



Survivor Story: Steve Weissman
Stafford County Virginia Fire and Rescue Department, Deputy Fire Chief
Diagnosed with Prostate Cancer

"I was one of the fortunate ones, my cancer diagnosis was detected early."



As a firefighter, we are inundated with information, articles and training on the hazards we face every day in the performance of our job. Studies are indicating that cancer will overtake cardiac/heart attacks as the leading cause of firefighter deaths. I was aware of this, however, it never hit home with me until the day I received a phone call from my physician who informed me that I was diagnosed with cancer. Words cannot describe my feelings and emotions. How do I tell my wife and children, why me, am I going to die and when?

I had no signs or symptoms and felt great. There was an irregularity in my blood work that was detected during my department's annual medical examination that prompted me to seek an appointment with my urologist.

After my diagnosis I was told by another firefighter who heard about an organization called the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. I made contact with them, had a great discussion and one week after my treatments concluded I was in a train-the-trainer session for their Cancer Awareness course. I have also had the opportunity to mentor other firefighters across the country that are battling through this dreadful disease.

Our Vision: To be the global leader in firefighter cancer support, awareness, and education.

Our Mission: To assist firefighters and EMS providers and their immediate families diagnosed with cancer by providing badge to badge support, training and guidance.



I was one of the fortunate ones. My cancer diagnosis was detected early and after treatment I'm back to full duty. There are many firefighters that are not as fortunate as I am. Listen to those affected by this disease, learn from their experiences, and take heed from their message. If you or a fellow firefighter is diagnosed with cancer, please contact the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, their team is ready to assist.

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