



We hope this email finds you well. The First Responder Center for Excellence is pleased to provide this monthly communication to keep you informed about the work of the Alliance.

With the recent publication of firefighter PFAS research from Dr. Graham Peaslee at the University of Notre Dame, this month's Cancer Alliance update is dedicated to this topic. Specifically understanding PFOA, PFAS and related "forever chemicals" and the potential exposure concerns for firefighters.

Understanding PFOA, PFAS and related "forever chemicals" and the potential exposure concerns for firefighters.

There are many pieces of the puzzle that contribute to an elevated cancer risk in the fire service. Eating right, tobacco use, use of the SCBA through overhaul and exercise are just a few of the pieces of the large puzzle.

In a scientific research study published on June 23, 2020 by Dr. Graham Peaslee and his team from the University of Notre Dame we find another probable piece of this puzzle. In the study titled, "Another Pathway for Firefighter Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Firefighter Textiles", samples of tested turnout gear have shown the presence of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS).

These chemicals are added to the textiles that are used in firefighter turnout gear to provide water and oil resistance. Textiles used as firefighter turnout gear were found to have high levels of total fluorine

(up to 2%), and individual PFAS were identified and measured on new and used firefighting turnout gear.

Used gear showed lower levels of PFAS as well as an increased migration into untreated material (shedding). A dust measurement from a textile storage area also suggests direct loss of PFAS from the fluoropolymers in the textiles. Importantly, according to the report, exposures to PFAS's have been linked to four of the eight top cancers firefighters' contract more often than the general public.

While the research demonstrated that PFAS are shed from the bunker gear, more studies are needed and currently underway to better understand the exposure route to the firefighter. Based on the PFAS shedding from the samples, there are several very important takeaways from this report which highlight some simple common sense contamination reduction strategies firefighters can take today.

The research report and supporting document can be found on a link at the last call foundation web:

https://www.lastcallfoundation.org/fbclid=IwAR0R1f1Stg5l2GvpmKBNf6eDN07Uwkt-y6EarSJi053mMTp_GmyKSqiLYms

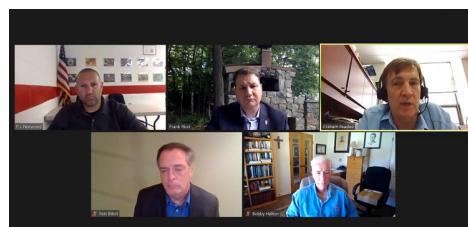
ARTICLES



Firefighters Face New Possible Risk From Toxic PFAS:...

Waterproofing chemicals in the protective gear worn by firefighters may be exposing them to "significant quantities" of potentially toxic fluorochemicals, according to a new study from the University of Notre Dame. The research is some of the...

[Read more](#)
[news.bloomberglaw.com](https://www.news.bloomberglaw.com)



Humpday Hangout

Fire Engineering

Humpday Hangout: Cancer-Causing Toxins and Your...

Learn more about our gear from Professor Graham Peaslee and Attorney Robert Bilott.

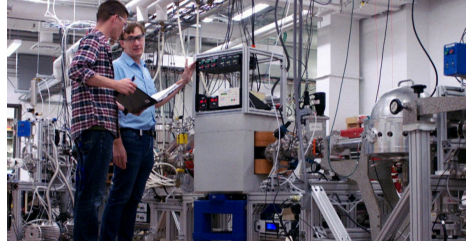
[Read more](#)
www.firefighternation.com



'Forever Chemicals' Are in Your Popcorn-and Your Blood

While the Food and Drug Administration reiterated that BPA was safe in food containers, consumers and local governments pushed back. By 2012, the FDA acknowledged that BPA was no longer used in baby bottles, sippy cups, and packaging of infant...

[Read more](#)
www.wired.com



Gear treated with 'forever chemicals' poses risk to...

Firefighters face occupational hazards on a daily basis. Now, new research shows they face additional risk just by gearing up. Fabric used for firefighter turnout gear tested positive for the presence of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances...

[Read more](#)
news.nd.edu



Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Teflon, and Related Chemicals

Teflon ® is a brand name used for a group of man-made chemicals, the most common of which is polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). PTFE has been in commercial use since the 1940s. It has a wide variety of uses because it is extremely stable (it doesn't ...

[Read more](#)
www.cancer.org



Fighting to Protect the Brave // What Would You Fight...

Diane Cotter knew cancer was a risk of her husband's job. Paul had been a firefighter for 27 years, and they had been advised of not only the safety risks, but also the health implications from exposure to diesel exhaust and products of combustion.

[Read more](#)
fightingfor.nd.edu



What If I Told You That Your Bunker Gear Was Causing...

By Larissa Conroy We all believe that our bunker gear is keeping out the big "C" word (cancer). What if I told you that the same bunker gear you're wearing contains chemicals that are linked to cancer? How bad do you want to go out and put your...

[Read more](#)
firerescuemagazine.firefigh...



PFAS exposure and risks: Your questions answered

One of the current hot topics around firefighter cancer is exposure to PFAS. But what is PFAS, how are firefighters exposed, and how much do we know about their health effects? Here we'll tackle several key questions related to this important...

[Read more](#)
www.firerescue1.com

PRE- and POLYFLUOROALKYL (PFAS) SUBSTANCE AWARENESS

Excellent training materials to help firefighters better understand PFAS and their potential risk.

[Read more](#)
www.sffcpf.org



Coffee Break Bulletin

Posted: Feb. 11, 2020 Learn how to protect yourself against exposure to dangerous chemical compounds found in firefighting aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) solutions. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of man-made...

[Read more](#)
www.usfa.fema.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions several of the 2020 Regional Cancer Seminars were postponed. Seminars in Alaska, South Carolina, Vermont, Ohio, Mississippi and Oregon will be re-scheduled. You can check the FRCE website at www.firstrespondercenter.org/events for updated event schedules.

Please let us know if you or your organization have any information you would like us to share in next month's newsletter by sending an email to ljacobs@frcmail.org.

First Responder Center for Excellence
2130 Priest Bridge Drive
Suite 11
Crofton, MD 21114

www.firstrespondercenter.org

