

LEVELS OF HONOR SERVICES GUIDELINE FOR OREGON FIRE DEPARTMENTS

1. **General:** *(As of March 2025, similar documents prior to this date are outdated and will not apply.)*

This guideline defines 4 different levels of honor with corresponding suggested arrangement options as approved by the Oregon Fire Chief's Association.

The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard (OFSHG) will follow the below protocols. If the department insists on providing services which are above the approved protocols, the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard may assist with planning to ensure proper etiquette but **will not** participate in that portion of the event. This should be avoided at all costs.

The OFSHG is a well versed resource and is willing to be involved in as much or as little as the department and family needs and/or wants regarding funeral planning and coordinating. We work side by side with the family's wishes. We will only do as much or as little as the family desires to the best of our abilities and limitations. **It is ultimately what the family wants NOT the fire department.** The OFSHG has very specific protocols to follow depending on the level of honors that are applicable. The Oregon Fire Chief's Association has approved these protocols and we **will not** deviate from them. This ensures standardization across the state.

1.2 **Definitions:**

First Responder:

A first responder includes a firefighter, probationary firefighter, emergency medical service provider, who, in the course of their professional duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other similar front line emergencies.

Line of Duty Death - Traumatic - Active Combat:

A first responder on duty whose death is a direct result of an injury suffered in the line of duty.

Line of Duty Death - Non-Traumatic - Non Combat:

A first responder death that is a result of an injury or illness that is strongly believed or has been proven to be attributable to the job.

Active Duty Death:

An active first responder who dies off duty and is determined to NOT be a Line of Duty Death.

Retired Death:

A retired first responder whose death is determined to NOT be a Line of Duty Death.

1.3 **Who qualifies for Honor Guard Services:**

A first responder, as described above, who is or was affiliated with an Oregon Fire Service Department or District.

1.4 **How to Activate the Honor Guard:**

The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard can ONLY BE REQUESTED by the affected agency's current Fire Chief, NOT the family, religious representative or other.

The Fire Chief must either contact the OFSHG directly or go through the OFCA. The Fire Chief must be in full support and be willing to coordinate with both, the OFSHG and the family in the planning and organization of the event. The affected agency may be financially responsible for any related costs. Any financial donation to the OFSHG is graciously accepted. Please continue to support our mission of providing honors for the families of the fallen.

“Levels of Honor” Services

2.0 - Line of Duty Death - Traumatic - Active Combat

- 24/7 Honor Watch
- Station Mourning Bunting
- Casket draped with American flag
- PD Escorted FD Vehicle Procession
- Fire Engine Caisson
- Vehicle Bunting
- Crossed Ladders with US flag at venue
- Pallbearers (FD, Family, or Honor Guard)
- Uniformed Personnel Honor Corridor
- Honor Guard Casket / Urn Watch
- Posting of Colors
- Bell Ceremony
- Honor Guard Coin presentation
- American Flag Fold and Presentation
- Bugler - TAPS (**for military veterans only**)
- PRE RECORDED by dispatch LODD Last Alarm
- Pipe and Drum Band

2.1 - Line of Duty Death - Non-Traumatic - Non Combat

- Honor Watch (Department led only) (recommend 24-48 hours before funeral event)
- Station Mourning Bunting
- Casket draped with American flag
- Fire Engine Caisson
- Vehicle Bunting (stationary apparatus parked at funeral venue only)
- Single Aerial Ladder with US flag at venue only
- Pallbearers (FD, Family, or Honor Guard)
- Uniformed Personnel Honor Corridor
- Honor Guard Casket / Urn Watch (at funeral venue ONLY)
- Posting of Colors
- Bell Ceremony
- Honor Guard Coin presentation
- American Flag Fold and Presentation
- Bugler - TAPS (**for military veterans only**)
- PRE RECORDED by dispatch LODD Last Alarm
- Pipe and Drum Band (only if available)

2.2 - Active Duty Death

- Vehicle Bunting if available for stationary apparatus parked at funeral venue only)
- Pallbearers (FD, Family, or Honor Guard)
- Honor Corridor (affected FD members only)
- Honor Guard Casket / Urn Watch (during service only)
- Posting of Colors
- Bell Ceremony
- Honor Guard Coin presentation
- Pre-folded American Flag Presentation (for non-veterans)
- American Flag Fold and Presentation (**for military veterans only**)
- Bugler TAPS (**for military veterans only**)
- Bagpiper (only if available)

2.3 - Retiree Funeral

- Bell Ceremony
- Honor Guard Coin presentation
- Pre-Folded American Flag presentation (for non-veterans)
- American Flag Fold and Presentation (**for military veterans only**)
- Bugler TAPS (**for military veterans only**)