



NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
THE SCIENCE OF PFAS:
PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

PFAS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS, PT.2

CONTAMINATION IN COATS:

PFAS CONCERNS IN THE FIRE SERVICE

// APRIL 6, 2022





AYESHA KHAN
NANTUCKET PFAS ACTION
GROUP



DR. COURTNEY CARIGNAN
MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



JAIME HONKAWA
NANTUCKET PFAS ACTION
GROUP

**WE'RE HERE FOR
THE FIREFIGHTING
COMMUNITY.**



NANTUCKET PFAS ACTION GROUP
NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

”

**CANCER IS NOW THE LEADING
CAUSE OF DEATH AMONGST
FIREFIGHTERS ON THE JOB.
BETWEEN 2002-2019, 66% OF
FIREFIGHTER DEATHS WERE
FROM CANCER.**

• INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE FIGHTERS •

A LACK OF PFAS

INFORMATION

LEADS TO THIS:



PHOTO: FFTOB



PHOTO: BRAD CREACEY



PHOTO: GOOD MORNING AMERICA

PFAS IN TURNOUT GEAR



DR. COURTNEY
CARIGNAN



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



CANCER INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY ELEVATED IN FIREFIGHTERS

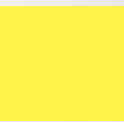
SIGNIFICANTLY ELEVATED:

- **BLADDER**
- **BRAIN AND CNS**
- **COLORECTAL**
- **NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA**
- **SKIN MELANOMA**
- **PROSTATE**
- **TESTICULAR**

SUGGESTIVELY ELEVATED:

- **Kidney**
- **Hodgkin's lymphoma**
- **Leukemia**
- **Lymphosarcoma and reticularsarcoma**
- **Multiple myeloma**
- **Pancreatic**

PAHs IN SMOKE AND SOOT



PAHs IN SMOKE AND SOOT

INTERVENTIONS:



SCBA



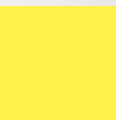
LAUNDRY SYSTEM



GEAR ROOM



DIESEL FUMES AND PARTICULATES FROM TRUCKS



DIESEL FUMES AND PARTICULATES FROM TRUCKS

INTERVENTIONS:



TAILPIPE EXHAUST SYSTEM



FIREHOUSE LAYOUT

PFAS IN AQUEOUS FILM FORMING FOAM



PFAS IN AQUEOUS FILM FORMING FOAM

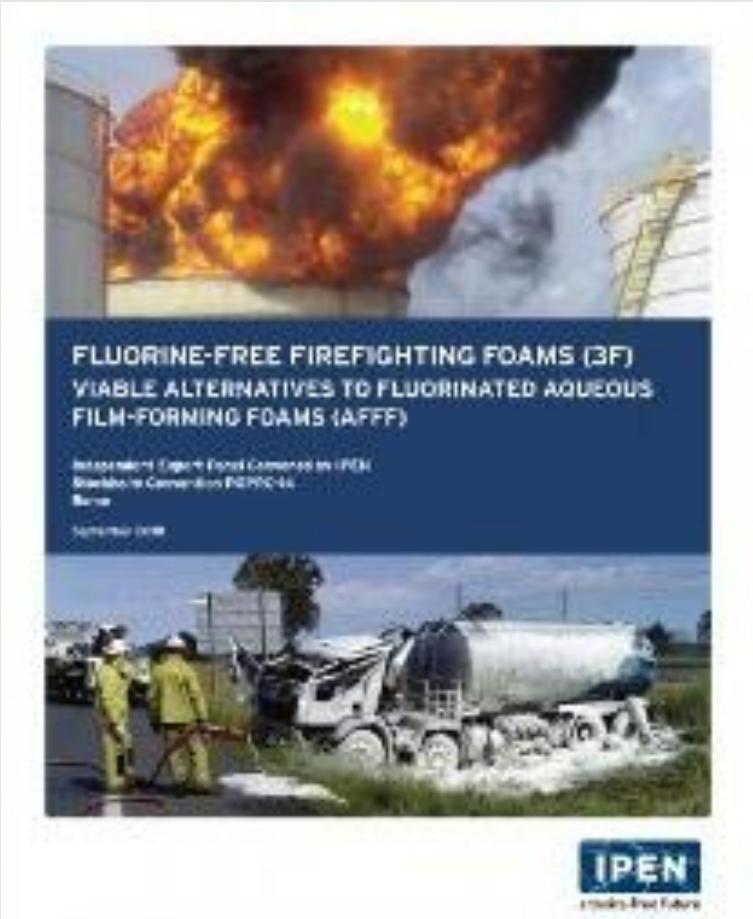
INTERVENTIONS:



SCBA, PPE



FLUORINE FREE FOAM



TIMELINE OF FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND PFAS

2011

2015

2008

2012

2016



TIMELINE OF FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND PFAS

ELEVATED CANCERS
NOTED IN MA
FIREFIGHTERS

2011

2015

2008

2012

2016

TIMELINE OF FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND PFAS

ELEVATED CANCERS
NOTED IN MA
FIREFIGHTERS

2011

2015

2008

ELEVATED PFOS AND
PFHxS IDENTIFIED IN
FIREFIGHTERS
ENROLLED IN C8
HEALTH STUDY

2012

2016

TIMELINE OF FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND PFAS

ELEVATED CANCERS
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FIREFIGHTERS

2011

PROBABLE LINK
DETERMINED FOR
PFAS AND TESTICULAR
CANCER

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ELEVATED PFOS AND
PFHxS IDENTIFIED IN
FIREFIGHTERS
ENROLLED IN C8
HEALTH STUDY

2012

ELEVATED PFAS
CONCENTRATIONS
IDENTIFIED IN
FIREFIGHTER BLOOD

2016

TIMELINE OF FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND PFAS

ELEVATED CANCERS
NOTED IN MA
FIREFIGHTERS

2011

PROBABLE LINK
DETERMINED FOR
PFAS AND TESTICULAR
CANCER

2015

ELEVATED PFHxS BLOOD
CONCENTRATIONS AT
PEASE FROM AFFF
CONTAMINATED WATER

2008

ELEVATED PFOS AND
PFHxS IDENTIFIED IN
FIREFIGHTERS
ENROLLED IN C8
HEALTH STUDY

2012

ELEVATED PFAS
CONCENTRATIONS
IDENTIFIED IN
FIREFIGHTER BLOOD

2016

LT. PAUL AND DIANE COTTER



CHRISTINE PETERSON/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHEAST CONFERENCE



LT. PAUL AND DIANE COTTER



MEN'S HEALTH 2021

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

PFAS IN TEXTILES

Shown in Table 1 and Table 2 are non-comprehensive lists of textile-related PFAS materials.

Non-Comprehensive List of Textiles-Related PFAS Materials						
Name & Compound Type		Textile-Related Function	Other End-use Examples ¹³	Terminal Degradant, Impurity or Metabolite		Production Status in US ¹⁴
PTFE	PFAS Polymer	Vapor-permeable membranes for waterproofness	Electronics, surgical instruments, cable housing	-	-	ongoing
Long-chain fluorinated polymer ("C8")	PFAS Polymer	Oil, stain, and water repellency	Fire-fighting foam, paints, coatings	PFOA, PFOS	PFAS Non-Polymer	discontinued, replaced by short-chain
Short-chain fluorinated polymer ("C6" or "C4")	PFAS Polymer	Oil, stain, and water repellency	Fire-fighting foam, paints, coatings	PFHxA	PFAS Non-Polymer	ongoing

Table 1

Non-Comprehensive List of PFAS Non-Polymer Processing Aids for PTFE		
Name	Compound Type	Production Status in US
PFOA or PFOS	PFAS Non-Polymer	discontinued
GenX Chemicals	PFAS Non-Polymer	Ongoing

Table 2

Another Pathway for Firefighter Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Firefighter Textiles

Graham F. Peaslee,* John T. Wilkinson, Sean R. McGuinness, Meghanne Tighe, Nicholas Caterisano, Seryeong Lee, Alec Gonzales, Matthew Roddy, Simon Mills, and Krystle Mitchell

Cite This: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.0c00410>

Read Online

ACCESS |

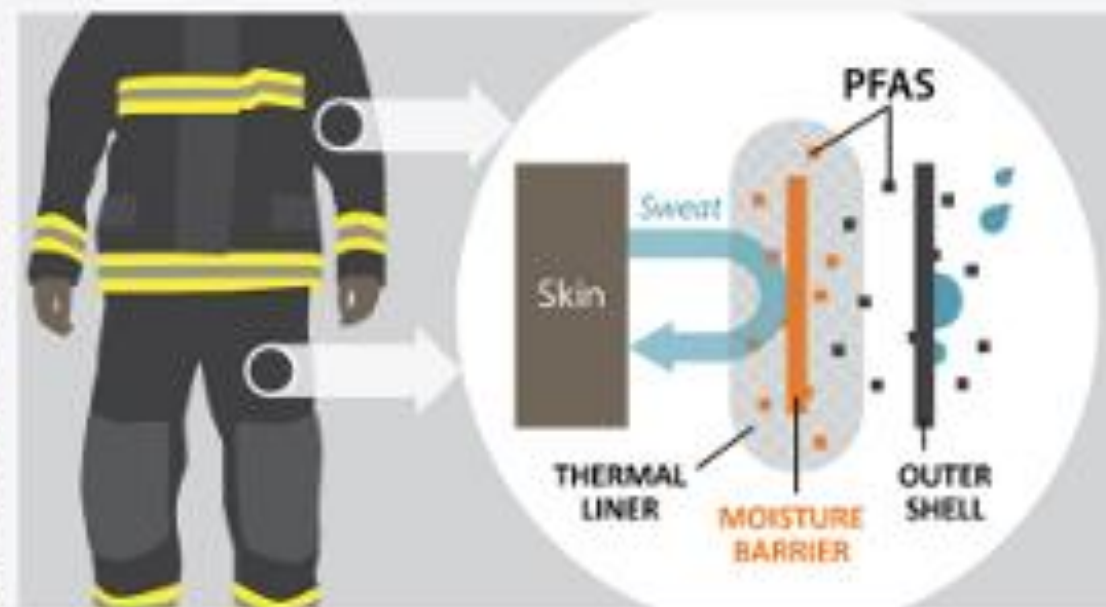
Metrics & More

Article Recommendations

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Occupational exposure to aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) can lead to elevated concentrations of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighter blood sera. AFFF are also one exposure source of PFAS in the general population because of their environmental persistence and solubility in groundwater. Because of the documented adverse health effects of PFAS, the primary concern to date in the fire services has centered on repeated use and exposure to AFFF. In this work, an additional PFAS exposure source for firefighters is presented: PFAS that are shed from their protective clothing. Textiles used as firefighter turnout gear were found to have high levels of total fluorine (up to 2%), and individual PFAS were identified and measured on new and used firefighting turnout gear.

Used gear showed lower levels of PFAS as well as an increased migration into untreated material. A dust measurement from a textile storage area also suggests direct loss of PFAS from the fluoropolymers in the textiles. Because PFAS that are shed from the textiles used in turnout gear are more mobile, they represent another viable exposure source for firefighters that warrants further study.



PFOA IN TURNOUT GEAR

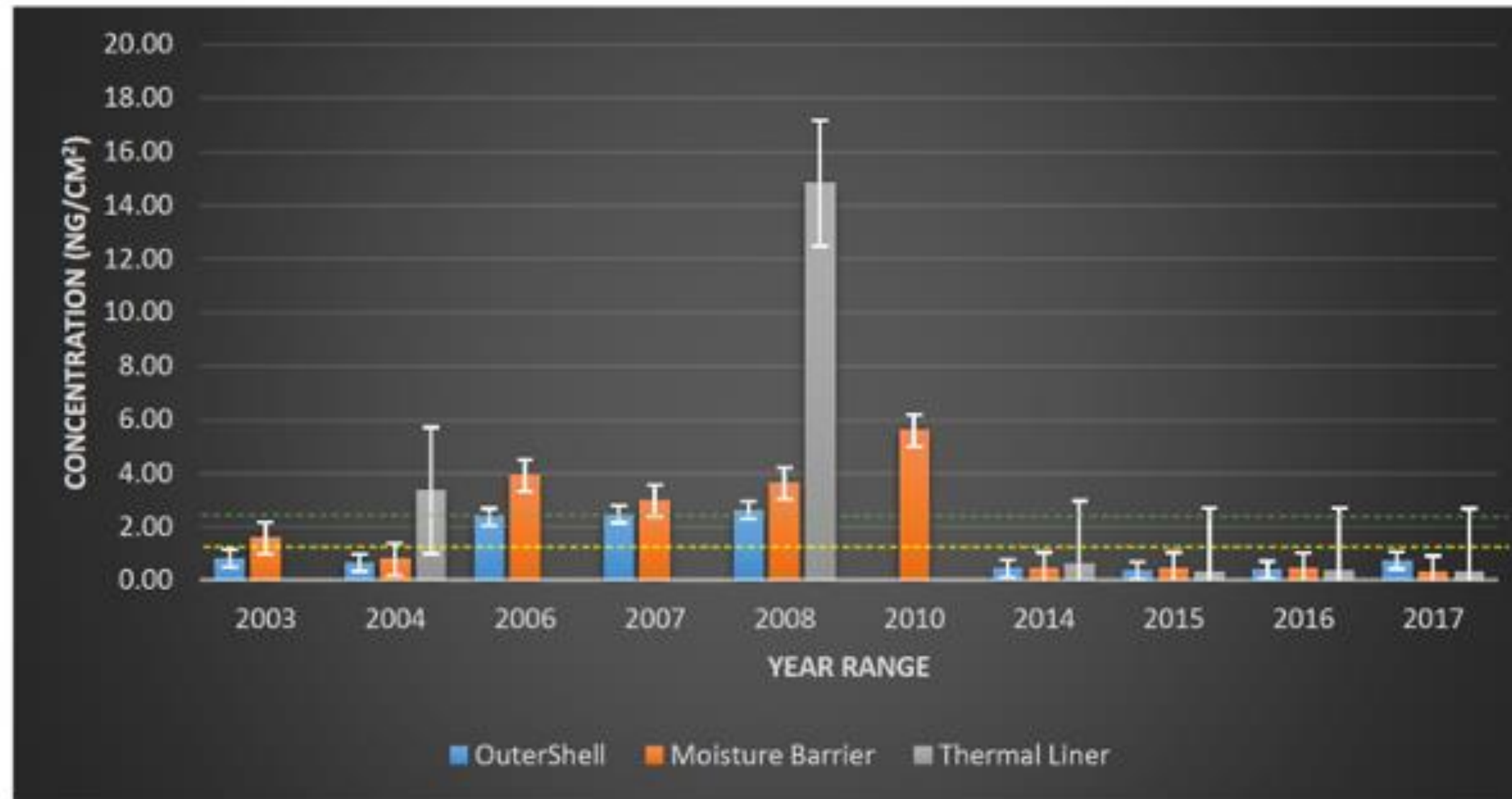


Figure 5.3: Analysis of PFOA concentration (ng/cm^2) possibly present on ten-year range of firefighter turnout gear, 2003 to 2017, due to extraction in a pressurized solvent extractor. Yellow dashed line represents LOD ($0.95 \text{ ng}/\text{cm}^2$) of analytical method. Green dashed line represents LOQ ($2.41 \text{ ng}/\text{cm}^2$) of analytical method

Harvard University Discovers Fire Station Dust Loaded with PFAS in Published Study

Posted on February 11, 2021 by Jon Marr // 4 Comments

A new peer-reviewed study published recently in the [Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology](#) highlighting Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) content in fire station dust. The study was conducted in 15 fire stations throughout Massachusetts, including Boston. The result of this dust study provides further evidence and credibility to a fire gear PFAS content study published last year by Dr. Graham Peaslee of Notre Dame in [Environmental Science & Technology Letters](#).



Disposition of Fluorine on New Firefighter Turnout Gear

Derek J. Muensterman, Ivan A. Titaley, Graham F. Peaslee, Leah D. Minc, Liliana Cahuas, Alix E. Rodowa, Yuki Horiuchi, Shogo Yamane, Thierry N.J. Fouquet, John C. Kissel, Courtney C. Carignan, and Jennifer A. Field*

 Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.1c06322>

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 Metrics & More

|  Article Recommendations

|  Supporting Information

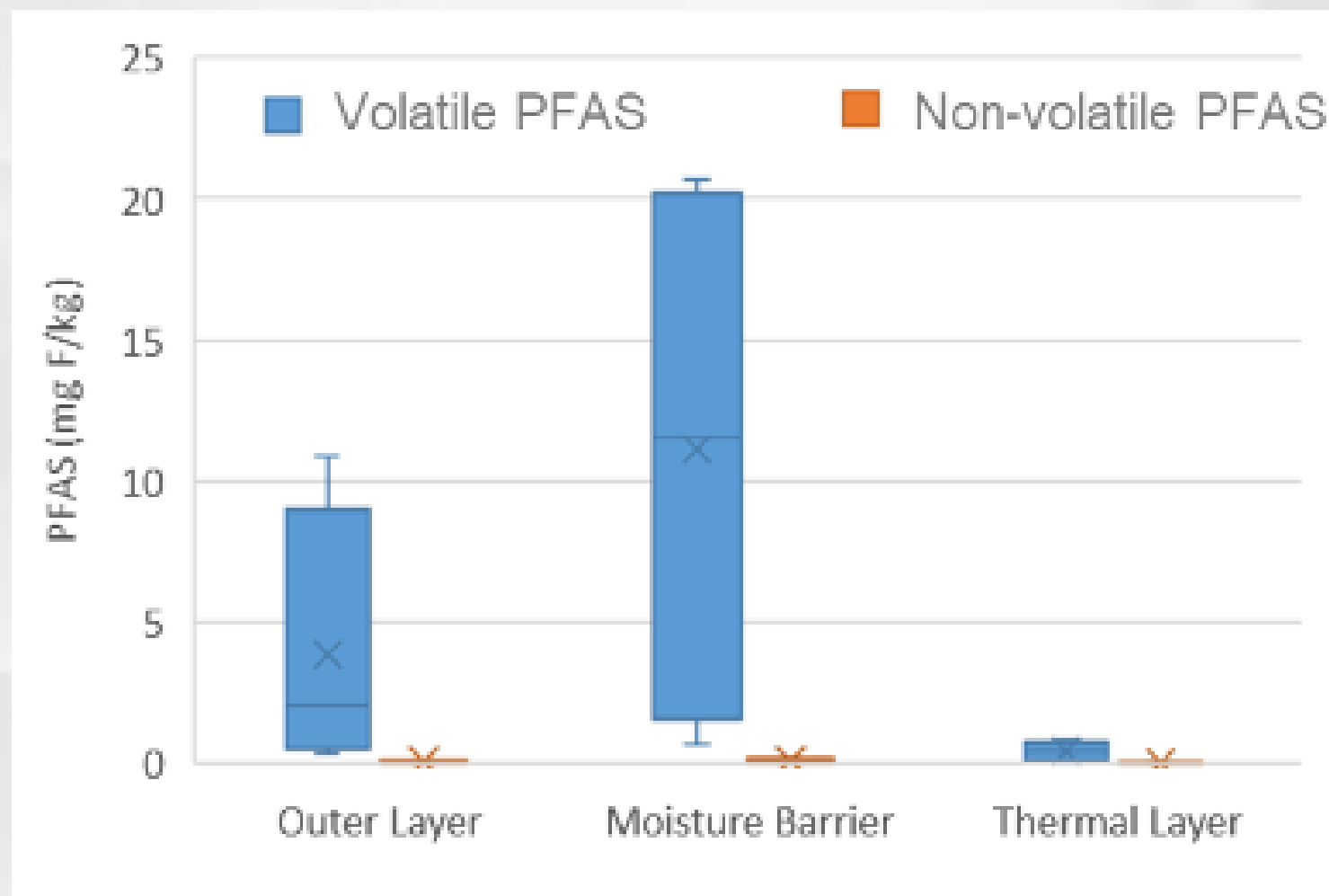
ABSTRACT: Firefighter turnout gear is essential for reducing occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals during training and fire events. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are observed in firefighter serum, and possible occupational sources include the air and dust of fires, aqueous film-forming foam, and turnout gear. Limited data exist for nonvolatile and volatile PFASs on firefighter turnout gear and the disposition of fluorine on the individual layers of turnout gear. Further implications for exposure to fluorine on turnout gear are not well understood. Three unused turnout garments purchased in 2019 and one purchased in 2008, were analyzed for 50 nonvolatile and 15 volatile PFASs by liquid chromatography quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry (LC-qTOF-MS) and gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC–MS), respectively. Particle-induced gamma ray emission (PIGE), a surface technique, and instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA), a bulk technique, were used to



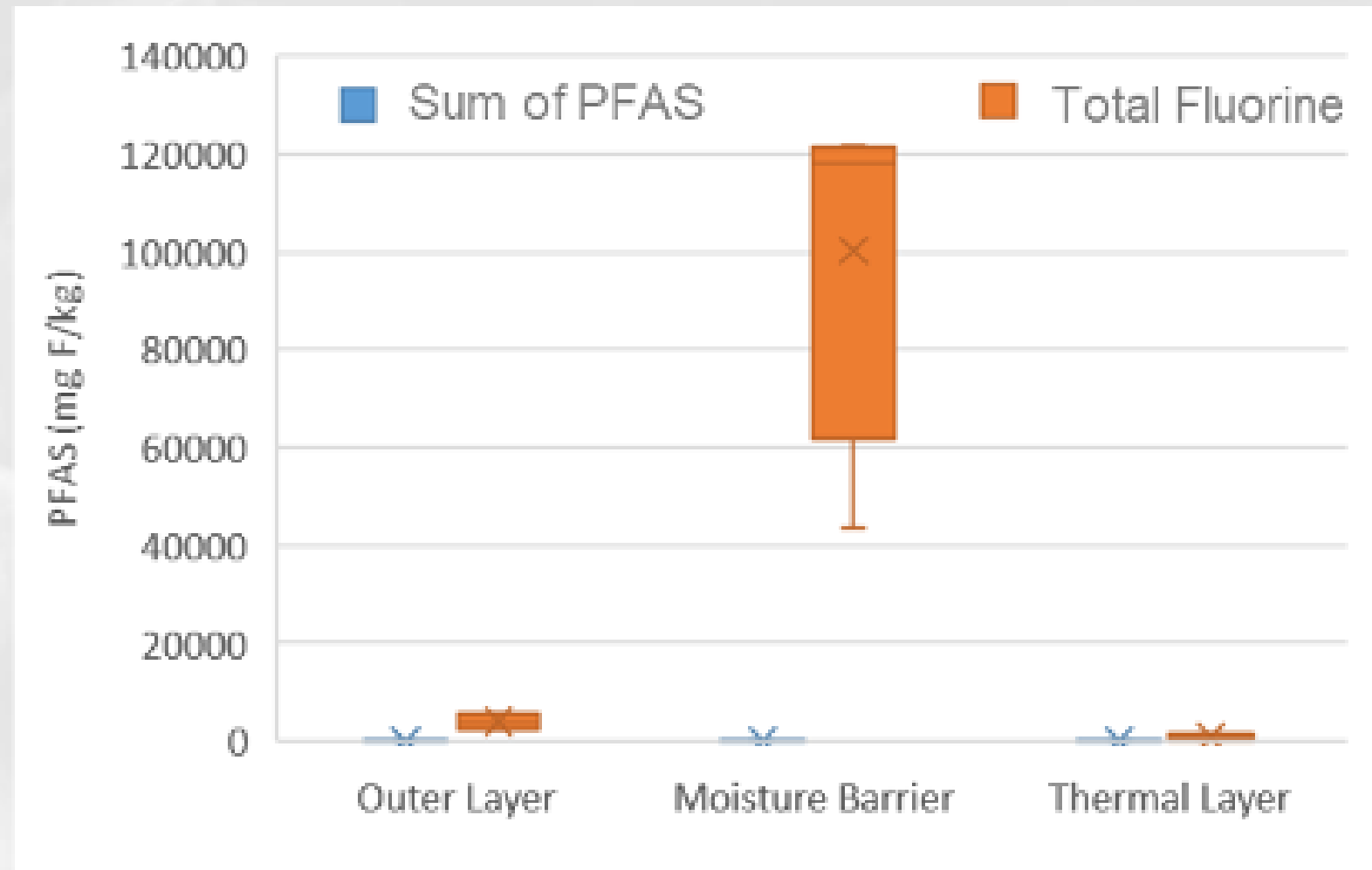
VOLATILE PFAS HIGHER THAN NON-VOLATILE

TOTAL FLUORINE MUCH HIGHER THAN EXTRACTABLE PFAS

a) Volatile and Non-volatile PFAS



b) Sum of PFAS and Total Fluorine



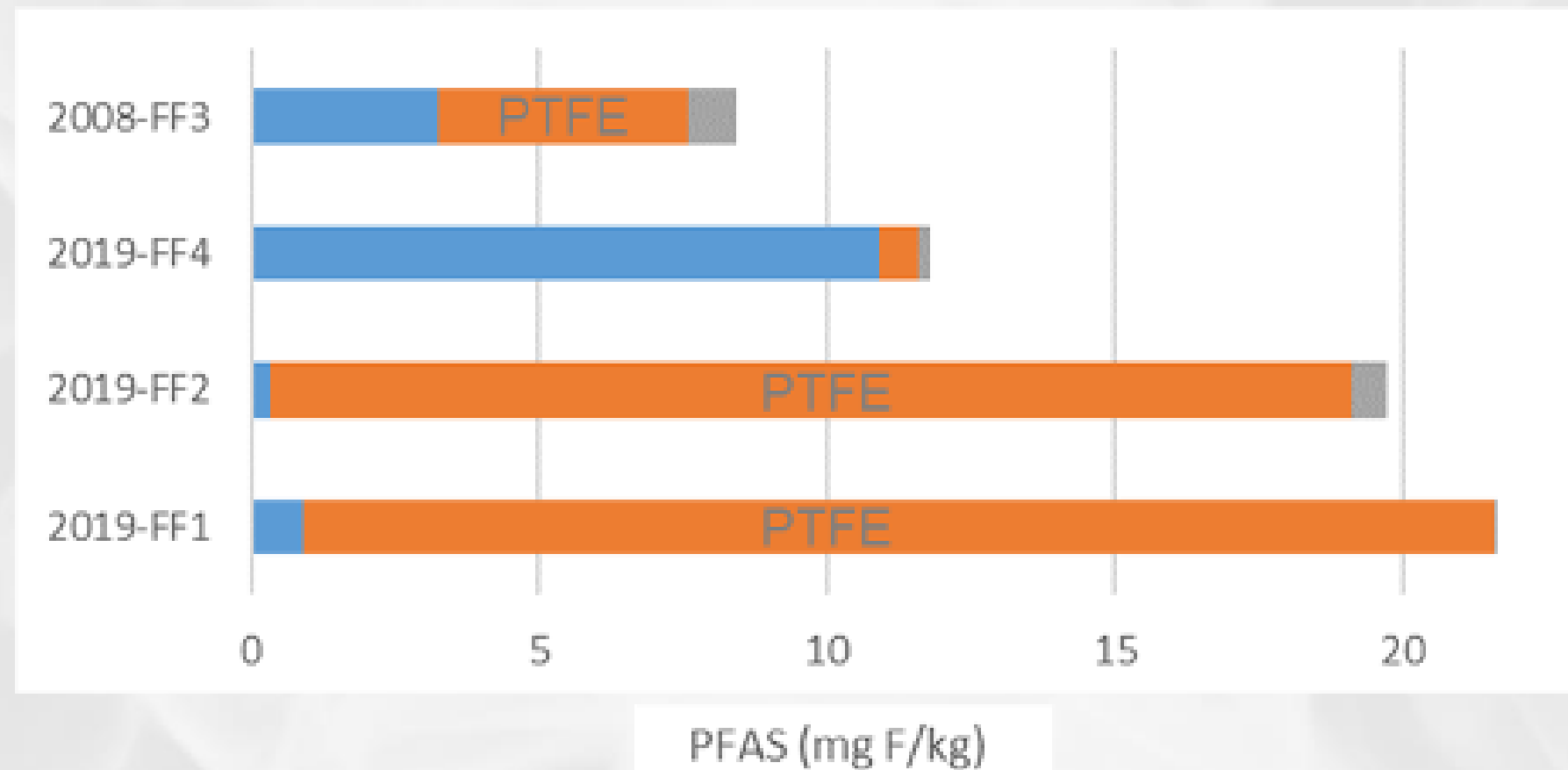
Adapted from Musterman et al. 2021

VOLATILE PFAS HIGHER THAN NON-VOLATILE

HIGHEST FROM OUTER LAYER AND MOISTURE BARRIER

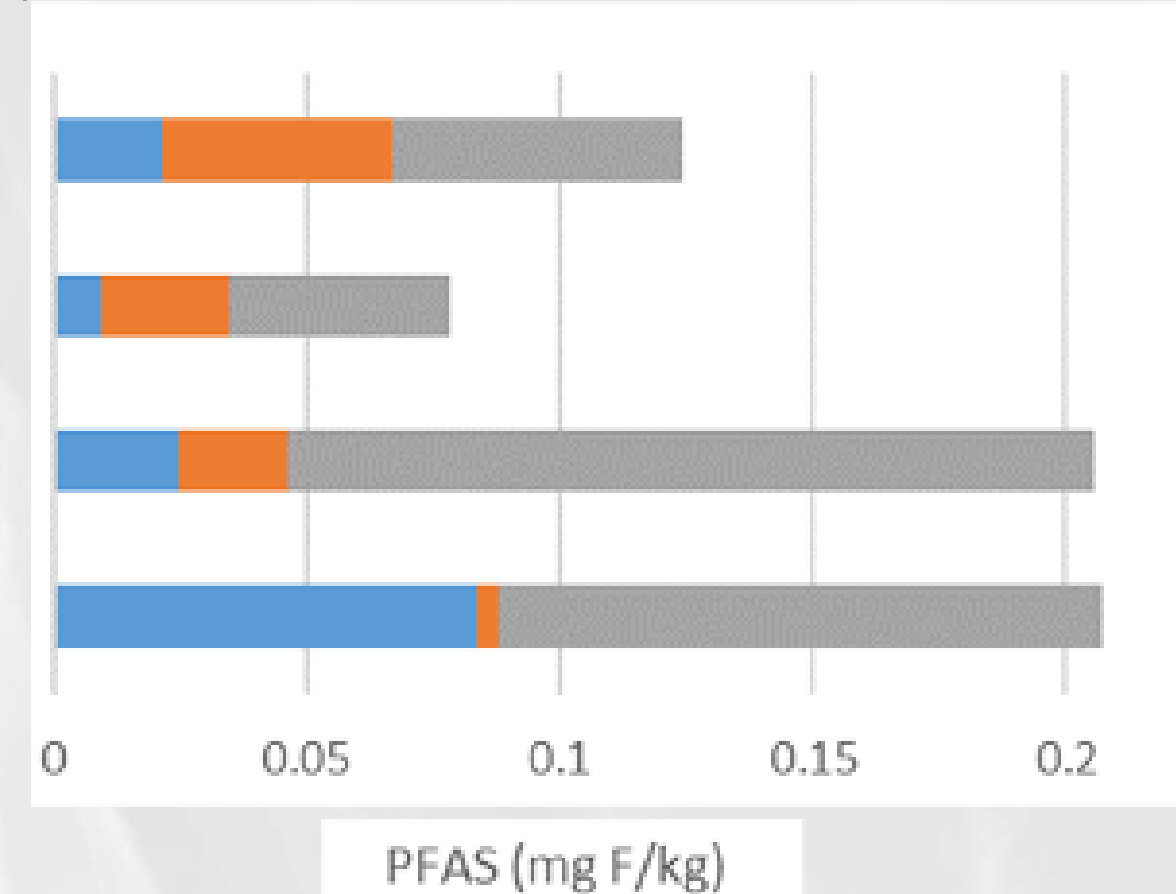
■ Outer Layer ■ Moisture Barrier ■ Thermal Layer

a) Volatile PFAS



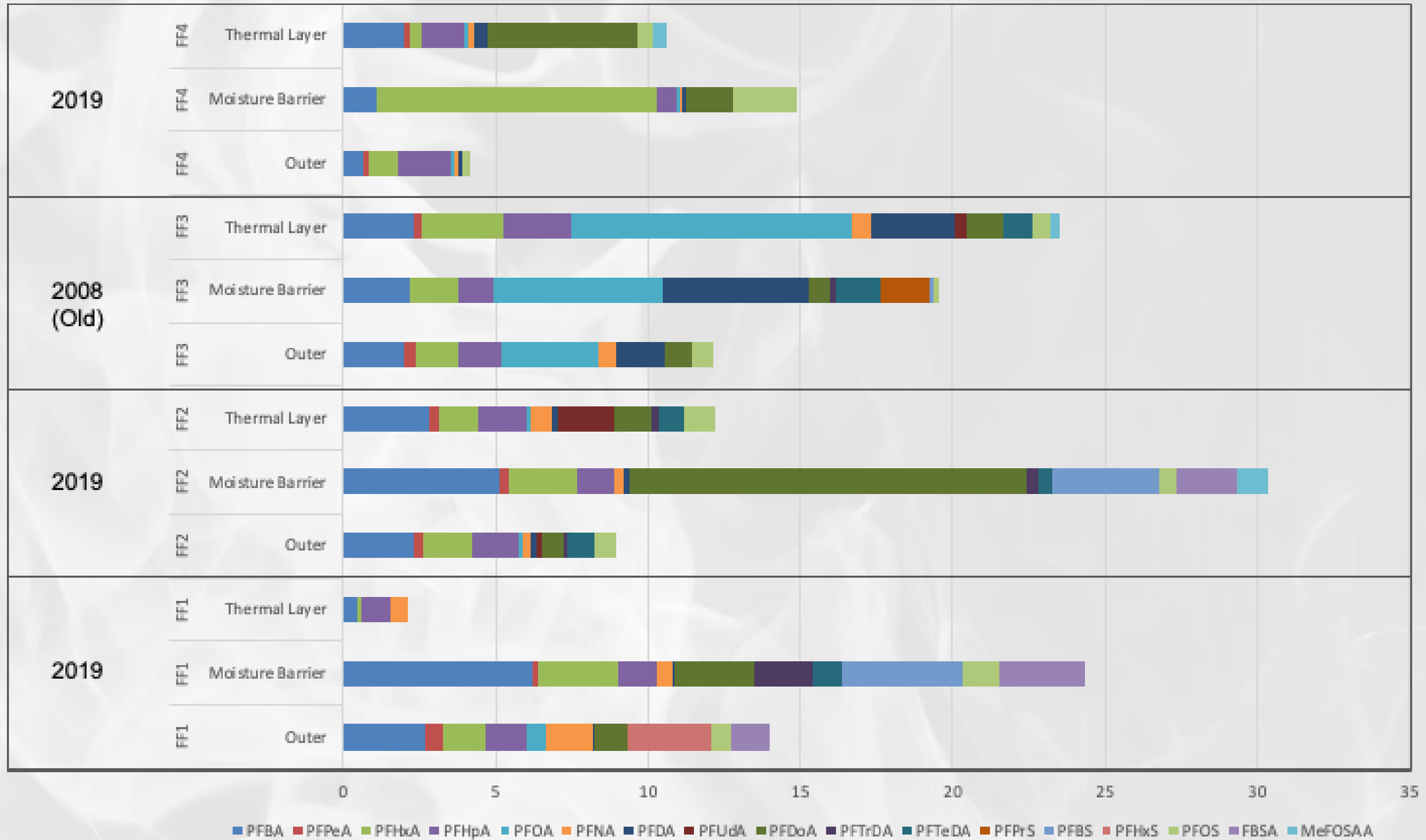
PTFE indicates a fluoropolymer film was identified in that layer

b) Non-volatile PFAS (note scale change)

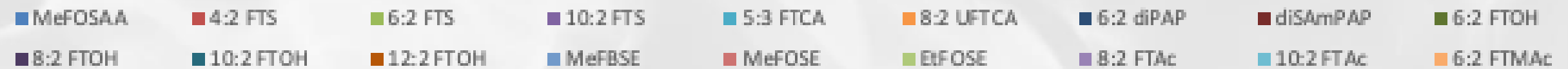
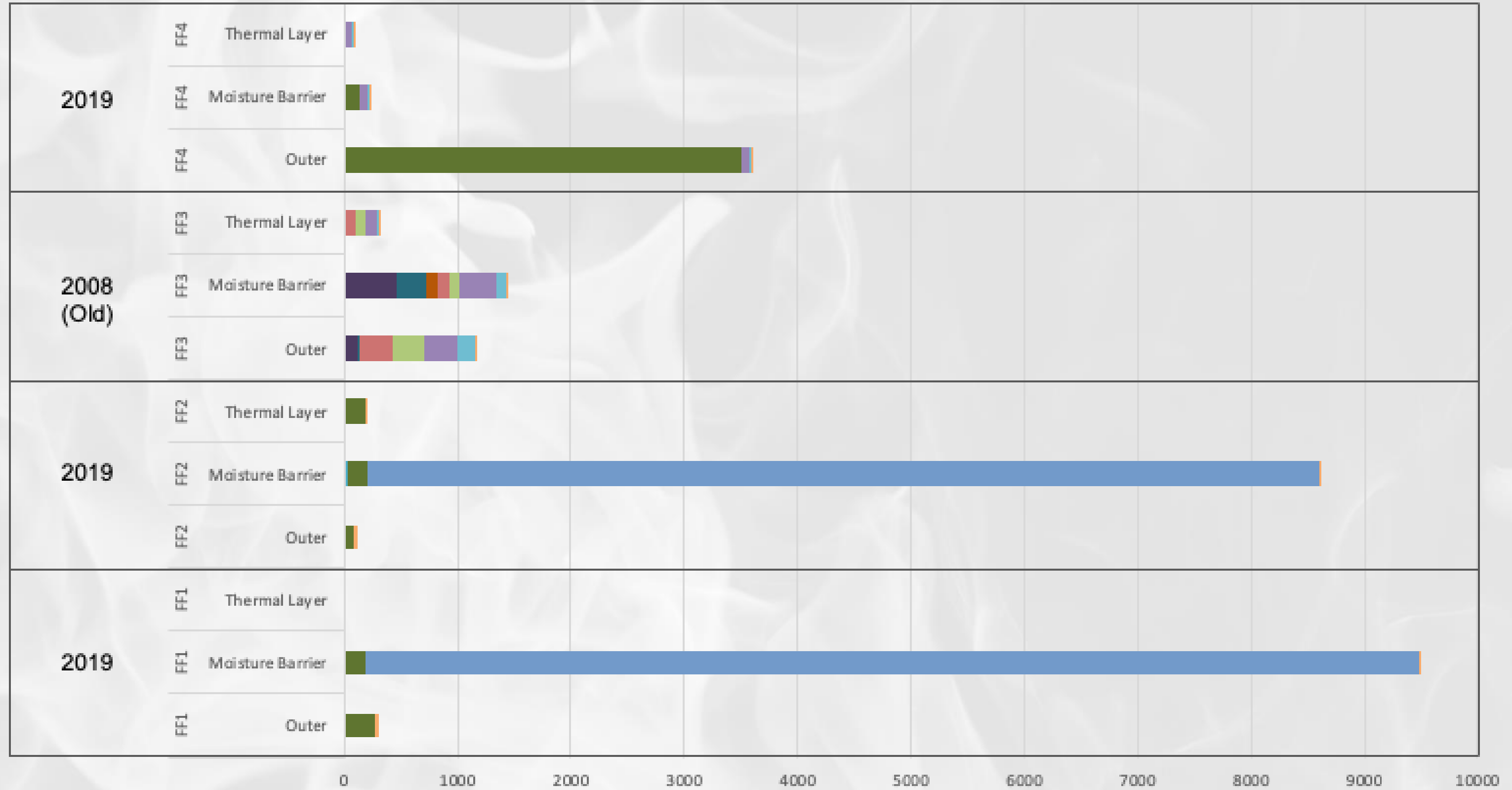


Note scale change

Non-Volatile PFAS



Volatile PFAS – Note Change in Scale



SUMMARY OF PFAS MEASURED IN NEVER USED GEAR

2008

- Predominantly volatile PFASs (FTOH, FOSE, & FTAc's etc)
- Contains non-volatile PFASs (PFOA, PFOS, PFDA, PFBA, etc)
- Found in all layers
- **Highest level: 6:2 FTOH from the PTFE moisture barrier**

2019

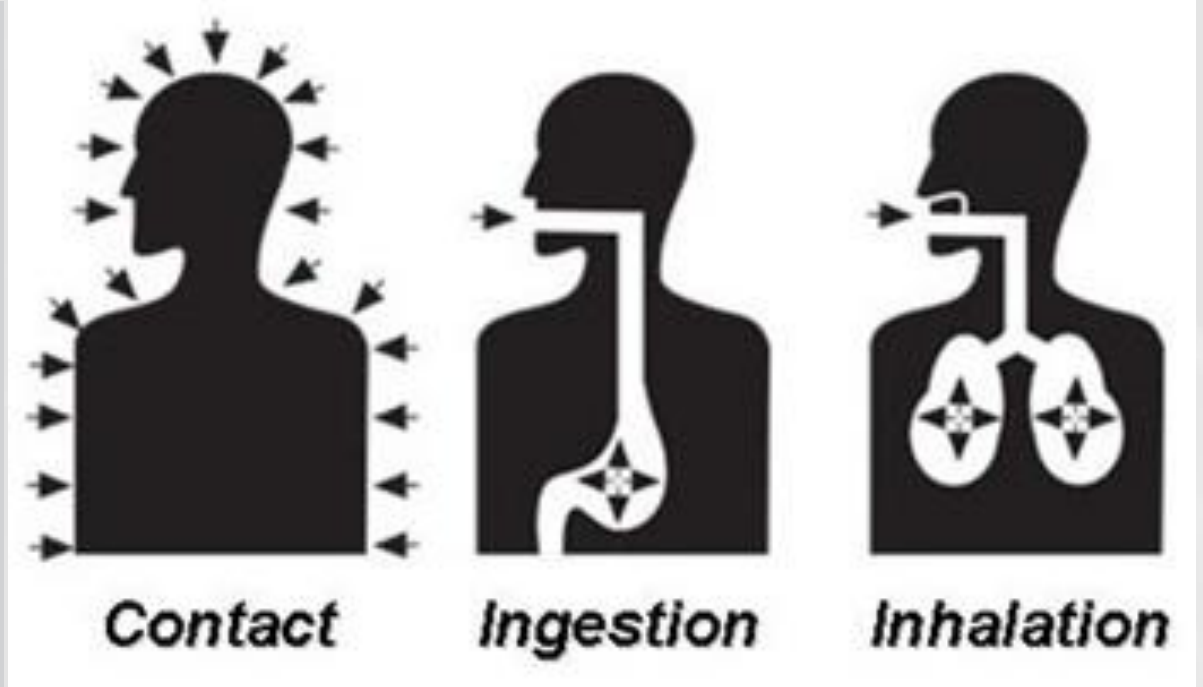
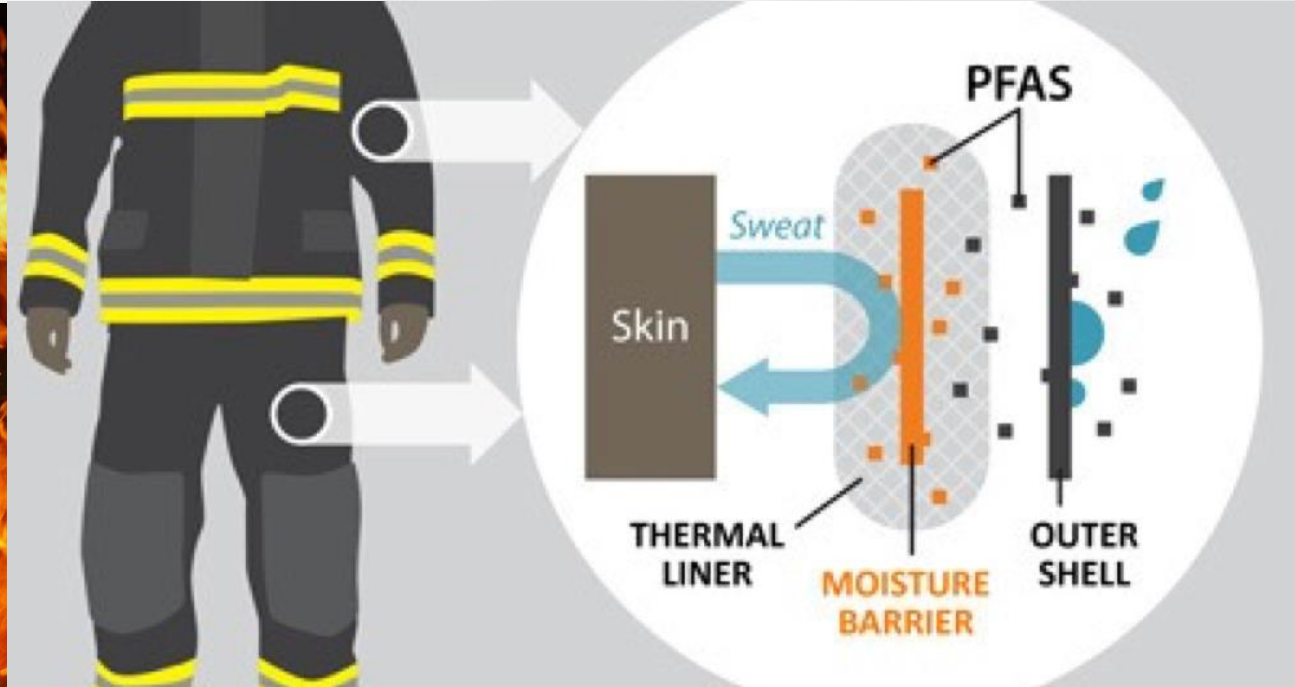
- Predominantly volatile PFASs (6:2 FTOH and MeFBSE)
- Contains non-volatile PFASs (PFBA, PFH_xA, PFHpA, PFDoA, PFBS, PFOS, etc)
- Found in all layers
- **Highest level: MeFBSE from the PTFE moisture barrier**

ELEVATED PFAS IN FIREFIGHTERS, TEXTILES, & FIREHOUSES

	Australian Firefighters (2015)	Southern California Firefighters (2015)	Chinese Textile Factory (2016)	San Francisco Firefighters (2020)	Gear room dust and Turnout gear wipes (2021)	Detected in Never worn Turnout gear (2021)
PFOS	X	X				X
<u>PFHxS</u>	X	X		X		X
<u>PFHxA</u>					X	X
PFOA		X	X	X		X
PFDA (<u>PFDeA</u>)		X	X	X	X	X
<u>PFHpA</u>		X			X	X
PFNA				X		X
<u>PFUnDA</u>		X		X		X
<u>PFDoDA</u>					X	X
8:2 FTOH			X			X
6:2 FTOH			X			X

EXPOSURE ROUTES

DUST: INCIDENTAL INGESTION
SKIN: DERMAL ABSORPTION



FIREFIGHTER FACEMASKS

Analyte	SUD	N95	RC-1	RC-2	RC-3	RC-4	RC-5	RC-6	FF
PFBA									
PFPeA									
PFHxA									
PFHpA									
PFOA									
PFNA									
PFDA									
PFUdA									
PFDoA									
PFTTrDA									
PFTeDA									
PFPPrS									
PFBS									
PFHxS									
PFOS									
4:2 FTS									
6:2 FTS									
7:3 FTCA									
6:2 FTCA									
10:2 FTCA									
6:2 UFTCA									
HFPO-DA									
6:2 diPAP									
6:2 FTOH									
8:2 FTAc									
Sum ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$)	46±16	15	120	140	160	520	490	910±190	2900

Legend	
<LOQ or <LOD	
0.1-1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$	
1-10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$	
10-100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$	
100-1000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$	
1000-10000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$	



pubs.acs.org/journal/estlcu

Letter

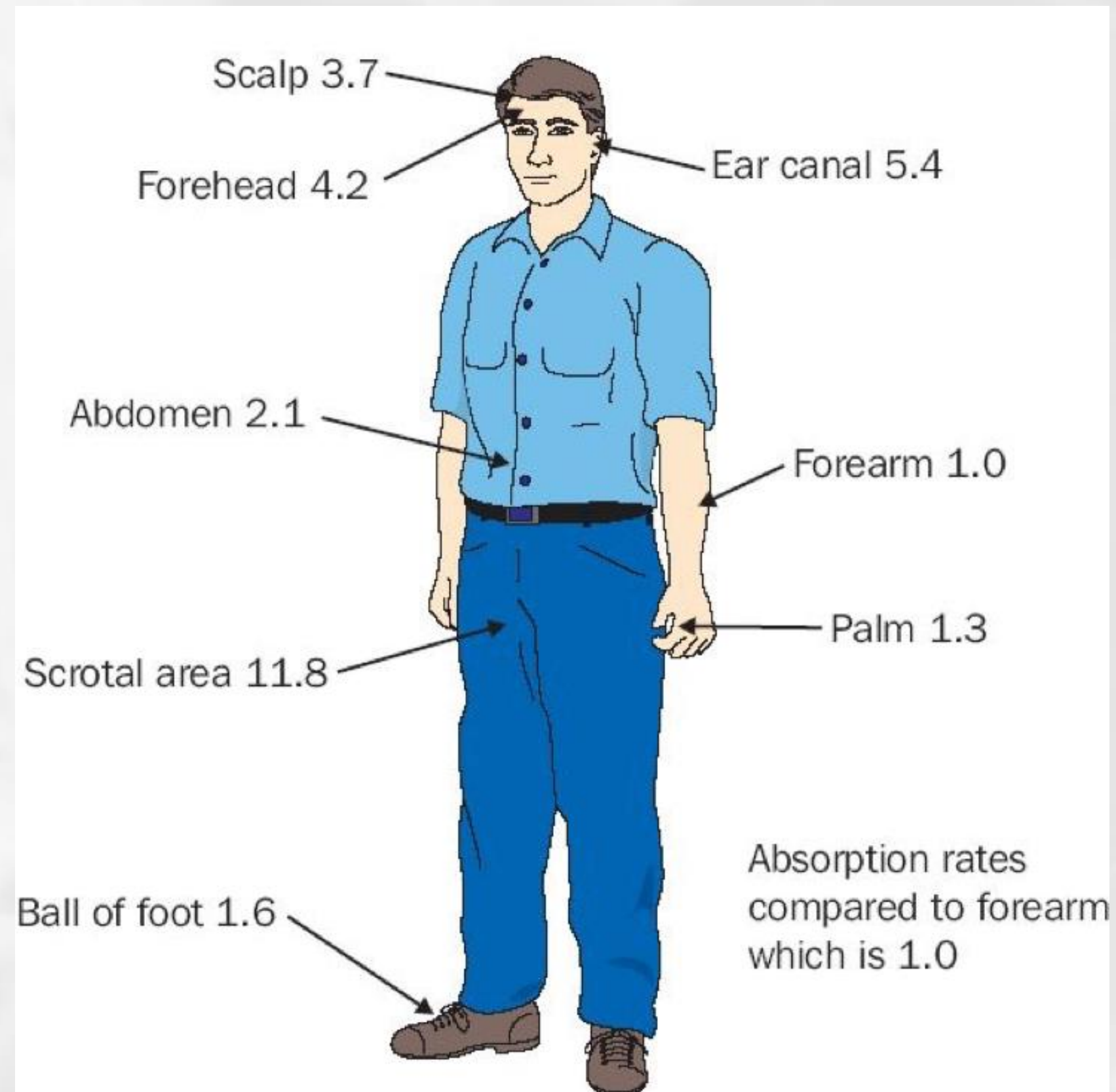
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Facemasks: Potential Source of Human Exposure to PFAS with Implications for Disposal to Landfills

Derek J. Muensterman,[∇] Liliana Cahuas,[∇] Ivan A. Titaley,^{*∇} Christopher Schmokel, Florentino B. De la Cruz, Morton A. Barlaz, Courtney C. Carignan, Graham F. Peaslee, and Jennifer A. Field

Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.2c00019>

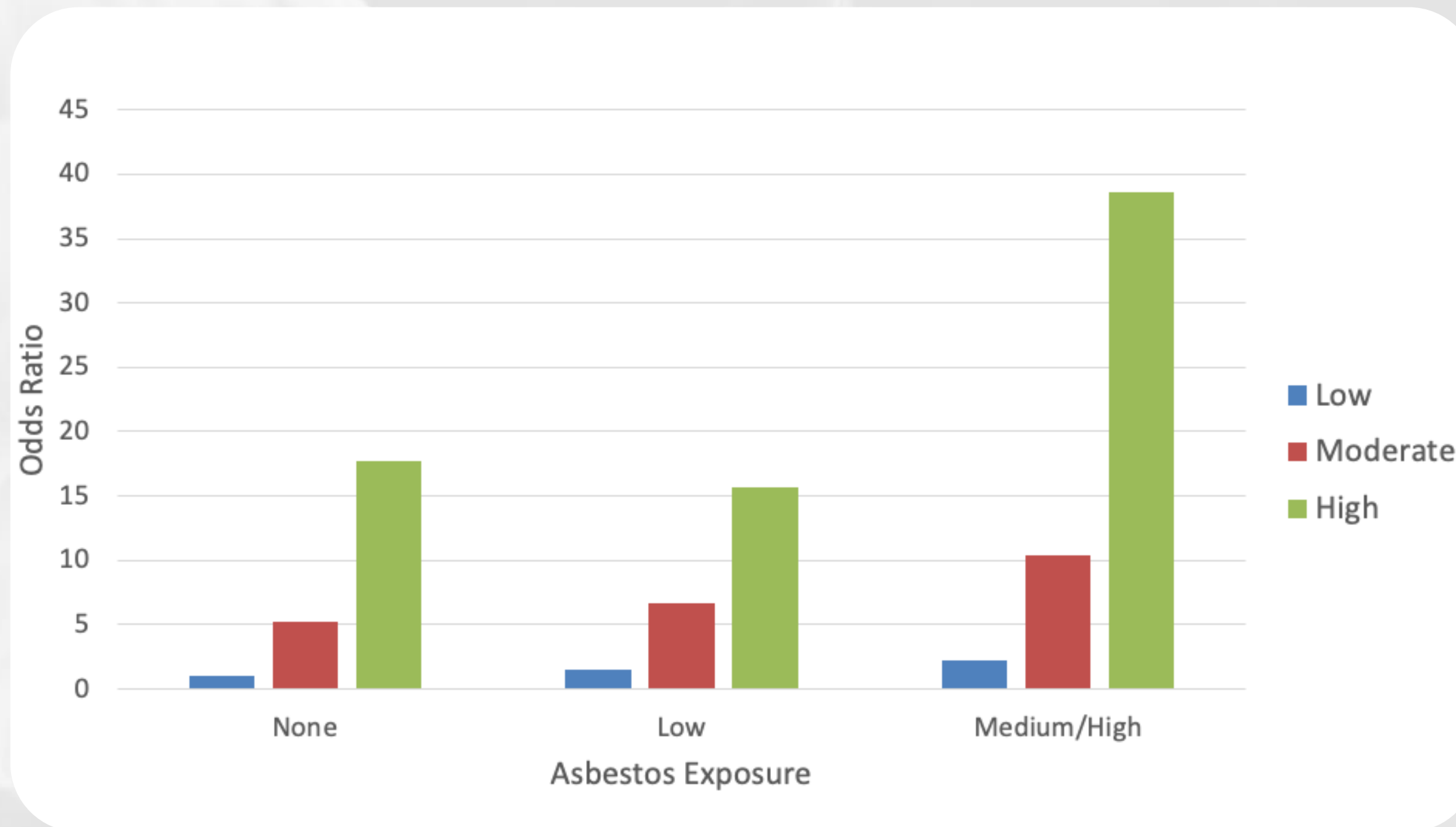
Read Online

NOTE: SKIN ABSORBS DIFFERENTLY FOR PARTS OF THE BODY



EXPOSURE TO MULTIPLE CARCINOGENS CAN INCREASE RISK

E.G. SMOKING + ASBESTOS EXPOSURE DOUBLES ODDS RATIO FOR LUNG CANCER



FIREFIGHTERS WANT PFAS-FREE GEAR

PFZero Turnout Gear:

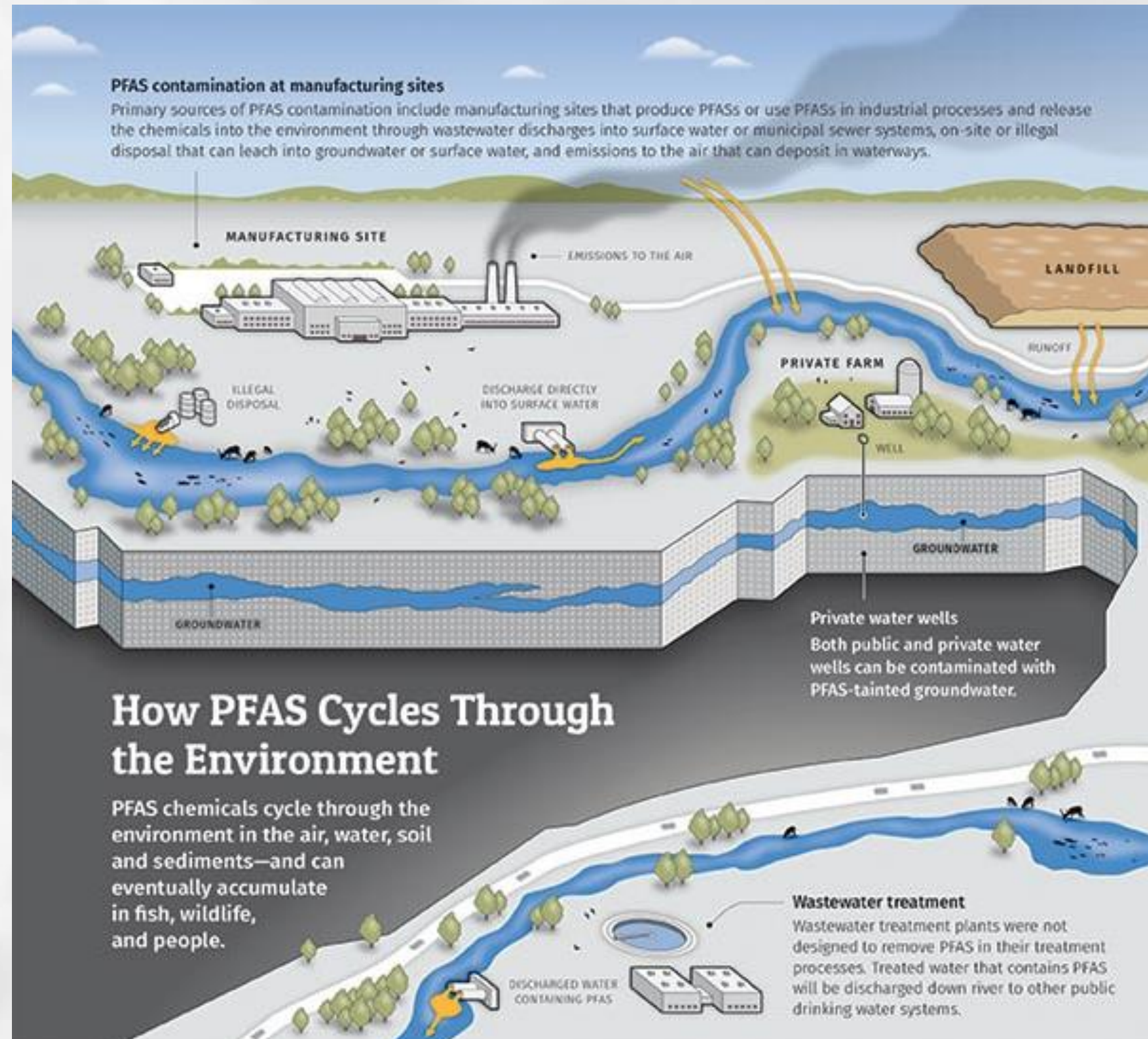
- No PFAS in outer or thermal layer
- PTFE in moisture barrier



Greensboro, NC - Burlington is excited to launch **PF Zero™** sustainable repellency technology for high-performing apparel fabrics. **PF Zero** is a non-fluorocarbon, water-based repellency finish with exceptional durability and maximum protection, offering the next level of environmentally-conscious innovative fabric solutions.

"The **PF Zero** technology, combined with other Burlington fabric innovations, creates the ultimate in performance and comfort for active lifestyles," said Nelson Bebo, Vice President Performance Fabrics. "**PF Zero** offers the next level of sustainable performance to Burlington's advanced fabric technologies with a PFAS free finish offering superior repellency that can be combined with other Burlington Labs technologies - whether it be a moisture activated cooling sensation, a smart technology that adapts to your environment hot or cold, basic wicking or UV protection. Life can be unpredictable. Burlington's **PF Zero** fabrics give you the comfort and confidence to take it all in stride."

LIFE-CYCLE

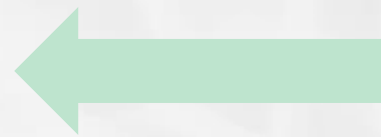


LIFE-CYCLE

Vents outside



Wastewater
treatment plant



FIREFIGHTER'S ARE REQUESTING PFAS BLOOD TESTING

PFAS Blood Tests allows people to:

- **Better understand and mitigate their personal exposures**
- **Share with their clinician as a risk factor and consider medical screening**



WHAT'S MY EXPOSURE?

Information from your blood report

	Value	Unit
PFOA Perfluorooctanoic acid	0.85	ng/mL (n <input type="text" value="v"/>)
PFOS Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid	7.6	ng/mL (n <input type="text" value="v"/>)
PFHxS Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid	2.7	ng/mL (n <input type="text" value="v"/>)
PFNA Perfluorononanoic acid	0.84	<input type="text" value="ng/mL (n v)"/>

Your state (optional)

Knowing what state you live in helps us customize your water graph — but feel free to leave your state blank.

- Select -

GENERATE REPORT

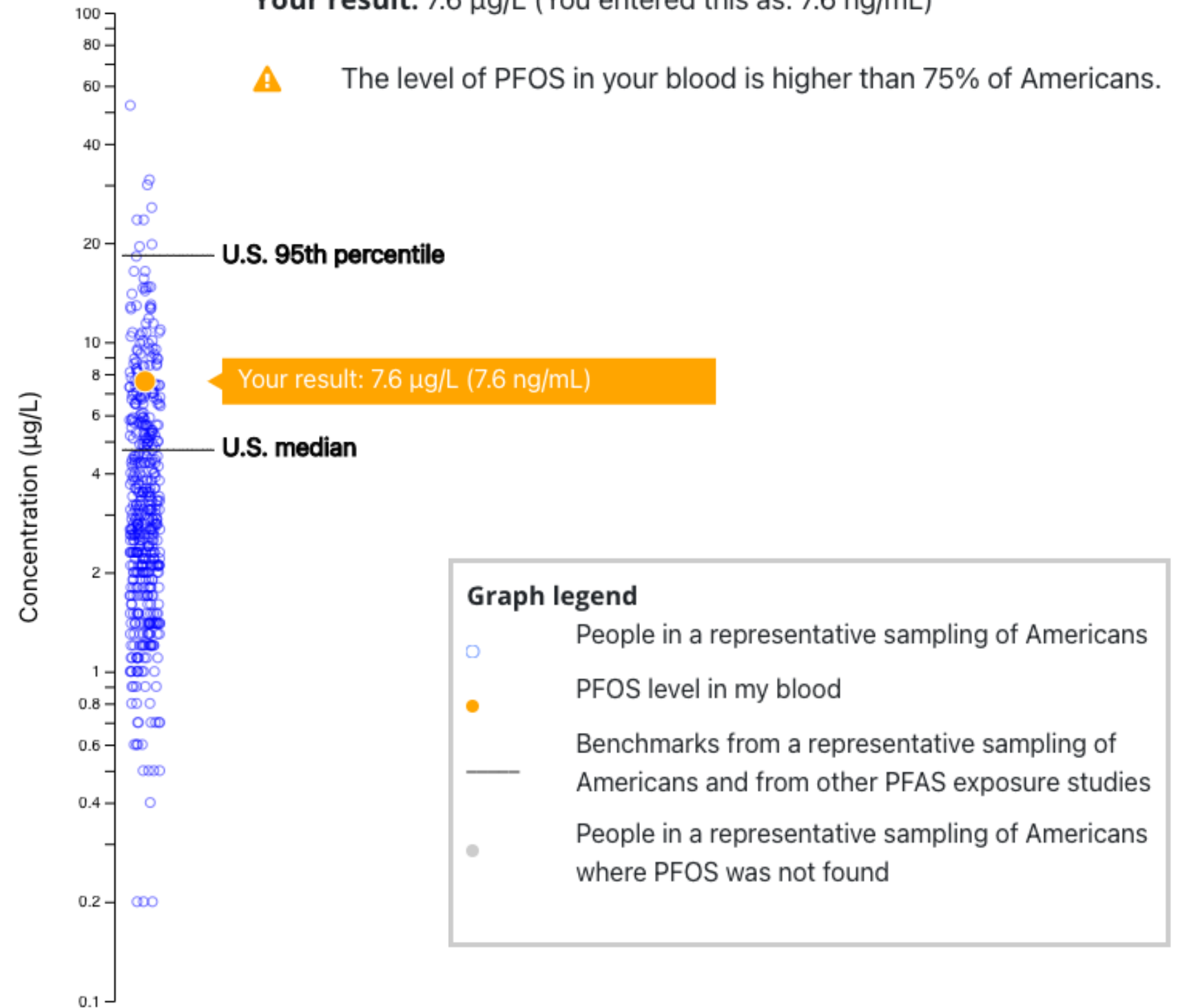
 **PFAS Exchange**
www.pfas-exchange.org

context rich report back

› PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid)

Your result: 7.6 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (You entered this as: 7.6 ng/mL)

 The level of PFOS in your blood is higher than 75% of Americans.





Jun 29, 2021

Improved medical screening in PFAS-impacted communities to identify early disease

People highly exposed to PFAS often face significant hurdles in getting screened for potential health effects from the exposure. That needs to change.

[Isabella Raponi](#) , [Phil Brown](#) and [Alissa Cordner](#)

MEDICAL SCREENING COMPANION DOCUMENTS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS



PFAS Exposure: Information for patients and guidance for clinicians to inform patient and clinician decision making

For people in PFAS-impacted communities

Purpose
This guidance document is intended for people living in communities with contaminated water or who have had some other source of substantial exposure to PFAS. This guidance document is not targeted to those at average risk from PFAS.

What is medical screening?
Medical screening is the testing for early signs of disease. Screening for certain conditions or subclinical changes may be advised for those who have or have had known or suspected exposure to PFAS. Medical screening may identify early indicators of disease and allow you to work with your clinician to determine next steps.

What are PFAS?
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of over 1000 human-made chemicals, exposure to which has been associated with several serious health effects. They are extremely resistant to breakdown, highly mobile in the environment, and have contaminated hundreds of drinking water supplies. PFAS have been found in the blood of over 90% of Americans and some PFAS can remain in the body for years.

How can I be exposed to PFAS?


At home <ul style="list-style-type: none">Drinking contaminated waterEating food contaminated from environmental sources or from processing and packagingUsing stain- and water-resistant products, grease-proof food packaging, nonstick cookware, and many other consumer products	At work <p>Some people, such as firefighters and those in chemical production and application industries, may be exposed to products containing PFAS at work.</p>	Early in life <p>PFAS can cross the placenta and accumulate in breast milk, so children can be exposed in the womb and during early life through breastfeeding.</p>
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How are PFAS regulated in drinking water?

- PFAS are not regulated under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act. This means there are no federally enforceable standards and public water suppliers are not required to routinely test or treat for PFAS under federal law.
- In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established a non-enforceable Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS (two of the most common PFAS chemicals) individually or combined, for municipal drinking water. Some scientists and regulators think this advisory is not sufficiently protective of human health.
- As of April 2023, 12 states have adopted more stringent and in some cases enforceable, drinking water guidelines. The [EPA's website](#) provides more information about national and state drinking water guidelines. Some states have established guidelines for additional PFAS chemicals, down to 10-20 ppt.
- The Northeastern University [Contaminated Site Tracker](#) has documented hundreds of contaminated sites in the U.S., with more sites being added as testing continues.

This fact sheet is a product of the PFAS REACH (Research, Education, and Action for Community Health) study. PFAS-REACH is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (Grant No. 42-E0000171). APR 2023

CLINICIANS



PFAS Exposure: Information for patients and guidance for clinicians to inform patient and clinician decision making

For clinicians

About this guidance document
The guidance summarized here is to help inform discussion and decision making for physicians and their patients. Many of the tests and screenings listed are part of basic primary care annual appointments. In 2016, the American Medical Association (AMA) resolved to support research and policy to address the effects of PFAS exposure.

We based the following suggestions for medical screening tests on those previously developed and implemented for a PFAS-impacted community as well as peer-reviewed research and scientific assessments using weight of evidence approaches from:

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (2021)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016)
- OE Science and Medical Panel (2021-2023)
- European Environment Agency (2019)
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (2017)
- National Toxicology Program (2016)

These recommendations are for those living in communities with contaminated water or who are exposed to other sources of PFAS that substantially increase their internal burden of PFAS. These recommendations are not targeted to those with average levels of PFAS exposure.

Guidance for adult patients

Laboratory tests

- Lipid panel (cholesterol, LDL, HDL, triglycerides).** PFAS exposure has been associated with higher total and LDL cholesterol and lower HDL.
- Liver function tests,** such as ALT, AST, and GGT. PFAS exposure has been associated with higher-than-normal liver function tests, as well as hepatotoxicity, including hepatocyte and liver architecture damage.
- serum creatinine and urine protein and urine albumin.** PFAS exposure is associated with chronic kidney disease and kidney cancer. An important note for researchers is that there is enhanced excretion of PFAS in individuals with severe kidney disease, especially if there is albuminuria. Background serum PFAS concentrations for those individuals introduces a bias towards the null if not controlled for in epidemiologic studies.
- Thyroid tests,** such as TSH with or without FT4. PFAS exposure has been associated with thyroid disease.

Clinical examinations

- Regular testicular examinations.** Exposure to high levels of PFAS has been associated with increased risk of testicular cancer.

Counseling topics

- Vaccine response.** There is currently no evidence of re-vaccinating patients with live vaccine after they tested a month following vaccination (i.e., Tdap, MMR); more research is needed.
- Home blood pressure monitoring during pregnancy.** PFAS are associated with elevated blood pressure during pregnancy and with pre-eclampsia.
- Breastfeeding.** Infants can be exposed to PFAS during pregnancy since PFAS can cross the placenta. PFAS chemicals also accumulate in breastmilk. However, the benefits of breastfeeding are clear, and include benefits to maternal as well as child health. There is insufficient evidence to recommend against breastfeeding based on maternal PFAS exposure.

THIRD NATIONAL PFAS CONFERENCE

**JUNE 15-17, 2022
WILMINGTON, NC**



HIGHLY FLUORINATED COMPOUNDS - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

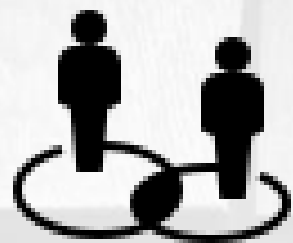
**REGISTRATION OPEN:
[HTTPS://GO.NCSU.EDU/PFAS2022](https://go.ncsu.edu/pfas2022)**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHEAST CONFERENCE**

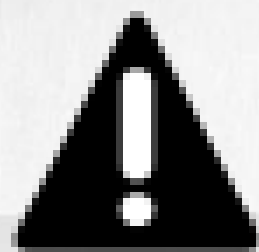
LET'S BE PROACTIVE



- WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF PFAS TO START MAKING PROACTIVE DECISIONS IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



- LET'S BRIDGE THE COMMUNICATION GAPS BETWEEN THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY AND THE FIREFIGHTING COMMUNITY

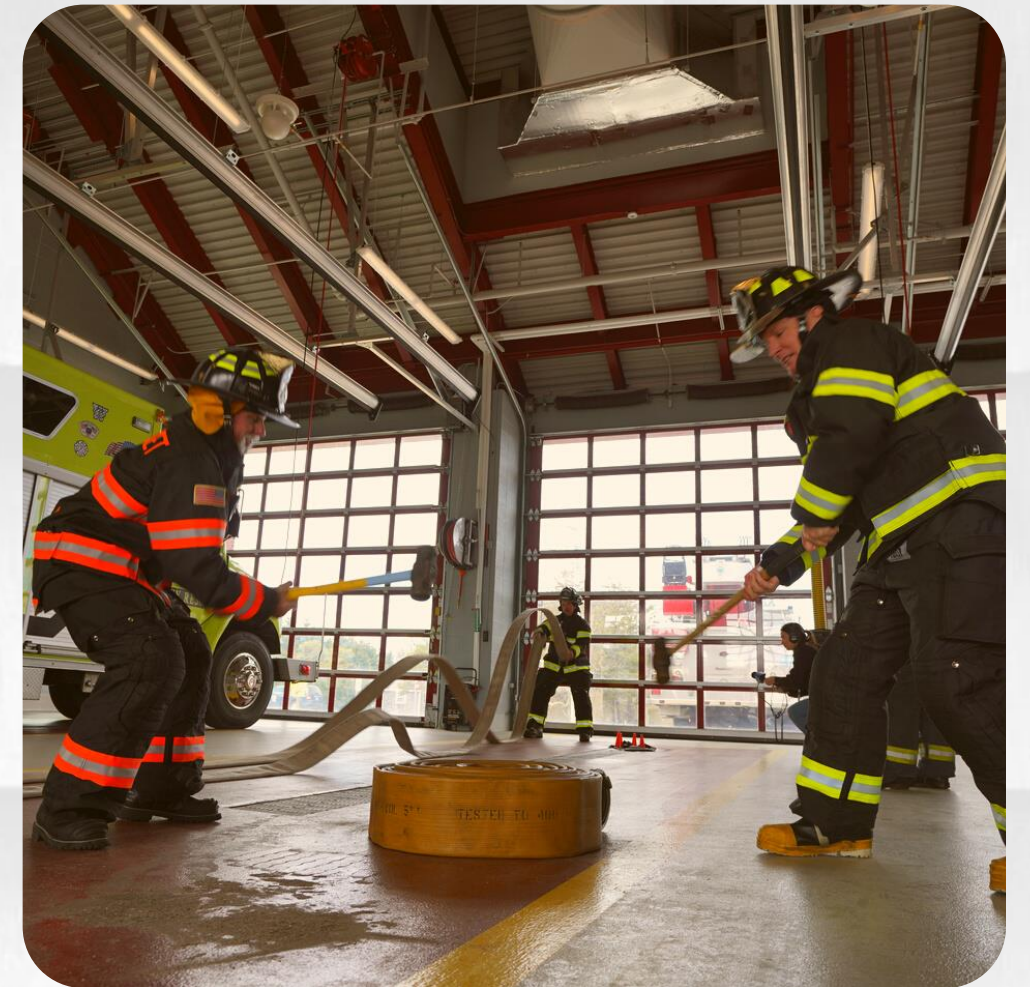


- A MAJORITY OF FIREFIGHTERS STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEIR OCCUPATIONAL PFAS EXPOSURES

TURI COMMUNITY GRANT: EDUCATION & SEARCHING FOR SAFER ALTERNATIVES



NANTUCKET PFAS ACTION GROUP
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PFASFREEPPE.COM

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE PFAS-FREE PPE

About Why PFAS-free? PFAS in Fire Service NFPA 1971 [Email the NFPA](#)

PFAS in the Fire Service

What are PFAS? Why are some firefighters advocating for PFAS-free turnout gear? Learn more about this growing topic.

[Learn more](#)

What are PFAS?

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a largely unregulated group of toxic, human-made chemicals. Their carbon-fluorine bond is nearly indestructible, they don't break down in the environment, and they are highly mobile in air and water. PFAS are used in hundreds of consumer products including non-stick coatings, textiles, food packaging, firefighting foams and gear, pesticides, carpets, artificial turf, furniture, car seats, outdoor gear, cosmetics, and many more.

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THANK YOU!



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