

<b>SUBJECT:</b> LINE OF DUTY DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY SURVIVOR BENEFITS	<b>SECTION:</b> 103.16D
<b>REVISED:</b> MARCH 19, 2011	<b>PAGE(S):</b> 3

## PURPOSE

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To establish standard guidelines and procedures that will serve the purpose of assisting family members, of personnel who are either severely injured or have deceased while in the line of duty, receive the benefits entitled to them.

## POLICY

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It shall be the responsibility of the Fire Chief, or the Chief's designee to properly notify State and Federal agencies of a firefighter who has suffered severe injuries or has died in the line of duty. The Fire Chief may designate a Benefits Officer to assist the survivors in obtaining benefits.

## PROCEDURE

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The Fire Chief or designee (Benefits Officer) will personally make the notifications. The Fire Chief may also appoint a Family Liaison Officer to coordinate the efforts between the survivors and the Department.

Twelve copies of the Death Certificate should be ordered through the Funeral Director for processing benefit claims.

## NOTIFICATION LIST - FEDERAL

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### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Washington, D.C. 20531  
1-888-744-6513

Call with the following information:

1. Deceased name, occupation and title/rank
2. Widow/widower's name
3. Names and DOB of children
4. Widow/widower's mailing address

5. Fire Department Name
6. Name, phone number and address of Contact Person
7. Description of incident

Upon receipt of the above information by the Department of Justice, forms will be forwarded to the Fire Department for completion.

In order for a firefighter's surviving dependents to receive the Federal Public Safety Officer's Benefit, certain tests must be made before death, or at the time of death.

1. It is necessary to obtain a complete blood toxicology report primarily concerning blood alcohol and Carbon Monoxide levels.
2. In cases involving a non-traumatic injury, such as a heart attack, it is also necessary to obtain a complete blood toxicology report as stated above. It is imperative that they receive an accurate toxicology report to complete benefit payments. If local labs are unable to get accurate Carbon Monoxide levels below 10%, contact the Department of Justice and they will be able to run the test.
3. A certified copy of the autopsy must be provided and if no autopsy was performed, an affidavit stating one was not performed must be provided.

If a firefighter is injured to the point of permanent disability, he/she is eligible for a one-time lump sum payment equal to the current benefit listed above provided they meet the following criteria:

1. They are totally disabled and will never be able to hold another job.
2. They receive the maximum benefit from their primary workmen's compensation claim.
3. They are released from the Fire Department.

## **UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION**

Notify the U. S. Fire Administration (USFA), National Fallen Firefighters Foundation by telephone in the event of a firefighter line-of-duty death so they can provide assistance and also lower the flags over the Fallen Firefighters' Memorial in respect.

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
Emmitsburg, MD  
301-447-1365

## NOTIFICATION LIST - STATE

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### State Fire Marshal

Fire Prevention Bureau  
Reynoldsburg, OH  
1-888-243-0305

## NOTIFICATION LIST - MISCELLANEOUS

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Depending on individual situations, additional benefits available to survivors may be available from:

- Social security Administration
- US Department of Veteran Affairs
- Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund or Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
- Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
- Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program
- Ohio Board of Regents, Student Aid Commission
- International Association of Fire Fighters

## REFERENCE

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*Firefighter Line-of-Duty Death Guidelines*, State of Ohio Fire Marshal, April 2010.