
FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulletin #46, Indiana State Fire Marshal Action, December 10, 2021

The State Fire Marshal of Indiana has announced a PFAS foam collection program which will run for 24 months starting in January 2022. The state funded program will enable fire departments to remove PFAS firefighting foams from their working inventory. “The state is offering the free pickup and disposal of any stockpiled PFAS foam in order to prevent any future health hazards to firefighters.”¹

“A third-party vendor will schedule a time to visit your agency, remove the material and dispose of the foam in an environmentally safe way, not only reducing risk but also saving departments thousands of dollars in disposal fees”² Fire departments will still need to have their foam tanks cleaned or replaced. New PFAS-free firefighting foam will need to be obtained. This effort is meant to help fire departments take the critical first step of removing PFAS containing foams from their fire apparatus and fire stations because total project costs will be substantial.

“Current top-quality Class B fluorine-free firefighting foams are capable of meeting all the standard firefighting performance certifications applicable to AFFF and related foams.”³

The Fire Department Safety Officers Association posts the Foam Exposure Committee (FEC) Bulletins, F3 AFFF Replacement and Class A firefighting foam lists under “Resources” on their website.⁴

“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.”⁵

1 <https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/division-of-fire-and-building-safety-overview/foam-program/>

2 *ibid.*

3 *ibid.*

4 Fire Department Safety Officers Association, Resource webpage, <https://www.fdssoa.org/Foam-Exposure-Info>

5 <https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/division-of-fire-and-building-safety-overview/foam-program/>

Foam Exposure Committee

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States in various processes of conducting firefighting foam take-back programs:

Alaska	Proposed	https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/pfas-update-state-regulation-of-pfas-in-9746408/
Colorado	Collecting through February 28, 2022	https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-projects
Connecticut	Launched in 2021 - Two stage program	https://portal.ct.gov/CFPC/_old/News/Latest-News/State-of-Connecticut-PFAS-AFFF-Take-Back-Program-Announced
Illinois	A voluntary take-back program is proposed	https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/pfas-update-state-regulation-of-pfas-in-9746408/
Indiana	Beginning February 2022	https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/division-of-fire-and-building-safety-overview/foam-program/
Massachusetts	2018 – 2019	https://www.mass.gov/news/statewide-program-eradicates-nearly-150000-pounds-of-toxic-firefighting-foam-to-ensure-public
Michigan	2019 - 2020	https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86514-496805--00.html
New Hampshire	2018	https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/pfas-update-state-regulation-of-pfas-in-9746408/
New Jersey	Enacted 2021 – in process	https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/pfas-update-state-regulation-of-pfas-in-9746408/
New York	Collected through 2018	https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108831.html
Rhode Island	2018 - 2019	http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/emerre/ospar/osparfy20.pdf , p. 7
Vermont	State partners with local fire departments	https://anr.vermont.gov/node/1276
Wisconsin	In process - budgeted	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/PFAS/peag/CollectionDisposal20211015.pdf



The collected Connecticut firefighting foam pails had a Hazard Class 9 Department of Transportation (DOT) identification placard attached. This is for “unclassified hazard” since transportation was to a chemical landfill in Ontario, Canada. [NBC, Takeback: Tens of Thousands of Gallons of PFAS Firefighting Foam to be Removed From CT, Shannon Miller, June 23, 2021 <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/investigations/takeback-tens-of-thousands-of-gallons-of-pfas-firefighting-foam-to-be-removed-from-ct/2514181/>]

