

## A Message from Donna Buscio

### Dear Friends,

My late husband Captain Dominick Buscio was a dedicated fire captain of the Jersey City Fire Department. Dom was a wonderful husband, father, brother and son to his family, and a true friend to all who knew him. At the age of 39, his life was unexpectedly taken when he suffered a heart attack during our ski vacation. Dom was the picture of health. In fact, the results of a complete physical he had only 19 months before his death were normal, except for the presence of a moderately high cholesterol level. Since he was found to be healthy at that time, he decided not to return for his annual physical the following year. While many people his age make the decision not to seek regular checkups, in his case, it resulted in an inconceivable loss to all of us.

I am sharing our experience with others because I have found that my husband's death was not a rarity. Heart attacks are the largest single killer of firefighters. For that very reason, I created the program "A Gift from Captain Buscio," which began in Jersey City and now spans across the State of New Jersey to offer strictly confidential, comprehensive medical evaluations with no out-of-pocket cost to all firefighters and officers. These annual examinations are provided by the medical director, Manmohan Patel, M.D., and other board-certified cardiologists and pulmonologists who have generously offered firefighters medical care that is specific to their profession.

My intention is not to instill anxiety. On the contrary, it's to provide an opportunity for peace of mind. I'm quite certain that this program would have had Dom's full support, given the current limited opportunities for firefighters to obtain physicals.

For me, this program, which was founded in Dom's memory, is an attempt to keep your occupational risk limited to fighting fires.

This brochure provides you with details on the program and how you may benefit from it. If you have any questions or concerns regarding information other than the Web site, please contact me at [dbuscio@aol.com](mailto:dbuscio@aol.com).

Sincerely,



Donna Buscio

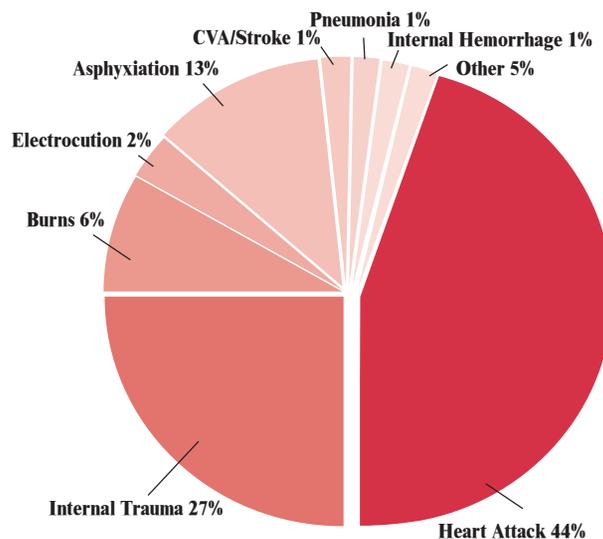
## Statistics Tell the Story

When it comes to the relationship between firefighters and heart attacks, the statistics speak for themselves:

- Despite fluctuations, the trend in the proportion of firefighter fatalities from heart attacks has remained constant since 1984.
- More than one-half of all fatal heart attacks strike firefighters while on the scene of a fire or non-fire emergency.

**Firefighter victims may not have had a previous medical history of heart disease. For this reason getting a comprehensive medical evaluation that is specific to your profession is not just for peace of mind. It is absolutely necessary.**

**Fatalities by nature of Fatal Injury (2002)**



For additional details on this statistical data, visit the United States Fire Administration at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Web site, [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## How 'A Gift from Captain Buscio' Works

**All fire departments whose firefighters and officers are participating in the program throughout the State of New Jersey have the opportunity to receive confidential comprehensive medical evaluations with no out-of-pocket expense. These annual examinations are provided by the medical director Manmohan Patel, M.D., and other board-certified cardiologists and pulmonologists who have generously offered firefighters medical care that is specific to their profession.**

Board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, critical care, emergency medicine and geriatric medicine, Dr. Patel is also a member of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners. He offers 20 years of experience working in these disciplines and has provided this annual service in the past, with great success, to railroad workers of New Jersey, and currently to the Jersey City Fire Department.

This comprehensive examination may also include any other testing deemed necessary, including pulmonary function testing, stress testing and laboratory work. Upon completion of the physical, each firefighter/officer will be provided with a full medical report to present to his or her family physician.

All visits will be scheduled by appointment, and the medical staff will direct you on what will be needed for the initial visit, such as bringing a listing of all medications that you currently may be taking. In addition, fasting the previous night is required for blood work, which is part of the evaluation.

**To schedule an appointment  
call 201-216-3055.**