

## Texas Firefighter Cancer Study

May | 2026

### Announcements

#### May is Mental Health Awareness Month



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to recognize the unique pressures firefighters carry both on and off the job. A cancer diagnosis can have a significant impact on mental health, often bringing stress, anxiety, fear, and uncertainty for firefighters and their families. Access to peer support, counseling, and mental health services can play an important role in coping, treatment, and recovery.

This month's newsletter highlights trusted resources from organizations including the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, International Association of Fire Fighters, and American Cancer Society that support firefighters navigating cancer and mental health challenges.

[Firefighter Cancer Support Network](#)

The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) provides firefighters and their families with post-diagnosis support, education, and peer mentorship from fire service members who have experienced cancer. FCSN offers practical resources to help firefighters stay organized during treatment, communicate with medical providers and loved ones, and navigate recovery. Their peer support model helps reduce isolation and provides emotional support to firefighters throughout diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

### **International Association of Fire Fighters**

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) provides firefighters and their families with cancer-related education, prevention guidance, diagnosis and treatment information, and peer support resources. They emphasize the importance of mental health as part of firefighters' cancer care plans, encouraging members to seek support through peer support teams, Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), and mental health professionals.

Resources available through IAFF include coping and distress screening tools, guidance on adjusting to life with cancer, and information for firefighters supporting colleagues in need. IAFF also offers crisis resources, including the Firefighter & Family Crisis and Support Line at (844) 525-FIRE (3473).

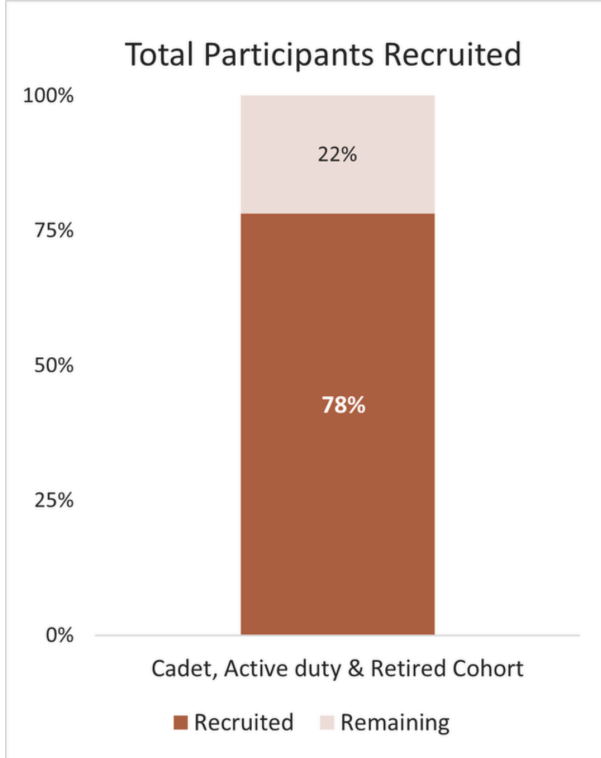
### **American Cancer Society**

The American Cancer Society (ACS) offers comprehensive cancer education, patient support services, and survivorship resources for individuals and families affected by cancer. Through its partnership with IAFF, ACS provides firefighters with information on cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, coping, and survivorship.

The IAFF-ACS collaboration also includes a dedicated 24/7 helpline for IAFF members at (877) 901-7848, offering guidance, support, and answers to cancer-related questions.

## **Recruitment Progress Update**

In late May, we will continue baseline sampling across the Greater Houston area. We will be partnering with the Baytown, Woodlands, Fulshear-Simonton, Pearland, Sugar Land, and Cy-Fair Fire Departments and their local associations.



**Baytown, TX**

**May 29, 2026 & June 1, 2026**

Baytown Fire Training Field  
7022 Bayway Drive,  
Baytown, Texas 77520

**The Woodlands, TX**

**June 5, 2026**

The Woodlands Emergency  
Training Center  
16135 Interstate 45 S.  
Conroe, TX 77385

**Fulshear, TX**

**June 8, 2026**

Fulshear Simonton Fire  
Department Station 1  
33301 FM 1093,  
Fulshear, Texas 77441

**Pearland, TX**

**June 9 & 11, 2026**

City of Pearland David L.  
Smith Fire Administration  
Building  
2703 Veterans Dr,  
Pearland, TX 77584

**Sugar Land, TX**

**June 15, 2026**

Sugar Land Public Safety  
Training Facility  
20 Circle Drive  
Sugar Land, Texas 77489

**Cy-Fair**

**June 16 & 17, 2026**

Cy-Fair Fire Department  
Administration Office  
10710 Telge Rd,  
Houston, TX 77095

## Texas Firefighter Occupational Cancer Epidemiology

We are currently awaiting Texas DSHS IRB approval for the Texas firefighter cancer registry linkage study. In the meantime, we recently met with our DSHS counterparts to begin strategizing future analytic pipelines for linking Texas Commission on Fire Protection firefighter records with Texas Cancer Registry data. This preparatory work will help position the team to examine cancer incidence patterns among Texas firefighters once approvals and data access processes are complete.

## Texas Firefighter Cancer Screening Promotion

In recent weeks, our team has been working with the Houston Fire Department to finalize materials for this effort. We are pleased to share that the scheduling form for the focus group discussions is now live.

To enroll, scan the QR code or sign up here: <https://redcap.sph.uth.edu/surveys/?s=YKDRXATYMHEFWDLY>



## Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

The TFCS Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reported strong recruitment progress, with approximately 550 firefighters enrolled and discussions underway about expanding the IRB-approved target beyond 700 participants due to strong interest. Other updates included the ongoing development of personal air samplers, advancement of the cancer registry linkage and cancer screening promotion studies, and continued outreach efforts. The SAB emphasized the importance of IRB compliance, stronger data tracking through dashboards, strategic planning for future funding opportunities, and development of publications that position TFCS as a scalable national model. Additional discussions focused on staffing and visa-related hiring challenges, lab relocation efforts for the new UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, and preparation for upcoming milestones, including the TFCS Research Symposium scheduled for October 8, 2026.



TFCS Research Symposium  
**NEW** UTHealth Houston School of Public Health  
1930 Old Spanish Trail,  
Houston, TX 77054

## Coming Up

### Visit 2: Post Exposure Sampling

Our research team is looking forward to another round of post exposure sampling with cadets after their live fire suppression training at HFD's Val Jahnke Training Facility. This will be the first of two follow-up visits.

**Houston, TX** (Cadets)  
**May 26 & 28, 2026**  
Val Jahnke Training Facility

## 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.

**Houston, TX** (*Retirees seen on 1/28*)

**July 6, 8 & 10, 2026**  
UTHealth Houston – School of Public Health  
1200 Pressler St.,  
Houston, TX 77030

**Houston, TX** (*Retirees seen on 1/28*)

**July 7 & 9, 2026**  
Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association  
1907 Freeman St.,  
Houston, TX 77009

**Austin, TX**

**July 13 & 14, 2026**  
Austin Public Safety Wellness Center  
517 S. Pleasant Valley Rd.  
Austin, TX 78741

**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](mailto:TFCS@uth.tmc.edu)



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

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