



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

March 29, 2018

Dear Michigan Fire Service,

If you have been watching the news lately you have heard about Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as PFOA or PFOS, and how it has been found in ground water in Michigan communities. While the contamination most likely occurred in the past during the disposal of manufacturing byproducts, some news outlets have also reported that Class B AFFF foam used during fire suppression and firefighter training may also be a source of contamination of PFAS in ground water.

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

The Bureau of Fire Services has been asked to help identify fire departments that have Class B AFFF foam containing PFAS in their stations. As such, I am asking all Michigan fire departments to check their supply to see if they have Class B AFFF foam containing PFAS. When checking your supply, if the text below is on the foam container or noted on the material safety data sheets the Class B AFFF foam **does not** contain PFAS.

***“C-6 fluorochemicals manufactured using a telomer-based process. The telomer process produces no PFOS, and these C-6 materials do not breakdown to yield PFOA. The fluorochemicals used in the concentrate meet the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2010/15 PFOA Stewardship Program.”***

Further, to get an idea of the amount of Class B AFFF foam containing PFAS still in stock at fire departments statewide, I am asking all Michigan fire departments to complete the survey at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFSFoam](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFSFoam) by April 13, 2018. If you are unable to complete the online survey, please send an email to [LARA-BFS@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-BFS@michigan.gov) and include the following information:

- Fire Department Name
- FDID Number
- Fire Department Address
- Fire Chief's Name
- Fire Chief's Contact Information
- Do you have Class B AFFF foam?
- Brand Name of Class B AFFF foam?
- Date of Manufacture of Class B AFFF foam?
- The amount of Class B AFFF foam containing PFAS you have at your fire station (in gallons)?
- When was the last time you trained with Class B AFFF foam?
- In the last five (5) years, have you used Class B AFFF foam at an emergency incident?

- If yes, please indicate the address(es) where the Class B AFFF foam was used.
- Do you have a policy or SOP/SOG on Class B AFFF foam use?
- What is your policy for storage of Class B AFFF foam?
- Do you have a policy, SOP/SOG, or best practice for training using Class B AFFF foam?

Sharing that you have Class B AFFF foam with PFOA/PFOS will help identify the amount statewide so that we may develop a solution to dispose of the toxic firefighting foam properly and prevent further contamination in the Great Lakes State. 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. If you have any questions, please contact the Bureau of Fire Services at 517-241-8847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Sehlmeier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Sehlmeier" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin J. Sehlmeier  
State Fire Marshal/Director  
Bureau of Fire Services