

## **Resolution No. 43**

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety**

**Re: IAFF Support of ‘Peer Reviewed Studies’ Relating to ‘ultrasound neck scans’ of the Throat Versus ‘Bloodwork’ to Screen for ‘Thyroid Cancer’ within the Firefighter Population**

1           WHEREAS, NFPA 1582 ‘Comprehensive  
2 Occupational Medical Program for Fire  
3 Departments’ is the standard for medical programs in  
4 the fire service; and

5           WHEREAS, many fire departments utilize NFPA  
6 582 as the template for their ‘Medical Program’; and

7           WHEREAS, NFPA 1582 7.7.12 provides for  
8 ‘Colon Cancer Screening’ via both ‘fecal occult  
9 blood testing’ and ‘colonoscopy services’ and has  
10 saved countless firefighters through early detection  
11 and diagnosis of cancer; and

12           WHEREAS, NFPA 1582 7.7.13 provides for  
13 ‘Prostate Cancer Screening’ via ‘prostate-specific  
14 antigen’ (PSA) and has saved countless firefighters  
15 through early detection and diagnosis of cancer; and

16           WHEREAS, an ultrasound scan of the throat was  
17 recently added to Las Vegas Fire and Rescue’s  
18 (LVFR) mandatory annual physical examination.  
19 The intent was to help document early artery disease,  
20 but the “neck scans” identified an unexpected  
21 problem as well finding 30-40 individuals exhibited  
22 abnormal thyroid glands and further testing  
23 diagnosed nine cases of malignant papillary thyroid  
24 cancer, or a rate of 1 in 77, within the department,  
25 <http://www.mpffu.org/news/ThyroidCancerLasVegas>  
26 [FD.pdf](#); and

27           WHEREAS, if the LVFR 1 in 77 rate of  
28 diagnosed malignant papillary thyroid cancer holds  
29 true for the balance of the IAFF, there is significant  
30 risk of thyroid cancer within our ranks; and

31           WHEREAS, an ultrasound scan of the throat is  
32 both a non-invasive and inexpensive test that has  
33 proven to be effective in aiding in early detection and  
34 diagnosis of thyroid cancer; and

35           WHEREAS, in order to change NFPA 1582 to  
36 include ‘Thyroid Cancer Screening’ the IAFF needs  
37 ‘Peer Reviewed Studies’ to advocate for us; therefore  
38 be it

39           RESOLVED, That the IAFF brings its significant  
40 weight and influence to bear on both research  
41 institutions and government to provide for ‘Peer  
42 Reviewed Studies’ relating to ‘ultrasound neck  
43 scans’ of the throat versus ‘Bloodwork’ to screen for  
44 ‘Thyroid Cancer’, ‘Throat Cancer’, ‘Esophageal  
45 Cancer’ within the firefighter population; and be it  
46 further

47           RESOLVED, That if the ‘Peer Reviewed  
48 Research’ does complement the (LVFR) findings  
49 that IAFF brings its significant weight and influence  
50 to bear to address the issue in NFPA 1582.

Submitted by: San Mateo County Firefighters, Local 2400  
California Professional Firefighters, A-5  
Alameda City, Local 689  
Las Vegas Firefighters, Local 1285

Cost Estimate: None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt**

**CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Amended**