# Firefighter Occupational Exposures: Advancing Biomonitoring

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### Co-authors

- Leslie Israel, DO, MPH
- Sandra McNeel, DVM
- Dina Dobraca, MPH
- Miaomiao Wang, PhD
- Ryszard Gajek, PhD
- Myrto Petreas, PhD
- June-Soo Park, PhD
- Frank Barley, PhD
- Jianwen She, PhD
- Sara Hoover, PhD
- Robert Voss, MPH



California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program

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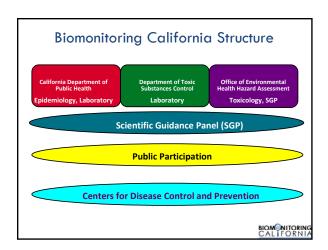
- Determine levels of chemicals in Californians
- Establish trends in the levels over time
- Assess effectiveness of public health efforts and regulatory programs



CA Health and Safety Code, Article 8, Section 105440 et seq., 2006

www.biomonitoring.ca.gov







# Firefighter Occupational Exposures (FOX) Project

- Firefighters as population of interest
  - Worker cohort at risk for chemical exposures
  - Few previous biomonitoring studies in firefighters
- Collaboration
  - Biomonitoring California
  - University of California, Irvine

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#### Methods

- Convenience sample of 101 firefighters recruited during wellness examinations
  - Informed consent obtained
- Collected at time of clinic visit
  - Biological specimens: blood, urine
  - Exposure Assessment Questionnaire
- Completed at firehouses:
  - Firehouse checklist

# **FOX Analytes Measured**

- Brominated and chlorinated Perfluorochemicals compounds used as flame retardants
- **Environmental phenols**
- BPA
- Triclosan Parabens
- Heavy metals, blood &urine .
- As, Cd, Hg, Pb
- Perchlorate

- Pesticides:
- Organophosphate
- Pvrethroid
- Phthalates
- · Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

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#### Results Will Be Presented At The Conference

- Demographic and occupational characteristics
- Selected chemical analysis results
  - Blood metals: cadmium, lead, mercury
  - Selected PFCs

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## Conclusion

- Biomonitoring reflects internal exposure from all sources, occupational and non-occupational
- Choice of appropriate reference standards for environmental chemicals in workers is complex
- · Environmental exposure assessment needed to identify exposure sources

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