



CIMARRON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cimarron Hills Fire Protection District Firefighters Screened for Cancer

Cimarron Hills, CO – Monday, January 5, 2026 – The Cimarron Hills Fire Department is hosting an esophageal precancer screening event for at-risk firefighters to help address the elevated cancer risks faced by those who serve on the front lines of public safety.

Screenings will take place on January 5, 6, 7, and 9 at Cimarron Hills Headquarters.

“Firefighters dedicate their lives to protecting our community, often while being exposed to harmful carcinogens as part of the job,” said Chief Andrew York, Fire Chief of the Cimarron Hills Fire Department. “This event is about taking care of our own by offering access to early detection that could truly save lives.”

Firefighters face a significantly higher risk of cancer than the general population, including a **62% higher risk of esophageal cancer**. Esophageal cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, when treatment options are limited. Detecting precancerous changes early can allow for effective monitoring and treatment before cancer develops.

The screening offered during this event is simple, non-invasive, and takes less than two minutes, involving a brief esophageal cell collection performed by experienced medical professionals.

“This is a proactive step toward protecting firefighter health. In 2020, I lost a great friend and fellow firefighter to cancer. As Fire Chief, I will continue to honor his service and legacy, and I will explore all possible preventative steps and avenues to reduce our exposure to harmful carcinogens,” Chief York added.

These life-saving screenings are possible through the strong support of the community and the dedicated Board of Directors overseeing the fire district.

“A Community Centered *Family* Department”

www.cimarronhillsfire.org

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