




<b>Safety Bulletin</b>	
<b>Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month 2024</b>	
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Approved By: Kalvyn W. Smith, Fire Rescue Chief	
	

This Safety Bulletin is to inform you that January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness month. At the 2023 IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial, 63% of the names added to the wall were members who had died from occupational cancer.

In partnership with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN), the IAFF has designated January as Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month to provide fire fighters the necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention and to support those with a cancer diagnosis within their departments. The link below will provide you with training materials and tools to review this topic with your crew:

- <https://www.iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month/#how-to-get-started>

Reduction, Prevention and Early Detection

When considering cancer reduction on the fireground your SCBA and full PPE is the gold standard for protection, and we do a great job of utilizing this protection. The Incident Commander and company officers should follow best practice suggestions for air monitoring prior to discontinuing SCBA utilizing 5 gas air monitoring.

The best way to continue the exposure reduction is to follow OP 714 Post Incident Exposure and Decontamination. This policy will provide the member with instructions for post incident exposure reduction procedure and the tools and equipment to be utilized to accomplish this task. Below is the link to watch a video on decontamination steps per OP 714:

- [https://cancerprevention.mycourse.com/course\\_catalog/course\\_information#](https://cancerprevention.mycourse.com/course_catalog/course_information#)

The last step in reduction is the final decontamination which takes place in station during your post fireground shower. Please review IB 23.030 in regards to the Ember Suds Firefighting Soap.

Our Department has provided cutting edge tools and opportunities for early detection of cancer and will continue this trend as better early detection methods become available. Please review IB 23.053 for information on skin cancer screening during your annual employee physical.

The County has also added the UDS screening. This advanced screening will be offered biennial (every two years). All members are urged to take advantage of this opportunity in early detection when it is available. The key to cancer survival is early detection.

Please review these documents with your crew:

- OP 714
- IB 23.030
- IB 23.053

If you have any questions in regards to this safety bulletin, please contact Captain Matthew Shields.