



## National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Chief-to-Chief Network

<p>1. Network established to...</p>	<p>Offer support to fire chiefs who lose a firefighter in the line of duty. Chiefs who have “been there” make up the network. They lend personal and professional support based on what they have experienced. Retired Chief Charlie Dickinson is the Foundation’s network coordinator.</p>
<p>2. Line-of-duty death occurs. Foundation gathers information on...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of Incident</li> <li>• Location of Incident</li> <li>• Description of Incident</li> <li>• Chief’s Name</li> <li>• Department Name</li> <li>• Phone Number</li> </ul>
<p>3. NFFF matches a network chief with the “new chief” by...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of department (career/volunteer/combined/state)</li> <li>• Size of department</li> <li>• State and region</li> <li>• Type of incident</li> <li>• Special circumstances</li> </ul>
<p>4. Contact process starts when...</p>	<p>Fire Chief Coordinator calls member of network and forwards pertinent information on incident. They agree on best way to provide support to the “new chief” who has lost a firefighter.</p>
<p>5. “Experienced” chief contacts “new chief” to talk about...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident follow-up</li> <li>• Support for the firefighter’s family and coworkers</li> <li>• Funeral and memorial service arrangements</li> <li>• Dealing with requests for information</li> <li>• Personal feelings of loss</li> <li>• Other issues of concern</li> </ul>



## Chief-to-Chief Network Participant Profile

### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Information About Your Department

If your experience with a line-of-duty death occurred while you were with another department, please complete both columns:

	<b><u>Current Department</u></b>	<b><u>Previous Department</u></b>
Circle the one that best represents the department/agency type.	career volunteer combined state	career volunteer combined state
In what state/region is the department/agency located? See list below for a list of the regions and states.		
What is the population the department/agency serves?	0-9,999 10,000-49,999 50,000-99,999 100,000-199,999 200,000 and Up	0-9,999 10,000-49,999 50,000-99,999 100,000-199,999 200,000 and Up

**Region**

Eastern  
Great Lakes  
Missouri Valley  
New England  
Southeastern  
Southwestern  
Western

**States**

DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA  
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI  
CO, IA, KS, MO, NE, ND, SD, WY  
CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT  
AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV  
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX  
AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA





## Support for Coworkers

### Differences between...

### Grief Counseling and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

Grief Counseling...	Critical Incident Stress Debriefing...
<p>Helps the survivor...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actualize the loss</li> <li>• identify and express feelings</li> <li>• live without the deceased</li> <li>• withdraw emotionally from the deceased</li> </ul>	<p>Assists fire service personnel to construct a shared picture of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the incident occurred</li> <li>• what each of them was thinking</li> <li>• what each of them was doing</li> <li>• how each individual is reacting and feeling</li> <li>• how the department is reacting</li> </ul>
<p>It...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides support and understanding of normal grief behaviors</li> <li>• provides ongoing support</li> <li>• increases coping skills</li> <li>• may occur individually, in groups or by family</li> </ul>	<p>It is designed to assist firefighters and the department take concrete steps to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• begin the recovery process</li> <li>• learn from the experience</li> <li>• honor its lost member(s)</li> <li>• rebound from challenging events</li> <li>• collectively move forward</li> </ul>
<p>Counseling may be ongoing and provides more individualized attention than a group debriefing.</p>	<p>CISD sessions usually occur once or twice.</p>



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## Support for Coworkers

Firefighters will experience a wide range of emotions. Remember the signs of grief we discussed earlier (Module 3, pg. 8). You may see them in your firefighters, too, especially those who were friends of the deceased firefighter.

1. Questioning and conflicting emotions will be normal reactions.
  - they may feel guilty for surviving
  - they may ask: “Did we do enough? Did we do things right? Was it my
  
2. These questions should lead to an honest look at the incident and lessons learned.
  - you should not minimize the value of a fallen firefighter’s life by saying “we would do the same thing next time...”
  
3. Grief, pain, loss, and sorrow are signs of strength, not weakness.
  - rationalizing grief away is not beneficial
  - each firefighter’s grief may be different, and that’s okay
  - respect it however it shows up
  - use an “operations” approach as a way to deal with coworker grief
  
4. Help for coworkers and their families is critical.
  - So what are some things you can do to help your firefighters after a line-of-duty death?



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## Ways to Remember Your Fallen Firefighter

### Special Tributes

- Videos
- Scrapbooks
- Photo albums
- Fundraisers or event in the firefighter's honor
- Personal tributes

### Through Web sites

- Memorial and tribute pages
- Condolences by e-mail

### Through Memorials

- National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Md.
- IAFF Memorial in Colorado Springs, Co.
- State and local memorials and ceremonies
- Local tributes
- Dedications of parks or department facilities
- Purchase of emergency equipment or fire safety devices (smoke detectors)
- Establishment of scholarships