

S.73 Firefighter Cancer Working Group

Thursday, September 28th, 2023

Virtual meeting started at 2:00 pm

Participants:

- Robert Sponable, Michael Skaza, Brad Reed, Dean Gilmore, Cindy Ell, Chris Dube, Michael Desrochers

Approve Minutes of previous meeting

- Minutes approved by all.

Update on information gathered since last meeting

- PPE Costs – Brad contacted representatives that sell five different sets of gear. That information was compiled into an excel spreadsheet and shared with the group. The average price was \$3500, strictly coat and pants. Brad updated the spreadsheet to include prices for the entire ensemble and sent it back out to the group. It is important to note in the report that the prices for everything are increasing drastically.
- Estimated Firefighter count and demographic information – Mike and staff have compiled the demographics. The age breakdown will follow the ACS age group breakdown. There are some gaps in data, particularly for the over 50 age range as the Fire Academy is less likely to see those folks at training. Mike will work on creating a survey for all fire departments asking how many people are on the department, ages, and gender and cancer cases. This survey will only apply to active members. Mike will create a draft survey and send it to the group for review.
- Number of Vermonters registered in National Firefighter Cancer Registry – Cindy has an email out to Dr. Kenny Fent/Miriam Calkins requesting the number of Vermonters registered in the National CDC FF Cancer Registry.
- Follow-up to water from PPE cleaning / equipment at fire stations or on a fire scene- see local/ county and state environmental & water filtration/ discharge codes. The national fire station building standard from NFPA under new update and about to be released. More info NFPA committee and from architect's forthcoming.

Identify next steps and assign tasks for next meeting

- Bob to contact Bob Duvall to get numbers from the annual NFPA Fire Experience survey.
- Mike will send out a draft of the survey to the group once completed.
- Director Desrochers will look into whether or not Fire Investigators are included in the legislation.

Other business

- Director Desrochers indicated that Dirk Anderson is looking for information on the number of incidences of certain cancers in the firefighter population. Mike will forward the email to Cindy so she can compile the information that Dirk is requesting.
- Cindy has reached out to three different companies to request pricing on basic Firefighter physicals.
- Director Desrochers has been in contact with the Department of Health and we will have an answer soon on whether they ask what the occupation is in their cancer reporting system.

With no further business, board members adjourned at 3:00 PM (approximately)