

IAFF John P. Redmond Foundation

The prevention and reduction of death, injury, and illness for fire fighters is a major concern of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). The IAFF is actively involved in addressing the health and safety problems of fire fighters. During the course of a single year, a fire fighter has a 40 percent or greater chance of being injured. In fact, fire fighters' deaths, injuries and occupationally-induced illnesses exceed the mining, construction and logging industries, each of which annually rank among the most hazardous occupations. Clearly, the profession of fire fighting is deserving of concentrated attention and support in order to reduce the number of injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

As a result, the John P. Redmond Memorial Trust Fund (title later changed to John P. Redmond Foundation) was established as a non-profit Trust Fund at the IAFF Convention in 1958, in memory of John P. Redmond, the fourth president of the IAFF who died in office from occupational heart disease. The purpose of the trust fund is to encourage and carry forth research and education regarding the occupational hazards and diseases associated with fire fighting. These efforts have been supported over the years through IAFF membership dues, voluntary contributions from IAFF affiliates, IAFF Auxiliary chapters, and memorial gifts from families and friends of fire fighters. It has also received support from federal agencies such as the U.S. Fire Administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Bureau of Standards.

To promote education, the Redmond Foundation sponsors a symposium every two years on the occupational health and hazards of the fire service. The 18 symposia held since 1971 have provided forums for detailed discussion on safety and health matters directly affecting fire fighting personnel. The forums bring together fire fighters, medical researchers, medical practitioners, safety experts, fire chiefs, city management representatives, political leaders, university and industry representatives and personnel from various agencies of the federal government. Often, those in attendance have initiated new research efforts or have caused programs to be implemented to reduce the hazards associated with fire fighting. In addition, these symposia have provided a valuable forum for fire fighters from across the United States and Canada to understand the occupational hazards of their profession and learn ways to minimize these dangers. In this way, the Redmond Foundation has developed a record of achievement by keeping in the forefront of the health and safety issues affecting fire fighters.

While much deserved attention has been focused on the biennial symposium, it is only a part of the Redmond Foundation's efforts. The studies funded through the Redmond Foundation have led to medical evidence correlating heart and lung diseases and occupational cancer with the profession of fire fighting. This research has been used by state and provincial legislatures for the adoption of statutes that provide compensation to fire fighters who have heart and lung diseases and occupational cancer. The Redmond Foundation has also supported medical research to examine the effects of carbon monoxide, as well as studies involving product liability, diesel exhaust in fire stations and lower-back injuries. The Redmond Foundation has used its resources to continue field testing advances in protective clothing through Project FIRES and Project HEROES.

The IAFF John P. Redmond Foundation is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees chaired by IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger. Its office is located at the IAFF headquarters in Washington, DC.

The John P. Redmond Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Trust Fund. Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:

John P. Redmond Foundation
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1750 New York Ave., NW
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