

Freedom of Information request reference number: 6439.1

Date of response: 21 April 2022

Request:

I am requesting freedom of information from your fire service to request whether:

- *Your fire service has ever used Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) for firefighting purposes?*
- *What firefighting foam/s system/s did your fire service use?*
- *If available what type of PFAS were these foams?*
- *What dilution was used in firefighting foams by your fire service?*
- *From what years would your fire service use these firefighting foams?*
- *Does your fire service have a current policy regarding PFAS firefighting foams?*
- *Does your fire service have a policy regarding the disposal of PFAS firefighting foams held by your fire service?*
- *Do you have stock information on the PFAS containing products? Can you please share this information as far back as possible?*

Response:

Has your fire service has ever used Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) for firefighting purposes?

Yes

What firefighting foam/s system/s did your fire service use?

There are/were currently four different types of foam stocked in the LFB. These are:

- Alcoseal 3/6 Alcohol Resistant Film-Forming FluoroProtein (AR-FFFP)
- [Polyfoam 3/3 Aqueous Film-Forming Foam \(AFFF\)](#)
- SF-60 Synthetic multi expansion foam compound ('Hi-Ex foam')
- [TF-136 Pseudoplastic training foam](#) (does not contain any flurosurfactants)

Please note the Alcoseal 3/6 foam is no longer used as the Mercedes Series 2 pumping appliances have been phased out.

If available what type of PFAS were these foams?

The current polyfoam 3/3 is a c6 PFOS variant and due to be replaced with fluorine free.

What dilution was used in firefighting foams by your fire service?

Polyfoam 3/3: 3% concentrate

SF-60 High expansion foam: 3% concentration

TF-136 Pseudoplastic training foam: 3% concentrate (can be used down to 1%)

Alcoseal 3/6: was 3% on hydrocarbons and on polar solvents (foam no longer used)

From what years would your fire service use these firefighting foams?

The LFB firefighting foam policy was introduced in 2013 although I understand that firefighting foams may have been used before this date.

Does your fire service have a current policy regarding PFAS firefighting foams?

Yes, policy number 827 – 'Firefighting foam'. This policy describes the operation, storage, and maintenance of the London Fire Brigade (LFB) foam stocks and the operational considerations around the use of firefighting foam. The aim of this policy is to encourage appropriate use when it is supported by a dynamic risk assessment that takes into account the environmental considerations, with appropriate control measures introduced to mitigate damage.

Please note, the LFB are embarking on a project to replace current c6 foams and replace with fluorine free products.

Does your fire service have a policy regarding the disposal of PFAS firefighting foams held by your fire service?

Yes, policy number 643 – 'Hazardous waste disposal procedure' details the appropriate actions in the event of a spill.

Do you have stock information on the PFAS containing products? Can you please share this information as far back as possible?

Alcoseal 3/6

This was carried on the Mercedes Series 2 pumping appliances (120L per appliance) but these have now been phased out from service.

Polyfoam 3/3

Appliance foam tanks contain 120L
8 x 1,000L IBC (Intermediate Bulk Containers) per Bulk Foam Unit (BFU)
32,000L resilience stock

SF-60 Synthetic multi expansion foam compound ('Hi-Ex foam')

1 x 1,000L IBC (Intermediate Bulk Container) per Bulk Foam Unit (BFU)

TF-136 Pseudoplastic training foam

There are currently five stations that function as foam training stations. Each foam training station has 1000L TF-136 training foam.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>