



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

25-024

February 7, 2025

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Health & Safety Committee

SUBJECT: Firefighter Cancer Awareness

During 2024, cancer was one of the leading causes and contributors of line of duty deaths. To provide awareness for cancer-related issues, the following information may be useful for our members.

In partnership with the [IAFF](#) and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN), Firefighter Cancer Awareness aim is to provide firefighters the necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention and to support firefighters who receive a cancer diagnosis while performing duties in the fire service.

Firefighter Cancer Awareness is focusing on “Doing it Right”. The theme coincides with the [“Doing it Right-Reducing cancer in the fire service a groundbreaking resource for firefighters, EMS providers, and their families”](#) white paper. Since 2005, FCSN has been a lifeline for thousands of cancer-stricken firefighters, offering one-on-one mentoring, critical support, and hope when it’s needed most.

Bringing increased public awareness to occupational cancer in the fire service will help generate greater legislative support for states and provinces to establish presumptive disabilities for all cancers affecting firefighters.

Every shift, firefighters are exposed to diesel exhaust, smoke and soot at fires containing Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and PFAS — all of which are known carcinogens. Firefighters need to be aware of the dangers and take steps to limit exposure to these deadly chemicals, including gross decon and turnout exchange following fire suppression and exposure.

All firefighters should consider signing up to the National Firefighter Cancer Registry whether you have had a cancer diagnosis or not. Full-time, part-time, volunteer and wildland firefighters are encouraged to sign up so data can be collected, and we are able to better understand the scope of cancer in the fire service.

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

[Self-Advocacy and Cancer Reduction](#)
[The Firefighter Cancer Registry](#)

The Importance of Exposure Reporting
Reducing Your Exposure to Carcinogens
Firefighter Cancer Support Network- Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

Recently as part of the ongoing efforts to improve the presumptive cancer laws and screening tools during this legislative session, six firefighters and chiefs were introduced to cancer screening tools that exist in other states. Five of the six were diagnosed with cancer and all have started treatment for cancers that were previously undiagnosed. Local 1696 and UFA are actively taking a role to support HB65, which improves cancer screening and presumptive cancer laws within Utah. This helps to highlight the importance of taking active measures on cleaning turnouts, hoods, helmets, and gear. As a result, House Bill 65 has been proposed during the 2025 Legislative Session.

Reach out to Captain Conn or Battalion Chief Fossum with questions. In addition, the Health and Safety Committee consists of the following individuals and their respective roles. Feel free to reach out to anyone on the committee with questions or needs.

Stay safe!

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