

Michigan Firefighting Foam and PFAS

KEY POINTS FOR USING AFFF

PFAS are commonly found in aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) and in some wetting agents. PFAS surfactants are ingredients in some types of Class B AFFF firefighting foams. This document summarizes [state laws](#) regarding PFAS-containing AFFF and includes Key Points related to the selection, storage, testing, containment, treatment, and disposal of PFAS foams.

STATE OF MICHIGAN LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

You Must Report the Use of AFFF

[Public Act 132 of 2020](#) states that immediately after the end of a fire or other incident at which an organized fire department uses firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS, the fire chief **shall report** the incident to the [Michigan Pollution Emergency Alert System \(PEAS\)](#) at 800-292-4706. It is important to understand and report how much foam concentrate was used and the location where the foam was discharged.

If you do not know if the Class A or B AFFF used has PFAS in it, report it anyway. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) can help you determine if the product used contains PFAS.

You Cannot Train With AFFF Containing PFAS

[Public Acts 133](#) and [143](#) prohibit the use of AFFF containing PFAS for training purposes.

FIREFIGHTING FOAM COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

State Law (PA 132 of 2020) requires EGLE to administer a program for firefighting foam collection and disposal. As of June 2024, Michigan had collected over 69,400 gallons of AFFF. We continue to work with fire chiefs around Michigan to ensure AFFF is properly disposed. For more information on proper disposal, contact Steve Noble, EGLE Materials Management Division, at NobleS4@Michigan.gov or 517-449-6153.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT AFFF AND ITS USE

- Most Class B and A/B firefighting foams, and some wetting agents contain PFAS.
- Do not use Class B foam on Class A fires. Vehicle fires with no fuel involved in the fire are a Class A fire.
- Only use Class B foam on fires with a greater than 40 gallons of fuel load. Consider exposure protection and burning off the fuel versus applying a Class B foam and the substantial environmental cleanup that will be required.
- Understand the capability and limitations of your different foam concentrates (Class A foam, wetting agent, Class B fluorinated foam, Class B alcohol resistant-AR, Class B fluorinated protein foam, Class B fluorine free foam).
- When using Class B foam containing PFAS, attempt to contain it on an engineered surface (cement) where possible, and dam up or seal any drains to sewers or water ways. Do not allow the foam solution to get to the earth or other porous materials (soil, sand, etc.).
- After foam use is finished, flush your equipment at the scene of the incident, not at the station.
- If possible, do not drive response vehicles through foam release areas to prevent the track out of foam.
- PFAS released into the environment can get into rivers and lakes, groundwater, and into storm sewers.
- Protect yourself and the environment:
 - Use the right foam for the type of fire you are fighting. Only use PFAS-containing AFFF foams when necessary to extinguish flammable liquid fires.
 - Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for all Class A/B and Class B firefighting foams that you have at your station.
 - If you use Class B foam use, have a cleanup plan, and implement [Best Management Practices](#).

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