



WTCA – Representing the Structural Building Components Industry

6300 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719

608/274-4849 (phone) 608/274-3329 (fax)

Cause of Firefighter Fatalities, 1980-2006						
Year	Total Fatalities+	Heart Attack+	Fell or Struck by Object+	Electrocution+	Structural Collapse*	Exposure to Fire Products*
2006	89	34	19	1	4	15
2005	87	38	24	2	1	4
2004	103	48	29	0	6	8
2003	105	47	39	0	3	2
2002	97	37	36	0	3	0
2001	87	40	27	1	1	0
2000	85	38	22	0	4	2
1999	108	50	20	3	2	0
1998	82	38	17	2	1	3
1997	86	37	21	2	3	3
1996	92	45	20	3	5	5
1995	88	42	21	1	11	7
1994	100	34	28	1	2	29
1993	90	39	21	1	4	10
1992	74	38	20	0	5	1
1991	100	47	24	1	7	7
1990	103	37	31	1	1	5
1989	110	59	9	3	7	6
1988	129	51	5	2	17	2
1987	124	62	6	0	3	4
1986	113	58	13	1	2	8
1985	119	48	12	1	7	5
1984	116	38	15	2	3	7
1983	106	52	10	1	3	6
1982	117	54	8	2	12	8
1981	123	64	7	0	2	5
1980	134	60	11	1	6	7
TOTAL	2767	1235	515	32	125	159
PERCENT		44.63%	18.61%	1.16%	4.52%	5.75%

Firefighter fatalities taken from NFPA Journal (and Fire Command Magazine in early years), and incident reports (see links).

Following the NFPA Journal article, 2001 total does NOT include 340 deaths at the World Trade Center.

+ NOTE: data taken from source charts directly.

* NOTE: data is gleaned from incident reports and is subject to interpretation.

The Total Fatalities Column is taken from directly from the Fire Command Magazine and NFPA Journal yearly articles.

Total Fatalities are updated from year to year and these updates are not reflected in the table to preserve the tie to the original information source.

In addition to the causes of fatalities shown in this table, other causes complete the number of Total Fatalities as detailed in Table 1 of the NFPA Journal articles and NFPA Reports reviewed (links below).

The numbers appearing in the columns above are based upon specific language used in the NFPA Journal incident reports as defined below.

Fire Cause Table Definitions:

Structural Collapse Deaths inside any structure type due to the physical impact of a structure collapse.

Exposure to Fire Products Deaths due to smoke inhalation or burns.

Links:

NFPA statistics:

[Firefighter Fatalities in the United States – 2006 \(NFPA Journal article July/Aug\)](#)

[Firefighter Fatalities in the United States – 2006 \(NFPA Report\)](#)

Incident Reports:

[USFA Firefighter Fatalities in the United States](#)

[USFA publications on firefighter fatalities](#)

[NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program](#)

[Firefighter Fatality Incidents - 2006 \(NFPA Journal article July/Aug\)](#)

[Firehouse Magazine](#)



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Structural Product Involved in Firefighter Death, 1980 - 2006

Year	Total Fatalities+	Wood Frame Products*	Ordinary Roof/Floor*	Combust. Wall*	Wood Trusses*	Heavy Timber Trusses*	Non-Combust. Roof/Floor*	Non-Combust. Wall*
2006	89	0	3	0	2	0	0	2
2005	87	3	2	0	2	0	0	0
2004	103	7	1	0	1	2	1	0
2003	105	2	1	0	0	0	2	0
2002	97	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
2001	87	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2000	85	3	1	0	2	0	0	0
1999	108	1	1	0	3	0	0	0
1998	82	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
1997	86	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
1996	92	1	0	1	3	0	0	0
1995	88	10	0	1	0	0	0	0
1994	100	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
1993	90	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
1992	74	1	0	3	2	0	0	0
1991	100	4	0	3	0	0	0	0
1990	103	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1989	110	2	0	0	2	0	1	2
1988	129	6	0	0	0.5	5	2	3.5
1987	124	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	1.5
1986	113	0.5	0	0.5	1	0	0	0
1985	119	2	4	0	0	0	0	1
1984	116	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
1983	106	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	1.5
1982	117	1	4	0	0	0	2	5
1981	123	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1980	134	3	1	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	2767	56	27	10.5	23.5	7	11.5	20.5
PERCENT		2.02%	0.98%	0.38%	0.85%	0.25%	0.42%	0.74%

Firefighter fatalities taken from NFPA Journal (and Fire Command Magazine in early years), and incident reports (see links).

Following the NFPA Journal article, the 2001 total does NOT include 340 deaths at the World Trade Center.

+ NOTE: data taken from source charts directly.

* NOTE: data is gleaned from incident reports and is subject to interpretation.

The Total Fatalities Column is taken from directly from the Fire Command Magazine and NFPA Journal yearly articles.

Total fatalities are updated from year to year and these updates are not reflected in the table to preserve the tie to the original information source.

Columns 2 through 8 count any firefighter fatalities which occurred at a structure fire during an emergency incident. They exclude fatalities due to heart attack or electrocution.

0.5 deaths is due to the cause being from two listed sources like the wall collapsed causing the trusses to collapse.

The numbers appearing in the columns above are based upon specific language used in the NFPA Journal and USFA Firefighter Fatalities incident reports as defined below.

Structural Product Table Definitions:

Non-combustible Wall	A wall constructed of non-combustible material, such as concrete or steel
Wood Frame Products	A structure or portion thereof constructed with traditional 2x4,6,8,10,12 wood framing .
Ordinary Roof/Floor	Traditional 2x6,8,10,12 combustible roof/floor construction with masonry walls typically.
Non-combustible Roof/Floor	Non-combustible roof/floor construction including concrete, steel bar-joists, joists & trusses
Wood Trusses	Roof/floor construction specifically indicating that wood trusses were used in the structure.
Timber Trusses	Roof/floor construction specifically indicating that timber trusses or timber framing were used in the structure.
Combustible Wall	Traditional 2x4,6 wood wall construction.

Links:

NFPA statistics:

[Firefighter Fatalities in the United States – 2006 \(NFPA Journal article July/Aug\)](#)

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Incident Reports:

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