

PREVENT FUTURE TOXIC SPILLS OF PFAS AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAM (AFFF)

Provide funding and resources to allow safe removal and eventual disposal of harmful AFFF.

Toxic PFAS-laden aqueous film-forming foam has added to Maine's current PFAS crisis.

- Maine has a PFAS crisis. Toxic PFAS (Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances) are contaminating our environment and threatening public health.
- Recognizing the dire impacts of toxic chemicals in the environment, Maine has acted to phase out PFAS, including banning the use of firefighting foam that contains PFAS.
- The use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) was required at airports and military sites for decades, exposing firefighters, service members and their families, and surrounding communities to toxic PFAS linked to dire health impacts. Firefighters have higher rates of cancer than the general public due to exposure to things like AFFF.
- Though safer alternatives are now available and manufacturers are required to recall toxic foam, large quantities of AFFF are still being stored at sites in Maine and around the country.

The PFAS spill in Brunswick is an environmental disaster -- and it could happen again.



- In August 2024, a faulty fire suppression system at Brunswick Landing spilled 1,450 gallons of toxic AFFF concentrate mixed with 50,000 gallons of water. It was the largest toxic foam spill in Maine history and the sixth-largest nationwide.
- The spill in Brunswick entered the public sanitary sewer system that discharges into the Androscoggin River, contaminating nearby waterways and presenting a serious, long-term threat to soil, groundwater, air quality, and public health. The impacts are still being investigated.
- Unfortunately, without action, there is a possibility of this happening elsewhere in the state. Sites across Maine are storing an estimated 50,000 gallons of AFFF, and there are no established systems for collection and management of this toxic foam.

The state must support communities collecting and removing AFFF to protect Maine's people and environment.

- We need a collection system to prevent future spills. Such a program will require state resources to avoid disproportionate impacts on smaller communities.
- Policymakers should establish and fund a collection system, similar to that in New Hampshire and Colorado, to provide public and private entities storing AFFF with a safe way to remove and dispose of this toxic foam.

Prevent PFAS contamination. Establish an AFFF collection & disposal system.

For more information, please contact
Sarah Woodbury, Defend Our Health, at (503) 913-2484 or swoodbury@defendourhealth.org;
Ivy Frignoca, Friends of Casco Bay, at (207) 831-3067 or ifrignoca@casco.org; or
Dana Colihan, Slingshot, at (646) 912-5538 or dana@slingshot.org



Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is an inclusive statewide alliance of 39 conservation, climate action, and public health organizations. Each year we collectively identify a slate of policy priorities to act on the climate crisis, further environmental justice, protect land, water, and wildlife, and cultivate healthy Maine communities.



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