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The New York Post

Deutsche Bank Wrist-Slaps

At long last, New Yorkers can now see the Fire Department's idea of accountability for the mistakes that cost the lives of two firefighters:

Mid-level wrist-slaps — two years after the fact.

The department yesterday responded to a recent Department of Investigation report into the August 2007 fire at the former Deutsche Bank building that killed firefighters Robert Beddia and Joseph Graffagnino.

They perished — it was almost instantly apparent — due to a severed standpipe in the toxic structure that nobody had bothered to discover.

Indeed, the Fire Department had no plan *whatsoever* to fight a fire in the building, and the inspections that were required every 15 days hadn't happened in more than a year.

In any accountable agency, heads

quickly would roll — starting at the top.

Yet the "punishments" meted out yesterday are beyond lame: The department simply made permanent the administrative reassignments of two commanders announced soon after the fire — and slapped five chiefs with "disciplinary reprimands."

Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and his top brass, meanwhile, once again get off scot-free.

This, despite the fact that they *knew* the building was potentially lethal months before the fire — when a piece of debris from the building crashed through the roof of the firehouse next door.

And, as the DOI report makes clear, they *should have known* about the widespread neglect of inspection regulations under their command.

But it's not like anyone should be held *accountable* for that — right?

Am M

7 firefighters disciplined for Deutsche Bank blaze

The FDNY disciplined seven fire commanders yesterday over mistakes that led to the August 2007 blaze at the Deutsche Bank building near Ground Zero that killed two firefighters. A captain and a deputy chief were stripped of their posts for failing to ensure that the building was inspected.

(AP)