



TFD Safety & Wellness Section

2019 SECTION UPDATE
JANUARY - APRIL

Deputy Chief Darin Wallentine | April 2019

CANCER STUDIES

The FEMA 2014 Firefighter Cancer Prevention Study came to an end on February 5, 2019. The findings and biological results are being processed in preparation for finalizing the research paper. This is not the end of TFD's involvement in the fight against cancer in the fire service. As we have mentioned, TFD will continue to track firefighters in the FEMA 2015 or Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study. This is a nationwide study with aims at tracking 10,000 firefighters for the next 20 years. The next step in TFD's involvement is to begin the process of adding our incumbent firefighters into the study. Since Recruit Class 15-2, we have consented 106 firefighters all the way through Recruit Class 18-1.

On Monday, April 15, the research team from the University of Arizona College of Public Health presented the findings of the FEMA 2014 study to senior staff and leadership of Local 479. Special thanks to Dr. Jeff Burgess and his team for the tireless efforts on behalf of TFD and the fire service as a whole. Well done!

In May, TFD will support the University of Arizona in consenting members from the Orange County Fire Authority. This addition to the Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study will focus on fire service exposure in the area of wildland urban interface fires and other aspects of the study.

In June, TFD Safety & Wellness will be attending the inaugural Cancer Symposium in Miami, FL. Our partners at the University of Miami, are hosting this event that will bring together the top researchers and fire service leaders to collaborate in the ongoing cancer epidemic in the fire service.

Earlier this year, the CBS Sunday Morning producers and crew came to interview and film TFD personnel with respect to the cancer prevention efforts we have been involved in. We are expecting to have a preview of the piece before it is aired sometime in May of this year. We will notify everyone when we know the air date.

Lastly, TFD was contacted by our partners at NIOSH/CDC regarding the development of the new Firefighter Cancer Registry. TFD is being included in the testing and feedback portion of the testing. We will update everyone as information is made available.

NFORS

The National Fire Operations Reporting System or NFORS is a data-gathering and analytics system designed to measure response availability, capability, and operational effectiveness on the "outcomes" of fires and other emergencies. In addition to the departmental data analytics, TFD and NFORS developers are beta testing a new "exposure" app designed to give individual firefighters the ability to track potential fire ground exposures and traumatic events. Once the app is available, we will provide more details and instructions for its use.

FDIC

TFD Safety & Wellness attended FDIC 2019 in Indianapolis, IN. Captain John Gulotta was a featured presenter at this year's conference. Captain Gulotta shared information regarding TFD efforts in the cancer studies and did a fantastic job highlighting everything we are doing in the battle against cancer. Also, we had the opportunity to visit the Pierce Manufacturing display where the new aerial/platform Ladder 1 was the centerpiece of the Lucas Oil Stadium exhibit. We also conducted a brief interview covering the features of the apparatus. It was a great experience to attend FDIC and look forward to attending in 2020.





LOGISTICS

The Safety & Wellness Section, Logistics, and Station 20 A Shift personnel (Captain Lewis DuPont, Devin DeSouza, Chris LaFave, and Stuart Sherman) have been working on a turn out gear drying system. After seeing a PVC designed device with an attached blower on a video from another department, we wanted to give it a go. With positive feedback and improved drying times, we are recommending through Logistics to proceed with implementation of this device department-wide.



POLICIES AND UPDATES

To this point, we have been relying on the TFD Best Practices for Reducing Firefighter Exposures to Carcinogens for use of our post-fire “wash down” process. Knowing that we need to formalize this process, we are in the review phase of an official policy that will be published soon in PowerDMS.

We have also updated and submitted the “fire line” barrier tape policy for review and publishing as well.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA SAFETY OFFICERS

A few months ago, TFD Safety & Wellness and the Southern Arizona Safety Officers presented an idea and request to the Pima County Fire Chiefs Association. Based on all we (TFD) have learned in the cancer studies, we recommended a plan to purchase a post-fire “wash down” kit for EVERY engine company in Southern Arizona. We approached the Tucson Firefighters Association Local 479, along with other departmental unions, and the 100 Club of Arizona for assistance in funding this project. As of today, we have the funding to purchase more than 100 “Wash Down” Kits and are planning an event in May for distribution. This generosity will allow every TFD engine company to have their own “wash down” kit as well as, providing kits to all other Southern Arizona departments. Our goal is to share everything we’ve learned throughout these studies to help our fellow brothers and sisters in the fire service.



TRAINING AND CE

As 1st Quarter CE ended with Safety & Wellness presenting a summary of the cancer studies, the Training staff is presenting 2nd Quarter CE focusing on the classroom portion of Advanced Driver Training. We also have included a Q & A with City of Tucson Risk Management and Safety Group related to the drug and alcohol policy, medication clearance/reporting, and medical marijuana. Thus far, we have heard great things and thank our partners from Risk Management.

Thank you and stay safe!