

Charleston County News Release

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Charleston County Coroner Releases Cause and Manner of Death for Fire Victims

Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten confirmed today that the autopsies have been completed on the nine City of Charleston Fire Department firefighters who died in the fire Monday night in Charleston, SC.

During a 3:30 p.m. press conference today, Wooten released information about the cause and manner of death of the nine firefighters.

"All nine firefighters died of smoke inhalation and thermal injuries, meaning burns," Wooten said.

The firefighters are:

Name	Age	Title	Years w/ Fire Department
William "Billy" Hutchinson	48	Captain	30 years
Mike Benke	49	Captain	29 years
Louis Mulkey	34	Captain	11.5 years
Mark Kelsey	40	Engineer	12.5 years
Bradford "Brad" Baity	37	Engineer	9 years
Michael French	27	Asst. Engineer	1.5 years
James "Earl" Drayton	56	Fire Fighter	32 years
Brandon Thompson	27	Fire Fighter	4 years
Melven Champaign	46	Fire Fighter	2 years

All firemen were employed by the City of Charleston Fire Department.