

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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## WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT – FIREFIGHTERS’ OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE REGULATION

On March 3, 2026, the BC Government announced that the Province is amending the Firefighters’ Occupational Disease Regulation under the *Workers Compensation Act* by adding the following eight additional cancers to the list of 18 diseases already recognized for firefighters bringing the total to 26:

- Skin cancer
- Mesothelioma
- Soft tissue sarcoma
- Laryngeal
- Tracheal
- Bronchial
- Nose cancer
- Pharynx cancer

The amendment means 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.

The minimum employment period to be eligible for the existing esophageal cancer presumption has also been reduced from 20 years to 15 years.

The Province will bring the changes into force as soon as possible once approved by cabinet. 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

“Expanding cancer coverage for firefighters”, March 3, 2026

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026LBR0003-000208>

