



# FDSA

FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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## Bulletin 15.1 Fire Testing of Firefighting Foams August 13, 2025

The requirement for AFFF use at Part 139-certificated airports has been in place since at least 1988, as part of the standards for aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) to address petroleum-based fires. Airports are required to use the Department of Defense's MilSpec for foam.

The US Naval Research Laboratory has been conducting testing for new firefighting foams that do not contain PFAS. The US AFFF MilSpec, MIL-F-24385, has only been updated minimally in 62+ years. AFFF has not kept pace with technological changes in aircraft, fuselage or fuels.

The MilSpec, MIL-PRF-32725, was updated in January 2023 to set benchmarks for F3 in land-based applications.<sup>1</sup> Fire testing is critical in order for the fire service to evaluate firefighting foam products. There are currently fire tested fluorine-free firefighting foams that have been in use for decades that perform to standardized fire testing standards.

Using AFFF - a toxic firefighting foam product from the 1960's that has been obsolete for decades - is a serious problem.

“Another perfect example of the same rotten pattern. Federal agencies cling to toxic firefighting foams banned everywhere else while bureaucrats pretend they're "studying alternatives." Same playbook - old, dangerous equipment stays in place because replacing it means admitting decades of negligence. The Pentagon and FAA burn through billions on consultant studies about foam alternatives while firefighters and airport workers get exposed to carcinogens daily. Meanwhile, private companies developed safer, more effective alternatives years ago.

Cut the research theater. Mandate immediate replacement with proven alternatives, slash the consultant contracts feeding off endless "evaluation periods," and hold agency heads personally accountable for delays. If they can't implement basic safety upgrades without decade-long studies, fire them and bring in people who get results. The same agencies dragging their feet on foam replacements are the ones still running air traffic control on floppy disks.

Pattern recognition isn't hard - they preserve failure, not safety.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Performance Specification, Fire-Extinguishing Agent, Fluorine-Free Foam (F3) Land-Based, Fresh Water Based, MIL-PRF-32725, 6 Jan 2023, <https://media.defense.gov/2023/Jan/12/2003144157/-1/-1/1/MILITARY-SPECIFICATION-FOR-FIRE-EXTINGUISHING-AGENT-FLUORINE-FREE-FOAM-F3-LIQUID-CONCENTRATE-FOR-LAND-BASED-FRESH-WATER-APPLICATIONS.PDF>

<sup>2</sup> X, 8/13/2025 @dogeai response on @secduffy and @usdot post