



# International Association of Fire Chiefs

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July 28, 2023

Dr. Kenneth Fent, PhD, CIH  
Team Lead, National Firefighter Registry for Cancer  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

RE: National Firefighter Registry for Cancer

Dear Dr. Fent,

On behalf of the more than 12,000 chief fire and emergency medical services (EMS) officers of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I would like to express our support for the National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endeavor to develop and maintain a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect history and occupational information that can be used to determine the incidence of cancer among firefighters supports the IAFC's mission to provide leadership through vision, information, education, services, and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities.

Studies show that firefighters may have a greater risk of some types of cancer due to their exposure to smoke and hazardous chemicals on the fireground. Many of these studies did not include volunteer firefighters or enough female or non-white firefighters to conclude their cancer risk. The NFR was developed to address these knowledge gaps, and provide an empirical basis by which we can comprehensively understand and reduce risks of cancer among firefighters nationwide.

The data collected from the NFR will provide the data-driven evidence needed to educate the fire service community about the health risks and the importance of preventing exposures and mitigating associated effects. NFR data and resulting analytics is critical near-term and long-term to fire departments, fire service organizations, standard-setting organizations, and policymakers throughout the country and will ultimately contribute to reducing cancer risks among firefighters.

On behalf of the IAFC, we support the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer and continue our commitment to firefighter safety into the future.

Sincerely,

Chief Donna Black, EFO, CFO  
President and Board Chair