

Exposure to fire contaminants in London: A hidden, growing risk?

Fire fighters (or type unknown)

Key information

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The **London Assembly Fire Committee** has published the report: *Exposure to fire contaminants in London: A hidden, growing risk?*. The report finds that firefighters in London may be routinely exposed to toxic substances released during fires, including known carcinogens such as asbestos, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants. While definitive UK evidence on cancer causation is still emerging, research presented to the Committee shows **higher cancer incidence** and abnormal tumour markers among firefighters compared with the general population.

Recommendations in the report include:

- strengthening training, assurance and compliance with fire contaminants policies
- improving PPE availability and future-proofing procurement
- embedding health promotion and preventative support within occupational health provision
- calling on the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council to review evidence on **cancer risks** linked to firefighting

[Read the report in full](#)