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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>Cause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. DHS: Customs and Border Protection</td>
<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Bacon</td>
<td>Automobile Crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee Police Department (WI)</td>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>Irvine, Jr.</td>
<td>Vehicle Pursuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State Police (NY)</td>
<td>Charles R.</td>
<td>Salaway</td>
<td>9/11 Related Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandotte County Sheriff’s Office (KS)</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Rohrer</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandotte County Sheriff’s Office (KS)</td>
<td>Theresa</td>
<td>King</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Department of Corrections (FL)</td>
<td>Tawanna</td>
<td>Marin</td>
<td>Struck by Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mount Police Department (NC)</td>
<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Driver</td>
<td>Automobile Crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City Police Department (NY)</td>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Lopez</td>
<td>9/11 Related Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor Police Department (OH)</td>
<td>Mathew</td>
<td>Mazany</td>
<td>Vehicular Assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State Police (NY)</td>
<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Division of Police (OH)</td>
<td>Vu X.</td>
<td>Nguyen</td>
<td>Duty Related Illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheyenne County Sheriff’s Office (NE)</td>
<td>Randy</td>
<td>Haddix</td>
<td>Heart Attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weymouth Police Department (MA)</td>
<td>Michael C.</td>
<td>Chesna</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. DHS: United States Secret Service</td>
<td>Nole</td>
<td>Remagen</td>
<td>Duty Related Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii County Police Department (HI)</td>
<td>Bronson</td>
<td>Kaliloa</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LA)</td>
<td>Immanuel</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Heart Attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Department of Corrections (MN)</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Gomm</td>
<td>Assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Department of Public Safety- Division of Corrections (NV)</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>Heart Attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Cause</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas Police Department (TX)</td>
<td>Earl James “Jaime”</td>
<td>Vehicular Assault</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Police Department (WA)</td>
<td>Diego Moreno</td>
<td>Vehicle Pursuit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZ)</td>
<td>Tyler Edelhofer</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee Police Department (WI)</td>
<td>Michael Michalski</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Myers Police Department (FL)</td>
<td>Adam Jobbers-Miller</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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**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)