



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Safety and Health Committee

Minutes of meeting held November 4, 2025

The Safety and Health Committee of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association met on November 4, 2025, via Zoom.

Members of the committee present were

David Lewis, Chairman
David Reid
David Black
Christopher Caisse
Rhonda Cohen
Heather Miller

The meeting was scheduled to discuss topics and assign writers for the January 2026 issue of Back Step Talks. The committee previously agreed to focus on cancer in the fire service for the January issue. The committee discussed that a great deal is being written about cancer, and we should select the top concerns to continue raising awareness among first responders. Following the discussion, the following were agreed to be used for articles:

- Guest article – already submitted by Mike Wisco, Firefighter Cancer Support Network (thanks to Dave Reid for getting this)
- Preventive actions – What can first responders do to reduce cancer risks, including recommendations from the Lavender Ribbon Report, and discuss registering for the National Firefighter Registry – Dave Lewis
- Nutritional guidance to reduce cancer risks – Rhonda Cohen
- Station design considerations – what can we do in our stations to limit exposure to carcinogens – Dave Black
- Highlight preventive actions being taken by Baltimore City – Chris Caisse
- Cancer disability and death benefits – Maryland presumption laws, MSFA guidance, MSFA Cancer Support Committee, PSOB Coverage – Dave Reid
- Testing for cancer – what resources are available, including recent funding through the Maryland grant program – **WE NEED A WRITER**

All committee members should also submit Save the Date announcements for Jan/Feb/Mar. We also should make sure that we have references to resources that members and their families can use (include FCSN, MSFA Cancer Support, 40PlusFire, etc.)

The following schedule was reviewed for the January issue of Back Step Talks:

- Draft articles due by Monday, December 15
- Committee reviews draft and comments by email
- Committee meets to discuss and approve the draft on Monday, December 29
- Back Step Talks, January 2026, scheduled for release on January 1, 2026

Thanks again for everyone's continued support and participation.

Submitted by: David Lewis, Chairman