



The Training Brief

Quick Reference mini-training Topics The Scope of the Fire Service Cancer Problem

The purpose of this training topic is to understand the scope of the occupational cancer

Discussion

Fact: Firefighters have a 9% greater risk of being diagnosed with cancer than the general public and a 14% higher risk of dying from occupational cancer than the general public.

Key Points: A 2006 meta-analysis by Grace LeMasters of 32 firefighter cancer studies their team found that, compared with the general population, a 14% increased risk of Leukemia than general public.

NIOSH conducted a study of 30,000 firefighters and occupational cancer. The results were a 9% higher chance of firefighters being diagnosed with cancer than the general public and a 14% higher rate of dying from cancer than the general public.

It cannot be understated about the importance of annual medical exams.

You can download a medical form from our website that highlights the needed medical tests to be done if you're a firefighter.

https://firefightercancersupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Primary-care-cancer-evaluations-for-firefighters_HamrockMD_2016_FCSN.pdf

Action: Download and print the form. Bring it to your primary care physician. Discuss the risks firefighters have in regards to occupational cancer.

Make the necessary changes

Firefighter cancer is a looming personal catastrophe for each and every fire-fighter. Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and safety of our nation's firefighters.

Multiple studies, NIOSH, LeMasters, , have repeatedly demonstrated credible evidence and biologic creditability for statistically higher rates of multiple types of cancers in firefighters compared to the general American population including:

- Testicular cancer (2.02 times greater risk)
- Multiple Myeloma (1.53 times greater risk)
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (1.51 times greater risk)
- Skin cancer (1.39 times greater risk)
- Prostate cancer (1.28 times greater risk)
- Malignant melanoma (1.31 times great risk)
- Brain cancer (1.31 times greater risk)
- Colon cancer (1.21 times great risk)
- Leukemia (1.14 times greater risk)
- Breast cancer in women 6 times the national average.

Key Studies:

- NIOSH Study
- LeMasters Meta-Analysis
- Nordic Study
- Jalilian Meta-Analysis

Multiple scientific studies have repeatedly proven that higher rates of numerous types of cancers occur in firefighters compared to the general American population.

Exposures can subsequently have both short and long-term negative health impacts.

From 2002-2019, 66% of Firefighters on the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial Wall of Honor have died of cancer

For the year 2017 alone was 78%,

For both years 2018 & 2019 was 76%.

The number of LODD from occupational cancer continues to rise but our fire incidents are decreasing. This is alarming.

We need to take the necessary steps to protect ourselves and reduce our exposures.