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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** |
| **SOG Number:** |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** |

**Use of Black Bunting and Flag Draping**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

To provide consistency in the use of black bunting and draping of flags during times of mourning.

**Procedure:**

The historical use of black bunting was with firefighter line of duty death. Over the years, this practice has been inappropriately expanded to many types of situations. This guideline is intended to develop consistency in our use of symbolisms for death of members, levels of membership, and nature of the death. The following protocols shall serve in the use of black draping and flag positioning during times of death of members, non-members, and times of national mourning.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Firefighter Line of Duty Death:

* Black bunting on station and apparatus for 30 days
* Black band on badges for 30 days
* Department flags at half-mast for 30 days

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Firefighter Active Member Death – Non Line of Duty:

* Department flags at half-mast during period of mourning (date of death through funeral)
* Black bunting on building and apparatus from date of death through funeral
* Uniforms and black bands on badges appropriate for firefighter funeral and honor guard only

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Non Firefighter Deaths:

* As directed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) or International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

These guidelines are generally consistent with the recommendations of the IAFC, IAFF, and Fire Service Chaplains Association.

These guidelines can be modified at the direction of the Chief, based on directions from appropriate agencies. (e.g. following the 9/11/01 incidents in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania, it was specifically requested to NOT use black bunting, but to put flags on all apparatus.)

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

King of Prussia (PA) Volunteer Fire Company SOG KP0085 Use of Black Bunting and Flag Draping