

September 11, 2020

Dear Georgia First Responder:

Recently Congress passed, and the President signed into law “The Safeguarding First Responders Act of 2020”. This law provides for some level of LODD presumption for first responders who die from COVID19. While the law takes effect immediately and covers deaths that have already occurred, the Department of Justice (PSOB) is in the process of writing rules which will regulate how the law is interpreted and stipulate what will qualify and what will not, as well as how the application for benefits will be processed.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has put together a task force to assist public safety agencies in making application once the rules are completed. Although the rules are not completed and published, we have provided some potential information that should be collected at the time of death of any public safety member who dies from COVID19, this is to assist in the preparation for a possible PSOB LODD claim.

1. Date of first complaint of illness
2. Date of Diagnosis
3. Date of Death
4. Last shift worked/volunteered
5. Dale, Incident # of any calls where COVID19 was potentially transmitted
6. Name of firefighter’s treating/diagnosing physician or medical center & dates of admission
7. Any information regarding close exposure at work
8. Any information regarding co-worker exposure, quarantine or diagnosis (follow HIPPA guidelines)
9. Actions/Events of last 24 hours diagnosis
10. Actions/events of last shift worked

By no means is this list meant to be an all-inclusive list, there may be other information that will be required for the LODD application through the PSOB. This list is designed to assist public safety leadership acquire potentially needed information while that knowledge is still fresh and readily available.

Respectfully,

Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs
Georgia Department of Public Health, Emergency Preparedness
Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association
Georgia Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Inc.
Georgia Sheriff’s Association
Georgia State Firefighters Association