

Section 3: FUNERAL TYPES

The death of a firefighter may occur under a variety of circumstances. Based on the circumstances, the department should provide appropriate services from the planning of the funeral through the survivor follow-up process. To ensure all fallen firefighters are honored in a consistent manner, the department should adopt a policy on the types of services it will provide. The following policy is an example of what one state has adopted.

3.1 Definitions

- a. **Line-of-duty:** The death must be the result of a traumatic injury suffered in the line of duty.
- b. **Job-related traumatic injury:** A blow to the body by an outside force, e.g., crushing injuries suffered in a building collapse, apparatus accident or fall. Burns, smoke inhalation and such climactic injuries as heatstroke or frostbite are considered traumatic injuries.
- c. **Job-related non-traumatic injury:** A non-traumatic injury that is strongly believed or has been proven to be attributable to the job. Examples are stress, heart attacks, strokes, diseases and mental illness (suicide).
- d. **Active member:** A full-time or volunteer member of a fire or emergency medical service agency serving in an active capacity.
- e. **Inactive member:** A retired or former member of a fire or emergency medical service agency.
- f. **Affiliate member:** An individual who has served in some capacity with the department, such as a commissioner, trustee, dispatcher, etc.
- g. **Non-job-related death:** Deaths, natural and traumatic, that are not related to fire or emergency medical service duty.

3.2 Types of Services

- a. **Level One:** A line-of-duty or job-related death. This may include an inactive member whose death has stemmed from an injury sustained during active duty.
- b. **Level Two:** A non-job-related death of an active member.
- c. **Level Three:** A non-job-related death of an inactive or affiliate member.

3.3 SUGGESTED FUNERAL SERVICE OPTIONS

| Level One | Level Two | Level Three |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| American Flag | American Flag | American Flag |
| Badge shrouds | Badge shrouds | Badge shrouds |
| Bagpipers | | |
| Bell service | Bell service | Bell service |
| Bugler | | |
| Color Guard | | |
| Crossed ladders | | |
| Eulogy | Eulogy | |
| Fire engine caisson | Hearse | Hearse |
| Fire service flag | Fire service flag | Fire service flag |
| Flower unit | Flower unit | |
| Honor Guard | Honor Guard | Honor Guard |
| Honor detail | Honor detail | |
| Pallbearers, active | Pallbearers, honorary | Pallbearers, honorary |
| Station bunting | Station bunting | Station bunting |
| Vehicle bunting | Vehicle bunting | |
| Walkthrough | Walkthrough | Walkthrough |