



MCFRS SPECIAL OPERATIONS

5-MINUTE DRILL

SMOKING CARGO TRAILER FIRE RESPONSE

In September 2024, Battalion Chief Eddy with Greene County Fire Department, Georgia, was killed in the line of duty while operating at the scene of a large truck fire. He was attempting to open the rear cargo doors of a refrigerated DOT 111 cargo box trailer. It is believed the introduction of oxygen into a refrigerated trailer environment where flammable gases from the interior foam ignited in a smoke explosion.

Firefighters do not often encounter fires involving box trailers, box trucks, intermodal containers or refrigerated versions of these. All crews and incident commanders must be aware of the dangers associated with these incidents and the appropriate actions taken to access the fire.

REVIEW INFORMATION

- [NIOSH Report – Career Battalion Chief Dies from Explosion while Fighting Tractor Trailer Fire – Georgia](#)
- [Incident Video – Greene County, GA Tractor Trailer LODD](#)
- [Tactics To Work With Smoking Cargo Trailers Video](#)

REMINDERS



- A **full risk assessment** should be conducted on any tractor trailer fire to include identification of the following:
 - What is the **cargo** being hauled?
 - Are **hazardous materials** involved? Placards?
 - Is there a **refrigeration unit** and associated enclosed cargo areas?
 - Is there **significant fire** inside the closed compartment or an exposure fire?
- **Use the ERG**
 - **Guide 111** – Mixed Load/Unidentified Cargo
 - **“May react violently with air, water or foam”**
- Establish appropriate **isolation distances** and **control zones** (**Hot, Warm, Cold**) and **verbalize** them over the radio
- A **smoke explosion** can happen in ANY fire compartment, including DOT 111 trailers.
- Utilize **appropriate tactics** considering that there could be an **explosion** from the cargo itself or air introduced to the area of fire involvement by firefighters making openings