



International Association of Fire Fighters

[www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org)

## NEWS RELEASE

Firefighter Cancer Support Network

[www.firefightercancersupport.org](http://www.firefightercancersupport.org)

**For immediate release**  
Dec. 21, 2024

**Contact: Tim Burn, 202-230-7167, [tburn@iaff.org](mailto:tburn@iaff.org)**  
Joe Schumacher, 504-905-9527, [secretary@fcsn.net](mailto:secretary@fcsn.net)

### **Occupational Cancer is Killing Fire Fighters**

*January is Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month when leading fire service organizations educate fire fighters about prevention and survival.*

Occupational cancer is claiming the lives of more fire fighters than any other cause, including fires and other on-scene incidents. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) are committed to reversing this trend to save more fire fighters.

During 2024 Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month ([iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month](http://iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month)), the IAFF and FCSN will partner to deliver targeted education and best practices and resources to reduce the impact of cancer on fire fighters.

This year's Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month highlights comprehensive strategies to reduce cancer risk throughout a fire fighter's life. This includes implementing best practices in station design to limit exposures to carcinogens, emphasizing precautions during firefighting like proper equipment use and designated decontamination zones. This month-long campaign will address personal risk factors during off-duty hours, such as nutrition and stress, and also highlight fire fighter success stories to encourage awareness and engagement to end the epidemic of cancer in the fire service.

“More than two-thirds of the names we added to our IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Wall last September died of job-related cancer,” says IAFF General President Edward Kelly. “Science confirms that PFAS forever chemicals are driving the alarming rate of cancer in the fire service. We must do everything we can to eliminate this threat, not just for those on the job today, but for generations of fire fighters to follow. Together, the IAFF and the FCSN will do whatever it takes to keep fire fighters healthy and safe.”

“It is a well-known fact that the title of firefighter carries with it a significant risk for developing occupational cancer,” says FCSN CEO Bryan Frieders. “For the past 18 years, the Firefighter Cancer Support Network has been leading the fight against this diabolical disease by providing immediate support to firefighters during their most dire times. The importance of firefighter cancer awareness and education cannot be over emphasized. I am proud to be aligned with Ed Kelly and great organizations like the International Association of Fire Fighters who have made the health and well-being of their members a top priority.”

### **About the Firefighter Cancer Support Network**

Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) provides critical assistance for career or volunteer, active or retired firefighters, emergency medical service providers, and their immediate family members who have been diagnosed with cancer. They deliver valuable post-diagnosis resources followed by unique badge to badge, one-on-one mentorship from one of their 220 fire-service mentors who have first-hand knowledge about battling cancer. They share their survivor's journey about their types of cancer, their own experiences with testing and treatments, and offer valuable insight into the recovery process. [firefightercancersupport.org](http://firefightercancersupport.org)

### **About the International Association of Firefighters**

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is the driving force behind nearly every advance in the fire and emergency services in the 21st century. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Ottawa, Ontario, the IAFF represents more than 343,000 full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics in more than 3,500 affiliates. IAFF members protect more than 85 percent of the population in communities throughout the United States and Canada. The IAFF is also one of the most active lobbying organizations in Washington, DC. [iaff.org](http://iaff.org)

###