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## FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Bulletin #44, Transitioning from AFFF, November 5, 2021

Fire departments are addressing PFAS containing firefighting foams now. In June 2021, USEPA announced “restarting the process to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances.”<sup>1</sup> EPA health advisories for GenX and PFBS are expected in Spring 2022.<sup>2</sup>

The triple wash, run the truck around the block to slosh water within the tank, is plain ineffective on the world’s ‘best’ surfactant. Any residue remaining in the foam tank will mix with new fluorine-free foam product and still contain PFAS.

“Wastewater treatment can transform PFAS and increase measurable PFAS concentration.”<sup>3</sup> Agitation of PFAS is not a good thing.

“Consider the firefighter and public safety first.”<sup>4</sup>

Presently, there is no cleaning method that completely works on apparatus foam tanks since PFAS are extremely difficult to remove. “Where threshold limits cannot be achieved through cleaning techniques or where cleaning techniques are too difficult or too costly to achieve, the replacement of equipment is likely to be required.”<sup>5</sup>

Pierce Manufacturing just announced expanding their Wisconsin facilities and the addition of over 200 jobs. “Product demand has been the main driver for the need to increase space to produce fire trucks.”<sup>6</sup> Ferrara announced a “purchase order for a fleet of 12 new units to Birmingham Fire & Rescue Service in Alabama.”<sup>7</sup> Is your fire department budgeting yet?

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1 EPA Actions to address PFAS, accessed Oct 31, 2021, p. 15, <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epa-actions-address-pfas>

2 EPA’s PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA’s Commitments to Action 2021-2024, EPA-100-K-21-002, October 2021, p. 13, [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap\\_final-508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf)

3 Disposal of products and materials containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): A Cyclical problem, Tasha Stoiber, Chemosphere, December 2020, Highlights, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0045653520318543>

4 Firefighting Foams, The PFAS Team, ITRC, Training Module, accessed Oct 30, 2021, [https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/3-firefighting-foams/#table\\_3\\_1](https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/3-firefighting-foams/#table_3_1)

5 European Commission DG Environment / European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), The Use of PFAS and fluorine-free alternatives in fire-fighting foams, Final report, Wood. RAMBOLL COWI, June 2020, p. 142, [https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/6755610/pfas\\_flourine-free\\_alternatives\\_fire\\_fighting\\_en.pdf/d5b24e2a-d027-0168-cdd8-f723c675fa98?t=1592815745341](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/6755610/pfas_flourine-free_alternatives_fire_fighting_en.pdf/d5b24e2a-d027-0168-cdd8-f723c675fa98?t=1592815745341)

6 Pierce Manufacturing to Expand Wisconsin Facilities and Add Over 200 Jobs, Press Release, November 2, 2021, <https://www.piercemfg.com/pierce/press-release/pierce-manufacturing-to-expand-wisconsin-facilities-and-add-over-200-jobs>

7 Firefighter Nation, Ferrara REV Group, September 21, 2021, <https://www.firefighternation.com/apparatus/ferrara-equips-birmingham-fire-rescue-with-12-new-units/>



Foam Exposure Committee