



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF POLICE CHAPLAINS

B11 – Officer Death and Injury

B11 - Officer Death and Injury - Revised April 2014



Training Objectives

- Understanding of how to respond to an Officer death or injury
- Understanding of the impact of Line-of-Duty deaths and injuries
- Proper procedures to make a death notification
- A basic understanding of the impact of a Line-of-Duty Death on the agency, families, and the community

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Training Objectives

- An understanding of death and grief issues
- Ways to prepare for occurrence of a Line-of-Duty Death or Injury
- An understanding of health and wellness issues following a Line-of-Duty Death or Injury
- Death or injury of a retired Officer

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Proper Responses

- ☐ Prompt response
- ☐ Compassionate response
- ☐ Practical responses
- ☐ Chaplain should coordinate all efforts with supervisors to effectively respond as needed and assist with notification and other needs

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Types of Officer Death and Injury Situations

- Active Officer Line-of-Duty Death (LODD)
- Active Officer Death due to natural causes
- Active Officer Line-of-Duty Injury
- Active Officer accidental injury not in the line of duty
- Retired Officer death
- Retired Officer injury or illness



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Death Notification Procedures

- ☐ Follow agency protocol for LODD or injury if protocol in place
- ☐ Assist Supervisors in death notification if practical
- ☐ Make death notification as soon as possible
- ☐ Confirm information before making notification
- ☐ Offer as much or as little assistance to the family as needed for all aspects of funeral planning



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Law Enforcement Funerals

- ☐ Line-of-Duty Death (LODD)
 - Full police honors such as 21 gun salute, coffin watch, flag at half mast, Taps, etc.
 - Expect attendance from large geographic area
 - Intense media coverage
 - Various customs such as bunting, retired badge number, procession of law enforcement vehicles, caisson, rider-less horse, bagpipes, flyover, etc.
 - Black bands for badges



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Law Enforcement Funerals

- ☐ Other types of deaths
 - Follow agency protocol for non-LODD deaths
 - Active officers and natural deaths
 - Retired officers



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Roles That May Be Needed

- ☐ Funeral Operations Coordinator (FOC)
- ☐ Chaplain/Minister
- ☐ Family Contact/Liaison
- ☐ Agency Contact/Liaison
- ☐ Travel Coordinator/Transportation Coordinator
- ☐ Traffic Supervisor
- ☐ Ceremonial Unit Coordinator



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Types of Funeral Events

- ☐ Pre-service procession
- ☐ Pre-service events
- ☐ Family visitation
- ☐ Officer visitation
- ☐ Public visitation
- ☐ Funeral service
- ☐ Funeral procession
- ☐ Pre-cemetery events
- ☐ Committal Service
- ☐ Post-Committal service events



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Coping With Grief

- ☐ Take time to accept death; we can't deny it
- ☐ Take time to let go; letting go indicates that we are no longer in control of life
- ☐ Take time to make decisions
- ☐ Take time to share
- ☐ Take time to believe
- ☐ Take time to forgive
- ☐ Take time to feel good about yourself



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Coping With Grief

- ☐ Take time to laugh; laughter in humor is medicine
- ☐ Take time to meet new friends
- ☐ Take time to give time, energy, effort. Getting involved helps life go on



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Preparation

- ❑ Every agency should have general orders in place to address a LODD, natural death of an Officer, and death of a retired Officer
- ❑ The chaplain should be thoroughly familiar with department procedures
- ❑ Every agency should have an emergency information protocol in place
- ❑ Agencies with limited resources should consider working with larger agencies for planning assistance should a LODD or other death occur

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Chaplain Health and Well Being

- ❑ Following an event, the Chaplain should take care of himself/herself with good stress mitigating techniques
- ❑ The Chaplain cannot care for others without first taking care of himself/herself
- ❑ The Chaplain should allow time to grieve
- ❑ The Chaplain should be open to counseling when needed

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