

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MINIMIZING CONTAMINANT RISK AND EXPOSURE FOR 1ST RESPONDERS

**Minutes of the Meeting
November 14, 2019
1:00 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 109**

Members Present:

Senator Paul Boyer, Chair
Senator Rick Gray
Senator Rebecca Rios
James Ashley
Tom Belshe
Dr. Jeff Burgess (via telephone)

Scott Freitag
Brian Hummell
David Mathews
Dr. Vershalee Shukla
Susan Strickler

Members Excused:

Bryan Jeffries

Staff:

Laura Benitez, Senate Research Staff

Chairman Boyer called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. and attendance was taken.

Senator Boyer stated that Mr. Jeffries was excused.

Senator Boyer explained the order in which the meeting would proceed.

PRESENTATIONS:

"Range of Treatment Estimates" David Mathews, City of Phoenix

Senator Boyer stated that the presentation by Mr. Mathews would not be presented at this meeting.

"Comprehensive Cancer Screening in Firefighters"

Vershalee Shukla, MD, Vincere Cancer Center, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Comprehensive Cancer Screening in Firefighters" (Attachment A). Dr. Shukla gave an overview of her background and the work she is currently doing.

Pablo Prichard, MD, Vincere Cancer Center, testified regarding the necessity of early detection of diseases through regular screenings and the costs involved with lack of screenings. Dr. Prichard spoke about the cost savings of early detection and treatment.

Dr. Shukla answered questions posed by the Committee.

Dr. Prichard answered questions posed by the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Boyer stated, if there are no corrections, without objection, the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Minimizing Contaminant Risk and Exposure for 1st Responders minutes of October 17, 2019 were approved as distributed.

Video Presentation: "The Invisible Danger of Bunker Gear Transfer"

Senator Boyer introduced a YouTube video to be shown entitled "The Invisible Danger of Bunker Gear Transfer" and asked that the YouTube link to the video be included in the permanent record as follows:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFzP1rQJWSQ&feature=youtu.be>

"Firefighter Cancer Prevention Strategies and Screening"

Chris Stewart, Deputy Chief, Phoenix Fire Department, representing Chief Kara Kalkbrenner, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Phoenix Fire Department Cancer Prevention and Response" (Attachment B). Deputy Chief Stewart gave an overview of what the Phoenix Fire Department is doing to help manage and improve the wellness and health of the firefighters throughout their career. Deputy Chief Stewart testified regarding best practices for the fire department to mitigate contamination by carcinogens and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Brian Moore, Phoenix Fire Captain, did not present at this meeting.

"Industry Best Practices" Mesa Fire and Medical Department

Dale Crogan, Captain, Mesa Fire and Medical Department, did not present at this meeting.

Scott Figgins, Captain, Wellness Program, Mesa Fire and Medical Department, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "The Fight Against Cancer: Recommended Best Practices" (Attachment C). Captain Figgins testified that his presentation is mainly about firefighters but that presumptive laws include peace officers but do not include fire investigators.

Captain Figgins distributed and referenced the following handouts:

- "Best Practices for Reducing Firefighter Exposures to Carcinogens" (Attachment D)
- "Cancer Causing Toxins" (Attachment E)
- "The Fight Against Cancer in the Fire Service" (Attachment F)
- "Mesa Fire/Medical Stall Street Journal" (Attachment G)
- "10 Best Practices in Preventing Firefighter Cancer" (Attachment H)
- "Cancer Prevention in the Fire Service" (Attachment I)
- "MFMD Best Practices Videos and other informational slides" (Attachment J)
- "Best Practice Recommendations" (Attachment K)
- "Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer" (Attachment L)
- "Baylor University Proposed Research: Occupationally Soiled Firefighter Materials" (Attachment M)
- "Baylor University; Occupationally Soiled Firefighter Turnout Gear" (Attachment N)
- "Reduce Your Exposure Risk to Carcinogens" (Attachment O)
- "Pilot study on the efficiency of water-only decontamination for firefighters' turnout gear" (Attachment P)

Captain Figgins answered questions posed by the Committee.

Remarks from Gilbert Aguirre, Goodyear Firefighter and Dr. Mark Peck, father of Austin Peck

Gilbert Aguirre, Engineer/Paramedic, City of Goodyear, testified regarding his personal experience being diagnosed, treated for cancer and having his claim for workman's compensation denied. Mr. Aguirre testified about the effects of these experiences have had on his family, emotionally and financially.

Senator Rios offered comments.

Senator Boyer offered comments and stated that he had some questions for CopperPoint Insurance Company.

Dr. Mark Peck, father of recently deceased firefighter, Austin Peck, gave an overview of his son's case, the diagnosis, treatment and fighting to pay the bills after being continuously denied for workers' compensation. Dr. Peck spoke of other firefighters having the same problems as his son regarding workers' compensation and the problems with the workers' compensation system.

Senator Boyer offered comments.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Jason Underwood, Chandler Fire Department, Engineer/Paramedic, testified regarding his experience with cancer and the importance of early detection.

DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee discussed recommendations they would like to make and formalize at the next meeting.

Attached is a form noting the individual who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment Q).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)