

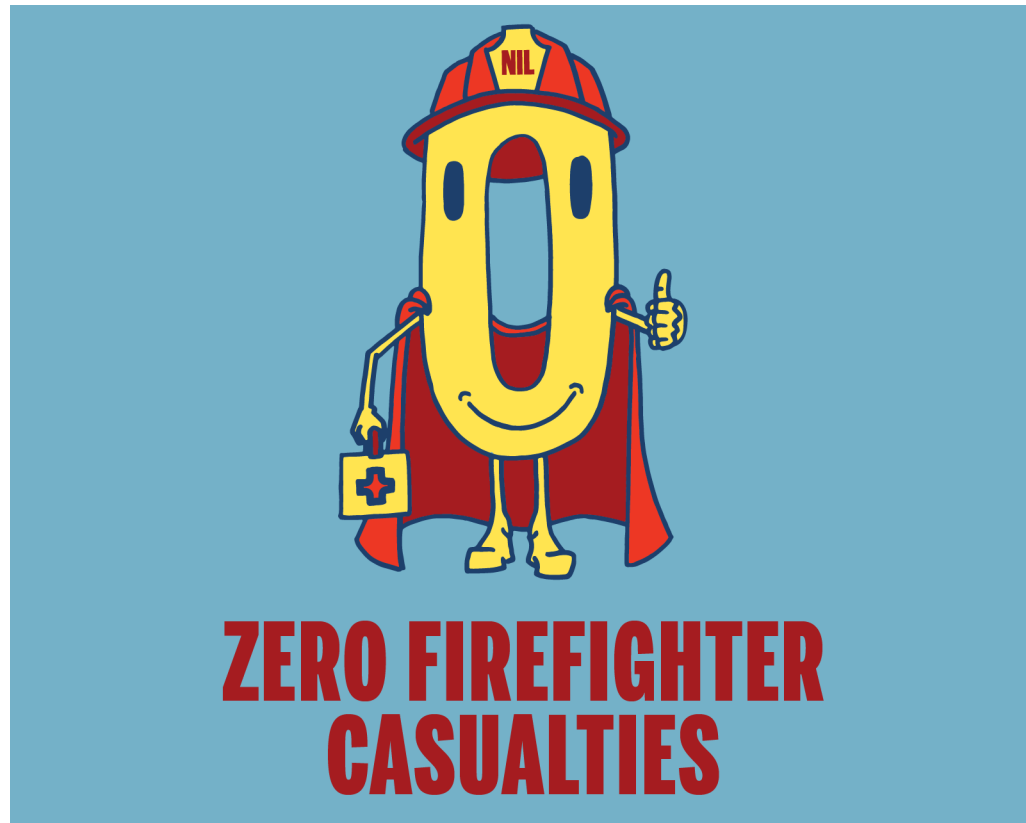
COGGLEVATION

MAY 2017 | THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PF&R'S STRATEGIC PLAN | WWW.PORTLANDOREGON.GOV/FIRE/COGGLE

HEALTH

THE COGGLE ATTACKS CANCER

Cancer Reduction Plan at Heart of Strategic Plan



PF&R's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, aka The Coggle, is filled with hundreds of actions that will help position the bureau as a world-class agency that's primed to protect the city's people, property, and the environment.

Because most community members don't have the time and inclination to read all of the actual Coggle items (you can find it online at www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/coggle), the strategic planning team led by Chief Myers created a campaign called Zero is Our Hero that synthesizes some of our most important action items. This brochure, with its mascot Nil, will have a public introduction a few months down the line, but we wanted to share it with all employees now. See the sidebar for more information about Zero is Our Hero.

There are four areas highlighted in this campaign, including Zero Firefighter Casualties. Zero Firefighter Casualties includes things ranging from fire ground injuries and deaths to overall health and wellness. One specific area that receives strong focus on the Coggle is Zero Fire-Related Cancers.

In 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the final results of what is currently the largest study of cancer risk among career firefighters ever conducted in the United States. This study of about 30,000 firefighters over a 60-year span showed that compared with the general population, firefighters on average are at higher risk for certain kinds of cancer — mainly oral, digestive, respiratory, genital and urinary cancers.

The CDC also found that firefighters who were exposed to more fires than their peers experienced more instances of lung cancer and

leukemia. The risks come on many fronts: Fires carry soot and smoke from high-toxin synthetic material and electronics; exhaust fumes from diesel fire engines present a hazard; the protective gear that insulates firefighters from heat and flames also raises body temperatures, opening pores to absorb chemicals.

Chief Myers supports a strong cancer reduction program at PF&R; in July he will be attending an NFPA workshop titled "Campaign for Fire Service Contamination Control" that will work to develop an educational campaign on the topic.

"Firefighters know that they are putting their lives on the line every day that they show up for work, but the risks we take should always be carefully analyzed. If there are ways to reduce cancer risks, we are going to implement them," says Chief Myers. "My role as fire chief is to make sure that the men and women on our front lines go home to their families and remain healthy."

Some of the Zero Fire-Related Cancers Action Items on the Coggle Include:

- Research and develop "Ward Diesel No Smoke" ventilation solutions for apparatus
- Purchase and install extractors for cleaning turnouts in 2 locations
- Implement twice a year turnout cleaning per NFPA guidelines
- Purchase second set of turnouts
- Convert all station cleaners to non-toxic
- Ensure 100% of stations are below action level for radion
- Test water for lead in fire stations

ZERO IS OUR HERO: THE COGGLE CAMPAIGN

The public campaign to inform the community about PF&R's most important plans is called Zero is Our Hero and is led by a cartoon mascot named "Nil," a shorthand for zero.

While Nil is friendly and approachable, the campaign initiatives are very serious. You can see the campaign brochure here: www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/ZeroHero.

The four areas of focus for the campaign are: Zero Fire Deaths, Zero Traffic Fatalities, Zero Firefighter Casualties, and Zero Neighbors Neglected. Some information about each of them:

Zero Fire Deaths: Aggressively working toward eliminating fire deaths in the City of Portland through fire prevention, education, and rapid response.

Zero Traffic Fatalities: Joining forces with public and private partners to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and make Vision Zero a reality.

Zero Firefighter Casualties: Eliminating work-related deaths and incident injuries through proactive training, programs, and state-of-readiness equipment.

Zero Neighbors Neglected: Evaluating the health and social issues in each neighborhood and proactively providing the appropriate resources for a healthier community



See the whole brochure at: www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/ZeroHero



Do you have a story about a PF&R cogglevation that would be great for this newsletter?
Contact Caryn Brooks on the Communications Team
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