



BRITISH COLUMBIA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with the International Association of Fire fighters, A.F.L.—C.I.O.

Canadian Labour Congress

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October 10, 2007

All British Columbia Physicians

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: FIRE FIGHTER CANCERS

This letter is to assist you as the attending physician of a fire fighter in British Columbia, to possess knowledge of the particular aspects of the occupational connection associated with fire fighting and certain cancers.

The British Columbia Government in 2005 passed the Worker's Compensation Amendment Act 2005, dealing with occupational cancers and fire fighters in British Columbia. In this act, the government recognized the researched scientific evidence and the connection between the occupation of fire fighting and certain cancers. These cancers that are recognized in this act are:

- Primary leukemia
- Primary non-Hodgkins lymphoma
- Primary bladder
- Primary brain
- Primary colorectal
- Primary kidney
- Primary ureter

These cancers are listed in the Workers Compensation Act, Fire Fighters' Occupational Disease Regulation along with the corresponding minimum cumulative periods for each cancer. These cancers are now "Presumed" to be linked to the occupation of fire fighting and so have a special legal and scientific standing in British Columbia recognized in the legislation mentioned.

This legal recognition of the connection of fire fighting and certain cancers also has effect in the aspect of medical coverage. Tests dealing with fire fighters that help identify these cancers are part of the areas of special consideration.

Worksafe BC (WCB) is the organization that is responsible for the administration of these recognized presumptive cancers.

If you require any further help with this topic please go to our website of www.bcpffa.org or contact our office at 604 436-2053.

Yours Sincerely,

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Al Leier
President

Al Leier
President

Harold Heyming
Secretary-Treasurer