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PFAS/PFOS SURVEY

The West Virginia Legislature has directed the West Virginia State Fire Commission, along with assistance from the Department of Environmental Protection, to find a method to dispose of Firefighting Foam that contains PFAS/PFOS chemicals.

Attached you will find documents that will assist you in identifying whether the Firefighting Foam that you have in your possession contains any PFAS/PFOS chemicals.

If you determine that you have Firefighting Foam that contains PFAS/PFOS, or you are unable to identify it, please use the QR Code below to fill out a short survey.

If you determine that the Firefighting Foam you have in your possession DOES NOT contain PFAS/PFOS chemicals, then no further action is needed.

This survey is not only for fire departments, but for any group, organization, or industry that may have these items in their possession.

Scan the QR Code below for the survey:



The survey can also be found at: <https://forms.gle/fm31Jum7svaUvX5h8>

Questions about this survey can be directed to: Robert.d.bailey@wv.gov

Please submit responses by 4pm on 8/18/2023

The two major classes of Firefighting Foam:

1. **Class A Foam:** Used to extinguish Class A materials, such as wood, paper, and brush (wildland), is widely used by many fire departments for structural firefighting using compressed air foam systems.
1. **Class B Foam (also called AFFF):** Used to extinguish Class B materials, which include gasoline, oil, and jet fuel.

Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF, or alcohol resistant AR-AFFF) is a highly effective foam used for fighting high-hazard flammable liquid fires. AFFF is usually created by combining foaming agents with fluorinated surfactants. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are the active ingredient in these fluorinated surfactants. When mixed with water and discharged, the foam forms an aqueous film that quickly cuts off the oxygen to the fire, cools it, extinguishes the fire, and prevents the fire from relighting. (Think fire triangle: oxygen, fuel, heat.)

Some fire stations may have only Class A foam, some fire stations may have both Class A and Class B foam.

How to tell if firefighting foam contains PFAS

It may not be easy to tell if the AFFF you have contains PFAS. These chemicals are not required to be reported on any safety data sheets (SDS), as they currently are not considered a hazardous substance. PFAS may not be listed under any active ingredients list, either. A good indicator that the foam contains PFAS is if it mentions fluorosurfactant, fluoroprotein, C6, or the use of "fluoro", however, not all fluorinated surfactants are made of PFAS. The best thing to do is to note the brand and manufacturer of the foam and contact the manufacturer in writing to see if PFAS is used in its production and ask for the SDS. Be sure to be clear that you mean the entire family of PFAS, not just the single compound PFOS, and be sure to review the SDS.

All Class B foams

