



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

‘We Remember’ Moment of Silence Calls Attention to Fire and Emergency Medical Services Suicides

AN ESTIMATED 32 FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS PERSONNEL IN THE U.S. ENDED THEIR OWN LIVES IN 2022

SAN DIEGO – To honor the memory of the fire and emergency medical service (EMS) personnel in the United States who ended their own lives, the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) will display fire engines with their lights on and have a moment of silence on the morning of Friday, May 19, 2023. This event will also take place in the evening at fire stations across the nation and in Canada.

The Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance (FFBHA) reports that more than 1,800 fire and EMS personnel in the United States have taken their own lives. FFBHA has been tracking and working to verify these numbers for many years and believe these suicides to be underreported.

“It’s important to raise awareness about this issue and to encourage our personnel to ask for help or recommend help if they see a fellow firefighter in need,” said Fire-Rescue Chief Colin Stowell. “Our department offers a wide variety of resources for employees and their families in an effort to provide support, which we hope will prevent these tragedies.”

In San Diego County, it’s estimated that six firefighters ended their own lives in 2021 and 2022. The SDFD Health & Safety Office has a variety of behavioral health support options available for employees, both sworn and civilian, as well as programs for public safety personnel in the region. SDFD was recently highlighted in a health and wellness [video](#) at the California Professional Firefighters conference.

In addition to preventing occupational illnesses, the behavioral wellness of SDFD employees is top of mind for the department and raising awareness about suicide rates can save lives.

WHAT: Media availability and moment of silence

WHO: Assistant Chief John Wood, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
Deputy Chief Robert Logan, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
Battalion Chief David Picone, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

WHEN: Friday, May 19, 2023, 9 – 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: SDFD Fire Station 1
1222 First Avenue (First Avenue and B Street)
San Diego, CA 92101

VISUALS: Fire engine with lights on for one minute in remembrance of fire and EMS personnel lost to suicide.

Please note: Station 1 is the official local media location for this event.

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