Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control
Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Benefits Claims Report
January 1, 2024-December 1, 2024

This Claims Report for the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Benefits Program is presented to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee pursuant to General Municipal Law section 205-CC.

The law requires all volunteer fire departments in New York State to file with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), on an annual basis, the number of volunteer firefighter cancer disability claims made, and the number of cancer disability claims paid within the reporting calendar year. In addition, the regulations require volunteer fire departments to report the types of cancers and the type of benefit claimed.

As communities across New York are aware, volunteer firefighters are one of the State's most valuable assets. Numerous studies have shown that firefighters are at a higher risk of developing cancer from their firefighting activities than the general population. Volunteer firefighters selflessly serve their communities with the knowledge that such service increases their risk of being diagnosed with cancer. The Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program provides financial support for those volunteer firefighters diagnosed with certain types of cancers as identified in the law.

OFPC is taking proactive steps to educate firefighters on cancer risks and ways they can reduce their exposure to carcinogens. OFPC is promoting cancer awareness education and post-fire decontamination techniques in the State Fire Training Program to raise awareness and reduce the risk of exposure to carcinogens to firefighters, their co-workers, and their families.

The following represents the claims data reported by volunteer fire departments from January 1, 2024 to December 1, 2024. Please note that the number of claims may differ from the number of claims paid as a determination on a claim may not be made within the calendar year submitted. The information below was current as of December 17, 2024.

Total number of cancer disability claims made: **150**

Total number of cancer disability claims paid: **139**

Types of claims

Lump Sum $25,000	**42**
Lump Sum $6,250	**80**
Monthly Benefit	**43**
Death Benefit ($50,000.00)	**19**
Volunteer firefighters who received benefits	**141**

Types of claims

Prostate cancer	**32**
Breast cancer claim	**4**
Lymphatic Cancer	**7**
Hematological cancer	**4**
Digestive cancer	**14**
Urinary cancer	**5**
Neurological cancer	**0**
Reproductive Systems Cancer	**4**
Melanoma	**12**
Unspecified	**38**
Total	**120**