**Introduction**
At each point in our career, we embark on an endeavor toward mastery through professional development. You will find that with each promotion, we take on new responsibilities that will require us to master new skills. With this new requirement will come a new assessment in the hierarchy of skills. Based loosely on the Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs”, the hierarchy of skills states that we all begin as students. As we progress throughout our journey, we will transition to apprentice, specialist, expert, and eventually craftsman. These points are defined in the image below:

![Hierarchy of Skills](Image)


While practical experience, realistic training, and formal education are indispensable for the development of first-class leaders, so too is independent study. A program of independent reading keeps the mind fresh and enhances professionalism. The Instructors from the Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) Program have compiled their suggested reading list, which is designed to assist you in the development of your leadership and critical decision making skills. These texts are listed in a manner to help guide you along this journey but are not listed in order of importance.
Leadership Development and Decision Making

Fire Officer

Suggested Reading List

Student:
1. “Fire Officer’s Handbook of Tactics” – John Norman
2. “From Buddy to Boss: Effective Fire Service Leadership” – Chase Sargent
4. “Firepsyche: Mental Toughness & Valor Mindset for the Fireground” – Battalion Chief Eric J. Nurnberg and Michael J. Asken, Ph.D.
6. “Firefighter Emotional Wellness – How to Reconnect with Yourself and with Others” – Jada Hudson
7. “It’s Your Ship: Management Techniques from the Best Damn Ship in the Navy” – Captain D. Michael Abrash
8. “Own Your Past, Change Your Future” – Dr. John Delony
9. “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” – Stephen R. Covey

Apprentice:
1. “So Others Might Live” – Terry Golway
2. “Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don’t Know” – Adam Grant
6. “You Can’t Send a Duck to Eagle School and Other Simple Truths of Leadership” – Mac Anderson
7. “Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action” – Simon Sinek
9. “Flashpoint: Ignite your Team and Force a Winning Culture” – Frank Viscuso

Specialist:
1. “Sources of Power: How People Make Decisions” – Gary Klein
3. “Why Everyone (Else) is a Hypocrite: Evolution and the Modular Mind” – Robert Kurzban
4. “Managing the Unexpected: Sustained Performance in a Complex World” (3rd Ed.) – Karl E. Weick, Kathleen M. Sutcliffe
5. “Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery” – Scott Kelly
6. “Killer Show” – John Barylick
8. “What Got You Here, Won’t Get You There” – Marshall Goldsmith
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Suggested Reading List

Expert:
1. “Thinking, Fast and Slow” – Daniel Kahneman
2. “Why Leaders Fail and the 7 Prescriptions for Success” – Peter Stark & Mary Kelly
3. “Strategy of Firefighting” – Vincent Dunn
4. “Don’t Bullsh*t Yourself! Crush the Excuses that are Holding You Back” – Jon Taffer
5. “The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business” – Charles Dunhigg
7. “Becoming a Leader of Character” – General James Anderson & Dave Anderson
8. “Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard” – Chip Heath & Dan Heath

Craftsman:
1. “Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World” – David Epstein
2. “Leaders Eat Last” – Simon Sinek
3. “Fire Department Strategic Planning Creating Future Excellence” (2nd Ed.) – Mark Wallace
4. “Fire Command – The Essentials of Local IMS” (2nd Ed.) – Alan V. Brunacini
5. “Man’s Search for Meaning” – Viktor Frankl
8. “The Leader Habit” – Martin Lanik