

# POLICY 6

## SERVICE LEVELS AND DETAILS



### WISCONSIN EMS HONOR GUARD ASSOCIATION, IN

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#### 1. PURPOSE

This policy defines the services provided by the Wisconsin EMS Honor Guard (WIEMSHG) and establishes standardized honors for deceased EMS personnel and for official ceremonial events.

The goal is to ensure **consistent, dignified, and professional honors** in accordance with recognized standards, including the **National EMS Memorial Service**.

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#### 2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- All services shall be conducted with **dignity, respect, and professionalism**
  - Honors will be rendered **consistently across all districts**
  - The level of service provided will be based on the **classification of the death or event**
  - The wishes of the **family and agency** will be respected within operational capabilities
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#### 3. CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

##### A. Line of Duty Death (LODD)

A Line of Duty Death is defined as the death of an EMS provider resulting from:

- Traumatic injury sustained during an EMS response or official duty
  - Cardiac event occurring within **48 hours of a duty shift**
  - Occupational illness directly attributed to duty (e.g., cardiac, stroke)
  - Psychological injury related to duty, including **PTSD-related death or suicide**, when recognized by the appropriate authority
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##### Authorized Honors for LODD

The following honors **should be provided to the fullest extent possible**:

- American Flag draping of casket
  - Badge shroud
  - Bell Service and/or Last Call
  - Casket Guard
  - Honor Guard and Color Guard
  - Corridor of Honor (all uniformed personnel)
  - Procession of emergency vehicles
  - Pallbearers (if requested)
  - Graveside honors and flag presentation
  - Bugler (Taps) and/or bagpiper
  - Coordination with military honors (if applicable)
  - Submission to the National EMS Memorial
  - Representation at national memorial services
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##### B. Active Member Death (Non-LODD)

Defined as the death of an active EMS provider (career or volunteer) **not directly related to duty**.

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##### Authorized Honors

- EMS Flag (if authorized)
- Badge shroud

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- Bell Service and/or Last Call
- Casket Guard
- Honor Guard and/or Color Guard
- Corridor of Honor

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### C. Retired Member Death

Defined as the death of a former EMS provider who previously served in an official capacity.

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#### Authorized Honors

- Badge shroud
- Honor Guard presence (as available)
- Corridor of Honor
- Optional ceremonial participation based on resources

*Note: Military honors are coordinated separately when applicable.*

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### 4. CEREMONIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

WIEMSHG may provide ceremonial support for:

- Presentation of Colors
  - Parades
  - Conferences and conventions
  - Graduation ceremonies
  - Award and recognition events
  - Memorial services
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### 5. REQUEST AND SCHEDULING

- Requests should be submitted **as early as possible**, preferably **2–4 weeks in advance**
  - Events are assigned by **district**, with state support as needed
  - Final participation is based on:
    - Availability of personnel
    - Operational commitments
    - Travel considerations
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### 6. HOST AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

Requesting agencies should:

- Provide event details in advance
  - Ensure adequate space for staging and operations
  - Provide basic accommodations when appropriate:
    - Water and refreshments
    - Changing or staging areas
  - Coordinate a point of contact for the event
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### 7. OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY

- The **State Commander or designee** has final authority over:
  - Level of honors provided
  - Resource allocation
  - Modifications based on circumstances

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### 8. LIMITATIONS

- WIEMSHG is a **volunteer organization**; services are subject to availability
  - Not all honors may be possible in every situation
  - Services may be adjusted based on:
    - Weather
    - Safety concerns
    - Personnel availability
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### 9. COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

- WIEMSHG will coordinate with:
    - Fire and law enforcement honor guards
    - Military units (for veteran honors)
    - Funeral directors and event organizers
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### 10. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

All members participating in services shall:

- Follow all uniform and appearance policies
  - Maintain decorum at all times
  - Adhere to ceremonial protocols and command structure
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### 11. ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- Removal from participation in honors
- Disciplinary action in accordance with the bylaws