

Boston Fire Dept. under substance scrutiny

by UPI

BOSTON - Boston's mayor ordered a sweeping review of the city's fire department amid reports of alcohol and drug abuse in the ranks. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino was described by the Boston Herald as "enraged" at a report that alcohol and drugs were found in the bloodstreams of the two men killed in an August restaurant fire. The Herald said dozen Boston Fire Department members have been fired since 2004 under the department's two-strike policy for firefighters who report for duty under the influence. The Boston Globe said Friday that 159 firefighters have been ordered into treatment during the same period. The Boston Fire Department has about 1,500 members. City officials noted that the department has a relatively lax system for testing firefighters for substance abuse. The Globe said suggestions that testing be increased has been opposed by the firefighters union.

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