

10-01-2020 Dylan Cunningham FF PSD - Training

## Dylan Cunningham

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/fatalityData/detail?fatalityId=4970>

### Firefighter/Paramedic

On Wednesday, September 30, 2020, Firefighter/Paramedic Dylan Cunningham was participating in a dive training exercise at the Haigh Quarry in Kankakee, IL, when he was found by fellow firefighters in distress. He was immediately taken to the Amita St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee and later transported to the Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL where he passed away a short time later. The cause of his death has not yet been determined and the incident is under investigation.



Fatality status is provisional and may change as USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify fatality incident information.

#### Department information South Holland Fire Department

16230 Wausau Avenue  
South Holland, Illinois 60473  
Chief: Brian Kolosh

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Age:</b>                | 29                    |
| <b>Rank:</b>               | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| <b>Classification:</b>     | Career                |
| <b>Incident date:</b>      | September 30, 2020    |
| <b>Date of death:</b>      | September 30, 2020    |
| <b>Cause of death:</b>     | Unknown               |
| <b>Nature of death:</b>    | Unknown               |
| <b>Activity type:</b>      | Fitness Activity      |
| <b>Emergency duty:</b>     | No                    |
| <b>Duty type:</b>          | Training              |
| <b>Fixed property use:</b> | Outdoor Property      |

## IL Firefighter Dies after Dive Training Exercise

<https://www.firehouse.com/lodds/news/21156643/il-firefighter-dies-in-dive-training-exercise>

Oct 1st, 2020 Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas - Chicago Tribune

### South Holland firefighter Dylan Cunningham, 29, died Sept. 30 while participating in a dive training exercise at Haigh Quarry in Kankakee.

A South Holland firefighter and member of the Illinois Army National Guard died Wednesday night following an underwater dive training exercise, South Holland village officials said.

Dylan Cunningham, 29, of Thornton, was pronounced dead at Northwestern Memorial Hospital at 10:40 p.m., according to the Cook County medical examiner's office, following the training exercise at Haigh Quarry Lake in Kankakee.

J. Wynsma, administrator for the Village of South Holland, read a brief statement at a televised morning news conference, after which he refused to answer questions.

"As you can imagine, this is a very difficult day for all of us. There are a lot of hurting people in the building behind me," he said.

Cunningham, a firefighter-paramedic, had been with the South Holland fire department in a part-time role since 2011. In 2018, he was promoted to the position full-time, Wynsma said. Beginning in 2012, he also served in the Illinois Army National Guard.



**South Holland, IL, firefighter Dylan Cunningham.**

**South Holland, IL, Fire Department**

Wynsma did not provide additional information about the training exercise, or when or how it became clear Cunningham was experiencing a medical emergency. The circumstances leading to his death are under investigation.

"We know you have many questions, and so do we. Our efforts will bring conclusions that we will share with you in the coming days," Wynsma said.

ABC-7, which first reported Cunningham's death and the procession of fire officials transporting Cunningham's body from Northwestern to the medical examiner's office, said the 29-year-old was engaged to be married and was expecting his first child with his fiancée.

Wynsma said he and Pat Mahon, deputy village administrator, handled Cunningham's swearing in to his position in 2018 and called him "a very special young man."

"In the days ahead we will be doing everything we can to support the Cunningham family. We ask that you keep Dylan's family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers," he said.

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## IL Firefighter, 29, Dies After Dive Training

[https://www.fireengineering.com/health-safety/il-firefighter-29-dies-after-dive-training/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=2020-10-01&utm\\_source=fe\\_daily\\_newsletter](https://www.fireengineering.com/health-safety/il-firefighter-29-dies-after-dive-training/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-10-01&utm_source=fe_daily_newsletter)  
10.1.2020

An Illinois firefighter has passed away after dive training Wednesday afternoon, according to reports.

Dylan Cunningham, 29, of the South Holland Fire Department died after a dive training exercise in Kankakee at Haigh Quarry, [according to ABC Chicago](#). Few other details were available about the incident, the report said.

According to [the U.S. Fire Administration](#), on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, Firefighter/Paramedic Dylan Cunningham was participating in a dive training exercise at the Haigh Quarry in Kankakee, Illinois, when he was found by fellow firefighters in distress. He was immediately taken to the Amita St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee and later transported to the Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL where he passed away a short time later. The cause of his death has not yet been determined and the incident is under investigation. He had nine years of service.



Photo by Tim Olk

## South Holland Firefighter Dylan Cunningham Dies In Training Accident In Kankakee

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/south-holland-firefighter-dylan-cunningham-dies-in-training-accident-in-kankakee/ar-BB19C3ZW>

### South Holland Firefighter Dylan Cunningham Dies In Training Accident In Kankakee

**CHICAGO (CBS)** — A South Holland firefighter died during a training accident Wednesday night at a quarry in Kankakee.

Village leaders announced the firefighter's death Thursday morning, but did not provide much detail about what happened.

South Holland Firefighter Dylan Cunningham, of Thornton, was diving during a training exercise at Haigh Quarry in Kankakee around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. It's

not clear what happened, but paramedics from the Bourbonnais Fire Protection District were called in to help a diver in distress.

Cunningham, 29, was in "critical distress" when paramedics arrived. They took him to Amita St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee, and he later was transferred to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

South Holland village administrator J Wynsma said the cause of the incident is under investigation.

"The Village of South Holland is deeply saddened to report the tragic loss of firefighter Dylan Cunningham, following an underwater dive on Wednesday, September 30, 2020," Wynsma said in a statement. "We know you have many questions, and so do we. Our efforts will bring conclusions that we will share with you in the coming days. In the days ahead we will be doing everything we can to support the Cunningham family. We ask that you keep Dylan's family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers."

A procession of vehicles from the South Holland Fire Department, Chicago Fire Department and other police and fire vehicles escorted Cunningham's body to the Cook County Medical Examiner's office overnight.

Firefighters saluted as the procession rolled by.

An autopsy is scheduled for later Thursday.

Cunningham started as a part-time firefighter with South Holland in 2011, and became a full-time firefighter in 2018. He also has served in the Illinois National Guard since 2012.

A [GoFundMe page](#) has been set up for his fiancée and unborn son.

### **South Holland firefighter dies during training exercise**

[South Holland firefighter Dylan Cunningham dies during training exercise - Chicago Sun-Times](#)

Oct 1, 2020 By [David Struett@dstru312](#)



© Provided by CBS Chicago  
South Holland Firefighter  
Dylan Cunningham  
(Source: Village of South  
Holland)

A procession of South Holland fire engines could be seen early Thursday at the medical examiner's office on the Near West Side.

The village of South Holland is mourning the loss of a 29-year-old firefighter who died during a training exercise Wednesday.

Dylan Cunningham of Thornton was transported from Haigh Quarry Lake, Kankakee, to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he died at 10:40 p.m., according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

"Dylan was a beloved member of our team," South Holland Fire Chief Brian Kolosh said in a statement. "He was dedicated, loyal, hard-working, and also a lot of fun to be around. We are devastated by this loss and are grieving with Dylan's family." South Holland Village Administrator J. Wynsma said the south suburb was "deeply saddened to report the tragic loss" of Cunningham, a 9-year department veteran who died after an underwater dive training exercise.

"In the days ahead we will be doing everything we can to support the Cunningham family," Wynsma said in a statement. "We ask that you keep Dylan's family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers."

It wasn't immediately clear what caused his death. Autopsy results were pending Thursday afternoon, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

"We know you have many questions, and so do we," Wynsma said. "Our efforts will bring conclusions that we will share with you in the coming days."

Cunningham lived in Thornton with his fiancée and was expecting a child, village officials said in a statement.

He was a part-time firefighter at the department since 2011, and began serving full time in 2018, Wynsma said. He also served in the Illinois National Guard since 2012.

A procession of South Holland fire engines could be seen early Thursday at the medical examiner's office on the Near West Side.



**Dylan Cunningham - 29 died after a dive training exercise in Kankakee on Sept. 30, 2020. Village of South Holland**



**A procession of South Holland fire engines could be seen early Thursday at the medical examiner's office on the Near West Side.**

***Jermaine Nolen/Sun Times***

"He was a focused and mature young man who was a great Village employee," South Holland Mayor Don De Graff said. "Our Village board and administration recognize the quality of his character and the special person he was. He represented so well who we are as a village."

## Visitation to be held Tuesday for fallen South Holland firefighter Dylan Cunningham

<https://abc7chicago.com/south-holland-firefighter-dies-kankakee-county-dive-training-exercise-funeral-visitation/6809624/>

October 6, 2020 By ABC 7 Chicago Digital Team

CHICAGO (WLS) -- Dylan Cunningham had served with South Holland Fire Department since 2011. A visitation will be held in Indiana Tuesday for fallen South Holland firefighter Dylan Thomas Cunningham.

Cunningham died [last week after a mishap during an underwater dive training near Kankakee](#). The incident took place at Haigh Quarry, according to the Cook County medical examiner.

Hundreds of fellow firefighters are expected at a walk through Tuesday in his honor at the Smits funeral home in Dyer, Indiana. His funeral service will be held Wednesday.

South Holland Village Administrator J. Wynsma said Cunningham had been full-time with the department since February 2018 but served part-time beginning in 2011.

Wynsma described him as "a very special young man."

"We know you have many questions, and so do we," Wynsma said. "We ask that you keep Dylan's family and his loved ones in your thoughts and prayers."

Cunningham was engaged and expecting his first child. He also served in the Illinois National Guard.



**A south suburban firefighter died early Thursday morning after a dive training exercise.**