



Wednesday Wrap-up with State Fire Marshal, Kevin J. Sehlmeier

June 24th, 2020
Virtual Meeting



PFOMS

PFAS in Firefighters of Michigan Surveillance

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Presentation Outline

- Collaboration with Michigan firefighters
- PFAS description and general exposure sources
- How firefighters are exposed to PFAS
- Health effects of PFAS
- Goals of the PFOMS project
- Project timeline
- Project participation
- Information that will be gathered
- How personal information will be protected
- Blood test results, what they will and will not tell us
- Next steps
- Links and resources

Collaborating with Michigan Firefighters

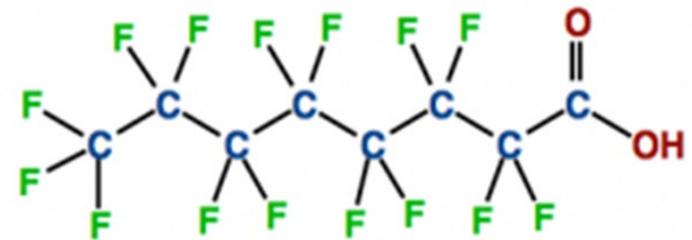
- Obtain feedback on outreach and education opportunities as the project progresses
- Promote participation
- Communicate information and results to firefighters



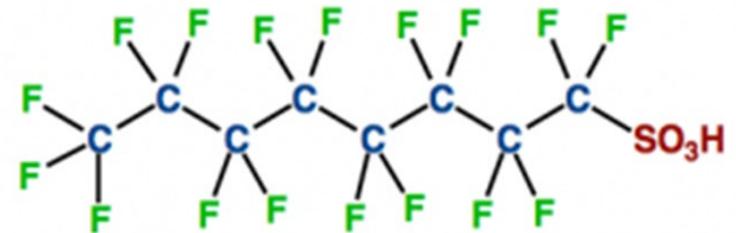
MDHHS PFOMS Project
Team in Training

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?

- A group of human-made chemicals, not found naturally in the environment
- Resistant to heat, water, and oil and do not break down easily in the environment



PFOA - perfluorooctanoic acid



PFOS - perfluorooctanesulfonic acid

Where can PFAS be found?



Examples include:

- Class B firefighting foams
- Food packaging
- Stain & water-resistant products
- Water seepage from landfills
- Non-stick cookware
- Carpet and other textiles
- Metal plating applications such as chrome plating

Firefighter Exposure to PFAS

- By using class B firefighting foam containing PFAS
- Water-repellant fabrics used in gear
- PFAS residue on gear and equipment
- PFAS contaminated drinking water



Health effects of PFAS

Scientists are still learning about the health effects of exposures to PFAS.

The research is not definitive, but some studies have shown that PFAS may:

- Lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant.
- Increase the chance of high blood pressure in pregnant women.
- Increase the chance of thyroid disease.
- Increase cholesterol levels.
- Change immune response.
- Increase the chance of cancer, especially kidney and testicular cancers.

To learn more about PFAS and Health effects please visit:

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86509---,00.html>

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects.html>

What are the goals of this project?

- To determine average PFAS exposure in Michigan firefighters
- Help inform decisions about how to minimize firefighters' exposure to PFAS



Project Timeline



PFOMS Participation – Fire Stations

- All airport fire stations will be selected.
- Municipal fire departments will be chosen at random.
- From the chosen municipal fire departments, a random set of fire stations will be selected.

PFOMS Participation - Firefighters

- Current career and volunteer adult firefighters who work for airport and selected municipal fire stations in Michigan
- All adult firefighters from the participating fire departments stations will be invited to participate.
 - We anticipate to include ~600 firefighters over 3.5 years of data collection.

What will we collect?

From participants:

-  Blood samples
-  Questions about job duties and behaviors that relate to PFAS exposure

From selected departments and stations:

-  Drinking water samples
-  Questions about water supply, aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) usage and storage

Participation Process – Approval for Participation

- After MDHHS selects departments and stations for participation, fire chiefs will be contacted to approve their department / station's participation.
- Once departments, stations and firefighters are invited, all participation in the PFOMS project is voluntary.

Participation Process – Clinic Appointments

WHERE:

- A mobile clinic will be available at fire departments and stations during scheduled dates and times.
- The mobile clinic is equipped for sample collections and will be designed to maintain privacy.



WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Each participant will be required to take a survey about PFAS exposure and provide a blood sample.
- A sanitarian will visit departments and stations to collect water samples.



Participation Process – Getting Results

- Individual PFAS result letters will be mailed directly to participants.
- Blood PFAS results will only be shared with participants individually.

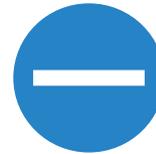
How will we protect your information?



Store it in
electronic form
on a secure
server



Password
protect it



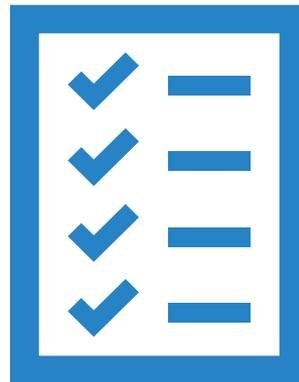
Limit personnel
access



Train staff on
how to protect
data and identity
information

What can the blood results tell you?

Your blood test results can only tell you the amount of PFAS in your blood at the time it was drawn from your body.



What can't your blood results tell you?

Your blood test result cannot tell you:

- How you were exposed to PFAS.
- Whether you have been, or will be harmed by the PFAS in your blood.

MDHHS PFOMS Project Team

Next Steps

- MDHHS will conduct a survey to collect information about the number of fire stations within each department and number of firefighters within each station.
- MDHHS staff will attend and host outreach events in the firefighting community to spread awareness about the PFOMS project.

How can I learn more about PFAS and Health?

About PFAS:

- Call the Division of Environmental Health, MI Toxic Hotline at 800-648-6942
- Visit the MDHHS, [Michigan PFAS Action Response Team \(MPART\) website](https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86514-496805--,00.html) to learn more about PFAS in firefighting foam
[\(https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86514-496805--,00.html\)](https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86514-496805--,00.html)

About Health Effects:

- Visit the [MDHHS MPART](https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86509---,00.html) and [CDC ATSDR](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects.html) website to learn more about health effects of PFAS
[\(https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86509---,00.html\)](https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86509---,00.html)
[\(https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects.html\)](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects.html)

How can I learn more about PFOMS?

Contact MDHHS staff to ask questions, give comments, and feedback about the project via email at mdhhs-pfoms@michigan.gov or call MDHHS PFAS hotline at **844-464-7327**.



How can I get involved?

- Spread the word – Share what you know about the project.
- Volunteer to participate if your station is chosen.

Questions?



Thank you for your dedication and service to
Michigan communities!