

NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation Program

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Structural Firefighting



- Both fires and firefighter fatalities have decreased
- Relatively constant firefighter fatality rate
- The rate of traumatic fatalities has increased

Structural Firefighting



- Collapse
- Rapid Fire Progress
- Disorientation

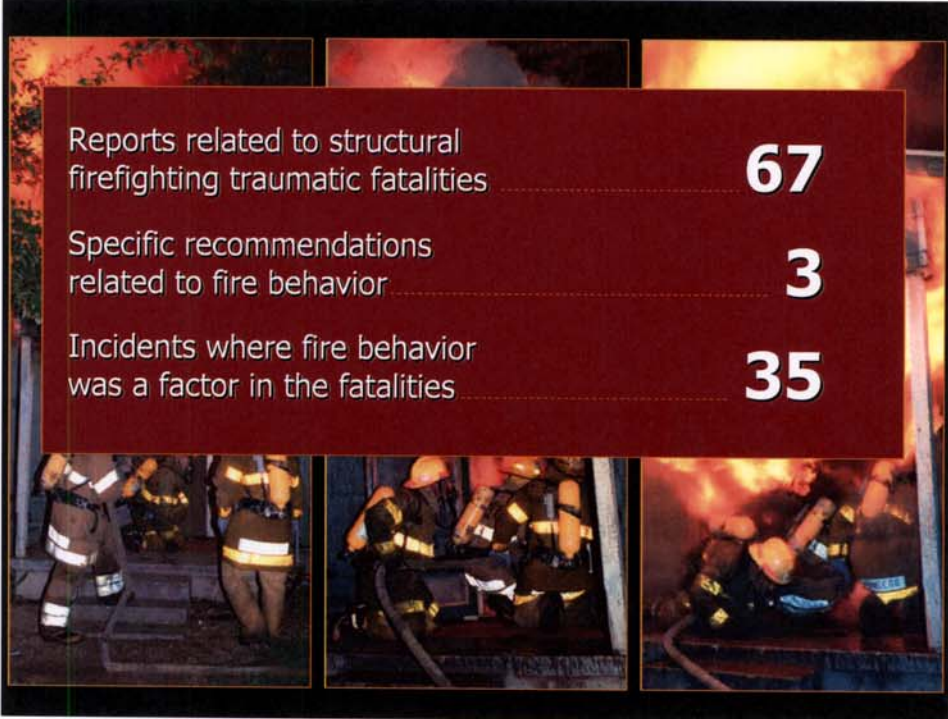
Anecdotal evidence points to a lack of experience as a causal factor in these situations

NIOSH Recommendations

1. SOP/SOG
2. Communications
3. Rapid Intervention
4. PASS Devices
5. Accountability
6. Situation Assessment
7. On-Scene Resources
8. Incident Safety Officer



What is missing from this list?



Reports related to structural
firefighting traumatic fatalities

67

Specific recommendations
related to fire behavior

3

Incidents where fire behavior
was a factor in the fatalities

35

What can NIOSH do?



Provide a consistent
focus on fire behavior

- Probe observations of
fire behavior indicators
 - Provide more detail in
fatality reports
-

What can NIOSH do?



Examine the impact of training, experience, and expertise

- Casualties
- Incident Decision-Makers

If they had known what was going to happen, would they have taken the same course of action?



What can NIOSH do?



If fire behavior is a causal or contributing factor, make an explicit recommendation for in-depth fire behavior training and its application in a realistic context.

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