Statewide Survey of Fire Department Possession, Use, and Disposal of AFFF

2020 ECOS STEP Meeting

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HB 19-1279 Firefighting Foams and Personal Protective Equipment Control Act: Requires survey of fire departments once every 3 years

September 2019: Issued survey to 331 fire departments, airports, and private industries

Multiple approaches for encouraging entities to complete and submit the web-based survey

CDPHE received 89 survey responses, representing 308 individual stations and facilities
Six-Part Survey

- Part I - General Fire Department Information
- Part II - Foam Inventory
- Part III - Foam Usage Events
- Part IV - Foam Disposal
- Part V - Water Supply Sources
- Part VI - Agency Support
Survey Results

Part II Foam Inventory:

- 60% currently possess some amount of PFAS-containing Class B foam
  - Median amount = 130 gallons
  - Total volume for all respondents = 51,001 gallons
  - Date of manufacture: 1982 - 2019
Survey Results

Part III Foam Usage Events:

- 21% used PFAS-containing foam for either training, testing fire suppression systems, or fire suppression events (i.e. fighting fires)
  - Median amount used by a department for all events = 44 gallons
  - Total volume of all respondents = 10,312 gallons
Survey Results

Part IV Foam Disposal (unused/expired):

- Reported some quantity disposed: 7%
- Reported no foam disposal: 56%
- Left question blank: 37%
Part V Water Resources:

- 89 respondents reported the water sources for a total number of 308 stations and facilities:
  - Public water supplies: 248 stations/facilities
  - Private well water: 53 stations/facilities
  - Unknown/Not reported: 7 stations/facilities

- Eight departments had tested for PFAS constituents
Survey Results

Part VI Agency Support: “What area do you need the most support from the department?”

- Resources to collect & dispose of old foam: 37%
- Assistance in responding to PFAS in drinking water: 3%
- Options for safer firefighting foams: 45%
- Resources for testing drinking water for PFAS: 15%
Thank you

More questions?

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/pfcs

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