



# Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 ♦ 3:15pm ♦ Miami, Florida

## Overview

The Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance met on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 in conjunction with the State of the Science National Research Symposium hosted by the University of Miami. The meeting was facilitated by the First Responder Center of Excellence. The following summarizes the reports and activities of the meeting.

## Attendees

<i>Jefferey Burgess, MD, MS, MPH</i>	<i>University of Arizona</i>
<i>Alberto Caban-Martinez, DO, Ph.D., MPH, CPH</i>	<i>University of Miami</i>
<i>Jason Cannon</i>	<i>3M Scott Safety</i>
<i>Sean Carroll</i>	<i>CFSI</i>
<i>Ed Conlin</i>	<i>NFPA</i>
<i>Cindy Ell</i>	<i>Firefighter Cancer Foundation</i>
<i>Rita Fahy, Ph.D</i>	<i>NFPA</i>
<i>Kenny Fent</i>	<i>NIOSH</i>
<i>Dave Finger</i>	<i>NVFC</i>
<i>Bryan Frieders, MPA</i>	<i>FCSN</i>
<i>John Granby</i>	<i>LION</i>
<i>Casey Grant</i>	<i>Fire Protection Research Foundation</i>
<i>Julius Halas</i>	<i>National Association of State Fire Marshals</i>
<i>Gavin Horn, Ph.D.</i>	<i>Illinois Fire Service Institute</i>
<i>Bill Jenaway</i>	<i>VFIS</i>
<i>Ed Mann</i>	<i>Provident</i>
<i>Larry Petrick</i>	<i>IAFF</i>
<i>Tony Sneidar</i>	<i>Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department</i>
<i>Elizabeth Snow</i>	<i>Wichita (KS) Fire Department</i>
<i>John Tippet</i>	<i>NFFF</i>
<i>Nathan Trauernicht</i>	<i>IAFC</i>
<i>Mario Trevino</i>	<i>Retired</i>
<i>Keith Tyson</i>	<i>FCSN</i>



## Welcome and Opening Remarks - Ed Klima

Ed Klima, Managing Director of the First Responder Center for Excellence welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Due to the number of guests attending he provided a brief overview of the Alliance and the timeline since 2014. For more details please see <https://www.firstrespondercenter.org/cancer/fire-service-occupational-cancer-alliance-update/>.

Mr. Klima thanked Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez and the University of Miami for the research symposium as well as hosting the Alliance meeting.

Introduction of committee members followed.

## Alliance Action Plan Updates - Ed Klima

The Steering Committee of the Alliance met in March of 2018 to review and update the national strategy. The complete report from that 2018 meeting can be found at <https://www.firstrespondercenter.org/cancer/fire-service-occupational-cancer-alliance-update/>.

As of March 2018, 16 of the 23 original goals had been completed or were ongoing initiatives with substantial progress. New goals and objectives from the March meeting were generally in one of five main areas. While the complete list can be found in the 2018 report, a number of initiatives have seen progress over the past year and updates were discussed including the following:

### 1. Identify potential steps related to research gaps and funding

- *Hold a Scientific Symposium focused on overall research and identify where redundancies and gaps exist*

The group discussed how the Miami Symposium addressed a number of items from this goal. As some of the funding for the Symposium was from a NIOSH grant there will be a formal report to document the symposium.

Alberto Caban-Martinez stated that the Symposium was all about bringing together as many topics as possible, the primary outcome is a paper, but by no means is it an exhaustive measure but a starting point.

The group discussed that while a great deal has been accomplished, the past few days demonstrate the continued need to disseminate research to practice and make sure the right information is getting to the department level.

Jeff Burgess commented that FEMA is getting the word from some firefighters that the cancer topic has been adequately addressed and it doesn't need any more funding. This group discussed the importance of making sure FEMA is aware of the FSOCA strategy as



well as the importance of updating the state of cancer research during the next NFFF Research Agenda development.

Gavin Horn discussed how there is still a need for quantitative data related to a number of preventive measures or exposure reduction strategies.

The group also discussed methods to reduce duplicated efforts in various grant processes. Bill Jenaway asked whether new research requests could be tied to existing research. Jeff was concerned that this could prevent creative new breakthroughs.

Cindy Ell reminded everyone that we are lucky to have FEMA funding, but it only goes so far, and we also need to look at other funding streams for research.

2. Identify potential steps related to prevention and training efforts, including a discussion of model policies

- *Enhancement of the FRCE's website to include more pictures, information and useful links to serve as a clearinghouse of information to drive users to other sites*

A marketing analysis of cancer in the fire service was completed in early 2018 and noted conflicted messaging and 'market saturation' related to redundant messages. These can turn people away from resources due to confusion over what the correct information actually is. The intent of the FRCE cancer page is to act as a portal for research to practice materials. It is not intended to be the original but rather streamline information gathering and dissemination. This began with the original cancer toolkit and plans are in place to expand later this year.

The group discussed that while it is important to streamline information it is also important to recognize that there are often different solutions to the problems and that what may work for one department may not be possible or work for another.

- *Expand dissemination of information from original Cancer Symposium through regional training opportunities*

Funding was secured through Motorola Solutions foundation and 3M Scott to host six regional seminars based upon the 2017 symposium. These will be held in Nashville, Denver, Atlanta, Connecticut, Oregon and Detroit in 2019.

- *Look to schedule a subsequent Symposium*

There will be a National Behavioral Health Symposium this year in Denver in early September and the goal would be to have a follow up Cancer Symposium in late 2020 so that the two would be held in offsetting years going forward.



- *Development of additional training resources for wildland firefighters*

Initial plans are being formalized to develop an awareness training module for wildland firefighters.

### 3. Identify potential steps to improve or expand presumptive legislation

- Ed Klima discussed several task groups that were formed related to presumption legislation and criteria. The task groups included representatives from IAFF, NVFC, IAFC, FASNY, FCSN, NFFF, FRCE and the insurance industry.

Three separate objectives were identified:

- *Objective 1 – identify/develop key components for effective presumptive legislation*

Ed Klima provided an overview of the task group that has been updating the database. A number of states updated or adapted new legislation in the past six months. The IAFF has been instrumental in these updates. The group is also in the process of developing a document that could assist states develop more effective legislation. Once complete the document will be available to fire service organizations.

- *Objective 2 – develop supporting financial documentation on the impact of presumptive legislation at the state level*

Larry Petrick, IAFF, provided an overview of the task group that looked at supporting documentation related to presumption. Larry discussed the challenges in obtaining such information.

Bill Jenaway, VFIS, discussed conducting a relationship study with several states such as New York and Georgia. He stated that the insurance industry probably has the data of what different types of cancers actually cost but we haven't been able to access. The group discussed how this might be tackled.

Alberto Caban-Martinez mentioned NIOSH's workers comp group that may be of assistance.

After discussion it was recommended that this objective be expanded.

Several committee members expressed thanks to Larry Petrick and the IAFF for all they have done on the presumptive issue.



- *Objective 3 – develop model criteria for honoring firefighters at the National and state level Memorials*

Dave Finger, NVFC, provided an update on the task group that looked at model criteria. The group has proposed that if an individual can meet the criteria for any state, the individual's family can petition the NFFF to add the firefighter to the memorial wall. The group will make a formal recommendation at the NFFF Board meeting in July.

#### 4. Identify potential steps for engaging other organizations as partners

- *Increased support by other organizations and entities is needed to provide more justification for firefighter occupational cancer as eligible for Public Safety Officers' Benefits. Additionally, documents quantifying the actual costs of occupational cancer would support inclusion of cancer in PSOBs. (See comments under item #3)*
- *Encourage NFPA to address contamination control in NFPA standards*

Ed Klima noted that a number of items related to this topic will be covered by Ed Conlin under organizational reports.

#### 5. Identify potential steps to inclusion/recognition of cancer within Line of Duty Death Criteria

- *Create an advisory committee to develop national criteria for inclusion in the National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial (See comments under item #3)*
- *Evaluate criteria being utilized for cancer line of duty deaths at the state level (See comments under item#3)*

### **Alliance Member Organizational Updates**

- **Firefighter Cancer Cohort Study – Dr. Jefferey Burgess**

Dr. Burgess provided an overview and update of the Cohort study. He began by thanking the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for their support and continued funding.

Dr. Burgess provided an overview of key partners in the study including:

- Casey Grant, Executive Director of the NFPA Research Foundation leads the Oversight and Planning Board to provide oversight, foster communication and develop a long-term funding plan



- Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez leads the Data Coordinating Center to create and test harmonized survey data and specimen collection system protocols
- Kenny Fent leads the Exposure Assessment Center to develop and validate a firefighter carcinogen exposure data collection system and carcinogen exposure matrix
- Dr. Jefferey Burgess leads the Biomarker Analysis Center to evaluate the association between cumulative firefighter exposures and cellular effects

Dr. Burgess provided an update on several new and proposed initiatives including women and minority programs, reproductive toxicity and additional work supporting PSOB.

He also pointed out a program of interest from the State of Washington's Department of Labor and Industry related to overall risk management in the fire service.

- **NFPA Updates – Ed Conlin**

Ed Conlin provided an update on NFPA standards related to contamination control. The Standards Council appointed a task group to determine the best way to coordinate contamination reduction practices and standards.

The task group proposed forming a new technical committee to consolidate control provisions in a new document as well as ensure consistency throughout existing documents.

The new technical committee will be known as the Committee on Emergency Responders Occupational Health. As of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, thirty-three applications had been received for the committee from a wide range of people. More information on the committee can be found at [www.NFPA.org\TCSEEK](http://www.NFPA.org\TCSEEK).

He also reported on some other changes at NFPA including how meetings will be held. They will begin holding related committee meetings at one location at the same time to improve collaboration across committees.

## **Action Plan Discussion Items**

### **1. Gear Washing**

There was extensive conversation related to gear washing and why some departments still do not wash their gear. Much of the discussion surrounded messaging that says you must have a gear extractor to wash gear. The group discussed what research currently exists on gear extractors versus front loading washing machines from both a cleaning and gear lifespan perspective.



Ed Mann, Provident, discussed frustration regarding putting out information that the only way you can clean gear is with an extractor. Many departments cannot afford an extractor but can afford a front load washing machine that would be better than not cleaning the gear at all.

## 2. Messaging

Mario Trevino conveyed how the gear washing discussion is a great example of getting the right information out to departments.

The group went on to discuss the need for research-based information that is concise but also allows different solutions for different sizes and types of departments.

Nathan Trauernicht, IAFC, suggested adapting a Consumer Reports approach with good, better, best options. The group also discussed how this may be a good option for social media campaigns.

Jeff Burgess brought up the success Florida has had with its campaign. Julius Halas discussed how some of that success was tied to the support they get at the state level with funding. There was discussion on how to get more states vested in the process.

Nathan Trauernicht reiterated that there is a lot of great information out there, but a clearinghouse is needed to bring it all together. Ed Klima discussed how that was the original intent of the Cancer page on the FRCE website. It is going in the right direction but needs some more work. In addition, the various groups must continue to collaborate and cobrand information as much as possible. Casey Grant, NFPA Foundation discussed deliverables in three key areas: Research to Practice/Internal Advocacy/External Advocacy.

## Next Steps

Meeting minutes will be sent out in the coming weeks and will update the strategy based upon some of the discussion at the meeting. Will plan to have a Steering committee meeting in early 2020. In addition, as noted over the past few days there is crossover with several other occupational health topics and will look to bring together representatives from the five committees some time in 2020 as well.

## Closing

In closing, Ed Klima thanked everyone for their continued participation. He encouraged the group to continue in a collaborative process and solicit participation of younger leaders in national advocacy efforts.

The meeting concluded at 17:00