

September 28, 2016

Firefighters turn out in pink this October

In addition to fighting fires, Campbell River fire fighters are sporting the colour pink throughout October in efforts to fight breast and other cancers.

“Across North America, fire fighters are wearing pink to support the fight against breast cancer in October because fire fighters exposed to carcinogens and other chemicals while on the job are disproportionately diagnosed with breast cancer – just one of many cancers linked to the work fire fighters do,” says deputy fire chief Thomas Doherty.

With one in eight women diagnosed each year, an estimated 246,660 new cases of breast cancer and 40,450 deaths will be reported in 2016. Among all women affected, 85 per cent have no family history.

“Fire fighters are motivated to get involved for many reasons, and often it’s because they have been personally affected by the disease,” says Stewart Dumont, a City of Campbell River fire fighter and president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 1668. *“We are supporting breast cancer awareness and prevention by encouraging others to give so that no breast cancer patient goes without life-saving treatments or having hope for a cure.”*

Although everyone is at risk for breast cancer, the two most important risk factors are being female and getting older. Most women diagnosed with breast cancer have no other known factors. To help reduce your risk, be sure to maintain a healthy weight, eat a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, exercise and limit alcohol consumption.

Your Campbell River fire fighters encourage everyone in this community to participate in breast cancer awareness and prevention activities.

For more information, contact the Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Doherty, Campbell River Fire Department at 250-286-6266.

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