



San Francisco Firefighters

**CANCER PREVENTION
FOUNDATION**

The San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation strongly supports the Tim Hart Wildland Firefighter Classification and Pay Parity Act (H.R. 5631). This act correctly classifies federal employees who put their lives on the line protecting our nation's wildlands and communities from fire as "wildland firefighters." The act also provides these firefighters with long-overdue protections from the health risks they face on the job.

Cancer is now the leading cause of job-related death for America's firefighters. Wildland firefighters are not immune to this disease. In fact, their exposure to toxic materials burning in today's wildland-urban interface fires combined with their lower levels of personal protective equipment and breathing protection often put them at higher risk for carcinogenic exposures than their brothers and sisters working in urban departments.

The San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation sponsored two groundbreaking exposure studies of firefighters who responded to the Northern California wildfires in 2017 and the devastating Camp fire in 2018. Both studies revealed that these firefighters carried high levels of toxic heavy metals and PFAS and PFOA chemicals in their bodies after the fires. All of these substances are recognized carcinogens.

Tim's Act establishes a rebuttable presumption for cancer for federal wildland firefighters. This presumption mirrors similar protections enjoyed by urban and state-employed wildland firefighters across the country. It is long overdue for federal wildland firefighters and deserves bipartisan support in Congress.

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