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**MID ENCOURAGES FIREFIGHTERS TO FILE CLAIMS THROUGH  
THE FIRST RESPONDERS HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT**

*JACKSON, Miss.* – First responders face a significantly higher risk of developing cancer due to exposure to carcinogens encountered in the line of duty. In response, the Mississippi Legislature passed the Mississippi First Responders Health and Safety Act in 2019, which provides monetary benefits to first responders with occupational-related cancer. The program took effect on January 1, 2024, and is administered by the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID).

“The Safety Act provides critical financial assistance to those diagnosed with certain job-related cancers,” said Mike Chaney, State Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner. “Firefighters can receive up to \$50,000 in benefits, as an alternative to workers’ compensation.”

“The health risks firefighters face are real, but so are the actions we can take to reduce them. The First Responder Health & Safety Act provides critical support and educational resources. I encourage every firefighter to take advantage of this program,” said Reed Abraham, State Fire Coordinator.

Claims are filed on behalf of eligible first responders by their state, county, municipality, or fire protection district. Learn more about the claims process: <https://www.mid.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/202501reg-firefightercancer.pdf>

For questions, email [FirstResponderFund@mid.ms.gov](mailto:FirstResponderFund@mid.ms.gov)

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