

# USA Firefighter Fatality Notification

**The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatality:**

Name: Bill Matthews

Rank: Fire Chief

Age: 73

Gender: Male

Status: Volunteer

Years of Service: 7

Date of Incident: 02/14/2017

Time of Incident: 1645hrs

Date of Death: 02/14/2017

Fire Department: Bassfield Volunteer Fire Department

Address: 194 Gen. Robert E. Blount DR POB 100, Bassfield, MS 39421

Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: Fire Chief Matthews was found unconscious in the driver's seat of the fire apparatus he was operating on the scene of a brush fire working to protect a nearby church. According to news reports, when another firefighter on a hoseline asked the Chief to reposition the apparatus, there was no response. Fire Chief Mathews was immediately removed from the truck, given CPR, and then transported to Jefferson Davis Community Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. According to a statement from the Coroner, the nature of fatal injury was a massive heart attack.

Incident Location: Behind the church on Graves Keys Road in Bassfield