



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

September 16, 2022

TO: Members of Connecticut's Fire Service
FROM: Edward J. Waido, President
RE: Cancer Relief Benefits for Firefighters

The Connecticut General Assembly through Public Act 16-10 established a Firefighters Cancer Relief Program. More recently, during the 2022 Legislative Session funding to support the program and adoption of the recommendations of the Task Force to Study Cancer Relief Benefits for Firefighters (PA 22-139) provided the green light to move toward implementation and support of firefighters in need.

I am pleased to report, through the efforts of the Firefighters Cancer Relief Subcommittee comprised of one member each from the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Uniformed Professional Firefighters of Connecticut, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, Connecticut Fire Marshals Association and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities we are now prepared to accept individual claims for review and possible award of wage replacement benefits.

Any uniformed member of a paid municipal, state or volunteer fire department, local fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector and such other classes of inspectors and investigators for whom the State Fire Marshal, and the Codes and Standards Committee, acting jointly 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.

Applicants must have successfully passed a physical upon entry into such service, or subsequent to entry, as the case may be, that failed to reveal any evidence of such cancer, (2) such firefighter has submitted to annual physical examinations subsequent to entry into such service that have failed to reveal any evidence of such cancer or a propensity for such cancer, (3) such firefighter has not used any cigarettes, as defined in section 12-285 of the general statutes, or any other tobacco products, as defined in section 12-330a of the general statutes, within fifteen years of applying for wage replacement benefits pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section, (4) such firefighter has worked for not less than five years on or after the effective date of this section as (A) an interior structural firefighter at a paid municipal, state or volunteer fire department, or (B) a local fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, fire investigator, fire inspector or such other class of inspector or investigator for whom the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee, acting jointly, have adopted minimum standards of qualification pursuant to section 29-298 of the general statutes, at the time such cancer is discovered, or should have been discovered, (5) such firefighter has complied with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act standards adopted pursuant to 29 CFR 1910. 134 and 29 CFR 1910. 156 for a period of not less than five consecutive years, and (6) such cancer is one that is known to result from exposure to heat, radiation or a known carcinogen as determined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer or the National Toxicology Program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. For purposes of this subsection, "interior

structural firefighter" means an individual who performs fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures that are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage, as defined in 29 CFR 1910. 155.

Any individual who is no longer actively serving as a firefighter but who otherwise would be eligible for wage replacement benefits pursuant to the provisions of, may apply for such benefits not more than five years from the date such individual last served as a firefighter.

A firefighter or individual applying for wage replacement benefits pursuant to the legislation shall be required to submit to annual physical examinations, including blood testing, during his or her active service and for a period of five years after the date such individual last served as a firefighter as a condition of receiving such benefits. An individual who no longer serves as a firefighter shall bear the cost of any physical examination required under this subsection.

The Firefighters Cancer Relief Subcommittee is committed to ensuring any and all claims submitted are reviewed and adjudicated in a swift manner and those eligible receive wage replacement funds as quickly as possible.

Additional guidance and education will be provided in the very near future. The Connecticut Firefighter Cancer Relief Fund Claim Application and accompanying Affidavit are now available for download at WWW.CSFA.ORG.

Each organization represented on the Subcommittee will have a Champion identified to assist its members with the application process.

In closing, I'd be remiss not to formally recognize and thank the CT Fire Chiefs Assoc., UPFFA of CT, CT Fire Marshals Association and CT Conference of Municipalities for their assistance and guidance to the CSFA.