



Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment Containing PFAS

San Francisco Fire Department

Budget & Finance Committee – May 1, 2024

PFAS Background

- PFAS forever chemicals: cause cancer, disrupt hormones
- PFAS chemicals in moisture barrier of firefighting turnouts (TO), repel water and oil
- Department and SFFCPF pushing industry for 6+ years for PFAS-free PPE, research and testing
- Commitment: reduce health risks; multiple public/private partnerships

Health and Wellness Initiatives

- #1 Priority – Health, Safety, Wellness
 - PPE use/cleaning policy
 - Decontamination Policy
 - Air Monitoring Policy
 - Overhaul Policy
 - Transcendental Meditation
 - SF Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation Sulforaphane Study
 - SFFCPF-funded Blood Test Screen
 - Wash Extractors
 - Nutrition Study
 - 30 In/30 Out
 - PTSI Sleep Disorder Study
 - Overhaul and Respiratory Protection Study
 - Transcendental Meditation

Transition to PFAS-free Turnouts

- 4/24 – 6/24 - Wear Test 2 PFAS Free Products
- Compile findings
- Currently, 1 vendor available – 3 months lead time
- Operational Requirements remain – heat, water, oil

Ordinance /Legislation

- Proposed ordinance states “By no later than June 30, 2026”, neither provide nor use PFAS PPE
- In full support, rowing as fast as we can
- Logistical and fiscal challenges

Logistical Challenges

- Only 1 vendor available
- Estimated availability for other vendors late 2024, no guarantee
- Supply chain, demand, regulatory approvals, unforeseen circumstances
- Durability and performance?
- Buy first model of car? Caution

Budget Challenges

- 3000 TO sets needed by June 2026 (1500 x 2 sets)
- Current contract \$3,404 per set
- PFAS free more expensive
- \$10.2 – 11.5 million
- 8/23 - \$2.3 million FEMA grant for PPE replacement
- On-going annual \$ support – cleaning, replacement 8 years vs 10 years
- Replace all in 8 years
- Other PPE costs increase – gloves and hoods PFAS free
- Current budget for all TO purchases \$900,000
- Does not include other uniform needs and costs

Questions/Clarification

