

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>100.08 EMS LINE OF DUTY DEATH</b>		
<b>OWNER:</b>	<b>MANAGER OF EMS</b>		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2024</b>			<b>ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/2024</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC</b>		<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	

**I. Purpose:**

To assist any EMS agency who must handle a line of duty death. While every EMS agency is different and many have their own traditions as it relates to these incidents, it is important to handle these tragic occurrences with dignity, respect, confidentiality and sensitivity.

**II. Policy:**

An emotional and tense situation occurs at an incident with a death, probable death, or injuries severe enough that they will likely lead to the death of an EMT. Actions need to be taken to control the situation and to prepare for the events which will take place

- A.** Secure the scene
- B.** Notify agency chief officers
- C.** Remember the detail of the incident
- D.** Contact the coroner immediately upon incident
- E.** Initiate a thorough investigation into the incident with law enforcement leading
  - 1.** Recover and secure all personal protective equipment
  - 2.** Secure the scene – consider it a possible crime scene
  - 3.** Establish an investigation team
  - 4.** Collect appropriate statements from individuals
- F.** No posting of the incident online in social media. Email, texts, or other means.
- G.** A Public Information Officer (PIO) shall be assigned
  - 1.** Expect a major media event
  - 2.** Have a script prepared so the release of information is concise and accurate
  - 3.** Schedule a press conference
- H.** Begin notifications
  - 1.** EMT's family
  - 2.** Manager (or higher) and an additional representative from the agency should notify the family in person of death and facts related to the incident. Have a medic unit nearby but out of sight.
  - 3.** A family liaison should remain with and/or be available to the family and should be the conduit for all information to/from the family.
  - 4.** All agency personnel
  - 5.** Mayor, County Commissioner or Trustees
- I.** Contact support agencies
  - 1.** Provide for critical incident stress debriefing and grief counseling for the agency
  - 2.** Neighboring EMS agencies and fire departments

3. EMS county, city and state authorities
4. Company/agency senior management
5. Insurance carrier
6. National EMS Memorial Service ([www.NEMSMS.org](http://www.NEMSMS.org))

**Approval:**

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**James Kirchner** **Date**  
**Vice President of Professional Services**

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**Kathleen Geiger MSN, RN** **Date**  
**Manager of EMS & Emergency Management**