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AMENDED DECEMBER 9, 2025

READING LIST ANNOUNCEMENT – PLEASE POST PROMINENTLY

TO: Paul Burke, Commissioner – Boston Fire Department
FROM: Regina Caggiano, Director of Civil Service
DATE: December 5, 2025
SUBJECT: Reading List for Boston Deputy Fire Chief Examination

BOSTON DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

EXAMINATION DATE – SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resource Division Written Examination for Boston Deputy Fire Chief administered on June 6, 2026.

Candidates are responsible for reading all the texts and other materials listed below and on all pages of this announcement. Chapters listed with a dash (i.e., 2 – 14) should be read from the first listed chapter through the last listed chapter listed. 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.

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

Chapters 2 – 14

Note: Exclude Appendices, “Branniganisms”, Case Studies, Figures, Glossary, Tables, and Tactical Consideration boxes.

AMENDED December 9, 2025

Chief Officer, Principles and Practice (4th Edition.) Purchase, David. J. (2027). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning, LLC, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

Chapter 2: exclude pg. 43 – 44 ("Assisting with Subordinate Professional Development" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 3

Chapter 9: exclude pg. 235 – 236 ("Budget Impacts" up to "Role of the Chief Officer in Code Enforcement") and exclude pg. 246 – 250 ("Other Fire Prevention Activities" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 11: exclude pg. 278 – 281 (Start of Chapter up to "Personnel Management") and exclude pg. 287 – 296 ("Labor Relations" up to "Department Risk Management")

Chapter 14: exclude pg. 366 – 377 (Start of Chapter up to "Active Shooter/Hostile Event") and exclude pg. 379 – 381 ("The Fire Service: Target of Cybercriminals and Nation States" up to End of Chapter)

Note: Exclude all material from Figures, Tables, Appendices, "Knowledge and Skills Objectives", and the following sections throughout text: "You are the Chief Officer", "Voice of Experience".

Fire and Emergency Services Administration: Management and Leadership Practices. (3rd Edition) Smeby Jr, C. (2022). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett.

Chapters 2 – 4

Chapter 6: exclude pg. 104 – 116 (Start of Chapter up to "Injuries on the Job") and exclude pg. 119 – 128 ("Fair Labor Standards Act" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 7: exclude pg. 142 – 146 ("Emergency Medical Services" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 8: exclude pg. 153 – 154 ("EMS Training and Certification" up to "Technology-Based Training and Certifications") and exclude pg. 159 – 164 ("Higher Education" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 9: exclude pg. 172 ("EMS Injury and Fatality Prevention" up to "Emergency Vehicle Crash Prevention") and exclude pg. 173 – 174 ("Crashes Involving Ambulances" up to "Crashes Involving Fire Apparatus") and exclude pg. 178 – 179 ("Physical Fitness Testing" up to "Other Occupational Hazardous")

Chapter 10: exclude pg. 186 – 196 (Start of Chapter up to "NFPA Codes and Standards") and exclude pg. 199 – 201 ("National Highway Traffic Safety Administration" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 11

Note: Exclude Tables, Case Studies, Chapter Activity # (blue boxes at the end of each chapter)

Firefighting Strategies and Tactics (4th Edition.) James S. Angle; Michael F. Gala Jr.; David Harlow; William B. Lombardo; Craig M. Maciuba. (2021) Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning, LLC

Chapter 4

Chapter 11: exclude pg. 177 – 182 (Start of Chapter up to "Common Hazards Encountered")

Chapters 12 – 14

Chapter 16

Note: Exclude all material from Figures, Tables, and Case Studies.

Hazardous Materials for First Responders (6th Edition.) Edwards, K. (2022). Oklahoma State University: Fire Protection Publications.

Chapters 1 – 4

Chapters 6 – 7

Chapter 16: exclude pg. 603 – 609 ("Operations at Illicit Labs" up to End of Chapter)

Note: Exclude all material from Appendices, Tables (both stand alone and within text callout boxes), Figures, Skill Sheets, any Canadian or Mexican specific details, and the following Text Callout Boxes: "Case Study Definition" (purple book), "What This Means to You" (red Maltese cross), and "Safety Alert Definition" (orange exclamation).

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

Sections : 2, 2A, 5, 9, 10C, 12, 14, 23, 24, 25E, 26, 26A, 26B, 26C, 26D, 26E, 26F, 26F ½, 26G, 26G ½, 26H, 26I, 27A, 28, 29, 34A, 37, 39, 58, 59

Safety and Survival on the Fireground (2nd Ed.). Dunn, V. (2015). Tulsa, OK: Fire Engineering.

Chapters 2 – 9

Chapters 11 – 19

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

1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 111, 112, 115, 120, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 209, 217, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 238, 240, 241, 250, 250A, 251, 252, 260, 261, 262, 263, 280, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 320, 340, 341, 342, 402, 405, 601, 610, 640.

Rules and Regulations of the Boston Fire Department (2025) - as amended on 12.09.2025

Chapters 1 – 2

Chapter 5: *Note: changes have been made to sections 5.15 & 5.25*

Chapter 9

Chapter 16: *Note: changes have been made to sections 16.7(e), 16.95, 16.96*

Chapter 17

Appendix A Policies: exclude pg. 71 – 75 (“Boston Fire Department Policy: Operation of Department Vehicles”)

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

Sections: 1 – 12

PUBLISHERS OF READING LIST TEXTS

Brannigan's Building Construction for the Fire Service (6th Edition.). [Jones and Bartlett Publishing \(www.psglearning.com\)](http://www.psglearning.com)

Chief Officer, Principles and Practice (4th Edition.). [Jones and Bartlett Publishing \(www.psglearning.com\)](http://www.psglearning.com)

Fire and Emergency Services Administration: Management and Leadership Practices (3rd Edition.) [Jones and Bartlett Publishing \(www.psglearning.com\)](http://www.psglearning.com)

Firefighting Strategies and Tactics (4th Edition.) [Jones and Bartlett Publishing \(www.psglearning.com\)](http://www.psglearning.com)

Hazardous Materials for First Responders (6th Edition.). Fire Protection Publications. [\(www.ifsta.org\)](http://www.ifsta.org)

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

Safety and Survival on the Fireground (2nd Edition.). Fire Engineering [\(www.fireengineeringbooks.com\)](http://www.fireengineeringbooks.com)

Note: Check back on the Civil Service Exams webpage for ECT&E and Situational Judgement Test (SJT) Prep Guides coming soon! 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.

Any questions regarding the reading list may be directed to Anhar Obyat at 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](#)