

What should be done we have to do it ourselves.

After a summer with a lot of overtime and many employees who applied for leave to try other better paying jobs, it feels like the business is running on "fumes".

We have employers who have interpreted the action program in such a way that they can reduce staffing temporarily. The problem is that according to the action program they can only decrease on preparedness for major operations and not for staff shortages, thus a misinterpretation because save what can be saved.

Speaking of saving and who save the savers like that the USA, Canada, Australia, Poland and Iceland have the common thing that they have classified a number of cancer diagnoses as an occupational disease for firefighters.

No one should have missed that IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) on 1/7 2022 made the decision based on science to classify the profession as a firefighter in the highest risk class, i.e. the same level as tobacco smoking and asbestos.

From the MSB and employers' side, there is silence regarding the IARC's decision.

The only authority that has reacted is the Swedish Work Environment Agency which has issued a report on Chemical work environment risks there they write:

"Being a firefighter is a very risky work. WHO's own cancer research institute IARC says that firemen's work is classified with safety as a carcinogen.

As a firefighter, you risk exposed to many different types of dangerous chemical substances under one professional life. Chemical substances that both on short and long term risk can lead to different types of cancer."

Aren't IARC's decision and the Work Environment Authority's report sufficient to understand the seriousness of this matter or is it a lack of knowledge?

It is cynical of employers to only look at what the protection is for a firefighter costs. The average cost of a cancer diagnosis is one million SEK per year, but that is of course a different pot and other people's money. Then it is not possible to set an amount suffering for the individual and his loved ones and, in the worst case, death.

I have been in contact with the Swedish Work Environment Authority, which clarifies that the Work Environment Act provides support for employers to obtain the protection available to its firefighters. The Work Environment Agency will not tell employers to obtain the protection that exists which they should not do either. What awaits we on? That the employers, on their own initiative, acquire the protective equipment that today exists for our firefighters? What should be done, we have to do it ourselves, so there is support in the Work Environment Act to get the protection needed and now it's up to the main protection agents who are there to act with the support of the Work Environment Act.

Over the years I have been to many conferences that lecturer regarding firefighter and cancer, jointly for all the listeners are when I ask if they have smelled smoke from the skin after a smoke dive is that all the audience has raised their hand. All. Skin absorption of carcinogenic substances is unfortunately the source and not as someone and unfortunately still believe, what we inhale. Fireman and cancer are the biggest work environment issue in the present, an issue that BRF has pursued ever since 2006. The work generated the start-up of

Healthy Firefighters when BRF invited the then Rescue Service (MSB), SKR and the other trade union parties to participate. We also started up the foundation Brandmännens Cancerfond 2012 in order to support the research. So we have been spitting on the stone since 2006 and I promise we will spit until it's wet and we have an order we can feel safe with.

Now I have been negative, and still not even mentioned working hours directive in plain text in this Leader, but at least we were lucky with the weather.