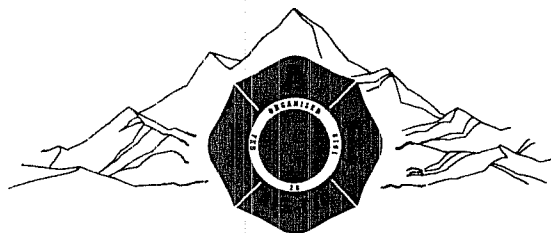


COLORADO PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

2342 Broadway, Suite 130 • Denver, Colorado 80205 • (303) 308-1992 • FAX (303) 308-1940



July 14, 2010

To Our Colleagues in the Medical Community:

Over the past several decades, studies concerning the relationship between firefighting and cancer have established a correlation between certain cancers and firefighters' exposure to carcinogens. In suppressing commercial and residential fires and containing hazmat events, Colorado firefighters are exposed to carcinogens such as acrolein, benzene, methylne chloride, polycromatic, and hydrocarbons in addition to various minerals (asbestos, crystalline, and silica...) and gases which can all lead to the occurrence of cancer. Since specific carcinogenic dose responses are difficult to establish, and since a huge variance in carcinogen exposure occurs at fire sites, the medical causation link between a firefighter's development of cancer and the firefighter's work exposure has been difficult to prove in a legal setting. This is no longer the case in Colorado.

In 2007 the Colorado Legislature made a public/social policy decision to protect firefighters who contract cancers of the *brain, skin, digestive system, hematological system, or genito-urinary system* by creating a presumption that a firefighter who contracts one of these enumerated cancers shall be considered to have suffered an occupational disease arising from the occupation of firefighting. This presumption covers firefighters who have completed five years of firefighter service and who have undergone a physical examination that failed to reveal substantial evidence that the cancer pre-existed their firefighting career.

With the help of Colorado's medical community, the Colorado Professional Firefighters Association has been successfully obtaining workers' compensation coverage for firefighters who have contracted the above enumerated cancers.

We wish to thank those members of the medical community who have generously given up their time to ensure that the families of firefighters stricken with cancer will be protected under Colorado's Workers' Compensation Act.

Educating our colleagues in the medical community about the cancer risk firefighters face is an ongoing process and we appreciate this opportunity to relay that the State of Colorado provides elevated protection to firefighters who contract cancer.

Yours fraternally,

Randy Atkinson
President, Colorado Professional
Firefighter's Association

Reference: Colorado State Statute 841209