



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

09-10-2017

Press Release

1500 Hrs.

For Immediate Release PST
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**San Francisco Fire Department is sad to announce the Line
of Duty Death of Battalion Chief Terry Smerdel**

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Battalion Chief Terry Smerdel, who passed away this morning while working a shift at Battalion 1. BC Smerdel had returned from an early morning fire alarm call, and was later found by coworkers in his office, unresponsive. Advanced Life Support measures were immediately initiated. He was pronounced deceased surrounded by his Fire Department Family, and later joined at the station by the Departments Chaplain and the Smerdel family.

Battalion Chief Smerdel has been a valued member of our Department since October 15, 1991 and has been assigned to Battalion 9 since January 2017. Terry worked in a variety of assignments and was a long-time member of Station 17.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Terry's family at this difficult time; his wife Cyndy, daughter Danica, son-in-law Vince, grandson Christian, son Jack and his fiancé Christine, as well his sister Kathy and brother, retired Battalion Chief, Tony Smerdel.

“Terry was a valued member of our Department, and loved by all. He was a devoted family man; Great Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Brother. He will be greatly missed by his Fire Department family. I want to thank Terry for his 26 years of dedicated service to the San Francisco Fire Department, and the City and County of San Francisco”. -Chief Joanne Hayes-White

As a mark of respect, San Francisco Fire Department flags will be lowered to half-staff until further notice. Details regarding funeral arrangements are pending and will be provided as we receive them.

Joanne Hayes-White
Chief of Department

