

SCIENCE ALERT

OCCUPATIONAL FACTORS & MISCARRIAGE IN THE U.S. FIRE SERVICE

Volunteer firefighters are at a greater risk of self-reported miscarriage compared to career firefighters (between 1.42 and 2.53 times the risk of miscarriage)



STRUCTURAL
CAREER 24%
VOLUNTEER 31%

1074 FIREFIGHTERS - SELF REPORTING
(% reporting a miscarriage)

WILDLAND
CAREER 10%
VOLUNTEER 32%



30%

OF WOMEN REPORTED THAT THEIR DEPARTMENTS DID **NOT** HAVE POLICIES REGARDING EMPLOYEE PREGNANCIES OR MATERNITY LEAVE

In general, the prevalence of miscarriage was greater among firefighters compared to an occupational cohort of U.S. nurses.

This may be due to the smaller budgets of volunteer departments. They have less funding to spend on upgraded equipment and PPE meant to prevent or minimize firefighter occupational exposures.

Another explanation is the limited staffing resources of volunteer departments. Pregnant firefighters may not have the opportunity to be assigned to administrative or light duty during pregnancy. Instead they may stay on the line further into their pregnancy, increasing exposure risks.



OCCUPATIONAL FACTORS AND MISCARRIAGES IN THE US FIRE SERVICE: a cross-sectional analysis of women firefighters

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<https://bit.ly/3G6uh8M>