

# Preparing For An LODD

**The Importance of Pre-Incident Preparation**



**Honoring Their Sacrifice  
Upholding Our Tradition**

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# 1891 ~ Washington State Fallen Firefighter Honor Roll ~ 2023

## *NEVER FORGOTTEN*

Herman Larson	Albert S. Wolprt	James D. Fisher	Ronnie O. Beems	Randy Terlicker	Eric R. Lyons	Keith Johnson	Andrew Anderson
W.O. Phillips	Theodore R. Cousland	Charles P. Kimmel	Julian J. Malek	James Brown	James H. Scragg	Michael McCoy	Steven Bailie
George T. Chapman	Oscor Ebbinghouse	Henry C. Gronnerud	Edward A. Carbaugh	Gregory Shoemaker	Timothy Heelan	Jeff N. Sarchin	Scott Thomas
Charles Brabon	Olin Bainter	Patrick E. Parsons	Roy Kadow	Walter Kilgore	Marty Hauer	Richard Wheeler	Darrell Dabling
John I. Lynch	Thomas E. Sparrow	Charles Vannostern	Levi H. Nelson	Dana Morrison	Andrew Palmer	Andrew Zajac	Alan Basso
Herman A. Mero	Clarance J. Johnson	Roy K. Ramble	Paul Heidenreich	William Angel	Daniel B. Packer	Tom Zbyszewski	Darleen Raffelson
Daniel Noonan	Jesse L. Booher	Francis "Rudy" Wright	Lisa Long	Steven M. Beck	William Dean McLean	James Swift	Nicolas Knaak
Henry J. Maynard	Luther D. Bonner	Nick L. Krieger	Mary Mathews	John Boster	Zachary VanderGriend	Michael VanDenBergh	Elizabeth Hoover
J.N. Longfellow	L.F. Statom	Richard S. Mason	Jaycee Nosie	Gary V. Medica	Roger Duke	Brent Strong	Cody Trabor
Jesse Hill	Clyde Jenkins	Edward Minaker	James E. Dunlap	Charlie Mestaz	Terry Bower	Michael Stewart	James Krouse
Robert J. Wolff	William F. Gustafson	Carrol Wagaman	Timothy J. Trudell	Russett S. Hauber	Bob Willson	Joshua Milton	William Cababat
Albert Schwartzer	Andrew G. Beattie	Paul Linder	Charles E. Braban	Curtis W. Rogers	Stephen Lohr	William Hutto	Michael Bieniek
C.F. McClure	George H Stewart	Richard Kretz	Cash L. Hopkins	Lawrence R Eager	Edward J. Langlois	Tristan Smith	Blake Nelson
Patrick Cooper	Fred Larson	Kenneth Bridges	Daniel R. Lohr	Steve Henderson	David Jacobs Jr.	William S. Whitney	Luis Batayola
E.G. Deardorf	Jack McGee	Arthur S. Hillstrom	Donald Christensen	Jeremy Chandler	Terence Goldberg	William S. Steed	Chadwick Mittleider
Fred G. Gilham	Glen S. Murphy	Gabrial Tichi	Gary Parks	Tom L. Craven	Chet Bauermeister	Charles Archer	Joe Killian
Ole G. Rust	Clyde Eaton	Woodrow W. Groom Jr	Robert Earhart	Karen L. Fitzpatrick	Jesse Youngs	James Hendryx	Dean Alan Crosswhite
Peter Coughlan	John D. Janson	Robert A. Nelson	Michael P. Adams	Jessica L. Johnson	Matthew Durham	Craig Amon	Dan Patterson
Warren S. Willis	Willis A. Cunningham	Dale F. Jones	Robert R. Sittner	Devin A. Weaver	Garet Rasmussen	Robert Spinner	Larry Sphon
Charles F. Lacasse	Oscar F. Knierim	Robert Billings	Irving D. Day	Allan MacCrae Marriott	Jeffrey Birt	Crystal Murphy	John Garner
Tom Cunninham	W. Orvil Childress	Leonard E. Roseberry	Lincoln McGowan	Steven W. Haworth	Matthew Hadaller	Robert Burton	Michele Williams
William Carr	Leonard W. Doyle	Milton Johnson	Jean Verville	Robert Morehouse	George H. Sly	Marvin Lary	Charles Cate
Leo Hertel	Dick Carry	Gerald Miller	Ralph W. Boyle	Randall Harmon	Ernest R. Rideout	Erik Shouse	Robert L. Schiemer
Horace E. Roberts	James Willey	Laramie Griffiths	Ron Nelson	Richard Tiffany	John Moncrief	John Swobody	
Dennis T. Boyle	Raymond Stronzinsky	Kendrick Rowland	Mathew W. Johnson	Timothy Ross	Jessie Hernandez	Walter Burns	
William A. Taro	Merritt Nichols	Ronald G. Storlie	Jeanette A. Dozler	Gerry N. Moberg	Robert Schmidt	John Osterguard	
William A. Hutchinson	Arthur Strong	Arthur C. Shrives	Stephen Bovey	Mike Ward	Albert Nejmeh	Timothy Cruger	
George Crane	Alvin Olson	Roy E. Scales	Ralph F. Glasgow	Mark Noble	John Knighten	Scott Ely	
William Shuberg	Ernest A. Smith	Frank W. Williams	Robert P. Wiebe	Nathaniel Ford	Robert Hamel	Mike Zainfeld	
Cecil McKenzie	John Herron	Dale W. Kruse	Toni Godsil	James Barnard	Carl Murray	Kirk Robinson	
Darwin T. Lund	Robert H. Stewart	Ralph P. Bucklen	Loren Christian	Robert E. McLaughlin	Daniel J. Hall	Christian Johnson	
Charles E. Wheeler	Maurice R. Bradley	Robert G. Hanna	Donald Perry	Kevin Burgoyne	John G Fox	Don Waller	
Koski Wilho	Leroy A. Mackey	George W. Bittman	Paul Bjorklund	David M. Potter	JB Bryson	Philip Oldham	
Charles Bunnell	Harold W. Webb	Scott W. Maybay	Paul T. Hodges	Lilly May Patten	Wallace F. Goulet	Dave Lewis	
Conrad Hymel	Robert D. Miller	Morris J. Bliss	John C. King	J. Douglas Waller	Mark Normington	Jay Wheeler	

(267 Names)






# Emotionally Charged Situations

- The death/injury of a firefighter is a trauma
  - Because of our job environment we have a low tolerance for emotional involvement
- The death/injury of a firefighter is personal
  - The coping skills we use on the job don't work
  - We fall back on what we know
    - Control
    - Honor

# Being Prepared

- Lowers the Level of Stress
- Lowers the Emotional Tempo
- Brings a Sense of Purpose and Control
- More Effective in Reaching a Goal



Plan For What Is Difficult  
While It Is Easy. Do What Is  
Great While It Is Small.

- SUN TZU -

StatueMaven.com



# Firefighter Traditions

- Firefighter Funerals are extremely complex and detailed events that require a tremendous amount of intricate planning
  - Honor Guard
    - Casket Watch
    - Family Escorts
    - Cordons of Honor
  - Pipes and Drums
    - Bringing in the Procession
    - Going Home
    - Amazing Grace
  - Ceremonies
    - Flag Presentation
    - Honor Flags
    - Medal of Valor
    - State Flag
  - Crossed Ladders
    - Personal Effects
    - Chaplain
    - Eulogy



# LODD Determination

~ It's confusing and convoluted

~ Must be done correctly

**\*LODD Determination does not mean financial benefits**

- Who makes the determination of a LODD?
  - The LODD determination is based on multiple factors by different organizations who have different criteria

1. Washington State
  - LNI
2. IAFF
  - District VP
3. Federal
  - PSOB



- ❖ LODD Determination dictates the Level of Honor for the Funeral Service



# Service Classifications

## Levels of Honor

- Level 1 – Line of Duty
  - Combat
  - Non-Combat
    - Medical
      - On-Scene/Off-Scene
- Level 2 – Active Member, Off Duty
  - Non-Presumptive Medical
- Level 3 – Retired Firefighter



# LODD

## Determination

- RCW 51.32.185 Presumption of Occupational Disease for Firefighters
  - The Presumptive Law does not cover Volunteer Firefighters
- LODD Determination Quick Sheet
  - Walks through the RCW
  - If the answer is “Yes” then the death is most likely an LODD





# LODD

## Determination

- **LODD Determination Quick Sheet**
  - Did the firefighter die on scene of a working incident?
  - Did the firefighter die as a result of a cancer or other medical related issue?
    - If “Yes” see the RCW Determination Check List
- **RCW Determination Check List**
  - Did the Firefighter die of respiratory or heart problems within 72 hours of exposure to smoke, fumes, or toxic substances?
  - Did the Firefighter die of respiratory, or heart problems experienced within 24 hours of strenuous physical exertion due to firefighting activities?



# LODD

## Determination

- Is there any evidence of (may include, but is not limited to) the use of tobacco products, physical fitness and weight, lifestyle, hereditary factors, or exposure from other employment or non-employment activities?
  - If “Yes” this might exclude the firefighter from LODD coverage
- Did the Firefighter die after a diagnosis of the following infectious diseases?
  - Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
  - Hepatitis
  - Meningococcal Meningitis
  - Mycobacterium Tuberculosis





# LODD

## Determination

- Did the Firefighter die of a diagnosis of one of the following cancers?
  - Prostate Cancer diagnosed
    - Prior to the age of fifty
  - Primary Brain Cancer
  - Malignant Melanoma
  - Leukemia
  - Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
  - Bladder Cancer
  - Ureter Cancer



# LODD

## Determination

- Did the Firefighter die of a diagnosis of one of the following cancers?  
(continued)
  - Colorectal Cancer
  - Multiple Myeloma
  - Testicular Cancer
  - Kidney Cancer Mesothelioma
  - Stomach cancer
  - Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer,
  - Breast Cancer in Women
  - Cervical Cancer





# LODD

## Determination

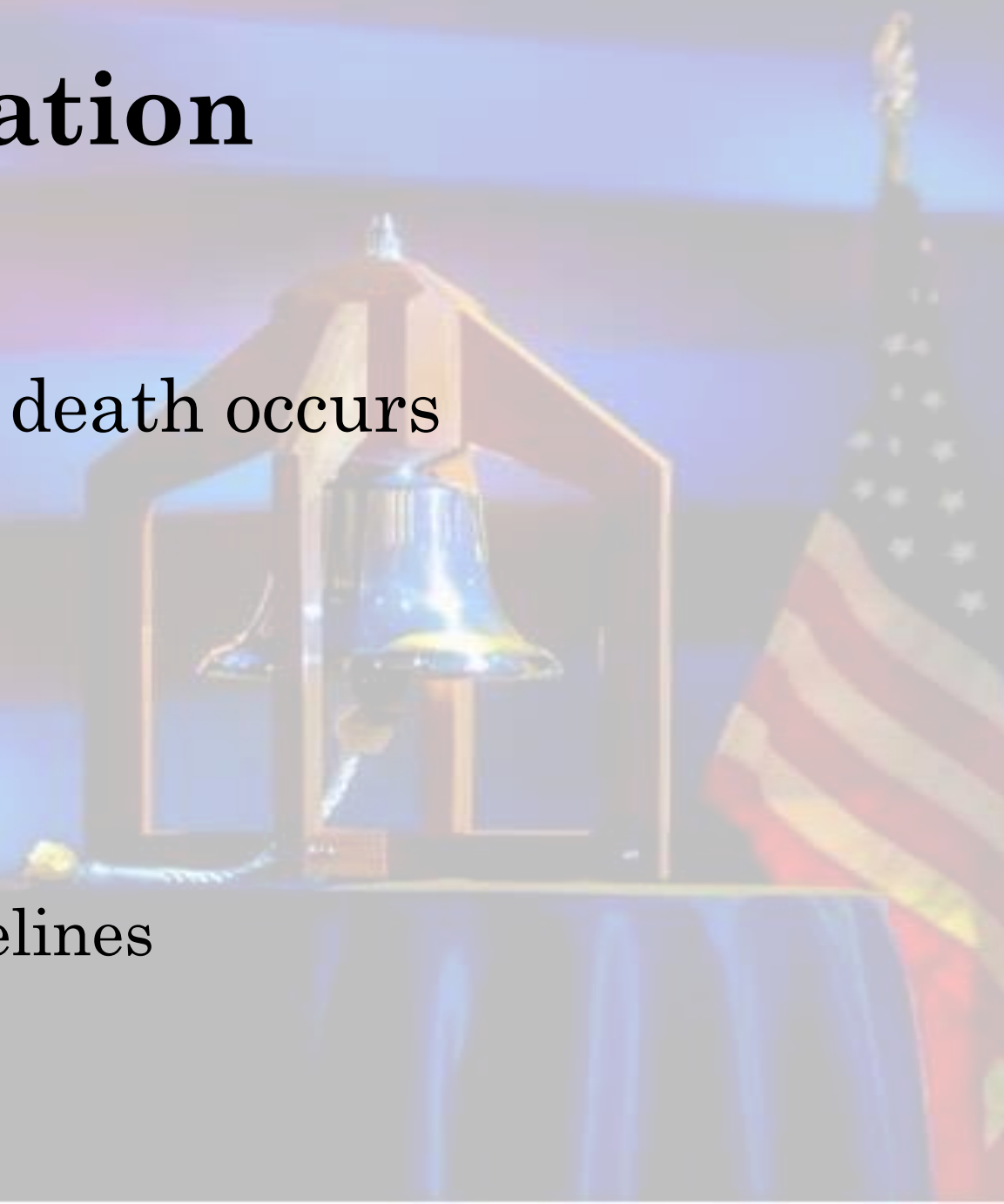
- Did this cancer develop or manifests itself after the firefighter has served at least ten years and was given a qualifying medical examination upon becoming a firefighter that showed no evidence of cancer?
- Retired Firefighter:
  - When did the firefighter retire?
  - Is this date within 60 months of the cancer diagnosis?
- Did the Firefighter receive a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder that developed or manifested itself after the Firefighter has served for at least 10 years?



# Pre-Incident Preparation

## Policy

- Focus on what to do when the death occurs
  - Initial Action Check List
  - Notification Procedures
    - Family
    - Department
    - Local Government
  - Investigation/Notification Guidelines





# Pre-Incident Preparation/Policy

- Initial Action Check List
  - Incident Commander/Shift Commander
    - ✓ Secures the scene of the incident with the assistance of Law Enforcement personnel.
    - ✓ Notifies the Fire Chief, other applicable Chief Officers, and the Local President.
    - ✓ Preserves any equipment, clothing and breathing apparatus used by injured or deceased firefighters for the investigation. Preserves all tactical worksheets, video and/or audio recordings for the investigation.
    - ✓ Contacts the PIO to coordinate with media to avoid premature release of video and/or names of injured/deceased until the notification can be made.
  - Incident Commander/Shift Commander/PIO
    - ✓ Directs Incident Command and Dispatch to withhold release of personal data relating to the employee or the death, pending notification of the next of kin

# Pre-Incident Preparation/Policy

- Initial Action Check List
  - Assistant Chief of Operations
    - ✓ Secures the employee's Personal Information Packet, if completed. This will guide the department head in carrying out the notification of next of kin. If the packet was not completed, assemble as much personal data as possible concerning the deceased.
    - ✓ Notifies the Chaplain and the Peer Support Team Coordinators
    - ✓ Assigns an Auditing Officer, as soon as possible, to secure the personal effects in place.



# Pre-Incident Preparation/Policy

- Initial Action Check List

- Fire Chief

- ✓ Assigns a Notification Team consisting of two people.
    - ✓ Assigns a Family Liaison Officer, or one per surviving family.
    - ✓ Notifies the Governance Board Chairperson.
    - ✓ Notifies the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries within eight hours
    - ✓ Notifies the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office within 48 hour if the death occurred in a fire.
    - ✓ Assign an Investigation Team.

# Pre-Incident Preparation/Policy

## Should also include

- Notification Procedures\*
- Personal Information Packet\*
- Investigation Guidelines
- LODD Determination Procedures
- Funeral Procedures and Logistics
  - Planning Team
  - Family Liaison
  - Resources
  - Transportation Plan
  - Casket Watch
  - Member Support



# Pre-Incident Preparation

## Notification Procedures

- Family
  - As soon as possible in person
  - DO NOT posted on Social Media or release the name until completed
- Department
  - Size of department
  - As personal as possible
- Legal
  - LNI (Time Considerations)
  - State Fire Marshal (Time Considerations)
  - IAFF
  - State Fire Chiefs
  - City/County Officials





# Pre-Incident Preparation

## Personal Information Packet

- Wishes of the Firefighter
  - Who does the notification
  - Who will be the Family Liaison
  - Legal Information
- Considerations
  - Keep it up-to-date
  - Change your beneficiaries
  - Will be followed to the best of the department ability
  - Does not want a funeral. “Now what????”



The image shows a sample 'Personal Information' packet. It features a cartoon firefighter character on the left. The packet is titled 'Personal Information' and includes fields for 'address', 'phone number', and 'birthday'. There are two versions of the form shown, one for 'My Personal Information' and another for 'My Personal Information' with a 'Parent name' field. The packet also includes a 'Name' field, an 'Address' field, a 'Phone' field, a 'Birthday' field, and an 'Age' field. There are also fields for 'Parent name' and 'Parent phone number'. The packet is designed to be a 'Personal Information' packet for firefighters.

# Pre-Incident Preparation

- **Logistics**

- Casket Flag
  - Government Spec.
- Transportation of Body
  - Scene to Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office
  - To Funeral Home
- Casket Watch
  - At Facilities
  - At Funeral
  - Ends at the Start of the Service

- **Member Support**

- Department Resources
  - OSA Peer Support for Connection
  - CISM Team for Debriefings
- During
- After



# Challenges and Common Mistakes

- Local and Admin Relationship
  - Need to work together
- The Family
  - Over promising the Honors and Benefits
  - Overwhelming the family with decisions
- Role of Family Liaison
  - Not preparing the Family Liaison
  - Too many people talking to the family
- Lack of Communication
  - Not communicating the plan with the Department
    - Don't Keep The Process a Secret!!!





# Challenges and Common Mistakes

- Trying to plan the funeral yourself (Department)
  - No need to reinvent the wheel!
    - Late Notification to LAST Team
  - Not being detailed enough
    - It doesn't just happen!!!
- Stay in your lane
- Funding for service-related expenses



# Funeral Planning Assistance

- LAST – Local Assistance State Team
  - A program of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
- In partnership with
  - The State Council
  - The State Chiefs
  - The Firefighters' Association
  - The State Commissioners
  - The State Fire Marshals Office







## L.A.S.T. Washington State Fallen Firefighters Foundation

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- **Will not** take over
- **Will come** alongside the planning team
- **Will assist** with the details, complexities and intricacies of the service
  - Levels of assistance meet the required need of the department
    - Run the whole service
    - Simple consultation



# A Successful Service

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- 3 Goals
  1. Honor the Family
  2. Honor the Department
  3. Honor the Community
- Funeral Planning Meetings
  - ✓ Provides Structure
  - ✓ Assign Tasks
  - ✓ Pool Resources



# Preparing for an LODD



- The Importance of Honoring
- LODD Determination
- Being Prepared
- Policy
  - Focused on what to do when the death occurs
  - Notification Procedure
  - Personal Information Packet
- Challenges and Common Mistakes
- Resources



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