What We Do

Cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths of our nation’s firefighters, and it is the most dangerous threat to firefighter health and safety today. Since 2005, the nonprofit Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) has provided assistance and one-on-one mentoring for thousands of cancer-stricken firefighters and their families. FCSN also delivers extensive firefighter cancer awareness, education and prevention training nationwide.

FCSN is a 501(c)(3) organization founded by Los Angeles County Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Dubron, a survivor of stage IV colon cancer. Today, FCSN’s key supporters and partners include the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), among many other respected fire-service organizations. FCSN is a founding member of the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance.

The vision of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network is to be the global leader in firefighter cancer support, awareness and education, while assisting firefighters and EMS providers and their immediate families diagnosed with cancer by providing badge-to-badge support, training and guidance.
Badge-to-Badge Mentorship

We provide critical assistance for career or volunteer, active or retired firefighters, emergency medical service providers, and their immediate family members who have been diagnosed with cancer. We deliver valuable post-diagnosis resources followed by unique badge-to-badge, one-on-one mentorship from one of our 212 fire-service mentors who have first-hand knowledge about battling cancer. They share their survivor's journey about their particular types of cancer, their own experiences with testing and treatments, and offer valuable insight into the recovery process. FCSN's network also includes mentors for spouses and children.
FCSN Signature Toolbox

Within days of diagnosis, we deploy our cancer-support toolbox to the firefighter free of charge to help the diagnosed stay organized, informed, and effectively communicate with their doctors, loved ones, and brothers and sisters in the fire service. Most importantly, the toolbox will remind them every day that they are not alone and that our dedicated team will be by them and their families' sides from diagnosis, through treatment to recovery.

FCSN's unique toolbox includes tested, proven resources to help firefighters and their families cope with the cancer diagnosis, treatment, and recovery processes, which includes the FCSN’s Firefighter's Guide to Cancer Survivorship. Our guide was created to provide easy access to answers, articles, testimonials as well as materials to address the wide array of questions a firefighter may have pertaining to: medical appointments, physical challenges of battling cancer, the mental strain and fatigue that accompany the disease concerns about worker's compensation, caring for the "caregiver", a list of questions for doctor's, and a journal to chronicle the journey from diagnosis through treatment and recovery. It also includes information about the different types of cancer from our partners at the American Cancer Society.
Cancer Awareness & Prevention Education

FCSN has delivered our extensive occupational-cancer prevention training program to thousands of firefighters across America. Our instructors provide training at some of the largest fire-service events, including the Fire Department Instructors Conference, Fire–Rescue International, and the National Volunteer Firefighter Council national conference. We also provide training for fire departments of every size, both volunteer and career, including our train-the-trainer program.

Research & Development

FCSN's widely hailed 2013 White Paper, "Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service," remains a key reference, including its 11 immediate actions firefighters can take to protect themselves from occupational cancer. FCSN continues to actively engage with experts to participate in engineering and medical research studies.

Advocacy & Data Reporting

FCSN staff provides information specific to cancer in firefighters. In particular, types most prominent, demographic information, statistical data related to geographical incidence, and other relevant data points. FCSN also works directly with many of the leading research institutes to gather and report the prominence of cancer amongst members of the fire service.