



SUSTAINMENT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

JAN 13 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (INSTALLATIONS,
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ENERGY,
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(INSTALLATIONS, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY)
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU (JOINT STAFF, J8)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

SUBJECT: Aqueous Film Forming Foam Usage and Spill Reporting

The Secretary of Defense created a Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Task Force to manage growing concerns over releases of these substances and the effects on military installations and their surrounding communities. Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) is used as a fire extinguishing agent for flammable and combustible liquid firefighting and, like many other commercial products, is known to contain PFAS. Research efforts are ongoing to find an acceptable PFAS free replacement for AFFF that meets the lifesaving performance requirements of current AFFF products. In order to support the PFAS Task Force's efforts, we need visibility of the usage and release of AFFF to the environment by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Guard. This information will enable the Department to understand AFFF usage and evaluate future actions.

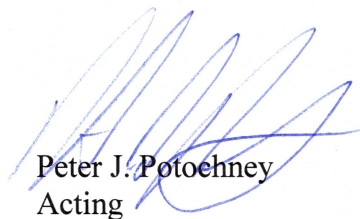
Therefore, I am establishing a new reporting requirement for AFFF usage or spills (not associated with use) at all DoD sites. Using the attached template, each DoD Component shall report the following:

- Name of installation and date of the AFFF use or spill
- Amount (gallons) and type of AFFF with specified concentration (three or six percent)
- Cause of use, or spill (i.e., accidental release, used for fire extinguishment)
- Summary narrative of AFFF usage or spill
- Notifications made to DoD Component Environmental Department for on-base releases or to supported entity for mutual aid responses

Required data must be collected and reported using the attached template. The collection of this information will begin immediately, with the completed template due to the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment (ODASD(ENV)) annually by November 15, starting in 2020.

Because of the heightened focus on DoD's use of AFFF, I am establishing an additional reporting requirement for any AFFF usage, release, or spill that is above 10 gallons of AFFF concentrate, or 300 gallons of mixed foam, or any other situation that may receive media attention. These incidents shall be reported within 24 hours through the appropriate chain of command to the ODASD(ENV).

My point of contact is Lt Col Chad Gemeinhardt, ODASD(ENV), at 571-372-6889 or chad.a.gemeinhardt.mil@mail.mil.


Peter J. Potochney
Acting

Attachment:
As stated

