

Application Procedures
Compensation for Death of Volunteer Firefighters Killed in the Line of Duty

Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-206 authorizes a payment of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to the estate of any unpaid volunteer firefighter killed in the line of duty.

To be eligible for compensation, each of the following criteria must be met:

1. The deceased firefighter must have been an unpaid volunteer member of a fire department that is registered and recognized by the State Fire Marshal's Office as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-102-302. The deceased volunteer firefighter must not have been in the employment of a unit of a government as a full-time employee of a fire department of such unit;
2. The deceased volunteer firefighter must have been required to extinguish and control fires or fire-related incidents pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-206; and
3. The death must have occurred in the actual discharge of the duties of the position of volunteer firefighter.

To receive compensation conferred by this statute, the executor, administrator or other appropriate representative of the estate of a volunteer firefighter who was killed in the line of duty must apply to the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

The application for the payment shall include all of the following documentation:

1. A cover letter from the applicant requesting the payment;
2. Proof that the applicant is authorized to act on behalf of the deceased volunteer firefighter's estate (e.g., letters testamentary or letters of administration);
3. A notarized and signed affidavit from the deceased volunteer firefighter's fire suppression unit containing the following:
 - (a) Confirmation of the deceased's status as an unpaid volunteer firefighter required to extinguish and control fires or fire-related incidents, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-206;
 - (b) Name of fire department or unit;
 - (c) Date of death; and,
 - (d) A statement from the deceased firefighter's department that the volunteer firefighter's death occurred as a result of the discharge of responsibilities in the line of duty as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-206(a)(2).
4. A true copy of the deceased volunteer firefighter's death certificate or, in the Commissioner's or designee's discretion, a copy of a true copy.

Please submit the application, affidavit, and required documentation to:

Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance
ATTN: Robert Wright, Chief of Fiscal Services
Department of Commerce & Insurance
Davy Crockett Building, 11th Floor
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Questions concerning applications or payments should be directed to the Department's Chief of Fiscal Services, Robert Wright, at 615-532-0521 or Robert.Lee.Wright@tn.gov.