



September 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (INSTALLATIONS,
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ENERGY,
INSTALLATIONS & ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(INSTALLATIONS, ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Blood Testing for DoD Firefighters to Determine Exposure to Per- and
Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances

This memo provides requirements for implementing Section 707 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which states:

“Beginning on October 1, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall provide blood testing to determine and document potential exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly known as “PFAS”) for each firefighter of the Department of Defense during the annual physical exam conducted by the Department for each such firefighter.”

The DoD Components will implement PFAS blood testing starting no later than October 1, 2020, during the annual firefighter’s medical examination performed in accordance with DoD Manual (DoDM) 6055.05, “Occupational Medical Examinations and Surveillance Manual.” Implementing requirements are provided at the Enclosure.

These requirements will be incorporated into the next revision to DoDM 6055.05.

My point of contact is Mr. John Seibert, john.f.seibert.civ@mail.mil, or 571-372-6898.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Constable", is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas A. Constable
Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Readiness

Enclosure:
As stated

Enclosure
IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

These implementation requirements apply to all DoD Components that employ firefighters, to include, the Military Departments, Defense Logistics Agency, Washington Headquarters Services, and Defense Health Agency (“DoD Components”).

The DoD Components will:

1. Offer blood testing for the following per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to DoD firefighters* receiving annual firefighter occupational medicine (OM) examinations:
 - a. perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)
 - b. perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)
 - c. perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)
 - d. perfluoronanoic acid (PFNA)
 - e. perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)
 - f. perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
2. Provide information to each tested DoD firefighter as shown below.
 - a. Provide the firefighter the information on PFAS using the DoD-approved fact sheet.
 - b. Inform the firefighter that they may decline the PFAS blood testing.
 - c. Provide the firefighter with their PFAS test results.
3. Provide information to each OM practitioner who will be ordering the test as shown below.
 - a. Provide the OM practitioner the information on PFAS using the DoD-approved fact sheet.
 - b. Inform the OM practitioner of the PFAS compounds included in the testing panel.
 - c. Inform the OM practitioner that the PFAS blood testing is to be offered to the firefighter and that the firefighter may decline testing.
 - d. Direct that PFAS blood testing results are to be recorded in each tested firefighter’s individual OM record.
 - e. Retain PFAS test results in the OM record for the duration of employment plus 30 years, or for as long as the official personnel folder is maintained whichever is longer.

* DoD Firefighters: personnel who hold an occupational specialty as a firefighter (e.g. DoD civilian job series 0081, Army Military Occupational Specialty 12M, Air Force Specialty Code 387X1, Navy Enlisted Classification Code 786B, Marine Corps Military Occupational Series 70) and who receive an annual OM examination. This includes local national firefighters where the DoD has the responsibility to administer their firefighter OM examinations. Personnel who hold an occupational specialty as a firefighter but do not receive an annual OM examination are excluded.