

1 [Administrative Code - Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment Containing PFAS]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to prohibit the Fire Department from**
4 **providing or using personal protective equipment containing intentionally-added PFAS**
5 **(perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) by June 30, 2026; and requiring the Fire**
6 **Department to conduct regular meetings with labor representatives, and submit regular**
7 **reports to the Board of Supervisors and Fire Commission, regarding its progress**
8 **toward meeting the June 30, 2026, deadline.**

9 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
10 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
11 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
12 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
13 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
14 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
15 subsections or parts of tables.

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14 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

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16 Section 1. Findings.

17 (a) Decades of scientific research have demonstrated the toxic and carcinogenic
18 nature of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as PFAS, which are a family of
19 synthetic chemicals known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistent presence in both the
20 environment and the human body. Research has linked exposure to PFAS and accumulation
21 of PFAS in the human body to the development of tumors in the liver, reproductive organs,
22 and pancreas.

23 (b) In November 2023, the International Association for Research on Cancer (IARC)
24 declared perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a polyfluoroalkyl substance found in firefighter
25 personal protective equipment, to be a Group 1 known human carcinogen.

1 (c) In addition to other industrial and commercial uses, PFAS have been utilized in
2 personal protective equipment of firefighters. Specifically, PFAS have been used within the
3 inner moisture barrier layer of the three-layer fabric of firefighter turnout gear in order to satisfy
4 an ultraviolet light degradation test under Section 8.62 of the National Fire Protection
5 Association (NFPA) Standard 1971.

6 (d) Firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession that brings repeated exposures
7 to numerous toxic substances, including benzene, asbestos, and hexavalent chromium.
8 These exposures lead to a higher rate of cancer among firefighters than among the general
9 population. The cancer risk for firefighters is so high that in July 2022, IARC declared
10 firefighter occupational exposure itself to be a Group 1 carcinogen that is known to cause
11 cancer and harm to human health.

12 (e) Fire agencies throughout the country have worked to reduce levels of occupational
13 exposure to harmful substances, including PFAS, through policies including requiring the
14 cleaning of apparatus cabs regularly and after every fire, requiring the cleaning of personal
15 protective equipment, requiring the use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) during
16 fire overhaul, and eliminating the use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) that contains
17 PFAS. California restricted the use of AFFF, also known as Class B firefighting foam,
18 containing PFAS, in favor of non-PFAS alternatives, through the enactment of SB 1044 in
19 September 2021.

20 (f) The Fire Department has received a \$2.3 million grant from the Federal Emergency
21 Management Agency (FEMA) to purchase new personal protective equipment (PPE), and is
22 preparing to submit a resolution for the Board of Supervisors' approval of the acceptance and
23 expenditure of this grant. The FEMA funds will assist the Fire Department in replacing current
24 PPE with new PPE that does not contain intentionally-added PFAS.

1 Section 2. Chapter 64 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding
2 Section 64.2, to read as follows:

3 **SEC. 64.2. PROHIBITION ON FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVISION OR USE OF**
4 **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CONTAINING PFAS.**

5 (a) **Definitions.** For purposes of this Section 64.2, the following definitions apply:

6 “Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment” means personal protective clothing and
7 equipment covered by the General Industry Safety Orders in Sections 3403 to 3407, inclusive, of Title 8
8 of the California Code of Regulations, as may be amended from time to time.

9 “PFAS” means perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a class of fluorinated organic
10 compounds containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

11 (b) **Prohibition.** By no later than June 30, 2026, the Fire Department shall no longer provide
12 or use Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment containing intentionally-added PFAS.

13 (c) **Progress Meetings.** The Chief of the Fire Department, or the Chief’s designee, shall meet
14 with labor representatives at least every three months until June 30, 2026, to discuss and evaluate
15 progress toward phasing out Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment containing intentionally-added
16 PFAS, including with respect to the availability of, and securing funding for, Firefighter Personal
17 Protective Equipment that does not contain intentionally-added PFAS.

18 (d) **Progress Reports.** The Fire Department shall provide a report to the Board of Supervisors
19 and the Fire Commission on its progress toward meeting the deadline in subsection (b) every six
20 months until June 30, 2026. Following consultation with labor representatives, if the Fire Department
21 determines that factors beyond the Fire Department’s control will impede the Fire Department’s ability
22 to meet the June 30, 2026 deadline, the Fire Department shall recommend to the Board of Supervisors
23 by no later than March 1, 2026 to extend the June 30, 2026 deadline.

