

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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## WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT – FIREFIGHTERS’ OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE REGULATION

On April 22, 2022, the BC Government [announced](#) that the Province is amending the Firefighters’ Occupational Disease Regulation under the *Workers Compensation Act* by adding the following three cancers to the list of work-related cancers:

- Ovarian
- Cervical
- Penile

The addition of these three cancers add gender-specific cancers to the list of those covered, as more women join the ranks of firefighters.

An additional change is that firefighters will not be required to work as long before they become eligible for coverage for testicular, colorectal, and esophageal cancers, which are already covered.

The amendments mean that if a firefighter develops one of the listed work-related cancers after a certain period of employment, it is presumed that the cancer arose from their employment. The firefighter is then eligible for workers’ compensation benefits without having to provide evidence that the disease is work-related.

There are currently 13 cancer presumptions already recognized for firefighters, as well as presumptions for heart disease and heart injury.

The [current version](#) of the Firefighters’ Occupational Disease Regulation is pending the newly announced changes.

### QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update, please e-mail [RES360@metrovancover.org](mailto:RES360@metrovancover.org) or call 604-451-6558.

### SOURCES

“B.C. expands cancer coverage for firefighters”, April 22, 2022  
[B.C. expands cancer coverage for firefighters | BC Gov News](#)

