

MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM

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Fire Chiefs Peer Support Team

*A Program Dedicated to
Supporting Our Fire Chiefs
& Their Families with a
Responsive Behavioral
Health
Program*

**24 HOUR NUMBER
TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE
(843) 609-8300**

Who Takes Care of the Chief?

A Chiefs Perspective

“You know a lot of things have happened in my life over the last 6 years of me being a Fire Chief. I've lost great personnel and friends due to accidents, suicide, and illness. I do my best to make sure my personnel and their families are taken care of. I describe myself as a good Chief that is striving to be a great one. I still take classes and still train with my guys, but not as much as I use to. So, struggling through my career as a Chief something has finally struck a nerve.

Last week alone I responded to 15 calls, 7 meetings, medical training, worked on the budget, handled HR issues, installed some smoke detectors, PR event, helped with some maintenance issues, met with three contractors, spent no time with my family, got nothing done at home, and probably made a few firefighters upset because I corrected poor performance”

Our Fire Chiefs are responsible for all aspects of the operation of their departments. Budget preparation, re-viewing apparatus specifications, attending meetings, handling personnel issues, and speaking at public events, are just the tip of the iceberg in the myriad of daily contacts in the life of a Fire Chief. Sometimes advice from someone who has been there is important.

When our Chiefs experience a line-of-duty death or a tragic event in their organizations or communities, emphasis is placed on the personnel that were present at the call or were affected by the tragedy. There is also much activity, and sometimes scrutiny, that comes for the Chief of the department. Making decisions concerning funeral arrangements and taking care of the wishes of the family, responding to inquiries from the news media, OSHA, the political leadership in the community, while seeing that other members of the department are taken care of are all difficult duties when a Chief is grieving the loss personally. He or she will many times be reluctant to ask for help feeling an obligation to be strong for their personnel.

We have compassionate Chief officers in our State, and on our Team, who have much experience with everyday management problems, have experienced losses in their own departments, and have “walked the walk”. These Chiefs make themselves available to respond to the needs of their fellow Chiefs, to stay with them, to counsel them, and to lend their first-hand experience in the truest sense of providing peer-to-peer support.

Let us help you and let us know if you need support. You have the option of talking by phone or having our Team members visit you. Contact one of them listed here or call us at (843) 609-8300 for 24/7 access. We will have a Chief peer support member contact you.

www.scfirechiefs.com