



# IPSDI

International Public Safety Data Institute

## Firefighters Better Able to Track On-The-Job Exposures to Deadly Carcinogens and Behavioral Health Impacts

**For Immediate Release**  
**Tuesday June 4, 2019**

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### *New mobile app gathers valuable physical and behavioral health data to help firefighters battle occupational disease*

Chantilly, VA. Firefighters and Paramedics on the frontlines protecting their communities now have a valuable tool for recording and providing evidence of work-related exposures to help protect them against deadly cancers and other occupational hazards in the fire service.

The new National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS) Exposure Tracker is now available as a mobile app for firefighters, paramedics and officers so that they can create a personal diary for logging both physical and mental exposures and incident details in a private, encrypted and secure online environment.

“NFORS is a personal database providing a detailed history of your work and exposures in a private, secure online environment, all available on a mobile device. The NFORS Exposure App becomes a firefighter career diary to ensure evidence of career exposures, should physical or behavioral health issues arise long-term or even in retirement,” Says Otto Drozd, President, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs

The NFORS Fire Fighter Exposure Tracker was developed through a collaborative partnership with the IAFF, the International Associations of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, UL, NIST, Urban Institute, and other fire service experts. The queries in the App were designed by firefighter cancer experts including representatives from CDC, NIOSH, University of Arizona, University of Miami, and the IAFF. The App’s behavioral health module was designed by IAFF experts and includes portions of a validated instrument for PTS symptomology. The NFORS Exposure Tracker is funded by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters grant program and the Ramsey Social Justice Foundation.

“The information gathered in the NFORS Exposure Tracker will provide essential data to help researchers better understand toxic exposures on the fire scene and develop new treatments and prevention protocols for occupational diseases, including cancer – now the leading cause of death among firefighters,” says Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, President and CEO of IPSDI.

As more governments enact legislation providing workers’ compensation coverage for firefighters who contract cancer or develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the NFORS Exposure Tracker record provides detailed data on personal work-related exposures, which can be accessed anytime, even in retirement.

The IPSDI is working with its partners to assure that firefighters using the NFORS Exposure Tracker can also easily register to be part of the National Firefighter Cancer Registry and other major fire fighter cancer studies by opting-in to share exposure data with researchers.

Firefighters can download the NFORS Exposure Tracker App free from app stores and complete an individual profile.



The profile and data entered is encrypted and secure. Fire departments will not have access to your data. Fire departments participating in the NFORS Analytics (CAD Module) will receive periodic deidentified aggregate reports about overall exposure trends — not individual reports.

Firefighters, paramedics and officers should encourage their fire departments to participate in this nationwide program to ensure that information about on-the-job exposures is readily available.

For Fire Departments linked to NFORS CAD Analytics, the data entry process is even more streamlined. These departments receive an Incident Access Code (IAC) that can be passed to field personnel. By entering the IAC into the app, firefighters' incident data will automatically load directly into their personal exposure record without additional data entry.

NFORS CAD Analytics Module was created by fire service research partners, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Public Safety Data Institute, Underwriters Laboratory (UL), the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Urban Institute, the University of Texas at Austin and the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

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