



Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Cabinet Secretary Jeff S. Sandy, CFE, CAMS

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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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January 2, 2020

Fire Chiefs and Training Providers:

We are currently trying to assess the types of firefighting foams in your possession being stored and used within the State.

What type of foam is included?

Around the country in various States, similar inquiries have been made and different actions have been taken to address the use of Class B firefighting foam containing the chemicals known as PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) in training exercises.

Why is this foam of particular concern?

These chemicals are linked to cancer and other health conditions.

What type of assistance is currently being considered?

We are in the very early stages; preparing to conduct an assessment of the types and quantities being stored and in use around the State. This assessment will focus on Class B foam stockpiles owned and managed by municipal fire departments, fire districts, fire authorities, and fire training facilities.

How do I sign up to participate?

Before we can begin any consideration beyond the assessments, we are asking each fire agency to conduct a visual inventory and complete an online survey to determine what types of foam is being held. To determine whether your agency has foam eligible for this program, look for:

- Any foam manufactured before 2003 or where the date of manufacture is unknown, or
- Any foam with any of the acronyms AFFF, AR-AFFF, FFFP, AF-FFFP, FP, FPAR on its label, or
- Any foam that is unlabeled, or
- Any foam mixed with other foams.

Please fill out the survey by January 31st, 2020 found at firemarshal.wv.gov; to indicate what type and quantities of AFFF materials you are currently using and storing. This information will help us to develop what the next steps will be in addressing any concerns.

If you have questions about the program, please contact our office.

For more information on firefighting foams and potential toxic chemicals in firefighting equipment and products, please see the attached documents and any additional we have on our agency's website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KEE T J", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth E. Tyree Jr.
State Fire Marshal