



Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Commits to Eradicating PFAS in Firefighting Foams

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service is dedicated to proactively addressing the concerns surrounding Poly Fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) in firefighting foams with all PFAS chemicals to be eradicated by the end of 2023.

What is PFAS?

PFAS are a group of at least 4,700 man-made chemicals, some of which are widely used in industry due to their resistance to water, oil, grease, fire and heat. They have commonly been used for their non-stick, stain resistance and lubrication properties and are also used in electronics.

One group of PFAS, known as Perfluoralkyl Acids (PFAAs), have been used in fire-fighting foams (as well as numerous other applications) since the 1960s.

There is growing evidence that PFAS are harmful to human health, with population studies indicating an association between some PFAS and a variety of health impacts.

Transitioning to fluorine free foams:

We prioritise the health and safety of our staff, communities, and the environment we serve. Recognising the potential risks associated with PFAS, we are in the process of transitioning to fluorine free foams, which do not contain these harmful substances.

Additionally, we have committed to conducting a thorough review and risk assessment of our current use of firefighting foams containing PFAS. By transitioning to fluorine free foams, conducting a thorough review, we are taking necessary actions to manage and minimise the potential risks associated with PFAS.

Our aim is to complete this transition by the end of 2023. By using alternative firefighting foams, we can minimise the environmental impact and reduce potential harm to public health.

Through our commitment and proactive measures, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service aims to protect the well-being of our communities and contribute to a safer and healthier environment for all.

ENDS

