U.S. Fire Administration
Working for a fire-safe America

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

Captain Paul Dean Beard

Simms Volunteer Fire Department

Simms, Texas

On March 2, 2026, Captain Paul Beard responded with the Simms Volunteer Fire Department to a multi-acre grass fire. After suppression activities concluded later that day, personnel cleared the scene and returned to the station for cleanup. During cleanup, Captain Beard complained of a headache to other personnel. Captain Beard did not seek medical treatment and returned home.

On March 4, 2026, after failing to report to work, Captain Beard was found unresponsive inside of his home. Law enforcement and emergency personnel responded to the home where Captain Beard was pronounced deceased from a ruptured brain aneurysm. Captain Beard formerly served as Fire Chief of the Simms Volunteer Fire Department.

Age: 54

Classification: Volunteer

Years of service: 30

Date of incident: March 2, 2026

Date of death: March 4, 2026