



**NJ DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
P.O. Box 809 Trenton, NJ 08625**



(609) 633-6070

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Notification and Response Guideline Firefighter Fatality and Serious Injuries

The Division of Fire Safety shall in conjunction with the Department of Labor and Department of Health and Senior Services, be empowered to conduct investigations of fire incidents in which one or more firefighters suffer death or serious injury and identify those measures which may be required to prevent the future occurrence of deaths and serious injuries under similar circumstances and, in furtherance of any such investigation, the division may issue and enforce subpoenas to compel the testimony of any person who might have knowledge of any relevant matters and the production of any relevant documents. If any investigation conducted under this subsection results in the discovery of any violation of the provisions of the "Uniform Fire Safety Act," P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-192 et al.), the division, as an enforcing agency, may issue a written notice or order pursuant to that act. Any notice or order issued by the Division of Fire Safety pursuant to this subsection may be enforced under section 19 of P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-210) as a notice or order of the commissioner.

It is for this reason that the Division of Fire Safety / State Fire Marshal's Office shall be notified **within 4 hours** of the following incidents:

- Line-of-Duty death of a firefighter;
- Line-of-Duty serious injury to a firefighter (firefighter is admitted to the hospital)

Notification shall be made to the State Fire Marshal's 24-Hour Dispatch Number at 1(877) 653-4737 (1-877-NJFIRES). Fire Departments may be called for initial information or an investigator could be dispatched by a supervisor to the scene or to the Chief or FO's office.

Additionally, all fire departments are subject to the **mandatory reporting** requirements under N.J.S.A. 34:6A-25 et seq. Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health Act and Regulations specifically at N.J.A.C. 12:110-5.8. All **work-related** public employee (firefighter, career **or** volunteer) fatalities or any **in-patient** hospitalizations shall be **reported orally and in writing, within eight hours of occurrence** to the Commissioner of Labor or his or her designee by the public sector employer.

The oral reports shall be made directly to the 24-hour hotline number **1-800-624-1644**. The written report shall be made on the Employer's First Report of Accidental Injury or Occupational Disease. The completed form must be faxed to the Office of Public Employees Safety at **1-609-292-4409**. **PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYERS WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN INITIAL PENALTY OF \$250.00 PER DAY FOR EACH VIOLATION OF THESE MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS.** Any employer who willfully or repeatedly violates the requirements of the Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health Act shall be assessed a civil administrative penalty of up to \$70,000.00 for each violation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:6A-41d.

Any questions or comments regarding this matter can be referred to the NJDFS office at (609) 633-6070 or to the unit supervisor at 609-475-5318. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.