

Retired Firefighters of Palm Beach County

Contacts After Death for Benefits

1. Florida Retirement System: Survivor Benefits Section @ 1-844-377-1888
Will need to provide your SS# and/or SS# for firefighter who passed. They will tell you what option the firefighter selected which determines the benefits to the beneficiary.

In addition, if the firefighter was employed July 11, 2011 and after and they chose Option 1, you may be eligible to request a Contribution Refund for the portion the employee contributed since July 1, 2011.

[FRS Survivor Benefits Guide](#)

FRS Survivor Financial Counseling

1-866-446-9377 Option 2

2. Social Security 1-800-772-1213
<https://www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors/howtoapply.html>
Need to call and report death and their SS#
3. Local 2928 561-969-0729
Membership services membershipservices@iaff2928.com
Benefits for union members only.
4. Firefighter Employee Benefits Fund (Insurance) 561-969- 6663
Contact Rick Rhodes (Benefits Administrator) RRhodes@myffbenefits.com
Or Tamara Fitzpatrick (Customer Service) Tamara@myffbenefits.com
There may be retiree death benefits through the insurance fund as listed and attached page, and if so, they can advise you as to the amount. They will need a copy of an original death certificate with cause.
5. If the firefighter had cancer, there are benefits that may be applicable. See the attached flyer for more information.

If the member died of an approved list of cancers, the IAFF Union has an annual ceremony in Colorado Springs each year in September where the member's name is added to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial. Local 2928 helps pay for family members to be present for this event. For more information contact: SpecialProjects@iaff2928.com

Florida also has a similar memorial service in Ocala.

<https://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfst/florida-fallen-firefighter-memorial>

6. Some members had Aflac additional rider insurance, 1-800-992-3522.

7. Veterans Benefits

Many firefighters may have been a veteran with the armed services and they may provide burial expenses and benefits to the surviving spouse.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp>

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>

8. PEER Support

Provides support for emotional, mental wellness for firefighters, spouses and family.

Completely confidential.

1-855-459-7337

PEER@IAFF2928.com

PBCFR Emergency Assistance Personnel

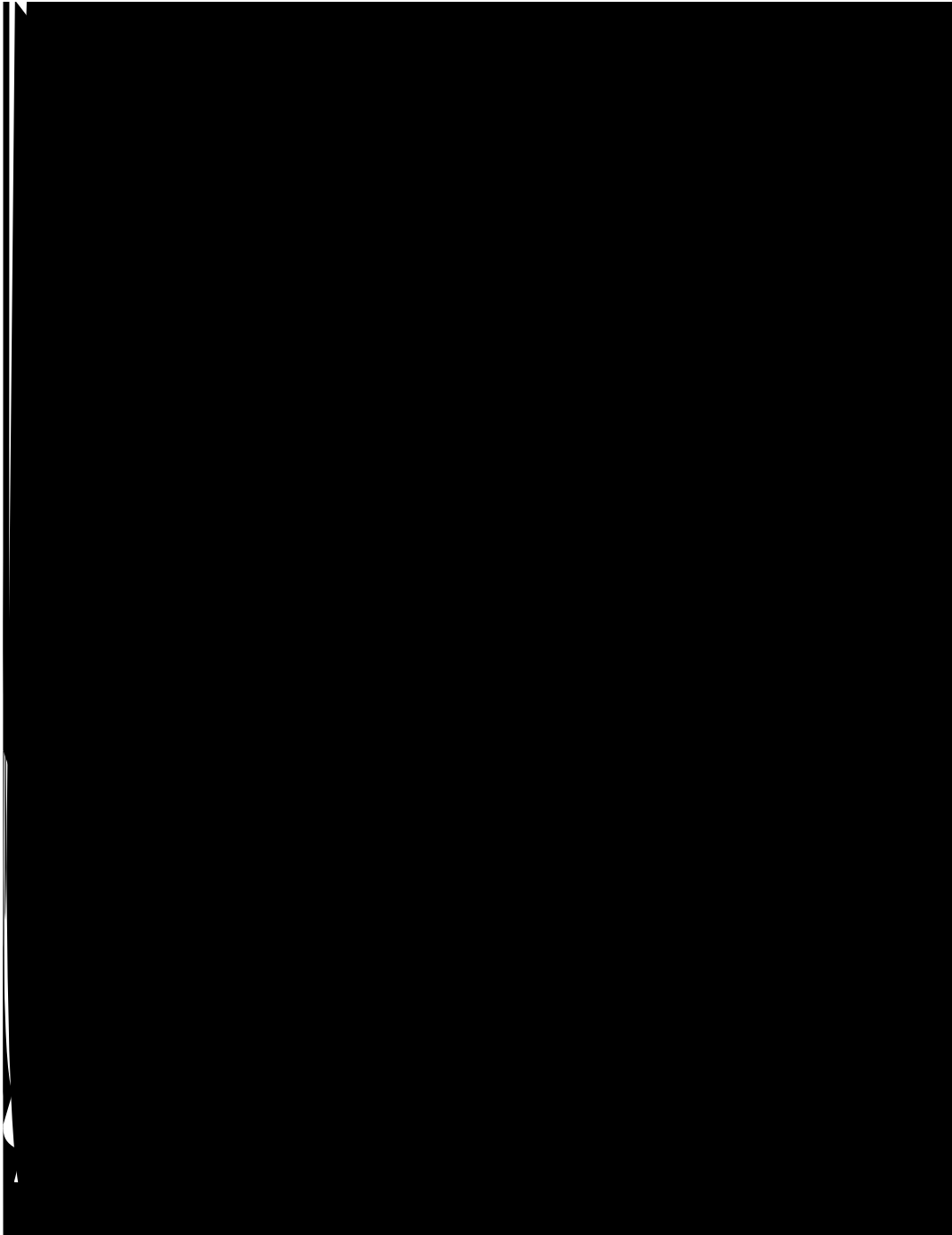
561-968-1505

EAP@PBCFREAP.COM

Other Helpful Websites:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2012/10/what-to-do-when-a-loved-one-dies/index.htm>

<https://www.aarp.org/home-family/friends-family/info-06-2012/when-loved-one-dies-checklist.html>



**Are You An Active or Retired Firefighter
Diagnosed with Cancer?**

Effective July 1, 2019, section 112.1816, Florida Statutes, the Firefighters; Cancer Diagnosis law was enacted. This law provides benefits the firefighter or their beneficiary to receive:

Event	Benefit
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A: Initial Cancer diagnosis (21 cancers qualify)	One-time \$25K payment
B: Cancer treatment	Out-of-pocket healthcare cost reimbursement by employer
C: Leave time and job retention	Employer policies must be applied in the same way as for other line of duty injuries
D: Total & Permanent Disability	Line of Duty disabilities benefits from the retirement plan
E: Death	Line of Duty Death benefits from the retirement plan AND the employer under FL ST Chapter 112.191 (2) (a)

The 21 covered cancers are:

Bladder cancer	Brain cancer	Breast cancer
Cervical cancer	Colon cancer	Esophageal cancer
Invasive skin cancer	Kidney cancer	Large intestinal cancer
Lung cancer	Malignant melanoma	Mesothelioma
Multiple myeloma	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	Oral cavity/pharynx cancer
Ovarian cancer	Prostate cancer	Rectal cancer
Stomach cancer	Testicular cancer	Thyroid cancer

Additional criteria:

- Firefighter has been employed by his or her employer for at least 5 continuous years, has not used tobacco products for at least the preceding 5 years, and has not been employed in any other position in the preceding 5 years which is proven to create a higher risk for any cancer.
- Retired Firefighters are eligible one-time 25K payout upon diagnosis up to 10 years after retirement date.
- Retired firefighters are eligible for out-of-pocket healthcare cost reimbursement by PBCFR for up to 10 years after retirement date, if the firefighter continues coverage in the employer-sponsored health plan (Firefighter Employee Benefit Fund) or group health insurance trust fund after he or she retires.

For More Information or to Start a Claim:

Amerisys - <https://www.amerisys-info.com/fcap/Home/Register>

Once you have registered, your employment will be verified,
and a packet will follow for completion.

Camila Campelo, USIS/AmeriSys

Ph: 407-373-6324

camila.campelo@usis-tpa.com

You can also contact your union for assistance Local 2928 (561) 969-0729



Employee & Family
Assistance Program

It's not just for employees!

All participants of the PBC FF's Employee Benefits Fund are eligible to use the EAP network of local providers. A wide variety of counseling services are available, and the best part.....

It's absolutely

100% confidential

Call Ellen Flaum, Administrator of the EAP @ 561-968-1505 to get started today.

[EAP PROVIDER LIST](#)

[PEER SUPPORT TEAM](#)

Firefighter Line-of-Duty Death (LODD) Resources:

<https://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfst/safety/lodd-ff-memorials>

http://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/BFST/Safety/LODD_FF-Memorials.htm

Line-of-Duty-Death Notification:

The Division of the State Fire Marshal provides this information with the fervent hope and continued dedication to safety that it will never be used.

Report a Line-of-Duty Death to the **State Fire Marshal Safety and Health Program Section**, as soon as possible, at **(352) 369-2836**.

State of Florida Line-of-Duty-Death Benefits:

STATE DEATH BENEFIT

Every firefighter employer, as defined in statute, is liable for the payment of line of duty death and catastrophic injury benefits set forth in Florida Statute 112.191. The amounts are adjusted annually by Florida Administrative Code (FAC) 69A-64, to reflect the consumer price index. The firefighter employer must be either self-insured or secure insurance to ensure the benefit payments. The benefits set forth in Section 112.191, Florida Statutes, are in addition to any workers compensation or pension benefits to which the beneficiary may be entitled. Contact the firefighter's department for details and procedures.

STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFIT AND FUNERAL BENEFIT

The Workers' Compensation Benefit may be available to either Career or Volunteer Firefighters. The definition of employment includes firefighters responding to or assisting with fire or medical emergencies whether or not the firefighters are on duty. The Workers' Compensation "acting within the course of employment" is located within Florida Statute 440.091, and the Workers' Compensation "for death" is located within Florida Statute 440.16.

Contact:

Division of Workers Compensation
Department of Financial Services
200 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4228
(800) 342-1741 or (850) 413-1609
Workers.CompService@MyFloridaCFO.com

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

A deceased firefighter's spouse and children may be eligible to obtain the waiver of certain educational expenses while obtaining a career certificate, undergraduate or postgraduate education at a State of Florida public school. The authority for this can be found in Florida Statute 112.191. Details and conditions can be found in the Florida Administrative Code under FAC 6C-7.008 and FAC 6C2-2.02414.

Each public educational facility has its own procedures and requirements for obtaining these waivers. The deceased firefighter's spouse and/or children should contact the

student financial affairs office of the educational facility they are interested in or currently attending for further details.

Should you have any questions or require further information do not hesitate to contact the Safety Programs Manager (Acting), Rick Rochford, at:

rick.rochford@MyFloridaCFO.com or (352) 369-2836.

Federal Line-of-Duty-Death Benefits:

2021 Benefits

The amount of the PSOB benefit is \$370,376.00 for eligible deaths and disabilities occurring on or after October 1, 2020. The amount of the PSOB educational assistance benefit for one month of full-time attendance on or after October 1, 2020 is \$1,265.00.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program

<https://bja.ojp.gov/program/psob>

Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance Program

https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/psob_education.pdf

Line-of-Duty-Death Resources:

Firefighter LODD SOPs & Resources - National Fallen Firefighters Foundation:

Autopsy Guidelines, Funeral Procedures & Guides, Line-of-Duty Death Investigations, Standard Operating Procedures, [Line-of-Duty Death Resource Guide](#)

<https://www.firehero.org/resources/departments-resources/sops/>

Special Report : The Aftermath of Firefighter Fatality Incidents, Preparing for the Worst:

<https://www.firehero.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/tr-089.pdf>

Federation of Fire Chaplain's Manual: Fire Department Funerals:

<https://firechaplains.org/Resources/Documents/Resources/Chaplains%20Funeral%20Manual.pdf>

Funeral Procedures for Firefighters, National Volunteer Fire Council:

https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Funeral_Procedures_Guide.pdf

<https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Funeral-Procedures-brochure.pdf>

Mental Health Risks Resources:

<https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resource-area/mental-health-risks-initiative-13-mental-health/>

Fire Service Behavioral Health Management Guide:

<https://www.firstrespondercenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/behavioral-health-mgmt-guide-122017.pdf>