



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

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW J. GORZKOWICZ
SECRETARY

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MELISSA J. PULLIN
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

AMENDED NOVEMBER 17, 2025

READING LIST ANNOUNCEMENT – PLEASE POST PROMINENTLY

TO: Fire Department Appointing Authorities, Fire Chiefs
FROM: Regina Caggiano, Director of Civil Service
DATE: October 10, 2025
SUBJECT: Reading List for Fire Captain Examination

STATEWIDE FIRE CAPTAIN

EXAMINATION DATE – April 7, 2026

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resource Division Written Examination for Fire Captain administered on April 7, 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. All technical knowledge examination questions will be based on these materials.

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 6

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Chapter 7: exclude pg. 195 – 202 (“Quality Control of Lumber” up to “Wood Structural Systems”)

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

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

Chapter 11

Note: Exclude all Case Histories, Formulas, Figures, and Tables

Fire Officer Principles and Practice (5^h Edition). Ward, Michael J. (2025). NFPA. Burlington, MA. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Chapter 3

Chapter 4: exclude pg. 105 - 112 (Start of Chapter up to “Emergency Incident Communications”)

Chapter 5

Chapter 6: exclude pg. 163 – 176 (Start of Chapter up to “Human Resources”) and exclude pg. 187 – 195 (“Incident Reports” up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 7: exclude pg. 209 - 214 (“Building and Occupancy Classifications” up to “NFPA 704 Marking System”)

Chapter 8: exclude pg. 239 – 243 (“Start of Chapter up to “Incident Types”) and exclude pg. 264 – 267 (“Sizing Up the Incident” up to “Developing an Incident Action Plan”)

Chapter 9: exclude pg. 294 - 296 (“Fire Service Organizations” up to “Reducing Firefighter Deaths”)

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

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

Fire Officer’s Handbook of Tactics (5th Edition). Fire Engineering Books. (2019) Tulsa, Oklahoma

Chapter 2: exclude pg. 23 – 29 (“Construction” up to “Location and Extent of the Fire”)

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 6

Chapter 7: exclude pg. 160 –164 (“Ladders 4” up to “Laddering”)

Chapter 8: exclude pg. 198 – 209 (“Through-the-Lock Forcible Entry” up to “The Mul-T-Lock Door”)

Chapter 9: exclude pg. 263 – 266 (“The Roofs Team’s Observations” up to the End of Chapter)

Chapter 10: exclude pg. 267 – 268 (Start of the Chapter up to “Primary and Secondary Search”) and exclude pg. 270 – 274 (“Thermal Imaging Cameras {TICs}” up to “Emergency Maneuvers”)

Chapter 11: exclude pg. 285 – 296 (Start of the Chapter up to “Firefighter Accountability”) and exclude pg. 315 -332 (“Removing Unconscious Firefighters” up to the End of Chapter)

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

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Chapter 16

Chapter 17

Chapter 18

Chapter 20

Chapter 21: exclude pg. 523 – 527 (Start of the Chapter up to “Electrical Hazards”)

Chapter 22

Chapter 23: exclude pg. 577 – 588 (Start of the Chapter up to “Types of Terrorist WMD Agents and CBRNE Weapons”)

Note: Exclude all Case Histories, Figures, and Tables

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

Section 3

Section 5

Section 26

Section 26A

Section 26B

Section 26C

Section 26D

Section 26E

Section 26F

Section 26F1/2

Section 26G

Section 26G1/2

Section 26H

Section 27A

PUBLISHERS OF READING LIST TEXTS

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](#)

Fire Officer Principles and Practice (5th Edition). Ward, Michael J. (2025). NFPA. Burlington, MA. Jones & Bartlett Learning. [Fire Officer Principles and Practice 5th Edition, 2025](#)

Fire Officer's Handbook of Tactics (5th Edition). Fire Engineering Books. (2019) Tulsa, Oklahoma. [Fire Officer's Handbook of Tactics 5th Edition, Fire Engineering Books](#)

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148. [Chapter 148 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

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. 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](#)