

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



## HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

August 2005

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1. The following guidelines are used to honor U.S. Air Force Fallen Firefighters. Specific honors and dates are announced by the Office of the Chief, Air Force Fire & Emergency Services, as soon as possible after the death of a firefighter:

### 1.1. **For firefighters that die while engaged in fire protection duties, on or off duty:**

- ❑ Through the Protocol Office, obtain commander approval to fly all US flags at half staff throughout the installation on the day following death (home station and duty station), and to fly the US flag at the fire station (when available) at half staff during the Last Alarm Ceremony.
- ❑ Fly the fire service flag (when available) at half staff for 30 days beginning on the day of death (AF Wide).
- ❑ Firefighters wear a black band on the Fire Protection Badge until interment (AF Wide).
- ❑ Conduct a ceremony at Noon, 3 days after death, consisting of a Moment of Silence and Last Alarm Ceremony (AF Wide).
  - Lower US flag to half staff.
  - Begin the ceremony with five short rings (for each fallen firefighter) of a ceremonial bell or firehouse dispatch bell/signal.
  - Follow with a Moment of Silence (30 seconds).
  - Conclude with the same five rings (for each fallen firefighter).
  - Return US flag to full staff.

### 1.2. **For firefighters that die on-duty but not engaged in fire protection duties** (includes travel to/from work):

- ❑ Through the Protocol Office, obtain commander approval to fly the US flag at half staff at the fire station (when available) on the day following death (home station and duty station), and to fly the US flag at the fire station (when available) at half staff during the Last Alarm Ceremony.
- ❑ Fly the fire service flag (when available) at half staff for 30 days beginning on the day of death (home station and duty station).
- ❑ Firefighters wear a black band on the Fire Protection Badge until interment (home station and duty station).
- ❑ Conduct a ceremony at Shift Change/Roll Call, 3 days after death, consisting of a Moment of Silence and Last Alarm Ceremony (AF Wide).
  - Lower the US flag to half staff.
  - Begin the ceremony with five short rings (for each fallen firefighter) of a ceremonial bell or firehouse dispatch bell/signal.
  - Follow with a Moment of Silence (30 seconds).
  - Conclude with the same five rings (for each fallen firefighter).
  - Return US flag to full staff.

### 1.3. **For firefighters that die while off duty and not engaged in fire protection duties** (day off, K-day, leave, etc.):

- ❑ Through the Protocol Office, obtain commander approval to fly the US flag at half staff at the fire station (when available) on the day following death (home station and duty

station), and to fly the US flag at the fire station (when available) at half staff during the Last Alarm Ceremony.

- ❑ Fly the fire service flag (when available) at half staff for 30 days beginning on the day of death (home station and duty station).
- ❑ Firefighters wear a black band on the Fire Protection Badge until interment (home station and duty station).
- ❑ Conduct a Moment of Silence at Shift Change/Roll Call, 3 days after death (AF Wide).
- ❑ Conduct a Moment of Silence and Last Alarm Ceremony at Shift Change/Roll Call, 3 days after death (home station and duty station).
  - Lower the US flag to half staff.
  - Begin the ceremony with five short rings (for each fallen firefighter) of a ceremonial bell or firehouse dispatch bell/signal.
  - Follow with a Moment of Silence (30 seconds).
  - Conclude with the same five rings (for each fallen firefighter).
  - Return US flag to full staff.

1.4. **For other firefighters**, such as retirees, the Chief of AF Fire & Emergency Services, with input from Command Fire Chiefs, will prescribe appropriate honors.

2. At the home station and/or duty station 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. Fire vehicles and firefighters should be provided whenever possible to support the requests of the family.

3. When a fallen firefighter will be interred at a location away from the home station and/or duty station, the home station fire chief will contact the fire chief at the AF installation closest to the interment and ask that he/she intercede for paragraph 2 above.

4. Funeral Protocol. Excellent procedures for funerals are provided at the National Fallen Firefighters Association web site and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) web site at <http://firehero.org/> and <http://www.iaff.org/safe/content/LODD/funeralprotocol.html>, respectively.

5. Other activities, such as memorial or religious services, may be conducted in addition to the minimum honors outlined in this document. The use of Air Force firefighters and vehicles during ceremonies, consistent with the family's desires, is encouraged. Seek Commander's approval to fly the US flag at half staff during memorial services.

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

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SUMMARY TABLE

ACTION	HOME/DUTY STATION	AF WIDE
<i><b>Died while actively engaged in fire protection duties on or off duty:</b></i>		
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
Conduct Moment of Silence & Last Alarm ceremony at Noon		X
<i><b>Died on duty but not engaged in fire protection duties:</b></i>		
US flag at fire station at half staff	X	
Fire service flag at half staff		X
Black band on the Fire Protection Badge	X	
Conduct Moment of Silence & Last Alarm ceremony at <b>Shift Change/Roll Call</b>		X
<i><b>Died off duty and not engaged in fire protection duties:</b></i>		
US flags at half staff	X	
Fire service flag at half staff	X	
Black band on the Fire Protection Badge	X	
Conduct Moment of Silence at <b>Shift Change/Roll Call</b>		X
Conduct Moment of Silence & Last Alarm ceremony at <b>Shift Change/Roll Call</b>	X	
<i><b>Other firefighter deaths (retirees, etc.)</b></i>		
Appropriate honors will be announced by the Chief, Air Force Fire & Emergency Services		