

Bulletin #51, AFFF Contamination Incidents, February 25, 2022

These particular incidents confirm why it is important to transition to fluorine-free foams as soon as possible.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Gallons of foam used</u>	<u>Further Notes(s)</u>
Barnstable, MA	Barnstable County Fire Rescue and Training Academy and the Cape Code Gateway Airport	On-going	Unknown	"The contamination of local water supplies can be traced to the Barnstable County Fire Rescue and Training Academy and the Cape Cod Gateway Airport. The two locations used PFAS-filled firefighting foam for decades..." ¹
Houston, TX	ITC petrochemical storage tank fires	17 March 2019	130,000+ ²	20M+ gallons of waste generated. ³
Madison, WI	ATC Transformer fires	19 July 2019	59 ⁴	PFAS contamination from AFFF went into the Yahara River which then goes into the Rock River. FireAde and Phos-Chek were used. ⁵ Foams were mixed with 120,000 gallons of water. ⁶
Macedonia, IL	Sugar Camp Coal Mine fire	14 June 2021	46,000 ⁷	"Inspectors later determined the company had pumped more than 46,000 gallons of PFAS-laden foam into the mine, raising the possibility that nearby private wells and other sources of drinking water could be contaminated." ⁸
Miami, FL	Miami Dade College Fire Academy	On-going until 2019	Unknown [est. 20 gallons per semester] ⁹	"Of Miami-Dade's 95 water wells, 70 showed some levels of PFAS." ¹⁰
Rockton, IL	Chemtool / Lubrizol chemical fire	19 June 2021	3,200	US Fire Pump ¹¹ Signature Series C6 AR-AFFF 1X3%, Vapor suppression and fluorine-free foams used after AFFF was stopped.

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<https://www.ishn.com/articles/110461-fighting-chemical-fire-sends-pfas-into-houston-area-waterways>

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<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/it-took-days-to-put-out-the-ITC-tank-fire-that-14109491.php>

4 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, RRT 5 Webinar, Case Studies ATC/MG&E Transformer Spill, Madison, WI, July 19, 2019, Issac Ross &

Jason Lowery, February 4, 2021, p. 7, https://rtr5.org/Portals/0/docs/WI%20DNR%20RRT5_Feb4_PFAS_Wisconsin.pdf

5 CSWAB, Site Investigation Report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from AECOM, December 10, 2020, <https://cswab.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ATC-Transformer-Fire-PFAS-Foam-Soils-Report-10-Dec-2020.pdf>

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Jason Lowery, February 4, 2021, p. 7, https://rtr5.org/Portals/0/docs/WI%20DNR%20RRT5_Feb4_PFAS_Wisconsin.pdf

7 The Southern, Illinois AG sues Sugar Camp mine near Benton over 'misuse of forever chemicals,' Lauren Cross, Jan 8, 2022,

https://thesouthern.com/news/local/environment/illinois-ag-sues-sugar-camp-mine-near-benton-over-misuse-of-forever-chemicals/article_37d1a423-2c46-56df-8431-4681a1c7c37b.html

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9 Miami New Times, Firefighting Chemicals Polluted Miami-Dade Tap Water, Theo Karantalis, March 2, 2020, <https://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/miami-drinking-water-wells-contaminated-with-pfas-11574521>

10 Miami Today, Miami-Dade to sue makers of cancer-linked chemicals PFAS, Jesse Scheckner, July 21, 2020, <https://www.miamitodaynews.com/2020/07/21/miami-dade-to-sue-makers-of-cancer-linked-chemicals-pfas/>

11 Associated Press, Company defends use of toxic chemicals to fight Rockton plant fire, Jun 24, 2021, <https://wgntv.com/news/company-defends-use-of-toxic-chemicals-to-fight-rockton-plant-fire/>

FDSA

FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



June 12, 2021, the Chemtool chemical fire in Rockton, Illinois. Photo by USEPA,
https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=152410