

## Texas Firefighter Cancer Study

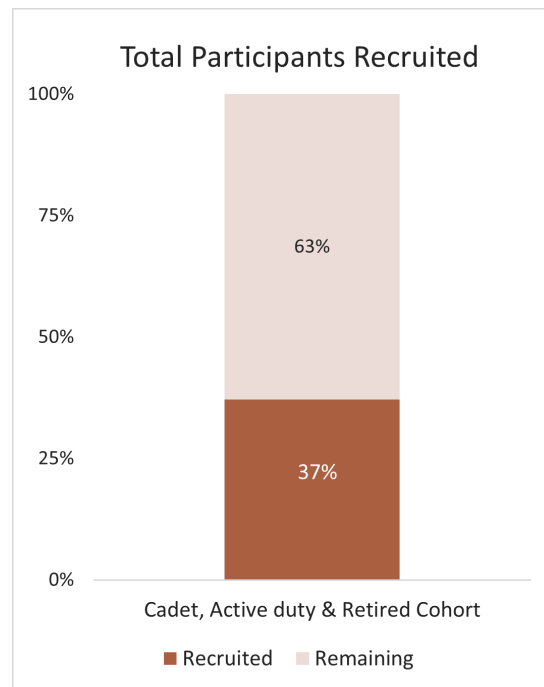
February | 2026

### Announcements

#### Recruitment Progress Update

We kicked off our very first baseline sampling campaign with **retirees** at the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 341. Although a winter storm forced us to postpone the event, **49** retirees participated on January 28, our largest single-day sampling campaign to date. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who participated and are deeply grateful for your commitment and engagement.

We also want to thank the Houston Fire Department paramedics for providing onsite assistance, as well as Local 341 for generously allowing us to use their hall for this important milestone. Your time, support, and enthusiasm are invaluable to the progress of this work.



**RESCHEDULED** - The next baseline sampling campaign for the Houston retiree cohort will be on **Saturday, February 21, 2026** from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 341. If you haven't already done so, please sign up using the button below.

Recruitment for the non-Houston cities is off to a strong start, led by excellent participation from Austin and San Antonio. We're looking forward to continue our baseline sampling campaigns as we move on to the next cities.

[Houston Retiree Sign Up](#)



## Houston Retiree Baseline Sampling Campaign



 **UTHealth  
Houston**  
School of  
Public Health

Baseline sampling campaign with retirees, featuring key steps such as registration, preparation of sampling vials and biospecimen collection.

## San Antonio's Wellness & Cancer Prevention Fair and Baseline Sampling Campaign

Our team was invited to participate at the San Antonio Fire Department's 4th Annual Wellness and Cancer Prevention Fair on January 31 & February 1. We had the opportunity to connect with firefighters, share information about our study, and preview our baseline sampling campaign.

Thank you to our stakeholders, the San Antonio Fire Department, and the San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association - Local 624 for coordinating our visit and helping us prepare for the study.



TFCS Team at San Antonio Wellness & Cancer Prevention Fair with San Antonio firefighters and Fire Chief Valerie Fausto.

The baseline sampling campaign for the San Antonio active duty and retiree cohort occurred on February 10 & 11 at the Fire Training Academy. A total of **45** participants joined the study.

## San Antonio Baseline Sampling Campaign



## Austin Baseline Sampling Campaign

The baseline sampling campaign for the Austin active duty and retiree cohort was on February 12 & 13 at the Austin Public Safety Wellness Center. A total of **85** participants joined the study.

We are grateful to the Austin Fire Department, Austin Firefighters Association – Local 975, and the Austin Public Safety Wellness Center for their partnership and support in preparing for the study.



## Austin Baseline Sampling Campaign

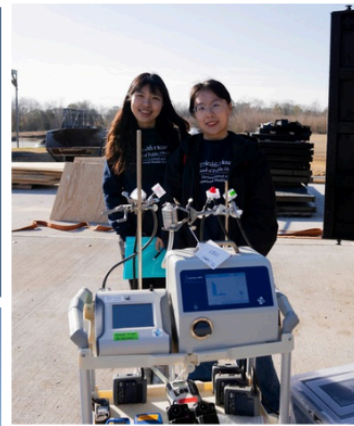


Baseline sampling campaign with Austin firefighters and retirees, highlighting core activities such as the questionnaire and biospecimen collection, along with a fun Kong Ming Lock challenge taken on by two Austin firefighters.

## Air Sampling Equipment Testing at Val Jahnke Training Facility (VJTF)

Our Carcinogenic Exposure Assessment postdoctoral research fellows — **Amelia Chen, PhD** and **Xinyi Niu, PhD** — recently completed ambient aerosol equipment testing at an IAFF Evidence-Based Fire Ground Operations Train-the-Trainer course at the Val Jahnke Training Facility. They also simulated the modified personal air monitors to gather feedback from firefighters. This critical step sets the stage for our field-exposure assessment to measure carcinogens at fire activities.

## Air Sampling Equipment Testing at Val Jahnke Training Facility (VJTF)



## Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) met on January 21 to review progress across all three Texas Firefighter Cancer Study projects, including updates on IRB approvals and efforts to expand participant enrollment. Key highlights included rapid advancement of the state registry collaboration, growing public engagement, and Dr. Hwang's (PI) \$1.2M award from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). The SAB endorsed the study's strong momentum and provided guidance on next steps as Year 1 milestones approach.

## Stakeholder Advisory Board Meeting

We had full representation at the Stakeholder Advisory Board Meeting on January 22, with both virtual and in-person participation at the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association –IAFF Local 341. The Advisory Board provided key project updates, including IRB status, recruitment progress, sampling campaigns, timelines, and relevant legislative and policy developments. We are honored to have trusted leaders serving on our Stakeholder Advisory Board and deeply appreciate their continued engagement and support.



Stakeholder Advisory Board from left to right: Fire Chief Doug Boeker with TCFP, Agency Chief Mike Wisko with TCFP, Firefighter Daniel Calhoun with TSAFF, Stakeholder Advisory Board Chair Captain Gabe Dominguez with HPPFA – Local 341, 11th District Vice President Michael Glynn with the IAFF. TFCS study team: Dr. Jooyeon Hwang, PI and Paulina Romero, Community Health Education Specialist.

Joining us virtually: Fire Chief Cande Flores with TFCA, Neil McMillan with the IAFF Medical Assistance Program, Health & Safety Chief Michael Marino with the Houston Fire Department, Chief Medical Officer Dan Whu, MD, MPH with the IAFF, State Fire Marshal Debra Knight with the State Fire Marshal's Office and Chris Pecori, MS, PA-C, PMD with the IAFF Medical Assistance Program.

## Happening Soon

### Baseline Sampling

The research team has officially launched baseline sampling across Texas. Please note the upcoming campaigns below:

**Dallas, TX** (Active duty & Retirees)

**March 2-3, 2026**

Dallas Fire Fighters Association  
10956 Audelia Rd. Dallas, TX 75243

**Fort Worth, TX** (Active duty & Retirees)

**March 4-5, 2026**

Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex Administration  
505 W Felix St. Fort Worth, TX 7611

**Brownsville, TX** (Active duty & Retirees)

**March 18-19, 2026**

DHR Health Specialty Clinic  
4770 North Expressway 77 Suite 303 Brownsville, TX 78526

**Houston Cadet Cohort**

***Date Coming Soon***

Val Jahnke Training Facility  
8030 Braniff St, Houston, TX 77061

**El Paso, TX**

***Date Coming Soon***

Stay tuned for updates in next month's newsletter!

# Ways to Engage

## Connect with Us

Visit our [webpage](#) 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](#) form or by email at: [TFCS@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:TFCS@uth.tmc.edu)



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**Editorial Team** Paulina Romero, Rebecca Klaff, Caliann Ferguson, Jooyeon Hwang, PhD

UTHealth Houston Texas Firefighter Cancer Study | 1200 Pressler St. | Houston, TX 77030 US

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