



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Basics of Wage Replacement Benefits for Connecticut Firefighters with Cancer

1. Who can file a claim for relief under this new law?

Any Connecticut firefighter, whether paid or volunteer is eligible. The act specifically says that "firefighter" shall also include: any local fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector and other classes of inspectors and investigators described in the Connecticut General Statutes section 29-298 which can be found on the following web link (http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/lib/sots/regulations/title_29/298.pdf).

2. What is the purpose of the "firefighter's cancer relief account" that was established by the passage of this new law and who makes determinations on claims?

The moneys in the firefighters cancer relief account shall be used solely for the purposes of providing wage replacement benefits for up to 2 years to firefighters who are diagnosed with a condition of cancer. A panel of Fire Service representatives and one representative for state municipalities determines acceptance or denial of all claims.

3. What forms of cancer are covered by the new law?

A firefighter shall be eligible for wage replacement benefits for any condition of cancer affecting the brain, skin, skeletal system, digestive system, endocrine system, respiratory system, lymphatic system, reproductive system, urinary system or hematological system that results in death, or temporary or permanent total or partial disability.

4. Are there special conditions or criteria that must be met for any firefighter with one of the covered cancers to file and collect wage replacement benefits?

Yes, there are several criteria that must be met. Every Connecticut firefighter should be aware of all of these conditions immediately. Failure to meet these conditions may result in a firefighter's failure to qualify for wage replacement benefits. The required special conditions are as follows:

- Such firefighter successfully passed a physical examination upon entry into such service showing no indication of cancer.
- Such firefighter has not used any cigarettes or any other tobacco products within 15 years of applying for wage replacement benefits.

