



MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW J. GORZKOWICZ
SECRETARY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, SUITE 600
BOSTON, MA 02114

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MELISSA J. PULLIN
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

READING LIST ANNOUNCEMENT – PLEASE POST PROMINENTLY

TO: Fire Department Appointing Authorities, Fire Chiefs
FROM: Regina Caggiano, Director of Civil Service
DATE: May 15, 2025
SUBJECT: Reading List for District Fire Chief Examination

STATEWIDE DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF

EXAMINATION DATE – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resources Division Written Examination for District Fire Chief Exam administered on November 15, 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. Chapters and sections listed with a dash (i.e., 2 – 14) should be read from the first listed chapter through the last listed chapter and section. All technical knowledge examination questions will be based on these materials.

Brannigan's Building Construction for the Fire Service (6th ed.). Brannigan, F.L. and Corbett, G.P. (2021). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Chapters 1-5
Chapters 7-15

Note: Exclude all Appendices, Key terms, Glossary, Tables, Figures, Case Studies, Branniganisms, and Tactical Considerations.

Chief Officer (3rd Edition). Purchase, David J. (2019). NFPA. Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Chapter 1
Chapter 2
Chapter 3
Chapter 4
Chapters 5: exclude pg. 146-152 (“Employee Compensation” up to “Personnel Management”) and pg. 162-172 (“Employee Evaluations” up to “Succession Planning”)
Chapter 10

Note: Exclude all Appendices, Key terms, Glossary, Figures, Tables, Chief Officer Tips, and Voices of Experience

Fire Protection, Detection, and Suppression Systems (5th Edition) ISFTA. (2016). Oklahoma State University, Fire Protections Publications.

Chapter 2
Chapter 3: exclude pg. 83-99 (“Public Water (Potable) Supply Systems” up to end of chapter)
Chapter 4: exclude pg. 134-147 (“Water-Mist Fire Suppression Systems” up to end of chapter)
Chapter 5
Chapter 6: exclude pg. 175-194 (“End-Suction Centrifugal Pumps” up to end of chapter)
Chapter 7
Chapter 8

Note: Exclude “Testing and Inspections...” sections at the end of each chapter or section and exclude all Case Histories, Figures, and Information Boxes.

Safety and Survival on the Fireground (2nd Edition) Dunn, Vincent. (2015). Tulsa, Oklahoma. PennWell Corporation.

Chapter 2
Chapter 4
Chapter 17
Chapter 18
Chapter 19
Chapter 20
Chapter 21
Chapter 22
Chapter 23

Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (4th Edition). Smith, James P. (2017). New York, NY: Pearson.

Chapter 1
Chapter 2
Chapter 3: exclude pg. 82-90 (Start of chapter up to "Incident Scene Decision Making")
Chapter 7: exclude pg. 303-318 (“Wildland Urban Interface” up to end of Chapter)

Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Chapter 10
Chapter 11

Note: Exclude Figures, “On Scene” boxes, “NIOSH” boxes, Key terms, Glossary, Appendices, and blue boxes marked by an engine/truck.

Step up and Lead. Viscuso, Frank (2013). Fire Engineering Books.

Entire Book

Massachusetts General Laws: Chapter 148

Sections: 2, 2A, 3, 4, 5, 26, 26A, 26A1/2, 26B, 26C, 26F, 26F1/2, 26G, 26G1/2, 26H, 27A, 28A, 34, 34A, & 34B

PUBLISHERS OF READING LIST TEXTS

Brannigan’s Building Construction for the Fire Service (6th Ed.). Jones and Bartlett Publishing (www.psglearning.com)

Chief Officer (3rd Edition). Purchase, David J. (2019). NFPA. Jones and Bartlett Learning. [Chief Officer: Principles and Practice includes Navigate Advantage Access: 9781284172478 \(psglearning.com\)](http://www.psglearning.com)

Safety and Survival on the Fireground (2nd Edition) Dunn, Vincent. (2015). Tulsa, Oklahoma. PennWell Corporation. [Safety and Survival on the Fireground, 2nd Edition by Vincent Dunn \(fireengineeringbooks.com\)](http://www.fireengineeringbooks.com)

Fire Protection, Detection, and Suppression Systems (5th Edition) ISFTA. (2016). Oklahoma State University, Fire Protections Publications. <https://www.ifsta.org/shop/fire-protection-detection-and-suppression-systems-5th-edition/36536>

Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (4th Edition) Smith, James P. (2017). New York, NY, Pearson. <https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/strategic--tactical-considerations-on-the-fireground/P200000001847/9780134463544>

Step up and Lead. Viscuso, Frank (2013). Fire Engineering Books. [Step Up and Lead by Frank Viscuso \(fireengineeringbooks.com\)](http://www.fireengineeringbooks.com)

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

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.

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, or check with the Chief of your department or local union representative for assistance. 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 anhar.obyat@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](#)