



# Hero climbed FDNY's ladder

By LORENA MONGELLI  
and SOPHIA ROSENBAUM

Battalion Chief Michael Fahy was a rising star in the FDNY, a doting family man and the ideal neighbor.

Following in his father's footsteps, he joined the department in 1999 and shot through the ranks to become a chief at age 40.

Four years later, his life was cut short in a Bronx explosion.

"[Fahy] was on the rise. He was a star, a great man," FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro said during a somber press conference at New York-Presbyterian Hospital just hours after Fahy was killed in a Bronx explosion.

He said the death was a "terrible loss not just for the Fahy family, but the Fire Department family."

Fahy left behind a wife, Fiona, two boys, ages 6 and 11, and an 8-year-old daughter.

Fiona shared a photo (above) on Facebook of her happy family back in 2013 as they enjoyed the sunset at a rocky beach.

The snap shows an exuberant Fahy tossing one of his sons into the air as his daughter plays in the background and his eldest

son runs toward the camera.

"Our hearts go out to the Fahy family — a family so devoted to this city," Mayor de Blasio said. "A family that has given so much, and today made the ultimate sacrifice to this city."

Fahy's dad, Thomas, spent 33 years as a firefighter, retiring in 2001 after working his way up to battalion chief.

Michael Fahy is the highest-ranking fire official to die in the line of duty since 9/11.

He was "one of the best of the Bravest," said Jake Lemonda, president of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association.

"He came from a firefighting family, and he was doing what he loved to do," the union leader said.

Outside Michael Fahy's Tuckahoe home Tuesday, his heartbroken mother clutched a family member for support as she was dropped off by the FDNY. A priest came by shortly after to help console the family.

"There's nothing but kind words to say about this man and his family," said a visibly shaken neighbor, Jackie Sutton. "It's everybody's loss."

Additional reporting by Philip Messing

## DEVASTATION:

A building lies in ruins on West 234th Street in The Bronx Tuesday after an explosion ripped off its roof, spewing debris that struck and killed FDNY Battalion Chief Michael Fahy (below), 44. In a family snapshot (left) posted on Facebook, Fahy plays with his three young children on the beach.

