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# Report From Engine Co. 82



## Synopsis

From his bawdy and brave fellow firefighters to the hopeful, hateful, beautiful and beleaguered residents of the poverty-stricken district where he works, Dennis Smith tells the story of a brutalising yet rewarding profession.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1972, *Emergency*, a show about the Los Angeles Fire Department, debuted on network TV. That same year, Smith, a New York City fireman, published this book about life in what was the busiest fire station in the country. It is the diary of a fireman in a station with over 700 calls per month. From the life and death heroics of firefighting to the frustration of false alarms and garbage fires, Smith ably shares his life at Engine Co. 82. Written during a period of civil unrest, the work captures the spirit of that time and shows how the social problems of the era affected the lives of the firemen whose duty was to protect all the citizens in their district. The author paints a portrait of the fire house: the drills, the off-color jokes, the male-bonding that occurs when men know their lives will often be in the hands of their buddies. Adam Henderson does a great job with the various New York City accents. Highly recommended for all public libraries.-Theresa Connors, Arkansas Tech Univ., Russellville (Library Journal ) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

DENNIS SMITH is a retired New York City firefighter. He stayed in the Fire Department an additional 19 years after the success of his first book, *Report from Engine Co. 82*. He is the author

of 11 books including three other bestsellers about firefighting. Smith founded Firehouse Magazine and has become an outstanding spokesman for firefighters nationwide. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book was written in a time when firefighters rarely wore an air mask, wore hip boots instead of bunker pants, had no fire hoods, rode the back-step of the apparatus, served watch duty, slid fire poles in multistory fire stations, and understood the original concepts of the box alarm system and its box numbering approach to aid in dispatching. Those concepts are now past, but the reasons that those firefighters served then, and the reasons that firefighters serve today have NOT changed, and this book deeply defines those reasons; and it vividly describes the valiant, often self-sacrificing efforts that firefighters, daily, make for all of us within our respective communities. Firefighters are the modern-day "Minutemen" and "Citizen Soldiers" who consistently respond to the immediate health and life safety needs of citizens, Most of our nation's firefighters are volunteers, some are paid; but ALL serve with genuine concern for their fellow man, and many lay down their lives, as needed, to ensure that the quality of life within our communities is the best that it can be. This book shows how that foundation and commitment for community service is manifested among us, and it gives the reader a deep insight into the love and compassion that resides within those walls of the local fire station. Read, learn, and appreciate what firefighters stand for, and why YOU are blessed to have firefighters who will serve in your community.

Dennis Smith tells the story of fire fighters from his own true life experiences. It grips you at page 1 and makes you want more right up to the end. Smith gives you a glimpse into life at the busiest fire department in New York bringing to life the true unsung heroes that respond to help others in their darkest moments. This is a must read book that will open your eyes to the world of the fire fighter!!

I'm the nozzle man on a busy Engine company here in Connecticut. The senior guy of over 25 years recommended this book to me because he knew that I was an avid reader. I listened to him and picked it up on my Kindle, and once I did there were many late nights that followed of me laying in my bed at the firehouse reading this. It's a very honest, phenomenal portrayal of life in the FDNY and as a firefighter in general during some of the busiest years at the busiest Engine company. This book nails what it's like not only in the middle of a house fire, but also what it's like to live with a bunch of other guys in the firehouse. The jokes and pranks, the sad times and the happy times. It's all here and I would recommend this not only to anybody that's ever ridden backwards but also

anyone that's ever been curious about what life as a fireman is really like. Pick this book up and you won't be able to put it down!

Good book. I like the stories of the back in the day Firefighter.

A series of compelling essays on the human condition wrapped in the exciting narrative of a New York firefighter during one of the busiest and most dangerous periods in the history of the FDNY. If you don't know firefighting from the inside, the vivid descriptions of the battle to save lives and property will astound. Perhaps the biggest shock of all is how little has changed in the social observations over the last forty years. If you have been wondering what it's like to be a firefighter, this book will give you the grim, unglamorous view of what it's like to be a real hero. If you have been wondering what has happened to society at large - this book offers a glimpse of the why and how people become callous and disenchanting in their hope for a future.

I was told by a very salty veteran of the fire service once "You're not a real fireman until you've had ice sickles hanging from your mustache, gotten divorced, and read Report from Engine Co. 82" Thirty years later I laugh as I tell my new guys about this incident but I follow it with "I hope you never have to suffer through ice sickles from any part of your body and god forbid you ever have to deal with a divorce BUT you do have to read the book.

Dennis Smith's "Reports from Engine Company 82" was one of the two books that turned the spark of interest in the fire service into a burning desire for me to be the best firefighter possible. In 1977, while I was in high school, I was enthralled with a new life as a volunteer fire cadet. I was hungry to learn about the fire service and to share what I had learned with my family and friends. This high school obsession sprung into a career that has spanned over thirty-three years as a professional firefighter and paramedic. Now as I am winding down from a varied and blessed career, I am again reading this incredible book, but this time, as a peer. Dennis Smith has rendered all the phases of our work, from the routine to the exciting, into a masterpiece that many in our field have attempted to imitate. Most without half the vividness Dennis Smith put into this timeless depiction. I hope that more young firefighters will read this book and become inspired by the deeds of these men. I also hope that veteran firefighters will read Dennis Smith's words and rekindle the fire that has led us to pursue this incredible profession.

I read this back when it first came out and decided to read it again. This book is amazing and how much has changed since the 70's.

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