



## Firefighter Cancer Support Network partners with Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center

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### **Lisa Raggio**

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The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) Virginia Chapter has partnered with Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center to conduct a survey of Virginia firefighters to get a better picture of the cancer problem in the Virginia fire service.

In the coming months, an online app will be available to Virginia firefighters regardless of whether they have been diagnosed with cancer or not. The intent is to capture data from all segments of the Virginia fire service that are eighteen years and older including volunteer firefighters, career firefighters, fire marshals and retired/separated members, so we can further identify prevention strategies, mitigation tactics and educational opportunities to reduce incidences of occupational cancer in the Virginia fire service.

We understand firefighters are concerned about privacy and confidentiality. All aspects of this survey including the app, web portal and data will comply with VCU's security and confidentiality protocols. Only summaries of the data (not individual data) will be shared for the purpose of communicating findings of the survey. Reports will be distributed and made available to all Virginia fire service stake holders or individuals upon request.

The mission of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network is to assist firefighters and EMS providers and their immediate families diagnosed with cancer by providing badge-to-badge support, guidance and training. "Our vision is to be the global leader in firefighter cancer support,

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awareness and training” said Steve Weissman, FCSN Virginia State Director.

This program will be managed by research staff from VCU Massey Cancer Center in Richmond, Virginia which is a designated National Cancer Institute Facility. Success of this program will be dependent upon participation from all segments of the Virginia fire service. For more information, please contact FCSN Virginia State Director Steve Weissman at [sweissman@fcsn.net](mailto:sweissman@fcsn.net)

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