Presumptive Cancer Legislation

Fire Chief Ken G. Block
Edmonton Fire Rescue Services
Introduction to Edmonton

- Overview of the City and Fire Rescue Services

Presumptive Cancer Legislation

- Recap of the 2009 TriData study
- **IAFF website** – excellent information resource
- Updates on legislation in **USA** and **Canada**
- Developments and lobbying efforts in **Australia, New Zealand** and **Europe**
- Overview of the 2013 NIOSH study

Discussion Time
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**Edmonton Quick Facts:**
- Area of Coverage: 701 km² *(271 square miles)*
- City Population: 817,498 *(2012 Municipal Census)*
- Metro Population: 1,159,869 *(2011 Federal Census)*

**Economy:**
- GDP of $53.9 billion
- GDP growth of almost double the Canadian average
- Edmonton’s economy revolves around the oil, gas and energy industry sectors

**Did you know?**
- Edmonton’s river valley is North America’s largest urban park space, 22 times larger than Central Park in New York
- Edmonton has a northern mid-latitude climate with very long summer days and up to 2,300 hours of sunlight per year (up to 17 hours per day)

Information Source: Edmonton Economic Development Corporation
2013 Fire Rescue Services delivered to our community:

Total Dispatched Events: 39,713

Medical Response Events: 25,510
Rescue Response Events:  9,346
Fire Suppression Response Events: 3,278
Dangerous Goods Response Events: 1,579

With:
1,200 Full Time Equivalent positions
27 Active Fire Stations
27 Pumper, 9 Ladder, 6 Rescue, 5 Tanker trucks in service
Fire Prevention and Fire Investigation Units
Training Academy and Practical Training facility
Emergency Response Communications Dispatch Centre
VIDEO
City of Edmonton

www.edmonton.com
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2009 Metro Chief’s Conference – Recap of the TriData study conversation

Study assessed cancer presumption laws and firefighter cancer research
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2012 Topics:
- Presumptive cancer and related health issues
- Disaster planning
- Fire-based EMS

Deliverables:
- To raise awareness of presumptive legislation
- Continue to work closely with the IAFF
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IAFF WEBSITE
Excellent resource of American and Canadian presumptive legislation information

Interactive webpage provides:

- a summary of each US state’s and Canadian province’s:
  - occupational illness coverage
  - legislation code information

- detailed presumptive law coverage for each US state and Canadian province, by:
  - cancer
  - heart disease
  - lung disease
  - infectious disease
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Front page:

a) Information
b) Search by State or Province
c) Search by Disease or Condition

How can I bring presumptive disability laws to my state, province or municipality?

- Scientific evidence continues to demonstrate the increased risk for heart disease, lung disease, cancer, and infectious disease among fire fighters and emergency medical responders.
- The IAFF encourages its affiliates to work with state and provincial legislatures to enact presumptive laws and to update and enhance legislation where laws vary or provide limited benefits.
- For assistance with obtaining presumptive legislation for your state, contact the IAFF Division of Health, Safety and Medicine.

How do these laws benefit fire fighters and EMS workers?

What are the limitations of presumptive disability laws?

How can I bring presumptive disability laws to my state, province, or municipality?

The history of disability laws

Presumptive Legislative Stories

Click the printer icon to print these presumptive legislation topics
Search by State or Province is an interactive webpage that provides a summary of each US state’s and Canadian province’s:

a) occupational illness coverage
b) legislation code information
Search by Disease or Condition provides detailed presumptive law coverage for each US state and Canadian province, by:

- cancer, heart disease, lung disease, infectious disease
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USA

- The first state to enact firefighter cancer presumption law was California in 1982, followed by Rhode Island in 1986

- There are currently 33 states with presumption laws enacted for firefighters with cancer as an occupational illness

- There has been positive political development in states currently without legislation. Example: Kentucky had a house bill introduced in January, 2014

- The laws from state to state vary greatly in legislation language and the types of cancer covered
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CANADA

- The first province to make amendments to existing legislation concerning presumptive cancers was Manitoba in 2002, followed by Alberta in 2003

- There are currently 9 provinces/territories with presumptive cancer legislation and 4 provinces/territories without

- The Manitoba/Alberta model has become the template for other jurisdictions, with 14 presumptive cancers covered

- There has also been positive political development in Canada. Ontario announced on April 30, 2014 that the list of cancers presumed to be related to firefighting will increase from 8 to 14, matching the coverage in Manitoba and Alberta
Firefighter Presumptive Cancer Legislation

- LEGISLATION - YES
- LEGISLATION - NO
May, 2002  Manitoba Initial Coverage: 5 cancers
April, 2003  Alberta Initial Coverage: 7 cancers
June, 2005  Manitoba Amendment: 3 cancers added
December, 2005  Alberta Amendment: 1 cancer added
April, 2009  Manitoba Amendment: 2 cancers added
May, 2010  Alberta Amendment: 2 cancers added
May, 2011  Alberta Amendment: 4 cancers added
June, 2011  Manitoba Amendment: 4 cancers added
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AUSTRALIA

- Australia did an extensive media campaign and held press conferences with Members of Parliament and Senators at every step of the Parliamentary process

- Extensive local and national media coverage was generated regarding the risk of occupational cancer to firefighters

- The Australian Senate Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has deliberated on Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Bill 2011
The Australian Senate Committee report stated:

- “Science has confirmed what firefighters suspected for decades: that a disproportionate number of them in the prime of their lives are brought down with illnesses usually reserved for the old and the infirm”

- “The committee would prefer to see Australia enact legislation in step with the most advanced jurisprudence available”

The Senate Committee recommended that the types of cancer listed by the proposed Bill be expanded to include multiple myeloma, primary site lung cancer in non-smokers, primary site prostate, ureter, colorectal and oesophageal cancers.
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AUSTRALIA

- Monash University was commissioned to undertake a project to assess the feasibility of conducting a cohort study of cancer, mortality and other possible outcomes in Australian and New Zealand firefighters

- This study involves 100,000 firefighters including volunteer, wildland, military and urban professional firefighters
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NEW ZEALAND

is working on the success of Australia and is now in the lobbying process and moving legislation forward for coverage of New Zealand firefighters
EUROPE

European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark are working together to pass legislation based on the Canadian model within the European Union.
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NIOSH study - overview

- Led by researchers from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and conducted in collaboration with researchers at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Department of Public Health Services at the University of California - Davis

- Longitudinal and large-scale study to better understand the potential link between firefighting and cancer

- Cancer incidence and deaths were analyzed among a large group of career firefighters over a 60-year period

- Phase I results released October, 2013
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NIOSH study – PHASE I

- Study group: 29,993 firefighters from San Francisco, Chicago, or Philadelphia who were employed for at least one day since 1950

- Collected employment information for each firefighter from 1950 to 2009 through fire department records

- Determined causes of death and cancer diagnoses from previous studies, the National Death Index, death certificates, and 11 state cancer registries

- Compared mortality and cancer incidence in the study group with that in the U.S. population
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NIOSH study – PHASE I FINDINGS

- Firefighters had more cancer deaths and cancer cases than expected and this increase in cancer was primarily due to digestive, oral, respiratory, and urinary cancers.

- There were about twice as many malignant mesothelioma cases than expected. Asbestos exposure is likely in firefighting and is the primary cause of this disease.

- The higher rates suggest that firefighters are more likely to develop these cancers.

- Findings of the study do not address other factors that can influence risk for cancer, such as smoking, diet and alcohol consumption. In addition, few women and minorities were in the study population, limiting the ability to draw statistical conclusions about their risk for cancer.
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NIOSH study – PHASE II

Phase II of the study will further examine employment records from the San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia fire departments to derive information on occupational exposures and to compare cancer risks of higher-exposed firefighters to lower-exposed firefighters.

Results from Phase II are expected to be released in late 2014.

Further information:

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/
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VIDEO

Alberta’s presumptive cancer legislation change
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IARC

- There is now a worldwide movement of presumptive legislation for firefighters and this has come to the attention of the World Health Organization and its cancer research arm, IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer).

- IARC has recently examined firefighting and its connection to cancer. It has listed it as a possible connection to cancer.

- IARC has allowed a Canadian firefighter to be part of its next deliberations. Alex Forrest of Canada is the first non-doctor to be given this honour.
Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center
Dallas, Texas
August 13-16, 2014

Wednesday, August 13, 3:30pm-5:00pm
Firefighter Cancer and Occupational Illnesses
Presenters: Fire Chief Ken G. Block
Alex Forrest
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Discussion Time