

FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulletin #14, US Department of Defense, AFFF, March 12, 2021

The Department of Defense (DoD) sets the Military Specification (MilSpec) on Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) which in turn drives the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) firefighting foam use through the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). There are now most likely 200 million American drinking tap water that contains at least trace levels of these PFAS chemicals that are used in AFFF.¹

"U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, called for a "culture change" among leadership at the Pentagon when dealing with fluorochemical pollution cleanup during a call with reporters on Jan. 29 to announce a relaunching of the Congressional PFAS Task Force for the new legislative session."²

The task force has sent a letter to President Biden with 132 Congressional members from both parties urging immediate steps to tackle the PFAS contamination problem across the nation.³

"One more provision of the new law directs the DoD to create a website that provides a clearinghouse for information about the exposure of military member, veterans, families and their communities to chemicals found in firefighting foam. The information provided on the website will include information on testing, cleanup and recommended available treatment methodologies."

There is no regulation preventing the use of fluorine-free foams by non-military users, including firefighting training centers, chemical manufacturers, oil refineries, and others.⁴

- 1 Michigan, Jan 30, 2021, Garret Ellison, https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2021/01/pentagon-needs-culture-change-on-pollution-say-pfas-caucus-members.html
- 2 ibid
- 3 Firefighting Foam in Water Near Bases Gets Congressional Attention, Jim Absherfa, 15 Jan 2020, https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/01/15/firefighting-foam-water-near-bases-gets-congressional-attention.html#:~:text=Firefighting%20Foam%20in%20Water%20Near%20Bases%20Gets%20Congressional%20Attention.-Navy%20Petty%20Officer&text=The%20U.S.%20military%20has%20used,as%20many%20bad%20health%20effects
- 4 https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86514-496805--,00.html

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