

Firefighters Turn Out in Pink This October

Across the U.S. and Canada, firefighters are wearing pink to support the fight against breast cancer

Professional firefighters have dedicated their careers to protecting people in the communities they serve from all hazards, including fires, traffic accidents, and medical emergencies.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and firefighters are doing everything they can to raise awareness about this deadly disease, prevent it, and advance research toward a cure.

Throughout the month, firefighters will wear pink T-shirts on duty or in the community, as well as sell shirts to raise money for the American Cancer Society and other cancer organizations for research and awareness.

Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death, with one in eight women diagnosed each year in the U.S. and Canada, and an estimated 316,450 new cases were expected by the end of 2022.

The main factors that influence breast cancer risk are being female and getting older, according to the CDC; however, you can reduce your risk by maintaining a healthy weight, eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, exercising, and limiting alcohol consumption.

Firefighters know all too well the trauma and the challenge of a cancer diagnosis. Firefighters are at increased risk for numerous cancers. Studies show cancer can be directly linked to carcinogens and other chemicals found in smoke and other materials regularly present at fire scenes.

Each year, the names of firefighters who have died of occupational cancer are etched onto the granite walls of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Wall of Honor in Colorado Springs, Colorado, alongside the names of thousands of other firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

The IAFF and its more than 331,000 members are committed to fighting against occupational cancers in the fire service and dedicated to joining the global fight to prevent and cure breast cancer.