Here’s the scoop

This is how much more absorptive your skin can be with every 5°F skin-temperature increase. So during and after a fire, the carcinogens known to be present in soot aren’t just sitting there – they’re soaking in. And the hotter you are, the more carcinogens your skin absorbs.

Since 2002, the IAFF has attributed 60 percent of its firefighter line-of-duty deaths to cancer – more than any other cause. Multiple studies have revealed significantly higher cancer risks for firefighters. We don’t know everything yet, and more research is underway. But here is what we do know:

Here are some things you can do

- Wear your SCBA from fire attack through overhaul to limit inhalation of carcinogens
- Wipe yourself off during gross decon to remove soot as soon as possible
- Keep contaminated gear out of your living and sleeping quarters, don’t store it in your vehicle without an airtight container, and do not take contaminated gear home
- Maintain a personal exposure log of all fire calls
- Make sure your gear is cleaned and inspected regularly by a verified ISP

LION is pleased to support organizations dedicated to firefighter health and safety, including:

lionprotects.com  firefightercancersupport.org  firehero.org  nvfc.org/cancer  vispinc.org