



BFC Annual Report 2017

Presented at the BFC General Meeting on 21 April 2018

Dear friends.

We start this annual report with one minute of silence where our thoughts go to the firefighters who have passed away because of cancer, those who are sick of cancer and their families also affected by it...

1 minute in silence.

Thanks...

Since BFC's foundation in 2013, there have been many tasks for us to address and 2017 was no exception. Without an active board, good BFC ambassadors and faithful supporting members, it would have been impossible to achieve all that we have achieved. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU...

Also thanks to other organizations, companies, daily press and politicians for the increased interest in our agenda for fair conditions for exposed firefighters and firefighters affected with cancer. This applies both in Denmark and abroad, from which there is always demand for BFC's knowledge and know-how.

We will from the BFC Board of Directors here in this annual report briefly outline some of the 2017 main points:

In Denmark

Direct information to firefighters:

- ✓ Throughout the year we have been invited to a lot of open house events, fairs etc. where we have shared our knowledge, held talks, lectures and even contributed to the compulsory training and maintenance exercises in local Emergency Management. Here you can mention Falck stations, municipal stations, §60 stations and not least the centers of the Beredskabsstyrelsen (BRS)/Danish Emergency Management Agency. We participated in Sternfahrt 2017 in Sønderborg, Danske Beredskabers DB's annual meeting in Herning and a super nice and well-attended open house event entitled "Together in the fight against firefighter cancer" at the fire station in Padborg arranged by firefighters themselves with Patrick Poulsen at the forefront. Just to name some of the activities that BFC has participated in during 2017.

Conferences:

- ✓ We had the pleasure of being hosts at a panel debate in the Civilting at the Folkemødet. Here, participants, besides BFC ourselves, were from the parliament and BRS/(DEMA) Bornholm. It must be described as a success where relationships are expanded and handshakes given. The debate was broadcasted directly on the radio.



BFC has also participated in the panel at the first conference in connection with the publication of the two Danish studies, EPIBRAND and BIOBRAND, which also had the press's attention. And not least, the Minister of Employment's attention.

Politically:

- ✓ The year has not stood still politically and BFC has had several meetings in the parliament with politicians from both sides of the hall. We have only met understanding and help from the political side and great respect for our persistent work and efforts in the good cause, and not least the interest in our "BFC Report and Analysis of BIO and EPI Brand". There are varying political views as to whether there is legislation required or whether AES/WCB has to assess (and as a rule reject) cases of occupational cancer for firefighters.

Employment Minister Troels Lund Poulsen expressed an interest in the matter at a meeting with BFC and not least for our "BFC Report and Analysis of BIO and EPI Brand", which is not only informative but also points to issues and proposes solutions. The Minister immediately initiated certain actions and promised to keep BFC informed when there is any news.

Thank you to all the supportive politicians and BFC promise that we will keep pushing.

Projects:

- ✓ BFC has initiated several projects in 2017 that are still ongoing. One of them is about better washing facilities at the long range of fire stations across the country which have critical conditions both in terms of the so-called laundry facilities and the cleaning machines used. Throughout the year we have assisted several groups of university students with their final assignments as they have requested. We are pleased to look forward to seeing how our focus on occupational cancer for firefighters has reached all the way to the Danish universities.

Abroad

- ✓ BFC participated a lot in European contexts in 2017 where we have drawn attention to the working conditions of firefighters and what the EU can and can't do. We have among other things been a part of an expert group in the EU Commission on toxicity, testing methods and flammability in various building materials.

We have participated in events in front and in the European Parliament and in the panel with stakeholders and MEPs.

In addition, BFC is still working on informing the Nordic Council, and here especially the Danish and Finnish members are active. Thank you.

At the request of firefighters and their organizations, we have been in different countries in Europe who have wanted our help and support, either with knowledge and know-how and/or with the help of establishing sister organizations to BFC. Collaborations that strengthen all firefighters in Europe and offers unique opportunities for continued knowledge sharing and common groundwork. We can all be proud of that.



BRANDFOLKENES CANCERFORENING BFC



We have also been in Canada where they pay close attention to our efforts and work for the long-term health of firefighters. We were the only non-Canadians who were invited and we can consider it a huge cheer and honor.

The future

- ✓ BFC will continue the good moves from 2017 and is, of course, in full swing. Both with our projects, the political and the events and invitations are flowing in. Last year (read 2017) unfortunately we had to say no a few times, which we are very sorry about. Conversely, we can find that our work and knowledge is sought after and gaining increasing interest, which we can only be delighted about.
We expect and work to hold a larger event in connection with a hopefully completed project and the publication of a "paper" in collaboration with various stakeholders and institutes.
A large and well-known Institute from the United States shows interest in our work and projects and is sparring with us about future focus areas.

In addition to our projects to improve the physical workplace and cancer prevention, the mental healthcare environment begins to get more and more focus, and BFC also has a great knowledge and interest and it will become an increasingly important topic in the coming time and years. In this regard, I can already give away that BFC will receive an invitation later this year from the Forum for Samfundets Beredskab FSB, where our role will be to share knowledge about the issues with the members of the Parliament's Employment and Health Committee.

- ✓ BFC strives to work targeted for the introduction of legislation that recognizes certain occupational diseases. This need is constantly strengthening our conviction that it is the best solution for Danish firefighters.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Chairman
Tommy Bækgaard Kjær