

# GENERAL OPERATING GUIDELINE

SOUTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION	SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE  SUBJECT: FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS	SDFA#: GOG 03 PAGE: 1/1 DATE: March 27, 2000
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PREMISE: The South Dakota Firefighter's Association (SDFA) understands the reality that a firefighter maybe killed in the line of duty.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this GOG is to establish the rules and procedures for determining if a firefighter's death would qualify for a line of duty death and inclusion on the Fallen Firefighter Memorial.

SCOPE: This GOG will apply to all fire departments, firefighter's and other agencies that are eligible for inclusion in the Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

HISTORY: Original Issue March 27, 2000

## Definition of firefighter

- a) The term firefighter covers all members of organized fire departments, whether career, volunteer or mixed; full- or part time public service officers acting as firefighters; local, city, county, state and federal government fire service personnel; temporary fire suppression personnel operating under official auspices of one of the above; and privately employed firefighters including trained member of industrial or institutional fire brigades, whether full - or part time.
- b) This definition includes, but is not limited to, seasonal, part time and full-time employees of the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. National Park Service; and State of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Department of Resource, Conservation and Forestry wildland agencies; prison inmates assigned to fire suppression and serving at the direction of the State of South Dakota; state and federal military personnel performing assigned fire suppression activities; civilian fire fighters working at military installations; and member of industrial fire brigades.

## A) What constitutes an on-duty fatality?

- B) The term on-duty refers to being at the scene of an alarm, whether a fire or non-fire incident; being enroute while responding to or returning from an alarm; performing other assigned duties such as training, maintenance, public education, inspection, investigations, court testimony and fund raising; and being on-call, under orders or on stand-by duty other than at home or at the individual's place of business.
- C) On duty fatalities include any injury sustained while on duty that proves fatal, any illness that was incurred as a result of actions while on duty that proves fatal, and fatal mishaps involving occupational hazards that occur while on duty. The types of injuries included in the first category are mainly those that occur on the fire ground, in training, or in accidents while responding to or returning from alarms. The most common examples of fatal illnesses incurred on duty are fatal heart attacks.
- D) The Public Safety Officer's Death Benefit Program maybe used for determination of the inclusion into the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial.
- E) Fatal injuries and illnesses are included even in cases where death is considerably delayed. For instance, if a firefighter sustained an on-duty injury in 1988, which later lead to his/her death in 1992, would be considered a line of duty death or 1992.