



RESEARCH

U.S. FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES IN HIGH-RISE BUILDING FIRES 2006 – 2015

From 2006-2015, there were five firefighter deaths in four high-rise building fires (three apartment buildings and one office building under demolition).

Three of these four fires were investigated by NIOSH and their reports are available on-line.

- In 2007, a firefighter responded to a fire in a 12-story apartment building and was assigned to perform a search for fire victims on the 6th floor. He climbed six flights of stairs in full turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and performed search, extinguishment and overhaul activities before collapsing.
(See investigation report at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200813.html>).
- In 2007, two firefighters became trapped in 'maze-like' conditions in an office building that was being demolished. At the time of the incident, the 40-story building had been reduced to 26 stories. The building's sprinkler system had been disconnected for the demolition. Both victims died on the 14th floor of smoke inhalation. In all, 115 firefighters were injured in this incident.
(See investigation report at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200737.html>).
- In 2008, a firefighter died of burns and smoke inhalation while fighting a fire on the 14th floor of a 25-story apartment building.
- In 2014, when fire conditions deteriorated rapidly, a firefighter became trapped in an extremely cluttered (hoarder condition) apartment on the 19th floor of a 21-story apartment building. He died of smoke inhalation and thermal burns.
(See investigation report at: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201414.pdf>)

Also available: case studies from some older incidents investigated by NIOSH

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200133.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9901.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9826.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200032.html>