

# OREGON FIRE SERVICE HONOR GUARD



## Informational Funeral and Memorial Resource Guide

1-866-460-9104

[WWW.OFSHG.ORG](http://WWW.OFSHG.ORG)



# **BRAVERY~COURAGE~HONOR~SACRIFICE**

The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard was established in 1998. The team falls directly under the auspices of the Oregon Fire Chief's Association (OFCA). The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard is represented by fire service professionals from across the State of Oregon. All members volunteer their own time and their own expenses to provide honors to the fallen throughout the state and on occasion out of state when requested and available. The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard provides 3 levels of honor for funeral and memorial services for the qualified members of the fire service. These 3 levels consist of Line of Duty, Active duty, and Retiree deaths.

The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard is a non-profit 501 c3 organization solely supported by donations. Donations are graciously accepted in any amount. The funds received are used to purchase items the team uses to provide the services offered. Some of the most important items are American flags that are meticulously folded and given to the families of the fallen, challenge coins that are only presented to the families of the fallen, flags, bases and axes for our colors postings, and bells for memorial remembrances.

The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training is responsible for the annual ceremonies at the Oregon Fallen Firefighter's Memorial located in Salem. Every year, a ceremony is held in honor of those whose names are forever inscribed on the granite wall. Those that have fallen to the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Family and friends of the fallen are always welcome to gather, remember and celebrate their memories.

## **How to Activate the OFSHG**

ALL requests for the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard shall be made by contacting either the OFCA office or the State Commander. These requests MUST come from the current Oregon Fire Chief from the affected agency, NOT the family or a religious representative. The State Commander shall determine whether the request meets the criteria for activation and what the appropriate level of honor will be. The Honor Guard will never self activate.

### Activations:

Events in order of priority, appropriate for activation of the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard:

- Line of Duty death of Oregon Fire Service Personnel
- Active Duty death of Oregon Fire Service Personnel
- Retiree death of Oregon Fire Service Personnel
- Memorial Events
- State or National needs deemed necessary by the OFCA.
- Other activities approved by the State Commander

**\*\*\* The team is all volunteer and in the case of no available members, the State Commander may have to decline the event.**

The "Levels of Honor" Service protocol (below) will be used to determine appropriateness for all levels of funeral and memorial events. These protocols have been approved by the OFCA Board and are very specific to each level. They will be the standard guideline in the planning process. The State Commander will maintain the levels of honor for each event as appropriate and will not deviate from the protocols.

## Who to contact...

### State Commander

Amanda Schmitt Cell: 503-869-8559  
Email: [statecommander@ofshg.org](mailto:statecommander@ofshg.org)

### Assistant Commander

Mark Wilson Cell: 541-948-7340  
Email: [assistantcommander@ofshg.org](mailto:assistantcommander@ofshg.org)

### Deputy Commander

Brent Griffiths Cell: 503-428-4766  
Email: [deputycommander@ofshg.org](mailto:deputycommander@ofshg.org)

### Deputy Commander

Jonathan Hayes Cell: 803-422-9525  
Email: [jonathan.l.hayes@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.l.hayes@gmail.com)

### Logistics

Ron Schmitt Cell: 503-869-8491  
Email: [logistics@ofshg.org](mailto:logistics@ofshg.org)

### OFCA Office

1-888-846-5741  
Email: [ofca@ofca.org](mailto:ofca@ofca.org)

### OFCA Chaplain

Leo Keelan Cell: 503-819-9481  
Email: [leo@hopechaplain.com](mailto:leo@hopechaplain.com)



## When to contact...

Please contact the Honor Guard State Commander AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

We are here as a resource to assist in the many planning stages after a death. We can discuss all the levels of planning a funeral and provide guidance and other resources for your agency. We are able to plan over the phone, email and virtually. If there is a need to be in person, we may also be able to facilitate that.

The family of the fallen is the highest priority in our planning. Having direct contact with them through ONE family liaison from the beginning can only improve the outcome for everyone. The planning and honors must be approved by the family first. They have the final approval of all honors, NOT the Fire Department.



# LEVELS OF HONOR SERVICE GUIDELINE FOR OREGON FIREFIGHTERS

General: As of January 2024, similar documents prior to this date are outdated and will not apply.

**This guideline defines 3 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 levels of honor 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.

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

An affiliated active Oregon firefighter or fire prevention specialist (career or volunteer) who is or was Oregon DPSST certified or affiliated.

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

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

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.

## **Definitions:**

### **Line of Duty Death, (LODD)**

A firefighter on duty with an Oregon fire agency (career or volunteer) whose death is the result of an injury suffered in the line of duty. It may also be the result of an injury or illness that has been proven to be attributable to the job.

### **Active Duty Death**

An active firefighter with an Oregon fire agency (career or volunteer), who dies off duty and is NOT determined as a Line of duty death.

### **Retired member Death**

A retired firefighter of an Oregon fire agency.

# Levels of Honor Services

## Line of Duty Death, LODD

- 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 large US Flag at venue
- Pallbearers (FD, Family, Honor Guard)
- Uniformed Personnel Honor Corridor
- Casket / Urn Watch
- Posting of colors
- Bell Ceremony
- HG Coin presentation
- American Flag Fold and Presentation
- Bugler - TAPS (**for military veterans only**)
- PRE RECORDED by dispatch LODD Last Alarm
- Pipe and Drum Band - Amazing Grace

## Active Duty Death

- Vehicle Bunting if available (stationary apparatus parked at site only)
- Pallbearers (FD, Family, Honor Guard)
- Honor Corridor (affected FD members only)
- Casket / Urn Watch only during funeral
- Posting of Colors
- Bell Ceremony
- HG 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)

## Retiree Funeral

- Bell Ceremony
- HG 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**)