

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3370

To direct the United States Fire Administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve equipment, training, and staffing standards for firefighter Rapid Intervention Teams, including those Teams that respond to port facility fires, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2025

Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the United States Fire Administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve equipment, training, and staffing standards for firefighter Rapid Intervention Teams, including those Teams that respond to port facility fires, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Providing Resources
5 and Operational Training to Eliminate Crisis Threats to
6 Firefighters Act” or the “PROTECT Firefighters Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE EQUIPMENT, TRAINING,**
2 **AND STAFFING STANDARDS FOR RAPID**
3 **INTERVENTION TEAMS.**

4 (a) STRATEGY.—

5 (1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than one year after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the United
7 States Fire Administrator shall submit to the Com-
8 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology and the
9 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of
10 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
11 Science, and Transportation and the Committee on
12 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
13 Senate a comprehensive strategy detailing the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (A) Current equipment, training, and
16 staffing standards for firefighter Rapid Inter-
17 vention Teams.

18 (B) How to improve access for such Teams
19 to modern and high-quality equipment, safety
20 gear, training, and staffing levels.

21 (C) How to ensure equipment and training
22 standardization and interoperability between
23 such Teams.

24 (2) MATTERS.—The strategy under paragraph
25 (1) shall address, at a minimum, the following:

1 (A) An identification of such training
2 standards, firefighting equipment, and staffing
3 level standards that, as of the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, are in use by firefighter Rapid
5 Intervention Teams and the extent to which
6 such training and equipment is standard and
7 interoperable across such Teams in each indi-
8 vidual State and nationwide, including regard-
9 ing the following:

10 (i) The frequency with which such
11 Teams undergo training, and any financial
12 or logistical barriers that impact such
13 Teams' access to such training.

14 (ii) The type and quality of fire-
15 fighting equipment used by such Teams
16 and any financial or logistical barriers that
17 impact such Teams' access to state-of-the-
18 art firefighting equipment.

19 (iii) Staffing levels and response times
20 for such Teams, particularly for depart-
21 ments that are facing general firefighter
22 staffing shortages, and any financial or
23 logistical barriers to improving staffing lev-
24 els and responses times for such Teams.

1 (iv) The level of standardization of
2 firefighting equipment and training be-
3 tween such Teams across different local-
4 ities and different States, a description of
5 current State or national efforts to im-
6 prove firefighting equipment and training
7 interoperability, and any financial or
8 logistical barriers that impact such efforts
9 to so improve such interoperability.

10 (B) An identification of such training
11 standards, firefighting equipment, and staffing
12 level standards that, as of the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act, are in use by firefighter Rapid
14 Intervention Teams at maritime and port facili-
15 ties or those Teams that may be required to re-
16 spond to fires at such facilities, the extent to
17 which such training and equipment is standard
18 and interoperable across such Teams in each in-
19 dividual State and nationwide, and a determina-
20 tion by the United States Fire Administrator
21 regarding whether such training and equipment
22 is sufficient to prepare such Teams for fires on
23 the various ships that dock at such facilities, in-
24 cluding relating to the following:

1 (i) The frequency with which such
2 Teams undergo maritime-specific training
3 and any financial or logistical barriers that
4 impact such Teams' access to such train-
5 ing.

6 (ii) The type and quality of maritime-
7 specific firefighting equipment used by
8 such Teams and any financial or logistical
9 barriers that impact such Teams' access to
10 state-of-the-art firefighting equipment.

11 (iii) Staffing levels and response times
12 for such Teams, particularly for depart-
13 ments that are facing general firefighter
14 staffing shortages, and any financial or
15 logistical barriers to improving staffing lev-
16 els and responses times for such Teams.

17 (iv) The level of standardization for
18 interoperability of the firefighting equip-
19 ment, training, and staffing levels of
20 Teams that respond to maritime or port
21 facility fires across different localities and
22 different States, a description of current
23 State or national efforts to improve such
24 maritime-specific firefighting equipment
25 and training interoperability, and any fi-

1 nancial or logistical barriers that impact
2 such efforts to so improve such interoper-
3 ability.

4 (v) A determination of whether the
5 firefighting equipment, training, and staff-
6 ing levels of such Teams that respond to
7 fires at maritime and port facilities is suf-
8 ficient for use on the various ships that
9 dock at such facilities, including foreign-
10 flagged ships that may use different fire-
11 fighting equipment than that typically en-
12 countered by United States-based Teams,
13 and a description of any financial or
14 logistical barriers that impact fire depart-
15 ments' ability to make such equipment and
16 training sufficient for such uses.

17 (C) A review of the National Institute for
18 Occupational Safety and Health's Fire Fighter
19 Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program
20 Line of Duty Death reports over the five-year
21 period immediately preceding the date of the
22 enactment of this Act that—

23 (i) summarizes trends in fire depart-
24 ments' access to modern and high-quality
25 firefighting equipment, safety gear, train-

ing, and staffing levels for Rapid Intervention Teams, including the level of firefighting equipment and training standardization between such Teams; and

(ii) analyzes the role that a lack of modern and high-quality firefighting equipment, safety gear, training, or staffing levels for Rapid Intervention Teams, including a lack of firefighting equipment and training standardization between such Teams, played in firefighter Line of Duty Deaths.

(D) Recommendations for how Congress can expand access to modern and high-quality firefighting equipment, safety gear, training, and staffing levels for Rapid Intervention Teams and ensure firefighting equipment and training standardization between such Teams, including specific recommendations regarding how such Teams can overcome the logistical or financial barriers to improved firefighting equipment, training, and staffing identified under subparagraph (A).

(E) Recommendations for how Congress can expand access to modern and high-quality

1 firefighting equipment, safety gear, training,
2 and staffing levels for Rapid Intervention
3 Teams at maritime and port facilities or those
4 Teams that may be required to fight fires at
5 such facilities and ensure firefighting equipment
6 and training standardization between such
7 Teams, including specific recommendations re-
8 garding how such Teams can overcome the
9 logistical or financial barriers to improved fire-
10 fighting equipment, training, and staffing and
11 any lack of sufficiency of such equipment, train-
12 ing, or staffing with respect to the various ships
13 that dock at such facilities in accordance with
14 subparagraph (B).

15 (F) Recommendations for how Congress
16 can address the specific causes of incidents in
17 which a firefighter employed by the Federal
18 Government, a State, or a locality was killed
19 while in the line of duty as identified in sub-
20 paragraph (C).

21 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 18 months after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Fire
23 Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science,
24 Space, and Technology and the Committee on Homeland
25 Security of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the
2 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
3 fairs of the Senate a briefing on the matters covered by
4 the strategy under subsection (a).

5 (c) FIREFIGHTER RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM DE-
6 FINED.—In this section, the term “firefighter Rapid Inter-
7 vention Team” means a designated firefighting crew that
8 serves as a stand-by rescue team at the scene of a fire
9 or other emergency and is available for the immediate
10 search and rescue of missing, trapped, or injured fire-
11 fighters if required.

○