

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, volunteer, part-time and casual firefighters employed by a municipality or Metis settlement and assigned exclusively to fire protection and fire prevention duties notwithstanding that those duties may include the performance of ambulance or rescue services; 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, 2003.	
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-Hodgkin's lymphoma	20 years
ADDED in 2005 – applies to claims with dates of accident on or after Dec. 1, 2005.	
Primary site lung cancer in non-smokers**	15 years
ADDED in 2010 – applies to claims with dates of accident from May 1, 2010.	
Primary site testicular cancer (applies to claims from May 1, 2010 - Jan. 16, 2018)	20 years
Primary site esophageal cancer	25 years
ADDED in 2011 – applies to claims with dates of accident on or after May 1, 2011.	

Primary site prostate cancer	15 years
Primary site skin cancer	15 years
Primary site breast cancer	10 years
Multiple myeloma	15 years
ADDED in 2018 – applies to claims with dates of accident on or after Jan. 17, 2018.	
Primary site cervical cancer	10 years
Primary site ovarian cancer	10 years
Primary site testicular cancer***	10 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 regulation regarding testicular cancer was updated on Jan. 17, 2018 to reduce the minimum period of regular exposure from 20 years to 10.

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:

<https://www.wcb.ab.ca/about-wcb/policy-and-legislation/legislation.html>

