



## 48 first responder line of duty deaths since June 2018

By Heather R. Cotter, IPSA Executive Director & Founder

First responders experience extreme physical demands, often in hazardous environments. Many tragedies occur suddenly and without warning. Gunshot wounds, building collapses, vehicular accidents, assaults and other causal factors contribute to untimely deaths in our emergency response community.

Further, first responders face several threats to occupational related diseases such as cancer and cardiorespiratory related maladies. Law enforcement, firefighting and rescue activities are inherently dangerous occupations.

Since June 2018, we have lost 48 first responders, according to data pulled from the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#) and the [U.S. Fire Administration](#). These 48 fatalities include law enforcement officers, firefighters and K9 officers. The cause of death includes vehicle accidents, illnesses, gunfire and duty related injuries.

### Fallen K9 officers

The first responder community lost five K9 officers since June. K9 Midas with Hancock County Sheriff's Office, West Virginia passed away on July 30 due to heat exhaustion. K9 Hemi with Arkansas State Police died from gunshot wounds on July 30. K9 Cade with Hendricks County Sheriff's Office, Indiana passed away on July 4 from a duty related illness. K9 Choper with Conewango Township Police Department, Pennsylvania died on June 6 from a fall. K9 Vader with Virginia State Police passed away on August 1 from gunfire.

### Fallen firefighters

Since June, the first responder community has lost 19 firefighters. The cause of these line of duty tragedies varies from medical emergencies and vehicle accidents to duty-related injuries and other causes. The below table includes the names of the fallen, their department and the cause of death. The source of this data is the USFA.

Department	First	Last	Cause
Engelhard Fire & Rescue (NC)	Tony	Spencer III	Cardiac Arrest
Dover Township Volunteer Fire Department (PA)	Grant	Froman	Heart Attack
Perth Amboy Fire Department (NJ)	Douglas	Ambrozewycz	Fall/Fire/Injury
Weatherford Fire Department (TX)	Richard "Andy"	Loller, Jr.	Medical Emergency
East Side Fire Department (NC)	Dakota	Snavely	Vehicle Accident
Amelia County Volunteer Fire Department (VA)	William	Moore IV	Heart Attack
Paint Creek Joint EMS/Fire District (OH)	Joe	Patterson	Injury
Long Beach Fire Department (CA)	David	Rosa	Gunfire
Austin Fire Department (TX)	Devon	Coney	Medical Emergency
Philadelphia Fire Department (PA)	Benny	Hutchins	Medical Emergency



Hague Volunteer Fire Department (NY)	Michael	Cherubini	Medical Emergency
West Liberty Fire Department (NC)	Michael	Goodnight	Vehicle Accident
Sun Prairie Volunteer Fire Department (WI)	Cory	Barr	Explosion/Injury
New Hyde Park Fire Department (NY)	Zachary	Fazekas	Vehicle Accident
CAL FIRE	Braden	Varney	Bulldozer/Injury
Howard County Dept. of Fire Rescue Services (MD)	Nathan	Flynn	Injury
Redding Fire Department (CA)	Jeremy	Stoke	Injury
CAL FIRE	Don R.	Smith	Fire/Injury
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (CA)	Brian	Hughes	Injury

### Fallen law enforcement officers

There have been 24 law enforcement line of duty deaths since June. The causes vary from gunfire and assault to vehicle accidents and heart attacks and other causes. The below table includes the names of the fallen, their department and the cause of death. The source of this data is the ODMP.

Agency	First	Last	Cause
U.S. DHS: Customs and Border Protection	Christopher	Bacon	Automobile Crash
Milwaukee Police Department (WI)	Charles	Irvine, Jr.	Vehicle Pursuit
New York State Police (NY)	Charles R.	Salaway	9/11 Related Illness
Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office (KS)	Patrick	Rohrer	Gunfire
Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office (KS)	Theresa	King	Gunfire
Florida Department of Corrections (FL)	Tawanna	Marin	Struck by Vehicle
Rocky Mount Police Department (NC)	Christopher	Driver	Automobile Crash
New York City Police Department (NY)	Richard	Lopez	9/11 Related Illness
Mentor Police Department (OH)	Mathew	Mazany	Vehicular Assault
U.S. DHS ICE: Homeland Security Investigations	Timothy	Ensley	Duty Related Illness
New York State Police (NY)	Nicholas	Clark	Gunfire
Cleveland Division of Police (OH)	Vu X.	Nguyen	Duty Related Illness
Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office (NE)	Randy	Haddix	Heart Attack
Weymouth Police Department (MA)	Michael C.	Chesna	Gunfire
U.S. DHS: United States Secret Service	Nole	Remagen	Duty Related Illness
Hawaii County Police Department (HI)	Bronson	Kaliloa	Gunfire
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LA)	Immanuel	Washington	Heart Attack
Minnesota Department of Corrections (MN)	Joseph	Gomm	Assault
Las Vegas Department of Public Safety - Division of Corrections (NV)	Kyle Lawrence	Eng	Heart Attack



<b>Dallas Police Department (TX)</b>	Earl James "Jaime"	Givens III	Vehicular Assault
<b>Kent Police Department (WA)</b>	Diego	Moreno	Vehicle Pursuit
<b>Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZ)</b>	Tyler	Edenhofer	Gunfire
<b>Milwaukee Police Department (WI)</b>	Michael	Michalski	Gunfire
<b>Fort Myers Police Department (FL)</b>	Adam	Jobbers- Miller	Gunfire

The International Public Safety Association established a [Memorial Committee](#) to monitor line of duty deaths to honor the supreme sacrifice of our brave and heroic first responders and to review LODD data for trends, patterns and anomalies so the IPSA can develop recommended policies and changes that improve safety.

Stay vigilant. Stay safe.

---

### About the Author

Heather R. Cotter is the Executive Director and Founder of the IPSA. In this capacity, Cotter is responsible for managing all business operations and implementing the association's strategic vision. Cotter works closely with the IPSA's Board of Directors to ensure that every initiative the IPSA pursues and every action taken is in alignment with its mission, vision and values.

In 2014, Cotter formed the IPSA as a 501(c)3, non-profit public safety membership association because she recognized the need to establish a professional public safety organization that offers networking, policy development and training opportunities between EMS, fire, law enforcement, 911 telecommunicators and allied emergency responders. It is the IPSA's vision for a stronger, more integrated public safety community capable of an effective joint response to all public safety incidents. Given this, Cotter formed the IPSA so that every public safety official and every public safety advocate is eligible to become a member and help advance the IPSA mission.

Contact Heather R. Cotter at [heather@joinipsa.org](mailto:heather@joinipsa.org)