

HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

October 2017





HONORING

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

1. The following guidelines are encouraged to be used to honor Fallen Firefighters. Specific honors and dates are announced by the applicable organizations Service Component Fire Chief as soon as possible after the death of a firefighter:

1.1 For firefighters that die while actively engaged in fire protection duties, on or off duty (Refer to Attachment 1, Summary Table):

1.1.1 Conduct a Last Alarm ceremony (service component wide) at Shift Change/Roll Call, 5 days after death or other time as announced by the Service Component Fire Chief.

(1) Conduct Bell Ceremony (Attachment 2) and reading of Fire Fighter's Prayer (Attachment 3).

(2) Begin the ceremony with 5 short rings - pause - 5 short rings – pause - 5 short rings (for each firefighter) of a ceremonial bell or firehouse dispatch bell/signal.

(3) Follow with a moment of silence (30 seconds).

(4) Conclude with the same 5 rings (X3) (for each firefighter).

1.1.2 Obtain local approval to fly US flag at half-staff on the day following death.

1.1.3 Fly the fire service flag (when available) at half-staff for 30 days beginning on the day of death (Service/Enterprise-Wide implication).

1.1.4 Firefighters wear a black band on the Fire Protection Badge until interment (Service/Enterprise-Wide implication).

1.2 For firefighters that die on-duty but not engaged in fire protection duties (includes travel to/from work) (Refer to Attachment 1, Summary Table):

1.2.1 Conduct a Last Alarm ceremony (service component wide) at Shift Change/Roll Call, 5 days after death (or another time announced by the Service Component Fire Chief).

(1) Conduct Bell Ceremony (Attachment 2) and reading of Fire Fighter's



Prayer (Attachment 3).

- (2) Begin the ceremony with 5 short rings - pause -5 short rings – pause - 5 short rings (for each firefighter) of a ceremonial bell or firehouse dispatch bell/signal.
 - (3) Follow with a moment of silence (30 seconds).
 - (4) Conclude with the same 5 rings (X3) (for each firefighter).
- 1.2.2 Obtain local approval to fly the US flag at half-staff at the fire station (when available) on the day following death.
 - 1.2.3 Fly the fire service flag (when available) at half-staff for 30 days beginning on the day of death (local implication).
 - 1.2.4 Firefighters wear a black band on the Fire Protection Badge until interment (local implication).
- 1.3 For firefighters that die while off duty and not engaged in fire protection duties (day off, K-day, leave, etc.) (Refer to Attachment 1, Summary Table):
 - 1.3.1 Conduct a Moment of Silence (service component wide) at Shift Change/Roll Call, 5 days after death service wide.
 - 1.3.2 Conduct a Last Alarm ceremony at Shift Change/Roll Call, 5 days after death.
 - (1) Conduct Bell Ceremony (Attachment 2) and reading of Fire Fighter’s Prayer (Attachment 3)
 - (2) Begin the ceremony with 5 short rings - pause -5 short rings – pause - 5 short rings (for each firefighter) of a ceremonial bell or firehouse dispatch bell/signal.
 - (3) Follow with a moment of silence (30 seconds).
 - (4) Conclude with the same 5 rings (X3) (for each firefighter).
 - 1.3.3 Obtain local approval to fly the US flag at half-staff at the fire station (when available) on the day following death (local implication).
 - 1.3.4 Fly the fire service flag (when available) at half-staff for 30 days beginning on the day of death (local implication).



- 1.3.5 Firefighters wear a black band on the Fire Protection Badge until interment (local implication).
- 1.4 For other firefighters such as retirees, the Service Component Fire Chief will prescribe appropriate honors.
2. At the closest fire department where the death occurs, the Fire Chief coordinates with the deceased's family and ensures appropriate ceremonies such as memorial services, funerals, receptions, etc., are supported.
3. When a firefighter dies and will be interred at a location away from the local jurisdiction, the Fire Chief at the closest fire department will intercede for paragraph 2 above.
4. International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Line-Of-Duty Deaths (LODD).
 - 4.1 This website is dedicated to explaining the steps that the IAFF takes to honor and memorialize members that die in the line-of-duty.
<http://www.iaff.org/HS/LODD/index.html>
5. National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF) Handling a LODD.
 - 5.1 Important steps that a department needs to take to help the firefighter's family, members of the department, and the community.
<https://www.firehero.org/resources/department-resources/handling-lodd/>
6. U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) LODD Reporting Website.
 - 6.1 Use this form to provide initial notification to USFA and the NFFF of an on-duty firefighter fatality. <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/fatalityData/notification1>



ATTACHMENT 1

Note: These procedures provide appropriate standard procedures to honor firefighters, without regard to their status as a firefighter. These procedures are not influenced by the specific circumstances at the time of death, such as involvement in inappropriate activities. The sole consideration is to show respect to the survivors and provide appropriate honors to deceased firefighters.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTION	LOCAL	SERVICE-WIDE
<i>Died while actively engaged in fire protection duties on or off duty:</i>		
Conduct Last Alarm ceremony at Shift Change/Roll Call		X
All US flags on the installation at half staff	X	
Fire service flag at half staff		X
Black band on the Fire Protection Badge		X
<i>Died on duty but not engaged in fire protection duties:</i>		
Conduct Last Alarm ceremony at Shift Change/Roll Call		X
US flag at fire station at half staff	X	
Fire service flag at half staff		X
Black band on the Fire Protection Badge	X	
<i>Died off duty and not engaged in fire protection duties:</i>		
Conduct Moment of Silence at Shift Change/Roll Call		X
Conduct Last Alarm ceremony at Shift Change/Roll Call	X	
US flags at half staff	X	
Fire service flag at half staff	X	
Black band on the Fire Protection Badge	X	



ATTACHMENT 2

BELL CEREMONY

The men and women of today's fire service are confronted with a more dangerous work environment than ever before. We are forced to continually change our strategies and tactics to accomplish our tasks.

Our methods may change, but our goals remain the same as they were in the past, to save lives and to protect property, sometimes at a terrible cost. This is what we do, this is our chosen profession, this is the tradition of the fire fighter.

The fire service of today is ever changing, but is steeped in traditions 200 years old. One such tradition is the sound of a bell.

In the past, as fire fighters began their tour of duty, it was the bell that signaled the beginning of that day's shift. Throughout the day and night, each alarm was sounded by a bell, which summoned these brave souls to fight fires and to place their lives in jeopardy for the good of their fellow citizen. And when the fire was out and the alarm had come to an end, it was the bell that signaled to all the completion of that call. When a fire fighter had died in the line of duty, paying the supreme sacrifice, it was the mournful toll of the bell that solemnly announced a comrade's passing.

We utilize these traditions as symbols, which reflect honor and respect on those who have given so much and who have served so well. To symbolize the devotion that these brave souls had for their duty, a special signal of three rings, three times each, represents the end of our comrades' duties and that they will be returning to quarters. And so, to those who have selflessly given their lives for the good of their fellow man, their tasks completed, their duties well done, to our comrades, their last alarm, they are going home.



ATTACHMENT 3

FIRE FIGHTER'S PRAYER

When I am called to duty, God
Wherever flames may rage
Give me strength to save a life
Whatever be its age.
Let me embrace a little child
Before it is too late
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert
And hear the weakest shout,
and quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling
To give the best in me,
To guard my friend and neighbor
And protect their property.
And, if, according to your will,
While on duty I must answer death's call;
Bless with your protecting hand
My family, one and all.