



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

24-008

January 29, 2024

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Health & Safety Committee

SUBJECT: Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

One of the sustaining goals of UFA's current strategic plan is providing for the well-being of our people (Goal 5). One of those areas that UFA and the Health and Safety Committee are concerned about is helping our people with cancer awareness. Firefighter occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service. At the 2023 IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial, 63% of the names added to the wall (361 out of 572) were members who had died from occupational cancer.

UFA has established several preventative safeguards with the turnout exchange program, gross decon measures on scene, new hoods, available wipes post-fire, and the new fire station design. We are always looking to improve our health and realize that cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and safety of our nation's firefighters.

UFA Administration and the Health and Safety Committee recommend taking a moment to review the attached information sheets to see how individuals and crews can reduce their exposures to cancer. The provided links offer additional information on how to better protect yourself and the supporting research.

For post fire decontamination procedures under operational guidelines: [450-38 Post Fire Decontamination](#)

Follow this link for on scene decon concerns: [on scene decon concerns](#). For additional information Miami Dade Fire has shared the following https://youtu.be/_0LXU-yIg4?si=N1vigroh9z-yrX8, as well as Kissimmee Fire <https://youtu.be/3qPPOBrF0zA?si=BD9uAV5pmuNngEYF>.

For information on cancer screenings: [Cancer Screenings](#)

For information on smoke exposure: [Smoke Exposure](#)

For additional information on Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month or to review any of several studies on the Firefighter Cancer Support Network website: [FCSN Fact Sheets](#)

Please review this information and attachments as a crew and help us in establishing a better culture. Thank you for all you do!