

NORTH SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT	
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	SECTION: 200 S.O.P. 239
	INITIAL: 05/01/2001
	LAST REVIEW: 10/08/01
	LAST REVISION: 10/08/01
SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH, DEATH OF ACTIVE MEMBER OR RETIREE.	
PAGE 1 OF 5	

1 **PURPOSE**

2 To establish guidelines for the North Fire Department to adequately pay respect to fallen
3 department members.

4

5 **SCOPE**

6 This policy applies to all members of the North Shore Fire Department.

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8 **SECTION 1 - RESPONSIBILITIES OF NOTIFICATION**

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10 **1) DEATH IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

- 11 a) Upon the death of a member in the line of duty the officer in charge, if other than Chief,
12 shall immediately notify the Chief of the department.
- 13 b) Before making notification have positive identification of the deceased firefighter.
- 14 c) Never discuss a fatality over the radio; this may result in a family member receiving the
15 news before you can notify them in person.
- 16 d) Quickly gather as much information about the incident as possible before making the
17 notification, survivors will likely have questions.
- 18 e) The Chief and his Designated Representative shall notify the spouse (or unmarried
19 partner) and parents of the firefighter
- 20 f) The Chief or his designated representative shall notify the President of the Board of
21 Directors and Chairman of the Commission.
- 22 g) Get to the survivors quickly; don't let the media notify them first. A news conference or
23 a formal news release should be arranged as soon as possible so that factual information
24 is available for dissemination.
- 25 h) Within a reasonable time after the death of a member in the line of duty, and at a time
26 when all companies are in quarters, the Chief or his designated representative shall visit
27 each station house and inform the on duty members.
- 28 i) Upon receipt of a notice of a member killed in the line of duty the station flag shall be
29 placed at half-staff and the front of the station shall be draped with black bunting until
30 seven (7) days after the funeral.
- 31 j) The Chief shall designate a department liaison (DL) that shall be responsible for the
32 Departments involvement in the funeral procedures.
- 33
- 34

- 34 2) **DEATH OF AN ACTIVE MEMBER**
- 35 a) When the Chief learns of the death of an active member, he or designated representative
- 36 shall visit each station house and inform the on duty members
- 37 b) Upon receipt of notification of the death of a member, the station flag shall be lowered to
- 38 half-staff until day following the funeral.
- 39 c) As soon as it is convenient the Chief or his designated representative shall notify the
- 40 President of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Commission of the reported
- 41 death.
- 42 d) The Chief shall designate a department liaison (DL) that shall be responsible for the
- 43 Departments involvement in the funeral procedures.
- 44
- 45 3) **DEATH OF A RETIREE**
- 46 a) When the Chief learns of the death of a retiree, he or a designated representative shall
- 47 visit each station house and inform the on duty members.
- 48 b) Upon receipt of notification of the death of a retiree, the station flag shall be lowered to
- 49 half-staff until the day following the funeral.
- 50 c) The Chief shall designate a department liaison (DL) that shall be responsible for the
- 51 Departments involvement in the funeral procedures.
- 52

53 **SECTION II - RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT LIAISON (DL)**

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- 55 1) The DL shall contact the family of the deceased member and, in coordination with the funeral
- 56 director, establish the family's desires as to Fire Department participation in the funeral. He
- 57 shall assist the family in any way. He shall offer the fire department's services for the
- 58 following situations:
- 59 a) A formal funeral, at home, funeral home, church or cemetery, involving use of engine,
- 60 active pallbearers, honorary pallbearers and Funeral Detail, color guard, bugler and bag
- 61 pipes (this type of honor shall be reserved for those members killed in the line of duty.)
- 62 b) A semiformal funeral at home, funeral home, church or cemetery, involving active
- 63 Pallbearers, honorary pallbearers, honor guard and Funeral Detail.
- 64 c) A non-formal funeral, at home, funeral home, church or cemetery, or there being no fire
- 65 department involvement, other than members attending in a passive roll either in the
- 66 viewing and/or funeral service.
- 67 d) Private funeral, at home, funeral home, church or cemetery respecting family's wishes to
- 68 have no outsider participation at the funeral.
- 69
- 70 **NOTE:** With the exception of those honors reserved for members killed in the line of
- 71 duty, any or all of the fire department's honors may be part of a member's funeral
- 72 ceremony.
- 73
- 74 e) The desires of the family shall be paramount and shall be given the fullest respect.
- 75 Additional responsibilities for department liaison addressed in this policy.
- 76

76 2) Having established the wishes of the deceased, the DL shall carry out any or all of the
77 following in order to realize these wishes. The DL shall continually be in communication
78 with the Funeral Director as he arranges for the Fire Department's participation.
79

80 a) Special arrangements for formal funeral for line of duty death

- 81 i) Arrange for an Honor Guard to stand duty during the viewing, minimum of four
82 (4).
- 83 ii) Arrange for Active Pallbearers: six (6) plus an officer.
- 84 iii) Arrange for necessary equipment.
- 85 iv) Arrange for Honorary Pallbearers (Family, Company Officers, Retirees, etc.)
- 86 v) Arrange for Funeral Detail (All uniformed members in attendance.)
- 87 vi) Arrange for bugler, bagpipes, and drum for marching procession.
- 88 vii) Arrange for Color Guard.
- 89 viii) Obtain American Flag for casket. (Funeral director secures flag for veterans
90 only.)
- 91 ix) Provide all members of the Fire Department with information necessary to carry
92 out their rolls in the funeral.
- 93 x) Survey the area of the Services and make provisions for placement of all attending
94 units and provide information for map preparation.
- 95 xi) Designate an area of assembly for attending Chief Officers and dignitaries
96 (preferably in a building, funeral home, church, school or fire station.)
- 97 xii) Designate an area of assembly for all other members of the department and
98 visiting firefighters.
99

100 **NOTE:** This area should be a block or two away from the start of the funeral
101 procession, preferably at a fire station, school or park, with ample parking and
102 assembly area are available. This group will then march as a unit past that member's
103 station.
104

- 105 xiii) Distribution of black elastic mourning bands for shirt badges to department
106 members.
- 107 xiv) A fire department engine(s) designated by the Chief will be appropriately prepared
108 with flowers and black bunting and stripped of hose for use to transport the casket.
- 109 xv) Arrange for the proper placement of all vehicles that will participate in the funeral
110 procession.
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112 **NOTE:** If a joint service is held and interment will be at two (2) or more locations,
113 separate processions must be established according to guest preference.
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115

- 115 b) A map of the areas involved will be prepared to expedite the proceedings and assist out-
116 of-town guests, map should include:
- 117 i) Location of fire department(s).
 - 118 ii) Location of Funeral Home(s).
 - 119 iii) Location of Church.
 - 120 iv) Location of Chief Officer and Dignitary Assembly Area.
 - 121 v) Location of Firefighters Assembly Area.
 - 122 vi) Location of Auxiliary Parking Areas.
 - 123 vii) Location of Hotel(s) for out of town guests.
 - 124 viii) Location of vehicles for funeral procession.
 - 125 ix) Route of funeral procession.
 - 126 x) Location of cemetery and grave in cemetery.
 - 127 xi) Location of auxiliary parking at cemetery.
 - 128 xii) Location of food service areas.
 - 129 xiii) Separation map or coding on a single map should designate location of multiple
130 funeral and/or processions as required.
 - 131 xiv) Any other information deemed necessary.

132
133 **NOTE:** On the above map, or a separate sheet, a copy of a diagram should show the
134 proper arrangement and movement of personnel for various ceremonies and locations
135 as necessary.

- 136
137 xv) Arrangements for reproduction of sufficient quantities of the above two (2) maps
138 and firm commitment on delivery should be established.
- 139 xvi) The DL or his designated representative will coordinate all commands during the
140 movement of the casket and personnel.
- 141 xvii) Arrangement with the Police Department should be made to handle traffic and
142 parking at the various locations along the funeral procession route.
- 143 xviii) Photography coverage: Fire department photographer or private photographer
144 should be assigned to cover the funeral.
- 145 xix) Media Arrangements:
- 146 (a) Establish guidelines for Television and press
 - 147 (i) At the church: inside or outside
 - 148 (ii) Funeral Home: inside or outside
 - 149 (iii) Cemetery: general photo coverage and/or coverage of the immediate
150 grave.
- 151 xx) Arrangements for out-of-town guests:
- 152 (a) Transportation:
 - 153 (i) Airports
 - 154 (ii) Hotels
 - 155 (iii) Funeral services
 - 156 (iv) Cemetery
 - 157 (v) Food service areas
- 158
159

159 **NOTE:** Some of the items for a formal funeral have been prepurchased and are in
160 storage at Station 2.

- 161
162 xxi) The professional Firefighters of Wisconsin State Honor Guard offer most of the
163 services needed for a formal funeral.

164
165 Jim Peglow can be contacted at:

166 Home ... (715) 256-9413

167 Fire ... (920) 751-4700

168 Cell ... (715) 498-4504

169
170 Ann Peggs can be contacted at:

171 Home ... (920) 432-9312

172 Fire ... (920) 448-3284

173 Cell ... (715) 498-4482

174
175 3) Special arrangements for funeral support for active members

- 176
177 a) Arrange for an Honor Guard to stand duty during the viewing, minimum of four (4).
178 b) Arrange for Active Pallbearers: six (6) plus an officer.
179 c) Arrange for necessary equipment.
180 d) Arrange for Honorary Pallbearers (Family, Company Officers, Retirees, etc.).
181 e) Arrange for Funeral Detail (All uniformed members in attendance.)
182 f) Arrange for bugler, bagpipes, and drum for marching procession.
183 g) Arrange for Color Guard.
184 h) Obtain American Flag for casket. (Funeral director secures flag for veterans only.)
185 i) Provide all members of the Fire Department with information necessary to carry out their
186 rolls in the funeral.
187 j) Survey the area of the Services and make provisions for placement of all attending units
188 and provide information for map preparation.
189 k) Designate an area of assembly for attending Chief Officers and dignitaries (preferably in a
190 building, funeral home, church, school or fire station.)
191 l) Designate an area of assembly for all other members of the department and visiting
192 firefighters.

193
194 **NOTE:** This area should be a block or two away from the start of the funeral
195 procession, preferably at a fire station, school or park, with ample parking and
196 assembly area are available. This group will then march as a unit past that member's
197 station.

- 198
199 m) Distribution of black elastic mourning bands for shirt badges to department members.

NORTH SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SECTION: 200 S.O.P. 240

INITIAL: 05/01/2001

LAST REVIEW:

LAST REVISION:

SUBJECT: Assisting Family Members With Death or Serious Injury of
Department Members

PAGE 1 OF 10

PURPOSE

To help prepare North Shore Fire Department members and their families in planning for an active duty death or serious injury of a department member.

To provide assistance and support to family members of injured or deceased Department members, to the greatest extent possible, both in the short-term and over a long-term basis;

To set forth a procedure for delegation of authority within the North Shore Fire Department to accomplish necessary tasks in the event of a serious injury or on-duty death of a department member.

SCOPE

This policy is for use by all North Shore Fire Department members

POLICY

Members of the North Shore Fire Department shall, upon hiring, be asked to provide information in writing which will be of assistance in the event of a serious injury or on-duty death to that individual.

In the event of a line-of-duty death or serious injury of a member of the North Shore Fire Department, the immediate family members of the injured or deceased person shall be notified according to procedures specified below. Notification shall be in-person, and shall generally be by two (2) people. There shall be maximum consideration for the feelings of family members.

Department staff shall assist family members at the hospital, if necessary, by serving in a liaison function in all necessary ways.

Department staff shall be assigned to assume liaison / coordination duties, in the event of a Department member's serious injury or death, in any or all of the following ways:

- Coordination of travel for family members from out of the area.
- Contacts with and release of information to media representatives.
- Arranging for logistics for a fire department funeral.
- Assisting with funeral arrangements, in general.
- Assisting with coordination of benefits.

- 37 - Family support advocacy.
- 38 - Miscellaneous tasks or duties.

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40 The Department shall make maximum efforts to provide support and advocacy for a deceased
41 Department member's family over the long term, as well as during the time immediately
42 following a death.

43
44 **NOTE:** While this policy deals specifically with serious injured and line-of-duty deaths, it is
45 recognized that there are other forms of critical incidents which the department and families may
46 have to face. These include, but are not limited to, injuries or death due to natural causes outside
47 of the line-of-duty, and suicide. The North Shore Fire Department shall be committed to
48 supporting families affected on these types of incidents by providing the full range of services
49 outlined in this policy whenever that it is deemed appropriate.

50 51 **DEFINITIONS**

52 53 **Line-Of-Duty-Death**

54 The death of an active department member by felonious or accidental means during the course of
55 performing duties related to the North Shore Fire Department.

56 57 **Serious Injury**

58 Any injury which is debilitating or life threatening in nature.

59 60 **PROCEDURE**

61 62 **A. EMPLOYEE EMERGENCY DATA / CRISIS INFORMATION SHEET**

- 63
64 1. Each newly hired Firefighter will be required to provide LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH
65 INFORMATION.
- 66 2.
 - 67 a. This will be done within 60 days following the anniversary of the employee's
68 hiring.
 - 69
70 b. The employee's supervisor will be responsible for this. He or she will give the
71 employee a hard copy of the most recently completed LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH
72 INFORMATION form and have the employee review and update it as necessary.
73 Once that is done, the supervisor will ensure that the form is properly filed in the
74 employee's personnel file.
- 75
76 2. The LINE-OF-DUTY-DEATH INFORMATION sheet shall contain detailed information
77 that will be useful in the event the Department member is seriously injured or killed in
78 the line-of-duty.
- 79
80 3. A hard copy of such information, when completed, will be filed in the employee's
81 personnel emergency file in a sealed envelope. Said envelope will be marked
82 "confidential."

- 83
84 4. A provision will be in place for employees to update the LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH
85 INFORMATION sheet annually, upon request.
86

87 **B. NOTIFICATIONS**
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89 The following procedural guidelines will be followed in the event of a line-of-duty death and/or
90 serious injury to an employee.
91

92 The wishes of family members will take precedence over the desires of the Department,
93 whenever possible. Department staff providing services and assistance to family members will
94 be expected to take all possible measures to accommodate the needs, wishes and desires of
95 family members, but should not make any promises to family members which they are not sure
96 can be met.
97

- 98 1. In the event of a line-of-duty death or serious injury, a designated Department staff
99 member will retrieve the LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH INFORMATION form
100 completed by the deceased or injured employee, to check information on the form.
101 Such information will include name(s) of individual(s) to be notified.
102
- 103 2. When a critical incident has occurred, the name of the employee will not, under any
104 circumstances, be released to the media or other parties until the employee's family
105 has been notified.
106
- 107 3. The Chief or Deputy Chief will designate a person in the Department to inform the
108 employee's immediate family of the death or injury. If the Chief or Deputy Chief are
109 unavailable, the ranking Battalion Chief will make the designation. (NOTE: The
110 employee's LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH INFORMATION sheet may contain specific
111 information as to who should be asked to notify the family. This may be a specific
112 Department member, for example.)
113
- 114 a. Notifications will be made in person, and will be made by two (2) people
115 whenever possible. The other person may be a chaplain, another
116 Firefighter, personal friend, CISM Team Member, etc. (Again, the LINE-
117 OF-DUTY DEATH INFORMATION form may indicate who such person
118 should be.)
119
- 120 b. Whenever the health of immediate survivors is a concern, arrangements
121 will be made for emergency medical services personnel to be on stand-by.
122
- 123 4. If a Department member has been injured and taken to a hospital and is likely to die,
124 steps will be taken to get family members to the hospital as soon as possible prior to
125 the Department member's death.
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- 127 1. Immediate transportation should be provided rather than waiting for other
128 Department officials to arrive.

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2. If at all possible, the Department employee assigned to notify the family will accompany the family members to the hospital.
 3. The hospital should be notified of the expected arrival of the family.
 5. Communication of information will be restricted to the telephone in order to maintain as much privacy as possible.
 6. If media representatives obtain information concerning the incident, Department representatives will request them to withhold releasing information until proper notifications have been made. (NOTE: Department representatives should do everything possible to try to ensure that family members are not placed in the position of having to respond to questions from the media, until or unless they wish to do so.)
 7. A Department member will be assigned the task of identifying additional family members outside of the area, and/or to see that proper notifications are made as desired by the family. Such notifications will be made by contacting the local law enforcement agency in the appropriate jurisdiction and requesting them to make a proper notification.
 8. Involved member(s) will prepare a written report specifically to identify, time and place of family members notified.

153 **C. ASSISTING FAMILY MEMBERS AT HOSPITAL**

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1. Whenever possible and appropriate, the Chief and/or Deputy Chief will join the family at the hospital.
 2. A Department member will be assigned to serve as the hospital liaison, and will be responsible for coordinating the arrival of the immediate family, Department personnel, the media, etc. In addition, he or she will do the following, as appropriate in any given situation:
 - a. Arrange for a private waiting facility for the immediate family and a separate area for members of the media. (The family's desires concerning the accessibility of other Firefighters should be followed).
 - b. Ensure that medical personnel provide pertinent medical updates to the family. (NOTE: Answers to all medical questions should be postponed until a medical professional is available to answer them. This will, hopefully, prevent misinformation or misunderstanding).
 3. Assist the family in accordance with their desires, such as gaining access to the injured or deceased Department member.

- 175 4. Provide the hospital with all necessary information on the billing for medical
176 services. (Generally, this will involve being sure that bills are directed to the
177 Department, not to the Department member's family).
178
179 5. Ensure the availability of transportation back to the family's residence if desired.
180

181 **D. DEPARTMENT COORDINATION PERSONNEL**

- 182
183 1. The Chief and/or Deputy Chief will designate specific Department personnel to
184 perform certain liaison coordination tasks in the event of a death or serious injury
185 to an employee. Such tasks may include any or all of the following:
186
187 a. Department Liaison in general, to include any or all of the following
188 duties:
189
190 (1) Coordinating travel and lodging for out-of-town family members.
191
192 (2) Helping identify accommodations for a Fire Department funeral,
193 and presenting such options to family members.
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195 (3) Coordinating all official Fire Department notifications and
196 arrangements, such as honor guard, pallbearers, traffic control,
197 liaison with other law enforcement agencies;
198
199 (4) Assisting family members in dealing with media inquiries;
200
201 (5) Liaison with media representatives, including coordination of
202 statements and press releases, and ensuring that members of the
203 Department are aware of restrictions on media contacts. (NOTE:
204 As indicated above, it is important also to try to ensure that family
205 members are not placed in the position of having to respond to
206 questions from the media, until and unless they wish to do so.)
207
208 b. Funeral Liaison, to include any or all of the following duties:
209
210 (1) Meeting with family members and explaining necessary tasks or
211 issues to them.
212
213 (2) Being available to the family prior to and throughout the wake and
214 funeral.
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216 (3) Ensuring that the needs and wishes of the family come before
217 those of the Department.
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219 (4) Assisting the family in working with the funeral director, and
220 home church if necessary, regarding arrangements.

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- (5) Relaying any information to the family concerning circumstances of the Department member's death and appropriate information regarding any investigations.
 - (6) Briefing family members on any procedures involved in a fire department funeral.
- c. Benefits Coordinator, to include any or all of the following tasks:
- (1) Filing worker's compensation and related paperwork;
 - (2) Presenting information on all benefits available to the family;
 - (3) Documenting inquiries and interest in public donations to the family, and establishing a mechanism for receipt of such contributions;
 - (4) Filing all benefits paperwork and maintaining contact with the family in order to ensure that benefits are being received;
 - (5) Advising the surviving family members of the role of organizations and the nature of support programs that they sponsor for Department member survivors.
- d. Family Support Advocate, to include any or all of the following tasks:
- 1) Identifying all support services available to family members and working on their behalf to secure any services necessary;
 - 2) Maintaining routine contact with family members to provide companionship and emotional support, and maintaining an ongoing relationship between the Department and the immediate family;
 - 3) Relaying the concerns and needs of the family to those individuals or organizations that may provide assistance, and encouraging others to visit and help as necessary.
- e. In addition, the Chief or Deputy Chief will designate Department staff members to do some or all of the following tasks:
- 1) Assist in handling incoming phone calls and inquiries;
 - 2) Ensure that the employee assistance program is implemented to assist surviving family members and emphasize the family's right to psychological services.

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- 3) Ensure that other Department members are provided the opportunity to participate in critical incident stress debriefings.

E. LONG-TERM CONTACT WITH AND SUPPORT OF FAMILY MEMBERS

1. The Chief and/or Deputy Chief will be responsible for ensuring that the department maintains contact with the immediate family members of a deceased or seriously injured department employee, over the long term, to try to provide the maximum possible emotional support and, as necessary, to assist with logistical and/or benefits related issues. Such support will generally be provided both in-person and via telephone.
2. Specifically, the Chief or Deputy Chief will ensure that there is contact with immediate family members both on the birthday of a deceased Department member and on the anniversary of the person's death.
3. The Chief or Deputy Chief may assign Department personnel to maintain and establish such contact, as deemed necessary and appropriate.

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How to Help the Family At the Hospital or the Morgue

- Have a member of the department drive the family to the hospital and stay for as long as necessary.
- Work with the hospital staff to secure a private room where the family can gather. This should be separate from the general waiting area, if possible.
- Assist the family in dealing with hospital staff.
- Provide assistance to the family in making calls to relatives and close friends. Answer incoming calls for the family or get message to them at the hospital.
- Work with the family to arrange a plan for dealing with the media. The family may wish to have a member of the department to speak for them.
- In cases of extended hospitalization, offer to assist with day-to-day tasks such as home maintenance, arranging childcare, or bringing meals and other necessities to the family.
- If the firefighter is taken to a specialized hospital out of the local area, assist with this process. Consider asking another department close to that hospital to assist you in supporting the family while the firefighter remains hospitalized.
- Encourage the family to spend time with the injured firefighter, regardless of the type of injury.
- If the firefighter is badly burned or disfigured, help prepare the family for what they will see. Always allow family members to make the decision.
- Have someone available to drive the family home from the hospital. Offer to help with continuing visits as much as resources allow. Offer to stay with the family at the house.

318 **How to Help the Family...**
319 **From Time of Death Through the Funeral**
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- 321 • Notify the Department of Justice of the death. This will begin the process of reviewing
322 eligibility for the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.
323
- 324 • Contact the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation about the death. This will assure the
325 beginning of emotional support for both the family and the department.
326
- 327 • Work with the family in planning the funeral. Remember that the family's wishes should
328 always come first. If they want a private funeral, the department can still hold a
329 memorial service.
330
- 331 • If the family wants a fire service funeral, secure a uniform for the burial.
332
- 333 • If there are children in the family, consider creating a special role for them, such as
334 ridding on the fire truck in the funeral procession. (Be sure to ask a parent before
335 mentioning this to the children!)
336
- 337 • Offer to assist with lodging or transportation for out of town relatives and friends.
338
- 339 • Offer to have a member of the department stay with the family prior to the funeral.
340 Consider rotating people as needed in order to maintain a department presence with the
341 family.
342
- 343 • Have someone available for tasks such as answering the phone, driving the family to the
344 funeral home to make arrangement, or running errands.
345
- 346 • Help coordinate household duties such as food preparation, cleaning and childcare. Do
347 necessary maintenance such as mowing the grass or clearing the snow.
348
- 349 • If donations are collected for the family, set up a bank account to deposit these funds.
350
- 351 • Coordinate with local law enforcement officials to make routine checks of residence and
352 neighborhood.
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- 354 • Assign a department member to help the family set guidelines for dealing with the media.
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How to Help the Family... Ongoing Support

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- Only promise what you actually can do. Keep all your promises.
- Instead of saying, “Call if you need anything,” offer to help with specific tasks and then follow through.
- Continue to talk with the family about your memories of the firefighter. Most families want to hear about their loved one, even if it is emotionally difficult.
- Remember that parents of a fallen firefighter need support and contact just like same as spouses and children do.
- Help with what the firefighter used to do – yard work, fixing things around the house, attending children’s sports and school events, etc.
- Take all steps necessary to secure benefits for the family. The process is often lengthy, so keep the family involved.
- Continue to invite the family to department events, but don’t be disappointed if they don’t always attend.
- Remember that some events, such as holidays and the anniversary of the date of death may be especially difficult for the family. Even families who seem to be doing well may need extra support and contact during these times.
- Contact the family before releasing any information on investigations, incident reports, etc.
- Consider creating some kind of tribute to the fallen firefighter. This could be a local memorial, a video tribute, a scrapbook, or a scholarship in the firefighter’s name. Prepare a tribute that is fitting for your firefighter and special to the family.
- Provide survivors with information on the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s programs for survivors. Contact the Foundation to get support for the family.
- Encourage the family to attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend and other local, state, and national tributes. Offer to help make travel arrangements and attend them whenever possible.