



## South Australian Metropolitan Fire Record of Line of Duty Deaths 1862 – 2012

Name of firefighter	Details of incident
<b>Michael Davis</b> <b>2 October 1884</b>	<p>Fireman Michael Davis on 22 May 1884 attended a fire in the premises of Pulsford and Company at Grenfell Street Adelaide. Michael enlisted with The Fire Brigades Board when it was established on 6 December 1883 and was a Fireman on Reel 2 at Adelaide Station. As a result of complications sustained at the incident Fireman Davis succumbed to a 'severe chill', his death was recorded on 2 October 1884 his funeral notice was published in the South Australian Advertiser on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October 1884. He was buried at the Roman Catholic Cemetery West Terrace.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i>  <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Page 141.</i>  <i>When the Bells Drop, by Keith Bailey, Page 224</i></p>
<b>John Gardner</b> <b>24 December 1886</b>	<p>Fireman John Gardner on 24 December 1886 attended a fire in the premises of Castle and Company at Rundle Street Adelaide. The fire was well developed when fire fighters arrived as no one thought to notify the Fire Brigade. John and two other firemen were inside the building when at the stroke of 8 o'clock (pm) the building collapsed. His badly burned body was recovered from the area the following day. He was buried at Mitcham Cemetery with much pomp and ceremony.</p> <p><i>Source:</i>  <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 157-160.</i></p>
<b>Albert Clark</b> <b>24 December 1886</b>	<p>Fireman Albert Clark attended the fire on 24 December 1886 and was inside the building when it collapsed. He was pulled from under the building debris and was taken to a nearby hotel, where he recovered enough to walk to the Adelaide Hospital where he died. His funeral at his families request was much less of a public occasion than Fireman Gardner's.</p> <p><i>Source:</i>  <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 157-160.</i></p>
<b>Herbert Hedger</b> <b>5 January 1914</b>	<p>Foreman Herbert Hedger on 5 January 1914 attended a fire at Buttery and Sons Furniture Factory at Rundle Street Adelaide. While fighting the fire he was burned about the face but he continued to work for several days until his health deteriorated to a point that he was taken to hospital where he died a few days later on 30 January 1914. At the time little was known about shock or smoke inhalation, the coroner scoffed at the idea that he could have died as a consequence of his injuries sustained at the fire on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January. His widow however was the first person to receive a compensation payout and as such his death was recorded as a LODD.</p> <p><i>Source:</i>  <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 294 – 295.</i></p>



Name of firefighter	Details of incident
<p><b>William Rickwood</b> 26 December 1913</p>	<p>Superintendent William Rickwood on 26 December 1913 attended a fire at Pengelly's furniture factory at South Road Edwardstown. While fighting the fire he was thoroughly drenched and as a consequence caught a 'severe chill' he was subsequently permitted to take his annual holidays but his health deteriorated and his death was attributed to a probable heart attack. At that time little was known about the complications associated with smoke and fluid inhalation into the lungs. The insurance company refused to compensate his widow who received a small payout from the Board. Under the definitions used today to determine LODD Superintendent Rickwood's death meets the criteria.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 294-295.</i></p>
<p><b>Albert Greenman</b> 26 April 1924</p>	<p>Fireman Albert Greenman on 26 April 1924 attended a fire on the City of Singapore at No.2 Quay, Port Adelaide. Fireman Greenman was 30 years of age and was stationed at Head (Adelaide) station. After initially believing the fire in No.4 hold had been contained a large explosion ripped through the ship. Fireman Greenman suffered severe head injuries at the time of the explosion, the examining doctor stated in his opinion death would have been instantaneous.</p> <p><i>Source: Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 320-325.</i></p>
<p><b>George Anderson</b> 26 April 1924</p>	<p>Fireman George Anderson who was stationed at Port Adelaide station also attended the fire on the City of Singapore on 26 April 1924 at No.2 Quay, Port Adelaide. Some time after the explosion it was identified Fireman Anderson was missing. On Sunday personal belongings and what appeared to be human remains were located close to No.4 hold where Fireman Anderson was last reported, these items were later identified as belonging to Fireman Anderson who was 22 years of age.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 320-325.</i></p>
<p><b>Jim Hickey</b> 26 April 1924</p>	<p>Fireman Jim Hickley who was stationed at Head (Adelaide) station also attended the fire on the City of Singapore on 26 April 1924 at No.2 Quay, Port Adelaide. During the search for Fireman Anderson it was identified Fireman Hickley was also missing. During the cleanup of the site a worker in No. 4 hold located a fireman's axe-head and a battered helmet these items were assumed to be Fireman Hickley's. Despite a thorough search nothing to indicate exactly what happened to Fireman Hickley who was 22 year of age was discovered.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 320-325.</i></p>



Name of firefighter	Details of incident
<p><b>William Spragg</b> <b>2 February 1952</b></p>	<p>Fireman William Spragg on 2 February 1952 attended a fire in the premises of Seller's joinery in Gouger Street, Adelaide. Fireman Spragg and another fireman were just inside a door to the premises when a senior officer became aware that the wall above them was unstable. The three of them rapidly withdrew however Fireman Spragg was unable to escape from the collapse zone in time and took the full force of the collapsing brick parapet wall.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Page 478.</i></p>
<p><b>Noel Sprigg</b> <b>31 May 1977</b></p>	<p>Fireman Noel Sprigg on 31 May 1977 attended a fire in the Centerpoint building on the corner of Rundle and Pultney Street, Adelaide. The fire was located in the basement of the building and access to the seat of the fire was difficult. Fireman Sprigg who was 48 years of age was among the first crews to arrive and he quickly use all his air in his breathing apparatus. He replaced his air set with a longer lasting oxygen re-breather and re-entered the building. The Officer in charge of breathing apparatus, whose task was to keep a close check on men wearing the equipment, notified the Incident Controller that Fireman Sprigg should have exited the building. A search was initiated and Fireman Sprigg was located covered in debris and tangled in clothing. The Coroner identified that Noel died from cerebral anoxia caused by smoke inhalation. (Page 552-4 'Muscle and Pluck')</p> <p><i>Source:</i> <i>Muscle &amp; Pluck Forever, By Michael Page and Malcolm Bryant, Pages 552 – 554.</i></p>