



CITY OF ORLANDO

ORLANDO FIRE DEPARTMENT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Assistant Chief Greg Hoggatt

Orlando Fire Department to “stand down” for firefighter safety

On June 21, the Orlando Fire Department will join thousands of fire departments across the United States in a National Firefighter Safety Stand Down. The department will suspend all non-emergency activity and instead focus entirely on firefighter safety. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and 17 partnering fire service organizations are calling for this stand down to raise awareness of the need for increased vigilance toward firefighter safety.

Fifty firefighters had died in the line of duty in the United States as of May 1 – that is 10 more than at that time last year. Since May 1, that number has risen to 58. In addition, the National Fire Protection Association cites more than 78,000 firefighter injuries annually. Firefighter injury and death rates have remained relatively constant over the past several years, despite monumental improvements in technology and equipment.

“Firefighters are being killed at an alarming rate. The fire service simply cannot continue to do business as usual when so many of its own are dying,” said IAFC President Chief Bob DiPoli. “We are conducting the stand down to raise awareness of the need for increased vigilance toward firefighter safety.”

A stand down is a method used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a problem throughout its ranks. The Orlando Fire Department will start the day with a moment of silence for our fallen brothers and sisters then focus its daily activity and training agenda to firefighter survival with augmentation to health and safety during this event.

“The City of Orlando senior management and fire department staff is committed to the health and safety of its firefighters. The Orlando Fire Department will be participating in the Firefighter Safety Stand Down to assist our members with gaining insight to their health and safety,” said Fire Chief Robert Bowman.

Partnering Organizations

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
United States Fire Administration
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Volunteer Fire Council
National Fire Protection Association
International City/County Management Association
National Association of State Fire Marshals
North American Fire Training Directors

Canadian Fire Chiefs Association
Congressional Fire Service Institute
International Association of Arson Investigators
Fire & Emergency Manufacturers Services Association
International Fire Service Training Association
Fire Department Safety Officers' Association
International Code Council
International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters
Canadian Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation

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