

UTHealth® Houston

School of Public Health

Texas Firefighter Cancer Study

October | 2026

Announcements

A Note of Thanks



Thank You for Making the Inaugural Texas Firefighter Cancer Study Research Symposium a Success!

On behalf of the Texas Firefighter Cancer Study (TFCS) team, thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of our inaugural TFCS Research Symposium. We were honored to bring together state, local and fire service leaders, firefighters, researchers, healthcare professionals, and community partners for a day of learning, collaboration, and a shared commitment to advancing firefighter health.

We hope you found the presentations, posters, and personal testimonials both informative and inspiring. We also hope you left with new insights into our ongoing efforts to better understand cancer risks in the fire service and strengthen strategies for prevention and early detection.

Please save the date for next year's TFCS Research Symposium on **Thursday, September 30, 2027**.

We invite you to read the university [news release](#) and look forward to sharing a photo album from the event in the coming weeks.

Recruitment Updates

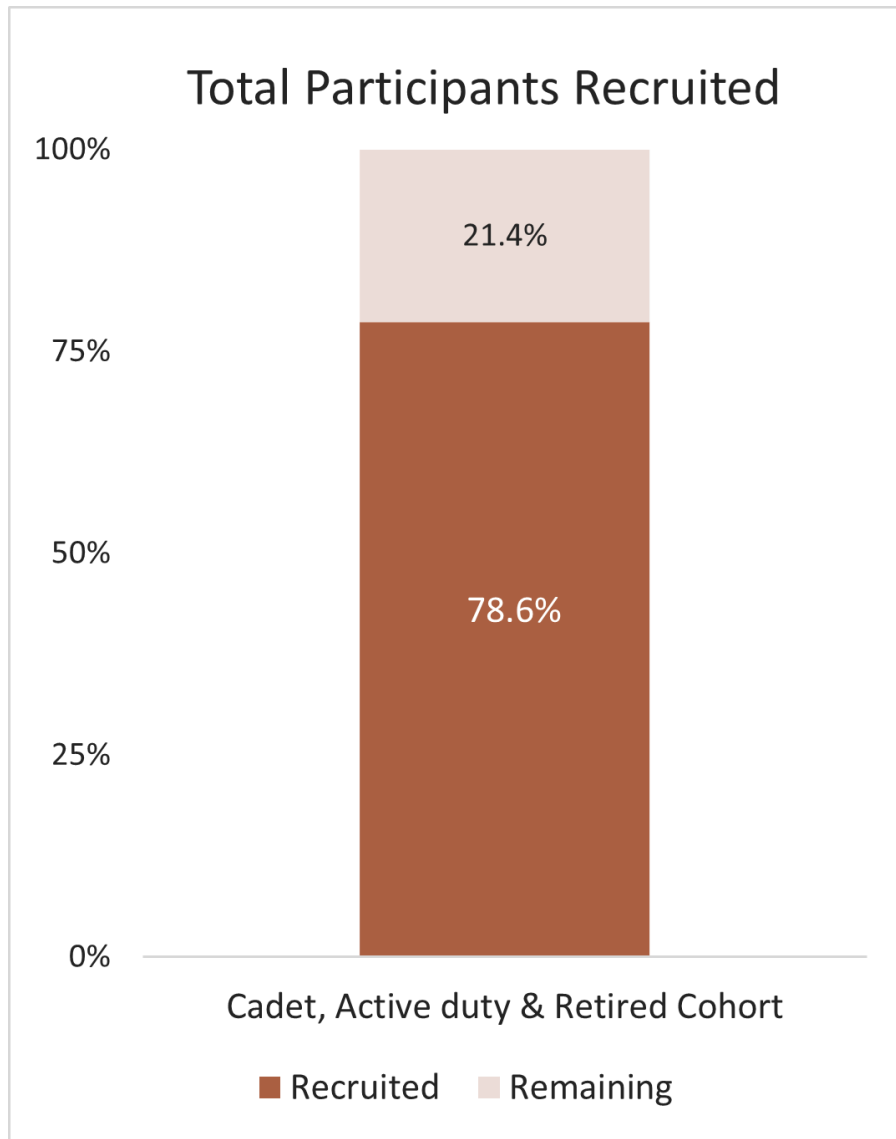
786 participants and growing! The Texas Firefighter Cancer Study has reached 78.6% of its goal of enrolling 1,000 participants.

We anticipate continued growth with the enrollment of additional participants in the **Houston Fire Department active-duty sub-cohort**.

We've also achieved **79% overall retention** across our sub-cohorts—a truly remarkable accomplishment that would not have been possible without the support and commitment of our stakeholders!

While recruitment remains an important focus, participant retention is equally critical to the success of the study. Returning for scheduled follow-up visits allows researchers to better understand how occupational exposures and health outcomes change over time and is essential to generating meaningful findings.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has placed their trust in this research and helped us reach this important milestone. Every participant enrolled and every follow-up visit completed brings us one step closer to enhancing our understanding of cancer risks in the fire service and improving prevention and early detection efforts.



Follow-Up Visits: Thank you to Our Participants and Partners!

We have begun our second follow-up (F02) visits with the Houston Fire Department (HFD) New Hire participants in the Cadet sub-cohort. Thank you to all of the HFD New Hire participants who have returned for their third study visit. Your participation will help inform efforts to protect both current and future generations of firefighters.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the HFD Emergency Services Division, Chief Michael Marino, Chief Christine T. Langas, Sr. Captain Tim White, and the paramedics who continue to support this study. Your partnership and commitment are instrumental in making this research possible.



Participants: If you were unable to attend your scheduled visit, please email us so we can coordinate a follow-up visit.

HFD New Hires Reach Their Third Study Visit Milestone



We also closed out September by completing the first round of TFCS follow-up sampling visits, with our final stop taking place in El Paso. Thanks to the dedication of our participants, we achieved an impressive **75% retention rate**, reflecting the strong commitment firefighters across Texas have shown to advancing this important research.

We are especially grateful to the El Paso Wellness Center and our local stakeholders for once again welcoming our team. Your partnership, hospitality, and commitment to firefighter health make this research possible. Thank you for helping us move the study forward and strengthen our understanding of firefighter cancer risk across Texas.

El Paso Follow-Up Sampling



Texas Firefighter Occupational Cancer Epidemiology

At the TFCS Research Symposium, **Juan Aguilera, PhD** shared updates on **Project 2: Texas Firefighter Occupational Cancer Epidemiology**, highlighting key accomplishments from the project's first year and outlining the anticipated outcomes of the cancer registry linkage study.

Year 1 Progress & Accomplishments:

During the first year of the project, the study design was completed and the research protocol received approval from the UTHealth Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) roster was secured through collaboration with the Texas Cancer Registry and a partnership with the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA) was established. The research team also prepared and submitted the confidential data request and linkage materials to the Texas Department of State Health Services Internal Review Board. The project's analytic framework, variable dictionary, and Texas Cancer Registry data dictionary have also been developed and mapped to support future analyses.

Project Status & Anticipated Outputs:

The project has completed a scoping review that identified 23 studies and mapped 15 evidence areas related to firefighter cancer research. Because the cancer registry linkage is still in progress, case-level TFCS cancer incidence results are not yet available. However, preliminary assessments indicate that the cohort is sufficiently large to evaluate overall and many site-specific cancer incidence outcomes among Texas firefighters compared with the general Texas population following data linkage.

Additional analyses will examine differences between career and volunteer or part-time firefighters, explore relationships between occupational exposures and cancer risk, estimate latency periods between firefighting service and cancer diagnosis, and identify

high-risk cancers and firefighter subgroups that may benefit from targeted surveillance and prevention efforts.

Texas Firefighter Cancer Screening Promotion

At the TFCS Research Symposium, **Derek W. Craig, PhD** shared updates on **Project 3: Cancer Screening Promotion**, highlighting key accomplishments from the project's first year and providing an overview of preliminary findings.

Year 1 Progress & Accomplishments:

The project achieved several important milestones during its first year. Following study approval, the research team developed study protocols, an interview guide, and survey instruments and completed 15 interviews with more than 40 firefighters. Qualitative analysis of the interview data is currently underway. The team has also submitted multiple conference abstracts and submitted an American Cancer Society grant proposal in June 2026 to further advance this work.

Preliminary Findings:

Key Determinants of Cancer Screening

Preliminary findings identified several factors that may influence firefighters' participation in cancer screening. These include limited awareness of screening guidelines, concerns about potential screening outcomes, and challenges related to accessibility, such as scheduling and access to services. Together, these factors may affect screening uptake and highlight opportunities to improve awareness and access.

The Role of Leadership and Occupational Culture

Preliminary findings suggest that cancer prevention practices are influenced by both leadership and workplace culture within the fire service. Participants emphasized the importance of leadership support, encouragement, and accountability in promoting cancer screening participation. Findings also point to the impact of occupational norms and cultural expectations, which can shape attitudes toward health, safety, and preventive care.

Data analysis is ongoing, and findings remain preliminary.

Coordinating Center for Clinical Trials

The **Coordinating Center for Clinical Trials (CCCT)** Data Integrity Support Team has been an invaluable behind-the-scenes partner in the Texas Firefighter Cancer Study. Because our research relies on the data collected from participating firefighters, ensuring data quality, accuracy, and integrity is essential. The CCCT team developed the electronic data capture system that our team utilizes and works closely with our investigators to streamline data collection, implement quality assurance and control procedures, support data management, and provide statistical analyses for reliable and meaningful research findings.

Be sure to explore the **TFCS Dashboard** on our website. Created by graduate research assistants using data provided through the efforts of the CCCT Data Integrity Support Team, the dashboard offers an interactive view of study enrollment and highlights our growing impact.

Research

[Explore the findings](#)

To explore our team's previous research, please visit [TFCS Research Activities](#).

Coming Up

Upcoming One-Year Follow-Up Visits (F02)

In the coming months, the Texas Firefighter Cancer Study (TFCS) research team will begin scheduling one-year follow-up visits (F02) for participants in our non-Houston cohorts.

Additional details, including visit dates and travel information, will be shared as plans are finalized. Please stay tuned for updates.

We greatly appreciate your continued participation and look forward to connecting with you again soon.



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](#)

UTHealth Houston Texas Firefighter Cancer Study | 1930 Old Spanish Trail | Houston, TX 77054 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!