

# Are Firefighters' Risks for Certain Types of Cancer Significantly Higher?

Firefighters' risks are significantly higher for some specific types of cancer than the general population.



In 2013, NIOSH researchers reported a two-fold excess of malignant mesothelioma, a very rare cancer. Put another way, firefighters have a 100 percent increased risk (100 percent = double = 2 times) of getting mesothelioma. Firefighters have a 129 percent increased risk of dying from mesothelioma. A 2006 meta-analysis by Grace LeMasters of 32 firefighter cancer studies noted a two-fold excess for testicular cancer. Firefighters have a 62 percent higher risk of getting esophageal cancer, and they have a 39 percent increased risk of dying from esophageal cancer, according to the NIOSH research.

Here's an overview with some specific additional risks for firefighters noted:

**BASED ON U.S. CANCER RATES**

- ➔ GREATER NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTER CANCER DIAGNOSIS & CANCER-RELATED DEATHS
- ➔ TWICE AS MANY FIREFIGHTERS WITH MALIGNANT MESOTHELIOMA, CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS
- ➔ INCREASED CASES OF CERTAIN CANCERS AMONG YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS

**IN COMPARISON TO OTHER FIREFIGHTERS**

- ➔ CHANCE OF LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS OR DEATH INCREASES WITH AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT AT FIRES
- ➔ CHANCE OF LEUKEMIA DEATH INCREASES WITH NUMBER OF FIRE RUNS

- testicular cancer – 2.02 times the risk (again: 100% = double = 2times)
- mesothelioma – 2.0 times > risk
- multiple myeloma -1.53 times > risk
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma – 1.51 times > risk
- skin cancer – 1.39 times > risk
- malignant melanoma – 1.31 times > risk
- brain cancer -1.31 times > risk
- prostate cancer – 1.28 times > risk
- colon cancer -1.21 times > risk
- leukemia – 1.14 times > risk