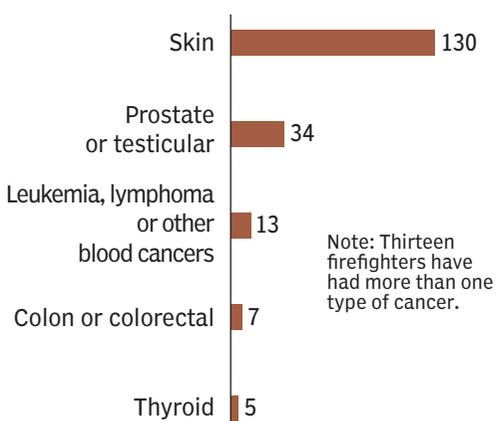


# Firefighters' views on cancer

The Dispatch surveyed 1,288 Ohio firefighters to find out their views on the cancer risk that comes with their jobs. The survey showed that while many don't take all the safety precautions they could, many see it as a serious risk and would like to have annual cancer screenings.

## Cancer in the ranks

Of those surveyed, 196 said they have cancer. Here are the types of cancer they have:



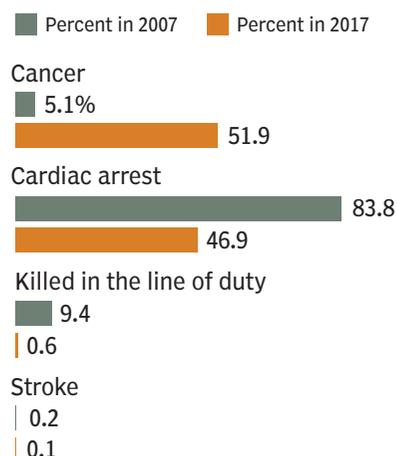
## Cancer screening

Nearly every firefighter knows of a colleague with cancer and probably impacts why they almost all want their fire departments to offer regular cancer screenings.

Age group	Percentage who know a firefighter with cancer	Percentage who want their department to offer annual cancer screenings
20-29	82	99
30-39	86.3	99.4
40-49	89.6	99
50-59	88.7	97.5
60-65	88.6	98.6

## Changing attitudes

In just 10 years, firefighters have shifted their concerns about an occupational-related death to cancer.



## Precautions

Many of the important steps to cancer prevention rests with firefighters themselves. Cleaning their gear and bodies after battling a fire and wearing their self-contained breathing apparatus are among the most important. But professional firefighters in Ohio have varying views on these practices.

### Gear

I have not been assigned my own gear.  
0.4%

I have one set of gear.  
48.1%

I have two sets of gear.  
51%

I clean my gear after every fire.  
77.1%

I clean my gear every month.  
4.5%

I clean my gear every six months.  
11.1%

I clean my gear weekly.  
0.2%

I clean my gear once a year.  
4.1%

My gear is never cleaned.  
1.9%

### Cleaning

I wipe down my body with a cloth at a fire scene.  
41.5%

I do not wipe down my body at a fire scene.  
57.7%

Ten years ago, I did not wipe down at a fire scene.  
96.5%

I shower within 60 minutes after leaving a fire scene.  
61.8%

I do not shower within 60 minutes of leaving a fire scene.  
37.3%

Ten years ago, I did not shower within an hour.  
75.6%

### Breathing apparatus

I always wear my self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) when fighting a fire and extinguishing hot spots.  
18.6%

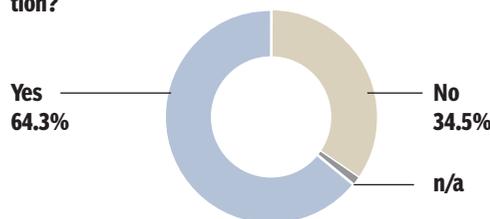
I don't always wear my self-contained breathing apparatus.  
76.8%

I never wear my self-contained breathing apparatus from beginning to end.  
3.9%

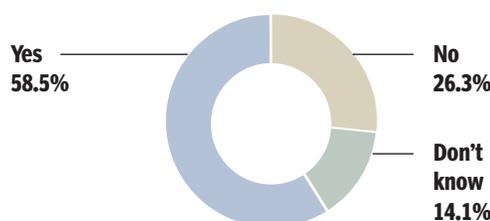
## Cancer prevention

Professional firefighters - those who are paid to staff fire stations - overwhelmingly agree that cancer is a threat to them because of their jobs. The majority work for departments that recognize the risk and have implemented best practices. But hundreds of firefighters work without policies and cancer training

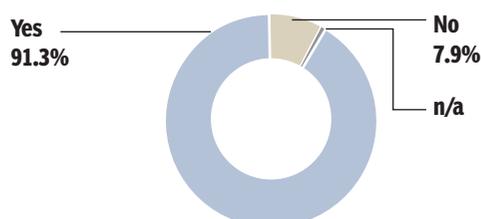
### Does your department have training on cancer prevention?



### Does your department have written policies about firefighting and cancer prevention?



### Does your department have a shower at the station?



\* Note: Percentages don't add up to 100 because about one percent of the respondents did not answer the questions.