

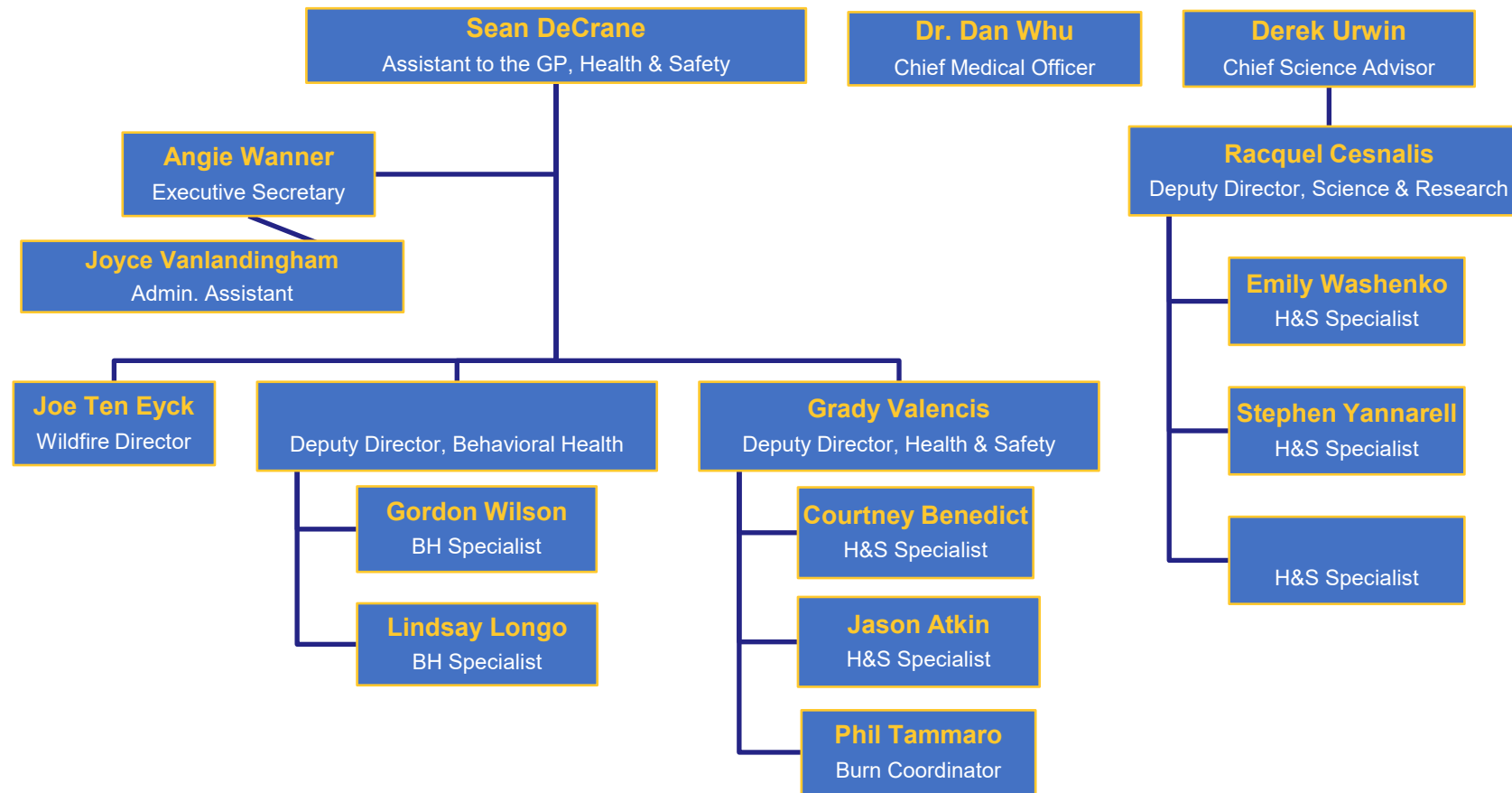


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM OVERVIEW: TRAININGS, RESOURCES, ASSISTANCE, AND SERVICES

April 2, 2026

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND MEDICINE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HEALTH AND SAFETY OPERATIONS

- Fire Ground Survival (FGS)
- Evidence-Based Fire Ground Operations (EBFO)
- Responding to the Interface (RTI)
- Shipboard Training
- Fit to Thrive (F2T)
- Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT)
- Burn Coordinators and Assistance
- Codes and Standards Representatives
- Disaster Operations and Assistance
- NIOSH/SAIT
- NTSB SME
- Grant Activity

Standing Committees

- Behavioral Health
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Female Health and Safety
- Wildland Fire
- Wellness - Fitness
- Emergency Operations Technology



PPE CODE OF CONDUCT

- PGI



MANUFACTURER'S CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FIRE FIGHTER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

As a manufacturer of fire fighter protective clothing and equipment, or a supplier of key materials, components, or fibers that are used in the fabrication or manufacture of fire fighter protective clothing and equipment, we recognize the extraordinary risks faced by the fire service. We acknowledge our unique responsibility to ensure the safety, trust, and confidence of fire fighters who depend on our products. In this spirit, we adopt the following Code of Conduct to guide all aspects of our design, manufacturing, communication, and support practices.

COMMITMENTS

PUTTING THE FIRE SERVICE FIRST

We affirm that the needs and safety of fire fighters shall always take precedence over commercial, competitive, or financial considerations.

SAFE AND COMPLIANT DESIGN

We commit to designing, developing, and manufacturing products or product components that:

- Meet or exceed all applicable standards, including those issued by NFPA, ASTM, ISO, and other relevant standards-based or regulatory requirements identified by the IAFF.
- Do not contain restricted substances at unsafe or prohibited levels as set by NFPA 1970 and other follow-on standards or revisions.
- Are engineered with the highest regard for safety, durability, and functionality in real-world fireground conditions as established by NFPA 1970, other associated standards, and the IAFF hazard/risk assessment.

TRUTHFUL REPRESENTATION

We will never misrepresent product or product component claims, certifications, or performance capabilities. Marketing, labeling, and technical documentation shall be accurate, verifiable, and transparent. For example, when asked, we will disclose chemicals or chemical categories used in the preparation of material and products.

TRANSPARENCY AND DISCLOSURE

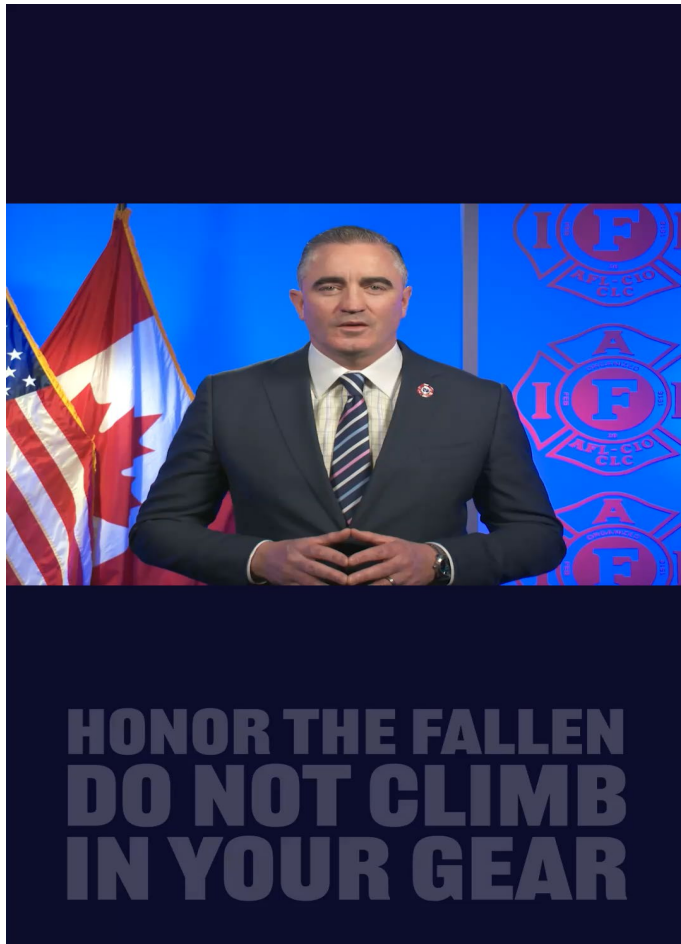
We will provide non-proprietary information upon reasonable request by the fire service comprising fire departments and other first responder organizations along with their members, including explanations of material choices, chemicals used in the preparation of materials and products, test results, or performance characteristics relevant to fire fighter safety.

ANTICIPATING HAZARDS

We will proactively assess and anticipate potential hazards associated with our products or product components, including emerging risks from materials, environmental exposure, and operational use, and integrate safeguards where possible.



MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB



- Preventing Exposure
- Taking the Lead
- FDIC Event
- Working with NFFF



FIRE BLANKET ALERT

- June 2025
- As a result of EV testing the IAFF issued a Safety Advisory on the use of fire blankets in response to an EV fire.
- Possible Explosion Hazard

IAFF SAFETY ADVISORY

USE OF FIRE BLANKETS ON ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES

JUNE 2025



The IAFF recommends members **do not** use fire blankets on EV fires involving the battery.

Electric vehicle (EV) fires have presented unique suppression challenges to the fire service. Anecdotal information describes these fires as burning hotter and for longer periods than gasoline-powered cars, with an additional threat of reignition that can last for months.

In response to these challenges, numerous products claim to improve suppression efforts involving EVs. Many of these claims have not been substantiated through independent scientific testing. Appropriate product standards have not yet been updated to address these products, and in some cases, new standards have yet to be proposed or developed.

Two major research initiatives, UL Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and the NFPA Fire Protection Foundation (FPRF), are conducting experiments that simulate fire department responses to EV fires and evaluate the effectiveness of various suppression tactics and products. The IAFF is actively involved in both projects.



While it will take time for the researchers to develop the final reports, we have learned critical information that needs to be shared immediately before the final publications of these reports.

- The IAFF strongly urges fire service members NOT to deploy a fire blanket for suppression efforts when responding to an EV fire.
 - This recommendation is based on the experiences resulting from both projects and shared in this [joint statement](#) issued on May 30, 2025.
 - While deploying a blanket can control a fire by eliminating oxygen – a smothering effect – it does not stop the battery from experiencing thermal runaway and releasing flammable gases, including hydrogen. Although eliminating oxygen may stop flaming, the ongoing release of flammable gases can build up beneath a fire blanket and create an explosion hazard.
 - Determining if the EV's battery is involved is a multi-step process, but it must begin with life safety of the driver, occupants, and responders as the top priority.
 - When encountering a fire involving an EV, fire fighters should use water to initially knock down the body of fire and then assess for battery involvement. Indicators include persistent flaming from the wheel wells and from underneath the vehicle that resist hose stream extinguishment, jetting flames accompanied by hissing and popping sounds, and reignition. Refer to the IAFF Energy Hazard Guide for additional information.

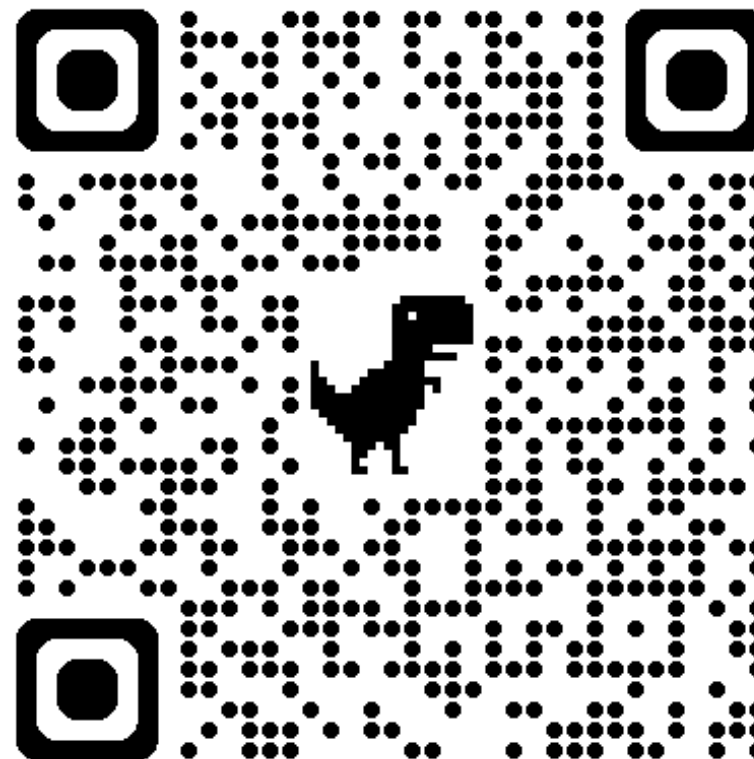


FIRE BLANKET AT EV FIRES ALERT



IAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISORIES AND ALERTS

- IAFF Blanket Alert
- IAFF/UL Solutions/UL FSRI Residential ESS Report
- Responding to Residential ESS
- Future ESS Program
- Next AFG Grant
- 1710 Position Statement
- Single-Stair Position Statements



Energy Hazards Categories



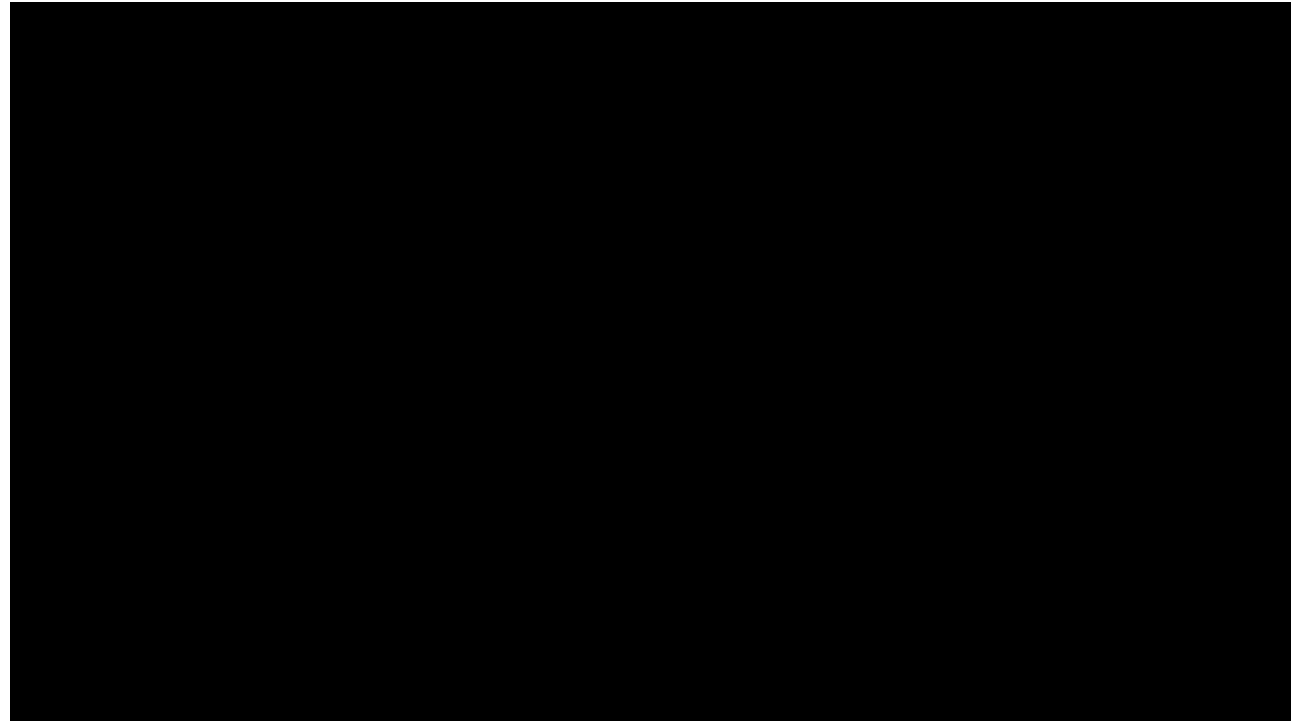
RESIDENTIAL ENERGY HAZARDS

Single Family Residential

Overhaul Operations

Energy Platform = Unstable

Career ending injuries



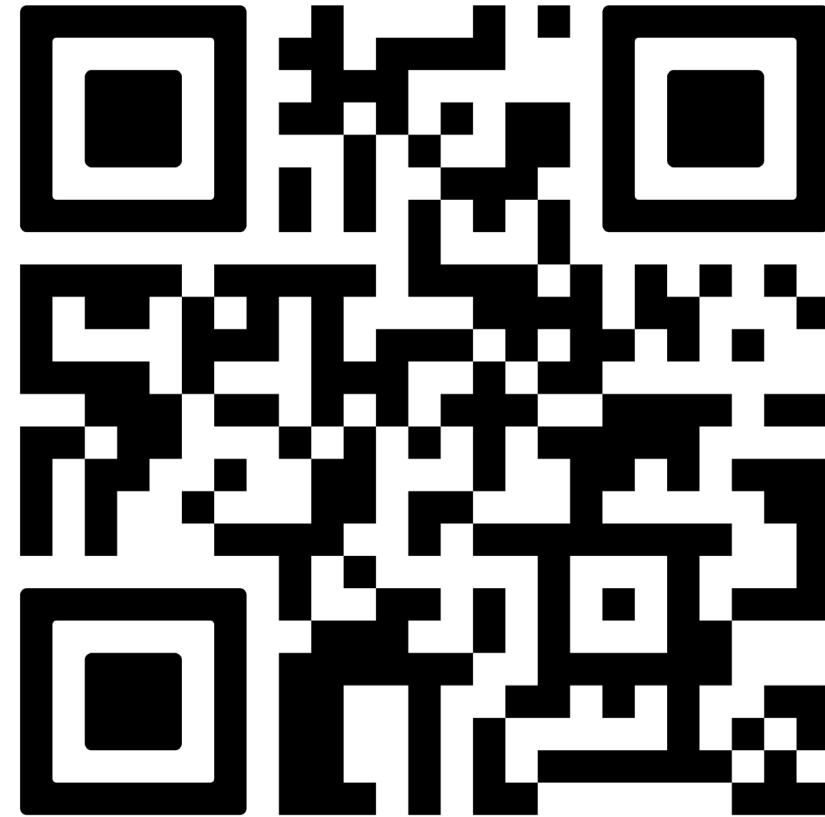
Andy Allison, Lewisville Texas FD



ENERGY HAZARD GUIDE – HOW TO GET IT

IAFF Online Learning Center

WWW.IAFF.ORG



WELLNESS FITNESS INITIATIVE (WFI)

- “Igniting Change” – 5th edition (mid-2026)
- The WFI will be the principal, most comprehensive and inclusive resource available to fire fighter wellness and fitness
- 17 departments (Sm/med/Lg) - all IAFF Districts and IAFC Divisions
- WFI purpose is to help departments build, maintain, and grow wellness and fitness programs via evidence, guidelines, and implementation guidance

IAFF-IAFC

**FIRE SERVICE JOINT
LABOR MANAGEMENT**
WELLNESS-FITNESS INITIATIVE



WFI



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM



Education, Technical, and Legislative Assistance



IAFF Online Recovery Meetings



Online Awareness Level Training



Resiliency Training



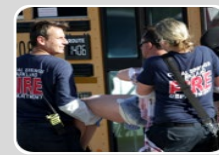
Clinician Education and Training



Peer Support Training



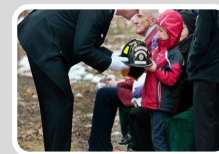
Behavioral Health Treatment Partnerships



Advanced Peer Support Training



Responding to the Opioid Epidemic: A Video-Podcast Series



Peer Support Deployments for Disaster and Traumatic Events



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH / SCIENCE & RESEARCH



Support, Fund, and Review Research Projects



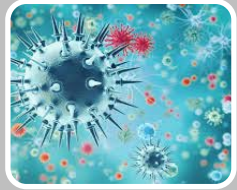
Medical Residency Program



Education, Technical, and Legislative Assistance – Chemicals, Diseases, Exposures, Presumption



Health Partnerships: ACS, FCSN, MDA – ALS



Toxic Exposure Assessments



Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month



Literature Reviews of Occupational Diseases and Cancers



IAFF Online Cancer Awareness Training



SUPPORT AND REVIEW RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Support
 - Letters of support for grant applications
 - Fund Project
 - Design studies
 - Recruitment
- Review
 - Peer Review papers for federal agencies
 - Evaluate project protocols and goals of studies involving members

Our S&R team is available to help locals if they are currently involved or looking to be involved in a research study.



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH / SCIENCE & RESEARCH



Support, Fund and Review Research Projects



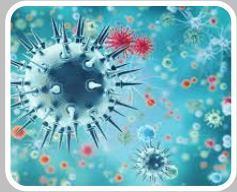
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IAFF Online Cancer Awareness Training



ASSISTANCE

- **Topics**: Chemical exposure and prevention, Disease awareness, Safety Awareness, Cancer, Reproductive Health, Infectious Diseases, Occupational Hazards, Illnesses, injuries.
- **Education and Technical Assistance**: Online trainings, Webinars, Science Documents, Factsheets
- **Literature Reviews**: Occupational Diseases and Cancers, products, etc.
- **Legislative Assistance**: Presumption and legislation resources
- **Exposure Assessments/ Safety Advisories**: Support materials for exposure reports for large scale events. Identify sources of exposure, health concerns and medical evaluations (chemical fires, disaster response, etc.).



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH / SCIENCE & RESEARCH



Support, Fund and Review Research Projects



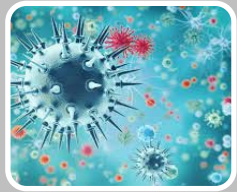
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IAFF MEDICAL RESIDENT PROGRAM

- Member Assistance
 - Disease Job Relatedness
 - Return to Work
 - Fit for duty
- Support team with Position Papers and Science Documents
 - Occupational Cancer, health and safety literature reviews
 - Best Practices
 - Diseases
 - NFPA Assistance
- Support Medical Assistance Program



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH / SCIENCE & RESEARCH



Support, Fund and Review Research Projects



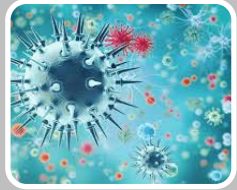
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HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

- **American Cancer Society (ACS):** provide resources, tools, and prevention techniques to help protect fire fighters with the hope of preventing future disease. The partnership provides patient support services across the country to improve the quality of life for fire fighters living with cancer and advocating for improved access to care.
- **Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN):** Assist the IAFF in producing the most up to date cancer materials to provide fire fighters with the necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention and to support those with a cancer diagnosis within their departments for *Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month*.
- **Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA):** Working together to determine if there is a link between firefighting and ALS. Working groups include research, resources and legislation.



Fire Fighter Cancer
Awareness
Month Materials



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH / SCIENCE & RESEARCH



Support, Fund and Review Research Projects



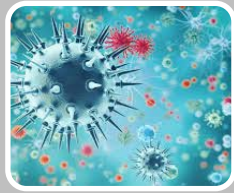
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Literature Reviews of Occupational Diseases and Cancers



IAFF Online Cancer Awareness Training



IAFF ONLINE TRAININGS

- **Cancer in the Fire Service: Fundamentals** provides information on recognizing the signs and symptoms of cancer, seeking early detection and treatment, and supporting fire fighters who have been diagnosed. This free, 30-minute e-learning course is available in both English and French.
- **Cancer in the Fire Service: Understanding Occupational Risks** offers an in-depth look at occupational cancer in the fire service, including exposure pathways, common carcinogens, and best practices to reduce risk. This three hour e-learning course is available in both English and French.



PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFIT (PSOB)

Who qualifies:

- Families of public safety officers who have sustained a fatal line of duty injury or death: including heart attack, Stroke, Traumatic injury/death, COVID-19, Suicide following a traumatic event(s) and Occupational Cancer.

A one-time benefit to eligible survivors of public safety officers:

- **Death Benefit**: Death was a direct result of an injury sustained in the line of duty.
- **Disability Benefit**: Permanently and totally disabled because of a catastrophic injury sustained in the line of duty.
- **Educational Benefit**: Support for higher education to eligible spouses and children.

IAFF PSOB Coordinators:

Michael Rund (mrund@iaff.org) and Richie Paris (rparis@iaff.org)



CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER (CMO)

- General President Ed Kelly envisioned and instituted the position in 2022
- Dr. Dan Whu, MD, MPH, FACPM, FAAMA, ABOIM, DNBPAS, CFO, PMD-T:
 - Medical Doctor
 - Epidemiologist
 - Fmr. Assistant Professor in Preventive Medicine & Public Health
 - Fmr. Associate Professor in Disaster & Emergency Management
 - Ret. Chief, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue
 - Founding member (33 years) and Senior Disaster Physician & Medical Team Manager, FEMA USAR, FL TF-1
 - L-1403 member for 35 years
- Oversees all internal and external medical matters / IAFF Medical Expert



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)

6-month study extended to 2 years; Program formally adopted and funded by Resolution 22 at the 57th Convention (2024)

Ensures viability of all presumptive legislation, since all are easily rebuttable. Assistance to the local and/or member includes:

- Qualified medical expert representation in certain qualified appeal cases
- Exhaustive medical and scientific literature search
- Review of member's medical records, if applicable
- Correlation of the 2 above with written medical expert testimony
- Depositions, subpoenas, and subject matter expert testimony at trials
- Additional benefit: All evidence gathered for individual members is made available to affiliates lobbying for presumptive coverage



PRESUMPTIVE LEGISLATION

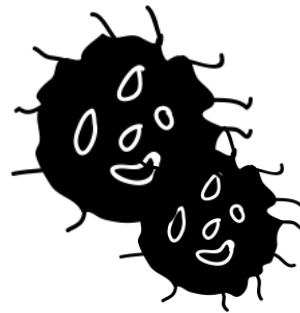
- Designed to place the burden of proof on the employer. However, they are ALL (easily) rebuttable, which shifts the burden of proof back to the FF
- MAP is imperative in these cases and in those where there is no presumption
- CMO / Medical Expert legal representation at Federal / State / Local levels
- Common Fire Fighter Presumptions: <https://www.iaff.org/presumptive-health/>



Heart
Disease



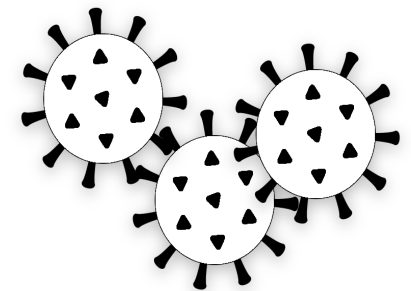
Lung
Disease



Cancer



Mental Health/
PTSD



Infectious Disease
(COVID-19)





Sean DeCrane

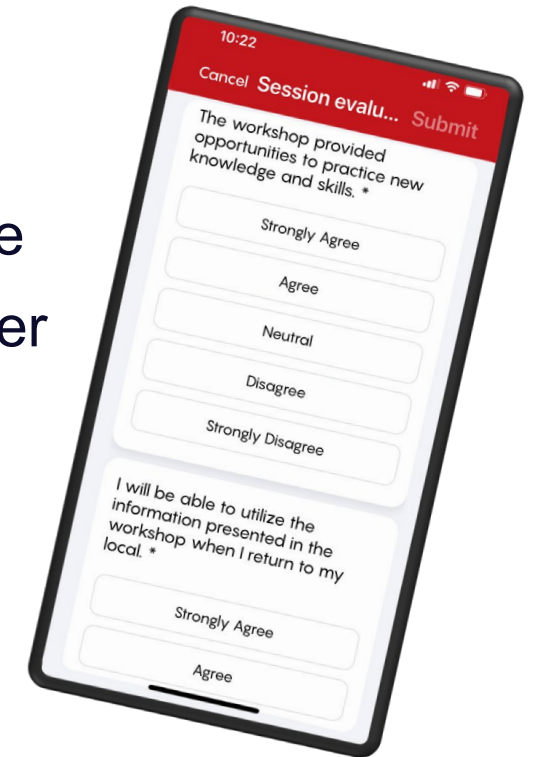
THANK YOU!
ANY QUESTIONS?

Sean DeCrane

Assistant to the
General President |
sdecrane@iaff.org

EVALUATION AND WIN AN IPAD!

- **Submit your workshop and overall evaluations to be automatically entered in two drawings for a new iPad!**
- **Complete your evaluations using the IAFF app:**
 1. Download the IAFF app and sign in with your iaff.org username
 2. Tap the 2026 Strive for Excellence Summit event image to enter the event's dashboard
 3. Tap "Sessions" and tap on the workshops you attended
 4. Tap "Evaluation" and complete the evaluation
 5. Tap "Submit"



For the event's overall evaluation, follow steps 1 and 2, then tap "Event Evaluation" located in the event's Dashboard.

