

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 hazardous exposures to public safety workers
- Improving health and wellness among public safety workers, especially heart health

What do we do?

- Investigate public safety worker vehicle-related deaths, develop new technologies, best practices, and other tools to help public safety workers drive more safely on the job and prevent deaths.
- 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 firefighter deaths to understand

their causes and take steps to prevent similar deaths through the [Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program \(FFFIPP\)](#).

- Share information about NIOSH resources to increase awareness of injuries, illnesses, and deaths among workers in public safety professions and how to prevent them.
- Lead the development of public safety worker protective clothing and equipment standards.

What have we accomplished?

- Completed the [Officer Road Code Toolkit](#) designed to promote law enforcement officer (LEO) road safety.
- Released several publications about LEO exposure to fentanyl on the NIOSH [Fentanyl webpage](#).
- Published [six documents](#) for firefighters and their healthcare providers highlighting firefighter risk for and treatment of rhabdomyolysis (muscle tissue breakdown).
- Submitted the second draft of the National Fire Protection Association 1851: Standard on

Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Fire Fighting.

- Published [A Guide to Air-Purifying Respirators](#) for public safety workers.
- Developed a cleaning verification kit for chemical/biological target contaminants. This kit may be used by independent service providers, fire departments, and accrediting entities to assure cleaning effectiveness.

What's next?

- Develop a post-market procedure to allow manufacturers, fire departments, researchers, and investigators to perform and interpret tests and evaluations of turnout gear coat and trouser material performance.
- Use post-market procedure for turnout gear coats and trousers to determine coat/trouser performance as a function of use and exposure history to inform standards.
- Publish health hazard evaluation that provides information about wildland fire exposures and how to safely clean-up after a wildland fire.
- Develop webpages and other NIOSH publications to provide additional information about wildfire smoke, its health effects, and ways to minimize exposures.
- Develop and evaluate a research-based training program for LEOs to reduce risks associated

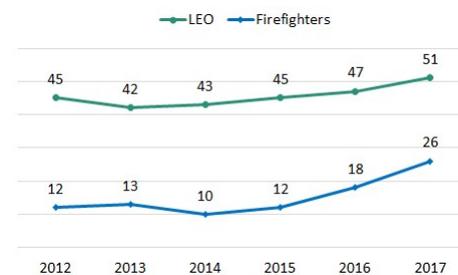
with shift work and long work hours.

- Publish results from the "Modern Fire Study" which was designed to characterize firefighters' toxic exposures and cardiovascular disruption under real-world firefighting conditions.
- Produce a series of articles on working hours, sleep, and fatigue among public safety workers.
- Measure exposure, including to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and biomarkers of health effects in wildland-urban interface (WUI) firefighters as part of the Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study (FFCCS).
- Develop and maintain a voluntary registry of U.S. firefighters to collect health and occupational information for the purpose of determining cancer incidence.

At-A-Glance

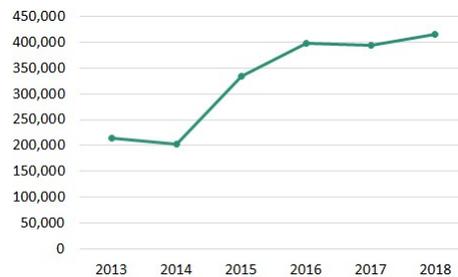
The Public Safety Program provides leadership to prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities among workers in law enforcement, fire service, corrections, and the emergency medical service (EMS). This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Number of Motor Vehicle-Related Fatal Occupational Injuries among LEO and Firefighters



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

Number of Fire Fighter Fatality and Investigation Program (FFFIPP) Website Views



Source: FFFIPP Investigation Program

Publication Spotlight



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

<https://doi.org/10.26616/NIOSH/PUB2019169>
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2019-169