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

2020 ECOS STEP Meeting

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Department of Public Health & Environment

Survey Development & Outreach

- 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

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Six-Part Survey

Part I - General Fire Department Information

Part III - Foam Usage Events

Part V – Water Supply Sources

Part II - Foam Inventory

Part IV - Foam Disposal

Part VI – Agency Support

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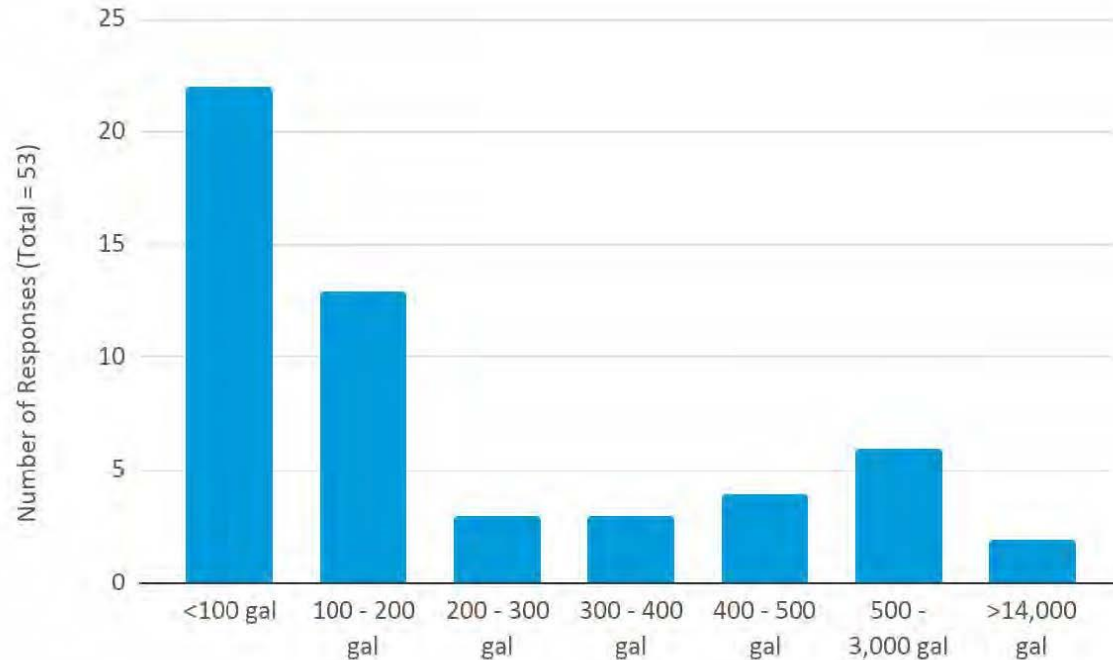
Survey Results

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

SUPPRESSION 21%

TESTING 43%

TRAINING 36%

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Survey Results

Part IV Foam Disposal (unused/expired):

Reported some quantity disposed
7%

Reported no foam disposal
56%

Left question blank
37%

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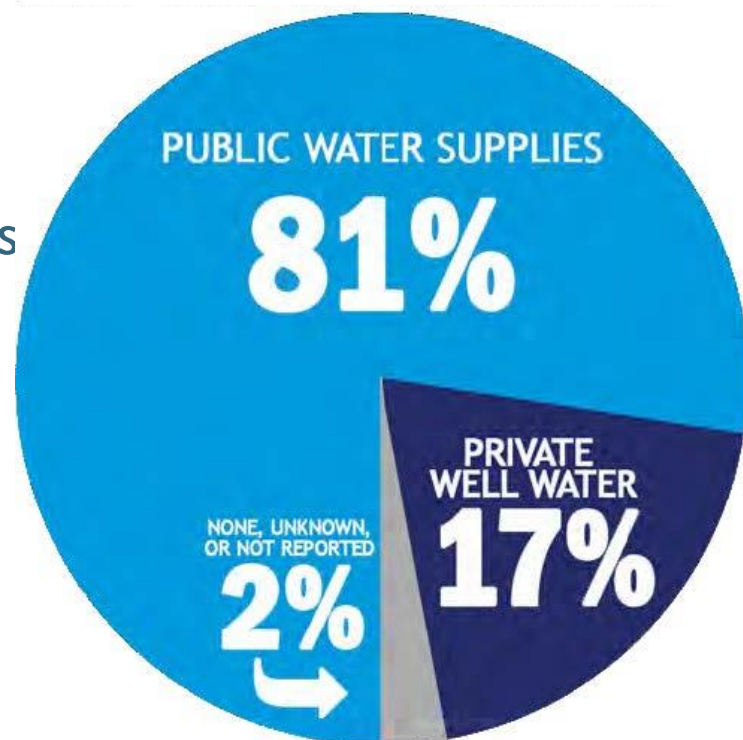Department of Public Health & Environment

Survey Results

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

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

81%

NONE, UNKNOWN, OR NOT REPORTED

2%

PRIVATE WELL WATER

17%

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Survey Results

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

Resources for testing drinking water for PFAS
15%

Resources to collect & dispose of old foam
37%

Assistance in responding to PFAS in drinking water
3%

Options for safer firefighting foams
45%

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Thank you

More questions?

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

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