



**People's Memorial**  
A s s o c i a t i o n  
Funeral Advocacy & Education since 1939

## **Scattering Cremated Remains**

### **Scattering Protocol**

Regardless of where cremated remains are scattered, there is a simple protocol to follow - only scatter the cremated remains. Remove the metal identification disc from inside the urn and the identification label from the outside. Dispose of metal disc, plastic bag, bag closure, label, and urn separately.

### **Water Scattering**

Do not drop or throw the urn into a body of water unless it is made of a certified biodegradable material. Cremated remains may be scattered on all public navigable waterways in Washington State. These include Puget Sound, rivers, streams, lakes, and the Pacific Ocean within a three-mile limit. No reporting is required.

### **Water Scattering from Washington State Ferries**

Advance notice and booking 3 to 5 business days prior to a planned date is required for scattering cremated remains from Washington State Ferry vessels.

Cremated remains must be contained in a certified biodegradable container that can be dropped intact from a ferry. Such containers are typically made of a paper product and are designed to dissolve quickly after contact with water. These urns can be purchased from most funeral homes or online.

Bookings are made only during limited and specific non-peak sailing times and are not offered during holidays or on all routes. If you make arrangements with Washington State Ferries for a shipboard memorial, they will send written notice of your planned arrival to the vessel officers ahead of time.

At this time there is no charge for this service. The only costs are standard ferry tolls.

For more information or to make arrangements with Washington State Ferries, please call Administrative Manager, Jim Fletcher\* at (206) 264-3554 or Staff Aide Johanna Karlin\* at (206) 264-3556.

## **Ocean Scattering**

Scattering remains in the Pacific Ocean beyond a three-mile limit requires reporting within 30 days to Region 10 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report can be mailed to: EPA Region 10, Attn: Jessica Winkler, 1200 Sixth Ave Ste 900, Seattle, WA 98101 or fax 206-553-1775.

Flowers and wreaths made of materials that will break down naturally in the water can be placed in the water at the scattering site without a permit.

For questions or more information regarding scattering at sea beyond the three mile limit contact Jessica Winkler\* at [winkler.jessica@epa.gov](mailto:winkler.jessica@epa.gov) or 206-553-7369.

## **Scattering on Land**

Cremated remains may be scattered on privately-owned land with the permission of the landowner.

Cremated remains may be scattered in national parks with permission from the chief park ranger.

Scattering on state trust uplands requires permission from regional managers. Commercial entities are not allowed to scatter remains on state trust uplands.

## **Scattering Services**

If you do not have access to a boat or an airplane, there are licensed services that will scatter cremated remains for you from the air or on water for a specified fee. There are also charter airplane and boat services where a small party of people may accompany the urn and witness the scattering by air or sea.

\*Name of employees are subject to change.