



Bulletin #95, October 4, 2024

Go or No Go!

The newest PFAS regulations have taken the US EPA 28 years to use its authority to regulate.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), one of the key solutions to the PFAS crisis will be to:

“Stop adding to the PFAS problem by immediately ending all non-essential uses of PFAS and quickly developing alternatives for currently unavoidable uses.”

F3 products are already available for use now. Products have been fire tested. Ask the manufacturer for the fire testing results to compare with other F3 products. These testing results should be readily available to decision makers, the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

The Incident Commander (IC) would be considered well prepared to have the department's firefighting foam decisions made prior to an incident.

This past summer, high toxic PFAS amounts were discovered in surface water foam on Muskegon Lake in Western Michigan. Scientists thought something had happened recently to have caused the foam formation on the lake. The source is unknown at this time.

Fire departments are cautioned against putting firefighting foams which contain PFAS into storm drains or water sources. Forensic footprint work of firefighting foams is on-going.

You may wish to exercise caution if your department is offered free or discounted firefighting foam. Your department will be accepting the environmental responsibility of use or disposal.

Foam Exposure Committee | Vicki Quint

NRDC Press Release, Let Them Drink PFAS: Chemical Industry, Water Utilities Seek to Block Protections Against Toxic “Forever Chemicals” in Drinking Water, Margie Kelly, June 10, 2024, <https://www.nrdc.org/press-releases/let-them-drink-pfas-chemical-industry-water-utilities-seek-block-protections-against>

‘We’ve never seen this before.’ High PFAS level found in Muskegon Lake foam, Garret Ellison, Sep 23, 2024, <https://www.mlive.com/environment/2024/09/weve-never-seen-this-before-high-pfas-level-found-in-muskegon-lake-foam.html>

Source of high PFAS levels in Muskegon Lake foam unknown, researchers say, Michigan Public, Elinor Epperson, September 23, 2024, <https://www.wkar.org/wkar-news/2024-09-23/source-of-high-pfas-levels-in-muskegon-lake-foam-unknown-researchers-say>