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AMENDED February 21, 2025

READING LIST ANNOUNCEMENT – PLEASE POST PROMINENTLY

TO: Fire Department Appointing Authorities, Fire Chiefs
FROM: Regina Caggiano, Director of Civil Service
DATE: October 11, 2024
SUBJECT: Reading List for Boston Fire Captain Examination

BOSTON FIRE CAPTAIN

EXAMINATION DATE – APRIL 12, 2025

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resource Division Written Examination for Fire Captain administered on April 12, 2025.

Candidates are responsible for reading all the texts and other materials listed below and on all pages of this announcement. Please note carefully which edition and/or date of publication is listed for each item. All technical knowledge examination questions will be based on these materials.

Massachusetts General Laws: Chapter 148 - Fire Prevention (as amended through the release date of this reading list).

Section 5
Section 23
Section 26A
Section 26B
Section 26C
Section 26D
Section 26E
Section 26F

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Section 26F1/2
Section 26H
Section 26I
Section 27A

Fire Officer Principles and Practice (4th Edition). Ward, Michael J. (2021). NFPA. Burlington, MA. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Chapter 2: exclude pg. 39 – 45 (Start of Chapter up to “Situational Leadership”) and exclude pg. 48 - 56 (“Leadership in the Volunteer Fire Service” up to “Origins of Crew Resource Management”)

Chapter 3: exclude pg. 80- 86 (“Keep Your Supervisor Informed” up to “Assigning Tasks to Unit Members”)

Chapter 6: exclude pg. 172- 174 (“Classifying by Building or Occupancy” up to “Occupancy and Use Groups”) and exclude pg. 185- 193 (“Legal Considerations During Investigations” up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 7: exclude pg.196 - 198 (Start of Chapter up to “Levels of Command”) and exclude pg. 207 - 210 (“IAFC Rules of Engagement” up to “National Fire Academy Size up Process”)

Chapter 9: exclude 252- 253 (Start of Chapter up to “Administrative Law”) and exclude pg. 259- 269 (“Legislative Framework for Collective Bargaining” up to End of Chapter)

Note: Exclude all Charts, Tables, Figures, Fire Officer Tips, Appendices, and Voice of Experience

Engine Company Fireground Operations (4th Edition). Angulo, Raul A. (2021). NFPA. Burlington, MA. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Chapter 4: exclude pg. 139 - 148 (“Basement Fires” - End of Chapter)

Chapter 6

Chapter 8: exclude pg. 242 - 270 (“The National Fire Academy Command Sequence Model” up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 9: exclude pg. 278 (“The Keokuk Fire” up to “Defensive Search Tactics”), exclude pg. 280- 283 “Rapid Intervention Crew” up to “Water Supply and Hose Stream Placement”), exclude pg. 285- 286 (“The Villa Plaza Fire” up to “Rescue Profile Considerations”) and exclude pg. 298- 299 (“Indicating that a Room has Been Searched” up to “Vent – Enter- Isolate- Search [VEIS]”)

Chapter 10

Chapter 11

Chapter 12: exclude pg. 391-395 (“Santana Row Case Study” up to “Radiant Heat Exposures”)

Chapter 13: exclude pg. 429- 432 (“Scenario 1” up to “Use of Master Stream Appliances”)

Chapter 14

Chapter 16: exclude pg. 553- 554 (Biloxi, Mississippi, Fire Department Case Study” up to “Air Monitoring”) and exclude pg. 568 - 572 (“Securing the Property” up to End of Chapter)

Note: Exclude all Figures, Tables, Charts, and Formulas

Announcement: We would like to inform all candidates that, due to publisher error, **no numerical questions** (e.g. times, distances, pressures, heights, etc.) will be included from *Engine Company Fireground Operations (4th Edition)*. Angulo, Raul A. (2021). NFPA. Burlington, MA. Jones & Bartlett

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Learning, on the upcoming **2025 Fire Lieutenant and Captain Exams**. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please reach out to civil service (anhar.obyat@mass.gov or shelagh.herbert@mass.gov).

There are 2 versions of *Engine Company Fireground Operations (4th Edition)* that have been released by the publishing company. We have received a document detailing all edits made from one version to the other. Please see the document titled "Engine Company Fireground Operations Publisher Updates" to receive more information on changes made to the sources, how to determine which book you possess, and whether you will need the subsequent edits attachment.

Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (4th Edition). Smith, James P. (2017). Hoboken, NJ. Pearson Education Inc.

Chapter 1: exclude pg. 12-16 ("Preincident Planning" up to "Needed Fire Flow") and exclude pg. 27-35 ("Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 3: exclude pg. 82-90 (Start of Chapter up to "Incident Scene Decision Making"), exclude pg. 96- 106 ("Firefighter Size-up" up to "Objectives, Strategy Tactics and Tasks"), and exclude pg. 116 - 119 ("Governors Island Testing" up to "Modes of Fire Attack")

Chapter 4: exclude pg. 130- 141 (Start of Chapter up to "Truck Company Operations")

Chapter 6: exclude pg. 234- 248 ("Safety" up to "Apparatus Placement")

Chapter 7: exclude pg. 303 - 318 ("Wildland Urban Interface" up to End of Chapter)

and exclude all green labeled "Considerations..." sections:

- "Considerations for Cellar Fires" (pg. 267-268)
- "Considerations for Fires in Garden Apartments" (pg. 273-274)
- "Considerations for Fires in Row Houses and Town Houses" (pg. 281-282)
- "Considerations for Fires in Renovated Buildings" (pg. 287-288)
- "Considerations for Fires in Hotels and Motels" (pg. 296)
- "Considerations for Fires in Vacant Buildings" (pg. 302-303)
- "Considerations for Wildland Urban Interface Fires" (pg. 315-316)

Chapter 8: exclude all green labeled "Considerations..." sections:

- "Considerations for Fires in Hospitals" (pg. 328-329)
- "Considerations for Fires in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities" (pg. 335-336)
- "Considerations for Mass Casualty Incidents" (pg. 345-346)
- "Considerations for Fires in Houses of Worship" (pg. 358-359)
- "Considerations for Fires in Penal Institutions" (pg. 365-366)
- "Considerations for Fires in Public Assembly Buildings" (pg. 371-373)
- "Considerations for Fires in Schools" (pg. 378-379)
- "Considerations for Active Shooter Incidents" (pg. 390-391)

Chapter 9: exclude all green labeled "Considerations..." sections:

- "Considerations for Fires in Commercial Buildings and Warehouses" (pg. 402-403)
- "Considerations for Fires in Strip Malls" (pg. 408-409)
- "Considerations for Fires in Enclosed Malls" (pg. 414-415)
- "Considerations for Fires in Supermarkets" (pg. 421-422)
- "Considerations for Fires in Lumberyards" (pg. 427-428)
- "Considerations for Fires in High-Rise Buildings" (pg. 453-454)

Chapter 10: exclude pg. 511-525 ("Natural Disasters" up to End of Chapter)

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exclude all green labeled “Considerations...” sections:

- “Considerations for Hazardous Materials Incidents” (pg. 472)
- “Considerations for Tank Farm/Refinery Fire Incidents” (pg. 481-482)
- “Considerations for Terrorism Incidents” (pg. 493-494)
- “Considerations for a Dirty Bomb Incident” (pg. 499-500)
- “Considerations for a Clandestine Drug Lab” (pg. 510-511)
- “Considerations for Natural Disaster Incidents” (pg. 522-523)

Note: Exclude all Blue Boxes, On Scene, Charts, Tables, and Figures

Building Construction Related to the Fire Service (4th Edition). IFSTA. (2016). Oklahoma State University. Fire Protection Publication.

Chapter 2: exclude pg. 56 - 61 (“Laboratory- Tested Data” up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5: exclude pg. 141 - 145 (“Testing Interior Finishes” up to “Ceilings”) and exclude pg. 162 - 165 (“Fire Door Maintenance” up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 7: exclude pg. 195 – 196 (“Quality control of Lumber” up to “Combustion Properties of Wood”)

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Chapter 10: exclude pg. 264- 266 (“Quality Control of Concrete” up to “Fire Resistance of Concrete Construction”)

Chapter 11

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Note: Exclude all Case Histories, Figures, Information Boxes and Tables

Progressive Discipline Guidelines, Boston Fire Department (Dated June 2006)

1

2 exclude: pg. 12-14 “Offense: Being Intoxicated or Under the Influence of Liquor or Drugs...”

3 exclude: pg. 21- 23 “Cases of Discipline”

4

5

6

Rules and Regulations of the Boston Fire Department (Dated June 1, 1997)

1

2

8

11

12

13

16

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17

18: exclude pg. 60 - 67 (18.44o “Substance Abuse” up to 18.45)

20

Standard Operating Procedures of the Boston Fire Department (as amended through the release date of this reading list):

The following SOPs have exclusions:

1: exclude 7.5

111: exclude 5

200: exclude 9,10,11

207: exclude 9.4, 10

231: exclude 13

236: exclude 9

251: exclude 5 - 9

300: exclude 7 up to end of SOP

304: exclude 8

340: exclude 4.3 “Phase II” up to end of SOP

341: exclude 6.2 “Phase II” up to end of SOP

342: exclude 6.2 “Phase II” up to end of SOP

The following SOPs are to be read in their entirety:

1A, 2, 2A, 2B 3, 112, 120, 201, 202, 204, 205, 205A, 205B, 206, 206A, 208, 209, 213, 215, 216, 217, 218, 218A, 218B, 218C, 218D, 232, 233, 234, 235, 238, 240, 250, 252, 259, 260, 306, 307, 308, 401, 610

Appendix F, Boston Fire Department/ IAFF Local 718 Drug and Alcohol-Free Work

Sections: 1 - 12

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PUBLISHERS OF READING LIST TEXTS

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148. [Chapter 148 \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov)

Fire Officer Principles and Practice (4th Edition). Ward, Michael J. (2021). NFPA. Burlington, MA. Jones & Bartlett Learning. [Fire Officer: Principles and Practice includes Navigate Advantage Access: 9781284172393 \(psglearning.com\)](https://www.jonesandbartlett.com/9781284172393)

Engine Company Fireground Operations (4th Edition). Angulo, Raul A. (2021). NFPA. Burlington, MA. Jones & Bartlett Learning. [Buy Engine Company Fireground Operations \(nfpa.org\)](https://www.jonesandbartlett.com/9781284172393)

Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (4th Edition). Smith, James P. (2017). Hoboken, NJ. Pearson Education Inc. [Strategic & Tactical Considerations on the Fireground \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com)

Building Construction Related to the Fire Service (4th Edition). IFSTA. (2016). Oklahoma State University. Fire Protection Publication. [Building Construction Related to the Fire Service, 4th Edition | IFSTA](https://www.ifsta.org)

Note: Check back on the Civil Service Exams webpage for ECT&E and Situational Judgement Test (SJT) Prep Guides coming soon! Click [here](#) to view the examination schedule.

Note: Please be aware that for Boston Sources page number exclusions are determined via PDF downloads of documents. Be advised that page numbers could vary pending different document formats.

Please note that the Human Resources Division does not recommend specific retailers for the purchase of reading list texts. For local vendors, contact the publishers at the telephone number or website listed. Many local retailers will be able to special-order any text not carried in stock.

Any questions regarding the reading list may be directed to Shelagh Herbert at shelagh.herbert@mass.gov. A copy of the reading list is posted on the Human Resources Division's Civil Service Unit website. [Examination Preparation Guides and Reading Lists | Mass.gov](#)