

Firefighters with cancer

If you are or have been a firefighter and have one of the primary site cancers listed in the following chart, the cancer may be presumed to be an occupational disease and you may be eligible for WCB-Alberta benefits. The presumption applies to full time, front-line firefighters who have been regularly exposed to the hazards of a fire scene, other than a forest fire, for the minimum period shown for the specified cancer.

PRIMARY SITE CANCERS	MINIMUM PERIOD OF REGULAR EXPOSURE TO THE HAZARDS OF A FIRE SCENE
ADDED in 2003 – applies to claims with dates of accident* on or after April 1, 1978	
Primary leukemia	5 years
Primary site brain cancer	10 years
Primary site bladder cancer	15 years
Primary site ureter cancer	15 years
Primary site kidney cancer	20 years
Primary site colorectal cancer	20 years
A primary non-Hodgkins lymphoma	20 years
ADDED in 2005 – applies to claims with dates of accident* on or after December 1, 1980	
Primary site lung cancer in non-smokers**	15 years
ADDED in 2010 – applies to claims with dates of accident* on or after May 1, 1985	
Primary site testicular cancer	20 years
Primary site esophageal cancer	25 years

*Date of accident for occupational disease claims like cancer is usually the first date of treatment or lay-off, whichever is earlier (see Policy 03-01, Part I, 2.0).

**A non-smoker means an individual who has not smoked a tobacco product in the 10 years prior to the date of diagnosis of a primary site cancer.

The presumptions do not apply if:

- you are or have been a firefighter and have a cancer other than a primary site cancer listed in the chart, or
- you have one of the primary site cancers listed and do not meet the minimum period of exposure that is required, or
- your date of accident is prior to the date indicated in the chart.

Such claims are adjudicated like any regular occupational disease claim and eligibility for compensation will be determined based on the merits of the case.

For more information see Section 24.1 of the Workers' Compensation Act and the Firefighters' Primary Site Cancer Regulation, which are available at:

<http://www.wcb.ab.ca/public/policy/legislation.asp>.