

JANUARY

Is Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month



- Occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service.
- Nearly 75% of those honored at our Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in September 2022 died of occupational cancer (348 of 469).
- The World Health Organization now classifies firefighting as a carcinogen – like cigarettes.
- The IAFF and Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FSCN) 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 promoting awareness of the epidemic that is cancer in the fire service by:
 - Explaining the scope of fire fighter occupational cancer – why are fire fighters dying at these rates? What cancers are they more at risk for?
 - Sharing best practices for reducing exposures to carcinogens. What can they do to protect themselves?
 - Exploring the latest research on cancer in the fire service – including a class of chemicals called PFAS that we now know is in our protective gear.
 - Listening to the stories of our survivors.
 - Listening to the experts – we have gathered subject-matter experts to discuss such topics as the chemicals we are exposed to, the importance of early screening, resources for survivors, and how all this is affecting our members day to day.
- Resources include factsheets, research articles, podcasts, survivor stories, videos, training briefs, PowerPoints, and more.
- Learn more at iaff.org/cancer.