

Hope for firefighters affected by cancer: "It's incredible."

I am eternally grateful that there is finally protection. ANDERS CEDERBERG, fire chief, got testicular cancer in 2011.

Firefighters have twice the risk of developing testicular cancer than others.

The new protective garment is made of cotton and polyester with a detachable hood, particle filter, and several million tiny spheres of activated carbon.

The professional community welcomes new protective clothing against the fire smoke.

From American special forces to the Swedish fire brigade. Ten years after Fire Chief Anders Cederberg received his cancer diagnosis, a new world-unique protective garment has been developed, providing more than sixty times higher protection against the toxins in smoke.

"I am eternally grateful that there is finally protection," he says.

Two years ago, Expressen wrote about Fire Chief and father of four Anders Cederberg, who, like many colleagues, has been affected by cancer. He himself was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2011, and a disturbing pattern began to emerge at the fire station.

"We had a shift where four out of five in the same fire truck had a cancer diagnosis. That's when you start to wonder," he said. The number of cancer deaths is up to three times higher among firefighters than in the general population. Therefore, in 2012, the Firefighters' Cancer Fund Foundation was established to spread knowledge.

Years of work

Several years of work have been devoted to better protection against carcinogenic smoke. Anders Cedergren heard about an undergarment that special forces on the other side of the Atlantic used against chemical toxins. He managed to arrange a study visit and brought the idea back to the Swedish industry. Now, the undergarment, made of cotton and polyester with millions of tiny spheres of activated carbon, is finally being launched on the market. The result of a study shows that the amount of carcinogenic substances is reduced to one thousandth - compared to one fifteenth that the current undergarment has. There is nothing similar available on the world market.

"This is absolutely better than I expected. It's amazing what this activated carbon can do. I am eternally grateful that there is finally protection," says Anders Cedergren.

Among colleagues, the news is eagerly awaited. Anders Cedergren explains that there is concern, especially among younger firefighters. After a fire, the skin can smell of smoke for a week - evidence that the body has absorbed harmful substances.

"In fact, the clothes we have today protect for about 20 seconds," he explains.

The undergarment will be launched this autumn and will initially be sold to firefighters in the Nordic countries.