

Hendricks County Professional Firefighters of Local 4406 Education

Indiana's Presumptive Illness Law



Protecting your Brothers and Sisters
from the Long Term Hazards of
Firefighting and EMS



Provided by PFFUI / Adapted by Hendricks County Professional Firefighters of Local 4406 (December, 2014)

Have you ever heard...

You knew the job was dangerous when you took it!

But we didn't know about the hidden dangers. We also have new diseases and new materials, but we also have better research.



Protect Yourself

The best way to protect ourselves is through following best practices such as keeping equipment clean, always using SCBA, and maintaining equipment. But the danger is still there and Firefighters still get job-related cancer, heart and lung disease and neurological disorders.



'SCBA DURING OVERHAUL IS FOR PANSIES! BESIDES, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?'

Even if your health can't be totally protected, there are measures you can take to protect you and your family from greater financial hardship due to future medical bills and funeral costs.



The Laws *(Learn Them)*

During the 2006 General Assembly we passed the:

“Heart, Lung and Cancer” Bill

In 2009, we added Parkinson's and other neurological diseases.

“Heart, Lung and Cancer” Bill Overview

The law makes a “presumption” of certain types of cancer, heart and lung disease and neurological disorders. This means that the law presumes these medical issues are due to your service as a firefighter. This requires the city to take care of medical expenses for these diseases and, *if properly documented*, could give you the Line of Duty Disability benefit (tax free pension) or your family the Line-of-Duty Death Benefit.

The Limitations you NEED to Know...

- IC 5-10-15-1: You cannot have used tobacco products in the last 5 years
- IC 5-10-15-3: You cannot be employed elsewhere by the state or a political subdivision of the state in a similar capacity (No part time work in a similar capacity, paid or unpaid)
- IC 5-10-15-9: You can make a claim after retirement, but it must be within five years of separation.



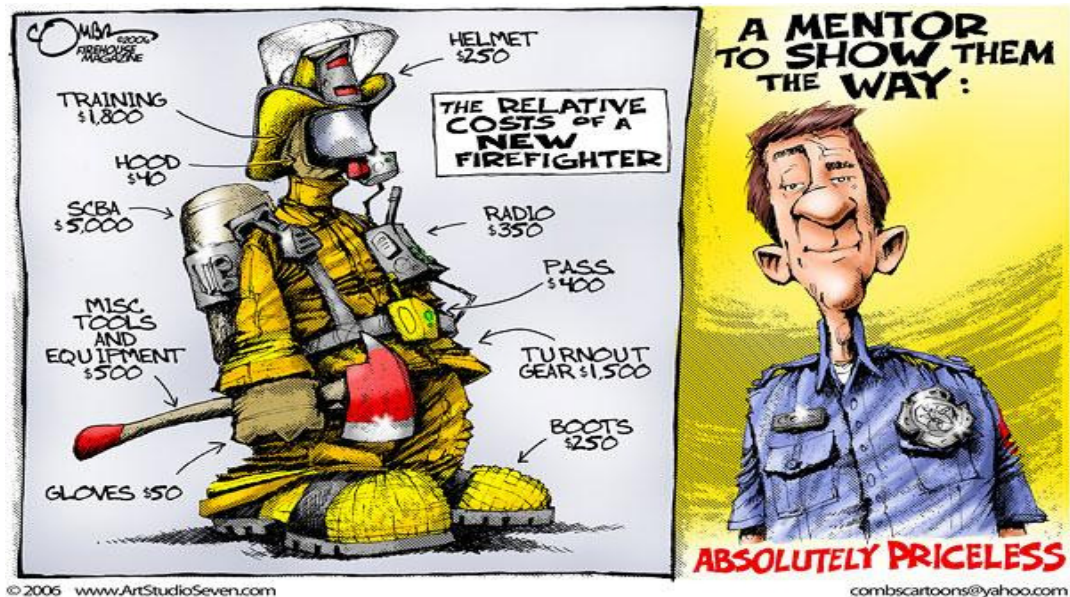
What can I do for my members?

- Educate
- Document
- Document
- Document

If there are any concerns about an exposure or incident that has led to or may lead to an illness or injury, start with your department leaders. Timeliness is important.

If there is any uncertainty as to the potential direction of an injury or illness, a representative from Local 4406 can help guide you to the proper resources for resolution. Contacts can be found at: www.local4406.org

If incident or exposure is NOT documented it did NOT happen. There is no going back to redo the incident or exposure once the injury or illness has happened. Know your departmental policy on reporting and follow it without fail to protect yourself and your family.



References

Information provided to Local 4406 Leadership by Tom Hanify, PFFUI President. Material adapted by Danny Brock, VP Local 4406 for distribution to departmental and union leadership for employee educational purposes.

IMAGES:

Combs, Paul. (2009-2014). All Images [Online images] FireEngineering.com, PennWell Corporation. Retrieved: <http://community.fireengineering.com/profiles/blog/list?user=1jl3xsybabl7l&page=12>