



# Tips from Training



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## Cancer in the Fire Service – Childhood Cancers

1 in 204

### [Link to Study](#)

Did you know that children of Firefighters may face a greater risk of developing a childhood cancer? In the only known study on the subject, higher rates of childhood cancer were observed in children of career firefighters during a 9-year study begun at the National Fire Academy as part of the Executive Fire Officer Program.

#### Results of study:

- The results of the study found that a child of a career Kitsap County Washington Firefighter is 27.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than a child in the general population of children.
- This equals a rate of **1 out of every 204 children**.
- The general population cancer rate for children is **1.7 out of 10,000**.
- Alarmingly, all the children diagnosed with cancer in the study were diagnosed with direct or indirect blood related cancers, some of the same cancers that firefighters develop.

#### Preventive Measures to Prevent Cross Contamination:

- Use department issued gear bags when transporting PPE to minimize cross contamination.
- Shower after a working fire and prior to leaving the firehouse after your shift ends.
- Keep dirty laundry in the firehouse- do not take it home with you.
- Wash off bunker boots after a working fire - Firefighter boots contribute significantly to cross contamination.

Submit a potential Training Tip via email to: [TrainingTips@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:TrainingTips@fdny.nyc.gov)