Place a temporary memorial in front of Fire Station

To honor the memory of the deceased, many FD’s place a temporary memorial consisting of a turnout coat and helmet secured to a chair in front of the station. A candle and flowers are appropriate at the base. This also gives mourning citizens of the community the opportunity to add to the memorial. Depending on availability, a photo of the deceased may be displayed.

Critical Incident Stress Management

Assists Emergency Service personnel to construct a shared picture of…..
⇒ How the incident occurred
⇒ What each of them was thinking
⇒ What each of them was doing
⇒ How each individual is reacting and feeling
⇒ How the department is reacting

It is designed to assist firefighters and the department to…..
⇒ Begin the recovery process
⇒ Learn from the experience
⇒ Honor its lost member(s)
⇒ Rebound from challenging events
⇒ Collectively move forward

Edward A. Mann
State Fire Commissioner

For more info contact:
William P. Ruth
276 Stormer Road
Indiana, Pa 15701
724 357-0103
724 357-2992 fax
wruth@state.pa.us

Office of the State Fire Commissioner
Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania

A Fire Department Guide on Handling a Line of Duty Death
**Preplanning Before the LODD**

Things to do before “it” happens:

1. Beneficiary cards completed
2. Training records up to date
3. Obtain telephone numbers
   - County EMA
   - County Coroner
   - Police
   - PEMA EOC 800 424-7362
   - OSFC 800 670-3473
   - CISM
   - Worker Comp Carrier
   - Insurance Carrier
   - Municipal Contact
   - Local Honor Guard
   - Fire Associations
   - Other

**Immediately After the Death**

When you are made aware of a Line of Duty Death, there are many steps you must immediately take. You must make sure that the proper notifications have been made. Notify your County Emergency Management Agency and have them notify the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency’s EOC. This will automatically notify the State Fire Commissioner and staff. Also, notify your County Coroner of the LODD and that the LODD autopsy protocol must be followed.

Basic steps to take before the arrival of a staff member from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner:

1. Make notification of County EMA
2. Advise Coroner of LODD
3. Contact local CISM team
4. Support deceased family with any immediate needs
5. Make sure of your fire fighters well being
6. Lower flags to half-staff
7. Secure training records of deceased
8. Notify Municipality of death
9. Notify insurance carriers
10. Have the Officers on the call make a written statement as to what happened (only facts)

**Appoint a Public Information Officer**

A PIO must be immediately appointed to control rumors and to release only the facts that the FD determines necessary. All sensitive information should be released with discretion (and family approval). The PIO should be the only spokes person for the FD. Information must be gathered as soon as possible to include:

1. Name of deceased
2. Dept. info (rank, date joined etc.)
3. Next of kin information
   A. Name
   B. Relationship
   C. Address
   D. Telephone number
4. Gather insurance information
   A. Worker Comp
   B. FD life insurance policy
   C. Fire Assoc. insurance policies
5. Prepare a formal news release
6. Prepare for news media/briefings