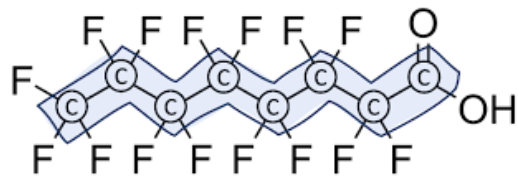


PFAS and it Gear



Colorado State Fire Chiefs
Critical Issues Briefing
May 11, 2023



Next Steps

#1: **ONLY WEAR TURNOUT GEAR WHEN ESSENTIAL**

- Reconsider wearing your turnout gear on calls where there is NOT a fire. Only wearing your turnout gear when absolutely essential will help to reduce your PFAS exposure by limiting your contact.



Next Steps

#2: STORE (AND TRANSPORT) GEAR IN AN ENCLOSED, DESIGNATED AREA OR ADEQUATE GEAR BAGS.

- Store gear in an enclosed, designated area that is away from living/eating areas.
 - Preferably with own air filtration/HVAC system.
 - Store gear in closed lockers or gear bags when not in use.
 - Transporting gear: in bags not in passenger compartment



Next Steps

#4: USE HAZARD ZONE DESIGNATIONS AT THE STATION

- Three zone recommendations:
 - **RED ZONES:** Where decontamination of contaminated gear/equipment occurs.
 - **YELLOW ZONES:** Clean gear/equipment storage
 - **GREEN ZONES:** Living spaces where gear/equipment are forbidden.



Next Steps

#5: WASH HANDS

- Wash your hands with soap and water to remove PFAS and other contaminants after handling your turnout gear – especially before eating or preparing food.



Next Steps

#6: ADVOCATE FOR FLUORINE-FREE ALTERNATIVES

- Involve the following to obtain fluorine-free turnout gear:
 - Fire Station
 - Union
 - Town
 - District
 - State and Federal Legislators
- STEADFAST: Claiming PFAS-Free moisture barrier (pending testing)



Next Steps

#7: JOIN THE COLORADO VOLUNTARY CANCER AWARD BENEFIT

- There is no reason for a fire department to opt out...PERIOD!
- THANK YOU
- Reference: <https://www.pfasfreeppe.com/>

