

DEATH NOTIFICATIONS

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DEATH NOTIFICATION

Objectives of todays class:

Identify four steps in the Notification Process
Prepare for a variety of situations
Conduct trauma notifications by using best practices

DEATH NOTIFICATION

After a traumatic event, it is necessary to make a death notification

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS IN THE FIRE SERVICE

A proper notification has a great bearing on a difficult journey

What is a proper death notification?

DEATH NOTIFICATION

Trauma

Event or circumstance, resulting in:
Physical, Emotional and/or life-threatening harm

There are many elements involved within the death notification

It's helpful to break it down into several components

FOUR STEPS TO NOTIFICATION

PLANNING

PREPARATION

DELIVERY

FOLLOW-UP

PLANNING

Identify the decedent

Team selection

Next of Kin (NOK)

Details of death

PREPARATION

Established SOP/SOG's

Research NOK

Prepare team for emotional & physical responses

Do not judge

IN PERSON DELIVERY

Assemble your team

Confirm each member's function

Confirm Identity of NOK

Identify you and your team

Ask to enter the house and sit down

IN PERSON DELIVERY

Briefly overview the incident

One sentence delivery

Allow for emotional and physical responses

Next Step

IN PERSON DELIVERY

Sample script:

I'm afraid that I have some very bad news for you... Pause a moment to allow them to prepare

Your husband/wife/son/daughter etc. (name of individual) has died

Pause again. I'm very sorry that _____ died and you are having to face this

(Adding your condolence is very important because it expresses feelings rather than the facts, and invite them to express their own)

IN PERSON DELIVERY

HELPFUL DELIVERY STATEMENTS

I am sorry

This is harder than most people think

Most people who have gone through this react similarly to you

This may be one of the most difficult times in your life

If there is silence, do not try to fill the silence

IN PERSON DELIVERY

2018 there were 93,700 female in the U.S.

So far in 2021 there were four (4),female LODD's- ages 29,56,59 & 65

LODD's in NC this year:

82-year-old from Kill Devil Hills FD and 79-year-old from Youngville

BE PREPARED

IN PERSON DELIVERY

DELIVERY PITFALL STATEMENTS

The body.....
 I know how you are feeling. (You don't)
 I understand
 Time heals all wounds (It doesn't)
 You need to be strong (they don't)
 He/she was just in the wrong place at the wrong time

MINISTRY OF PRESENCE
 "We will do no harm"

SUPPORT AFTER THE NOTIFICATION

Prepare for the Five Stages of Grief



REMOTE NOTIFICATION

At no time should you make a death notification by telephone unless necessary

Should be made by local fire department or law enforcement

If remote team is not trained, provide a quick overview of your four-step process

Ask local team if you can be on the phone when the notification is made

FOLLOW UP

- MEDIA
- AUTOPSY
- RESOURCES / FUNERAL
- PERSONAL BELONGINGS

You are there to provide support; it is not our role to share faith, ideology beliefs

Ask if you or the department liaison can contact the NOK. Provide contact information for the liaison and yourself

FOLLOW UP

Call and visit the NOK the next day.

Aid the family with funeral plans

Let the NOK know that they are a part of the fire family

Attend the funeral

Stay in touch with the family

POST NOTIFICATION RECAP

DISCUSS THE NEXT OF KINS REACTS

ALLOWS US TO PROCESS THE IMPACT AS NOTIFIERS

IS A LARGE PART OF SELF-CARE

Remember the fire department and that this is also just the start of our journey.

DEATH NOTIFICATION

QUESTIONS:

COMMENTS:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY




