



SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS CANCER PREVENTION FOUNDATION

PREVENTION

EDUCATION

EARLY DETECTION

ENSURE PROPER CARE



SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS
CANCER PREVENTION
FOUNDATION

IN THE BEGINNING

Since its inception in 2006, the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation has been dedicated to the early detection and prevention of cancer in both active and retired San Francisco firefighters.

The foundation has played a major role in identifying and reducing toxic chemical exposures to the men and women of the firefighting profession. Science based studies and ongoing targeted cancer screenings have become the basis to show the direct correlation between the firefighting profession and elevated rates of cancer.

MISSION

SFFCPF is dedicated to providing medically approved cancer screenings for the early detection of cancer in both active and retired firefighters.

SFFCPF is continually making progress toward the prevention of cancer in firefighters.

SFFCPF will continually examine how to prevent unnecessary exposures on the fire ground.

SFFCPF will continue to meet with the Workers' Compensation Division to ensure that firefighters are receiving the proper decisions in regard to their cancer claims.

SFFCPF will continue to assist newly diagnosed, active and retired firefighters with doctor referrals and information on their specific form of cancer.

SFFCPF is dedicated to securing grant funding for implementation of the Longitudinal Study of Cancer in the firefighter population.

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2007

Bladder cancer screening in conjunction with the Department of Urology at UCSF. Peer reviewed published study that showed higher rates of genitourinary cancer in the firefighting profession. Three firefighters were identified as having Transitional Cell Carcinoma in the study.

2008

Colorectal Screening in conjunction with the Department of Gastroenterology UCSF

2010

Contacted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Invited to take part in a first of its kind study looking at the causes of death in firefighters dating back to 1950. The cohort also included Chicago and Philadelphia fire departments. Close to 30,000 firefighters, the biggest study cohort in the history of the profession.

2010-2011

Genitourinary cancer screening for both active and retired San Francisco firefighters. Five more firefighters identified with various forms of cancer through these two screenings.

2012

High breast cancer rates in the SFFD are focused on. A collaborative project with the Labor Occupational Health Program at the University of California Berkeley is put in place. A breast cancer summit is held with major research institutions invited. "The Women Firefighter Biomonitoring Collaborative" is formed to examine toxic exposures that may disrupt the bodies normal hormone function. A first of its kind study, dealing with the health of our female firefighters.

2012

Foundation President Tony Stefani invited to give testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and Subcommittee on Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss exposures and risks to toxic chemicals, including flame retardants.

2013

Flame retardant blood study in conjunction with DR. Susan Shaw, environmental health scientist, is published in "Chemosphere" showing San Francisco firefighters with high levels of flame retardant Polychlorinated and Polybrominated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans in their blood.

2013

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health publishes its findings on causes of firefighters death from 1950 to 2009 in the San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia fire departments. The study finds higher rates of the following cancers: oral cancers, respiratory cancers, digestive system cancers, cancers of the genitourinary system, twice the rate of malignant mesothelioma and higher rates of prostate cancer in men under the age of 65.

2014

Bladder Cancer screenings

2015

With hard scientific evidence in place from foundation studies showing the correlation between toxic chemical exposures on the job, Mayor Ed Lee signs into law the Firefighters Cancer Presumption Act for San Francisco firefighters.

2015

The foundation funds a pilot study at UCSF to evaluate the key flame retardant compound effect in human cell models of human disease. The aim of the study will be to determine the toxicity of known flame retardant compounds in human cell culture models and to evaluate the effects of possible counter measures in the prevention or reversal of toxicity of these chemicals.

2016

"The Women Firefighter Biomonitoring Collaborative" initial findings to be presented.

2017

The Nation witnessed the catastrophic fires in the North Bay. Thousands of firefighters suffered severe toxic chemical exposures while fighting these fires with no medical follow up. The SFFFCPF became very concerned with these exposures and lack of follow up. This has led to a first of its kind study funded by the SFFFCPF looking at the blood chemistry of the firefighters that fought these fires. Hopefully the results will be the impetus for better protection and earlier blood and urine analysis for the men and women on the front line.

2018

The SFFFCPF agrees to fund the second phase of a study looking at the possibilities of neutralizing toxic chemicals at the cellular level. The studies Principal Investigator will be Dr. Marshall Stoller, Professor, Assistant Chairman Department of Urology UCSF.