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Firefighter Killed After Run Over By Fire Truck

Foster Becomes First Female Firefighter Killed In LAFD History

Courtesy of NBC4.tv

LOS ANGELES -- An investigation was under way Monday into the death of a Los Angeles firefighter crushed under the wheels of a hook-and-ladder truck as she and colleagues were leaving the scene of a house fire in Encino.

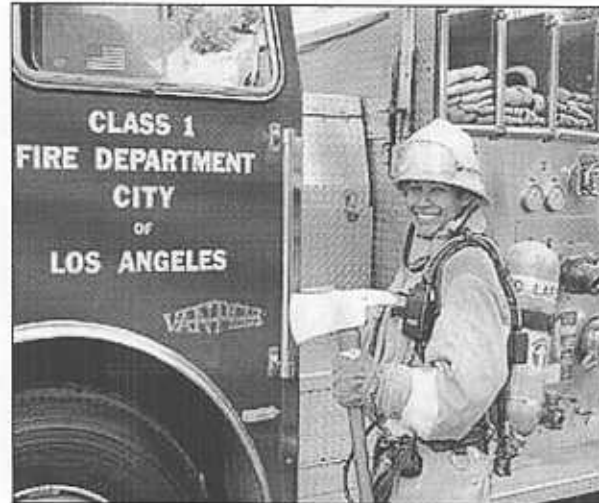
The accident that killed 25-year-old Jaime Foster, who had worked with the fire department three months, occurred shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday.

Witnesses said they saw Foster standing on the back of the truck as it backed slowly out of the 5700 block of Jamieson Avenue. A few seconds later, her body was on the street.

Foster, who is believed to have fallen off a running board, was transported to a Tarzana hospital, where she was pronounced dead a short time later.

A Palmdale resident, Foster was the first female firefighter killed in the 133-year history of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Her death was the first on-duty death for the department since March 1998, when three firefighters perished in the crash of a helicopter taking a child who had been injured in an



Los Angeles Fire Department

accident to Childrens
Hospital.

Mayor Jim 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."

A memorial consisting of
candles and pictures went up
Sunday outside the Reseda
fire station to which Foster
was assigned, Station 73 on
Reseda Boulevard.

Funeral Arrangements

The Funeral for fallen Los
Angeles Firefighter Jaime
Foster will be held:

Friday, August 20,
2004
10:00 AM
Cathedral of Our Lady
of the Angels
555 West Temple
Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

All are welcome to attend
this public tribute to our
fallen Sister. More detailed
information regarding this
and other memorial
arrangements is
forthcoming.

Please do not call the
Cathedral, as their staff has
no information to provide
you at this time.

Related:

- [More Details on
Funeral and Related
Information from
LAFD.org](#)

- [Fallen LAFD Rookie 'Gave 110% Every Minute'](#)
- [LAFD Firefighter Fatality Following Response To Structure Fire](#)

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Los Angeles Daily News

Tragic tribute

Monday, August 16, 2004 - On Saturday the Los Angeles Fire Department marked a sad first when rookie Jamie Foster died on duty. While too many firefighters have been killed on the job, Foster was the first woman.

The 25-year-old Palmdale rookie, on the job only three months, was crushed by her ladder truck when it backed over her as the crew prepared to leave a house fire in Encino. She apparently fell off the back of the truck.

This was the kind of senseless tragedy that happens from time to time, that too often takes away those full of promise and energy. The former nurse was living her dream, eager to learn everything she could to become a better firefighter and anxious to hit the streets to save lives and livelihoods.

Foster's death wasn't just a tragedy for Station 73 in Reseda where she worked, nor for the city Fire Department -- it was a loss for the entire community.

Rest in peace, Jamie Foster.

Los Angeles Daily News

LAFD loses first female on job

By Jason Kandel
Staff Writer

Saturday, August 14, 2004 - ENCINO -- A woman firefighter, just months out of the academy, died Saturday after her crew's firetruck backed over her following a house fire.

Jaime L. Foster, 25, of Palmdale, who was assigned to Station 73 in Reseda, was the first woman firefighter in Los Angeles to die in the line of duty.

The Station 73 firefighting crew was leaving a home in the 5700 block of Jamieson Avenue just before 2 p.m. when Foster, who was riding a running board at the back of the truck, fell off and was pinned under a wheel, police officials said.

She suffered major head trauma and was transported to a Tarzana hospital where she was pronounced dead.

"It is with great sadness that the men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department inform you of the death of an on-duty Los Angeles firefighter," fire officials said in a statement released on the incident. No other details were made public.

"Obviously, it's been a very traumatic day. We're not ready to comment," said Assistant Chief Roxanne Bercik, the highest-ranking female firefighter in the department's history.

Women firefighters were first admitted to the Los Angeles department in 1983.

The department's last deaths were on March 23, 1998. Three firefighters were killed when their rescue helicopter crashed in Griffith Park while they were transporting Norma Vides, 11, to a hospital. Killed were Michael Butler; Michael McComb; and Eric Reiner, along with the girl.

Saturday, five rigs and dozens of firefighters responded to the house fire just before 1 p.m.

Neighbors also converged on the scene and learned of Foster's fatal injury.

"Poor lady. Poor guys," said resident Ofer Adi, 43, who watched teary-eyed firefighters struggle to save Foster. "They came to save our lives and they lost their own. It's very very sad.

"The driver was holding his head. You could just see that he was about to lose it."

Investigators with the Fire Department and the Los Angeles Police Department opened cases to determine how Foster could have fallen off the running board.

The house fire was caused by a broken terrarium heater system. The owner was out of town.

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NBC 4

Candlelight Vigil Scheduled For Firefighter Run Over By Fire Truck

POSTED: 11:35 AM PDT August 17, 2004

UPDATED: 11:54 AM PDT August 17, 2004

LOS ANGELES -- A candlelight will be held Thursday for Jaime L. Foster, the rookie Los Angeles firefighter fatally injured Saturday as she and her colleagues were leaving the scene of a house fire in Encino.

The public is invited to attend the vigil, which will be held at Fire Station 73 -- 7419 Reseda Blvd. -- where Foster worked, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department.

A funeral service is to begin at 10 a.m. Friday at the downtown Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Foster, who lived in Palmdale, was the first female firefighter killed in the 133-year history of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

The 25-year-old rookie, who had worked for the fire department for three months and was known for her enthusiasm and positive attitude, was fatally injured shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday.

Witnesses said they saw Foster standing on the back of the truck as it backed slowly out of the 5700 block of Jamieson Avenue. A few seconds later, her body was on the street.

Foster, who is believed to have fallen off the truck's running board, was transported to a Tarzana hospital, where she was pronounced dead a short time later.

The LAFD's Brian Humphrey said earlier investigations are being conducted by the Los Angeles Fire and Police departments, Cal-OSHA, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office.

Foster's death was the first on-duty death for the department since March 1998, when three firefighters were killed in the crash of a helicopter transporting a young auto accident victim to Childrens Hospital. The child also died.

A memorial of candles, photos and other items was set up outside Fire Station 73.

Mayor Jim Hahn earlier ordered city offices to lower their flags to half- staff in

Foster's memory.

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