Among firefighters, workers’ compensation claims for musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) account for a higher percentage of total claims, claim costs, and lost work time than do MSD claims for all other occupations.

The rate of MSD claims for firefighters is 2.7 per 100 FTE. For all other occupations, the MSD claim rate is 0.5 per 100 FTE.

For firefighters, 1 out of every 4 workers’ compensation claims is for an MSD of the back, and 1 in 8 is for a shoulder MSD.

1. County and City Firefighters – Salaried, reported under Washington Risk Class 6904.
2. Compensable claims only. Compensable claims include those involving wage replacement for lost work time (4 or more days), total permanent disability, fatality, or a worker kept on salary by the employer during disability. Total MSD claims for time period: Firefighter = 717, All Other Occupations = 41,010.
3. Total direct costs include medical and wage replacement costs. Claim costs and time loss days paid to date as of June 2018.
4. Full Time Equivalent. 1 FTE = 2000 hours worked in year.