

UTHealth[®] Houston

School of Public Health

Texas Firefighter Cancer Study

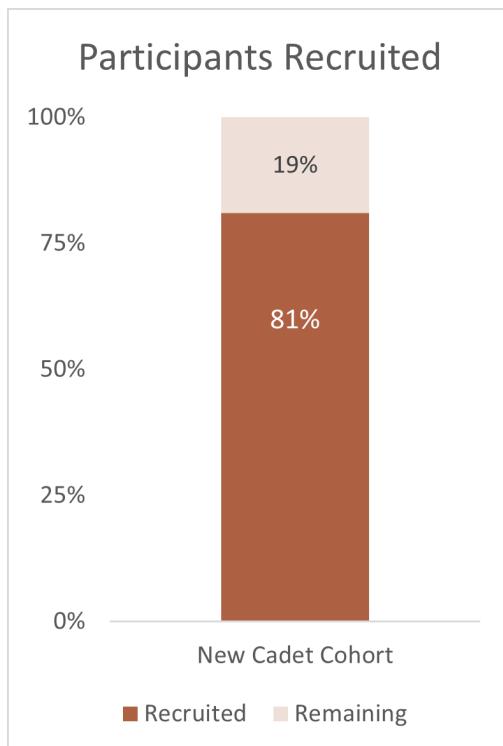
January | 2026

Announcements

Recruitment Progress Update

We kicked off our first baseline sampling campaign with **cadets** at the Val Jahnke Training Facility (VJTF). 81 cadets enrolled in the study, getting us over 3/4 of the way to our recruitment goal for this cohort of the study.

We want to thank all the cadets who enrolled in the study as well as the Houston Fire Department paramedics who assisted us onsite with the biospecimen collection. Your time, willingness, and enthusiasm are invaluable to this effort. We are excited to continue building momentum as we move into the next phase of the study.



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





Institutional Review Board

After receiving approval to begin the Texas Firefighter Carcinogenic Exposure Assessment in November (currently enrolling participants), we are pleased to share that we have received approval from the UTHealth Houston Institutional Review Board (IRB) to begin the second project of our larger study, the **Texas Firefighter Cohort Cancer Study**.

As part of this project, we will analyze existing data sources to assess cancer rates among firefighters and identify risk factors, including exposure to carcinogens, relative to the general population. We will also investigate the difference in cancer rates among firefighter subgroups and assess the latency period between occupational exposure to cancer-causing contaminants and diagnosis, allowing us to evaluate long-term risks and disease progression.

The UTHealth Houston IRB is a committee that ensures studies involving human subjects are conducted safely and ethically. Approval for Project 3 – Firefighter Cancer Screening Study – is expected soon. Stay tuned for updates in next month's newsletter.

Happening Soon

Retiree Baseline Sampling

The research team has finalized logistics for baseline sampling among the **retiree cohort in Houston**, scheduled to begin on **January 26** and **January 28** at the Houston Professional Fire Fighters' Association - Local 341.

Sampling activities for active-duty firefighters, including the cohorts in Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, and San Antonio, will follow shortly. Stay tuned for updates as this important phase of the study unfolds.

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.

If you're a **retired firefighter with 15+ years of service**, we would love to hear from you as we are about to start enrolling participants for this cohort!

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



Study Team at Baseline Sampling Campaign



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