

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 9/17/18 4:15 PM Received: September 14, 2018 Status: Posted Posted: September 17, 2018 Tracking No. 1k2-95f5-v2t9 Comments Due: September 17, 2018 Submission Type: API

Docket: ATSDR-2018-0002

Exposure Assessments for Per- or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) 0923-18AJK

Comment On: ATSDR-2018-0002-0001

Per or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances PFAS Exposure Assessments_60day 18AJK

Document: ATSDR-2018-0002-0006

Shannon Meissner Comment on FR Doc # 2018-15437

Submitter Information

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Organization: International Organization of Fire Fighters

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

IAFF Comments to Docket# ATSDR-2018-0002



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

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September 14, 2018

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Attn: Jeffery Zirger

Information Collection and Review Office

1600 Clifton Road, NE

MS-D74

Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Docket No. ATSDR-2018-0002

RE: Comments Pursuant to proposed information collection project titled “Per- or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Exposure Assessments

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has requested public comment on a proposed information collection project titled “Per- or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Exposure Assessments” announced in the Federal Register on July 19, 2018. ATSDR and the CDC National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) will conduct a minimum of eight exposure assessments (EAs) at current or former military installations with known PFAS contamination in drinking water, groundwater, or another water source. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) submits the following comments for consideration.

The International Association of Fire Fighters represents 315,000 fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, serving communities large and small in every state. In most of the communities nationwide, IAFF members are our nation’s first responders to hazardous materials spills, fires, and explosion incidents. As such, the IAFF has a vested interest in preventing hazardous materials spills, fires, explosions, or exposures that places our members’ health and safety at risk during response and mitigation efforts.

The IAFF deeply appreciates that ATSDR is proposing to study the effects of human exposure to PFAS through various water sources. Fire fighters assigned to military bases are regularly exposed to PFAS by the nature of their occupation through training and incident response, and through the donning of personal protective ensembles (PPE) containing PFAS-treated materials. This regular and reoccurring exposure has the potential to result in severe career limiting health conditions such as cancers, altered cholesterol levels, autoimmune conditions, and lowered pregnancy rates in female fire fighters. While we know and understand the aforementioned health conditions are a possibility for the general public, there is currently a lack of substantive data comparing current and former fire fighters employed at military installations to determine if such fire fighters have an increased likelihood of developing serious medical conditions or diseases. Therefore, we encourage ATSDR to include fire fighters and other workers in its data collection to determine the relative risk to workers as opposed to other individuals at military bases.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the IAFF's comments to the proposed information collection project titled "Per- or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Exposure Assessments." We stand ready to assist ATSDR in any endeavor that could lead to safer and healthy fire fighters and emergency medical responders.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold A. Schaitberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harold" being more prominent.

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President