**IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING FOAM EXTINGUISHERS**

**(AUGUST 2024)**

FOAM (AFFF) extinguishers are mainly used to fight class B fires (flammable liquids best extinguished by smothering) but can be used on class A fires (ordinary solid combustibles).

The use of foam extinguishers is set to be phased out in the UK, with Parliament expected to prohibit the manufacture and sale of these extinguishers before 2026. This is part of an ongoing UK/EU phase-out of PFOA, PFOS and PFAS chemicals, due to their lasting harmful impact on the environment.

**What does this mean for you?**

**You can:**

* Still purchase and use foam extinguishers **except** for training purposes. However, there are alternative options, depending on your individual requirements, such as Water, Watermist, Flurofree Foam, P50, WetChem (for kitchens) ABC Powder (for workshops, outdoor use).
* Your current stock of foam extinguishers can still be used; however, you will need to replace them when their 5-year extended service is due.
* Contact your local environmental protection agency for further information.

**You cannot:**

* Discharge foam extinguishers into the environment or drainage system.
* Use FOAM extinguishers for training purposes.

**You will need to:**

* When foam extinguishers are condemned or require an extended service, ensure they are incinerated; this includes the contents and the **canister**.
* Use an accredited disposal company.

**Going Forward:**

Foam extinguishers are safe to use on a fire and will only need to be replaced when they are due their extended service.

This is a fluid situation and subject to change. We will endeavour to monitor and provide updates to you in a timely fashion.

**You may be interested in:**

Link to serval articles on PFAS: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/pfas>