



# 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](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.*