

What is the National Firefighter Registry (NFR)?

The National Firefighter Registry (NFR) is a new, voluntary registry of firefighters. The NFR will be used to monitor and better understand cancer among firefighters in the U.S.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is developing the NFR. NIOSH is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Congress passed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018, which directed CDC/NIOSH to develop a registry for the purpose of studying cancer among firefighters.

Our goal is to better understand the link between workplace exposures and cancer among firefighters.

How will the NFR benefit firefighters?

Previous studies have shown firefighters may have an increased risk for certain cancers compared to the general population. However, these studies have not determined:

- Cancer risk among volunteer firefighters, female and minority firefighters, and other sub-specialties
- How the risk of cancer varies with exposure, including among recently or currently employed firefighters who are often exposed to burning synthetic materials

We will use NFR information to estimate an overall rate of cancer for firefighters. The NFR can help us determine if:

- Certain groups of firefighters are at a higher risk of cancer than others based on level of exposure, geography, sex, or other demographic and workplace characteristics
- Certain protective measures are associated with a reduced risk for cancer

Who will be included in the NFR?

The NFR will be open to **all U.S. firefighters**, not just those with cancer.

We encourage all firefighters to participate in the NFR, including:

- Active and retired firefighters
- Career, paid-on-call, and volunteer firefighters
- Structural firefighters
- Wildland firefighters
- Instructors
- Arson investigators
- Other fire service members

Firefighters do not need to have cancer or any other health condition to participate in the NFR.

Having different types of firefighters participate in the NFR is important. It will allow us to examine relationships between different firefighting activities and cancer.

When will the NFR be open for enrollment?

We are currently developing the NFR. We anticipate enrollment will begin at the end of 2020 after our study protocol is finalized.

What are the next steps for the NFR?

Review Public Comments

We sought input from the public on the National Firefighter Registry and potential enrollment methods by posting a Request for Information (RFI) to the Federal Register. The comment period for the RFI closed on May 28, 2019. We are currently reviewing comments. If you have any additional comments, please feel free to contact us at NFRRegistry@cdc.gov.

Protocol Development

We are currently developing the study protocol for the NFR.

Enrollment and Data Collection

Once the protocol is finalized, we will begin enrollment (anticipated end of 2020). We will collect work history and exposure information through questionnaires and/or department records to explore the relationship between exposures and cancer. CDC/NIOSH will link exposure information with state cancer registries to track cancer diagnoses and the National Death Index (NDI) to confirm vital status. Findings will be shared through scientific publications and communications to stakeholders and the public.

What else should I know about the NFR?

- We will work with stakeholders to notify firefighters throughout the country when the NFR opens (anticipated end of 2020).
- The NFR is completely voluntary, and no one can force a firefighter to join.
- We will protect personal information according to Federal privacy laws. Any information that identifies an individual will not be shared with any outside organizations, including fire departments, unions, or other researchers without permission of the NFR participant.

Where can I get more information?

- Website: www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/health
- Email: NFRRegistry@cdc.gov



Contact Us: NFRRegistry@cdc.gov
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