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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Public Safety  
Office of State Fire Marshal  
52 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0052

Michael J. Sauschuck  
COMMISSIONER

Joseph E. Thomas  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

July 18, 2019

To State of Maine Fire Service Agencies,

Recent reports and studies have raised awareness about Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as PFOA or PFOS, and how it has been found in ground water sources. While contamination most likely occurred in the past, some sources indicate that Class B Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) foam used during fire suppression and firefighter training may also contribute to PFAS contamination of ground water.

In the past, chemical companies produced Class B AFFF with PFAS as a component in their foam products. While 3M changed their Class B AFFF formula in 2003, other manufacturers continued to use PFAS as a component of their Class B foam.

The Office of State Fire Marshal has been asked to help identify fire departments throughout Maine that have Class B AFFF containing PFAS in their stations. As such, I am asking all Maine fire departments and training agencies to check their supply to see if they have Class B AFFF containing PFAS. When checking your supply, keep in mind that it may not be clear in the container labeling or SDS that the product contains PFAS. Since some of this information is proprietary and not readily available, the manufacturer must be contacted and asked if their product contains any PFAS.

Further, to get an idea of the amount of Class B AFFF containing PFAS still in stock at fire departments and training agencies statewide, I am asking all Maine fire departments to complete the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MaineAFFF> by August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. If you are unable to complete the online survey, please send an email to Faith Staples, Technological Hazards Program Manager at the Maine Emergency Management Agency at [Faith.E.Staples@maine.gov](mailto:Faith.E.Staples@maine.gov) and include the following information:

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PREVENTION \* LAW ENFORCEMENT \* RESEARCH

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 45 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330  
(207) 626-3870 ADMINISTRATION/ INVESTIGATIONS (207) 287-3659 TDD (207) 287-6251 FAX  
(207) 626-3880 INSPECTIONS/ PLANS REVIEW

- Fire Department Information
- FDID Number
- Fire Chief's Name and Contact Information?
- Do you have AFFF or combination firefighting foam?
- Manufacturer, Date of Manufacture and Brand Name of firefighting foam you have?
- How much firefighting foam do you have (gallons)?
- Do you train with the firefighting foam and if so, where?
- Is your fire department on a municipal water system or a private well?

By providing the information asked in this survey you will help identify the amount of Class B AFFF foam with PFOA/PFOS that exists statewide so that we can develop a solution to dispose of the toxic firefighting foam properly and prevent further contamination in the State of Maine. We look forward to your input and communicating to the Fire Service community the state's plan to address this critical issue. Thank you in advance for your assistance. A "Best Practice" guidance document for the use of Class B Fire Fighting Foams is available on the MEMA website. If you have any questions, please contact either myself at 207-626-3870 or Faith Staples at MEMA, 207-557-3675.

Sincerely,

*Joseph E. Thomas*

Joseph E Thomas  
State Fire Marshal