firefighters who are about to retire how they would have fought that last fire you were on. Would they have done anything different then? Don't let that knowledge retire when they do.

19. Leave work at work.

And conversely, leave your home life at home. Your crew does not deserve your wrath because you and a family member had a fight. On the other side, try not to take work problems home. Your family does not deserve grief because you pulled the wrong line on a fire.

20. Remember where you came from

As your career moves on and you are no longer the rookie, be available to the one who is. Do not be stingy with everything you have learned and been taught. Those rookies shaking in their boots on day one deserves the same respect and tutelage that you received. If hazing and condescension were your tutors then break that chain. Be a true firefighter and help out the rookie, even if you weren't. Individually we can get better, but only as a whole can we become great.



FOLLOW THESE RULES FOR

Christmas Tree Safety

THIS YEAR!

Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and that the tree is not blocking an exit.

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

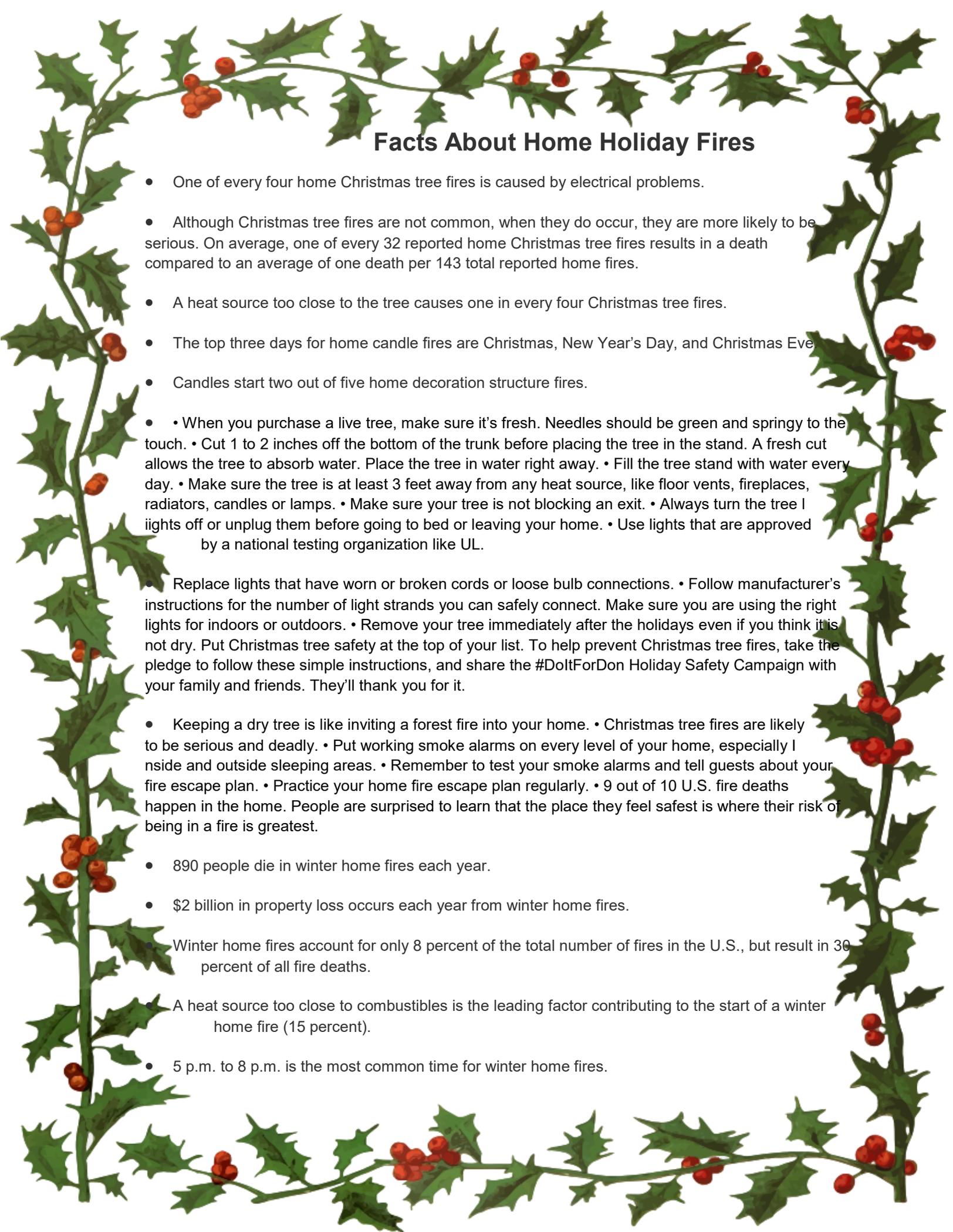
Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Never use candles to decorate the tree.

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Did You Know?

- One quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.

A decorative border of holly leaves and red berries surrounds the text. The leaves are green with serrated edges, and the berries are bright red. The border is composed of several vertical and horizontal branches that frame the central content.

Facts About Home Holiday Fires

- One of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. On average, one of every 32 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death compared to an average of one death per 143 total reported home fires.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every four Christmas tree fires.
- The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve.
- Candles start two out of five home decoration structure fires.
- • When you purchase a live tree, make sure it's fresh. Needles should be green and springy to the touch. • Cut 1 to 2 inches off the bottom of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand. A fresh cut allows the tree to absorb water. Place the tree in water right away. • Fill the tree stand with water every day. • Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like floor vents, fireplaces, radiators, candles or lamps. • Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit. • Always turn the tree lights off or unplug them before going to bed or leaving your home. • Use lights that are approved by a national testing organization like UL.
- Replace lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. • Follow manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands you can safely connect. Make sure you are using the right lights for indoors or outdoors. • Remove your tree immediately after the holidays even if you think it is not dry. Put Christmas tree safety at the top of your list. To help prevent Christmas tree fires, take the pledge to follow these simple instructions, and share the #DoItForDon Holiday Safety Campaign with your family and friends. They'll thank you for it.
- Keeping a dry tree is like inviting a forest fire into your home. • Christmas tree fires are likely to be serious and deadly. • Put working smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially inside and outside sleeping areas. • Remember to test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your fire escape plan. • Practice your home fire escape plan regularly. • 9 out of 10 U.S. fire deaths happen in the home. People are surprised to learn that the place they feel safest is where their risk of being in a fire is greatest.
- 890 people die in winter home fires each year.
- \$2 billion in property loss occurs each year from winter home fires.
- Winter home fires account for only 8 percent of the total number of fires in the U.S., but result in 30 percent of all fire deaths.
- A heat source too close to combustibles is the leading factor contributing to the start of a winter home fire (15 percent).
- 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

Indiana

Firefighters

Association



**INDIANA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

Application for Membership Yearly Dues \$10.00

Date _____

Fire Department _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Status: Paid Volunteer Retiree Widow Spouse
EMS Associate Law Officer

Remit To:

IFA Treasurer
1745 East 47th
Anderson, In 46013

Hello,

It's time to pay your 2019 dues and we have added an extra line so that you can include your telephone number if you wish. This will help when mail is returned to us.

Just cut along the dotted line and send in your dues for 2019 so that we can continue to help support the Hoosier Burn Camp for Kids. .

Thanks For Your Continued Support
John Gullion/President



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Winter holiday fires by the numbers

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- Between 2012-2016, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 170 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 4 deaths, 15 injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage annually.
- On average, one of every 45 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 139 total reported home fires.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 43% of home Christmas tree fires.
- In one-quarter (27%) of the Christmas tree fires and in 80% of the deaths, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.
- More than one-fifth (22%) of Christmas tree fires were intentional.
- Forty-two percent of reported home Christmas tree fires occurred in December and 33% were reported in January.
- Two of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den.
- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 800 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2012-2016. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian fire deaths, 34 civilian fire injuries and \$11 million in direct property damage.
- Ten percent of decoration fires were intentional.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in two of every five (42%) fires.
- More than one-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Fifteen percent started in the living room, family room or den.
- One-fifth (19%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December.
- On average, 23 home candle fires were reported each day between 2012-2016.
- More than half (56%) of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to one-third (31%) in January to November.
- The top three days for home candle fires were Christmas, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve.

A 14-year firefighter who leads a paramedic training program through Ivy Tech Community College has been named Firefighter of the Year in Terre Haute.

Kevin Price received the Capt. John Osterloo Award, sponsored by the Breakfast Optimist Club of Terre Haute. Fire Chief Jeff Fisher presented the award Thursday morning.



Fire Chief Jeff Fisher (left) and Mayor Duke Bennett (right) congratulate Terre Haute firefighter/paramedic Kevin Price, who received the Cap. John Osterloo Award, sponsored by the Breakfast Optimist Club of Terre Haute, on Thursday.

“Kevin is a true asset to the job,” Fisher said, noting that Price’s father recently retired as a firefighter, and his sister Diana is now a firefighter.

“We need another 153 like Kevin on the fire department,” the chief said.

The paramedic program led by Price gets firefighters through training in about 14 months, Fisher said, and that is faster than the traditional two- to three-year programs. Price said he was surprised and honored to receive the award.

“It feels like I’m doing my job every day and helping the community,” he said of receiving the recognition. “I’ll keep being the best firefighter I can be and teaching people to be paramedics.”

Price’s wife, Carrie, and their sons Jake and Noah attended the award presentation.

“It’s really neat for them,” Price said. “They were really excited and they wanted to be here this morning to see me do this. They take a lot of pride in knowing their dad does a job that helps people.”

The Osterloo award is presented annually and is named for John Osterloo, who died from injuries in the Haven & Geddes Department Store fire on Dec. 19, 1898, at the corner of Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue.



City of Muncie's ambulance plan still up in the air?

The next step in the city of Muncie's effort to create its own ambulance service faltered again on Wednesday. After principals in the proposal promised that action would come on Wednesday, the meeting in which that action was supposed to come was canceled due to lack of quorum. Mayor Dennis Tyler did not respond to a message from The Star Press on Wednesday and Muncie Fire Chief Eddie Bell and attorney Maura Hoff did not return messages left Tuesday and Wednesday. The city took bids on the proposal to start fire-based EMS in August, then Hoff in September asked the board of works to delay action until Wednesday's date. But as Wednesday's meeting time for the board of works rolled around, not enough members were present to form a quorum. Tyler and Bell had proposed the city EMS plan in 2017 but then let it languish for six months before Muncie City Council, where it was tabled at Tyler's request. In August, the city released a request for proposal asking for an individual or company to run a city-based service. Bids were submitted and opened in late August but no action has taken place since.



Honoring those that have





Answered their Last Alarm





A flag flown on the USS America on Sept. 11 of this year in the hands of the Zionsville Professional Firefighters Association Local 4416. As part of the ongoing R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) program, ZFD sent a care package to U.S. Navy Capt. Luke Frost, the brother of ZFD Deputy Chief Josh Frost, in August.

In return, Captain Frost sent the flag and an official certificate of flag presentation signed by Navy Capt. Daniel Nowicki.

The ship was moored at Naval Base San Diego.

“It’s an amazing gift, but we certainly don’t expect anything in return,” said firefighter/paramedic Walter Leverich. “The idea behind the R.E.D. program is to take care of those deployed so we can show them that we recognize they are there and appreciate them.”

As part of the R.E.D. program, every Friday firefighters wear red and encourage the public to wear red as a way to show support and appreciation for military members and veterans. Firefighters who wear red have the option to voluntarily donate \$2 to be used for supplies for care packages to send to troops. As another component of the program, ZFD publicly recognizes firefighters who have served. Currently, 11 ZFD firefighters have served, or are serving, in the U.S. military. In partnership with Zionsville Professional Firefighters Local 4416, and with support of ZFD Chief VanGorder, ZFD launched the program last fall. Leverich, a U.S. Army veteran who received a R.E.D. care package when he was deployed in Iraq, along with Lt. Steve Hayes, helped spearhead the program in the department.

“I am extremely proud of Local 4416 for presenting this program, and the ZFD members that have served or are serving our country,” VanGorder said.

The department has used connections in the community to send packages to relatives of Town of Zionsville employees, or relatives of Zionsville residents.

ZFD plans to display the flag and certificate for public view in Zionsville Town Hall.

“It gives me goosebumps just thinking that this flag was flown over the USS America on Sept. 11,” Hayes said.

The R.E.D. program will continue indefinitely with the exception of a hiatus in October, when firefighters wear pink for breast cancer awareness. ZFD is looking for names of those deployed who have a connection to Zionsville or Boone County.

We Got A Stamp

First responders were honored Friday at a U.S. Postal Service stamp ceremony in Montecito. The firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel who assisted during the Thomas Fire and Jan. 9 mudslide were specifically recognized as a new, commemorative "First Responder" Forever stamp was dedicated.

Brave, valiant, daring, undaunted, fearless – those are words but there just aren't enough words or emotions, actually, to describe the heart, the soul, and the fortitude required to sign up to be a first responder,"

"The stamp is merely a symbol of what the spirit of each of you represents. Each of you represents the best of us. You represent the rising of courage, the rising of honor, the rising of compassion, endurance, survival, and thriving."

Also taking part in the ceremony was Lauren Cantin, who first responders rescued from the mud on the morning of Jan. 9. The teen's father, Dave, and brother, Jack, were killed in the mudslide. Jack's body was never recovered.

At Friday's ceremony, Lauren sang "God Bless America."

The commemorative stamp, which depicts a firefighter, paramedic, and police officer, is now available for purchase.



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles



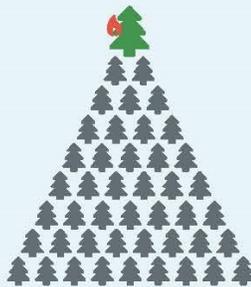
More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top 3 days for home candle fires are **Christmas Day, New Year's Day** and **New Year's Eve**.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.

On average, **1 of every 45** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

Be Safe At Christmas

“Silence can be deadly”

Suicides left more officers and firefighters dead last year than all line-of-duty deaths combined — a jarring statistic that continues to plague first responders but garners little attention.

A new study by the Ruderman Family Foundation, a philanthropic organization that works for the rights of people with disabilities, looked at depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues affecting first responders and the rates of suicide in departments nationwide.

The group found that while suicide has been an ingrained issue for years, very little has been done to address it even though first responders have PTSD and depression at a level five times that of civilians.

Last year, 103 firefighters and 140 police officers committed suicide, whereas 93 firefighters and 129 officers died in the line of duty, which includes everything from being fatally shot, stabbed, drowning or dying in a car accident while on the job.

Miriam Heyman, one of the co-authors of the study, said the numbers of suicide are extremely under-reported, while other more high-profile deaths make headlines. There were 46 officers who died after being fatally shot on the job in 2017, nearly 67% less than the number of suicides.

The number of firefighter suicides may only represent about 40% of the deaths, she said, meaning the deaths could total more than 250 — more than double the amount of all line-of-duty deaths.

“It’s really shocking, and part of what’s interesting is that line-of-duty deaths are covered so widely by the press but suicides are not, and it’s because of the level of secrecy around these deaths, which really shows the stigmas,” Heyman said. She said departments don’t release information about suicides, and less than 5% have suicide-prevention programs. It’s something first responders are ashamed to talk about and address, which is having a deadly result, she said.

“There is not enough conversation about mental health within police and fire departments,” the study says. “Silence can be deadly, because it is interpreted as a lack of acceptance and thus morphs into a barrier that prevents first responders from accessing potentially life-saving mental health services.”

The stigma isn’t just in silence, the study outlines. Families want to hide the reasoning behind the death of a loved one. Officers feel they’ll be looked down on or taken off the job if they speak up about depression. Dying by suicide means they aren’t buried with honor.

The report highlights programs and policies to push the issue, such as peer-to-peer assistance, mental health check-ups, time off after responding to a critical incident and family training programs to identify the warning signs of depression and PTSD.

A project published this year detailed the issues around suicide and highlighted many of the same programs. It noted that first responder suicide is nearly impossible to track since it’s often not reported.

"It is a departmental issue that should be addressed globally," the report notes. "Departments must break the silence on law enforcement suicides by building up effective and continuing suicide-prevention programs."

A big push is for police and fire chiefs to address depression and suicide more candidly and share their experiences.

Attention is sometimes given to PTSD in the immediate aftermath of a high-profile incident, such as a natural disaster, terror attack or mass shooting, like the recent high school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

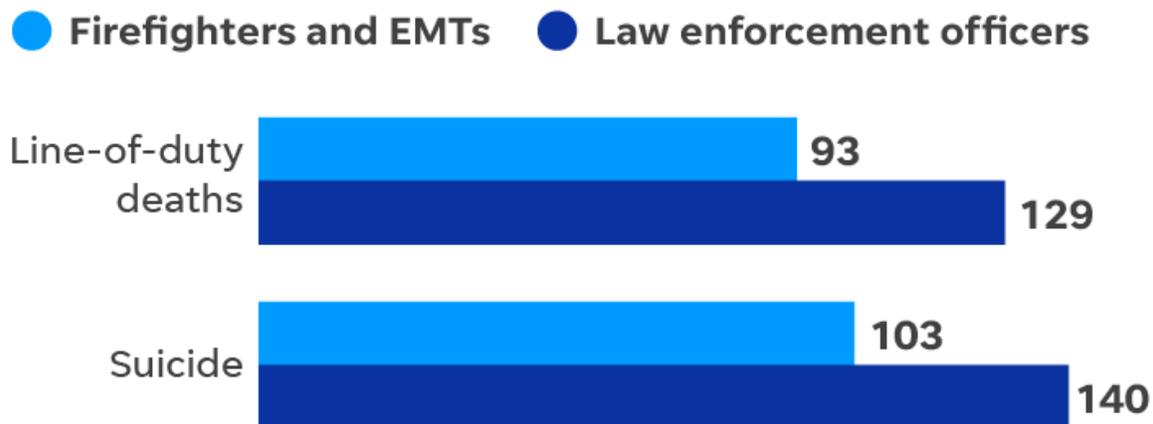
"Here's the reality, though: Police and firefighters witness death and destruction daily," Heyman said. "It would be silly to think it wouldn't put a toll on them."

She said when first responders are affected and don't get help, it can also have a negative result on the community they serve and can be thought of more as an "occupational hazard."

"These individuals are the guardians for our community," Heyman said. "What happens when their decision-making is flawed? We need for them to be healthy."

First responder deaths

The number of firefighters, EMTs and officers who took their own lives outnumber all line-of-duty deaths in 2017.



LAST ALARM

<i>Richard Busfield</i>	<i>South Bend FD</i>
<i>Donald L Deckard</i>	<i>Bloomington FD</i>
<i>Jack VanHorn</i>	<i>Terre Haute FD</i>
<i>George Kepchar</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Ted Piatchk</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Tarrum Hamler</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Gregg Greenlaw</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Jim Wall</i>	<i>Evansville FD</i>
<i>Marvin Taylor</i>	<i>Anderson FD</i>
<i>Clay Shidler</i>	<i>Hymera FD</i>
<i>James Foster</i>	<i>Anderson FD</i>
<i>Paul Plummer</i>	<i>Anderson FD</i>
<i>Willie Cherry</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Alphonso Berry</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Emelio Ottomanelli</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Wilford Phillips</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>



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IFFA VOICE



Indiana Firefighters Association Established 1917

By Fire Fighters for Fire Fighters

John Gullion

PRESIDENT

4111 John Adams Rd
Lafayette, In 47909
jcgff11@gmail.com
765-474-4121
765-427-7858

Larry Robbins

TREASURER

1745 East 47th
Anderson, In 46013
indfa@aol.com
765-356-4168

Jim Morrow

VP/SOUTHWEST

3601 Rodenberg Avenue
Evansville, In 47720
spikemorrow@gmail.com
812-306-7180

Joseph Kruzan

VP/NORTHWEST

2825 Whisper Ct
Schererville, In 46375
josephkruzan@aol.com
219-313-0981

Hector Zaragoza

VP/WEST CENTRAL

6407 Wea Woodland Dr
Lafayette, In 47909
765-427-1511
hex450@gmail.com

Rev John Lefler

CHAPLIN

429 E Main
Plainfield, In 46168
jalefler47@gmail.com
812-457-6314

James Martin

BOARD CHAIRMAN

730 East Auman Drive
Carmel, In 46032
acjkmartin2@aol.com
317-846-6347
317-370-6437

Jay Massa

DIRECTOR

8655 Lake Hills Dr
St Johns, In 46373
chiefmassa@gmail.com
219-682-5160

Jerry Reynolds

DIRECTOR

978 Southernview Drive S
Lafayette, In 47909
mg54tf47@yahoo.com
765-427-4719

W Butch Kracy

DIRECTOR

9677 S Armstong Pl
Terre Haute, In 47802
b.kracy@aol.com
812-299-1516
812-243-9342

Joseph Davenport

DIRECTOR

7533 Geist Estates Drive
Lawrence, In 46280
boatsbm3@comcast.net
317-823-4418
317-989-5061

Roger Johnson

DIRECTOR

1330 23rd St
Columbus, In 47201
reddog@hotmail.com
812-373-0051
812-447-0356

Dan Sink

DIRECTOR

54866 Shorelane
West Elkhart, In 46514
574-533-7878

2019 IFA OFFICERS



To Members and Officers of the IFA

This years Emergency Response Conference was a great success as usual. All board members agreed that John Buckman did a great job revising the memorial service program. Jim Martin, Jerry Reynolds, and Chaplin Lefler helped with the Memorial Service, thanks to them. President Jeff Steele declined his nomination for President on the grounds of personnel reasons and in turn nominated John Gullion for President. Larry Robbins as Treasurer and John Lefler as Chaplin were sworn in for another term. Congratulations to the both of them for a job well done.

This year 2018/19 Chapter #9 and the city of Gary Indiana's active police and firemen and public safety officers are not schedule for increases in salaries and pensions for 2018-19. We are thankful however for the \$5,000.00 increase we received for 2015-16-17 pensions. We were saddened that the city of Gary 's general fund for 2018 and perhaps 2019 lack the funds needed for increases for our active and retired membership. This year Chapter #9 teamed up with the State Association, the IFA, Professional Firefighters of Indiana and the FOP to lobby the 2019 General assembly

- (1) for increase in the death benefit for all Public Safety Officers from \$12,000.00 to \$18,000.00.
- (2) Increase from \$150,000.00 to \$225,000.00 for all Safety Officers killed in the line of duty
- (3) Remove the 3% cap on 1977 pensioners regarding pension increases

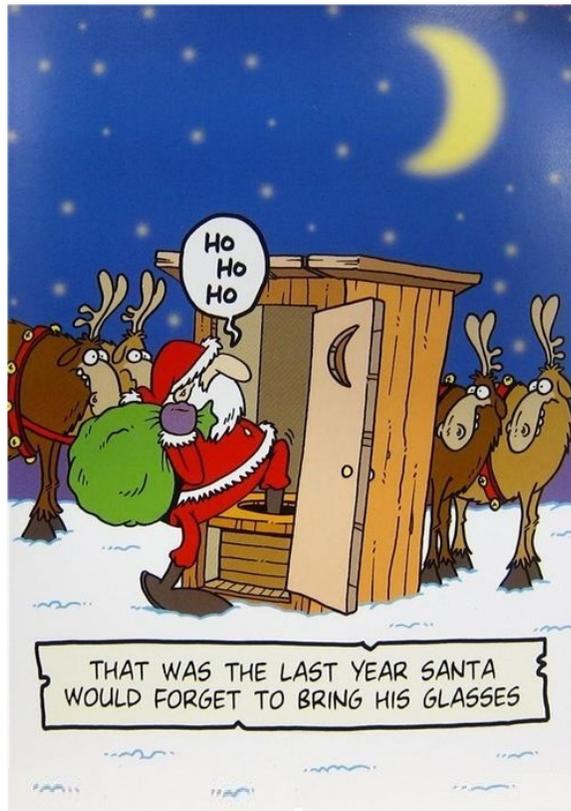
We were saddened by the recent deaths of former Fire Chief Willie Cherry, former Battalion Chief Alphonso Berry, Capt Emelio Ottomanelli and Wilford Phillips also Policeman Kirk Miller and John Curtis. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.

I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Healthy New Year

Respectfully Submitted

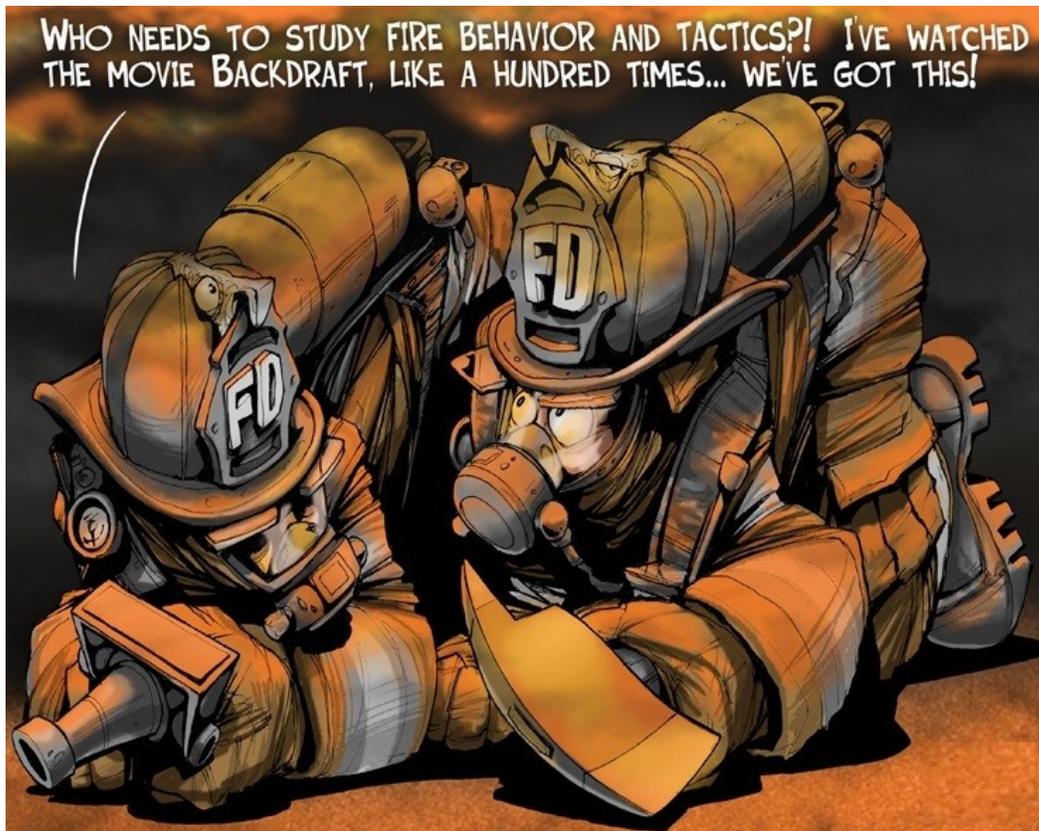
Jay Massa

District Director



20 things all rookie firefighters should know

Follow these 20 guidelines from day-one to lay the foundation of a long and successful firefighting career



Someone once said a smart person has knowledge, a wise person shares knowledge. Everyone learns through sharing knowledge and experience. No one benefits more from this sharing than the rookie.

1.Never disrespect this job by not caring.

It is an honor to be a firefighter. To become complacent is to dishonor those who have gone before us. This job is not just 10 days and a paycheck. Embrace training as a means to maintain the necessary level of proficiency. Truly loving this job means loving every aspect of it and therefore deserving to wear the badge. This is the greatest profession; treat it as such.

2.Lead by example.

Even a rookie can lead by example. Do your job well, every time, and that can rub off on the other members of your crew. Soon they may be trying to reach the standard that the rookie has set.

3.Arrive at work at least 30 minutes before shift change.

Preparation for that big fire begins when you walk through the door. Arriving early allows you to familiarize yourself with the apparatus you are assigned to before that 8:05 fire call. It will also endear you to the off-going crew by grabbing that end-of-shift call. Start off on the right foot — arrive early. If you are on time, you're late. If you're early, you're on time.

4.Talk to the off-going crew.

Don't let your counterpart leave without getting a report on what happened on that shift. If they had a fire, find out everything about it including what went right and what went wrong. You can learn a lot from both. Did they have any other interesting calls? Was there any equipment moved, replaced or sent in for repair? Don't be the one who frantically looks for the hook that is being repaired. Conversely, don't rush out the door at first sight of your replacement. Share your experiences with the crew that is relieving you. Give them the same courtesy that they extended to you.

5.Introduce yourself to everyone you meet.

Take the first step in the communication process. This is especially true on your first day in the house. Greet everyone you see with a hand shake and a "Hi, I am firefighter Smith, nice to meet you." Being new, it is imperative that you meet everyone as soon as possible because you rely on them for everything. The sooner you make them aware of your presence the better off you will be. Do not make your captain hunt you down. She will probably not know who you are, so find her and let her know you are on their crew.

6. Find out who is the senior firefighter.

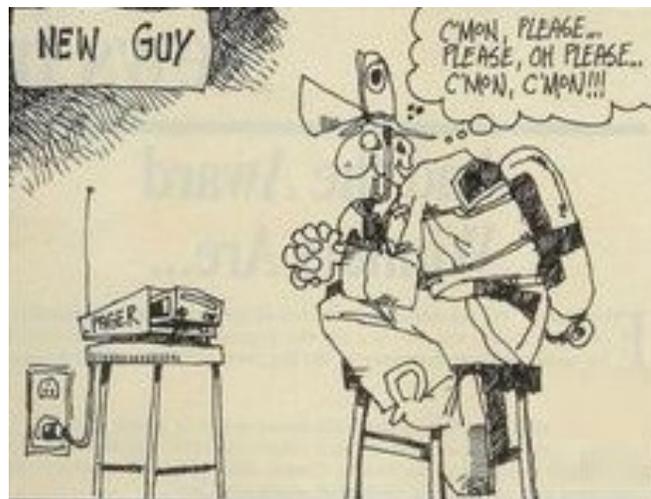
The "first whip" or senior firefighter will be your greatest asset. Ask him all of those questions related to your first day in that house. Which bed is mine? What housework do I do? Where can I find a mop? These types of questions should be asked of the first whip, not the captain. The captain has more important things to do than to show you where the mop bucket is. If no one steps up as the first whip, any of the other firefighters should help.

7. Find out your riding position and your responsibilities.

This information can also be obtained from the senior firefighter. He will instruct you on how the crew does things and how you fit in. Understand what is expected of you before you go out the door.

8. Check your equipment.

This rule can never be overstated. Failing to be prepared is preparing to fail. Check your PPE and SCBA. Check every nozzle every shift. Check the rest of the equipment on the engine or truck to make sure it is where you left it the day before. If you are there for the first time, check to see where everything is. Knowledge of what is in those cabinets means you have one less thing to worry about when the big one hits.



9. Wear your safety gear.

Contrary to what you might think you are not indestructible. You have been given protective clothing to ensure that you go home at the end of your shift. This clothing cannot protect you if it stays on the hook in the apparatus room. Wear your hood, pull down your helmet shroud, button your collar, and wear your structure gloves. Give yourself every chance of getting back home in the same shape as when you left.

10.If you have any questions, ask them.

Pride has no business impeding knowledge. Not asking something for fear of looking stupid will only get you in trouble. The bottom line is you need to know what you are doing even at the expense of looking cool.

11.Don't get caught up in the rumor mill.

The kitchen table is a great place for knowledge swapping. It is also where rumors are created, sustained and traded. As a rookie, don't take part in the rumor mill. You never know who you may offend. What you say can be incorrectly repeated and used to hurt you. If it is fire talk, sit there and absorb. If it is rumor talk, walk away.

12.Don't be in a hurry to gain acceptance.

Your actions will be closely scrutinized; they must speak for themselves. Pulling a pre-connect correctly is more important to your crew than the fact that you were the chief of your old department.

13.Be a team player.

Remember, when things go bad, all you have is your crew. Crew continuity is built at the firehouse as well as on the fire scene. If asked, join your crew for P.T. or other nonfirefighting activities. Attend functions such as retirement parties with your crew. A good crew is built off duty as well as on.

14.Have fun.

As stated in rule 1, this is the greatest profession in the world. Being enthusiastic about being a firefighter can be contagious. Have fun cleaning the toilets as well as fighting fire. Develop a sense of humor; survival in the firehouse depends on it. Enjoying even the smallest aspects of this job is what leads to a happy career.

15.Have Pride

Be proud of where you work. You have chosen your department for a reason. You may not always agree with decisions that are being made above you, but do not let that diminish your love for the job and your department. Along with department pride comes company pride. As a rookie you should be looking forward to the time when you will have a permanent house. Work at being the best firefighter, on the best crew, at the best firehouse. Pride will push you to better yourself for the good of your crew. Company pride is the sincerest form of department pride.

16. Don't think, "Been there, done that."

You are only as good as your next call. Don't be overconfident. Whether you were a hero or a goat will not help you on the next emergency. What will help is the experience and knowledge that you gained.

17. Never stop learning.

You are finished with the academy and probation. You can stop reading and studying, right? Wrong. The day you stop reading about our job is the day you retire. There is a limitless supply of information out there for you to increase your knowledge base. Practice makes perfect works for reading as well as hands on.

18. Respect your elders.

There is an extensive amount of information held in the minds of the senior members of the department. To gain this information you must be willing to make the first move. Don't be afraid to ask them questions. Ask the senior engineers about how they fought fires in their firefighter days. Ask the firefighters who are about to retire how they would have fought that last fire you were on. Would they have done anything different then? Don't let that knowledge retire when they do.

19. Leave work at work.

And conversely, leave your home life at home. Your crew does not deserve your wrath because you and a family member had a fight. On the other side, try not to take work problems home. Your family does not deserve grief because you pulled the wrong line on a fire.

20. Remember where you came from

As your career moves on and you are no longer the rookie, be available to the one who is. Do not be stingy with everything you have learned and been taught. Those rookies shaking in their boots on day one deserves the same respect and tutelage that you received. If hazing and condescension were your tutors then break that chain. Be a true firefighter and help out the rookie, even if you weren't. Individually we can get better, but only as a whole can we become great.



FOLLOW THESE RULES FOR

Christmas Tree Safety

THIS YEAR!

Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and that the tree is not blocking an exit.

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

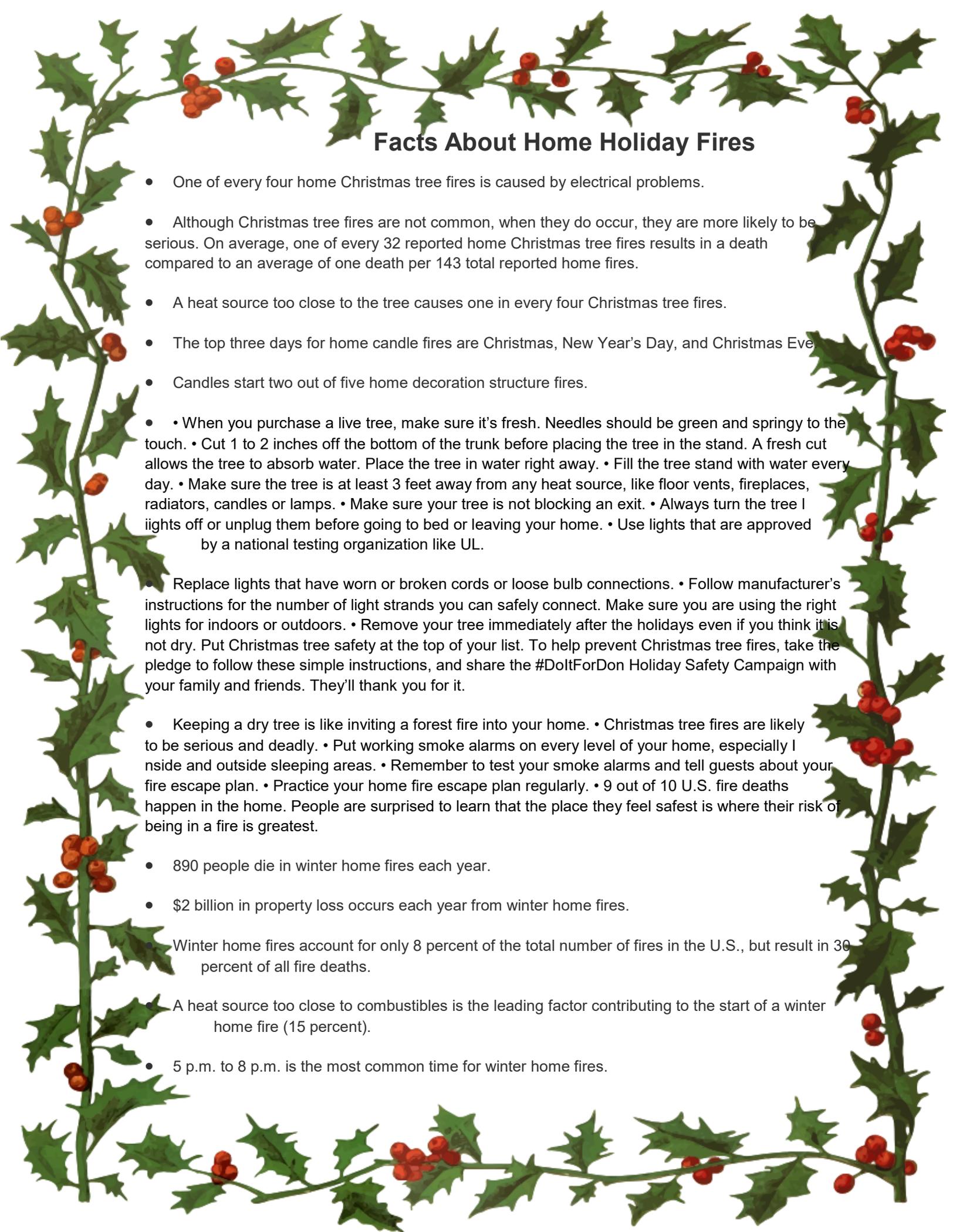
Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Never use candles to decorate the tree.

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Did You Know?

- One quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.



Facts About Home Holiday Fires

- One of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. On average, one of every 32 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death compared to an average of one death per 143 total reported home fires.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every four Christmas tree fires.
- The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve.
- Candles start two out of five home decoration structure fires.
- • When you purchase a live tree, make sure it's fresh. Needles should be green and springy to the touch. • Cut 1 to 2 inches off the bottom of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand. A fresh cut allows the tree to absorb water. Place the tree in water right away. • Fill the tree stand with water every day. • Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like floor vents, fireplaces, radiators, candles or lamps. • Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit. • Always turn the tree lights off or unplug them before going to bed or leaving your home. • Use lights that are approved by a national testing organization like UL.
- Replace lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. • Follow manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands you can safely connect. Make sure you are using the right lights for indoors or outdoors. • Remove your tree immediately after the holidays even if you think it is not dry. Put Christmas tree safety at the top of your list. To help prevent Christmas tree fires, take the pledge to follow these simple instructions, and share the #DoItForDon Holiday Safety Campaign with your family and friends. They'll thank you for it.
- Keeping a dry tree is like inviting a forest fire into your home. • Christmas tree fires are likely to be serious and deadly. • Put working smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially inside and outside sleeping areas. • Remember to test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your fire escape plan. • Practice your home fire escape plan regularly. • 9 out of 10 U.S. fire deaths happen in the home. People are surprised to learn that the place they feel safest is where their risk of being in a fire is greatest.
- 890 people die in winter home fires each year.
- \$2 billion in property loss occurs each year from winter home fires.
- Winter home fires account for only 8 percent of the total number of fires in the U.S., but result in 30 percent of all fire deaths.
- A heat source too close to combustibles is the leading factor contributing to the start of a winter home fire (15 percent).
- 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

Indiana

Firefighters

Association



**INDIANA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

Application for Membership Yearly Dues \$10.00

Date _____

Fire Department _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Status: Paid Volunteer Retiree Widow Spouse
EMS Associate Law Officer

Remit To:

IFA Treasurer
1745 East 47th
Anderson, In 46013

Hello,

It's time to pay your 2019 dues and we have added an extra line so that you can include your telephone number if you wish. This will help when mail is returned to us.

Just cut along the dotted line and send in your dues for 2019 so that we can continue to help support the Hoosier Burn Camp for Kids. .

Thanks For Your Continued Support
John Gullion/President



Indiana

Firefighters

Association



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John Gullion/President



Winter holiday fires by the numbers

-
- Between 2012-2016, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 170 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 4 deaths, 15 injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage annually.
- On average, one of every 45 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 139 total reported home fires.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 43% of home Christmas tree fires.
- In one-quarter (27%) of the Christmas tree fires and in 80% of the deaths, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.
- More than one-fifth (22%) of Christmas tree fires were intentional.
- Forty-two percent of reported home Christmas tree fires occurred in December and 33% were reported in January.
- Two of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den.
- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 800 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2012-2016. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian fire deaths, 34 civilian fire injuries and \$11 million in direct property damage.
- Ten percent of decoration fires were intentional.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in two of every five (42%) fires.
- More than one-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Fifteen percent started in the living room, family room or den.
- One-fifth (19%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December.
- On average, 23 home candle fires were reported each day between 2012-2016.
- More than half (56%) of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to one-third (31%) in January to November.
- The top three days for home candle fires were Christmas, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve.

A 14-year firefighter who leads a paramedic training program through Ivy Tech Community College has been named Firefighter of the Year in Terre Haute.

Kevin Price received the Capt. John Osterloo Award, sponsored by the Breakfast Optimist Club of Terre Haute. Fire Chief Jeff Fisher presented the award Thursday morning.



Fire Chief Jeff Fisher (left) and Mayor Duke Bennett (right) congratulate Terre Haute firefighter/paramedic Kevin Price, who received the Cap. John Osterloo Award, sponsored by the Breakfast Optimist Club of Terre Haute, on Thursday.

“Kevin is a true asset to the job,” Fisher said, noting that Price’s father recently retired as a firefighter, and his sister Diana is now a firefighter.

“We need another 153 like Kevin on the fire department,” the chief said.

The paramedic program led by Price gets firefighters through training in about 14 months, Fisher said, and that is faster than the traditional two- to three-year programs. Price said he was surprised and honored to received the award.

“It feels like I’m doing my job every day and helping the community,” he said of receiving the recognition. “I’ll keep being the best firefighter I can be and teaching people to be paramedics.”

Price’s wife, Carrie, and their sons Jake and Noah attended the award presentation.

“It’s really neat for them,” Price said. “They were really excited and they wanted to be here this morning to see me do this. They take a lot of pride in knowing their dad does a job that helps people.”

The Osterloo award is presented annually and is named for John Osterloo, who died from injuries in the Haven & Geddes Department Store fire on Dec. 19, 1898, at the corner of Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue.



City of Muncie's ambulance plan still up in the air?

The next step in the city of Muncie's effort to create its own ambulance service faltered again on Wednesday. After principals in the proposal promised that action would come on Wednesday, the meeting in which that action was supposed to come was canceled due to lack of quorum. Mayor Dennis Tyler did not respond to a message from The Star Press on Wednesday and Muncie Fire Chief Eddie Bell and attorney Maura Hoff did not return messages left Tuesday and Wednesday. The city took bids on the proposal to start fire-based EMS in August, then Hoff in September asked the board of works to delay action until Wednesday's date. But as Wednesday's meeting time for the board of works rolled around, not enough members were present to form a quorum. Tyler and Bell had proposed the city EMS plan in 2017 but then let it languish for six months before Muncie City Council, where it was tabled at Tyler's request. In August, the city released a request for proposal asking for an individual or company to run a city-based service. Bids were submitted and opened in late August but no action has taken place since.



Honoring those that have





Photographer John M. Buchanan III

Answered their Last Alarm





A flag flown on the USS America on Sept. 11 of this year in the hands of the Zionsville Professional Firefighters Association Local 4416. As part of the ongoing R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) program, ZFD sent a care package to U.S. Navy Capt. Luke Frost, the brother of ZFD Deputy Chief Josh Frost, in August.

In return, Captain Frost sent the flag and an official certificate of flag presentation signed by Navy Capt. Daniel Nowicki.

The ship was moored at Naval Base San Diego.

“It’s an amazing gift, but we certainly don’t expect anything in return,” said firefighter/paramedic Walter Leverich. “The idea behind the R.E.D. program is to take care of those deployed so we can show them that we recognize they are there and appreciate them.”

As part of the R.E.D. program, every Friday firefighters wear red and encourage the public to wear red as a way to show support and appreciation for military members and veterans. Firefighters who wear red have the option to voluntarily donate \$2 to be used for supplies for care packages to send to troops. As another component of the program, ZFD publicly recognizes firefighters who have served. Currently, 11 ZFD firefighters have served, or are serving, in the U.S. military. In partnership with Zionsville Professional Firefighters Local 4416, and with support of ZFD Chief VanGorder, ZFD launched the program last fall. Leverich, a U.S. Army veteran who received a R.E.D. care package when he was deployed in Iraq, along with Lt. Steve Hayes, helped spearhead the program in the department.

“I am extremely proud of Local 4416 for presenting this program, and the ZFD members that have served or are serving our country,” VanGorder said.

The department has used connections in the community to send packages to relatives of Town of Zionsville employees, or relatives of Zionsville residents.

ZFD plans to display the flag and certificate for public view in Zionsville Town Hall.

“It gives me goosebumps just thinking that this flag was flown over the USS America on Sept. 11,” Hayes said.

The R.E.D. program will continue indefinitely with the exception of a hiatus in October, when firefighters wear pink for breast cancer awareness. ZFD is looking for names of those deployed who have a connection to Zionsville or Boone County.

We Got A Stamp

First responders were honored Friday at a U.S. Postal Service stamp ceremony in Montecito. The firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel who assisted during the Thomas Fire and Jan. 9 mudslide were specifically recognized as a new, commemorative "First Responder" Forever stamp was dedicated.

Brave, valiant, daring, undaunted, fearless – those are words but there just aren't enough words or emotions, actually, to describe the heart, the soul, and the fortitude required to sign up to be a first responder,"

"The stamp is merely a symbol of what the spirit of each of you represents. Each of you represents the best of us. You represent the rising of courage, the rising of honor, the rising of compassion, endurance, survival, and thriving."

Also taking part in the ceremony was Lauren Cantin, who first responders rescued from the mud on the morning of Jan. 9. The teen's father, Dave, and brother, Jack, were killed in the mudslide. Jack's body was never recovered.

At Friday's ceremony, Lauren sang "God Bless America."

The commemorative stamp, which depicts a firefighter, paramedic, and police officer, is now available for purchase.



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles



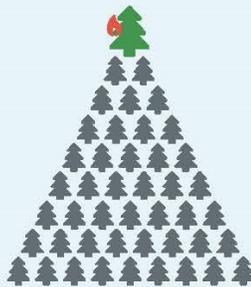
More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top 3 days for home candle fires are **Christmas Day, New Year's Day** and **New Year's Eve**.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.

On average, **1 of every 45** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

Be Safe At Christmas

“Silence can be deadly”

Suicides left more officers and firefighters dead last year than all line-of-duty deaths combined — a jarring statistic that continues to plague first responders but garners little attention.

A new study by the Ruderman Family Foundation, a philanthropic organization that works for the rights of people with disabilities, looked at depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues affecting first responders and the rates of suicide in departments nationwide.

The group found that while suicide has been an ingrained issue for years, very little has been done to address it even though first responders have PTSD and depression at a level five times that of civilians. Last year, 103 firefighters and 140 police officers committed suicide, whereas 93 firefighters and 129 officers died in the line of duty, which includes everything from being fatally shot, stabbed, drowning or dying in a car accident while on the job.

Miriam Heyman, one of the co-authors of the study, said the numbers of suicide are extremely under-reported, while other more high-profile deaths make headlines. There were 46 officers who died after being fatally shot on the job in 2017, nearly 67% less than the number of suicides.

The number of firefighter suicides may only represent about 40% of the deaths, she said, meaning the deaths could total more than 250 — more than double the amount of all line-of-duty deaths.

“It’s really shocking, and part of what’s interesting is that line-of-duty deaths are covered so widely by the press but suicides are not, and it’s because of the level of secrecy around these deaths, which really shows the stigmas,” Heyman said. She said departments don’t release information about suicides, and less than 5% have suicide-prevention programs. It’s something first responders are ashamed to talk about and address, which is having a deadly result, she said.

“There is not enough conversation about mental health within police and fire departments,” the study says. “Silence can be deadly, because it is interpreted as a lack of acceptance and thus morphs into a barrier that prevents first responders from accessing potentially life-saving mental health services.”

The stigma isn’t just in silence, the study outlines. Families want to hide the reasoning behind the death of a loved one. Officers feel they’ll be looked down on or taken off the job if they speak up about depression. Dying by suicide means they aren’t buried with honor.

The report highlights programs and policies to push the issue, such as peer-to-peer assistance, mental health check-ups, time off after responding to a critical incident and family training programs to identify the warning signs of depression and PTSD.

A project published this year detailed the issues around suicide and highlighted many of the same programs. It noted that first responder suicide is nearly impossible to track since it’s often not reported.

"It is a departmental issue that should be addressed globally," the report notes. "Departments must break the silence on law enforcement suicides by building up effective and continuing suicide-prevention programs."

A big push is for police and fire chiefs to address depression and suicide more candidly and share their experiences.

Attention is sometimes given to PTSD in the immediate aftermath of a high-profile incident, such as a natural disaster, terror attack or mass shooting, like the recent high school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

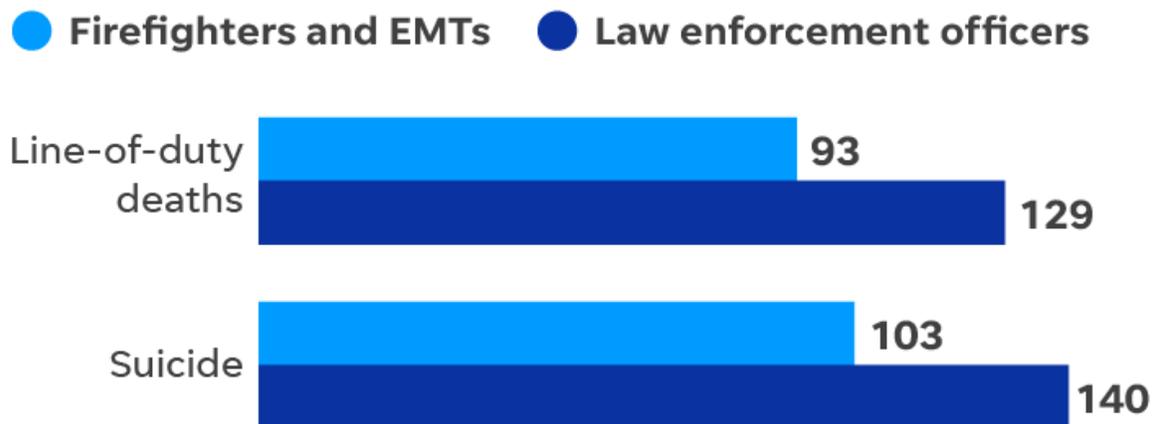
"Here's the reality, though: Police and firefighters witness death and destruction daily," Heyman said. "It would be silly to think it wouldn't put a toll on them."

She said when first responders are affected and don't get help, it can also have a negative result on the community they serve and can be thought of more as an "occupational hazard."

"These individuals are the guardians for our community," Heyman said. "What happens when their decision-making is flawed? We need for them to be healthy."

First responder deaths

The number of firefighters, EMTs and officers who took their own lives outnumber all line-of-duty deaths in 2017.



LAST ALARM

<i>Richard Busfield</i>	<i>South Bend FD</i>
<i>Donald L Deckard</i>	<i>Bloomington FD</i>
<i>Jack VanHorn</i>	<i>Terre Haute FD</i>
<i>George Kepchar</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Ted Piatchk</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Tarrum Hamler</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Gregg Greenlaw</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Jim Wall</i>	<i>Evansville FD</i>
<i>Marvin Taylor</i>	<i>Anderson FD</i>
<i>Clay Shidler</i>	<i>Hymera FD</i>
<i>James Foster</i>	<i>Anderson FD</i>
<i>Paul Plummer</i>	<i>Anderson FD</i>
<i>Willie Cherry</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Alphonso Berry</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
<i>Emelio Ottomanelli</i>	<i>Gary FD</i>
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