



# ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG - 600-202

## FIREGROUND EMERGENCIES – FIRE FIGHTER FATALITY (LODD) INVESTIGATIONS

### 1.0 PURPOSE

This plan is to be utilized when it is necessary to investigate of an emergency responder as a result of an emergency/non emergency related incident.

### 2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the above actions are taken in an appropriate manner are defined as indicated below:

- 2.1 Incident Commander/Office in Charge
- 2.2 Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services (EDS)
- 2.3 Abington Township Fire Marshal

### 3.0 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The Incident Commander or Officer in Charge activates this plan by contacting the EDS or other dispatch center in use, and request assistance of the Abington Township Fire Marshal's Office, if not already on scene.
- 3.2 The EDS or dispatch center in use will page or call the Fire Marshal and/or Assistant to the scene.
- 3.3 The Fire Marshal and/or his/her representative will activate the Line of Duty Death (LODD) Investigation Team.
- 3.4 The Incident Commander will isolate and secure the scene as is safe to do so. Any and all equipment involved will also be secured on site.
- 3.5 The LODD Investigation Team will follow established protocols and conduct the investigation separately and independently from the origin and cause investigation.
- 3.6 Once assembled, the Investigation Team will;
  - 3.6.1 Identify the Problem.
  - 3.6.2 Ensure the scene has been isolated and is safe to enter.
  - 3.6.3 Collect and impound evidence.
  - 3.6.4 Document safety equipment involved.
  - 3.6.5 Photograph the scene.
  - 3.6.6 Arrange for Autopsy.
  - 3.6.7 Identify witnesses.

**3.7 Secondary Actions to be performed by the LODD Investigation Team**

- 3.7.1** Conduct Interviews.
- 3.7.2** Obtain Records.
- 3.7.3** Develop a timeline.
- 3.7.4** Examine physical evidence.
- 3.7.5** Research Documents.
- 3.7.6** Obtain Expert assistance.
- 3.7.7** Obtain Legal Advice.

**3.8** The LODD Investigation Team will analyze all data and develop a formal written report.

**3.9** The LODD Investigation Team will cooperate with any and all other agencies with authorization to investigate or be comprised of events involved.

**4.0 LODD INVESTIGATION TEAM**

**4.1** The LODD Investigation Team shall have the authority to conduct a complete and thorough investigation. It will be assembled and operated under a unified command system and consist of the following positions, others may be added as required by the circumstances;

- 4.1.1** Abington Township Fire Marshal or his/her designee.
- 4.1.2** Abington Township Detectives.
- 4.1.3** Montgomery County Detectives.
- 4.1.4** Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal.

**5.0 REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS**

**5.1** The Coroner and PA. State Police will be notified as soon as possible of all fatalities.

**6.0 RECORDS**

**6.1** All records, documents and evidence will be maintained by the Abington Township Fire Marshal's Office.

**7.0 REFERENCES**

**7.1** All actions and procedures involved with an emergency responder fatality investigation will be conducted utilizing guidelines established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and guidelines established by the International Fire Chief's Association and/or other applicable standards established following this plan.