



# Corpus Christi Firefighter Cancer Screening



City Council Brief  
June 10, 2025



# Challenges

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- Occupational cancer is the leading cause of death among firefighters today
  - Cancer caused 66% of the career firefighter line-of-duty deaths from 2002 to 2019
  - Firefighters have a 9 percent higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14 percent higher risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population
  - Research spanning decades and more than 80,000 firefighters validates the connection between firefighting and occupational cancer
  - In the CCFD, at least 25 firefighters, both active and retired, have faced or are currently battling cancer
  - Tragically, in the past five years, two active CCFD firefighters have lost their lives to the disease
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# Opportunities

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- Cancer is often found too late, when survival rates are lower
  - Cancer treatment costs more when diagnosed in later stages
  - The Galleri test identifies DNA in the blood that is shed by cancer cells
  - Screens for many aggressive cancers, before symptoms appear
  - Galleri detected a signal shared across 50+ cancer types in clinical studies - including 45 cancer types without recommended screening
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# Next Steps

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- Cancer screening is part of the Wellness Program in the 2024-2028 CBA
  - Testing is voluntary but recommended
  - 75% of firefighters tested in FY25, and the remaining 25% will be tested in FY26
  - Schedule testing for firefighters in July and October
  - Results are returned to the firefighter in 2-3 weeks
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# Questions?

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