**From:** John McDonald [mailto:JMCDONALD@eastpiercefire.org]
**Sent:** Friday, January 06, 2012 3:02 PM
**To:** Denise Menge
**Subject:** Flag and Badge Protocol

Denise,

Please distribute the following to the membership.

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All,

With the recent death of National Park Service Ranger Margaret Anderson, a number of questions arose as to the role of the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association in making decisions and/or recommendations on the lowering of flags and shrouding of badges.  In an effort to provide guidance for our membership and consistency among agencies, the following protocol was established by consensus of the members present at the January 5th meeting:

* It is the intention of the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association to adhere to the provisions of the United States Flag Code as it relates to the display of the United States Flag
* Flags will be lowered at the direction of the President of the United States, Governor of the State of Washington, the Pierce County Executive or the Mayor of a town or city
* Flags will be lowered for the period of time as directed by the President, Governor, County Executive or Mayor
* Badges will be shrouded for Public Safety personnel (fire service or law enforcement) who are killed in the line of duty  (this does not generally include military personnel)
* Badges will be shrouded for the same period of time as the flags are lowered
* The association President, through the association Secretary, will send notification of the lowering of flags and the shrouding of badges to all members via email
* Departments are encouraged to follow the provisions of this protocol but retain their discretion to make whatever decision they feel is appropriate for their respective agencies

The following is a link to the United States Flag Code which provides further guidance on the display of the flag and related topics:

<http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/RL30243.pdf>

For specific direction in the case of the recent death of National Park Service Ranger Margaret Anderson, please see the following:

Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy has directed that flags at Pierce County facilities be lowered to half-staff from dawn until dusk, **Thursday, January 5th, 2012 through Tuesday, January 10th, 2012**, in honor of Ranger Margaret Anderson, the Mount Rainier National Park Ranger who was killed in the line of duty last week.

Flags should remain at half-staff **until sunset on Tuesday, January 10th** or first thing Wednesday morning, January 11th, 2012.

In accordance with the association protocol described above, badges should be shrouded for the identified time period as well.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

John

John P. Mc Donald

Deputy Fire Chief

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