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Governor

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Commissioner

FRANCIS J. NERNEY, JR.
State Fire Administrator

November 7, 2018

County Fire Coordinators:

On October 17, 2018 the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program Regulations were finalized and the Program will take effect January 1, 2019. The law, regulations and a copy of the *State Register* have been published to our website at the link below and you are encouraged to take the time to read them. This legislation was developed by The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY), the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York (AFDSNY) and the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs (NYS AFC). The law will provide benefits to eligible volunteer firefighters diagnosed with various types of cancer.

OFPC has been charged with collecting information associated with this law and we are currently developing several forms which will be kept on our web site for use by the fire service. We will also be posting a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document which is currently being developed.

OFPC is required to ensure that all volunteer fire departments are aware that the law is in effect and all New York State volunteer fire fighting agencies must provide this benefit to their eligible firefighters. These agencies will also need to submit an annual report to OFPC containing the following information:

1. Proof of benefit coverage on or before January 1, 2019 and annually thereafter;
2. Annual claim reports due on or before December 1, 2019 and annually thereafter; and
3. Annual roster of interior firefighters due on or before December 1, 2019 and annually thereafter.

All forms will be available on our web page.

Most of questions can be answered by reading the law. Unfortunately, there are factors that may limit the eligibility of some firefighters. As with any new legislation there will be questions and comments. Questions not answered by the FAQ page or the regulation should be forwarded to Tim Graves at Timothy.Graves@dhses.ny.gov.

Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program Page-

<http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/regs/vfcancerdisability.cfm>

<http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/regs/documents/210.pdf>

<http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/alerts-bulletins/information/documents/2018/vfcancerbenefits.pdf>

<http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/regs/documents/StateRegister10172018.pdf>