
The First Responder Center for Excellence, through its awareness campaign, notes the following:

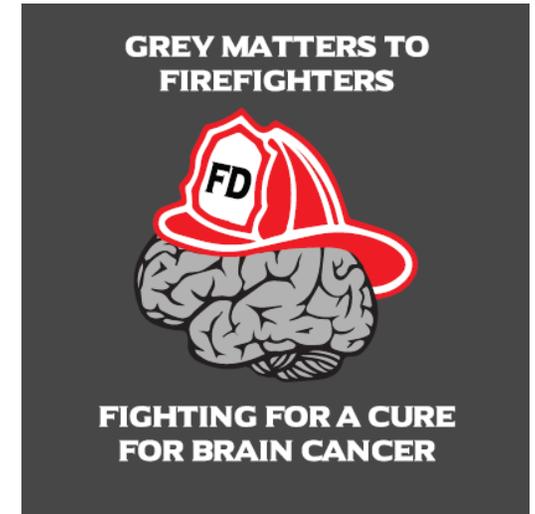
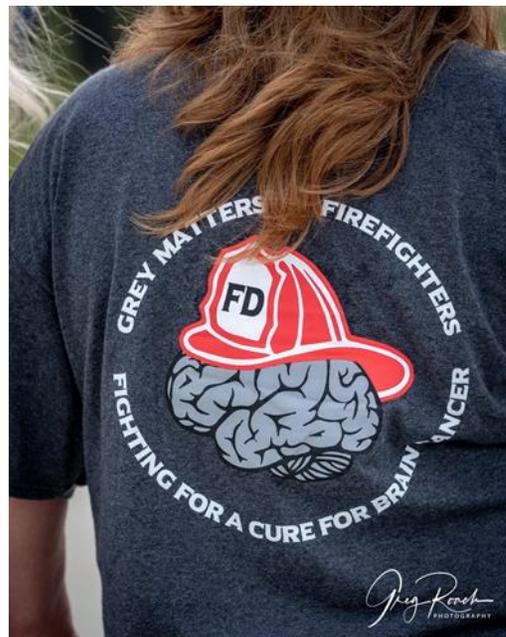
- Cancer is the leading cause of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in the US
- Studies have shown that firefighters have increased RISK of certain cancers, the longer they spend working in the fire service
- Heat from structure fires adds to the danger of exposure to toxic chemicals – with every 5 degrees in increased body temperature, skin absorption rates can increase by as much as 400%
- Firefighters have a 9% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer than the general US population according to research by the Centers for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (CDC/NIOSH)
- Firefighters are diagnosed with cancer at a rate that is more than 5 times that of the general population - International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

Firefighters are at increased risk for developing [brain cancer](#) !



For more information about **Grey Matters to Firefighters**, contact

Donna Arellano at
(214) 674-3472 or donna0907@gmail.com



Grey Matters to Firefighters **Mission:**

Grey Matters to Firefighters (Fighting for a Cure for Brain Cancer) is dedicated to raising awareness of the cancer (specifically brain cancer) risks firefighters face daily in their jobs, to promote the North Texas Firefighters Agility Challenge and to help raise donations used to provide funding to the Nick Gonzales Foundation for Brain Cancer Research.

Firefighters are at 32% greater risk to get brain cancer.

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The most dangerous thing about fighting fires that involves running into burning buildings isn't the flames, but the smoke. Cancer is the leading cause of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in the United States, and according to the International Association of Fire Fighters, about 60 percent of career firefighters will die this way, "with their boots off," as they call it.

Cancer threatens firefighters everywhere, every day due to exposure to heat, smoke, radiation or a known or suspected carcinogen as identified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Over the last 40 years, building materials such as engineered thermoplastics and laminated veneer lumber have significantly contributed to the release of cancer-causing agents during structure fires. These synthetic materials create hundreds of times more smoke and can increase toxic gases 10-fold!



Each year, we bring together North Texas Fire Departments to spend time together, share best practices, help raise awareness and money, and compete in events like:

- Firefighter Team Relay
- Hose Roll Throw
- PPE Challenge
- Engine Pull
- Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)
- And more...

For details about this year's North Texas Firefighters Agility Challenge, go to: www.facebook.com/Grey-Matters-to-Firefighters-578261625983388/



is where the money raised goes.

The Nick Gonzales Foundation was established in 2007 in honor of Nick Gonzales, who lost his life to a glioblastoma brain tumor, with two principal goals:

- Increase awareness of the public to the early warning signs of brain tumors to increase early diagnosis and the survival rates of those affected
- Raise critical funds necessary to vital research on the cause and treatment options for those stricken with a brain tumor and fund an annual research grant in Nick's memory

For more information about the Nick Gonzales Foundation, please go to:

www.thenickgonzalesfoundation.org/

To donate now, go to: www.thenickgonzalesfoundation.org/donations/
And please type "Grey Matters" in the "Order notes (optional)" field under Additional Information on the Checkout page.