

Los Angeles Daily News

Services for firefighter are Friday in cathedral

By Daily News

Monday, August 16, 2004 - Services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Friday at the Cathedral Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles for rookie Firefighter Jaime Foster, who died Saturday while leaving a house fire in Encino.

A candlelight vigil will be held Thursday night at Fire Station 73 in Reseda, where Foster was assigned.

"All are welcome to attend these tributes to our fallen sister," said Brian Humphrey, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Foster, the first female to die in the line of duty in the 118-year history of the Fire Department, was crushed under the wheels of a hook-and-ladder truck after she fell off the back. The 25-year-old Palmdale resident had worked for the department only three months.

The Fire Department and a number of other agencies were continuing investigations into her death, Humphrey said.

"Pursuant of routine protocol, investigations are being conducted by the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, Cal-OSHA, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office," he said.

Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn ordered city offices to lower their flags to half-staff in Foster's memory.

"In a very short time, Firefighter Foster served the city with dignity and courage," Hahn said in a statement. "Her tragic loss will be felt throughout the department and the entire city."

Foster fell from the running board at the rear of her truck at about 2 p.m. Saturday as her crew, from Fire Station 73 in Reseda, was leaving the site of a house fire in the 5700 block of Jamieson Avenue.

Mourners soon set up a memorial with candles, photos and flowers outside her station on Reseda Boulevard near Valerio Street.

IF YOU GO

A candlelight vigil in memory of Firefighter Jaime Foster is scheduled for Thursday between 7 and 9 p.m. at Fire Station 73, 7419 Reseda Blvd., Reseda. On Friday, a memorial service is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, 555 W. Temple St., Los Angeles. For information, call (213) 485-3739 or go to www.lafd.org