

Resolution No. 54

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

**Re: Support for Research into Occupational
Neurodegenerative Disorders Among Fire Fighters**

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the International
2 Association of Fire Fighters includes protecting the
3 health, safety, and well-being of professional fire
4 fighters and emergency medical personnel; and

5 WHEREAS, fire fighters are routinely exposed to
6 combustion byproducts, diesel exhaust, toxic
7 chemicals, ultrafine particulate matter, heavy metals,
8 solvents, and other hazardous substances during
9 emergency response, training activities, and station
10 duties; and

11 WHEREAS, emerging scientific evidence
12 suggests that occupational exposures encountered
13 throughout a fire fighter's career may contribute to
14 an increased risk of neurodegenerative disorders,
15 including Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease,
16 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALTS), and related
17 neurological conditions; and

18 WHEREAS, neurodegenerative disorders can
19 result in progressive disability, diminished quality of
20 life, loss of career longevity, increased healthcare
21 costs, and significant impacts on fire fighters and
22 their families; and

23 WHEREAS, additional research is necessary to
24 better understand the relationship between fire
25 service occupational exposures and

26 neurodegenerative disease, identify risk factors,
27 establish preventative measures, improve early
28 detection strategies, and support future occupational
29 disease presumptions; and

30 WHEREAS, the IAFF has demonstrated
31 leadership in advancing occupational health research,
32 cancer prevention initiatives, behavioral health
33 programs, and scientific partnerships that improve
34 the lives of fire fighters; and

35 WHEREAS, continued investment in
36 neurodegenerative disease research will strengthen
37 the scientific foundation necessary to protect current
38 and future generations of fire fighters; therefore be it

39 RESOLVED, That the 2026 Convention of the
40 International Association of Fire Fighters directs the
41 IAFF to continue supporting and advocating for
42 scientific research examining the relationship
43 between fire fighter occupational exposures and
44 neurodegenerative disorders; and be it further

45 RESOLVED, That the IAFF continue to
46 collaborate with academic institutions, government
47 agencies, occupational health researchers, labor
48 organizations, and other stakeholders to advance
49 understanding of occupational neurodegenerative
50 disease risks among fire fighters; and be it further

51 RESOLVED, That the IAFF seek opportunities to
52 secure grants, research funding, and strategic
53 partnerships that support epidemiological studies,
54 exposure assessments, biomarker development, and
55 early detection initiatives related to
56 neurodegenerative disorders; and be it further

57 RESOLVED, That the IAFF continue educating
58 affiliates and members regarding emerging research,
59 potential occupational risk factors, prevention
60 strategies, and available resources concerning
61 neurodegenerative disorders; and be it further
62 RESOLVED, That the IAFF monitor
63 developments in scientific research regarding
64 occupational neurodegenerative diseases and utilize
65 such findings to support future legislative, regulatory,
66 workers' compensation, and occupational disease
67 presumption efforts that protect fire fighters and their
68 families.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 3631, Orange County Professional
Firefighters, IAFF Local 0145, San Diego City
Firefighters

Cost Estimate: **None**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **N/A**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: