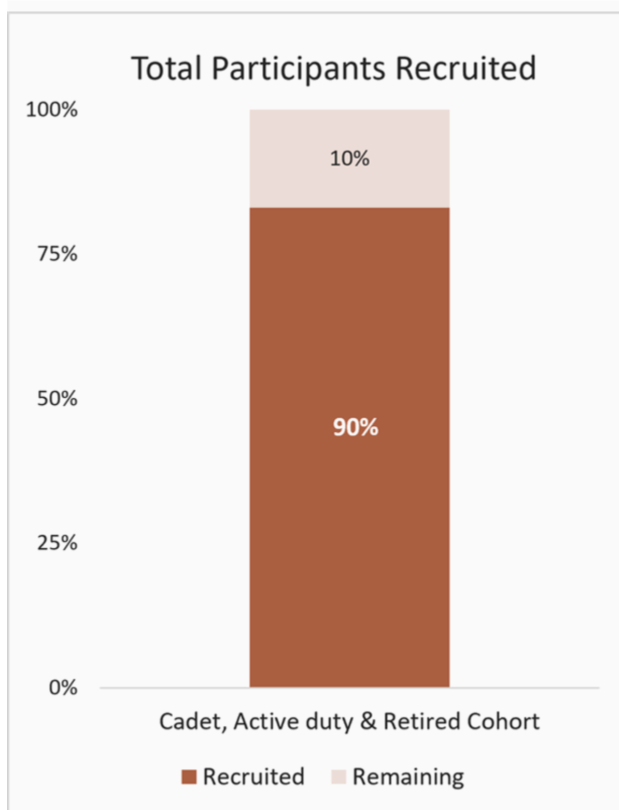


Texas Firefighter Cancer Study

July | 2026

Announcements

Recruitment Progress Update



With summer now in full swing, there have been many exciting developments with the Texas Firefighter Cancer Study (TFCS).

Last month, we successfully completed our baseline sampling campaign in Sugar Land and Cy-Fair. A heartfelt thank you to those fire departments for their warm hospitality and participation. Your time, support, and commitment are invaluable to this study.

This month, we completed the first follow-up visits with our Houston retiree cohort at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health and the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association. We are grateful to our retiree participants for their continued dedication to this research. Your ongoing participation is helping us to improve cancer prevention and early

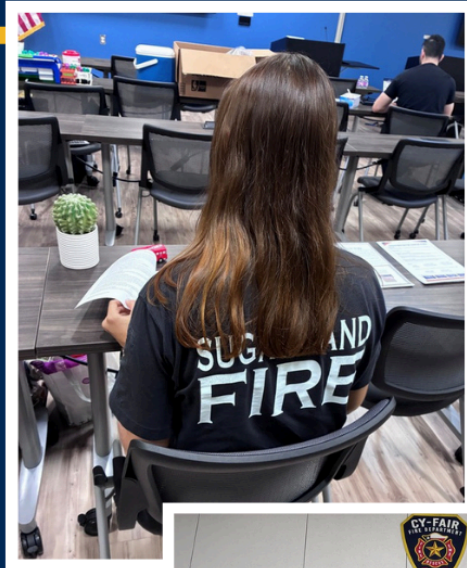
detection within the fire service.

We also recently launched the active-duty baseline sampling campaign for our **carcinogenic exposure assessment** project with Houston Fire Department (HFD) Stations 8, 26, and 46. Our field research team is following participating firefighters during emergency fire responses to measure occupational exposures and collect biological samples that will help us better understand how these exposures may affect the body over time.

We completed our first post-fire suppression follow-up sampling with firefighters from HFD Station 46, marking the successful launch of this component of the study.

We are grateful to HFD and the firefighters who have volunteered to participate. Your partnership, collaboration, and commitment are making this important work possible.

Baseline Sampling in Sugar Land & Cy-Fair | Follow-up Sampling with Houston Retirees



Houston Fire Department Field Sampling District Station 8 & 46



Texas Firefighter Occupational Cancer Epidemiology

We continue to make progress in expanding the data available for the Texas Firefighter Cohort Cancer Study. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) team recently met with representatives from the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA) to discuss the possibility of using SFFMA data in the study. DSHS is assessing how these records could be linked with Texas Cancer Registry data. The proposed linkage will be included in the DSHS IRB protocol currently under development.

Texas Firefighter Cancer Screening Promotion

Our team continues to make strong progress on the firefighter cancer screening project and is actively conducting interviews with firefighters across the Houston area. If you see our team during a visit to your station, please connect with us about participating in an in-person interview.

You can also sign up here:

<https://redcap.sph.uth.edu/surveys/?s=YKDRXATYMHEFWDLY> or by scanning the QR code below. Interview scheduling closes at the end of July, so be sure to reserve your spot soon.

SCAN TO SIGN UP



In parallel, we have begun analyzing interview transcripts to identify key themes that will inform the development of a tailored cancer screening intervention for firefighters. We also recently submitted an abstract on this work to the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, which will be held in San Antonio this November.

International Agency for Research on Cancer

Dr. Jooyeon Hwang, Principal Investigator of TFCS, presented at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Conference in Lyon, France. Her presentation, *Texas Firefighter Cancer Study: Carcinogenic Exposure Assessment*, highlighted how the study measures firefighters' exposure to cancer-causing agents in fire smoke and estimates cumulative exposure across their career and the diverse fire environments found throughout Texas.

Presenting this work at IARC—the World Health Organization agency that classified firefighting as a Group 1 human carcinogen in 2022—underscores the study's contribution to advancing the science of firefighter cancer risk and improving protections for the fire service.



Annual Physicals Safety Corner

Firefighters face occupational health risks unlike those in most professions. Repeated exposure carcinogens, extreme heat, and intense physical demands increases the risk for certain cancers and other diseases. Because many of these conditions develop without early symptoms, annual physicals can detect warning signs when treatment is often most effective.

Comprehensive annual physicals, such as those recommended by the **NFPA 1582**, play a key role in protecting firefighter health. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) strongly supports these occupational medical evaluations throughout firefighters' careers. Annual exams are prioritized because they:

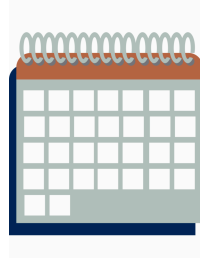


Support early cancer detection.



Protect your heart.

Regular screenings can detect changes in individuals' health that may improve the likelihood of finding cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage.



Track changes over time.

Annual exams establish a personal health baseline, making it easier to recognize changes in your health from year to year.

Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of firefighter on-duty deaths. Annual exams can detect high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and other cardiovascular concerns early.



Support your overall well-being.

Physicals also provide an opportunity to discuss sleep, stress, mental health, and other concerns that are important to your long-term health.

Texas Firefighter Cancer Study Research Symposium

Mark your calendar for the **Texas Firefighter Cancer Study's Research Symposium** on **Thursday, October 8, 2026** from **10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at the new School of Public Health building located at 1930 Old Spanish Trail.

The symposium will highlight current research findings from the TFCS study, showcasing contributions from faculty, staff, and students. The event will also provide an opportunity to discuss strategies for protecting firefighter health, with a focus on cancer prevention, mental health, and cardiovascular health. Speakers will include firefighters and fire service leaders, faculty, researchers, students, and state legislators.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP using the button below.

Texas Firefighter Cancer Study

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

October 8, 2026

10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**UTHealth Houston
School of Public Health**

1930 Old Spanish Trail
Houston, TX 77054

go.uth.edu/firefightersymposium



10/08/2026



Coming Up

Visit 2: Six-Month Follow-Up Visit (F01) Sampling

Our research team is preparing for the first **six-month follow-up visit (F01)** for participants who have completed their baseline sampling.

San Antonio, TX**July 16 & 17, 2026**

Fire Training Academy
300 S Callaghan Rd.
San Antonio, TX 782271

Dallas, TX**August 24 & 25, 2026**

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

Fort Worth, TX**August 27 & 28, 2026**

Bob Bolen Public Safety
Complex Administration
505 W Felix St.
Fort Worth, TX 76115

Brownsville, TX**September 2 & 3, 2026**

DHR Health Specialty Clinic
4750 Frontage Rd,
Brownsville, TX 78526

Houston, TX (*Retirees seen on 2/21*)**September 8-11, 2026**

NEW UTHealth Houston –
School of Public Health
1930 Old Spanish Trail,
Houston, TX 77054

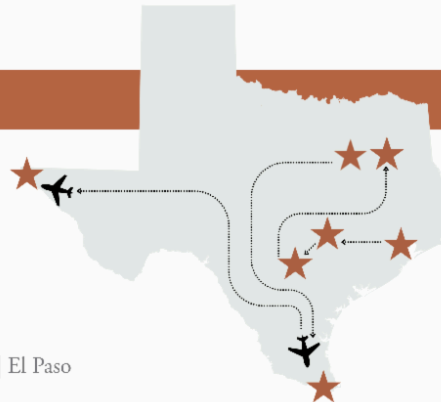
El Paso, TX**September 22 & 23, 2026**

El Paso Fire Department
Wellness Center
9565 Diana Dr.
El Paso, TX 79924

Texas Firefighter Cancer Study Team Travel Path

 **UTHealth Houston**
School of Public Health

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



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



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

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