

Information Bulletin

Use of Class B Firefighting Foam

Authority: General Business Law § 391-u and General Municipal Law § 204-g

Fluorinated Class B foam (foam containing PFAS chemicals), including Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), has been determined to pose both environmental and public health risks.

Use of foams containing PFAS chemicals is PROHIBITED during TRAINING. *

As of March 22, 2022, the manufacture, sale, distribution for sale or distribution for use of firefighting foams containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals is prohibited, unless such sale or distribution is for use required by Federal law or regulation, which includes fire protection at military and civil aviation facilities.

Foam manufacturers are required to recall, collect, and safely dispose of Class B foams containing PFAS and reimburse retailers or other purchasers for the product. Contact your foam vendor or manufacturer for information regarding how they are complying with this requirement. Fluorinated foam concentrates currently in inventory should be replaced with Fluorine Free Foam (FFF) concentrates now available.

While use during an emergency is not currently prohibited by NYS law: any decision to use fluorinated foam at an incident should consider the risk to public health and environmental harm that may result versus the operational benefit or need for that use. Fire departments may be responsible for associated clean-up costs and should take measures to control and limit the spread of any foam applied, including notification of use to the DEC Spill Hotline (1-800-457-7362).

In general, use of any Class B foams should be primarily for ignitable liquid spills and fires. OFPC does not recommend use of Class B foam on Class A or three-dimensional fires such as tire fires and junkyard fires.

Contact OFPC Special Operations Branch for additional information at 518-474-6746 or via fire@dhses.ny.gov

****Note: OFPC does not recommend any Class B foam be used during training, regardless of fluorination, as there are alternatives (such as dish detergent) suitable for training use.***

Find out more online: www.dhses.ny.gov/pfas-foam-information

