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Commissioner

FRANCIS J. NERNEY, JR.
State Fire Administrator

December 17, 2018

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) extends its gratitude to the fire service associations who proposed and championed the new Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Act, which takes effect January 1, 2019. The law requires that every fire district, company and department establish a program to fund claims of eligible volunteer firefighters who are diagnosed with or succumb to certain types of cancer.

OFPC is responsible for compiling and reporting certain information related to the administration of the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program. Agencies with volunteer firefighters are required to provide OFPC the following:

- “Proof of Benefits” for volunteer firefighter cancer disability coverage by January 1, 2019 and annually thereafter (see enclosed form);
- A roster of interior firefighters by December 1, 2019 and annually thereafter; and
- An annual claims report by December 1, 2019 and annually thereafter.

In addition to its responsibilities to administer the specific provisions of the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefit Program, OFPC will be actively promoting practical, common sense measures firefighters and fire departments can take to reduce the risk of cancer. Training, education and best practices specific to this goal will be integrated into OFPC’s training programs and made available for reference and use.

Questions about reporting requirements for the Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Disability Benefits Program may be directed to the Office of Fire Prevention and Control at 518-474-6746.

The most noble of all human endeavors is service, and the firefighters of the State of New York work tirelessly to help their fellow citizens in times of need. This commitment is not without cost, and a new law has been passed designed to ease the personal burden that some responders bear because of their commitment to serve. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Nerney, Jr
State Fire Administrator
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