International Firefighter Health Symposium

Preliminary Programme

John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Estate, Edinburgh

17-18th May 2027

DAY 1

Fires, Contaminants, Decontamination and Prevention

09:00–10:00	**Registration & Coffee**
10:00–10:30	**Opening Remarks** *Stuart Stevens, Chief Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, UK*
10:30–11:00	**Beyond Combustion: Chemical Contaminants and Emerging Chemicals Across Firefighting Environments** *Prof Heather Stapleton, Duke University, USA*
11:00–11:30	**Firefighters' Exposure Pathways to Toxic Chemicals** *Dr Paul White, Health Canada, Canada*
11:30–12:00	**Inside the Firefighter: Tracking Chemical Exposure Through Metabolites and Biomarkers** *Dr. Marta Oliveira, REQUIMTE/LAQV, Technical University of Porto, Portugal*
12:00–13:00	**Lunch**
13:00–13:30	**From Standards to Practice: Assessing the Protective Performance of Firefighter PPE and RPE** *Brett Egan-Briers, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, UK*
13:30–14:00	**PPE: Understanding Contamination, Transfer and Exposure Risks** *Dr Hazem Matar, Cranfield University, UK*
14:00–14:30	**Firefighter PPE and RPE: Assessing Decontamination Effectiveness** *Juha Laitinen and Riikka Salmi, Emergency Services Academy of Finland, Finland*
14:30–14:50	**Coffee Break**
14:50–15:15	**Case Study: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service — Progress & Challenges** *Jim Holden, Head of Safety and Assurance, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, UK*
15:15–15:45	**From Incident to Insight: Fyrn: Firefighter Exposure & Health Tracker** FireHazResearch Ltd, CivTech Scotland (Challenge 10.2) *Mark Gibbings, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, UK*
15:45–16:15	**Panel Discussion**
16:15	**CLOSE DAY 1**

DAY 2

Firefighters Occupational Exposures and Diseases

08:30–09:30	**Registration & Coffee**
09:30–10:00	**From Fit to Sick: A Firefighter's Journey Through Occupational Cancer and Recovery** *Steven Robbie Burns, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, UK*
10:00–10:30	**From Exposure to Disease: Occupational Cancers and Health Effects in Firefighters** *Prof Jeff Burgess, University of Arizona, USA*
10:30–11:00	**Firefighter Health Surveillance, Medical Screening & Early Detection** *Prof Alberto Caban-Martinez, University of Miami, USA*
11:00–11:30	**Coffee Break**
11:30–12:00	**UK Firefighters' Occupational Exposures and Diseases: Findings and Emerging Patterns** *Dr Rebecca Allcock and Dr Shonagh Haslam, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK*
12:00–12:30	**Measuring the Impact of Firefighting: Physiological Stress, Heat Exposure and Operational Demands** *Prof James Bilzon, University of Bath, UK*
12:30–13:00	**Firefighters Lifestyle, Stress, and Psychological Resilience** *Dr Rachel Carey, University of Lancashire, UK*
13:00–14:00	**Lunch**
14:00–14:30	**Firefighting as a Carcinogenic Occupation: Current Evidence and Future Challenges** *Prof Anna A Stec, University of Leicester, UK*
14:30–15:00	**International Approaches to Firefighter Cancer Risk Recognition & Compensation** *Alex Forrest, International Association of Firefighters, Canada*
15:00–15:30	**Firefighter Occupational Disease Recognition in the UK** *Prof Andrew Watterson, University of Stirling, UK*
15:30–16:00	**Panel Discussion**
16:00–16:15	**Closing Remarks**
16:15	**CLOSE DAY 2**