



International Association of Firefighters

Local Affiliate 3617

Midway Professional Fire Fighters Association



The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is a labor union representing paid full-time firefighters and emergency medical services personnel in the United States and Canada.

The IAFF was formed in 1918 and is affiliated with the AFL-CIO in the United States and the Canadian Labor Congress in Canada. The IAFF has more than 350,000 members in its more than 3,200 affiliate organizations. The IAFF has fought for better wages, benefits, working conditions and improved safety for union members. The IAFF has also pushed for more full-time union firefighters.

Midway Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3617 was founded in 1995 and has been one of the most active in the community and the fire service in South Carolina. To date, South Carolina is one of two states without a firefighter cancer presumption bill.

Firefighting is a dangerous profession, and a growing body of research and data shows the contributions that job-related exposures have in chronic illnesses, such as cancer and heart disease. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently undertook two large studies focused on firefighter cancer and concluded that firefighters face a 9 percent increase in cancer diagnoses, and a 14 percent increase in cancer-related deaths, compared to the general population in the United States.

In recent research, it has shown that two out of every three firefighters will get cancer in their lifetimes. In the Southeast (FLA, NC, SC, GA, TENN, PR) of the United States, Line Of Duty Deaths (LODD) totaled 18 in 2018.

- 10 were Occupational Cancer Deaths (55%)
- 4 were Cardiac Related Deaths (22%)
- 3 were PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) (16%)
- 1 was Undetermined (.5%)

Since 2002, 65% of the firefighter line of duty deaths (LODDs) who are International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) members is from cancer.

The National Firefighter Database on cancer is in its infancy, and firefighter cancer rates are vastly underreported. This has changed over the last few years, and many firefighters do not find out they have cancer until after they retire.

The statistics below are based off of 32 different independent studies on Firefighters and Cancer Rates. The percentages represent the increase in the likelihood of firefighters getting a particular cancer as compared to the general population:

- Testicular: 102%
- Multiple Myeloma: 53%
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: 51%
- Prostate: 28%
- Skin: 39%
- Malignant Melanoma: 32%
- Brain: 32%
- Rectum: 29%
- Bucal Cavity/Pharynx: 23%
- Stomach: 22%
- Colon: 21%
- Leukemia: 14%

Midway Professional Firefighters are asking the community to support and contact local legislators to co-sponsor Legislative Bill 4147. The Firefighter Cancer Presumption Bill.