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READING LIST ANNOUNCEMENT – PLEASE POST PROMINENTLY

TO: Fire Department Appointing Authorities, Fire Chiefs
FROM: Regina Caggiano, Director of Civil Service
DATE: May 18, 2026
SUBJECT: Reading List for District Fire Chief Examination

STATEWIDE DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF

EXAMINATION DATE – Wednesday, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resources Division Written Examination for District Fire Chief administered on November 21, 2026.

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 (7th ed.). Brannigan, F.L. and Corbett, G.P. (2026*). 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.

**note: copyright year in physical book states 2027, however website lists 2026, both dates refer to the same edition and are accurate dates. The link at the bottom of the reading list brings you to the correct version of this text. Please reach out with any questions.*

Chief Officer: Principles and Practice (4th Edition). Purchase, David J. (2027). NFPA. Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4: exclude pg. 95-96 (“Organized Labor: Unions” up to “Dress Codes and Grooming Standards”)

Chapters 5: exclude pg. 130-134 (“Employee Compensation” up to “Development of Human Resources”) and exclude pg. 139-148 (“Employee Evaluations” up to “Succession Planning”)

Chapter 8

Note: Exclude all Appendices, Key Terms, Glossary, Figures, Tables, “Tip” boxes, and Voices of Experience

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

Chapter 2

Chapter 3: exclude pg. 69-83 (Start of chapter up to “Public Water (Potable) Supply Systems”)

Chapter 4: exclude pg. 134-147 (“Water-Mist Fire Suppression Systems” up to End of chapter)

Chapter 5

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

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

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

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

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, and Blue Boxes marked by an engine/truck.

35 Things Every Fire Officer Must Know and Do. Frank, Viscuso. (2025) Fire Engineering Books.

Chapters 1 – 17
Chapters 19 –35

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 (7th Ed.). Jones and Bartlett Publishing [Brannigan's Building Construction for the Fire Service](#)

Chief Officer (4th Edition). Purchase, David J. (2027). NFPA. Jones and Bartlett Learning. [Chief Officer: Principles and Practice](#)

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

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

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

Massachusetts General Laws: Chapter 148. [MGL Chapter 148](#)

35 Things Every Fire Officer Must Know and Do Frank, Viscuso. (2025) Fire Engineering Books. [35 Things Every Fire Officer Must Know and Do](#)

***Note:** Check back on the Civil Service Exams webpage for ECT&E and Situational Judgement Test (SJT) Examination 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 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](#)