



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,

The Science to the Station, a health & wellness alliance wishes to voice our unwavering support for the National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer. In 2018, Congress passed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, which directed NIOSH to develop a registry to study cancer among firefighters. Since then, NIOSH has worked tirelessly to establish, maintain, and secure a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect history and occupational information which can be used to discover the true incidence of cancer among firefighters.

We exist to provide fire departments with the information they need to mitigate risks and the resources to build solutions. From toxin exposure to extreme stress, firefighters face a unique set of job risks. We offer training, access to cutting-edge research, and articles from field experts and service leaders. Our team is dedicated to providing the fire service with relevant scientific findings and facilitate the relationship between the fire service community and the scientists who can help them interpret the data they need when drafting new policies and establishing best practices.

Several findings conclude that firefighters have a greater risk of some types of cancer due to work-related exposures: including classification by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), recognizing the firefighting, the profession as a Group 1 – carcinogenic to humans. Many available studies do not include enough female, volunteer, or non-white firefighter specific data to truly know their cancer risk. The NFR was established to address these information gaps and provide a scientific basis by which we can thoroughly understand and lower risks of cancer among firefighters nationwide.

We appreciate the work you and your partners at NIOSH are guiding with the National Firefighter Registry. The NFR will provide critical information to prevent future cancer exposures and lead to improved local, state and federal level policies, effective detection efforts as well as necessary treatment throughout America's fire service. We support the NFR and remain committed to bringing science to the stations with the support of the most knowledgeable experts in the EMS, Fire, and Rescue field.

Respectfully,

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

Sara A. Jahnke, Ph.D.
Science Alliance Board President

