

## HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT - A TRIBUTE TO HOUSTON'S FALLEN HEROES

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney  
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Never in the 118-year history of the Houston Fire Department (HFD) has a fire been so deadly that it cost HFD the lives of so many brave public servants at one time.

Such a tragedy occurred this past Friday afternoon, when roughly 150 firefighters responded to a massive, out-of-control five-alarm motel fire that took place in Southwest Houston.

The Houston Fire Department said this was the single deadliest day in department history.

The fire began shortly after noon at Bhojan, an Indian restaurant, according to a statement released by the Houston Fire Department, and soon engulfed the adjacent Southwest Inn, a motel located off of Hwy. 59, otherwise known as the Southwest Freeway.

Houston Fire Chief Terry Garrison stated that the four firefighters who died in the blaze took a high risk to aggressively fight the fire by going into the burning building to look for people they thought were trapped inside. After a major portion of the building collapsed, the four firefighters became trapped.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT. PHOTO TAKEN AT THE SCENE OF A HOUSE FIRE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS. THE HOUSE WAS DESTROYED BY A HOUSE FIRE THAT OCCURRED ON JUNE 4, 2013. THE HOUSE WAS OWNED BY A FAMILIAL MEMBER OF THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE HOUSE WAS DESTROYED BY A HOUSE FIRE THAT OCCURRED ON JUNE 4, 2013. THE HOUSE WAS OWNED BY A FAMILIAL MEMBER OF THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.