GOVERNOR’S OFFICE NOTIFICATION

CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE
FIREFIGHTER LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH

REPORTING POLICY AND
PROCEDURES FOR ALL CALIFORNIA FIRE AGENCIES

Rev. Apr 2019
POLICY

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Fire and Rescue Division is responsible for the immediate notification to the Governor’s Office of any “Firefighter Line of Duty Death,” of any California firefighter, regardless of the fire agency, that occurs within or outside of the State of California. Once notified, the fire agency will initiate and follow through in accordance with the established notification policy and procedures for accurate and timely information regarding the death of a firefighter.

PROCEDURES

1. The affected Fire Agency will immediately (or as soon as possible) notify their Cal OES Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator of the on-duty death of a firefighter including the name, rank and age of the fallen firefighter along with a synopsis of the incident and agencies liaison name and contact information. The name of the fallen firefighter and incident synopsis shall be handled and held in confidentiality and only used for notifications to the Governor’s Office. The affected fire agency shall maintain responsibility for notification of next of kin and media news releases.

2. The Cal OES Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator will directly notify the Cal OES Fire Duty Chief at (916) 845-8711 and provide the information regarding the firefighter duty death. The Cal OES Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator will notify their Cal OES Fire and Rescue Regional Coordinator.

3. The Cal OES Fire Duty Chief will immediately notify the Cal OES Director or, in his absence, the Cal OES Fire Chief, who will notify the Governor’s Office, Governor’s Public Safety Liaison of the initial information regarding the firefighter death.

4. Once notification has been made, the Governor’s Office will establish communications with the liaison of the affected fire agency to obtain further information for the Governor’s communication to the firefighter’s family and for press release.

5. The Governor’s Office will, after issuing a press release, instruct that the Capitol State Flags be lowered for 72 hours.
Procedural Flow Chart for notifying the Governor’s Office in the event of a California Fire Service On-Duty Firefighter Fatality

Governor’s Office
Governor’s Public Safety Liaison

Cal OES Director’s Office

Cal OES Fire Chief
*Cal OES Fire/Rescue Operational Area Coordinator
*Cal OES Fire/Rescue Operational Area Coordinator informs the Cal OES Regional Coordinator.

Fire Agency w/On-Duty Fatality

Fire Agency Liaison provides follow-up information to the Cal OES Duty Chief

Cal OES Fire Duty Chief coordinates follow-up Information with Fire Agency Liaison

Firefighters Next of Kin
Notification to the Governor’s Office of a Firefighter Line of Duty Death Form

This form can be found on the Cal OES Fire and Rescue Website at the following link:
http://www.caloes.ca.gov/FireRescueSite/Pages/Regions.aspx