

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

Governor Signs Important Laws for Volunteer Firefighters

The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) President, Tom Cuff, Jr. heralded the signing of two bills which are an integral part of FASNY's 2010 Legislative Agenda. They have passed both houses of the NYS Legislature and were signed by Governor Paterson today. They are:

Source Patient Testing (S 8227 Duane D NY) (A11487 Gottfried D NY)

This legislation revises the informed consent requirements associated with HIV/AIDS testing and provides appropriate information in situations where a volunteer has been involved in a significant exposure creating risk of contracting HIV infection. Results of a source patient test, but not the patient's identity, would be available to appropriate medical personnel in order to make decisions regarding post-exposure medical treatment for the Volunteer responder.

Cancer Impairment (S5114 Foley D Suffolk) (A 8516 Russell D Watertown)

This legislation extends for another 5 years, a presumption that Volunteer Firefighter lung disabilities can be attributed to volunteer firefighting activity. Although this presumption is subject to scrutiny through the worker compensation claims process it recognizes the unusual risks taken by volunteer firefighters due in large part to the smoke inhalation that occurs as a result of firefighting activities. It also allows other contributing factors to be considered such as the proliferation of synthetic chemicals and resulting fumes at fire scenes.

FASNY is proud to have played an instrumental role in securing these two pieces of vital legislation for our members statewide.