Workers' Compensation Division
Department of Consumer and Business Services

MEMORANDUM

November 4, 2026

To: Rep. Dacia Grayber

From: Matt West, WCD Administrator

Subject: Updated Data for Firefighter Accepted Disabling Cancer Claims

Please find the updated firefighter cancer claims data. Table 1 shows the number of claims and related costs for accepted disabling claims where the cancer presumption does or may apply. Table 2 includes all cancer claims for Oregon firefighters broken down by acceptance status and presumption applicability. This memorandum includes claims with dates of injury from 2015 through 2025.

This memorandum includes all claims reported to DCBS, from all insurers and self-insured employers. DCBS does not receive reports of accepted nondisabling claims, or denied claims from the City of Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund. The costs included in Table 1 include medical costs, timeloss costs on closed claims, and other costs. These costs do not reflect any expected costs to the insurer in the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Table 1: Accepted disabling cancer claims for Oregon firefighters under the presumption (Yes and Undetermined)

Type of cancer	Medical costs	Time loss and other costs	Total	Number of claims
Bladder	$ 3,850	$ -	$ 3,850	1
Brain	$ 4,045,251	$ 739,724	$ 4,784,975	4
Breast	$ 293,509	$ 235,500	$ 529,009	5
Cancer of the throat or mouth	$ 778,270	$ 831,296	$ 1,609,566	5
Large intestine, colon, rectum	$ 1,282,274	$ 245,771	$ 1,528,046	3
Leukemias, multiple myelomas, other blood cancers	$ 9,737,681	$ 828,216	$ 10,565,897	10
Lung(s), pleura	$ 1,331,961	$ 492,041	$ 1,824,002	3
Prostate	$ 167,883	$ 521,918	$ 689,802	9
Stomach organ	$ 516,861	$ -	$ 516,861	1
Testis (testes)	$ 221,160	$ 108,250	$ 329,410	7
Total	**$ 18,378,701**	**$ 4,002,717**	**$ 22,381,418**	**48**

This is the sum of all costs as of Oct. 28, 2026.

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Table 2: All cancer claims for Oregon firefighters

Acceptance	Presumption	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Totals
Accepted	Yes	3	3	1	4	6	3	2	2	4	3	5	36
Accepted	No	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Accepted	Undetermined	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	3	2	3	14
Denied	Yes	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Denied	No	1	3	5	2	1	0	1	0	4	6	11	34
Denied	Undetermined	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	2	11
	Totals	**8**	**7**	**9**	**8**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**3**	**12**	**12**	**21**	**101**

***General Information* Key**

- Data for 2025 is tentative and subject to change.
- DCBS does not get reports of accepted nondisabling claims or reports of denied claims from the City of Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund.
- Two accepted nondisabling claims (2023 and 2025) were included. These claims initially had to be reported to DCBS, but were later determined to be accepted nondisabling claims.
- Three cancer claims (1 in 2016 and two in 2025) had two different cancers. These are each counted once.

Presumption applicability

Multiple factors affect whether the presumption applies, but not all factors are captured in the data reported to DCBS. For example, some the factors not reported to DCBS are:

- The insurer may rebut the presumption's applicability based on clear and convincing evidence the condition was not caused by employment.

- The insurer may rebut the presumption's applicability based on clear and convincing evidence that tobacco use was a major contributing cause.

We have designated whether the presumption applies based on the limited information reported to DCBS, so this report only reflects whether the presumption *may* apply.

For the purposes of this report:

- "Yes" means that the claimed condition and the worker's tenure with the employer indicate the presumption likely applies.
- "Undetermined" indicates that the presumption may apply, but DCBS cannot verify this from the data submitted. This includes claims where DCBS does not have data confirming whether the worker meets the required 5 years threshold of employment as a nonvolunteer firefighter, or claims where DCBS cannot confirm if the claim was filed within 84 months following the end of the firefighter's employment.
- "No" means the worker did not fall into either of the two groups above.

*2 of the 3 "yes" denied claims were responsibility denials. A responsibility denial means the insurer determined it was not the responsible carrier and therefore did not evaluate compensability. ***Correction***

The numbers above do not correspond to previously provided numbers due to several corrections of coding errors.

Codes and versions used

Firefighters are those claims having a Standard Occupational Code (SOC) of 331021, 332011, 332021 or 332022.

The date used for classifying is the date the 801 form was received by DCBS.

The version of OIICS used is 2.01.

Cancer nature codes: 4* neoplasms, tumors, and cancer