

What is CODE 3 FOR A CURE?



Code 3 for a Cure ® is a national nonprofit 501(c)3 public charity which addresses cancer in the fire service. It is led by two officers and a five-member Board of Directors.

Code 3 for a Cure (C3FAC) was formed out of one firefighter's struggles. President and Founder Lorenzo Abundiz (Firefighter/Engineer, Santa Ana, California), a 27-year veteran of the fire service, was first diagnosed with cancer in 1998, subsequently forced into an early medical disability retirement, and since then has fought two other types of cancer.



So what's the meaning behind the phrase "Code 3?" The term is used to refer to an emergency vehicle going to the highest level of response in an

emergency situation, when lights and sirens are utilized. Its meaning in the context of this organization is, let's move to the highest level of response to help cure the effects of cancer for one group who is among the most heavily afflicted by it.

Read more on the story behind C3FAC: www.c3fac.org/story.html.

Our PURPOSE

The purpose of Code 3 for a Cure ® is to address cancer in the fire service by:

- Promoting awareness of cancer as an occupational hazard of firefighting;
- Providing information relative to the toxic exposures firefighters face and how their cancer risks can be minimized; and
- Offering financial assistance to firefighters in need throughout the United States who are battling cancer.

What We Do

- Heighten awareness among firefighters regarding their risks of toxic exposures;
- Provide information to firefighters relative to how they can minimize their risks of contracting cancer;
- Garnish support for firefighters stricken with cancer by educating the general public through social media and news media campaigns;
- Issue checks to firefighters in need throughout the United States who are battling cancer (read some of their stories at www.c3fac.org/ff_stories.html);
- Offer ongoing support and encouragement to firefighters who are either battling cancer themselves, or dealing with it on some level within their department;
- Lend a helping hand to firefighter groups or departments that hold fundraisers for their personnel who are battling cancer by providing C3FAC auction or raffle items for their events;
- Give an honor ride on a fire engine to firefighters who are terminal with cancer; and
- Periodically conduct a Mission of Honor and Hope on a fire engine (see back panel).

FIREFIGHTERS and CANCER

Numerous research studies have proven that firefighters are more likely to contract cancer than the average citizen due to the toxins to which they are exposed in the line of duty.



Based on the causal connection between firefighting and cancer, and because firefighters are considered to be heroes by most people's definition, many assume firefighters are well taken care of when diagnosed with cancer; yet, in spite of the findings, as well as presumptive laws that have been passed in certain states, too often quite the opposite is true. There have been many financial assistance applications presented to C3FAC by firefighters who are struggling to get the proper medical care they need, stay on top of mounting medical bills, afford fuel costs to get to and from their treatments, keep their homes, and continue to support their families. 70 percent of America's firefighters are volunteer, and even those who are paid a salary or have medical insurance often struggle financially when fighting cancer. C3FAC's first recipient of financial assistance was a retired career firefighter in Missouri who was spending his entire monthly retirement check on liver medications as he battled liver cancer.

Code 3 for a Cure was formed based on the conviction that no firefighter should have to endure what many of them do when faced with a cancer diagnosis. There is currently a lack of an adequate system in place to ensure firefighters consistently receive the critical health care and support they need when battling cancer. That is why Code 3 for a Cure exists.

Mission of HONOR and HOPE



The C3FAC Mission of Honor and Hope is a journey taken on a fire engine (dependent on funding levels) by a crew of firefighter cancer survivors.

The purpose of the Mission is to: (1) bring attention to the prevalence of firefighting related cancers; (2) encourage early cancer screenings and adherence to safety procedures among firefighters; (3) share our experiences and give hope and support to firefighters battling cancer; and (4) honor and remember firefighters who have lost their lives to cancer.

Read more at: www.c3fac.org/mission.html.

Become a C3FAC ATHLETE

Firefighters and citizens across the nation are now dedicating their races and other sports events to raise funds for the C3FAC cause. Some race in fire gear. For information on how you can raise funds for C3FAC through your races, visit the Athletes page of our website: www.c3fac.org/athletes.html.



*FF Jake Sinkiewicz
North Carolina*

Sponsors:



**Become a Hero
By Helping Some.**

Code 3 for a Cure®

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