



**CITY OF
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N E W S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release:

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Mount Dora Firefighters to be trained on Cancer Prevention

MOUNT DORA, Fla. (June 12, 2018) – On June 14, 2018, representatives from Municipal Equipment Company, LLC will be at Mount Dora Fire Station #34 to train firefighters about cancer prevention and demonstrate with new equipment.

On February 6, 2018, The Mount Dora City Council approved a resolution (2018-11) for the purchase of new bunker gear, otherwise known as personal protection equipment (PPE), for firefighting purposes. The gear, which has recently arrived, will be used as a second set of PPE when the original gear used for firefighting purposes becomes contaminated with hazardous substances.

The reason for the purchase of the new gear is based on recent studies where it has been found firefighters are developing cancer from wearing contaminated gear. In 2010, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health began a study of nearly 30,000 firefighters in several large Fire Departments to understand the potential link between firefighting and cancer. The study was completed in 2015 and found higher rates of certain types of cancers than the general U.S. population. Firefighters in the study had a greater number of digestive, oral, respiratory, urinary and prostate cancers. These studies have shown the cancers develop from contaminants that collect on the Firefighters' equipment.

Firefighter cancer rates are becoming the leading cause of death within the fire service; and to help prevent cancer in firefighters it is recommended the PPE be decontaminated with an extractor after each fire to rid their gear of carcinogens.

Study link here: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/pgms/worknotify/pdfs/ff-cancer-factsheet-final.pdf>



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The Mount Dora Public Safety Department and City leaders take the health of our firefighters very seriously. As a preventative measure, the second set of gear was purchased to help minimize the risk our firefighters face when responding to incidents. Other measures will be implemented at scenes, including washing down external gear at a scene, providing wipes for the firefighters and demonstrating the proper way to handle gear that has collected debris.

There will be an active demonstration at Mount Dora Fire Station #34 on Thursday, June 14, 2018 from 10 a.m. to noon. Representatives from Municipal Equipment Company will be on hand to train firefighters on cancer prevention. Firefighters will actively train with the new PPEs and media is invited to come to the training. Representatives from Municipal Equipment and Mount Dora Fire Department will be available for interviews.

What: Firefighter Cancer Prevention

Where: Mount Dora Fire Station #34, 1300 North Donnelly Street

When: Thursday, July 14, 2018

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon

Please note at 10 a.m. we will have a Spanish speaking Firefighter on site for any stations/publications.

For more information, please contact PIO Lisa McDonald at 352-459-3065 (cell) or email mcdonaldl@cityofmoundora.com. Please let us know if you are sending a crew so we can provide parking spaces. Parking will be located behind the Fire Station on Lincoln Avenue in the open employee/visitor parking. There is also parking space available on Lincoln Avenue in front of the fenced in utility area. Please do not park in the large Fire Station driveway.

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