

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Public Safety Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program addresses national priority research topics, focused on these areas:

- Reducing injuries and deaths from motor vehicles and violence among Public Safety workers
- Reducing Public Safety workers' hazardous exposures
- Improving health and wellness among Public Safety workers, especially heart health

What do we do?

- Study Public Safety workers' exposures and risk factors for cancer, infectious disease, heart disease, and respiratory disease. Use research findings to recommend prevention strategies
- Investigate Public Safety worker vehicle-related deaths and develop new technologies, best practices, and other tools to help Public Safety workers drive more safely on the job and prevent future deaths
- Investigate structural and wildland fire fighter deaths to understand their causes and take steps to prevent future deaths
- Share information about NIOSH resources to increase awareness of injuries, illnesses, and deaths among workers in the Public Safety Sector and how to prevent them
- Lead the development of public safety worker protective clothing and equipment standards

What have we accomplished?

- Contributed to three new ambulance safety consensus standards which were adopted into national standards
- Released a 7-part [video series](#) and [infographic](#) to provide EMS agencies information on how to purchase safer ambulances
- Published a [fact sheet](#) and [infographic](#) on preventing injuries to EMS workers
- Participated in the development and updating process of six National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) [standards](#) for fire and EMS
- Created and later updated the NIOSH topic and guidance page: '[Fentanyl: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Emergency Responders](#)'
- Completed [10 research-based fatality investigations](#) involving [public safety workers](#), and made recommendations for preventing future similar deaths
- Published a scientific article on nonfatal injuries, and a rise in assaults, among law enforcement officers
- Completed research on the effectiveness of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear canisters in providing inhalation protection during post-fire (overhaul) operations
- Provided recommendations through [Health Hazard Evaluations](#) to: 1) minimize diesel exhaust exposures at a fire station, 2) aid in fire fighter suicide prevention, psychological first aid, and reducing opioid exposure; 3) reduce lead exposures in an indoor law enforcement firing range; and 4) reduce needlestick and other bloodborne pathogen exposure incidents among law enforcement officers

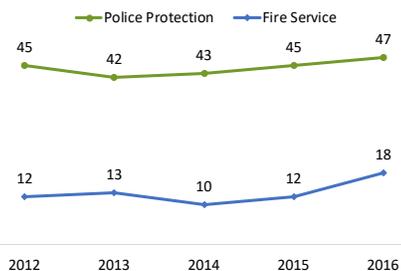
What's next?

- Collaborate with state and federal agencies to identify exposures & health effects associated with fighting wildland fires
- Collaborate with NFPA to enhance existing standards on turnout gear life cycle performance and validation of cleaning procedures
- Publish six documents highlighting fire fighter risk for and treatment of [rhabdomyolysis](#) (muscle tissue breakdown)
- Work with partners to evaluate the effectiveness of a police department motor vehicle crash prevention program
- Develop a training program for law enforcement officers on risks associated shift work and long work hours
- Characterize firefighter exposures to chemicals and particulates during structural fires
- Draft toolkit promoting law enforcement officer road safety

At-A-Glance

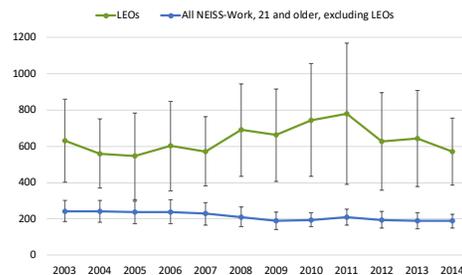
The Public Safety Program provides leadership to prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities among workers in law enforcement, fire service, corrections, and the emergency medical service (EMS). This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Number of Motor Vehicle-Related Fatal Occupational Injuries



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

Rate of nonfatal injuries among Law enforcement officers (LEOs) and All National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS)-Work (Per 10,000 workers, 95% confidence interval)



Source: Tiesman, Hope M. et al. [2017]. Nonfatal Injuries to Law Enforcement Officers: A Rise in Assaults. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Available at: [http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(17\)30716-X/fulltext](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(17)30716-X/fulltext)

Publication Spotlight



NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Helps Incident Commander Choose Strategy and Tactics to Control Flow Path and Protect Fire Fighters. DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-200 <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2017-200/pdfs/2017-200.pdf>

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/pubsaf/

<https://doi.org/10.26616/NIOSH PUB2019103>
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2019-103