



Firefighter
occupational disease
COVERAGE

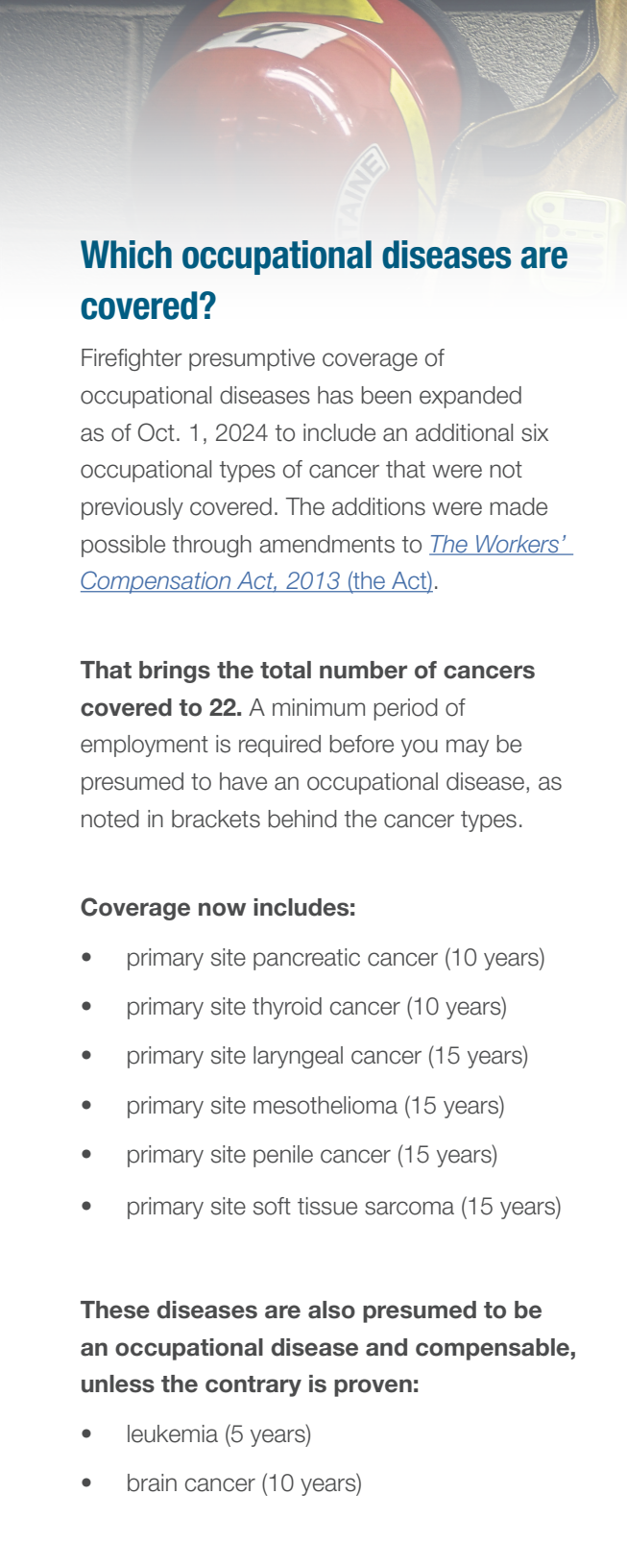
What you
need to know

wcb

Saskatchewan
Workers'
Compensation
Board

If you are, or have been, a firefighter in Saskatchewan and have been diagnosed with cancer...

...the cancer may be presumed to be an occupational disease and you may be eligible for benefits from the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB).



Which occupational diseases are covered?

Firefighter presumptive coverage of occupational diseases has been expanded as of Oct. 1, 2024 to include an additional six occupational types of cancer that were not previously covered. The additions were made possible through amendments to [*The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013 \(the Act\)*](#).

That brings the total number of cancers covered to 22. A minimum period of employment is required before you may be presumed to have an occupational disease, as noted in brackets behind the cancer types.

Coverage now includes:

- primary site pancreatic cancer (10 years)
- primary site thyroid cancer (10 years)
- primary site laryngeal cancer (15 years)
- primary site mesothelioma (15 years)
- primary site penile cancer (15 years)
- primary site soft tissue sarcoma (15 years)

These diseases are also presumed to be an occupational disease and compensable, unless the contrary is proven:

- leukemia (5 years)
- brain cancer (10 years)

- primary-site breast cancer (10 years)
- primary-site cervical cancer (10 years)
- primary-site ovarian cancer (10 years)
- testicular cancer (10 years)
- bladder cancer (15 years)
- colorectal cancer (15 years)
- lung cancer (15 years)
- multiple myeloma (15 years)
- primary-site prostate cancer (15 years)
- primary-site skin cancer (15 years)
- ureter cancer (15 years)
- kidney cancer (20 years)
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (20 years)
- esophageal cancer (25 years)
- an injury to the heart that manifests within 24 hours after attendance at an emergency response scene





Is there a minimum period of service before a firefighter is eligible for coverage?

Section 22.3 of *The Workers' Compensation General Regulations, 1985* (the General Regulations) provides the minimum period of employment required before a firefighter may be presumed to have an occupational disease. The WCB will consider the minimum period of service for volunteer firefighters.

The “cumulative” period of service for volunteer firefighters or period of employment for full-time and part-time firefighters will be considered. This includes all of an individual’s history as a firefighter whether their periods of service or employment were consecutive or not. More information on coverage eligibility is available on the WCB website at [wcb.sask.com/firefighter-occupational-disease-coverage](https://wcb.sask.ca/firefighter-occupational-disease-coverage).

What if the disease was contracted prior to 2024?

The coverage applies to new injury claims submitted to the WCB. A firefighter with a previously denied claim in relation to one of these types of cancer can ask the WCB to reconsider that decision. The WCB will proactively review previously denied claims, however firefighters or their dependants can also contact the WCB directly to re-evaluate a previous decision.



Who is eligible for coverage?

The disease will be presumed to be an occupational disease predominantly caused by the firefighter's service or employment if the full-time, part-time or volunteer firefighter:

- Suffers from a disease currently covered by the WCB.
- Is currently serving or is employed with, or has served or has been employed with, a fire department for a specified minimum period.
- Is or has been exposed to the hazards of a fire scene, other than a forest fire, during their service or employment as a firefighter.

In the case of primary site lung cancer, only a firefighter who was a non-smoker before the date of injury for the minimum period prescribed in the regulations is eligible for coverage.

Are volunteer firefighters also covered?

Volunteer firefighters have access to the same presumptive coverage as full-time urban firefighters. The presumptions also apply to part-time firefighters of an urban municipality. These presumptions apply to firefighters who are, or have been, exposed to the hazards of a fire scene, other than a forest fire.



How do I submit a claim?

Visit [wcb.sask.com/firefighter-occupational-disease-coverage](https://wcb.sask.ca/firefighter-occupational-disease-coverage) for information on the types of cancer covered and how to submit a workplace injury claim to the WCB.





My claim was previously denied. Should I submit a new claim?

A firefighter with a previously denied claim in relation to one of these types of cancer can ask the WCB to reconsider that decision.

The request to reconsider a previous claim will be considered by the WCB team responsible for the most recent decision.

The WCB will also be proactively reviewing previously denied claims to determine if they would be an acceptable work injury under the new legislation.

I have questions.

Who should I contact?

If you would like more information, or have questions, contact the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board at:

200-1881 Scarth St., Regina, SK S4P 4L1

Phone: 306.787.4370

Toll free: 1.800.667.7590

askwcb@wcbask.com

wcbask.com

Useful links:

1. Firefighter occupational disease coverage:
wcbask.com/firefighter-occupational-disease-coverage
2. Firefighter presumptions fact sheet:
wcbask.com/documents/firefighter-presumptions
3. What to do if you're injured at work and how to file a claim:
wcbask.com/what-do-if-youre-injured-work-and-how-file-claim
4. How to report a work injury:
wcbask.com/how-report-work-injury



Visit [wcbsask.com/
firefighter-occupational-
disease-coverage](https://www.wcbsask.com/firefighter-occupational-disease-coverage)
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