

From: U.S. Fire Administration usfa@service.govdelivery.com
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To: mccormick2@optonline.net

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U.S. Fire Administration
Working for a fire-safe America

The hidden dangers in firefighting foam

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Learn about potentially hazardous chemicals found in firefighting foams and suggested best practices to prevent exposure.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of man-made chemical compounds found in a wide range of consumer products such as nonstick products, polishes, waxes, paints, and cleaning products. Two PFAS compounds, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and

waxes, paints and cleaning products. Two PFAS compounds, perfluorooctane acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), may be present in firefighting aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) solutions.

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The U.S. Fire Administration recommends everyone should have a comprehensive home fire protection plan that includes smoke alarms, fire sprinklers, and practicing a fire escape plan.

