
FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulletin #12, Viable AFFF Replacement Products, February 26, 2021

The US military continues to research environmentally friendly firefighting foams while viable alternatives already exist and have been used worldwide safely.¹ But the Pentagon has been aware of the AFFF “damning science for 50 years.”² The toxic damages from AFFF use are and continue to occur worldwide.

Testing sites for fluorinated firefighting foams will need to be checked for PFAS contamination. This would include locations such as the Naval Research Laboratory, Chesapeake Bay Detachment (NRL-CBD) where large-scale burn testing takes place. “That lab is a highly contaminated facility about 35 miles southeast of Washington.”³ Fire training and testing sites that have used AFFF in the past will need to be tested and considered for future environmental clean-up. This issue will include Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), Texas A&M University, the FAA Technical Center, Tyndall Air Force Base and UL (Underwriters Laboratories) locations.

In the meantime, petrochemical companies have been making the switch over to fluorine-free firefighting foams because of the corresponding liabilities of using AFFF. LastFire (Large Atmospheric Storage Tanks) has been approving fluorine-free firefighting foams because they have been passing their full-scale testing at their summit conferences.⁴

Fluorine-free firefighting foams do not persist in the environment, bio-accumulate or cause toxic effects. It is not necessary to treat the waste effluents in a waste incineration plan. The emphasis is on *completely* biodegradable substances. These fluorine-free foams have been used successfully for the past several decades.

1 Toxic Fire-Fighting Foams: Seeking Solutions That Already Exist, Pat Elder, Dec 3, 2019, <https://worldbeyondwar.org/toxic-fire-fighting-foams-seeking-solutions-that-already-exist/>

2 *ibid.*

3 *ibid.*

4 <http://www.lastfire.co.uk/default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>