NEW YORK STATE
Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Office of Fire Prevention and Control

KATHY HOCHUL
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Commissioner

JAMES B. CABLE
State Fire Administrator

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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 risks firefighters are exposed to.

To ensure 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 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.

Attention: Annual reporting for this program will soon be changed to ensure all parties are receiving the best possible data on cancer diagnoses and claims submitted and paid. The deadline for submissions is expected to be changed to March 15th, the report will now account for a full calendar year, January 1 – December 31.

In addition to the date change, we have improved the ways you report. Historically, we had three forms; to reduce duplicative efforts, we have created one online form that combines all three. There will still be an option for those who don't feel comfortable

completing the online form. Please note the old forms will no longer be used, new forms will be available on the website. And as seen above, we have also aligned the due date to a single date instead of two different dates.

Training on the new process will begin shortly, and I look forward to the success of this new process.

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.

Regards,

James B. Cable
State Fire Administrator