FIRESCOPE
CANCER PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE
San Diego, CA Meeting
November 7, 2022 10:00AM

Cancer Prevention Subcommittee November 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:
-Derek Urwin (LACoFD / Chairperson
- Jeff Hughes (CPF / Vice-Chair)
- Derek Biering (OCFA)
-Scott Quinn (LAFD)
-Kyle O'Neil (San Diego FD)
-Katelyn Mark (Cal Fire / Secretary)
-Jason Serrano (BDC / TF Liaison)
-Justin Moore (LAFD / TF Liaison)

Members not in Attendance:
-Hector Garcia (Ventura County FD)
-John Danciart (Sacramento City FD)
-Bryan Burns (Rancho Cucamonga FD)

Call to Order: 1015

Welcome, Introductions, and Logistics:
Introductions: New Members

- Welcome Justin Moore, LA City Fire Department.
- Moore will primarily be the Task Force liaison to the Incident Safety Subcommittee and secondary liaison to the Cancer Prevention Subcommittee
- Moore will be taking Chief Zipperman's place on the FIRESCOPE Task Force

Positivity:

- O'Neil shared an email sent from San Diego FD Battalion Chief on the leadership from an Engineer displaying a positive culture change for decontamination on an incident despite the resistance faced from firefighters.
- Culture change and leadership is essential to bolster cancer awareness and prevention.

Review & Approve Previous Minutes:

- All members approved

Task Force Update:

- Task Force will be meeting November 16th to review all subcommittee's: Charter, Roster, Plan of Work, agency letter of support
- Positive feedback from Task Force on Cancer Prevention Subcommittee Plan of Work
- Chief Gerboth, from San Diego City FD, will be stepping down as Task Force Chair for FIRESCOPE due to recent promotion to Assistant Chief

Updates from Chair & Vice-Chair:

- US Fire Administrators Summit:
    - Derek Urwin (rep IAFF) attended with Dr. Jeff Burgees
    - Covered Firefighting hazards seen across the nation

  - Discussion of cancer in the fire service
  - Key Points: a lack of understanding in the fire service on the actual risk of cancer and exposure from accumulation of events
  - Attention on the national level
- Sarah Jenke: Firehouse Science
  - Resource
  - Potential thoughts on using education style for FIRESCOPE Cancer Prevention

Recap from August 8th Meeting:

- Making sure messaging and education is coming from credible sources and peer reviewed resources
- Prioritize training objectives and consider the accumulation of exposures
- FIRESCOPE can be the platform that informs fire service, workers compensation doctors, physicians, etc.
- FIRESCOPE Platform for Education:
  - Infographics for physicians (both primary and workers comp)
  - Trifold
  - Managing the claim (ties into costs)
  - Firefighter occupation not known by physicians as a Category 1 Carcinogen
  - Work with California Comprehensive Cancer Centers
  - Epidemiological and mechanistic changes
  - Association of DNA and mRNA changes
- Barriers and challenges:
  - Claims difficulty
  - Workers Compensation process
  - Bridging the gap of knowledge between doctors and firefighters
  - Risk Management: goal to reduce liability
  - Priority of the Fire Chief

<u>SmartSheets Update/Resources:</u>

- All members add in resources to “website links and resources” and review at February 6th, 2023 meeting

<u>Whitepaper Review:</u>

- All members contributed to edits to finalize the Whitepaper
- Urwin Action Item: add in citation for showering within the hour example (final sentence in “Recommendations”) and update font to Arial 12
- Action Item: Urwin send final Whitepaper to Serrano

<u>2023 Plan of Work Review:</u>

- Edits and updates were provided to the 2022/2023 POW
- Motion to maintain existing officer positions for 2023; Urwin Chair, Hughes Vice-Chair, K. Mark Secretary: Hughes
  - Second motion: Quinn
  - All approved

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Changes made to update 2023 POW:

- "Coordinate and develop FIRESCOPE Best Practices for cancer prevention"
- Addition: Identify peer reviewed scientific research information with short explanation (May 2023)
- Motion to adopt 2023 POW and move forward with Task Force: Urwin
    - 2nd Motion: Hughes
    - All approved
- Updated POW and updated to Smartsheets
    - Ready for Serrano

<u>Develop Working Groups and Timelines:</u>
Project Management Guidelines:

- Phase 1: Identify the overall theme(s)
- Phase 2: Identify what sourced material will be used to support the theme(s)
- Phase 3: Create an outline from that sourced material
- Phase 4: Build the lesson and material from the outline
    - 4a: Infographics
    - 4b: Videos
    - 4c: Trifolds

POW: Educational Materials

- **Organizational Costs for Cancer:**
    - *Subcommittee Member Assignment: O'Neal, Biering, Quinn*
    - *Project Goal:* Build an employee resource guide and develop a template or framework that can be adopted by departments
        - What happens when a firefighter gets diagnosed?
        - What causes claim denials?
        - Understanding workers compensation (WC) presumptive laws
        - Importance of exposure reporting (guides and recommendations for both agencies and the firefighter)
- Organizational Costs for Cancer: Discussion Notes
    - Consider including education on administrative aspect for diagnosis/treatment
    - Challenges discussed:
        - WC Denials
            - Two levels: administrative and lack of presumptive cause
                - CPF currently working to help with this to change timeline (Hughes for more information)
                - Administrative Denials: with illness, want to develop the record
                - Cause of employment or act of employment
            - Need to understand WC presumptive laws
                - What contributes to lack of presumptive cause?
            - Getting WC to understand: if fighting claims consider the additional costs for the agency/city and the distress on the employee
        - Complete PERS/NFIRS/exposure reporting regularly

        - General guidelines for agencies to adopt to make exposure reporting mandatory
        - Consistent reporting builds your case (medical physicals and wellness screenings also important for individual health tracking)
        - Suggestion to make certain fields mandatory in incident reporting
        - Thought: place in incident reporting for live fire training
        - Non-incident exposure reporting: diesel exhaust, training, sleep disruption
    - Bring together the science that states the cancers associated with firefighting (beneficial for physicians and worker compensation physicians as well)
    - FIRESCOPE Goal: Create the education of steps the firefighter can take both for prevention and steps to treatment
    - Resource from SD City FD: FAQ "what happens when you get diagnosed with Cancer?"
- **Cancer Biology:**
    - *Subcommittee Member Assignment: Urwin, K. Mark*
    - *Project Goal:* Develop digestible education describing cancer cell biology with the goal to motivate firefighters the importance of consistent exposure mitigation.
- Cancer Biology Discussion Notes:
    - Multi-detection Cancer blood tests
        - Galleri
    - Observing DNA methylation
    - Unit Kingdom Study: "the pathfinder study" – potential clinical application on what is to come with the Galleri
    - Educational material:
        - Cancer promoting genetic and epigenetic changes
            - RTG Meeting (Urwin and Burgees)
            - Already a PowerPoint created that was easy to follow
            - Speaking to a firefighter as a firefighter makes a big difference; keep this in mind for educational development
            - Video example: Oncogentics – Mechanism of Cancer (get video link from Urwin)
        - Key points that we can simplify or mimic (note: toxicity not included in video example)
            - Cell cycle: normal vs abnormal
            - What is cancer? what happens to the cells? Uncontrolled cell growth
                - Dr. Burgess research from 2 years on Oncogenes and Tumor Suppressors
                - Use of bar graph with demo of cell proliferation; oncogenes and tumor suppressors
            - DNA Malfunction/Damage (Genetic changes vs epigenetic changes)
            - Toxicity – drops in the bucket (normal cells, addition of "drops" PAH's into the cell)
            - Idea: Infographic shown by Kyle (upload into SmartSheets)
            - Idea: Video shown by Burgees from OCFA
                - pair something like this with fire video/images

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- **NIOSH Hierarchy of Controls:**
  - *Subcommittee Member Assignment: All Members*
  - *Project Goal:* Understand what the administrative control; how can we change the way people work to reduce exposure risk?
- NIOSH Hierarchy of Controls Discussion Notes:
  - Divided into 5 areas
  - Examples and theme of each tier in the Hierarchy
  - Web source
  - Video Source
  - Manual (or poster)
  - Action Items:
    - K.Mark create folders for 5 tiers in SmartSheets
    - All team members add ideas into folders
    - O'Neil add in examples mentioned in meeting
- Remaining POW projects to complete:
  - FIRESCOPE Website:
  - Best Practices for Cancer Prevention
  - Guidance Doc for those Diagnosed

<u>Roundtable:</u>

- Serrano will update header to Charter
- Please submit Letters of Support and upload on SmartSheets
- Continue to stay engaged: what is missing in the state to drive culture change in cancer prevention and awareness that will protect our firefighters.
- Discussion for Future Considerations:
  - Provide something for the families
  - Retiree support
  - Working with Behavioral Health; important during the cancer process
  - A plan or guide when returning to work after diagnosis/treatment
- Resource: University of Miami Cancer Education and Survivorship Curriculum https://fci.brightoutcome.com/#/
  - 1 to build survivorship and 2nd group to vet
- Support mechanism is extremely important during cancer survivorship
  - Psychological support also needs to occur
- Consideration: need SME's from Northern California FIRESCOPE participants
  - No representation from San Francisco
  - No representation from Santa Clara County
  - No representation from El Dorado Hills
  - Serrano will reach out to these Task Force members
- Reminder on approach to subcommittee work: make the information out there more digestible for our firefighting population

<u>Meeting Adjourned at 1400</u>