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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: December 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Reading List for Fire Chief Examination

FIRE CHIEF

EXAMINATION DATE – Saturday, June 06, 2026

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resource Division Written Examination for Fire Chief administered on Saturday, June 06, 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.

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 1
Chapter 2
Chapter 3
Chapter 4
Chapter 5

- Chapter 6**
- Chapter 7**
- Chapter 10**
- Chapter 11**
- Chapter 12**
- Chapter 13**
- Chapter 14**

Note: Exclude all material from Figures, Tables, “Voice of Experience” sections, and blue “Tip” boxes.

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

- Chapter 1**
- Chapter 2**
- Chapter 3**
- Chapter 4**
- Chapter 5**
- Chapter 6**
- Chapter 7**
- Chapter 8**
- Chapter 9**
- Chapter 10**
- Chapter 11:** exclude pg. 532-533 (“Critical Incident Stress” up to End of Chapter)

Note: Exclude all material from Blue Boxes, On Scene Boxes, NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Reports (Green Boxes), and Figures.

Understanding Stress Disorder. A Self-Help Workbook for Identifying the Signs of Stress & Learning How to Fight, Manage and Overcome It to Start Living a Stress-Free Life. Care, Alison. (2019). Care Corp.

- Entire Textbook**

PUBLISHERS OF READING LIST TEXTS

Chief Officer, Principles and Practice (4th Edition). [Jones and Bartlett Publishing](https://www.jblearn.com/Products/Chief-Officer-Principles-and-Practice-4th-Edition)
www.psglearnng.com

Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (4th Edition) Smith, James P. (2017). New York, NY: Pearson. [Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground](https://www.jblearn.com/Products/Strategic-and-Tactical-Considerations-on-the-Fireground-4th-Edition).

Understanding Stress Disorder. A Self-Help Workbook for Identifying the Signs of Stress & Learning How to Fight, Manage and Overcome It to Start Living a Stress-Free Life. Care, Alison. (2019). Care Corp.

Note: Check back on the Civil Service Exams webpage for [ECT&E Prep Guide](#) 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, 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 Natalie Blaies at Natalie.Blaies@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](https://www.mass.gov/Examination-Preparation-Guides-and-Reading-Lists)