



Virginia Professional Fire Fighters 2025 Legislative Agenda

PROTECT VIRGINIA'S FIRE FIGHTERS FROM OCCUPATIONAL CANCER

The VPPF urges the Virginia General Assembly to pass a budget amendment to allocate funding in the biennial budget to provide cancer screenings to all 10,000 career fire fighters serving the Commonwealth.

BACKGROUND

Occupational cancer continues to devastate the fire service and is the leading cause of death among fire fighters. This is due to prolonged and repeated exposures to toxins and carcinogens. While fire fighters are doing everything they can to minimize these exposures, it is nearly impossible to eradicate cancer in the fire service. However, early detection of occupational cancer is critically important to saving fire fighter lives. Early detection is also critical in minimizing the fiscal implications on fire fighter families and their employers.

NEEDED ACTION

The Virginia General Assembly can help save the lives of these heroes by passing an amendment to the state budget to support the cost of cancer screenings for all career fire fighters who are serving the Commonwealth. The budget amendment provides \$3 million dollars to screen all 10,000 career fire fighters in the first year of this initiative and then \$1 million dollars each year thereafter to screen career fire fighters on a three-year rotation which aligns with industry recommendations. The aggregate data and results on the incidence of cancer in our firefighters will be shared with the Commonwealth and its assigned entities to assist with research and necessary changes to cancer prevention and treatment.

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