



Safety Bulletin

Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

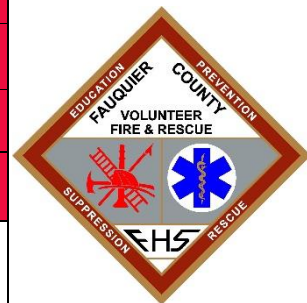
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Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month addresses why cancer is the number-one line-of-duty death in the fire service. Additionally, the content defines cancer, explains the scope of occupational cancer in the fire service and identifies carcinogens, occupational exposures, and other chemicals found in products of combustion (smoke, etc.).

To get the most from this month, we recommend taking one day this week to conduct a Safety Stand Down. All resources are also available to review at your convenience.

- **Personal Story:**

[Firefighters battle a fearsome occupational hazard: Cancer](#) (NEW) CBS News report: Since 2002, almost two out of every three fire fighters who died on the job died of cancer, as smoke from today's fires produces an ever-more toxic brew of chemicals. But many first responders diagnosed with cancer are being denied workers' comp benefits.

[IARC Reclassification for Firefighting:](#)

An International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) study has reclassified the occupation of firefighting to the highest hazard category: **Group 1, "carcinogenic to humans."** The previous study, conducted by IARC in 2007, had classified firefighting as Group 2B, "possibly carcinogenic to humans."

- **Research:**

- [Mortality and Cancer Incidence in a Pooled Cohort of United States Firefighters](#): This study took place between 1950-2009 and included nearly 30,000 professional fire fighters from departments in San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Chicago. This research is the first of its kind to reveal the evidence of firefighting and an increased risk of solid cancers and mesothelioma.
- [Circadian Rhythm in Prostate Cancer: Time to Take Notice of the Clock](#) (NEW)
- [Research on Elevated Cancer Types for Firefighters](#) (NEW): New research on cancer types found to be elevated in the fire service.
- [Harvard Medical School's "Fatigue Management in First Responders"](#): The cumulative effects of sleep loss and sleep disorders represents an underrecognized public health problem and have been associated with a wide range of health consequences including an increased risk of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, depression, heart attack, and stroke.

- **Educational Presentation:**

- **Module 1:** [The Scope of the Fire Service Cancer Problem](#) (UPDATED for 2023): This PowerPoint presentation describes the scope and trends for the occupational cancer trends in fire fighters. **Note: Make sure you view the presentation in "presenter mode" to capture the instructor notes for the slides.**

- **Factsheets:**

- [IARC Firefighting Exposure Reclassification](#) (NEW)
- [Fire Fighter Cancer Presumptive Legislation 101](#) (NEW)
- [Cancer 101](#)

- [Female Fire Fighters and Cancer](#) **(UPDATED)**
- [Carcinogenic Exposures](#)
- [Cancer Disparities Among Fire Fighters by Race and Ethnicity](#)

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Battalion Chief Lorenzen or Captain Matthew Shields.