



STATE OF MAINE  
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Office of State Fire Marshal  
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February 5, 2025

**LD 400 - Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources, I write in **support** of LD 400.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been used in aqueous film-forming foams (AFFFs) for fighting liquid fuel fires since the 1970s. In recent years, these chemicals have been found to cause cancer and present major environmental concerns. The Fire Service now recognizes the issues PFAS presents and has limited AFFF foam use to emergent events where life safety assumes priority. Today, only fluorine free foam (F3) is being purchased for use in the State. F3 foam is very expensive, often costing \$300 per 5-gallon pail. The cost of AFFF foam disposal and the cost of F3 replacement inhibit small fire departments from addressing concerns related to PFAS.

To understand how much AFFF foam exists we must first, conduct an inventory. Once we have a Statewide inventory, Legislators can then decide if a disposal, takeback, or replacement program is feasible for local fire departments.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (FMO) is trusted by local fire officials and is best suited to conduct an inventory of firefighting foam across municipalities. The FMO can conduct this inventory within the outlined time period, with existing staff and infrastructure. We have readily available contact information from our fire service colleagues.

If the program expands to the private sector, I do see some challenges ensuring we can capture accurate data. This will require more time, more research, site visits, and advertising. I will enclose a fiscal note outlining one full-time equivalent and associated costs.

In both cases, an "easy to report" survey will be made available on available on the Office of State Fire Marshal website. We will comply with the reporting requirements outlined within LD 400 and results will be subsequently posted on our website for public view.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Esler".

Shawn Esler, State Fire Marshal