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Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG NO.: KP-1-0034

SOG TITLE: USE OF BLACK BUNTING AND FLAG DRAPING

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

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 create 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.

King of Prussia/Upper Merion Firefighter Line of Duty Death

- black bunting on station and apparatus for 30 days
- black band on badges for 30 days
- flags at half-mast for 30 days

King of Prussia/Upper Merion Firefighter/KPVFC Active Member Death; Non Line of Duty

- 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 King of Prussia Firefighter Deaths

- as directed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) or International Association of Fire Fighters (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 or OIC, based on direction from appropriate agencies. (e.g. following the 9/11/02 incidents in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania, it was specifically requested to NOT use black bunting, but to put flags on all apparatus.)