CALIFORNIA
Last Alarm Service Team
(Cal-LAST)
The sudden loss of a firefighter in the line of duty invariably comes as a shock to all—not just the family but also the fallen firefighter’s department or local union.

To address this need, the California Fire Foundation has joined in a first-of-its-kind partnership with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) to provide comprehensive support for local fire departments that lose one of their own in the line of duty. The California Last Alarm Service Team (Cal-LAST) Team provides departments and local unions with an experienced team providing support on every aspect of a line of duty death:

- Grief counseling
- Family benefits consulting
- Funeral and memorial service arrangements

The California Fire Foundation’s exclusive partnership with the NFFF to provide LAST support in California is unique in that it recognizes not only traumatic line-of-duty deaths, but also those fatalities occurring from illness directly related to the firefighting occupation.

Individual Cal-LAST teams exist regionally throughout the state, are trained with the support of the NFFF and maintained by the California Fire Foundation.

**About Cal-LAST**

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**About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization helping to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. Through a grant provided by the Department of Justice, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has developed resources and training to help establish state and regional local assistance state teams to assist in the event of a line-of-duty death.
What the Cal-LAST Team Can Provide

- Department of Justice-Public Safety Officer’s Benefit (PSOB) expertise
- Honor Guard and ceremonial support
- Chaplain services for department members
- A fire service survivor to work with the family
- Peer counseling support for department members
- Information and access to various federal, state and local benefits that may be available to the family
- Other information and resources to assist the family and department

What the Cal-LAST Team Will Do

- Respond only when requested
- Be on the ground as quickly as possible with the requested team components
- Ensure the family and the department are the priority at all times
- Ask first before taking any action
- Maintain transparency and work behind the scenes
- Provide timely and accurate information
- Practice personal and team integrity
- Ensure quality over expediency
- Show empathy at all times
- Always think in terms of honor, dignity and respect
Rules of Engagement for Cal-LAST

- Line of duty death notification is triaged from Cal-Ema to the California Fire Foundation
- California Fire Foundation contacts affected department liaison or fire chief and assesses need, if any, for Cal-LAST assistance
- If Cal-LAST assistance is needed, California Fire Foundation notifies Cal-LAST Incident Commander in respective region
- Cal-LAST Incident Commander sends email to all Cal-LAST members alerting them of the line of duty death
- Cal-LAST Incident Commander is put in touch with affected department liaison or fire chief to discuss needs/details
- Cal-LAST Incident Commander and department liaison or fire chief work together to dispatch Cal-LAST team members to assist before, during and after the memorial service or funeral
About the California Fire Foundation

The California Fire Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, was created as a way to recognize the courage of firefighters, and the perseverance and sacrifice of fire victims. Formed in 1987 by California Professional Firefighters, the California Fire Foundation’s mandate includes an array of public education and victim assistance projects.

In addition to establishing the Cal-LAST program, the California Fire Foundation also provides the following services for line of duty deaths:

Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters

In the grand tradition of honoring fallen colleagues, the Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters was created to perform at memorial services honoring firefighters who have died in the line of duty. The primary motivation behind the creation of the Pipes and Drums of CPF was to have a dignified, traditional presence at the California Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento. The Pipes and Drums of CPF has become a popular fixture at important gatherings of firefighters. Playing in the great tradition of Scottish bagpipe bands, the group lends an air of dignity and honor to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Memorial/Funeral Program Printing

The California Fire Foundation, in conjunction with Firefighters Print & Design, can assist with any memorial or funeral program printing needs for line of duty death memorial services or funerals.
California Firefighters Memorial

The sacrifice of hundreds of California firefighters is enshrined on the brushed limestone walls of the California Firefighters Memorial at the State Capitol in Sacramento. This beautiful memorial is a tribute to the heroism of the profession and the anguish felt when a firefighter falls in the line of duty. The memorial design includes two bronze statues depicting firefighters in action, framing the Memorial Wall with the names of the fallen. The California Fire Foundation raised more than $2 million to construct the Memorial and continues to pay for its upkeep.

Since 2002, The annual California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony has brought together families, firefighters and grateful citizens in a solemn homage to fallen heroes. Each year, new names are added to those already enshrined on the Memorial. The ceremony features dignified tributes from firefighters, family members and fire service dignitaries. Each surviving family receives the tribute of an American flag. The mournful toll of the Last Alarm reminds all of the debt that can never be repaid.

Visit the California Fire Foundation website to find out more about submitting an application for the Memorial Wall at www.CAFireFoundation.org