New initiative to collect cancer-causing PFAS foam from Indiana fire agencies

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will launch a program to collect Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) foam from Indiana fire agencies. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, evidence has shown exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health outcomes in humans.

The PFAS initiative focuses on protecting firefighter safety. The State will remove and properly dispose of PFAS material from any agency that requests it. This is a free service with no additional requirements for fire agencies.

In 2020, the Indiana General Assembly passed House Enrolled Act 1189, prohibiting the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS for training purposes (Read relevant Indiana Code). The new collection and disposal program allows Indiana to protect Hoosier firefighters and the environment.

Minimizing exposure to Class B firefighting foam will have a big impact on the health of firefighters across Indiana.

To better understand how much PFAS-containing AFFF firefighting foam is present in Indiana, all fire service organizations are asked to voluntarily complete the survey below. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and collaboration regarding this joint initiative.

Note: Only one representative from each fire agency should complete the survey. Do not complete the survey if you have submitted previously.

Click here for additional information about PFAS and the program.
The Fire and Public Safety Academy is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering professional fire and public safety training, education and certification to Indiana’s first responders in support of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security’s mission of protecting the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.

Contact the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy at firecertifications@dhs.in.gov