



The Training Brief

Quick Reference mini-training Topics Personal Exposure Reporting

The purpose of this training topic is to recommend that each Firefighter track and keep records of every fire (Incident or training) where one has been exposed to toxic products of combustion

Discussion

Fact:

Firefighters need to track all of their exposures over their entire career. This will help to prove the association of cancer with your exposures.

Key Points:

Presumptive laws for cancer in the fire service are not a guarantee it is occupational in nature.

Keeping accurate records of all exposures needs to occur to prove you may have been exposed.

Action:

Use a phone app or program that keeps a record all of your exposures that may have occurred.



Make the necessary changes

Firefighters need to keep accurate records of every exposure they may have had during their career.

(NFPA 1500 14.6.1). Firefighters that demonstrate any signs and symptoms related to fireground exposure will need to document their illness as well

All of the presumptions in statute are disputable, which means that firefighters need evidence that an illness resulted on the job. It can mean all the difference in a workers' compensation claim.

Many states have presumptive laws for occupational cancer in the fire service, However, Presumptive laws do not automatically guarantee that a cancer is occupational in nature and will be covered by workers compensation. The members must demonstrate they were exposed to known carcinogens as defined by the IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer).

The National Firefighter Registry, signed into law in 2018, will provide researchers with a centralized database to acquire an abundance of high-quality data, such as work history and number and type of incidents to determine how fire fighters are contracting cancer.

The NFORS app is a good way for firefighters to keep a diary of their exposures. In addition, the app communicates with the National Firefighter Registry and will provide researchers with a centralized database to acquire an abundance of high-quality data, such as work history and number and type of incidents to determine how fire fighters are contracting cancer.

Keep a private record of:

- Incident information*
- Nature and duration of exposure*
- Medical symptoms experienced*
- Medical diagnosis and treatment*
- Recurring exposures on the job (diesel fuel, etc.)*