

EMS Funeral Planning Kit

A service of the **Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards**

If you have received this kit, your agency has experienced the death of a member and you are in the process of planning the funeral service. Let us begin by expressing the condolences of the Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards to you and the members of your agency. Depending on your wishes, the Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards stands ready to provide a link to members experienced in planning, organizing, and carrying out these large services. Let us again explain that Honour Guard members can and will assist you in any way possible within our means, to help you provide the type of service your member and his or her sacrifice deserves. We will provide as much or as little assistance as you desire. We are here to serve you and the family of your fallen member.

How to use this kit:

We have found that EMS Line of Duty Death funerals are best handled when viewed as a disaster. Just as a tornado, flood, or other major incident, your officers and community will be affected to a great extent by this event. This funeral will take your members well beyond the realm of ordinary experience. As such, we recommend use of the Incident Command System as you begin planning this funeral.

The contents of this kit are suggestions only; some positions can be combined or eliminated depending on the size of the memorial/funeral. In all circumstances, the wishes of the family should prevail.

This kit contains directions, suggestions, and materials to help your department organize this funeral. This kit is intended to supplement the on-site efforts of the Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards advance party or to assist your agency in carrying out the duties of planning the service. By following the suggested format, and providing key personnel with their individual packets, your task should be much easier.

In this kit you should find:

1. Incident Commanders Portfolio
2. Family Liaison Portfolio
3. Information Officer Portfolio
4. Staging Officer Portfolio
5. Procession Officer Portfolio
6. Parade Commander Portfolio
7. Service Coordinator Portfolio
8. Cemetery Coordinator Portfolio
9. Safety Officer Portfolio

This kit is intended for the Incident Commander, who will assign each of the eight remaining coordinators. These coordinators in turn, will designate individuals to oversee major tasks. Delegation of responsibility and the authority to carry it out is essential. Communication should be limited to one level up and one level down from each position. **It is very easy for the Incident Commander to suffer "task overload" if he or she accepts responsibility for too many areas.**

While large agencies have more resources to draw upon, smaller agencies can use this procedure to provide excellent services. The Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards has contacts with many agencies and Honour Guards nationwide, whom we've trained with to serve at funerals. Many of these EMS / Police / Fire personnel are experienced and willing to travel to your community to assist. If agency size permits, your members should fill the major coordinator positions. If this is not possible, the Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards and neighbouring agencies can provide personnel.

The Incident Commander should now open his or her portfolio. This packet will guide you through the organization process.

Incident Commander Portfolio

Introduction and Duties

The Incident Commander is the single most vital person in the funeral planning process. You have overall responsibility for the funeral service. You can manage this best by following the Incident Command System protocol. We have found that by doing so, you can greatly reduce your stress and provide a high quality service to your department and the fallen EMS provider's family.

The Incident Command System (ICS) was created by fire departments to help them manage large fire scenes. It was found to be so successful, that many fire departments use it for all fires, regardless of size. ICS has also been adopted by emergency managers for use in managing all disasters. As line of duty deaths are disasters for your agency, your members and staff, and their families, and many times your communities as well, we have found ICS to be very valuable.

Basically, ICS gives you a management system for use in a multitude of complex situations. You may recognize many of the titles and duties if you are familiar with ICS. Major areas of responsibility are assigned to coordinators who then assign tasks to persons of their choosing. It is very important that communication is limited to one level up or down, as well as laterally. This keeps the event organized and reduces stress along all lines. It is best to limit one person to one assignment where possible:

The Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards members are here to help you during this entire event. Our advance party may already be enroute. Our Guard members work for you and we will do as much or as little as you ask. We may function as consultants, as major function coordinators, or as task coordinators. Our strongest asset is the information we bring from participating in events and funerals. In addition, we have formed strong working relationships with many other units and agencies, most of whom will be available to you if needed.

A line of duty death funeral or memorial can be complex and expensive. As you begin your preparations make sure to take note of the financial resources available from your agency, union, municipality, provincial body, etc. Expenses for all aspects of a large funeral or memorial following a line of duty death can easily reach tens of thousands of dollars.

Tasks

Day 1

1. Select Family Liaison Officer and brief immediately
2. Select Information Officer and brief immediately
3. Determine family desire for EMS funeral, Use the Family Liaison Officer.
4. Meet with family and Liaison Officer to determine date, time, and location of funeral as soon as possible.
5. Select Coordinators and set first meeting.
6. Hold first meeting of coordinators.
 - Explain ICS
 - Present overview of funeral plan loosely defined at this point
 - Set goals and make assignments
 - Schedule second meeting

Day 2

1. Hold second meeting of coordinators.
 - Receive coordinator updates, review changes, and solve problems
 - Identify additional resources needed
 - Support and reassure
2. Hold final meeting of coordinators.
 - Receive updates
 - Identify additional resources needed
 - Make final changes
3. Support and reassure - they are doing a good job

Day 3 / Funeral Day

1. Establish and staff a command post at the service location.
2. Briefing for assisting units.
3. Arrival and staging of arriving officers.
4. Funeral Service.
5. Procession.
6. Cemetery Service.

This schedule may be modified due to differing time lines set by families and departments. A three-day plan is optimal.

The Family Liaison Officer

Selection:

This person should be someone known to the family and capable of being a strong advocate for their wishes. This person should be someone from your department. Tact and compassion are vital to this position.

Duties:

This person will be the Department's representative to the family and vice versa. This Officer should stay with the family as much as possible, and accompany them to meetings concerning funeral preparations. Provide them with phone numbers to reach you when you are home or otherwise away from them. Remember, you are the family's advocate in funeral arrangements. **On occasion, departments begin to neglect the family's wishes during the planning process.** Your job is to speak for them and ensure their wishes are carried out. One of your primary duties is to provide information to the family concerning:

1. Any ongoing investigation continually updated, prior to media release.
2. Dispelling rumours and media misinformation.
3. Updates on the search for/status of suspects, if applicable.
4. Autopsy arrangements when they can expect the body to be released (if applicable).
5. Viewing of the body. Do not discourage them, this is their right and may help for closure.
6. Viewing of the crime scene, if applicable. They usually want very detailed information. Prepare a detailed walk through and explanation. Service or Department head should conduct this, but you should be there.
7. Return of the deceased personal effects such as pens, wallet, jewellery, etc (treat with respect; do not bring them to the family in garbage bags. These items are treasures to them.
8. Shield the family from media. They may choose a spokesperson to represent the family at press conferences. They may read a prepared statement and may elect to answer questions. Suggest that they only speak to the media at scheduled press conferences or else everyone will be asking for interviews at all times.
9. Once confirmed with the Paramedic Association of Canada Benevolent Society, let the family know that immediate financial assistance is available to them. Ensure the family understands that they are not responsible for the expenses of the public memorial. Describe what financial support has been received.
10. On the day of the funeral, accompany the family to the funeral home and church. Arrange for Incident Commander and other applicable coordinators to attend in order to brief the family and offer condolences as well.

The family liaison should provide the following information to the department:

1. Does the family desire an EMS funeral?
2. If the family does not want a public EMS funeral, will they agree to a separate memorial service, with or without the deceased person present? Point out that it is important for the EMS community to pay their respects and attain closure as well.
3. If the family does want an EMS funeral, what services do they desire? Refer also to the "Sample Order of Service" attached. The Incident Commander and Service Coordinator will explain further options and discuss these issues when they meet:
 - Honour Guard and Colour Party inside or outside
 - Pipes and Drums, inside or outside
 - Procession to Cemetery or private family committal service
 - Reception after the service
4. Date of the funeral. Families are often open to suggestion on choosing a date. Suggest that, if possible, 5-7 days is best for planning a large funeral. You can help the planning process immensely by obtaining this time for them. You may have to explain the possibility that hundreds or thousands of EMS/ Fire/ Police Officers from across Canada and the United States may wish to attend if the deceased was killed in the Line of Duty. In the end, this is the family's decision and you will have to work within the timeframe given.
5. Location of funeral, church, school, arena etc. The facility should be appropriate to handle the expected turnout. Consult with Incident Command concerning expected turnout. The Honour Guard representatives will assist in predicting crowd size; can be 500 to 2000 for people killed in the Line of Duty. If the family strongly desires the funeral be held in their church, even though it may be small, we will work with that.
6. Determine family's wishes concerning media access to service. Provide this information to Information Officer. Common restrictions include:
 - One or two video cameras inside set up for pool feed to all stations
 - Audio only inside
 - Print media only inside
 - No restrictions (not recommended)
7. Obtain recent photographs of the fallen EMS provider for the Information Officer to be used in media packet and at the memorial.
8. Obtain personal information for media packet:
 - Name of deceased's significant other
 - Parents names
 - Children names and ages
 - Hobbies and interests

The family works with the minister to choose the items they want in the service, concerning music, scriptures, speakers, etc. We will coordinate with the minister and funeral directors to integrate ceremonial aspects into the service.

Reports to: Incident Command.

Lateral communication with: Information Officer, Service Coordinator, and Cemetery Coordinator.

Information Officer

Selection:

This Officer is best chosen from your department, but may be selected from other agencies or a media relations representative from the Provincial governing College/Association the Paramedic Association of Canada, or the Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guards,

Duties:

You are responsible for the orderly release of accurate information to the media, public, and EMS community. All information provided to other emergency services agencies and media concerning the fallen EMS provider's death and funeral arrangements should be made through you. You may also be the media relations person, or you may delegate that responsibility. It is important that all printed/email media and live interviews go through you. In this manner, the chance of conflicting or inaccurate information is reduced. This will reduce the need for corrections and will leave other agencies with a positive impression of your agency. You are responsible for seeing that press releases and press conferences are provided as necessary. You should provide background information on the fallen EMS provider, including family information, department history, and recent photos, to the media. Resist the urge to put off the media. They will do what they need to do to get the story. Have them come to your agency for this information. If you control the release, they will leave the family alone.

It is vital that you do not release any information to the public, media, or to other agencies until the family has received it. This is critical to the well being of the family.

It is equally important to filter out any information which may have a bearing on any pending or ongoing police investigation. In this case, review your media releases and prepared statements with the investigating agency

The information officer is also responsible for communicating with the rest of the EMS community. Paramedics from across Canada will wish to pay their respects at a Line of Duty Death funeral or memorial. Start by contacting your Provincial regulatory College or Association and the Paramedic Association of Canada Benevolent Society. Once informed of the death, they will be able to assist you with getting information out to the national EMS community. The Benevolent Society also assists by classifying the death based on the circumstances. Immediate financial assistance is available to the family in the event of a Line of Duty Death. The Benevolent Society should be contacted as early as possible.

Tasks:

1. Arrange initial media release concerning the death.
2. Set first press conference (Agency or Department-head, or family spokesperson present).
3. Provide Media briefs/ packets.
 - Recent photos of the deceased in uniform and out
 - Brief history of age, family, volunteer activities, hobbies and pets
 - Outline of EMS career (not just your agency)
 - Commendations and awards
 - Funeral time and location
 - Media representative and assigned area
 - Details concerning access to service
 - Cemetery and procession route
 - Contact name and number for questions
4. 4. Send fax or email updates with memorial arrangements.
 - Time and location of visitation. Include parking information
 - Time and location of funeral
 - Time and location of staging for arriving uniformed personnel
 - Uniform of the day (be as specific as possible)
 - Details of procession and cemetery service
 - Your name, position, and contact information for questions
 - Arrange other press conferences and releases as needed.
5. Plan for media at service and cemetery.
6. Determine restrictions set by family concerning access. Check with Family Liaison Officer, common restrictions include:
 - One or two video cameras inside set up for pool feed to all stations
 - Audio only inside
 - Print media only inside
 - No restrictions (not recommended)
7. Prepare credentials for media based on access color coding.
8. Establish parking area for satellite truck away from building and officers listening to service outdoors. Their generators will make it difficult to hear.
9. Establish areas of access roped off areas, inside or outside service. Arrange for Police Officers or Security to control them.
10. Brief media control unit morning of funeral.
 - Access restrictions and exceptions
 - Credential system
11. Explain plan to media at briefing on day of service. Bring extra media packets.
12. Be available to trouble shoot.

Reports to: Incident Command

Staging Officer

Selection:

This officer may be selected from your agency, a neighbouring agency, or an Honour Guard representative.

Duties:

The Staging Officer is responsible for the assembly point for arriving uniformed personnel. You select the site and provide that information to the Incident Commander and to the Information Officer. Parking, washrooms or portable toilets, water, and instructions should be provided to visiting uniformed personnel here. Safety briefing should include caution about dehydration, frost-bite, and procession driving safety as accidents can occur.

Tasks:

1. Designate muster area(s).
 - May be multiple areas for different units
 - May be in area near service, in other part of building, or at remote location
2. Set muster arrival time(s) (Should be at least 1.5-2 hours before service).
3. Arrange for washroom facilities or portable toilets.
4. Arrange for water.
5. Determine movement method from staging to service (foot, bus, or procession).
6. Prepare instructions/diagrams for written and/or verbal briefing
 - Order of Units in the processional march
 - Route and turns
 - Special commands or drills
 - Entrance into the facility, etc.
 - Detail what is expected of them (formations, standing, and sitting)
 - Explain seating limitations and plans for overflow
 - Invitation to reception afterward
7. Safety Briefing
 - Weather related injury information
 - Caution on driving in procession. Accidents can result; do not race to fill gaps in the "accordion".
8. Determine parking procedure and assign parking detail.
 - Best to delegate this detail
 - Barricades, cones, persons to direct, etc.
 - Consider weather may need warm vehicles and relief guards for all positions

Reports to: Incident Command.

Laterals: Information Officer, Service Officer, Parade Commander, Safety.

Procession Officer

Selection:

This Officer should be a member of your department or an overlapping jurisdiction intimately familiar with the procession route. Consider using RCMP or other police personnel, or alternatively may be combined with Staging Officer duties.

Duties:

This Officer plans the route of the procession(s) to the service from staging, from the service to the cemetery, and any other movement of personnel in formation on foot or in vehicles, from one point to another. This is the most labour intensive activity of the funeral.

Tasks:

1. Plan routes.
2. Set times for traffic control.
3. Plan traffic direction points.
4. Assign traffic control personnel.
5. Consider water, warm/cool vehicles, and relief in extreme weather.
6. Coordinate with Public Works to barricade.
7. Notify residents/businesses along closed routes.
 - a. Fliers, radio, TV, newspaper
 - b. Temporary No-Parking signs
8. Provide information to information officer.
9. Notify all agencies of planned route.
10. Consider use of police or security agencies for parking and traffic assistance.
11. Provide communications system for detail.

Reports to: Incident Command.

Laterals: Information Officer, Parade Commander, Staging and Cemetery Coordinators.

Parade Commander

Selection:

This Officer may be from your department, but is generally best handled by an Honour Guard representative.

Duties:

This Officer is responsible for forming up the Parade to render honours outside the service location and at the cemetery. This Officer, and his or her unit, form up uniformed personnel and give commands. If a foot march is part of the service, this Office plans and commands the movement.

Tasks:

1. Determine formations for the march procession and at the cemetery.
2. Sets time of formations.
3. Calls commands to move the Honour Guard, uniformed personnel along the parade route and into/out of the service. (May require squad/ section commanders if parade size warrants).
4. Forms Ramp Guard at service location. (May be delegated to separate Commander)
 - Department members given place of honour
 - Visiting services subordinate to Department members
5. Gives all necessary commands to render honours to casket.
6. Falls out and dismisses EMS Providers. (“On behalf of the ----- Family, ----- EMS Service, and the ----- Honour Guard, thank you for your attendance today. You are dismissed.”)

Basic Rules

1. All members should be at attention whenever casket is moved before them. This should occur before the casket passes the threshold out of the church or other building, and held until casket secured in hearse.
2. Uniformed personnel, once indoors, should remove their headdress. Exception to this is for the Honour Guard or other Units working on the funeral.
3. All members should stand at attention while Colours are carried in and out.
4. Uniformed personnel outdoors should be covered (wearing hats) and should stand at attention while the Parade Commander salutes on behalf of the parade, or in certain circumstances, a General Salute may be called. Optionally, if the hearse travels through formed parade, a “rolling salute” may be called.

Reports to: Incident Commander

Laterals: Service, Staging and Cemetery Coordinators, Squad Commanders, Safety

Service Coordinator

Selection:

This Officer may be an officer from your department, a neighbouring agency, or an Honour Guard representative.

Duties:

As Service Coordinator, you are responsible for all activities concerning the funeral service itself. You coordinate with the Family Liaison Officer to insure that the family's wishes are met and work closely with the minister and funeral directors. You assist with setting the order of service, with respect to EMS participation and ceremonial honours. The family sets the order of service concerning the minister, music, speakers, etc. You coordinate the inclusion of appropriate honours.

Tasks:

1. Meet with family and funeral home directors as soon as possible. It works best if you attend the first meeting between the family and funeral home as the rough plan is laid out at this point. The Incident Commander, Family Liaison Officer should attend. Refer to Sample Order of Service attached.
2. Coordinate guest and EMS seating, indoors, outdoors, overflow. What about dignitaries?
3. Order of seating refers to Sample Order of Service.
 - Family, Honour Guard, Department members, dignitaries, visiting agencies, general public, spouses of your members all need consideration.
4. Coordinate with Staging and Parade Commander to plan arrival time, method, and doorway of entry for the marching procession.
5. Coordinate with ushers. You may need to select and train them.
6. Arrange for PA system. Also consider video closed circuit to overflow area.
7. Provide for ceremonial honours.
 - Colour Party
 - Ramp Guard and formation
8. Plan the timing and exit route for members for Ramp Guard.
9. Other tasks as needed.
10. Day of Funeral
 - Brief Ushers and other units working on service. Include Parade Commander.
 - Be available to answer questions and make last minute decisions. These will always be present.
 - Be decisive; issues in large events such as these seldom take care of themselves.
 - Be prepared to step in with directions/commands if needed.
 - Be available to trouble shoot during funeral service

Reports to: Incident Command

Lateral: Family Liaison Officer, Staging Officer, Parade Commander, Safety.

Cemetery Coordinator

Selection:

This Officer may be from your agency, a neighbouring agency, or an Honour Guard representative. If the cemetery is in a neighbouring jurisdiction, consider using one of their Service members. Using one of your Department members will pull them away from the funeral service for their colleague and should be avoided.

Duties:

You coordinate the committal service, and provide for family, Honour Guard, Department members, uniformed personnel parking and standing locations. You will coordinate with Pipes and Drums, bugler(s) and any other participating units.

Tasks:

1. Determine parking.
2. Determine standing locations at cemetery.
 - Family
 - Honour Guard
 - Department members
 - Other uniformed personnel
 - Public
 - Media
3. Coordinate Order of Service with Funeral Director and Minister.
 - See included Sample Order of Service
4. Set timing and cues for Pipes and Drums.
5. Coordinate with Parade Commander for EMS formations and commands.
6. PA system and power needs.
7. Toilets and water (generally not required due to short duration).

Reports to: Incident Command.

Laterals: Family Liaison Officer, Parade Commander, Safety

Safety Officer

Selection:

This Officer may be a member of your department, a neighbouring agency, an EMS representative, or an Honour Guard representative.

Duties:

This Officer is responsible for providing water, first-aid stations and personnel to guests and Officers working on the funeral. This Officer has authority to act directly to prevent an injury or render aid should one occur. This includes authority to make immediate changes in funeral plan if necessary.

Tasks:

1. Determine water points.
2. Arrange for water and aid station staffing.
3. Arrange for stand-by Paramedics and/or or EMS Bike Team.
4. Ensure access for ambulances and fire units.
5. Monitor weather for possible threats.
 - Temperature extremes
 - Severe weather
 - Alter service plan accordingly
6. Review Procession Plan for safety.
7. Provide for monitoring of uniformed personnel during service.
 - Personnel assigned to walk around groups of standing members and guests and check on their welfare
 - Encourage rest breaks and water intake
8. Intervene to assist personnel or guests in need of medical aid. Fainting is common when standing in formation for a prolonged period of time.

Reports to: Incident Command.

Laterals: This officer may interact directly at all levels of organization to insure safety.

SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

Funeral Service with procession to Cemetery

Parade participants should assemble in muster area 1.5 -2 hours prior to service.

1. Parade Briefing:
 - Plan for the day
 - Instructions given as to participation, hats, etc.
 - Safety
 - Procession driving
 - First Aid
 - Weather expectations
2. Final viewing time (optional) - This is normally for family and friends. It is not recommended to file all uniformed personnel through as doing so may take hours to complete.
 - Two or four Casket Guards may be placed, depending on layout.
 - Facing outward from the casket, heads lowered
 - Changed every 15-20 minutes
3. Casket or Urn moved to service location and positioned.

One option is to transport the casket or urn to service location from funeral home prior to beginning of service. Another option is to have the casket or urn at the head of the Parade Procession and bring it in at the beginning of the service via Honour Guard or Pallbearers. In these situations, we recommend a limited procession of your department vehicles. Ramp Guard should be formed, again of limited participation. A third option is to move the deceased from an ante room where visitation occurs just prior to the service into position in the service location as part of the beginning of the service.
4. Formal Program (Optional format):

| Time | Agenda |
|-------------|---|
| 1:00 | Arrival of the hearse at Church Honour Guard posted |
| 1:30-2:00 | Arrival and seating of non-immediate family, dignitaries, guests |
| 2:00-2:15 | Arrival of family and processional <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Pallbearers remove the casket-Procession enters the Church<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Minister-Honour Guard-Pallbearers/ Casket-Honourary Pallbearers-Family-Department members-Other uniformed personnel |

- 2:15-3:00 Funeral Service
- Special music
 - Reading of biography
 - Religious/ special readings
 - Eulogy
 - Sermon
 - Viewing/ walk-by (optional)
 - Benediction
- 3:00-3:15 Funeral Recessional
- Honourary Pallbearers
 - Minister
 - Pallbearers/Casket
 - Family
 - Department Members
 - Other Guests
- 3:15-4:00 Procession to Cemetery
- Lead Escort
 - Department members
 - Hearse
 - Family Vehicles
 - Pallbearers
 - Honorary Pallbearers
 - Honour Guard
 - Host Department Chief vehicle
 - Other Host Department vehicles
 - Fire Department or Police vehicles
 - City Officials
 - Friends, Private Vehicles
 - Rear Escort
- 4:00-4:15 Gravesite Processional
- Honour Guard
 - Department members
 - Other EMS members
 - Honorary Pallbearers
 - Minister
 - Pallbearers/Casket
 - Family
 - Friends

Funeral/ Memorial Service Notes:

- Depending on the space and situation, a “rolling salute” may be called by the Parade Commander if the hearse travels through a formed column of personnel.
- The Cemetery Program is generally short and somewhat less formal than the Service. Some or all of the following may occur:
 - Brief words by the Clergy
 - “Amazing Grace” from bagpipes (may be played during flag-folding)
 - Flag Folding and presentation
 - Other presentations
 - Dismissal
- General Reception may follow.
- A smaller reception for Department members, those involved with the funeral and visiting emergency services personnel may be planned as well.
- Debriefing with Funeral Coordinators and members of the Alliance of Canadian EMS Honour Guard members, useful as a learning experience.

Final Note:

While your Agency may have different policies or protocols to follow, these are some suggestions based on previous practice. Also note that some of the Officer positions may be combined, if resources dictate; however, tasks can quickly add up and become daunting if not properly delegated.

No two memorial services are alike. Use this guide and previous memorials as a reference, but make this your own service befitting of the individual.

Please remember to keep the family’s wishes at the forefront of your mind. They will not forget this day, nor will they forget the impression that you left on them. While it is necessary for us to say goodbye to a friend or colleague, it is the family’s right to have the final say to all decisions.

A special thank you to the Minnesota EMS Honor Guard for supplying the concept framework of this document, used with permission.

EMS Prayer

As I perform my duty, Lord. Whatever
be the call.

Help to guide and keep me safe from
dangers big and small.

I want to serve and do my best, no
matter what the scene.

I pledge to keep my skills refined, my
judgment quick and keen.

This calling to give of myself, most don't
understand.

But I stand ready all the time to help my
fellow man.

To have the chance to help a child,
restore his laugh with glee.

A word of thanks I might not hear, but
knowing is enough for me.

The praise of men is fine for some, but I
feel truly blessed.

That you, Oh Lord, have chosen me to
serve in EMS.

A Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God
whenever flames may rage,
Give me strength to save some life,
whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child
before it is too late
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert
and hear the weakest shout,
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling
and to give the best in me,
to guard my every neighbor
and protect his property.

And if, according to my fate,
I am to lose my life;

Please bless with your protecting hand
my children and my wife.

A Police Officer's Prayer

Lord I ask for courage
Courage to face and
conquer my own fears...
Courage to take me
where others will not go...
I ask for strength
Strength of body to protect others
and strength of spirit to lead others...
I ask for dedication
Dedication to my job, to do it well
Dedication to my community
to keep it safe...
Give me Lord, concern
for others who trust me
and compassion for those who need me...
And please Lord
Through it all
be at my side...