



FDSA

FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulletin 41.1 A Duty to Warn! October 5, 2025

Firefighters now know about toxicity in AFFF. In 2020, ITRC reported that:

“Aside from standard workplace safety requirements regarding hazardous materials right-to-know, there has been no legal duty to warn or to require notice of hazards to first responders who handle AFFF. Several studies have concluded that some PFAS were elevated in blood of first responders.”

Numerous other studies indicate that blood levels in firefighters are elevated!

Since the 1970s, the Red Cross has been testing blood supplies for PFAS.

We know from reporter Garret Ellison, of mlive news, that:

“The U.S. Department of Defense began examining AFFF toxicity in the early 1970s after the foam became required by the Navy ... In 1973, an Air Force report on toxicity experiments noted the foam’s fluorocarbon component resisted biodegradation and recommended treating discharge with activated carbon, as well as limiting its input to sewer systems, which ultimately lead to waterways. By 1985, the Navy was treating AFFF as potentially harmful to the environment based partly on toxicity data from foam manufacturers like 3M and calling for more study on aquatic life. By 1991, the Army was referencing AFFF as “hazardous material” in waste management plans.”

Incident commanders (IC) “must have responsibility with authority.” An IC “Is expected to make strategic decisions based on risk acceptance or avoidance.” But the fire service has had critical toxicity information on PFAS withheld from them for decades. Now, fire chiefs are receiving public pressure for contaminating water.

Vicki Quint, Foam Exposure Committee