

UTHealth[®] Houston

School of Public Health

Texas Firefighter Cancer Study

December | 2025

Announcements

Stakeholder Advisory Board Meeting

We are excited to announce the first meeting of our Stakeholder Advisory Board — a pivotal step in shaping the future of the Texas Firefighter Cancer Study.

On November 17, the Stakeholder Advisory Board met both virtually and in-person at the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association to introduce its members, share the study's vision, and provide an early progress report. This gathering ensured that fire departments, firefighter unions, and associations will play an active role in guiding the project, ensuring the study reflects what matters most to the firefighting community. We are honored to welcome these trusted leaders and invite you to learn more about them:



**Houston Professional Fire
Fighters Association -
Local 341**

**Captain Gabriel
Dominguez (Board Chair)**
Director



Houston Fire Department

Chief Michael Marino
Health & Safety Chief



**Texas Commission on Fire
Protection**

Chief Mike Wisko
Agency Chief

Chief Doug Boeker
Presiding Officer with Health
and Wellness Committee



Texas Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Cande Flores
Northwest Region Director



Texas State Association of Fire Fighters

Firefighter Daniel Calhoun



State Fire Marshal's Office

Chief Debra Knight
State Fire Marshal

International Association of Fire Fighters

Daniel Whu, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer

Local Associations, including:

- Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association - Local 341
- Austin Firefighters Association - Local 975
- Brownsville Fire Fighters Association - Local 970
- Dallas Fire Fighters Association - Local 58
- Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association - Local 440
- El Paso Association of Firefighters - Local 51
- San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association - Local 624

Fire Departments, including:

- Houston
- Austin
- Brownsville
- Dallas
- Fort Worth
- El Paso
- San Antonio



CPRIT awards nearly \$10M to UTHealth Houston Cancer researchers

Seven UTHealth Houston researchers received awards totaling nearly \$10 million in funding from The Cancer Prevention and...

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Research Team

Our Carcinogenic Exposure Assessment postdoctoral fellows — Amelia Chen, PhD, and Xinyi Niu, PhD — recently completed a simulation exercise to review sampling logistics and test equipment. This critical step sets the stage for the next phase of the study—**baseline sampling**.

During these initial visits, participants will provide consent, complete a questionnaire, and provide biospecimen samples. Training on the use of personal air samplers will also be provided if needed.



Holiday Luncheon with Our Texas Firefighter Retirees



The research team was warmly welcomed at two firefighter retiree luncheons, where we shared details about the study and boosted our recruitment efforts. Surrounded by holiday cheer and guided by our Stakeholder Advisory Board Chair, Captain Dominguez, we engaged with over 50 retirees!

We are excited to continue working with this incredible cohort of firefighters who spent decades protecting our communities and remain committed to shaping the future of this research.

If you're a **retired firefighter with 15+ years of service**, we'd love to connect with you! Visit our website below to learn more about the study and get in contact with our team.

Happening Soon

Baseline Sampling

The research team is gearing up to begin baseline sampling! We will start with the new cadet cohort at the Val Jahnke Training Facility. Sampling for the active duty and the retired firefighter cohorts will follow shortly thereafter. Stay tuned for updates as this important phase unfolds.

Seasonal Update



The UTHealth Houston School of Public Health will be closed for the holidays from **December 24, 2025 through January 2, 2026**. Our study team will resume operations on **January 5, 2026**. We look forward to kicking off the new year with our cohorts and continuing this important work together!

Wishing You a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Ways to Engage

Connect with Us

Visit our webpage using the link below to stay up-to-date on our study. Share this newsletter with your fellow firefighters and encourage them to join our mailing list.

If you are interested in taking part of this study or have questions, please submit an inquiry using the Contact Us link below.

Or email us directly at: TFCS@uth.tmc.edu



[Our Website](#) | [Contact Us](#)

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