

# FIRE FIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH: TALKING POINTS FOR MEDIA



- Occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service.
- In Canada, 94% of the professional fire fighters who died in the line of duty in the five-year period of 2020 to 2024 died from occupational cancers (264 of 282).
- In 2022, 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 is 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.
- January was formally proclaimed Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month in 2023 when MP Sherry Romanado's Bill C-224 became law. The IAFF is grateful to MP Romanado and to all who have joined the fight against our profession's number one danger.
- Bill C-224 also led to The National Framework on Cancers Linked to Firefighting, a comprehensive strategy to reduce cancer's toll on firefighting that's being developed in partnership between Health Canada and stakeholders like the IAFF.
- 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 worker's 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](https://iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month).

