PARTNERSHIP TIMELINE

Addressing occupational diseases affecting firefighters

2016-17 — Fire hall visits

Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (LRWS) officers conducted workplace visits and provided reports to fire halls. The campaign raised awareness of risk exposures.

July 2017 — COMO review

The Chief Occupational Medical Officer (COMO) at LRWS reviewed information from the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association (SPFFA) on presumptive legislation for prostate and skin cancer, as well as multiple myeloma.

Aug. 2018 — SPFFA submission

LRWS received a submission from SPFFA to also consider breast cancer, gynecologic malignancies and lymphoma.

2018 — Call for amendments

LRWS developed legislative amendments to *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013* to expand presumptive legislation for firefighter occupational diseases as part of the call for legislation.

Dec. 2018 — WCB coverage expanded

WCB legislation – Firefighters will be able to file a Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) claim for prostate, skin, breast, cervical and ovarian cancer, as well as multiple myeloma under the occupational disease presumption.

2019 — Firefighter cancer pilot

WorkSafe commissioned a pilot program with the Firefighter Cancer Consultants, who inspected 15 fire stations, to address an increase in firefighter occupational cancer diagnoses and deaths. Findings were shared with Saskatchewan fire chiefs at their annual convention.

Apr. 2019 — Volunteer firefighters

WCB coverage was expanded for volunteer firefighters to include the same presumptive coverage as professional firefighters.

May 2019 — WorkSafe strategy

WorkSafe's objective, as part of its Fatalities & Serious Injuries Strategy, is to improve firefighter cancer prevention control awareness to reduce the risk of future exposures by 50% by 2021.

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