I issued a report to the CFD line officers March 16, 2015 and to the CFD BOD May 04,2015 entitled “Cancer and the Chili Fire Department”. It identified the type of cancer firefighters would most likely be stricken with and a listing of action items to help possibility mitigate a problem we all know exists.

None of those action Items have been addressed. Are we so stupid that we do not wish to possibly help our members take precautions that may help them avoid a trip down cancer lane that ends at death, after enormous amounts of pain and suffering along the way?

Following are some suggestions and information to help enlighten department officers to do the right thing for their members and help everyone with the fight against the possibility of contracting CANCER.

* Cancer caused by smoking is now accepted by the general public.
* Cancer has been identified as a fire service issue that is only getting worse due to the new materials burning.
* Failure to properly use PPE & SCBA’s has been identified as an entry route into the body.
* FF’s PPE will off gas for 45 minutes.
* Do not wear PPE in rehab.
* Some departments issue FF’s a clean hood when they leave rehab.
* Some departments are experimenting with disposable hoods.
* Use baby wipes or Wet Naps. Can get them in large sheets.
* When removing your PPE use rubber gloves.
* When entering rehab clean your hands and do not touch your face,
* Physical fitness and healthy eating habits will help firefighters remain in good shape.
* Yearly medical exams will provide data for insurance companies if a FF gets cancer. Without data, coverage may be impacted.
* Implement and maintain exposure reports. Again, without data, coverage may be impacted.
* More than 60% of occupational LODDs are due to cancer, according to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
* In the US 59% of firefighters that receive annual medical exams are in fact receiving an NFPA 1582 compliant exam. (International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).
* Cancer has reached epidemic proportions in the fire service. Do you want to be a part of it?
* Possible new data, when completed, may suggest that firefighters in close proximity of the incident, that typically do not wear SCBA may be working in the contaminated area with cancer causing toxins.
* FF’s Rotary Homes are going to start being built around the country. They are like Ronald McDonald Houses, only for FF’s.

With all the data available about cancer and a host of possible procedures to mitigate a firefighters chances of not contacting cancer, I would think that all fire departments would be looking to protect their members from such a devastating disease.

This department can and should be addressing this issue for the good of all the members. Firefighter’s safety is the first priority when responding to an incident. We seem to be ignoring firefighter’s safety because we are not addressing the issue of CANCER and our members.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ted R. Kolb, Past Deputy Chief**

**Safety Officer**

**Board: October 03, 2016**