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

STATEWIDE FIRE CAPTAIN

EXAMINATION DATE – April 12, 2027

This reading list will pertain to the Human Resource Division Written Examination for Statewide 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.

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

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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 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.

Emergency Response Guidebook (2024). U.S Department of Transportation and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Note: reference Table of Contents on pg.3 for section headers

Hazard Classification System
Introduction to the Tables of Markings, Labels and Placards
Globally Harmonized Systems of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)
Hazard Identification Numbers Displayed on Some Intermodal Containers
Pipeline Transportation: Exclude pg. 27 ("U.S. Pipeline Resources" and "Canadian Pipeline Resources")
ERG2024 User's Guide
Protective Clothing
Decontamination
Fire and Spill Control
Considerations For Lithium Battery and Electric Vehicle (EV) Fires
BLEVE and Heat Induced Tear
BLEVE – Safety Precautions
Criminal or Terrorist Use of Chemical, Biological and Radiological Agents: Exclude pg. 364 – 366 ("Biological Warfare Agents" up to End of Section)

Note: Exclude ALL Charts, Figures, Tables, and phone numbers.

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

Chapter 3
Chapter 4: Exclude pg. 89 – 90 (Start of Chapter up to "Expectations of New Personnel"),

exclude pg. 98 – 100 ("Promotions" up to "Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)"), exclude pg. 109 – 110 ("Leave Benefits" up to "Conflict Management"), and exclude pg. 113 – 122 ("Grievances" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 5: Exclude pg. 143 – 144 ("Policies and Procedures " up to "Reports"), exclude pg. 148 – 149 ("Virtual Conferencing Technology" up to "Social Media Content"), and exclude pg. 153 – 156 ("Alternative Communications Methods and Technologies" up to "Radio Communications")

***INCLUDE** pg. 150 "Career-Ending Posts – Social Media" box

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

Chapter 10: Exclude pg. 315 – 336 (Start of Chapter up to "Preincident Survey Process") and exclude pg. 347 – 353 ("Developing and Managing Preincident Plans" up to End of Chapter)

Chapter 11: Exclude pg. 381 – 394 ("Property and Environmental Conservation" up to End of Chapter)

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 - Unless Otherwise Noted.

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

Chapter 4

Chapter 6

Chapter 7: 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)
- "Considerations for Wildland Urban Interface Fires" (pg. 315 – 316)

Chapter 8: Exclude pg. 336 – 346 ("Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs)" up to "Houses of Worship"), 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 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 pg. 423 – 456 ("Lumberyards" up to End of Chapter)

- 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)

Note: Exclude ALL Tables, Figures, “On Scene” boxes, “NIOSH Report” boxes, and blue shaded boxes (with and without a fire truck insignia).

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

Emergency Response Guidebook (2024). U.S Department of Transportation and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Emergency Response Guidebook (2024)

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

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)

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

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