



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

JB Pritzker, Governor
James A. Rivera, State Fire Marshal

October 1, 2023

Dear Illinois Fire Service,

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has been tasked by the [PFAS Reduction Act \(415 ILCS 170\)](#) with surveying the Illinois fire service annually for six years to determine the prevalence and use of Class B foam stock which contains PFAS. This is the third annual survey. The OSFM is asking all departments to complete the survey at [2023 IL FD PFAS Foam Survey](#) by November 15, 2023. Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have any questions or difficulty completing the survey, please contact Lee Buxton at Lee.Buxton@illinois.gov.

Please note that departments **do not** need to remove this foam from their stock as limits on the use of foams with PFAS chemicals do not apply to a fire department while responding to an emergency situation. However, the PFAS Reduction Act (415 ILCS 170) does require that any fire protection organization “that discharges or releases Class B firefighting foam that contains intentionally added PFAS chemicals must notify the Illinois Emergency Management Agency within 48 hours of the discharge or release”.

ABOUT CLASS B FOAMS CONTAINING PFAS:

PFAS, the short term for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of manmade chemicals that have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1940s. Among many other sources, PFAS can be found in some Class B firefighting foams. PFAS can accumulate in the environment and in the body, potentially causing adverse health impacts.

Legacy foam formulations typically contain long-chain PFAS (e.g. PFOS or PFOA) as ingredients or contain precursors that degrade into long-chain PFAS in the environment. These are considered to include intentionally added PFAS chemicals and are the foams of greatest concern at this time.

Under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA’s) PFOA Stewardship Program, all U.S. foam manufacturers voluntarily reformulated their foams by 2016. These modern foam formulations contain short-chain PFAS which are thought to be less bioaccumulative and less toxic, although further study is still needed. Some manufacturers have also formulated fluorine-free firefighting foams.

For more information about PFAS, please visit: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas.html> and <https://epa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/documents/firefightingfoamandpfas-final.pdf>

Sincerely,

James A. Rivera, Illinois State Fire Marshal