

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

*Standard Operating Guidelines*

**2300.005**

**Department Chaplain Program**

Implemented: 05/18/20

Revised:

Page 1 of 2



Paul Williams, Fire Chief

### ***PURPOSE:***

A fire department Chaplain can be utilized to address the special needs of personnel and those in the community we serve. The availability of a Chaplain enhances the services provided by the department and confirms our vision; "We are committed to providing professional service to our community and its visitors, with compassion and understanding."

### ***OBJECTIVE:***

To establish a Chaplain program that serves the needs of our personnel and the public in a non-denominational religious and/or non-religious fashion.

### ***SCOPE:***

All Personnel

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

Fire administration shall support the Chaplain Program by providing necessary office supplies, training, uniforms, pager, and other required resources. With the approval of the Fire Chief, the Chaplain may appoint Assistant Chaplains to assist in the program.

### **REQUESTING CHAPLAIN SERVICES**

Chaplain services may be requested by several methods. The on-call Chaplain may be requested to respond to incidents through dispatch or through direct phone contact. For personal matters, the Chaplain should be contacted directly by the individual requesting services.

### **DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL SERVICES**

- Visit stations and personnel as needed
- Provide classes to personnel on "dealing with death" as requested
- Perform and/or assist with "line of duty" funerals
- Perform weddings, baptisms, or funerals when requested by personnel
- Provide confidential counsel to personnel regarding personal and department issues
- Provide Critical Incident Stress Debriefings in a private or group setting when requested
- Respond to all firefighter fatalities or major injury incidents to assist personnel, and be available to make or assist with family notifications when requested by the Fire Chief

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- Make hospital visits to personnel or family members where requested
- Be available to the Fire Chief for special assignments

### **PUBLIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

At the request of incident commanders, respond to assist family members or witnesses at:

- Cardiac or respiratory arrests, or where serious traumatic injuries exist
- Sudden infant death, or other incidents involving children
- Suicides
- Major airplane crashes or disasters
- Homicides
- Incidents where Last Rites are requested by victims or family members
- Fire fatality scenes
- Serious vehicle accidents or rescue incidents
- Incidents where assistance with death notifications to other family members is requested by involved parties
- Incidents where assistance and/or information regarding funeral arrangements is requested by involved parties

### **ADDITIONAL DUTIES**

- Serves as liaison between the department and the local church community
- At the request of the Fire Chief, prepares and delivers community service speeches and lectures on behalf of the department
- At the request of the Fire Chief, conducts media interviews on behalf of the department
- Advises Fire Chief and necessary staff on matters relating to the welfare of department personnel