

UNITED



FIRE
SERVICE
WOMEN

SAN FRANCISCO



History

Statistics and Diversity

Member Trainings

Health, Wellness and
Cancer

Leadership and
Mentoring

Social Networking
and Community
Support



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the **United Fire Service Women** is to support and advocate for the welfare of women in the **San Francisco Fire Department**, create a network of women in the fire service, and ensure a diverse and unified department that represents the city we serve.

Our goal is to work together to improve on-the-job satisfaction and success, ensure that promotional and training information is readily and easily accessible, and provide advocacy and social networking.



HISTORY

- ▶ Women first entered the SFFD in 1987.
- ▶ 10 years later in 1997...the UFSW was officially established
- ▶ Women currently comprise about 14.9% (272) of the uniformed members of the SFFD.



DIVERSITY BY GENDER

Number of Rank
Firefighters:

1780

Number of rank women
firefighters

266

Percent

14.9%

Average Time

14.34 years

Average Age

44.93 years



DIVERSITY BY ETHNICITY

White	49.7%
African American	9.5%
Hispanic	17.3%
Asian/PI/Filipino	22.8%
Native American	.7%



LEADERSHIP

Women are at every rank in the SFFD





Training



Since 2014, UFSW has trained over 450 SFFD members in the following classes:

- LARRO
- Forcible Entry
- Promotional Prep for Captain, Lieutenant and Fire Prevention
- Berkeley Way LODD
- Firefighter Survival
- Advanced Pump Ops
- Leadership Conferences
- Rio Hondo Truck Academy





Health, Wellness and Cancer

Concern among SF firefighters about rates of premenopausal breast cancer among the women in their ranks.



Breast cancer rate alarms SFFD female firefighters

By Will Reisman



MIKE KOOZMIN/THE S.F. EXAMINER

Fighting: San Francisco Fire Department firefighter Jeanine Nicholson, seen at her Berkeley home, has undergone a double mastectomy and chemotherapy.

Alert 63° Sign In | Subscribe

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

FULL MENU NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT CLASSIFIEDS

Concern grows in firefighters, others after cancer-causing flame retardants found in test subjects

HIGHLIGHTS

A photograph of two people, Casey McEhene and Karen Heald, sitting on a brown leather couch in a living room. They are holding two small dogs. The room has a lamp and a window in the background.

San Francisco firefighters Casey McEhene and Karen Heald with their German short-haired pointer puppies Raven and Naluku at their home in Davis, are sitting on a couch with flame retardant chemicals. **Manny Crisostomo** mcrisostomo@sacbee.com

Firefighters Sound Alarm On Toxic Chemicals

Posted: 03/27/2014 7:40 am EDT | Updated: 04/08/2014 1:59 pm EDT



Former San Francisco firefighter and cancer survivor Denise Elarms waits Wednesday to speak during a remembrance ceremony held for San Francisco firefighters who have died of cancer. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

SAN FRANCISCO

Women Firefighters Biomonitoring Collaborative



A study to examine
exposures to chemicals
linked to breast cancer



Women Firefighter Biomonitoring Collaborative

Firefighter Organizations:

- United Fire Service Women
- San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation

Science Team:

- UC Berkeley School of Public Health
- UC San Francisco
- Silent Spring Institute

Environmental Health Advocates:

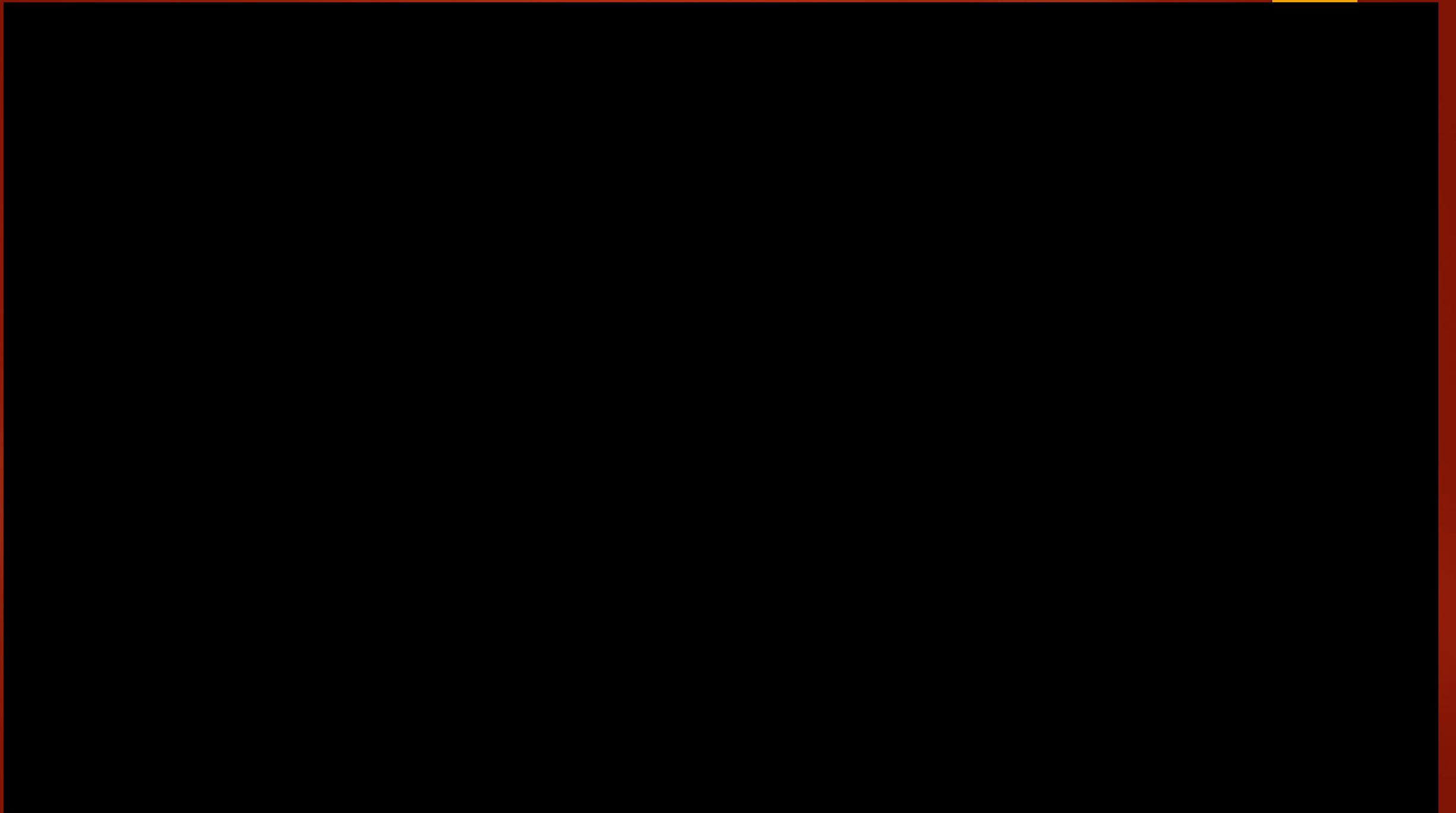
- Commonweal
- Breast Cancer Prevention Partners



Summery of Results

- ▶ We detected multiple PFAS in everyone tested, with higher amounts in FF.
- ▶ Among Firefighters we found evidence that assignment/rig position may be associated with increased levels of PFASs
- ▶ firefighters who reported using firefighting foam had higher concentrations of PFOA





Working Women Biomonitoring Collaborative





Wine Country Firefighter Biomonitoring

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM 250 FIREFIGHTERS, INCLUDING STRIKE TEAMS FROM SF

Mentoring

Through two camps, Camp Blaze and Nor Cal First Alarm Girls Fire Camp, UFSW members have worked with young girls, exposing them to the opportunities in the Fire Service.









Supporting
our
Community

Women's History Month



Since 2012, UFSW has raised close to \$100,000 for a variety of Cancer Prevention organizations including our very own SF Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation, The Breast Cancer Fund and BAYS



SOCIAL

In 2017, UFSW celebrated 30 years of women in the fire service with a celebration honoring the first women in the department.



UFSW social gatherings include our annual Holiday Bowling Party, annual breakfast meeting, private movie screenings and just getting together for hikes

