



PROTECT THOSE WHO PROTECT US

Pass the Mississippi First Responders Health and Safety Act

Facts About First Responder Occupational Cancer and Diseases

First responders develop occupational diseases due to the nature of shift work, high stress levels and the chemicals and carcinogens from the combustion byproducts contained in smoke.

These factors contribute to **occupational cancer, heart disease, stroke and diabetes.**

Fire fighters have a proven increased risk of occupational cancer:

- Testicular
- Non-Hodgkin
- Prostate Cancer
- Brain Cancer
- Leukemia
- Multiple Myeloma
- Skin Cancer
- Malignant Melanoma
- Colon Cancer

A study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in October 2013 found that fire fighters have a 14 percent increased risk of dying from cancer compared to the general population.

According to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), of the line-of-duty deaths among career fire fighters between 2002 and 2017, occupational cancer caused 65 percent and cardiac events 18 percent. In 2018 alone, the IAFF reported that occupational cancer caused 76 percent (117) of career fire fighter line-of-duty deaths.

Police officers have a proven increase of heart disease and some cancers:

- Police officers have a higher risk of heart disease than the general public, including angina pectoris, acute MI and cerebrovascular disease
- Police officers face an increased risk of developing metabolic syndrome after 30 years of service
- Cancer rates for brain cancer and Hodgkin lymphoma are increased due to metabolic syndrome
- Radar used before the year 2000 contributes to an increase in testicular and prostate cancer
- Heart attacks are in the top categories for police officer line-of-duty deaths
- A study of 464 members of the Buffalo, New York Police Department showed signs of occupational health disparity within five years of employment

Facts About the Mississippi First Responder Health and Safety Act

Mississippi is one of **only three states** in the nation that have no legislation protecting first responders.

The Mississippi First Responder Health and Safety Act covers job-related illnesses for both volunteer and career fire fighters and career police officers, including heart/lung disease, communicable diseases, hearing loss and some occupational cancers.

Occupational cancers covered by this bill include: bladder, brain, colon, gastrointestinal tract, kidney, liver, pancreas, prostate, reproductive tract, skin, testicular, in addition to leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

All career and volunteer fire fighter organizations in the state of Mississippi have launched state-wide prevention measures and training as part of an ongoing, comprehensive safety, health and wellness program to combat occupational cancer and disease.