

Taking Care of Our Own - 2011

The purpose of this short (8-hour) course is to provide guidance on how to deal with surviving family members and coworkers when a firefighter dies in the line of duty.

The target audience for this course is agency administrators from Field Office Managers to State Directors, and fire managers including Field Office and State Office fire management officers.

About Your Facilitators –

Art Currier retired from the USDA Forest Service in 2008 as a District Ranger on the Ochoco National Forest in Prineville Oregon. His 38 year career was spent working in a variety of positions on four National Forests in Oregon and Washington. He has a BS degree in Forest Management from Washington State University. While as a District Ranger the most difficult challenge he faced was when nine of his employees died while fighting a wildfire outside Glenwood Springs Colorado on Storm King Mountain in 1994. Art coordinated and worked with the 11 survivors on the crew, his workforce and the families of the nine employees who died. Art now travels and shares his experiences, to help prepare others, should they be thrust into the position of dealing with a line of duty death.

Robbie Adler-Tapia, Ph.D., is a psychologist who has worked with attachment, trauma and dissociation for over 25 years. She provides psychological services and CISD services for children and families, emergency responders, law enforcement, and served as an expert witness offering forensic services for the Courts. Dr. Adler-Tapia has presented on trauma and the treatment of trauma with Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) internationally and has written numerous publications on using EMDR in psychotherapy including a book, *EMDR and the Art of Psychotherapy with Children* co-authored with Carolyn Settle. As a mental health specialist for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Taking Care of Our Own program, the daughter of a Fire Chief and a former Emergency Medical Technician and Firefighter herself, Robbie has worked with local, state, and federal programs for firefighters and law enforcement. An EMDRIA Approved Consultant, Institute Facilitator, and EMDR Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) Trainer, Robbie is providing HAP trainings throughout the US and in Kenya where her goal has been to make EMDR available to the poorest and most vulnerable clients.

Sylvia Kratzke of Buffalo, New York. She has an AAS from Erie Community College, attended the University of Buffalo, and has worked for 24 years as a respiratory therapist in the Buffalo area. Mrs. Kratzke is the mother of fallen firefighter Heather J. DePaolo-Johnny, who died in an engine rollover (Stanza Fire, Klamath National Forest) in July, 2002. Sylvia has volunteered for the NFFF since 2004 working with the Survivors Network. Speaker's Bureau, and participates in the Taking Care of Our Own® programs.

Sylvia also volunteers her time with the Wildland Firefighters Foundation (WFFF) as part of their Survivors Network, and has written several articles for the WFFF's column in Wildland Firefighter Magazine. In addition, she was interviewed and taped for inclusion in a safety video for incoming wildland firefighters on Situational Awareness at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.