

Surviving the Job - Cancer in the Fire Service Participant Manual

Lavender Ribbon Report

BEST PRACTICES

for Preventing Firefighter Cancer

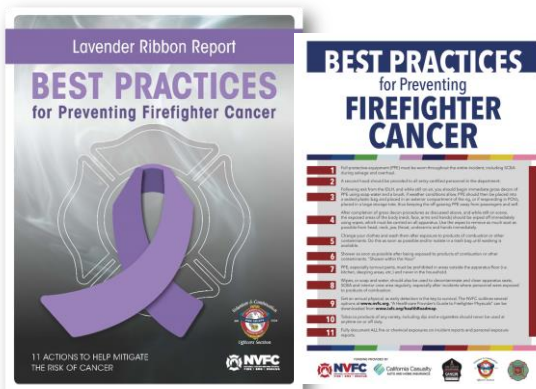
11 ACTIONS TO MITIGATE THE RISK OF
CANCER



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Lavender Ribbon Report
Dedicated
Chief James P. Seavey Jr.



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Taking Action Against Cancer
in the Fire Service



<https://firefightercancersupport.org/resources/library/>

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VCOS VISION STATEMENT

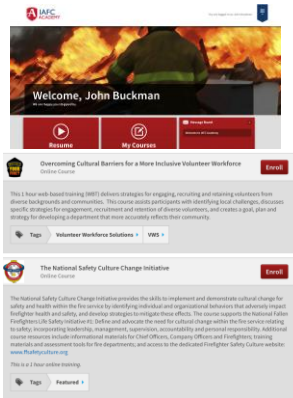
To provide chiefs and chief officers who manage volunteers within a volunteer or combination fire, rescue or EMS delivery system with information, education, services and representation to enhance their professionalism.

VCOS MISSION STATEMENT

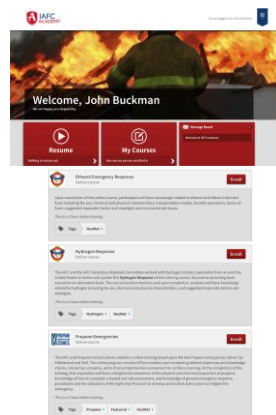
To represent the interests of all volunteer and combination fire/ rescue/EMS agencies. We will be a dynamic organization characterized by our integrity, customer focus and membership development, with value placed on people and the superior utilization of technology. We will excel by creating educational programs through unrivaled networking and by helping VCOS members further their success and reach their potential.



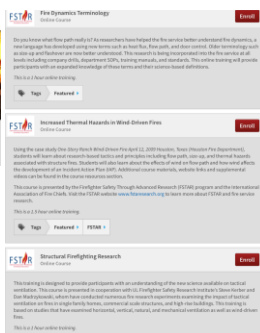
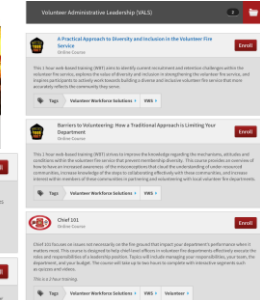
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NVFC VISION STATEMENT

The NVFC's vision is to be the leading advocate and resource organization for the American volunteer fire, emergency medical and rescue services.



NVFC MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a unified voice for volunteer fire/EMS/rescue organizations.

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Firefighters should be aware of the epidemic threat from repeated exposures to carcinogens...



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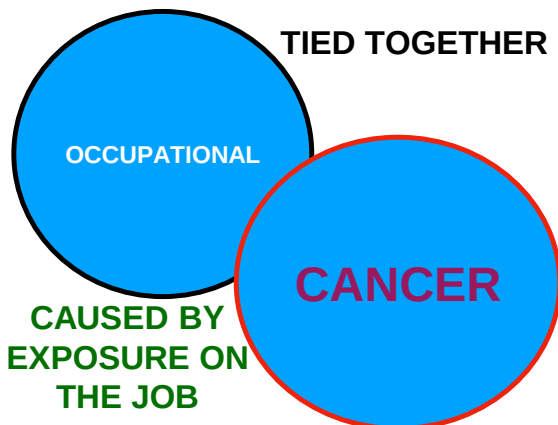
and the subsequent increase in occupational cancer amongst firefighters.



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Fire Chiefs/Officers are aware of their duty and responsibility to have appropriate policy and procedures, that are enforced to reduce firefighters exposure to carcinogens.

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FIREFIGHTER CANCER STUDIES

Firefighters are **SIGNIFICANTLY** more likely to develop four types of cancer than workers in any other field.

Source - Dr. Grace LeMaster - Cancer Risks Among Firefighters - 2006

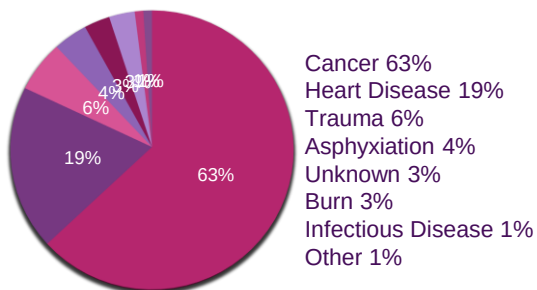
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FIREFIGHTER CANCER STUDIES



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CARDIAC VS. CANCER



Source - International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

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HYDROGEN CYANIDE IN FIRE OPERATIONS

TOXIC GASES GENERATED BY FIRE

What chemicals are in that smoke?

Acid Gasses — Aerosol containers, combs, lighters, ink pens

Phosgene — formed by the thermal degradation of chlorinated solvents and polymers, dry cleaning operations, parts cleaning engine cleaning and degreasing agents, adhesives, solvents, aerosol propellants, foam plastic blowing agents, paint removers

Benzene — used in the production of other chemicals such as dyes, drugs, pesticides, and products such as rubber, nylon, and glues, found in tobacco smoke, crude oil and gasoline

Dioxins — wood burning, forest fires, and backyard burning of household trash, tobacco smoke, drum and barrel reclamation processes, motor vehicles, residential oil furnaces, scrap electric wire recovery, and rubber tire burning.

And the Terrible Two:
Hydrogen Cyanide and Carbon Monoxide

Dräger safety

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Actions to Reduce

- Keep your mask on.
- Remove and clean contaminated gear as soon as possible.
- Clean your neck, face, arms and groin thoroughly after each fire.
- Shower, scrub and change into a clean uniform/clothes ASAP.
- Regularly launder turnout gear and wash hood after each "hot zone" experience.

Carcinogen Exposure

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Future Fire Chief

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Family Impact

- Exposing yourself unnecessarily to carcinogens places your family well being at significant risk.
- It is not just about you!
- How cancer affects your family?
- Be a HERO - for your family!



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Have You Ever Heard?



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Have You Ever Heard?



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We've Never Done It This Way Before	Not MY Job!
This Is Not Convenient	We Don't Have Time for This!
Too Many Other Things That Need Doing!	I'm Too Tired!
I'm Fine How I Am Now!	I Started But I Hit A Wall!
	Won't Work Here!

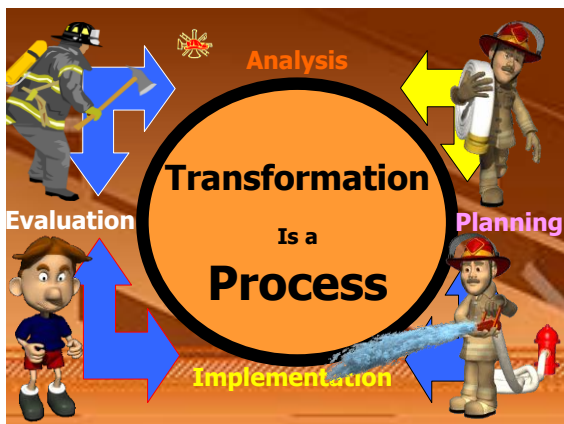
OVERCOMING NEGATIVITY

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New Day - New Challenges!	It IS YOUR Job!
Your Time Is My Time!	Make Time!
Plan Your Time Accordingly!	It's Not Risky!
It Will Make Your Life Better!	Take A Nap!
	Bigger Sledgehammer!
	Will Work Here!

CREATING POSITIVITY

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What Do You Do?

Multiple companies participated in a live burn training exercise at your training tower. Built into the training was a decon activity following the drill and prior to returning to the station on the apparatus. You are the Safety Officer and observe Captain Gaffney refusing to decon her gear. What will you do?

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What Do You Do?

Deputy Chief Montana receives a call at the station from the high school principal. She informs you that two of your junior firefighters were caught vaping in the boys room at the high school. When the juniors were questioned on why they are vaping, the high school principal informs DC Montana that a line Officer at the fire station said it was better than smoking cigarettes. What will be your course of action?

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What Do You Do?

On a brush fire yesterday at least 3 firefighters placed themselves downwind of the fire without SCBA on. Firefighter Johnson was on the brush fire yesterday and did not wear his SCBA during overhaul. Assistant Chief Jordan was in charge and failed to correct the action when he saw it and did not talk with Johnson upon return to the station. What will you do?

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What Do You Do?

A fire department staffed with volunteers responded to a mutual aid structure fire in a neighboring town. As Chief Officer of your department you requested all available firefighters. Firefighter Jordan responded in his POV. Following the incident you noticed Firefighter Jordan place his soot filled gear in the back of his SUV. What would you do?

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What Do You Do?

Assistant Chief Massarotti requests that personal hoods be washed after all fires, fire training or monthly. You walk by Lieutenant Ryan's gear as training is about to start. Ryan is a very good friend of yours and votes for you each year. His white hood is black from soot. Do you let it go?

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WHY DOES
THIS
ACTION
STILL
OCCUR
TODAY?



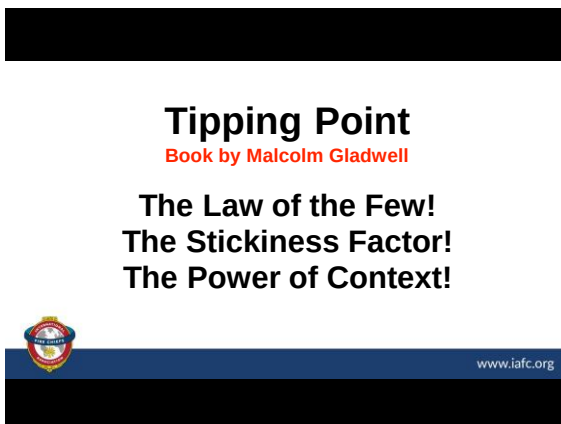
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1. Family
2. The Chief
3. The Officers
4. The Firefighters
5. Others

www.iafc.org

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NEVER, EVER, LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND

Benchmarks

- Recognition of actions not to be repeated
- Recognition of potential signs and symptoms
- Annual physical
- Cancer screening
- Verify member has collected information
- Be open for/to follow-up

Risk Analysis

- Family history
- Bus Station/Company Department
- Stressors
- Dental
- More than one fire department
- Off-duty job

May 11

- Recognition/Denial
- SOP development
- SOP compliance
- Failure to read
- Problem with the people
- Nowhere to turn?

Resources

- Peer support
- Doctor visit
- GP

Incident Command Checklist

- Open channel established
- Wear SCBA
- Don't get hot zone experience
- Don't wear street clothes quickly
- Don't wear gear out of station
- Don't use tobacco use
- Decon apparatus

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