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Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month Fact Sheets

In partnership with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN), the IAFF has designated January as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month to provide firefighters the necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention within their departments. In addition, bringing increased public awareness to occupational cancer in the fire service will help generate greater legislative support for states and provinces to establish a presumptive disability for cancer.

Firefighter occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service. At the 2022 IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial, almost 75% of the names added to the wall (348 out of 469) were members who had died from occupational cancer.

The FCSN and IAFF have developed Factsheets that cover what cancer is, how we in the fire service can reduce our exposures, modify risk factors associated with occupational cancer along with other steps and procedures to reduce the exposure to fireground carcinogens and toxicants that may lead to occupational cancer. In addition, the fact sheets also provide how to provide support with those diagnosed with this diabolical disease and how behavioral health is a vital component with those who are diagnosed.

Please use these factsheets as a discussion or training with members of your organization to provide the tools needed to prevent occupational cancer in the fire service.

Make the necessary changes in regards to occupational cancer.

Together, we can make a difference!

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