

# Editorial: Amarillo fireman forever a hero

## Tragic death shows dangers of job

Opinion

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Christopher Brian Hunton's death in the line of duty has sent shocks through Amarillo's close-knit fraternity of firefighters.

A firefighter for a little more than two years, the 27-year-old Hunton fell out of a truck Saturday as it pulled out of the Central Fire Station at Third Avenue and Van Buren Street. He died early Monday of severe head wounds.

Investigators have placed preliminary blame on a defective door that failed to close properly.

The tragedy, though, should remind all of us who depend on the courage of our firefighters just how dangerous this line of work can be.

Happily for all concerned, fatalities among our firefighters are rare.

Hunton was the first fireman to die in the line of duty in more than 22 years.

However, do not call Hunton a statistic.

Christopher Hunton was a young man who did heroic deeds, just as his colleagues perform brave acts on our behalf every day.

We all should grieve with our firefighters as they mourn the loss of their brother. While we're at it, we all ought to offer a word of support, as well as our thanks for all our fire department personnel do to keep us safe.

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