



# Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention



## TRAINING BRIEF

### The Scope of Firefighter Occupational Cancer

#### DISCUSSION

**Fact:** Firefighters have a 9% greater risk of being diagnosed with cancer than the general public and a 14% higher risk of dying from occupational cancer than the general public.

**Key Points:** In a 2006 meta-analysis by Grace LeMasters of 32 firefighter cancer studies, their team found that, compared with the general population, there was a 14% increased risk of leukemia than general public.

NIOSH conducted a study of 30,000 firefighters and occupational cancer. The results were a 9% higher chance of firefighters being diagnosed with cancer than the general public and a 14% higher rate of dying from cancer than the general public.

The importance of annual medical exams cannot be understated.

You can download a [medical form](#) from our website that highlights the needed medical tests to be done if you're a firefighter.

**Action:** Download and print the form. Bring it to your primary care physician. Discuss the risks firefighters have in regards to occupational cancer.

**Make the necessary changes.**

Firefighter cancer is a looming personal catastrophe for each and every firefighter. Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and safety of our nation's firefighters.

Multiple studies have repeatedly demonstrated credible evidence and biologic creditability for statistically higher rates of multiple types of cancers in firefighters compared to the general population, including:

- Testicular cancer (2.02 times greater risk)
- Multiple Myeloma (1.53 times greater risk)
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (1.51 times greater risk)
- Skin cancer (1.39 times greater risk)
- Prostate cancer (1.28 times greater risk)
- Malignant melanoma (1.31 times great risk)
- Brain cancer (1.31 times greater risk)
- Colon cancer (1.21 times great risk)
- Leukemia (1.14 times greater risk)
- Breast cancer in women is 6 times the national average.

Key Studies:

- NIOSH Study
- LeMasters Meta-Analysis
- Nordic Study
- Jalilian Meta-Analysis

Exposures can subsequently have both short and long-term negative health impacts.

In 2017, 78% of the names added to the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Wall of Honor were from cancer.

The number of LODDs from occupational cancer continues to rise but our fire incidents are decreasing. This is alarming.

We need to take the necessary steps to protect ourselves and reduce our exposures.