



We hope this email finds you well. The First Responder Center for Excellence is pleased to provide this quarterly communication to keep you informed about the work of the Alliance.

## 2021 National Firefighter Cancer Symposium

The Firefighter Cancer Initiative (FCI) and First Responder Center for Excellence (FRCE) joined forces to host a hybrid event: The 2021 National Firefighter Cancer Symposium. A public scientific conference that brought together academia, government, labor/management, and firefighters to support the reduction of cancer risk in the U.S. fire service. The event was a hybrid event, with both in-person attendees and presenters held June 10-12, 2021 in Kissimmee, Florida. With over 500+ attendees, the hybrid format likely increased attendance.



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A huge thank you to all the 2021 National Firefighter Cancer Symposium speakers (in-person and virtual).



**Tucson Fire Department's Chief Darin Wallentine presenting on research partnerships.**



**Dr. Natasha Solle discusses the latest about FFCCS's fire training research and the personal exposure reporter app, which recently added a Fire Training/Instructor specific report.**

**Informative panel discussion on IARC monographs. "The staircase of causality" Firefighter cancers.**





Dr. David Prezant presenting on World Trade Center Firefighter cohort.

## FIRE SERVICE OCCUPATIONAL CANCER ALLIANCE MEETING

The Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance met on Saturday, June 12, 2021, in conjunction with the National Firefighter Cancer Symposium hosted by the University of Miami and the First Responder Center for Excellence to review the existing strategy. The alliance meeting was facilitated by the First Responder Center for Excellence. New areas identified to develop objectives include: marketing and issue relevance, reproductive health and effective presumptive legislation. Also discussed was the impact of IARC's scheduled timing of its report in June 2022. Two new areas were identified requiring task groups, including (1) marketing and issue relevance and (2) future symposiums.

### Screening & Early Detection

- Early detection is key. We need to collect information for a study so it can be used to make recommendations for more advanced screenings.

### Reproductive Health in Firefighters

- Study to look at reproductive health in firefighters.

### Convene a task group to develop marketing strategies & look at funding to implement

- How to keep information relevant and in the forefront
- How to make messaging personal and powerful
- Using different social media platforms

### Future Symposiums

- Every other year?
- In conjunction with University of Miami?
- Rotate locations?
- Possibly hold an Overall Health & Wellness Symposium to include behavioral health, cancer and health & wellness topics?



## Dirty gear: No longer a badge of honor

Where a dirty helmet was once a badge of honor, a source of pride for firefighters looking to prove their mettle, this symbol is now seen by many as a sign of weakness, even ignorance.

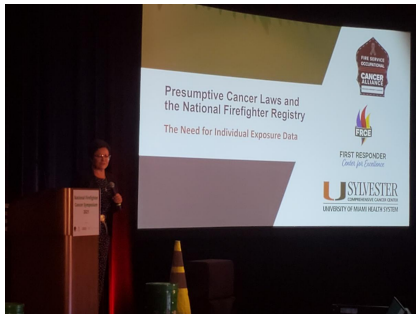
[Read more](#)  
www.firerescue1.com



## Making a Difference in Melanoma Education Awareness...

Mollie's Fund is Making a Difference in Melanoma Education, Awareness, Outreach, News, Skin Cancer Events - Free Screenings & Sunscreen

[Read more](#)  
molliesfund.org



## FDNY Fire Academy and Mollie's Fund Work Together for...

NEW YORK, July 19, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- The Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation and the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) Fire Academy announce a partnership to promote skin cancer prevention among "NYC's Bravest." Running into burning...

[Read more](#)  
markets.businessinsider.com



## NY family spreads melanoma awareness after losing...

As the weather heats up outside, the Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation is looking to make sure everyone is protecting their skin from the sun's harmful rays.

[Read more](#)  
www.audacy.com



Alberto Caban-Martinez   
  on Twitter: "The UM...

The UM Sylvester Firefighter Cancer Initiative team delivered wipes and decontamination buckets to first responders at the Surfside building partial collapse. Protecting our first responders from carcinogens and respirable chemical hazards....

[Read more](#)  
twitter.com



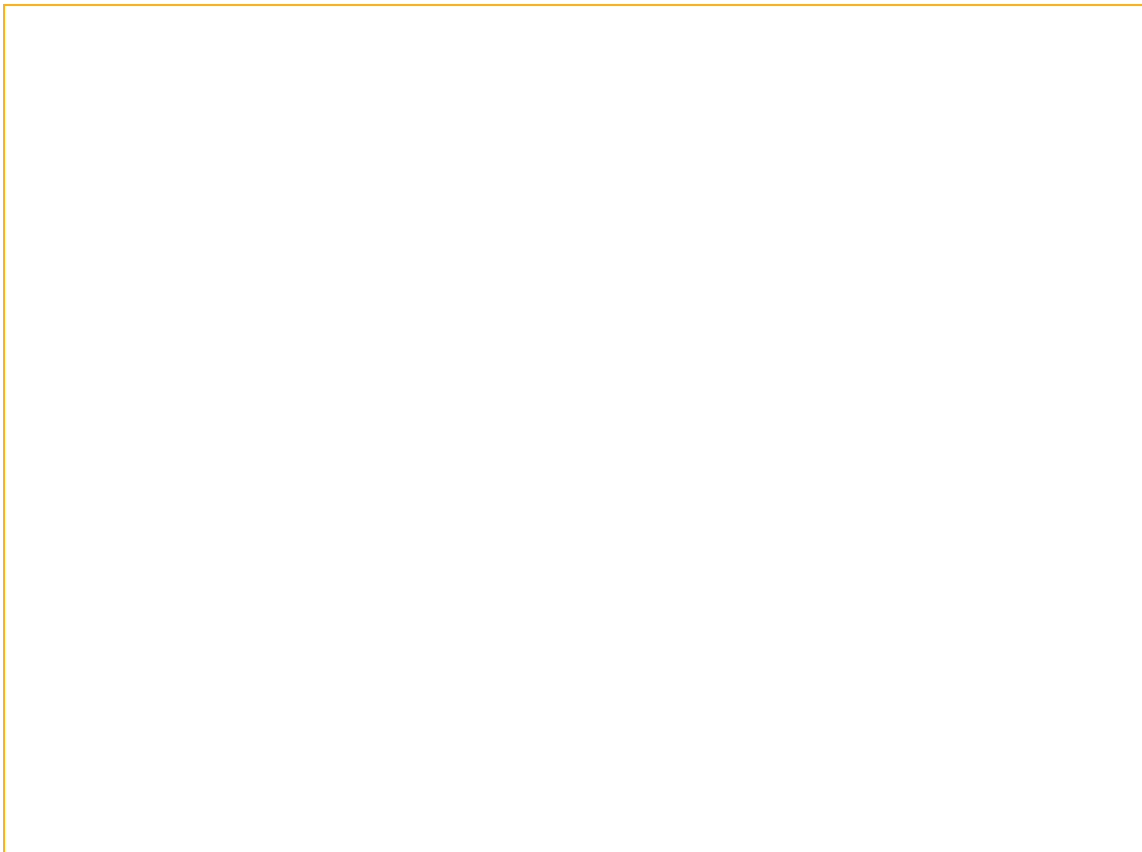
## Never Forgetting at the FDNY Fire Academy: 9/11...

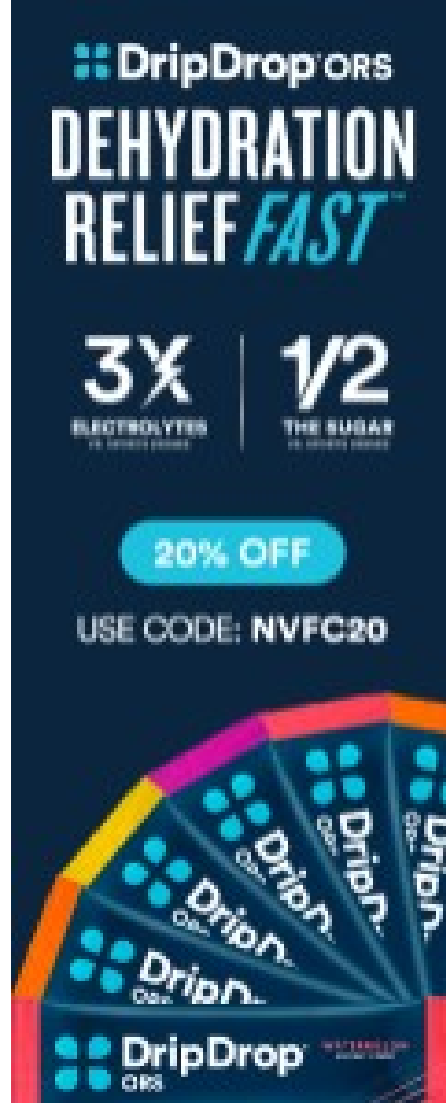
Photos by author Dedicated in 1975 and opened the following year, the New York City Fire Academy is a world-class training facility. Also known as "The Rock," the fire academy is the hub of training for the Fire Department of New York (FDNY)....

[Read more](#)  
www.fireengineering.com

## STATE LAWS AND PRESUMPTIVE CANCER LEGISLATION

The FRCE fields many questions related to presumptive laws for firefighters and cancer. The below link is an excellent resource.





## State Laws Establishing Presumption of Firefighter...

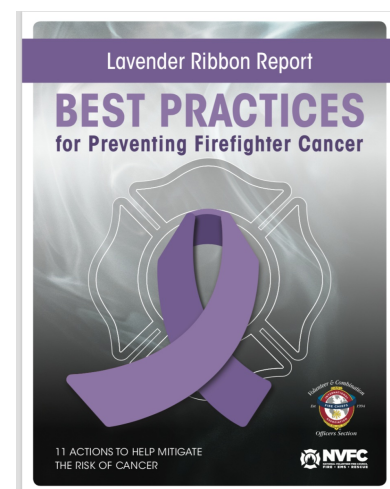
Many states have laws establishing a presumption that certain types of cancer contracted by firefighters are the result of duty-related exposure. These laws typically allow the families of firefighters who contract these types of cancer to...

[Read more](#)  
[www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org)

## LAVENDER RIBBON REPORT

In August 2018 the National Volunteer Fire Council and International Association of Fire Chiefs' Volunteer and Combination Officers Section released the Lavender Ribbon Report - Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer - 11 Actions to Mitigate the Risk of Cancer. This report presented 11 specific actions firefighters need to take to lessen their risk of occupational cancer.

Access the original report here: [Lavender-Ribbon-Report-Final.pdf \(nvfc.org\)](#).



In the next month, an updated version of the Lavender Ribbon Report will be released. To promote and bring greater awareness to this highly anticipated update there will be a panel discussion that will be broadcast on Facebook. This event will take place in September.

## **FIREFIGHTING FOAMS FIRE SERVICE ROADMAP PROJECT**

The firefighting Foams Fire Service Roadmap project, (AFG funded) is planning a workshop in the fall of 2021. This project seeks to coordinate the needs of the fire service stakeholders to identify and move forward with foam replacements. This effort is motivated by the search for legitimate foams that are non-fluorinated, since the fluorinated foams are a cancer concern. (e.g., legacy AFFF).

The FRCE is represented on this project and the workshop. The workshop will be conducted in October. More details will follow as they become available.

## **TRAININGS**

### **REGIONAL CANCER SEMINAR JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

A Regional Cancer Seminar was held on July 15, 2021. This seminar was hosted at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson, Mississippi. The seminar was well attended with positive feedback. While it has been difficult due to COVID restrictions to schedule seminars, we are finally seeing restrictions relaxing and states are looking to host these important and informational seminars.



Please let us know if you or your organization have any information you would like us to share in next month's newsletter by sending an email to [ljacobs@frcmail.org](mailto:ljacobs@frcmail.org).

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