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## **Firefighter Gear Contains Cancer Causing Toxic Chemicals**

Boston, MA, February 15, 2022—The Justice Law Collaborative (“JLC”) filed suit today in Suffolk Superior Court in Massachusetts on behalf of a local Boston firefighter against several manufacturers of firefighter turnout gear. JLC is currently representing several firefighters across the country in lawsuits alleging the development of cancer due to exposure to dangerous chemicals called per – and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). High levels of these chemicals were, and still are, widely used in turnout gear worn and handled by firefighters every day in the line of duty.

PFAS chemicals are a group of man-made toxic chemicals that the American Cancer Society, the Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported to be linked to significant health risks, including many types of cancers. In fact, many PFAS chemicals have been found to be so toxic that they are no longer manufactured in the United States. PFAS chemicals are considered “forever chemicals” because of their inability to break down in the environment. Since they do not break down in the environment, they can enter the body and accumulate in the blood serum, kidneys, and liver, leading to serious illness.

In order to protect firefighters from water and potential steam burns, their protective gear is treated with the PFAS chemicals. A study led by Graham Peaslee, a professor of physics at the University of Notre Dame found that that firefighter’s protective-turnout gear was treated extensively with PFAS, even in fire houses that no longer used PFAS-based firefighting foam. If firefighters touch the gear, the dangerous chemicals get on their hands, and if they then eat, the chemical can transfer hand to mouth and enter the body. It is also possible that the chemicals could enter the body through the sweat pores on firefighters’ skin when wearing the gear. Peaslee noted, “Over the past 30 years, the leading cause of death in the fire services has changed from cardiac events to cancer, and alarmingly, 70% of firefighters are predicted to die eventually from cancer, which is significantly higher than the general population.”

Firefighters work so hard to protect and serve our communities, it is atrocious that they have been carelessly exposed to these cancer-causing chemicals in the gear that they trusted to protect them from the dangers of their occupation. Attorney Paula Bliss, co-founder of the South Easton based law firm, the Justice Law Collaborative, has years of toxic tort experience, including successfully litigated tobacco cases against manufacturer Philip Morris and Roundup cases against Monsanto, among others. Bliss sees a lot of similarities between the deceptive practices of manufacturers of PFAS and those used by cigarette manufacturers.

“Sadly, it does not shock me that these massive corporations continue to put profits over the safety of our loved ones, and they do this with the knowledge that they are exposing our first responders with toxic and deadly chemicals,” she said.

Bliss and her team at the Justice Law Collaborative have created a law firm dedicated to representing those injured by the heinous practices of large corporations and institutions. The Firm is actively investigating the egregious actions of the manufacturers of PFAS containing turnout gear. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer and believe it may be attributed to PFAS exposure from the use of protective gear, please contact the Justice Law Collaborative at [ffsupport@justicelc.com](mailto:ffsupport@justicelc.com) or visit their website at [www.justicelawcollaborative.com](http://www.justicelawcollaborative.com).

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