



U.S. Fire Administration

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William Richard Grudzinski

Assistant Chief Grudzinski and other members of his fire department were completing the low-intensity version of the annual work capacity pack test. The test requires a hike of 1 mile without a pack in less than 16 minutes. After the completion of the test in 14 minutes and 1 second, Assistant Chief Grudzinski commented that the test had "kind of kicked his butt." Firefighters went back to the firehouse. While at the fire station, Chief Grudzinski was seen checking his pulse frequently. At the time, the frequent checks did not cause any concern. Approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes after completing the test, Assistant Chief Grudzinski collapsed due to a heart attack. Firefighters who heard the dispatch rushed to Assistant Chief Grudzinski's home to assist EMS responders. Despite all efforts to revive him, Assistant Chief Grudzinski died.

Department Information

Bridger Volunteer Fire Department

PO Box 60
Bridger, Montana 59104

Chief: Vern Adkins

[View NIOSH Report » \(http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fatality/fatality200441.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fatality/fatality200441.html)

William Richard Grudzinski was honored on the [National Fallen Firefighters Memorial \(http://www.firehero.org\)](http://www.firehero.org) in Emmitsburg, Maryland and was included in the USFA's annual report [Firefighter Fatalities in the United States. \(http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/ff_fatality_reports.html\)](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/ff_fatality_reports.html)

Age:	46
Rank:	Assistant Chief
Classification:	Volunteer
Incident Date:	Jun 8, 2004 19:30
Date of Death:	Jun 8, 2004
Cause of Death:	Stress/Overexertion
Nature of Death:	Heart Attack
Activity Type:	Fitness Activity
Emergency Duty:	No
Duty Type:	Training
Fixed Property Use:	Outdoor Property