



October 27, 2023

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

RE: National Firefighter Registry for Cancer

Dear Dr. Fent,

On behalf of NDRI-USA and our research offices located in New York, NY and Leawood, KS, we would like to express our support for the National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer. NIOSH has worked to create and sustain a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect history and occupational information which can be used to uncover the true incidence of cancer among firefighters.

Our scientist's partner with a wide network of colleagues from both academia and industry. We are highly sought out for our expertise in occupational research including first responders and firefighters. Our researchers conduct studies including epidemiological research and seek to provide solutions for pressing health and safety issues nationally and internationally. We strive to disseminate cutting-edge research which informs policy and improves public health and quality of life.

Numerous findings conclude that firefighters have a greater risk of some types of cancer due to work-related exposures. To include categorization by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), identifying the profession of firefighting as Group 1 – carcinogenic to humans. Several existing studies do not include sufficient volunteer, female or non-white firefighter information to determine their cancer risk. The NFR was developed to address these knowledge gaps and provide an empirical basis by which we can expansively understand and reduce risks of cancer among firefighters nationwide.

NFR data will compile evidence needed to educate the fire service community about the health risks and effective methods to reduce exposure. NFR findings can influence positive generational impacts to best practices, fire departments and support organizations, as well as policymakers throughout the country. On behalf of NDRI-USA, we support the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer and remain committed to firefighter research and wellness.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara A. Jahnke'.

Sara A. Jahnke, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist and Director of the Center for Fire, Rescue & EMS Health Research