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

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MATTHEW J. GORZKOWICZ
SECRETARY

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:	October 9, 2026
SUBJECT:	Reading List for Boston Fire Captain Examination

BOSTON FIRE CAPTAIN

EXAMINATION DATE – APRIL 12, 2027

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resource Division Written Examination for Boston Fire Captain administered on April 12, 2027.

Candidates are responsible for reading all the texts and other materials listed on all pages of this announcement. Please note which edition and/or date of publication is listed for each item. Only those chapters and sections listed under each text are included (unless noted otherwise). 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.

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

Section 1
Section 2
Section 3
Section 4
Section 5
Section 6
Section 7

Published October 9, 2026

Section 8
Section 9
Section 10
Section 11
Section 12

Building Construction Related to the Fire Service (5th Edition). IFSTA. (2026). Oklahoma State University. Fire Protection Publication.

Chapter 2: Exclude pg. 49 – 59 (“Fire Resistance" up to End of Chapter)
Chapter 3: Exclude pg. 71 – 75 ("Seismic Loads" up to "Structural Accommodations for Loads")
Chapter 4
Chapter 5: Exclude pg. 155 – 158 ("Fire Door Maintenance” up to “Fire Windows”) and exclude pg. 162 — 165 (“Interior Finishes Tests” up to End of Chapter)
Chapter 6
Chapter 7
Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Chapter 10: Exclude pg. 259 – 260 (“Quality Control of Concrete” up to “Fire Resistance of Concrete Construction”)
Chapter 11
Chapter 12: Exclude pg. 311 – 313 (“Membrane Structures” up to “Covered Mall Buildings”) and exclude pg. 318 – 320 (“Explosion Venting of Buildings” up to “Areas of Refuge”)
Chapter 13

Note: Exclude ALL Appendices, Glossary, Canada References, “Case Study” boxes, “Information Box” boxes, “Safety Alert” boxes, “What This Means to You” boxes, “Warning” boxes, “Caution” boxes, “NOTE” sections, Metric Conversions, Tables, and Figures.

Fire and Emergency Services Company Officers (7th Edition). IFSTA. (2025). Oklahoma State University. Fire Protection Publication.

Chapter 3
Chapter 4: Exclude 109 – 110 ("Leave Benefits" up to "Conflict Management”) and exclude pg. 113 – 122 ("Grievances" up to End of Chapter)
Chapter 5: Exclude pg. 151 – 153 (“Communicating in Emergency Situations” up to “Alternative Communications Methods and Technologies”)
Chapter 7
Chapter 8

Note: Exclude ALL Appendices, Glossary, Canada References, "Information Box" boxes, "Case Study" boxes, "Safety Alert" boxes, "What This Means to You" boxes, "Review Box" boxes, "Warning" boxes, "Caution" boxes, "NOTE" sections, Metric Conversions, Skills Sheets, Tables, and Figures.

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

Section 2
Section 2A
Section 4
Section 26A
Section 26B
Section 26C
Section 26E
Section 26F 1/2
Section 26G 1/2
Section 26H
Section 26I
Section 27A
Section 34A

Progressive Discipline Guidelines, Boston Fire Department (Dated November 1, 2025)

1
2: Exclude pg. 12 – 14 ("Offense: Being Intoxicated or Under the Influence of Liquor or Drugs...")
3
4
5
6

Rules and Regulations of the Boston Fire Department (Dated June 2026)

Chapter 1
Chapter 2
Chapter 5: Exclude 5.1, and 5.8 – 5.47
Chapter 10: Exclude 10.28
Chapter 11
Chapter 12
Chapter 13
Chapter 14
Chapter 16
Chapter 17

Appendix A

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

1 (8/17/2023): Exclude 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 9.12, 9.13
1A (9/29/2023)
2B (8/7/2024)
3 (9/12/2024)
112 (3/12/2024)
120 (5/5/2014)
200 (8/9/2017): Exclude 9, 10, 11, and 12
201 (5/5/2014)
202 (8/7/2024)
204 (9/27/2016)
205 (2/5/2024)
205A (2/5/2024)
205B (2/5/2024)
206 (1/12/2024)
206A (8/31/2026)
207 (10/27/2025): Exclude 10
208 (5/30/2018)
209 (8/17/2023)
213 (4/28/2014)
215 (5/30/2018)
216 (5/30/2018)
217 (1/8/2020)
218 (4/25/2024)
218A (4/25/2024)
218B (4/25/2024)
231 (5/3/2014): Exclude 13
232 (4/22/2014)
233 (11/26/2023)
236 (5/3/2014): Exclude 9
238 (4/28/2014)
250 (3/2/2015)
251 (2/29/2016): Exclude 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9
252 (5/4/2014)
259 (3/23/2018)
260 (3/8/2017)
300 (5/4/2014): Exclude 11 and "Annex B: Mutual Aid"
307 (9/12/2024)
310 (5/4/2014)
340 (4/29/2014): Exclude 4.3 “Phase II” up to End of SOP
341 (4/29/2014): Exclude 6.2 “Phase II” up to End of SOP

342 (4/29/2014): Exclude 6.2 “Phase II” up to End of SOP

Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (4th Edition). Smith, James P. (2017).

Chapter 1: Exclude pg. 9 – 35 (“Training” up to End of Chapter)
Chapter 3: Exclude pg. 82 – 90 (Start of Chapter up to “Incident Scene Decision Making”), exclude pg. 96 – 106 (“Firefighter Size-up" up to “Objectives: Strategy, Tactics, and Tasks”), and exclude pg. 116 – 119 (“Governors Island Testing” up to “Modes of Fire Attack”)
Chapter 4
Chapter 6: Exclude pg. 234 – 248 (“Safety” up to “Apparatus Placement”)
Chapter 7: Exclude pg. 303 – 318 (“Wildland Urban Interface” up to End of Chapter)

- Exclude all green-labeled “Considerations...” sections:
  - “Considerations for Cellar Fires” (pg. 267 – 268)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Garden Apartments” (pg. 273 – 274)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Row Houses and Town Houses” (pg. 281 – 282)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Renovated Buildings” (pg. 287 – 288)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Hotels and Motels” (pg. 296)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Vacant Buildings” (pg. 302 – 303)

Chapter 8: Exclude pg. 359 – 367 (“Penal Institutions” up to “Public Assembly Buildings”) and exclude pg. 379 – 393 (“Schools and Other Active Shooter Incidents” up to End of Chapter)

- Exclude all green-labeled “Considerations...” sections:
  - “Considerations for Fires in Hospitals” (pg. 328 – 329)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities” (pg. 335 – 336)
  - “Considerations for Mass Casualty Incidents” (pg. 345 – 346)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Houses of Worship” (pg. 358 – 359)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Public Assembly Buildings” (pg. 372 – 373)
  - “Considerations for Fires in Schools” (pg. 378 – 379)

Chapter 9: Exclude all green-labeled “Considerations...” sections:

- “Considerations for Fires in Commercial Buildings and Warehouses” (pg. 402 – 403)
- “Considerations for Fires in Strip Malls” (pg. 408 – 409)
- “Considerations for Fires in Enclosed Malls” (pg. 414 – 415)
- “Considerations for Fires in Supermarkets” (pg. 421– 422)
- “Considerations for Fires in Lumberyards” (pg. 427 – 428)
- “Considerations for Fires in High-Rise Buildings” (pg. 453 – 454)

PUBLISHERS OF READING LIST TEXTS

Building Construction Related to the Fire Service (5th Edition). IFSTA. (2026). Oklahoma State University. Fire Protection Publication. Building Construction Related to the Fire Service, 5th Edition | IFSTA

Fire and Emergency Services Company Officers (7th Edition) IFSTA. (2025). Oklahoma State University. Fire Protection Publication. Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer, 7th Edition | IFSTA

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148. Mass General Laws, Chapter 148

Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (4th Edition). Smith, James P. (2017). Hoboken, NJ. Pearson Education Inc. Strategic & Tactical Considerations on the Fireground (pearson.com)

Please check Boston Fire Department Share Drive for Appendix F, Rules & Regulations, SOPs, and Progressive Discipline Guidelines.

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. 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

Published October 9, 2026