

City and County of
San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
President

AARON PESKIN
市參事 佩斯金

March 26, 2024

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Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin Introduces First-in-Nation Firefighter Cancer Prevention Legislation

Ordinance Would Ban Use of Lethal Carcinogens in Firefighter Protective Gear

San Francisco – Today Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin announced first-in-the-nation legislation to elevated cancer rates among Firefighters from a known carcinogen used in their protective gear.

National studies have revealed that PFAS, a Group 1 carcinogen or “forever chemical”, is present in high concentrations in the inner layer of Firefighter turnouts, where it seeps into the skin, causing cancer. According to the **San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation**, more than 300 San Francisco Firefighters have died from cancer since 2006.

“We have an obligation to protect the people protecting us, and national studies have shown that the very uniforms we provide our brave are giving them cancer,” said **Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin**. “We are going to lead the nation with this first-of-its-kind legislation that bans lethal chemicals from Firefighter protective gear.”

President Peskin’s legislation would:

- Ban the use of intentionally-added PFAS in Firefighter equipment by June 30, 2026
- Instruct the Fire Department and union leadership to conduct regular meetings to assess progress on the implementation of the legislation and industry trends related to phasing out PFAS
- Instruct the Fire Department to periodically report back to the Board of Supervisors and Fire Commission on progress toward phasing out PFAS

The phase-out and reporting program would start when the Ordinance is enacted. The City would fund the phase-out of PFAS over two fiscal years, which would cost an estimated \$10 million. The Fire Department has identified the first \$2.3 million of that amount from an Assistance for Firefighters FEMA grant. Six active firefighters are already wear-testing PFAS-free turnouts.

“This day has been a long time coming,” said **Floyd Rollins, President of Local 798**. “PFAS chemicals are literally mixing into a toxic soup in our protective gear. It is our job to leave this service better than we found it, and to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves, those who are struggling and dying from this terrible and preventable disease.”

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“We are starting something in San Francisco that we hope will spread to the rest of the state and even the nation,” said **Adam Wood, Vice President of the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation**. “We hope that by taking this step, we can get back to doing what we do best: saving other people’s lives, instead of having to ask for help to save our own.”

The legislation will be heard at the Budget and Finance Committee later this month.

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