



Bulletin #74, Mini Foam Timeline, April 23, 2023

2000: 3M announces it will voluntarily halt production of PFOA and PFOS – technically known as “long-chain” chemicals – and will stop putting them in products by 2002. The new “short-chain” PFAS formulations are similarly hazardous, scientists say.

2006: A voluntary EPA program encouraged all major manufacturers to stop making long-chain PFAS, citing potential birth defects and other risks. DuPont and others agree to phase out production by 2015; like 3M, they start making new varieties, none proven safe.

2010 / 2015: The EPA Voluntary PFOA Stewardship Program continued with: Arkema, Asahi, BASF Corporation, Clariant, Daikin, 3M / Dyneon, DuPont, Solvay and Solaxis.

2017: Tyco (formerly Ansul) ends spraying of firefighting foam with perfluorinated chemicals in late 2017. Their fire technology center is situated on a 380-acre facility in Marinette, Wisconsin.

2018: The Multi-District Litigation (MDL) was established for Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) PFAS claims in the US District for the District of South Carolina.

2019: The US National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2019 ordered the phase out of “the use of AFFF, subject to some limited exceptions, at all military sites by October 1, 2024. In the meantime, the NDAA forbids training exercises which cause any AFFF releases.”

2020: "...DoD has learned from previous foam transitions that fully removing foams containing PFOS or PFOA from current systems will likely require replacement of almost every component of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) vehicles."

2021: Estimated government inventory of AFFF fixed and mobile systems is 3 million gallons. The estimate for civilian airports is 9 million gallons.

2022: The NDAA passed by Congress in late 2019 stated: “the US Navy is required to publish a new military specification for a fluorine-free foam by the end of January 2023 and is required to make a full transition to fluorine-free firefighting foams by October 2024.”

2022: 3M announced it will exit all PFAS manufacturing by the end of 2025.

2023: As of April 19, 2023, the MDL AFFF lawsuits are now at 4,173 cases. These include: Buckeye Fire Equipment Company, Chemguard Inc., Fire Service Plus Inc., National Foam Inc., Perimeter Solutions LP, Tyco Fire Products LP and WillFire HC LLC doing business as Williams Fire & Hazard Control.

“Medical researchers actually calculated some 6-million deaths in the U.S. since 1999 being attributable to these chemicals,” [Attorney Robert] Bilott said. “And not only that, but tens of billions of dollars in health care impacts.”



FDSA

FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

