Learn more about the NFR at www.cdc.gov/NFR

If you have questions, please contact NFRegistry@cdc.gov

Get More Information

Find NIOSH products and get answers to workplace safety and health questions:
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348

CDC/NIOSH INFO: cdc.gov/info | cdc.gov/niosh

Monthly NIOSH eNews: cdc.gov/niosh/eNews

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2021-115
DOI: https://doi.org/10.26616/NIOSHPUB2021115

May 2021
What is the National Firefighter Registry?
The National Firefighter Registry (NFR) is a voluntary registry of firefighters that is designed to help us better understand cancer in the U.S. fire service.

Congress mandated the NFR's creation through the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is leading this effort with input from the scientific and firefighting communities.

"Our goal is to better understand the link between workplace exposures and cancer among firefighters."

How will the NFR benefit firefighters?
Past studies show that firefighters have increased rates of certain cancers. However, these studies have not determined:
- Cancer rates among volunteer, female, or minority firefighters; or among sub-specialties, such as fire instructors
- How different exposures affect cancer rates
- If certain groups of firefighters have higher rates of cancer based on types and level of exposure, geography, sex, or other traits
- If certain protective measures are associated with reduced rates of cancer

Our ultimate goal is to identify ways to reduce cancer rates among firefighters.

Who will be included in the NFR?
The NFR will be open to all U.S. firefighters regardless of whether they have a previous cancer diagnosis. We encourage all firefighters to participate in the NFR, including:
- Active, former, and retired firefighters
- Career, paid-on-call, and volunteer firefighters
- Structural firefighters
- Wildland firefighters
- Industrial firefighters
- Military firefighters
- Instructors
- Fire investigators
- Other fire service members

Having many types of firefighters in the NFR is crucial to examining relationships between firefighting activities and cancer.

Firefighters do not need to have cancer or any other health condition to participate in the NFR.

More information
For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/NFR, where you can sign up for the NFR newsletter for updates. If you have any questions, please email us at NFRegistry@cdc.gov.

Photo by ©Jupiterimages/Getty Images

When will NFR registration begin?
We plan to begin registration in 2022. When more details on registration are available we will share them widely through firefighter channels, and update our materials.

What else should I know about the NFR?
- Participation in the NFR is voluntary.
- Registration will take place through a secure web portal and will take around 30 minutes.
- Your personal information will be kept confidential and will not be shared without your permission.
- The NFR is a long-term project that will include important follow-up questionnaires.
- Continued participation in the NFR could help firefighters. The more we know about cancer in the fire service, the more we can do to prevent it.