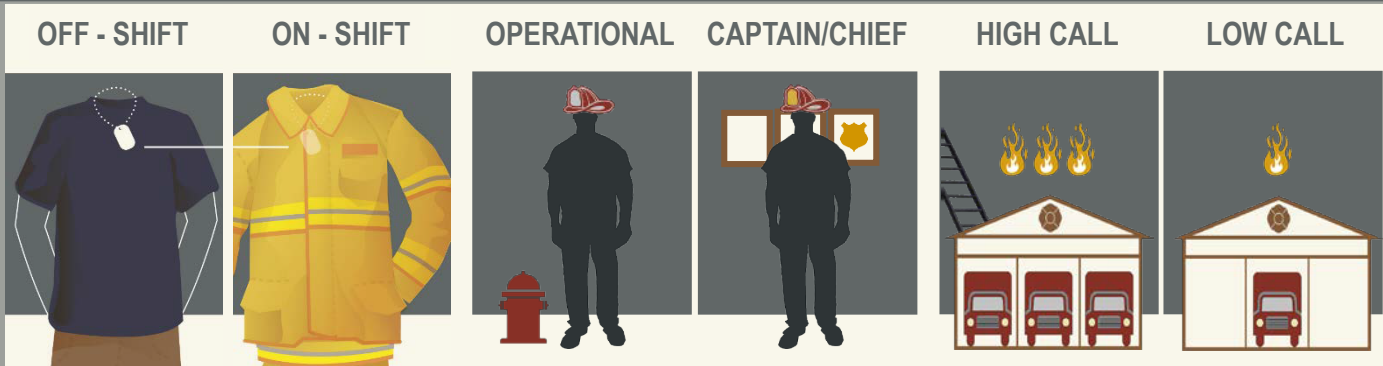


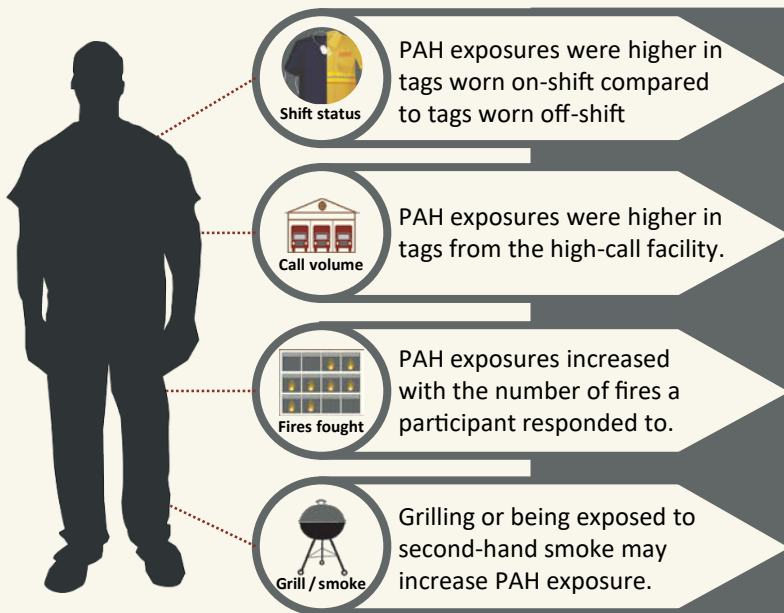
# Firefighter Chemical Exposures

Oregon State University | Center for Fire, Rescue and EMS Health Research

Fires produce and release many environmental chemicals. Firefighters are first on the scene and may be exposed to potentially harmful chemicals. We looked at Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are found in fossil fuels (oil, diesel) and produced by burning wood, plants and tobacco. Some PAHs are known pollutants.



A total of 56 firefighters participated in this study. They wore personal passive samplers in the shape of a dog tag either on- or off-shift, at high- and low-call departments. Operational and command staff participated.



Each tag was analyzed for 63 different PAHs.

Exposure to PAHs depended on several variables, like shift status, facility call volume and more.

Some PAHs were previously found with firefighters. We identified 18 new PAHs.



## Questions? Contact us!

**Kim A. Anderson, PhD**  
Food Safety & Environmental Stewardship  
kim.anderson@oregonstate.edu  
541-737-8501  
<http://fses.oregonstate.edu>

**Walker S. Carlos Poston, PhD**  
Center for Fire, Rescue & EMS Health Research  
Center for Military & Veteran's Health Research  
carlosposton@hopehri.com  
913-681-0317 | NDRI-USA, Inc.

## Learn more about PAHs

**PAHs: What are they and why do they matter?**  
<https://youtu.be/fjgvmL61e5k>

**All About PAHs**  
<https://superfund.oregonstate.edu/all-about-pahs>