



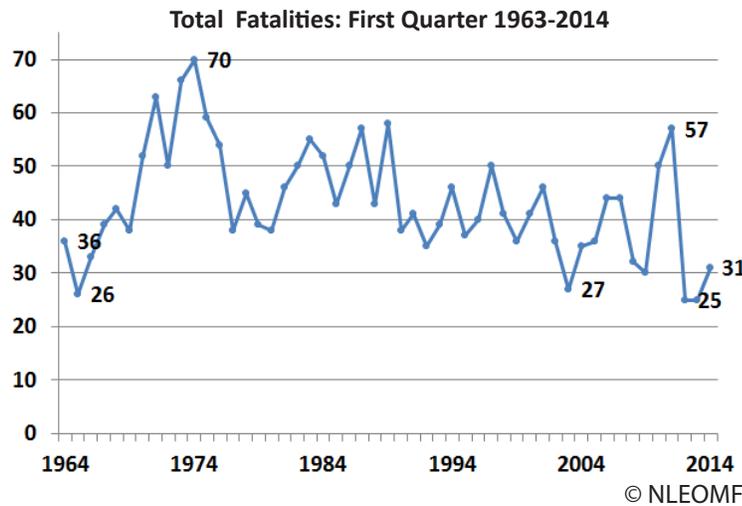
# RESEARCH BULLETIN

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## 31 Officer Fatalities in the First Quarter of 2014

According to preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, law enforcement officer fatalities have increased 24% at the end of the first quarter of 2014, compared to the same time period in 2013. Thirty-one law enforcement officers were killed as of March 31, 2014, up from 25 fatalities during the same time period in 2013.



Firearms-related fatalities are the leading cause of officer deaths thus far in 2014, with 13 officer fatalities, up 8% from 12 fatalities during the same time in 2013.

Of the remaining 18 officer fatalities, 11 officers were killed in traffic-related incidents, six officers died from job-related illnesses and an officer was strangled to death.

California suffered the most fatalities in the first three months of the year, with five deaths, followed by Oklahoma with three fatalities, then Florida and Virginia which both had two fatalities. Two Territorial officers, two Federal officers and a Military Officer also died in the line of duty. Thirty-two states did not suffer a law enforcement fatality during the first quarter of 2014.

The average age of the officers killed in the line of duty was 41 years old, and the average length of service was 14 years. Nine officers died on a Monday, the most of any day of the week. Three officers were killed on Wednesday and on Saturday, making them the least deadly days of the week. Of the 31 fallen officers, one officer was a woman and 30 were male. On average, each officer left behind two children.

### A Closer Look



**Correctional Officer  
Amanda Baker**  
*Scotts Bluff  
County (NE)  
Detention  
Center*

Correctional Officer Baker was strangled by an inmate who was attempting to escape a detention center.

#### **Officer Jason Crisp**



*Department  
of Agriculture,  
Forest Service*

Officer Crisp was shot and killed while searching for a murder suspect. Officer Crisp's K-9 partner, Maros was also shot and killed in the incident.

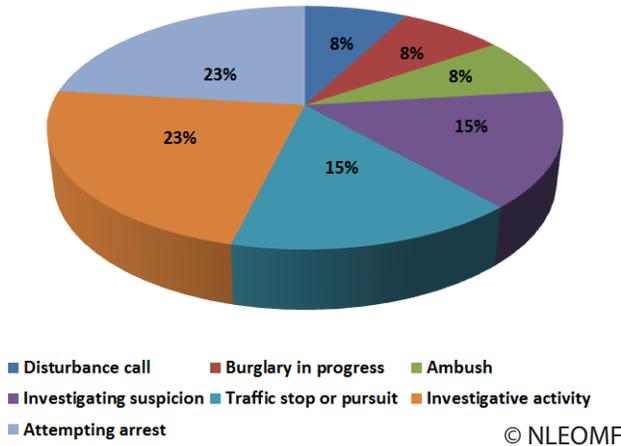


**Chief Deputy  
Sheriff Allen  
Richardson**  
*Lafayette  
County (AR)  
Sheriff's Office*

Chief Deputy Sheriff Allen Richardson was killed in a multiple vehicle crash while transporting a homeless man to a shelter.

## Circumstances of Fatal Shootings: First Quarter 2014

Circumstances of Firearms-Related Fatalities



In the first quarter of 2014, firearms-related fatalities saw a slight increase from 2013 when twelve fatalities occurred during the first quarter, compared to thirteen fatalities in 2014.

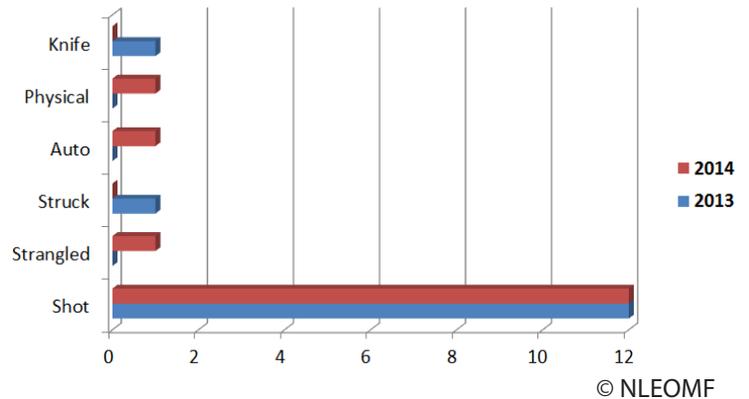
Attempting an arrest and investigative activities were the leading circumstances of firearms-related fatalities in the first quarter of 2014, killing three officers each. Two officers were fatally shot while conducting a traffic stop and two officers were killed while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances. An officer was shot while responding to a disturbance call, one officer was shot during a burglary in progress and one officer was shot and killed in an ambush.

## Felonious Fatalities: First Quarter 2013 vs. First Quarter 2014

Fifteen officers were feloniously killed in the first quarter of 2014, a 7 percent increase from 2013 when 14 officers were feloniously killed during the same time period. Twelve officers were feloniously shot and killed, one officer was strangled to death, one officer was killed in a felonious automobile crash and an officer died as a result of an injury sustained while arresting a resisting suspect.

In 2013, twelve officers were shot and killed, an officer was stabbed to death, and one officer was struck and killed by a drunk driver.

Felonious Fatalities in the First Quarter



## Training Recommendations

Based on fatality information collected by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, these recommendations are intended to help prevent violence against law enforcement officers and ensure officer resilience and survivability during encounters. Learn more at [www.ValorForBlue.org](http://www.ValorForBlue.org).

### Recommendation 1.

Attempting an arrest and investigative activities were the leading circumstances of firearms-related fatalities in the first quarter of 2014. When in proximity to potential suspects or known offenders, remember defensive tactics instruction and be prepared to defend your life.

### Recommendation 2.

Suspicious persons or suspicious activities calls often provide responding officers with very limited information and these calls can be particularly deadly. Officers should ask dispatchers to re-contact the complainant if possible in order to gain more specific information.

### Recommendation 3.

Homeless individuals often suffer from alcohol, drug or mental health issues and their demeanor and actions can change within a split second. Officers must be both cautious and vigilant when encountering this special population.