



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

MEDIA ADVISORY

WASHINGTON, D.C. • OTTAWA, ONTARIO • WWW.IAFF.ORG

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NIOSH to Restore Key Fire Fighter Safety Programs

Over the past few months, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has worked closely with the Trump administration to protect vital fire fighter health and safety programs, including the Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program, the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer, and the World Trade Center Health Program.

Following direct talks with Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., these key NIOSH programs – initially disrupted due to a misinterpreted executive order – are being restored this week.

“Thanks to our advocacy, these programs will continue. I am confident that the IAFF’s voice will continue to be heard as we work together to improve these programs and make our dangerous jobs as safe as possible,” said General President Edward Kelly in a message to the union’s members, which appears below.

Brothers and sisters,

Over the last 100 days, the IAFF has been in regular, weekly contact with the Trump administration regarding fire fighter issues.

Recent media articles have discussed staffing reductions and the elimination of critical NIOSH programs, including the Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program, the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer, and the World Trade Center Health Program. We also learned that communications had been sent from NIOSH regarding the discontinuation of open fatality investigations.

This past Saturday, I spoke with both the White House and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to discuss these programs. **Yesterday, I was notified that HHS had begun restoring these programs, and staff would be returning to their roles as early as today.**

It was explained to me that the Reduction in Force (RIF) ordered by a White House Executive Order was misinterpreted by “mid-level bureaucrats,” and our programs – which Secretary Kennedy assured me were “critical” – would continue. Secretary Kennedy and I also discussed meaningful ways to improve the programs to better serve our members.

Thanks to our advocacy, these programs will continue. I am confident that the IAFF’s voice will continue to be heard as we work together to improve these programs and make our dangerous jobs as safe as possible.

There’s **no doubt that the federal government can be more efficient**, but that efficiency should not come at the expense of those who risk their lives for others. There needs to be efficiencies and improvements in other federal programs that serve our members and families, like the PSOB program.

We will continue to share updates. If you have any questions, please contact your District Vice President.

Be You. Be Strong. Be Fire Fighters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward A. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Edward A. Kelly
General President