

# How FFFIPP Prioritizes Investigations: Selection Criteria

All investigation requests are welcome. However, the program will prioritize investigations of line-of-duty deaths or serious injuries that present opportunities to learn and prevent future occurrences. Meeting the criteria below does not guarantee an investigation. These criteria help identify which incidents offer the most value to the fire service.

## Line-of-Duty Deaths (LODDs)

LODDs are prioritized for investigation if they:

- (1) Meet the U.S. Fire Administration LODD definition  
AND
- (2) Meet one of the following priority criteria:
  - Emerging or reemerging issue\*
  - Unique/unusual incident\*\*
  - Training incident
  - Fire response incident
  - Heat- or cold-related
  - Cardiac death of a firefighter <45 years old and/or death occurred during physical activity

## Serious Injuries

Serious injuries are prioritized for investigation if they:

- (1) Meet one of the priority criteria on the left (e.g., emerging issue, unique/unusual incident, etc.)  
AND
- (2) Meet one of the following serious injury criteria:
  - Hospitalization/observation  
Firefighter hospitalized or held for observation
  - Medical care + time off  
Firefighter sought medical care and needed  $\geq 1$  day off work\*\*\*
  - Multiple injuries  
Three or more injuries requiring medical care

Note: Multiple fatalities or injury events will always be considered for priority.

\***Emerging/reemerging:** Demonstrates a trend of increasing frequency, severity, or recognition, or represents an incident type not recently investigated. May reflect changes in operational environments, technology, building construction, or workforce practices, providing timely or updated prevention strategies.

\*\***Unique/unusual:** Atypical or rarely seen in the fire service. May reveal critical safety gaps, novel hazards, or overlooked risks that warrant investigation.

\*\*\***Days away from work** means the firefighter was not able to work the following day because of their injury or illness, regardless of whether they were scheduled to work. It can also consider time off needed from another job for volunteer firefighters. Medical care is more than first aid or on-scene care.

