



# Tips from Training



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## Cancer Awareness Month



### [IAFF Cancer Awareness Resources](#)

January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness month. **FF Occupational Cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service.** Between 2002-2019, 66% of the names added to the IAFF Fallen FF Memorial Wall of Honor were of FF's who died of cancer. The following information was taken from the IAFF's website:

- Modern residential fires have more in common with Haz-Mat incidents than with “legacy” content fires. Contents are primarily of plastic and synthetic materials that produce extremely toxic smoke.
- According to Dr. Grace LeMaster, from her study, *Cancer Risk Among Firefighters*, “Pinpointing the exact cause of cancer is extremely difficult because FF’s are not just exposed to one agent. **They are exposed to multiple cancer-causing agents through multiple exposure routes.**”
- Dr. LeMaster also reports that when FF’s sweat, their pores open. Soot, which is a suspected carcinogen, gets sucked into the body, through the skin on their faces, hands and under their gear.
- Chronic exposure to heat, toxic smoke and the byproducts of fire puts FF’s at high risk for developing cancer.
- Firefighters are more likely to be diagnosed with certain types of cancer than the general public.

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