

FOUR FIRE FIGHTER FATALITIES
BRACKENRIDGE, PENNSYLVANIA
DECEMBER 20, 1991

SUMMARY

At 5:47 a.m. on Friday, December 20, 1991, the Pioneer Hose Company of Brackenridge, Pennsylvania responded to a report of a fire at the West Interior Services Building. First arriving fire fighters found smoke in and about the building, and the Pioneer Hose Fire Chief requested the assistance of the Hilltop Hose Company from a township adjacent to Brackenridge. Four of the Hilltop fire fighters entered the first story to search for extension of the fire that was burning in the basement. Approximately 40 minutes after the initial dispatch of Pioneer Hose, a section of the first-story floor assembly fell into the basement, cutting off the primary means of escape for the four Hilltop fire fighters. An ensuing fireball engulfed the four men, immediately killing them.

The National Fire Protection Association cooperated with the Pioneer Hose Company, Hilltop Hose Company, Allegheny County Fire Marshal's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) during the investigation of this incident. The purpose of the NFPA investigation was to document factors that may have led to the loss of the four fire fighters, to establish any lessons learned information, and to communicate those lessons learned to the fire service community and others interested in firesafety.



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