

**Operational
Policy**

Section
Chronic Exposures

Subject
Cancers in Firefighters and Fire Investigators

Policy

If a firefighter or a fire investigator is diagnosed with a prescribed cancer on or after January 1, 1960, and meets the employment duration and additional criteria for the prescribed cancer, then the disease is presumed to be an occupational disease due to the nature of the worker's employment, unless the contrary is shown.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the prescribed cancers and the circumstances under which they will be presumed to be work-related occupational diseases, as set out in the applicable Regulation.

Guidelines

Inclusion

This policy applies to:

- workers who are full-time or volunteer firefighters as defined in Section 1 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*
- part-time firefighters, defined as a worker who is a firefighter and is not a volunteer or full-time firefighter
- workers who:
 - are employed by a band council and assigned to undertake fire protection services on a reserve [band council and reserve are defined in the *Indian Act (Canada)*], or
 - provide fire protection services on a reserve, either voluntarily or for a nominal consideration, honorarium, training or activity allowance
- fire investigators, defined as a worker:
 - to whom the Fire Marshal, appointed under subsection 8(1) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, has delegated the duty to investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of a fire
 - who was an inspector appointed under subsection 2(4) of the *Fire Marshals Act* before that Act was repealed by the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, or
 - who is employed by a band council and assigned to investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of a fire on a reserve.

For the purpose of this policy, the term "firefighter" refers to a full-time firefighter, a part-time firefighter or a volunteer firefighter.

Exclusion

This policy does not apply to forest or wildland firefighters.

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Presumption

The presumption provides that the prescribed cancers are occupational diseases presumed to occur due to the nature of the worker's employment as a firefighter or fire investigator, unless the contrary is shown. To qualify for this presumption, workers must meet the inclusion criteria of this policy, and also must have been:

- diagnosed with a prescribed cancer
- diagnosed after the prescribed minimum employment duration, and
- diagnosed with that cancer on or after January 1, 1960.

Workers not meeting the inclusion criteria, and those excluded from this policy, will have their claims determined on their individual merits.

The presumption may be rebutted if it is established that the employment was not a significant contributing factor to the occurrence of the cancer.

Prescribed cancers

A medical diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma, one of the three specified leukemias, or cancer originating from the specified organ is required for adjudication of claims under this policy. The prescribed cancers are listed below with their World Health Organization classification numbers.

Prescribed Cancer	ICD-9 Code*	Description of ICD-9 Code	ICD-10 Code*	Description of ICD-10 Code
1. Primary-site brain cancer	191	Malignant neoplasm of brain	C71	Malignant neoplasm of brain
2. Primary-site bladder cancer	188	Malignant neoplasm of bladder	C67	Malignant neoplasm of bladder
3. Primary-site kidney cancer	189.0	Malignant neoplasm of kidney, except pelvis	C64	Malignant neoplasm of kidney, except renal pelvis
	189.1	Malignant neoplasm of renal pelvis	C65	Malignant neoplasm of renal pelvis
4. Primary-site colorectal cancer	153	Malignant neoplasm of colon	C18	Malignant neoplasm of colon

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			C19	Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction
	154	Malignant neoplasm of rectum, rectosigmoid junction, and anus	C20	Malignant neoplasm of rectum
			C21	Malignant neoplasm of anus and anal canal
5. Primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL)	200	Lymphosarcoma and reticulosarcoma	C82	Follicular lymphoma
			C83	Non-follicular lymphoma
	202	Other malignant neoplasms of lymphoid and histiocytic tissue	C84	Mature T/NK-cell lymphomas
			C85	Other and unspecified types of NHL
6. Primary acute myeloid leukemia, Primary acute lymphocytic leukemia, Primary chronic lymphocytic leukemia	205.0	Acute myeloid leukemia	C92.0	Acute myeloblastic leukemia
	204.0	Acute lymphoid leukemia	C91.0	Acute lymphoblastic leukemia
	204.1	Chronic lymphoid leukemia	C91.1	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia of B-cell type
7. Primary-site ureter cancer	189.2	Malignant neoplasm of ureter	C66	Malignant neoplasm of ureter
8. Primary-site esophageal cancer	150	Malignant neoplasm of esophagus	C15	Malignant neoplasm of esophagus
9. Primary-site breast cancer	174	Malignant neoplasm of female breast	C50	Malignant neoplasm of breast
	175	Malignant neoplasm of male breast		
10. Multiple myeloma	203.0	Multiple myeloma	C90.0	Multiple Myeloma

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11. Primary-site testicular cancer	186	Malignant neoplasm of testis	C62	Malignant neoplasm of testis
12. Primary-site prostate cancer	185	Malignant neoplasm of prostate	C61	Malignant neoplasm of prostate
13. Primary-site lung cancer	162	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus, and lung	C33	Malignant neoplasm of trachea
			C34	Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung
14. Primary-site skin cancer	172**	Malignant melanoma of skin	C43	Malignant melanoma of skin
	173	Other malignant neoplasm of skin	C44	Other malignant neoplasms of skin

*International Statistical Classification of Diseases (Ninth and Tenth Revisions).

**The presumption does not apply to melanoma in situ.

Prescribed duration of employment

Firefighters and fire investigators with the minimum years of eligible Ontario service for the prescribed cancer are presumed to have a work-related occupational disease. The eligible years of service is the sum of all employment periods as a firefighter or fire investigator from the date of hire until the date of diagnosis, whether consecutive or non-consecutive. If a worker served in more than one capacity as a full-time, part-time or volunteer firefighter or fire investigator in the same period, this period will only be counted once towards the eligible years of service.

For band council firefighters and fire investigators, the eligible years of service are those employment periods as described above during which the band council had WSIB coverage, in addition to any periods served in another capacity as defined by the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*.

The minimum durations of employment for the prescribed cancers are listed below.

Prescribed Cancer	Duration of Firefighting Employment
1. Primary-site brain cancer	10 years
2. Primary-site bladder cancer	15 years

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3. Primary-site kidney cancer	20 years
4. Primary-site colorectal cancer	10 years
5. Primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	20 years
6. Primary acute myeloid leukemia Primary chronic lymphocytic leukemia Primary acute lymphocytic leukemia	15 years
7. Primary-site ureter cancer	15 years
8. Primary-site esophageal cancer	25 years
9. Primary-site breast cancer	10 years
10. Multiple myeloma	15 years
11. Primary-site testicular cancer	10 years
12. Primary-site prostate cancer	15 years
13. Primary-site lung cancer	15 years
14. Primary-site skin cancer	15 years

Additional criteria

In addition to the above criteria, for:

- primary-site colorectal cancer, a diagnosis must be obtained prior to the age of 61 years
- primary-site lung cancer, the worker must not have smoked a tobacco product in the 10 years prior to diagnosis.

NOTE

For the purpose of this policy, the date of diagnosis is used to determine whether the worker meets the requirements of the presumption (e.g., calculation of duration of employment). Once entitlement is established in a claim, benefits and services generally flow from the date of accident/injury, which may be an earlier date. For more information, see 11-01-04, Determining the Date of Injury.

Time limits

Workers or their survivors may refile previously denied claims, or present new claims, with no time restrictions other than a requirement that the date of diagnosis is on or after January 1, 1960.

Application date

This policy applies to decisions made on or after January 1, 2017.

Document history

This document replaces 23-02-01 dated January 4, 2016.

This document was previously published as:

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23-02-01 dated July 7, 2014
23-02-01 dated February 23, 2010
23-02-01 dated February 11, 2008
23-02-01 dated October 12, 2004
16-02-02 dated June 15, 1999.

References

Legislative authority

Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997, as amended
Sections 2(1), 15, 15.1(4), 15.1(5), 15.1(6), 15.2, 94, 183

O.Reg. 253/07, as amended

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