

Robert Ost

Robert Ost considered risk part of the job and part of life. A 15-year veteran of the South San Francisco Fire Department, he was also an avid paraglider and mountain climber.

"To me, what he always did was risk, but he was always safe in doing it," said John Lucia, an assistant fire chief who gathered with co-workers at the Ost home Tuesday.

Ost, his wife, Ileana, their daughter, Emily, and his mother, whose name was not released, were returning to San Francisco aboard Flight 261, which crashed off the California Coast Monday.

Flags at fire departments throughout San Mateo County flew at half-staff.

"He was just an all-around good guy," Lucia said. "Loved what he was doing. Loved his family."

Fellow firefighters at the station were in shock, Lucia said. "It's pretty somber. I don't think it's sunk in yet."