



# EL PASO ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

International Association of Firefighters Local 51

Established February 28, 1918

## Collective Bargaining Supplemental Information: 2026

**General Topic:**

Health and Safety

**CBA Article:**

Article XXIV, section 5a: Health and Safety Committee

**Problem/Issue:**

New legislation and guidance on firefighter health, safety, cancer, mental health, and many other related issues continue to develop. The Health and Safety committee requires a restructuring to include more members, and guiding documents to ensure best practices are being researched and followed.

**Local 51's Proposal:**

Increase the number of committee members to (9), allowing for more member participation. Assign co-chairs for the committee, one selected by the Fire Chief and the other by the President of Local 51. Redefine the role of the committee to include those items in the current CBA and:

- establishing best practices pertaining to firefighter health and safety using NFPA 1582 as a guiding document
- the committee would be responsible for helping develop best practices for annual physicals, the implementation of the Wade-Cannon Act, and other legislation as necessary
- “Advise and Consent” role with the selection of medical professionals hired to conduct annual physicals as outlined in NFPA 1582
- Oversight/Steering for Peer Support program

**Bottom Line:**

Local 51 is fully committed to the wellness of our firefighters. Most of the health initiatives for firefighters have been spearheaded by unions at the Local, State, and Federal levels. Local 51 has also established productive working relationships with politicians, businesses, and non-profits that are helping to move health and safety initiatives forward. We believe it is appropriate for the Union to be involved in the conceptualization, development, and implementation of future health and wellness programs related to firefighters.

**Date Presented: May 5, 2026**