

FIRE FIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH: TALKING POINTS FOR MEDIA



- Occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service.
- 75% of those honored at the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in September 2024 died of occupational cancer (230 of 306).
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies firefighting as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), IARC's highest carcinogenic hazard classification. This classification puts firefighting on par with tobacco and benzene as carcinogenic to humans.
- The IAFF and Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) are committed to providing fire fighters with the best possible methods of prevention to reduce their risk of cancer and supporting those with a cancer diagnosis.
- Throughout January, we will be raising awareness of the cancer epidemic in the fire service by providing resources on the following topics:
 - Presumptive coverage and workers' compensation
 - Reproductive health
 - Behavioral health
 - Personal responsibility and culture change
- Resources include factsheets, calls to action, survivor stories, and more.
- Learn more at iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month.

