

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO PROVIDE CANCER SCREENINGS TO CAREER, VOLUNTEER, AND RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

Offered by:
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Fire Protection Association

WHEREAS firefighting is a dangerous profession in which fire and EMS personnel routinely are exposed to hazardous materials and carcinogens;

WHEREAS the U.S. National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's study of cancer risks in 29,993 career firefighters from three large U.S. cities (San Francisco, Chicago, and Philadelphia) found that firefighters have a 14% increased risk of dying from cancer compared to the general population;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has classified working as a firefighter as a Group 1 carcinogenic exposure;

WHEREAS multiple studies have found that firefighters have a higher prevalence than the public in developing cancers such as mesothelioma, malignant melanoma, and lung cancer;

WHEREAS screening career and volunteer firefighters for cancer can help detect cancers earlier and provide treatment;

WHEREAS new methodologies are being developed to detect cancer earlier based on blood, hair, and urine samples;

WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health are examining new cancer detection testing methods; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently established a new Office of Health Security to serve as the principal medical, workforce health and safety, and public health authority for DHS;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports U.S. Congressional and Executive Branch efforts to task the new DHS Office of Health Security with developing a program to screen career, volunteer, and retired firefighters for cancer; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports Congressional and Executive Branch initiatives to support research and development of new cancer screening methodologies; ensure that they are approved by the FDA; and are made available and cost effective for fire departments.