



Since 1908, representing over  
4,000 public safety professionals  
who proudly keep communities  
safe across Alberta and the  
Northwest Territories

Alberta Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics Association

Affiliated with  
**International Association  
of Fire Fighters**



December 2, 2024

## **PRIORITIES FOR WCB CANCER RECOGNITION**

The Government of Alberta has indicated that it will be undertaking in a review of the Workers' Compensation Board. If the review of the WCB will be opened to submissions, the APFFPA would request the opportunity to submit information, and recommendations regarding the on-the-job risks fire fighters face every day in Alberta.

### **Overview**

- Presumptive cancers for fire fighters are specifically governed by the Firefighters' Primary Cancer Site Regulation, applying to section (24.1(4)) of the Workers' Compensation Act.
- Fire Fighting is unique among the professions in that it can only mitigate, rather than completely avoid, exposure to harmful elements such as benzene or concentrated hydrocarbons.
- As such, primary site cancer regulations governing presumptive cancers for fire fighters have been developed and widely adopted across Canada.
- Enacting the regulation in 2003, Alberta was following the lead of Manitoba's 2002 provincial government, which was the first in Canada to enact presumptive disease legislation specifically for fire fighters. This regulation was built on the large body of evidence developed and examined from across Canada and other international jurisdictions that demonstrated that fire fighters were at increased risk for specific types of cancers.
- Since that time, Alberta has followed that lead closely, with periodic reviews to approximately align with other provincial regulations. All provinces have legislation of this Type. Since 2003 this legislation has been bolstered in 2011, 2018 and 2023, either adding new cancers or lowering latency based on the newest recommendations from cancer experts.

### **Penile Cancer**

Penile cancer has not been added as a primary site cancer, many other provinces now include Primary Site Penile Cancer to their presumptive cancer legislation for fire fighters. These provinces include British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the Yukon. It is our anticipation that as provinces review their presumptive cancer legislation, they will include primary site penile cancer to this legislation. The inclusion of primary site penile cancer, aligns with research and, following suit with provinces on the forefront of this issue.



(587) 434-2688



2234 30 Avenue N.E. | Calgary, Alberta | T2E 7K9



apffpa.ca



info@apffpa.ca





*Since 1908, representing over  
4,000 public safety professionals  
who proudly keep communities  
safe across Alberta and the  
Northwest Territories*

Alberta Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics Association

Affiliated with  
**International Association  
of Fire Fighters**



### **Request**

The addition of primary site penile cancer with a latency period of 10 years to the Alberta WCB Presumptive Cancer Legislation.

### **Larynx Cancer**

Larynx cancer has not been added as a primary site cancer, at this point only, Quebec is the only province to include primary site larynx cancer into their provincial presumptive cancer legislation for firefighters. With more larynx cancer cases arising throughout our profession the data needed for any and all provinces to seek the coverage required to protect our members and their families.

### **Request**

The addition of primary site larynx cancer with a latency period of 15 years to the Alberta WCB Presumptive Cancer Legislation



(587) 434-2688



2234 30 Avenue N.E. | Calgary, Alberta | T2E 7K9



apffpa.ca



info@apffpa.ca

