



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JACKIE BRAY
Commissioner

JAMES B. CABLE
State Fire Administrator

10/11/23

Fire Service Partners,

The Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefit Law (NYS General Municipal Law 205-cc) provides benefits for eligible firefighters diagnosed with cancer and includes reporting requirements for fire departments.

Information about the law, eligibility requirements, the benefits provided, and the reporting requirements is available here: <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/volunteer-firefighter-enhanced-cancer-disability-benefit-program>. The link also provides access to cancer awareness and prevention information for the fire service to raise awareness and reduce the cancer risks firefighters are exposed to.

To assure all eligible firefighters are aware of the Law and the benefits provided, I encourage all fire departments to review this information with their members. Please ensure that your members know if they have coverage and who they should notify in the event of a diagnosis. There have been many situations where fire departments had the required coverage, but the firefighters were unaware it was available.

I encourage fire departments to undertake concerted efforts to implement cancer awareness and risk reduction programs. The Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) is working to provide fire departments in New York State with a free firefighter decontamination kit for each of their stations. These decontamination kits are available upon completion of OFPC's Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention program.

There have been changes to the Law to help fire departments provide coverage to firefighters who entered service prior to January 2020. These changes allow firefighters to meet eligibility requirements by allowing alternative documentation of eligibility requirements including five years of interior firefighter status and that the required physical examination has occurred.

For firefighters who entered service after January 2020, the original eligibility requirements apply:

1. the volunteer firefighter was an active volunteer firefighter as of January 1, 2019;
2. the volunteer firefighter has 5 or more years of service as interior firefighter;
3. the volunteer firefighter has successfully completed a physical examination, prior to the commencement of duties as an interior firefighter, which failed to reveal any evidence of cancer; and,
4. the volunteer firefighter has passed 5 yearly fit tests.

The following reports are due from fire districts, departments, or companies by the dates indicated. All forms can be emailed to vfecdb@dhses.ny.gov or mailed to 1220 Washington Avenue, Building 7A, Floor 2, Albany, NY 12226 Attn: Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefit Law

Due by December 1, Fire District, Department or Company Annual Claims Report EOSB - 210.8 C. Your insurance company can provide a report that includes this information.

Due By December 1, Annual Roster of Interior Firefighters EOSB - 210.8 R. This should include the list of a department's interior firefighters from 2022.

Due by January 1, Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program Attestation / Proof of Benefits EOSB - 210.5, along with a copy of the cover sheet of the insurance policy

Certification of Eligibility (ESOB 210.4) Due upon a diagnosis of cancer of an eligible firefighter. **Certification of Eligibility is to be sent to the coverage provider (AHJ or Insurance Company) NOT OFPC.**

Please feel free to contact Fire Protection Specialist Timothy Graves at timothy.graves@dhses.ny.gov or (518) 292-2235 with any questions regarding the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefit Law, additional information and resources about Firefighter Cancer, and the availability of Cancer Awareness and Firefighter Health and Wellness presentations from OFPC.



James B. Cable
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