

LONG BEACH FIREFIGHTERS

LOCAL
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Long Beach Firefighters Support Breast Cancer Awareness

We as your first responders understand the devastating effects that families endure while loved ones battle breast cancer. We see the toll it takes on all family members as we are called out to render aide to those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Early detection is extremely important and that is why we encourage you to discuss this with your physician and become educated on what you can do to make sure you are aware.

We are blessed to say that one of our member's is a breast cancer survivor and to help raise awareness Lisa wanted to share the following:

"I remember my doctor delivering the news like it was yesterday. I had breast cancer. So many thoughts and emotions ran through my mind in a matter of seconds. How could this happen? Obviously the office must have gotten my test results mixed up with someone else's. I am a firefighter, aren't I invincible?"

I began treatment at UCLA's Revlon Breast Center. I read as much information as I possibly could about my cancer, and was fortunate to have doctors who allowed me to be a part of deciding my course of treatment. We took a very proactive and aggressive approach. It was a difficult year, but I finally had clean margins and was finished with all of my surgeries. Today I have been cancer free for over ten years.

I feel the most important reason I survived is because my cancer was discovered early. The importance of early detection, in all types of cancer, cannot be emphasized enough. I also was lucky to have had great doctors. I had two amazing families: one at home and another fire family of over 400 members supporting me along the way. I have been a member of the Long Beach Firefighter Association for twenty years. I will be forever grateful for all of my coworkers that came to the rescue to help me be healthy again."

Please click on the following links to learn more about how to become aware and how to help:

<http://womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/mammograms.html>

<http://ww5.komen.org>