



HR0247

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Between 2016 and 2021, over 374 firefighters in
3 the United States lost their lives in the line of duty,
4 according to data from the National Fire Protection
5 Association; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Institute for Occupational Safety
7 and Health (NIOSH) has identified five top causal factors of
8 line-of-duty firefighter deaths and injuries, known as the
9 NIOSH 5; and

10 WHEREAS, The NIOSH 5 factors have evolved as a list of the
11 top five contributing factors that lead to the tragic
12 line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) of our brave firefighters and
13 first responders; and

14 WHEREAS, The NIOSH 5 are the operational factors that lead
15 to a fatality, where a subsequent NIOSH investigation of these
16 tragedies reveals one or more of these five causal factors
17 more than any other factor; and

18 WHEREAS, The list has evolved to include five key causal
19 factors, which are improper risk assessment, lack of incident
20 command, lack of accountability, inadequate communications,
21 and lack of standard operating procedures (SOPs) or failure to

1 follow SOPs; and

2 WHEREAS, Improper risk assessment describes a poor
3 size-up, often what first responders describe as a lack of a
4 "full 360", meaning a complete survey of the area of the
5 emergency and the establishment of a sufficient situational
6 awareness by those on the ground that are addressing the
7 emergency; and

8 WHEREAS, Lack of incident command describes emergency
9 situations where independent actions and/or a lack of command
10 structure may create dangerous situations for first
11 responders; while an independent initiative is sometimes
12 encouraged, firefighters need one command point, with a clear
13 communications and orders structure, and the intentions of the
14 commander need to be understood by all responding
15 firefighters; and

16 WHEREAS, Lack of accountability refers to insufficient
17 awareness of each firefighter's role, their presence, and
18 their responsibilities throughout the emergency, even when the
19 emergency has ostensibly subsided and until the last
20 firefighter has left the scene; and

21 WHEREAS, Inadequate communications can refer to a lack of
22 technical familiarity, training, and practice in effective

1 communication under challenging emergency situations; and

2 WHEREAS, Lack of standard operating procedures (SOPs) or
3 failure to follow SOPs describes a lack in the establishment
4 of a sufficient plan, structure, or playbook that can help
5 commanders and firefighters more safely navigate the stages of
6 an emergency from beginning to end, even during those common
7 challenges when the unexpected arrives; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we urge fire departments and other public safety agencies to
11 analyze the culture of their respective department and to
12 ensure a culture is in place that promotes training,
13 communication, and accountability in order to help mitigate
14 the NIOSH 5 from occurring; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge fire departments to continue to
16 critique their response after fires, to learn from past
17 experiences, and to include in their culture and procedures
18 open discussions about the NIOSH 5, studying NIOSH reports as
19 a crew, and utilization of the Firefighter Near Miss Reporting
20 System; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we encourage fire chiefs and city personnel
22 to promote a culture of training, communication, and

1 accountability through utilizing Crew Resource Management
2 Training to improve departments and help prevent line-of-duty
3 deaths (LODDs); and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we encourage departments to upgrade their
5 radio communication system to ensure each portable radio has
6 an Emergency Alert Button (EAB), to understand what the EAB is
7 and how it functions when activated, to know the specific EAB
8 functions present on their portable radio and their
9 communication system capabilities, to know that the EAB
10 prioritizes transmissions for the portable radio when
11 activated, and to be proficient in Mayday standard operating
12 procedures, guidelines, and training that involve the EAB
13 function; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we pledge to support the State's
15 firefighters, fire departments, and public safety agencies in
16 this endeavor; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we recognize that the continued deaths and
18 injuries of our brave firefighters and first responders are a
19 stark reminder of the importance of reiterating the basic
20 concepts of firefighting and that the top five occupational
21 factors distinctly show that a fire department's culture can
22 lead to LODDs; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal,
3 Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois, Illinois Fire Chiefs
4 Association, Illinois Association of Fire Protection
5 Districts, Illinois Firefighter's Association, and the
6 Illinois Fire Safety Alliance.